

SBHE

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Update

August – October 2006

SBHE Approves P-16 Education Task Force Resolution of Support

The State Board of Higher Education heard from several members of the P-16 Education Task Force and its supporters before approving a resolution of support for the initiative at the board's Oct. 16, 2006, meeting at Bismarck State College.

The board action followed a Sept. 26, 2006, presentation of the task force report to the North Dakota joint boards of education, a process that began in January 2006 and culminated in a series of recommendations for improving North Dakota's education system from pre-school through college graduation. North Dakota's joint boards of education include the Education Standards and Practice Board, State Board for Public School Education, State Board for Career and Technical Education and the State Board of Higher Education.

Bill Goetz, Gov. Hoeven's chief of staff and a member of the task force, said the governor's interest in higher education runs very deep in terms of an agenda for the state. "More than ever before, education in the state of North Dakota, nationally, worldwide, is a new dynamic," Goetz said. "It requires being alert to the changes taking place in our economy and in our society.

"Education needs to meet those needs and those requirements," he said. "That, in turn, must be reflected in the everyday work that goes on in the arena of education, but more importantly, it's critical as to how we in policy development address those needs. Whatever the resource, whatever the policy – it comes down to our ability to make decisions, to generate policy that will meet the dynamic needs of education. P-16, in terms of the work that went on in the

task force, certainly is a beginning, and it is only a beginning in addressing these dynamics."

"When we talk about P-16, what we're really talking about is birth to success. Everything in those recommendations is the right thing to do for the students of North Dakota."

Joe Rothschiller,
CEO Steffes Corporation

Dr. Paul Johnson, superintendent of Bismarck Public Schools, told the board he would like to see a discussion take place among college presidents and school superintendents. "When did the gap between the expectations of higher education and high school expectations become so noticeable?" Johnson asked. "How did that occur, when did it occur and when did that communication break down? We need to know what the

P-16 Initiative, Page 4

Providing Perspectives on the Statewide P-16 Initiative



Bill Goetz, Gov. Hoeven's chief of staff



Michel Hillman, NDUS vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, and Paul Johnson, superintendent of Bismarck Public Schools



Michel Hillman and Joe Rothschiller, CEO of Steffes Corporation

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SBHE Members

John Q. Paulsen President	Fargo, N.D.
Beverly Clayburgh Vice President	Grand Forks, N.D.
Sue Andrews	Mapleton, N.D.
Bruce I. Christianson	Minot, N.D.
Pam Kostelecky	Dickinson, N.D.
Nicholas Rogers	Fargo, N.D.
Charles Murphy	Fort Yates, N.D.
Richie Smith	Wahpeton, N.D.
John Pederson (Non-voting faculty advisor)	Mayville, N.D.
Robert L. Potts Chancellor	Bismarck, N.D.

The Role of the SBHE

The State Board of Higher Education is the governing board of the North Dakota University System.

Our Vision

The North Dakota University System is the vital link to a brighter future.

Our Mission

The mission of the North Dakota University System is to enhance the quality of life of all those we serve and the economic and social vitality of North Dakota through the discovery, sharing and application of knowledge.

SBHE Update

The *SBHE Update* is created to increase awareness of the role of the State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System and to ensure the system remains connected to, understood by and accountable to the citizens and needs of the state of North Dakota.

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SBHE Appoints Search Committees

Search committees to assist in the selection of the next chancellor of the North Dakota University System and presidents of Mayville State University and the North Dakota State College of Science were named during the Oct. 16, 2006, State Board of Higher Education meeting. Each committee will be made up of campus, community and board representatives.

The chancellor's position will become vacant in July 2007 when Chancellor Eddie Dunn retires. The MaSU presidency became vacant when Dr. Pamela Balch resigned in June 2006; Dr. Gary Hagen currently serves as interim president. The NDSCS presidency became vacant in September 2006 when Dr. Sharon Hart was assigned to the position of interim executive director of the College Technical Education Council; Dr. John Richman currently serves as interim president.

It also was announced that the next steps in each search process would be selection of a search consultant and development of a search timeline. A list of search committee members follows.

Chancellor Search Committee

- **Richie Smith**, SBHE member and search committee chair
- **Pam Kostelecky**, SBHE member
- **John Q. Paulsen**, SBHE president
- **Eddie Dunn**, NDUS chancellor
- **Robert Haskins**, president, North Dakota Student Association
- **Dr. John Pederson**, SBHE faculty advisor
- **Dr. Charles Kupchella**, president, University of North Dakota
- **Dr. Joe McCann**, president, Williston State College
- **Dr. Joe Chapman**, president, North Dakota State University
- **Dr. David Fuller**, president, Minot State University
- **Dennis Hill**, executive vice president and general manager, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Mandan, N.D.
- **Paul Steffes**, CEO, Steffes Corporation, Dickinson, N.D.

- **Don Hedger**, CEO, Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing, Killdeer, N.D.
- **Don Morton**, Site Leader for Fargo Campus, Microsoft, Fargo, N.D.

