

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: II – D (3)

DATE: April 1-2, 2015

SUBJECT: New Certificate Request: SDSU Certificate in Native Communities and Economic Development

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer an online graduate certificate in Native Communities and Economic Development as part of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA). The intended audience for the certificate will be graduate students enrolled in Great Plains IDEA programs with an interest in working with native communities. SDSU currently offers all of the courses within the Master's degree in Sociology – Community Development Specialization for the 12-credit hour certificate.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve SDSU's new certificate request for a Native Communities and Economic Development Certificate as described in Attachment I.

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Certificate Request

This form is to be used to request approval for a new certificate program that includes currently offered courses. A certificate program is not a major or minor. Refer to BOR policy 2:23 Certificate Programs.

<u>SDSU</u>	<u>Arts and Sciences / Sociology and Rural Studies</u>	<u>Laurie Stenberg Nichols</u>	<u>2/3/15</u>
Institution	Division/Department	Institutional Approval Signature	Date

1. Name of Program: Certificate in Native Communities and Economic Development

2. Provide a justification for the program.

South Dakota State University (SDSU) seeks authorization to offer an online graduate certificate in Native Communities and Economic Development as part of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA). The Native Communities and Economic Development certificate will enhance the educational program for all partner institutions by providing training/education to students interested in obtaining advanced coursework in order to serve native communities. More programs in extension, education, and social service agencies have recognized the unique challenges in native communities and, therefore, have developed specific approaches for their programs to be successful in Indian Country. However, a workforce cognizant of these unique challenges remains difficult to find. Changes in US policy, strengthening of tribal governments and entities, and increases in private funding have expanded these opportunities. While cultural competencies are clearly required for those who want to work in these kinds of programs, specific knowledge related to history, US policy toward Indian nations, sovereignty, and the economic and social factors that uniquely impact program delivery in Indian Country is also required. Students who develop this knowledge and build skills in cultural competency will be more successful. SDSU offers all of the courses within the Master's degree in Sociology – Community Development Specialization. Many of the current students who take these courses are native or are working in native-serving organizations. The classes provide an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others engaged in this work and to build their network of contacts. This certificate will provide access to graduate credentials for those working in these primarily isolated communities in a subject matter of interest and with information they can use. Students who complete the Native Communities and Economic Development certificate may also complete a degree in M.S. in Sociology – Community Development Specialization.

3. Who is the audience for the program?

The intended audience for the certificate will be graduate students enrolled in Great Plains IDEA programs with an interest in working with native communities. SDSU has received several requests from other Great Plains IDEA programs, such as youth development, to offer a certificate for this set of courses, and believe additional students interested in employment opportunities in Indian Country will be interested in the certificate. Today students taking these courses are often employed or seeking

employment in native-serving communities and organizations. New students will be recruited through outreach to tribal leadership, native organizations, and extension and outreach professionals in Indian Country. The Mellon Foundation has recently created a program to assist tribal college employees in achieving advanced degrees which will also aid recruitment.

4. List the courses to be completed, the credit hours of each course, and the total number of credit hours required for the program.

Prefix & #	Title	Credit Hrs
CD 613	Introduction to Native Community Development	3
CD 624	Building Native Community in Economic Capacity	3
CD 634	Native American Natural Resource Management	3
	Elective	3
Total Credit Hours Required		12

5. Proposed CIP code 44.0201

6. Effective Date of Certificate Program Fall 2015