SUBJECT
South Dakota State University – Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
At the March 2021 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved recommendations offered by each institution for the 2020 student organization awards winners. The winners of these awards will be announced at Board meetings throughout 2021. The South Dakota State University (SDSU) Student Organization Awards will be presented at the December BOR meeting in Brookings.

SDSU Award for Academic Excellence: Pre-Law Society
The Pre-Law Society is the extracurricular club on campus for pre-law students. It hosts workshops, guest speakers, and field trips. Through its LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) workshops, the Pre-Law Society gives SDSU students a chance to learn about the exam required for admission to law school and how to navigate and score well on each section. It also hosted a Law School Expo in which 17 law schools were available virtually to talk to students and answer their questions. In addition to its law school application-based programming, Pre-Law Society offered a plethora of events to help students choose a legal career.

SDSU Award for Community Service: Exercise Science Club
The Exercise Science Club strives to generate interest in the exercise field on campus and throughout the Brookings community. The club encourages health and wellness through exercise and meaningful education experiences through multiple events on and around campus. Exercise Science Club members participate in a Pro-PT sponsored program called Healthy Movement, a workout program for the elderly population in Brookings. Members create and lead these workouts for individuals. Additionally, the club collaborated with the SDSU Exercise Science Program, SDSU Wellness Center, and SDSU Student Health to introduce Exercise is Medicine® On Campus (EIM-OC) at SDSU. This stems from a global health initiative managed by the American College of Sports Medicine.
SDSU Award for Organizational Leadership: Robotics Club
The purpose of the Robotics Club is to provide every student with the opportunity to gain experience and work with projects in the field of robotics. In addition to doubling and maintaining its membership, the club formed a new team to compete in an autonomous snowplow competition, organized numerous learning sessions for club members and general students, launched a virtual battle-bot programming competition for high schoolers, and advance to state II of the NASA Robotic Mining Competition.

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