MaSU Search Committee

- **Bev Clayburgh**, SBHE member and search committee chair
- **Charles Murphy**, SBHE member
- **Nancy Hartje**, MaSU student
- **Donna Mark**, MaSU faculty
- **Mark Skean**, MaSU faculty
- **Bob Kozojed**, MaSU staff
- **Beth Swenson**, MaSU staff
- **Tom Capouch**, president, First & Farmers Bank, Portland, N.D.
- **Richard Fugleberg**, MaSU Foundation Board member; farmer and business owner, Portland, N.D.
- **Rob Lauf**, dentist, Mayville, N.D.
- **Don Moen**, mayor, Mayville, N.D.
- **Eddie Dunn**, NDUS chancellor (ex officio)

NDSCS Search Committee

- **Sue Andrews**, SBHE member and search committee chair
- **Nick Rogers**, SBHE member
- **Mark Schaefer**, president, NDSCS Student Senate
- **Dan Hanson**, vice president, North Dakota Student Association and NDSCS Student Senate
- **Barb Diederick**, NDSCS faculty
- **Kevin Gyolai**, NDSCS Faculty Senate president
- **Terry Marohl**, NDSCS faculty
- **Barb Bang**, NDSCS administration
- **Ken Kompelien**, NDSCS administration
- **Thomas Hickman**, NDSCS staff
- **Valerie Erickson**, NDSCS staff
- **Craig Caspers**, Vertin Munson Funeral Home, Wahpeton, N.D.
- **Michael L. Connell**, superintendent, Wahpeton Public Schools
- **Perry Miller**, director emeritus, NDSCS Alumni Foundation
- **Rick Steckler**, NDSCS Alumni Foundation; president, Bank of the West, Wahpeton, N.D., and Breckenridge, Minn.,
- **Jim Sturdevant**, mayor, Wahpeton, N.D.
- **Eddie Dunn**, NDUS chancellor (ex officio)

Skogen Named BSC President

Dr. Larry C. Skogen was named president of Bismarck State College at an Oct. 16, 2006, State Board of Higher Education meeting. He will begin his duties March 1, 2007.



Larry Skogen

Skogen is academic dean and deputy superintendent for academic affairs at New Mexico Military Institute,

Roswell, N.M., a position he has held since 2001. He is a native of Hettinger, N.D.

Skogen has taught history in collegiate and military settings and served in other capacities in the U.S. Air Force, most recently as director of operations and inspector general of the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming from 1998 to 2001. In 2004, he was an educational consultant to the United Arab Emirates. He holds a B.S. in

secondary education from Dickinson (N.D.) State University, an M.A. in history from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Mo., and a Ph.D. in history from Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.

Gordon Binek, BSC vice president for college advancement and federal relations, will continue to serve as interim president until Skogen begins. Donna S. Thigpen, who served as BSC president for 11 years, retired in June.

Minnesota Free-Tuition Program Threatens North Dakota University System Enrollment

The impact of a proposed Minnesota free tuition program on North Dakota University System colleges and universities could be substantial, according to a report provided to the State Board of Higher Education at the Sept. 21, 2006, board meeting.

If approved, Minnesota high school students who graduate in the top 25 percent of the class or post a comparable ACT score will attend the first two years of public college free. Students' third and fourth years of college also would be free if they major in a math or science field. Titled Academic Competitiveness Highlighting Individual Excellence and Valuing Education or ACHIEVE, the program is designed to encourage all high school students to attain good grades, keep the best and brightest high school graduates at home in Minnesota colleges and universities, and increase the number of Minnesota college graduates who have strategic math and science degrees.

A group of University System representatives reviewed the proposal and concluded it would have a dramatic impact on North Dakota higher education, particularly NDSU and UND, and, in turn, on the North

Dakota economy. Proposal review group members were Alice Hoffert, UND; Kate Haugen, NDSU; Karen Reilly, NDSCS; Peggy Wipf, NDUS; and Michel Hillman, NDUS.

Considering the Impact of a Minnesota Tuition Program



Dr. Mike Hillman, NDUS vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, and Prakash Mathew, NDSU vice president for student affairs, presented a systemwide report on the proposed Minnesota free-tuition program at the Sept. 21, 2006, SBHE meeting.

Conservatively, 400 to 600 high-ability Minnesota freshmen who enroll in North Dakota colleges and universities may choose to remain in their home state, thus creating a 15 to 18 percent incoming freshmen enrollment loss. At the same time, the North Dakota high school graduate population is expected to decline by about 30 percent between 2000 and 2025.

In terms of economic impact, potential direct revenue losses to the 11 University System colleges and universities are estimated at \$5.5 million in the first year. Losses of this magnitude would result in dramatic cost increases for the remaining students (largely North Dakota residents), a dramatic decrease in the number of academic programs available to students, or both.

Included in the committee's findings was a recommendation for the SBHE to maintain strong support for its FY 2007-09 budget request, which is based on maintaining higher education funding at a minimum of 21 percent of the state budget. According to the committee, this key policy action would help maintain affordable tuition for North Dakota students and, in the process, help keep North Dakota public colleges attractive to qualified Minnesota students.

