SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

AGENDA ITEM: 3 – C (2)
DATE: December 8-9, 2021

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SUBJECT
University of South Dakota – 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 University of South Dakota (USD) Student Organization Awards will be presented at the December BOR meeting in Brookings.

USD Award for Academic Excellence: Alpha Eta Honor Society: Sigma Delta Chapter
The Alpha Eta National Honor Society Sigma Delta Chapter consists of outstanding students who are focused on pursuing a career in health care and are passionate about promoting a change in the world. Members must be invited into this organization and are selected based on their high academic achievement. The motto of the honor society is “Together We Serve”. The most notable event hosted by the group in the academic year being recognized was its induction ceremony. This ceremony took place to honor the members inducted into the honor society. The group had a speaker that addressed leadership at this ceremony, along with a cord ceremony following.

USD Award for Community Service: Alpha Phi Psi Chapter Sorority
Alpha Phi currently has 107 members who strive to be the best version of themselves through the high ideals of character, innovation, generosity, and sisterhood. It encourages members to focus on their academic achievement and collegiate learning experiences. Due to COVID-19, the group wasn’t able to hold many events; however, it hosted its first virtual Red Dress Gala philanthropy event on September 19 that raised over $16,000 for women’s heart health. Additionally, the group hosted a Go Red Week fundraiser in February earning another $1,300 for the cause.

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USD Award for Organizational Leadership: Asian American Student Association – AASA
The Asian American Student Association is committed to representing Asian culture, establishing alliance among members, and organizing social activities and events for the university community so others can learn and experience Asian culture and traditions. Two of the biggest events hosted by the group are Diwali-Festival of Lights and the Asian Lunar New Year Celebration. At these events, the group provides several traditional, ethnic, and native foods from Asia and impact more than 300 students, faculty, and community members. These events are executed in an informative way that helps students generate a new understanding of Asia.

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