In recognition of extraordinary service and leadership to the South Dakota system of public higher education, the South Dakota Board of Regents awards its highest honor, an honorary doctorate in public service, to Dr. Thomas O. Flickema. For twenty-three years, Dr. Flickema has served South Dakota public higher education. He has been the Academic Vice President and Executive Vice President of Northern State University; the Interim President of Northern State University; and for the past 12 years has led Black Hills State University as its President. Tom Flickema is known throughout the Regental system for his special talent in building academic programs at his institutions through the recruiting, selecting, and mentoring of strong faculty. Students at Northern State University and Black Hills State University are the beneficiaries of enhanced academic programs that have prepared them for successful experiences following their graduation. Dr. Thomas O. Flickema is a classic university professor who accepted and masterfully performed leadership of the academy. In recognition thereof, the South Dakota Board of Regents, on behalf of the citizens and leaders of South Dakota, bestows upon Dr. Thomas O. Flickema the degree and title, Honorary Doctorate of Public Service, reserved for individuals whose exceptional personal and professional contributions merit special acknowledgement.