

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3 – C (2)**  
**DATE: October 6-7, 2021**

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**SUBJECT**

**Black Hills 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 Black Hills State University (BHSU) Student Organization Awards will be presented at the October BOR meeting in Rapid City.

BHSU Award for Academic Excellence: Health Sciences Student Organization

The Health Sciences Student Organization (HSSO) functions to prepare pre-professional students for a career in one of the many healthcare disciplines. HSSO facilitates students' education in non-academic aspects that are not easily addressed through classroom activities. Members are provided with avenues for health-related job training or shadowing and are supported in their preparation for application to professional school. During the last academic year, HSSO members organized and recruited for blood drives as well as organized and produced the Spearfish Middle School Sciences Fair held at the BHSU Young Center.

BHSU Award for Community Service: KBHU TV

KBHU TV is a student led, on-campus television station that strives to produce information televised for students, faculty/staff, and the community. Members have worked hard to ensure its programming is up-to-date with technical enhancements and that it appropriately supported the community through the challenges caused by COVID-19. Examples of this included participating in a light show for the city of Spearfish by making a scene in its Winder Wonderland fundraiser as well as creating a short video of local Christmas light displays set to BHSU concert choir music for the senior citizens in nursing homes who were not able to participate in their usual holiday traditions.

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

BHSU Award for Organizational Leadership: Student Government Association

The Student Senate is the voice of the entire student population. It strives to foster productive communication among students, administration, faculty, and staff. The Student Senate held several significant events and activities over the past school year, including a mask-up campaign, the promotion of adventure weekends to encourage students to stay in the northern hills area over the weekends, development of a Trick or Treat so Others can Eat Campaign to support the local food pantry, hosted a district legislator debate to better inform the community and BHSU members of political topics, hosted a weekly speakers series, and participated in the testing of possible new logos for the university.

**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