

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**

**AGENDA ITEM: 7 – B**  
**DATE: December 7-8, 2022**

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**SUBJECT**

**Strategic Plan: Access and Affordability – Nursing Transfer Initiative**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[BOR Policy 2:5](#) – Seamless Transfer of Credit

[BOR Policy 2:5:1](#) – South Dakota Regental System Transfer of Credit

[BOR Policy 2:5:2](#) – External (Non-Regental System) Accredited University/College Transfer of Credit

[BOR Policy 2:5:3](#) – External (Non-Regental System) Non-Accredited University/College and International Transfer of Credit

[BOR Policy 2:5:4](#) – Prior Learning and Validated Transfer of Credit

[SDBOR Strategic Plan](#)

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

SDBOR Strategic Plan/Objective:

The mission of the Board of Regents is to provide an excellent, efficient, accessible, equitable, and affordable public university and special schools system that improves South Dakota’s overall educational attainment and research productivity, while enriching the intellectual, economic, civic, social, and cultural life of the state, its residents, and its communities.

Goal 2 of the strategic plan is Access and Affordability, which states:

*“the Regental system is the largest public post-secondary education system in South Dakota. This system offers both undergraduate and graduate education. Access to affordable education is the cornerstone to ensuring South Dakotans who desire to attend a public post-secondary institution can.”*

One of the objectives is to increase enrollment through improved access to bachelor’s degree programs for students with earned credits from technical and community colleges. To that end, this item serves as an update to the Board of Regents on a critical workforce need for stackable credentialing and transfer in the career pathway of Nursing.

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

Statewide Nursing Agreement/Lean Project:

Academic Vice Presidents from BOTE and SDBOR institutions met in April of 2022. The meeting produced several significant results including a Statewide Transfer Charter, a plan to evaluate general education courses for transfer equivalency, and a commitment to finding a technology solution to manage transfer equivalencies more effectively across the two systems. Both systems committed to developing a strategic program-specific articulation agreement for nursing (RN to BSN).

In June of 2022, an initial meeting was held with a cohort of nursing representatives (deans, curriculum management, and general education) to review articulation agreements between the technical colleges and the universities. In October 2022, the work of the committee continued to focus on both general education and programmatic competencies. The team has had a successful four-month process to evaluate and agree upon strategies toward a statewide agreement.

Timeline:

The objective/goal of this project will be to present at the June 2023 Board meeting a *statewide articulation agreement* providing a stackable credential for students in South Dakota. This agreement requires some curricula changes for both the technical colleges and the Regental universities to implement; however, great work for the betterment of our state and students inspired both groups to come together for success.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

The SDBOR Strategic Plan specifically documents the importance of access and affordability which connects directly with the work of seamless transfer. In addition to access, the plan encourages partnerships to engage workforce needs, specifically increasing nursing graduates and increasing strategic partnerships. The developing articulation agreement supports both objectives. The model for the continued work in South Dakota between the Regents and the Board of Technical Education (BOTE) is now developed. This is the first of many projects between the Regents and the Board of Technical Education. Dr. Carriveau and Dr. Minder will provide an update to the Board at the December 2022 meeting on expectations for June 2023.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None