

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – E
DATE: October 2-3, 2019

SUBJECT

Dakota’s Promise Scholarship Program Update

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the August 2019 Board retreat and business meeting, the Board of Regents voted to support a state budget request for a needs based scholarship program. The scholarship is designed as a \$4 million program, with roughly \$2 million being requested of the state and \$2 million in private dollars as a 1:1 match. Along with the budget request approved at its August 2019 meeting, the Board approved broad outlines for Dakota’s Promise Scholarship eligibility.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

This scholarship focuses on a financially at-risk group of students who have the most opportunity to succeed per the eligibility requirements outlined below. It gives a palpable and reachable goal to move this cohort’s current four-year graduation rate of 41% to the average four-year graduation rate of 50%. These students’ success (i.e., graduation) will mean a more than 70% chance that they will stay in South Dakota upon graduation.

With an estimated 470* students entering the program each year and a 10% matriculation rate year after year, this scholarship is estimated to provide \$2,500 to 1,616 students each year once the program is fully ramped up (i.e. four years after inception).

Broad eligibility requirements to receive/maintain the scholarship are as follows:

- Pell eligible
- ACT 22-30+
- GPA 3.0+
- South Dakota resident
- First time
- Full time (12+ credits per semester)
- Degree seeking – 2 or 4 year
- No remedial coursework needed

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- Accumulate 30 credit hours per academic year (including summer)
- Maintain in good standing status

*The count of 470 students comes from currently eligible students in the state university system per the Student Success Dashboard. It also factors in an additional number for private university and tribal college students as well as growth when capturing eligible students who would have otherwise chosen to attend an out-of-state school.

ATTACHMENTS

None