

**Jerald A. Tunheim**  
**Citation of the Honorary Degree**  
**Doctor of Public Service**

The South Dakota Board of Regents recognizes the exceptional contributions of a special president by conferring on him the South Dakota Board of Regents' honorary doctorate in public service. Rarely is a state or a higher education system so privileged to have such a dedicated leader serving it.

Jerald A. Tunheim has earned our respect with his loyalty and personal devotion to South Dakota public higher education. His more than 35 years of professional service in the South Dakota regental system – as president of Dakota State University and as a professor of physics and department head of South Dakota State University -- sets a high bar for future leaders in our state.

Assuming the presidency of Dakota State University on August 1, 1987, only a few years after the South Dakota Legislature changed the institution's mission in 1984, Dr. Tunheim played a pivotal role to translate the legislature's vision for Dakota State University into programmatic reality. Under his leadership, Dakota State moved from a traditional education and liberal arts college to one specializing in computer information systems technology.

Without question, President Tunheim's leadership within the South Dakota public higher education system and service to his state, country, and community have earned him the highest respect and utmost regard of his peers and colleagues.

His visionary leadership and dedicated service to the people of South Dakota has established a legacy that will stand the test of time. Such leadership merits recognition and it is with great pride that the South Dakota Board of Regents confers upon Jerald A. Tunheim the degree of Doctor of Public Service honoris causa.