

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: I – F

DATE: April 1-2, 2015

SUBJECT: South Dakota SARA Update

At their [October 2014](#) meeting, the Board of Regents adopted [Policy 1:29 South Dakota State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)](#) which established the framework for allowing postsecondary institutions in the state to join WICHE SARA. Following this meeting, South Dakota’s application to join SARA was submitted to the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), and South Dakota was admitted as a SARA member state on November 11, 2014.

Since becoming a member state in SARA, the Board office, as the designated portal agency for South Dakota, has prepared application materials and developed other documents required by NC-SARA. On January 12, the Board office held a state wide conference call with institutions across the state from both public and private sectors to discuss the application process and answer any questions that institutions may have about applying to and participating in SARA. Since the call, the Board office has seen an increase in inquiries by institutions in all sectors, and expects to receive more applications in the coming months. A current list of institutions currently participating in SARA, or who have applied to SARA and are awaiting approval can be found below (see Table 1). Our office has also heard from several other schools interested in submitting applications.

*Table 1
South Dakota Institutions Approved to Participate in the SD SARA Program*

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>Submitted SARA Application</i>
<i>Mitchell Technical Institute</i>	<i>1/7/2015</i>	<i>12/18/2014</i>
<i>DSU</i>	<i>2/11/2015</i>	<i>1/30/2015</i>
<i>BHSU</i>		<i>2/5/2015</i>
<i>SDSU</i>	<i>3/6/2015</i>	<i>2/27/2015</i>
<i>SDSM&T</i>		<i>2/27/2015</i>
<i>Augustana College</i>	<i>3/5/2015</i>	<i>3/2/2015</i>
<i>NSU</i>		<i>3/6/2015</i>

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Information only.

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Across the country, there are currently 20 member states in SARA, with many more having discussions and taking the preliminary steps to join (see Attachment I). States typically need to obtain legislation in order to join SARA, and many states interested in joining are currently in the process of achieving that. Regionally, other states that have joined include: North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and most recently, Minnesota and Ohio.