

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – B
DATE: December 11-12, 2019

SUBJECT

USD Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the March 2019 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved recommendations offered by each institution for the 2018 student organization awards winners. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2019. The USD Student Organization Awards will be presented at the December BOR meeting in Sioux Falls.

USD Award for Academic Excellence: Radiology Interest Group/Seldinger Society

Radiology Interest Group/Seldinger Society is dedicated to providing a supportive community for students interested in the fields of radiology. After identifying a need and established the group three years ago, the group has grown to involve more than 36 medical students. It has a highly functional student government and continues to grow in scope. It has found opportunities to increase interactions between students and attending physicians as well as promote scholarly opportunities for its members

USD Award for Community Service: Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

All first- and second-year occupational therapy students at USD are members of the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA). Members are required to attend a monthly meeting, belong to a SOTA committee, and maintain a minimum of two service hours per year. A servant leadership style is emphasized in the occupational therapy program, so service is a natural part of the education and profession. Collectively, SOTA members participate in 13 community service activities throughout the year. Activities focusing on promoting scholarship and inclusivity in the field of occupational therapy include annual events such as the D-Days parade and the Harlan and Rita Temple 5K as well as various events throughout the year that benefit individuals across the lifespan.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

USD Award for Organizational Leadership: Union of African American Students

The purpose of the Union of African American Students (UAAS) is to introduce, educate, enlighten, and enrich the campus community and its affiliates to the cultural traditions, experiences, and values of the African-American community.

UAAS has planned and executed events that create safe, inclusive, engaging spaces that encourage dialogue that continues long after the event is over. These events, which span beyond Black History Month, focus on various topics such as the contributions of African American fashion, designers, and influencers as well as student-led discussion that gives the chance for anyone to inquire about stereotypes and stigmas that revolve around a particular group. These events have stimulated phenomenal, eye-opening conversations with a wide variety of students from various backgrounds and beliefs. Membership to UAAS is open to all registered students, faculty, staff, and community members.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recognizes the important role that student organizations play in the Regental system. Student organizations provide students the opportunity to connect with others who have similar interests as well as experience a sense of community, all of which increases the likelihood of successful college completion. They also provide students with opportunities for professional development by offering students practical opportunities to hone skills, including those in leadership and communication.

ATTACHMENTS

None