

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

AGENDA ITEM: 3 – C (1)
DATE: October 6-7, 2021

SUBJECT

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology 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 School of Mines & Technology (SDSMT) Student Organization Awards will be presented at the October BOR meeting in Rapid City.

SDSMT Award for Academic Excellence: StudyDakota

StudyDakota was founded with the intention of helping those in the SDSMT community succeed academically and provide tutoring resources to others who may not have had access otherwise. This program not only aids middle and high school students in their initial steps of education, but it also provides the opportunity for college volunteers to review the basic concepts on which their major areas of study are built upon. While the program was only created in the last academic year, it has already recruited around 42 tutors. The organization has hosted over 25 tutoring sessions in just a few months, assisting students who attend various schools in the Rapid City Area School District and surrounding area.

SDSMT Award for Community Service: Lambda Chi Alpha

Lambda Chi Alpha is a fraternity of male students that emphasizes strong moral values and the value of service. Over the last academic year, members volunteered more than 250 volunteer hours despite COVID-19 related restrictions and a chapter-wide quarantine. They performed services hours in several ways. For instance, the group helped build a trail behind the school, hosted an event called Brothers Feeding Others where the group served dinner to over 200 college students, performed a trash cleanup on the M-hill, packaged food and volunteered to collect food donations for Feeding South Dakota.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

SDSMT Award for Organizational Leadership: Society of Physics Students

The purpose of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) is to advance the knowledge of physics in the region, promote the interest of physics in the surrounding academic and local communities, and nurture a professional attitude amongst its members. The members, officers, and advisor of SPS took it upon themselves to explore every avenue available to them to promote the group's mission throughout the COVID-19 challenges. The group co-hosted two socials and several virtual colloquiums with the Department of Physics for all students and members to attend. It also participated in student organization fairs and Go to Mines Campus Open Houses as well as attended numerous off-campus events to help promote the university to surrounding communities to update them about ongoing efforts and research done at SDSMT.

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