The SBHE budget request also provides direct, increased financial support for state need and merit-based financial aid for North Dakota students. The committee also emphasized the importance of this as a high-priority funding need.

P-16 Task Force Resolution of Support, from Page 1

expectations are of higher education entry-level courses. That needs to be communicated to superintendents and principals.”

Dr. Johnson reiterated his support for the P-16 recommendations and said the University System should set standards that will help drive the improvement of standards at the K-12 level. He said legislators hear that a high percentage of students who leave North Dakota high schools are taking remedial courses when they reach the North Dakota University System. “They come back to us and say, ‘What’s going on? Your kids are graduating from high school and not being successful in college.’”

Bruce Christianson, a member of both the SBHE and the task force, said the driving force behind the P-16 recommendations is to help prepare students for success in college and, ultimately, in the workplace. “Why are we doing this? Are we not doing it for the students?” Christianson said. “We want them to be more competitive in today’s world and in the future. We want them to have a better standard of living and a higher quality of life.”

Commenting via speaker phone, Ward Koeser, chair of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce board of directors and a member of the task force, said, “I believe the business community is very, very

supportive of what we’re trying to accomplish here. ... I really believe the private sector is willing to support an additional investment in education if it produces the needed outcome.

“The number one issue with the business community these days is the workforce,” Koeser said.

“Having an adequate number of efficient and effective workers is critical right now, all across North Dakota. We really do challenge you ... to help our students be number one, not only in the nation, but to be competitive in the world market, as well.”

Joe Rothschiller, CEO of Steffes Corporation in Dickinson, N.D., and a task force member, commented on the importance of providing businesses with employees who are the best they can be. “When we talk about P-16, what we’re really talking about is birth to success. Everything in those recommendations is the right thing to do for the students of North Dakota,” Rothschiller said.

Dr. Chris Keller, a biology professor at Minot State University, told the board, “Students do respond to higher standards. Their interest in their education increases dramatically when they are challenged, and better preparation for college will result in an increased retention and graduation rate. ... More rigorous coursework leads to higher

standardized test scores, and those themselves are highly predictive of success in college.”

Dr. Lee Vickers, president of Dickinson State University and a task force member, supported the group’s enthusiasm for the initiative. “This is P-16, and we are all in this together,” he said. “We are going to have to do this. We are going to have to change the expectations and the standards in K-12, and we’re going to have to deal with the issue of having admission standards in higher education.”

In part, the resolution of the SBHE regarding P-16 reads: ... *The Education Task Force, reaching unanimous consensus, has concluded that the state education system, although operating from a strong foundation, has need for systematic improvement, especially in light of improvements now occurring in other states. The boards have jointly accepted and endorsed the task force report. The SBHE commends the task force for its intense and thoughtful effort in bringing back a comprehensive plan with suggested goals and strategies for education adequacy for all North Dakota students. The SBHE supports the report goals and recommendations, and, given the importance to the state’s future, encourages implementation of the recommendations in as timely a manner as possible.*

Policy Revisions, Capital Project Requests Approved

Policy manual revisions approved by the State Board of Higher Education at the August and September 2006 board meetings include the following:

August

Introduction and First Reading
603.1 – Harassment

Introduction and Final Passage
440 – Enrollment Reporting

Second Reading and Final Passage
611.10 – Employee Responsibility and Activities: Theft and Fraud

September

Second Reading and Final Passage
603.1 – Harassment

Capital Project Request

One major capital project was approved at the August 2006 State Board of Higher Education meeting. UND was authorized to use \$20.4 million from other funding sources for construction of an Allied Health Facility.

Alcohol Consortium Provides Annual Report

The University System Alcohol Consortium is preparing to serve the increasing demands associated with student substance abuse, according to an annual report provided to the State Board of Higher Education by Dr. Karin Walton, director, and Beth Larson-Steckler, outreach coordinator, at the Sept. 21, 2006, meeting.

Walton told the board that an alarming 55 percent of North Dakota college students report drinking five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks, while 41 percent of North Dakota high school seniors who plan

Monitoring Substance Abuse



Dr. Karin Walton, director, and Beth Larson-Steckler, outreach coordinator

to attend college in North Dakota report similar alcohol usage. Overall, North Dakota leads the nation in this

type of drinking pattern in all age groups.

Walton said the consortium's 2006–07 goals are to expand implementation of evidenced-based programming, provide analysis of the North Dakota Core Alcohol and Drug Survey (NDCORE) and implement an environmental management model of prevention. The consortium will work to impact public policy and strengthen community partnerships to develop campus communities where student safety and success are not jeopardized by the use of alcohol or other substances.

Consent Agendas Items Approved

Consent agenda items approved at the August and September 2006 State Board of Higher Education meetings include the following:

Academic Consent Agenda **August**

MaSU: Termination of a B.S. in education in business education, major and minor

NDSU: Addition of a minor in large animal veterinary technology

Financial and Facility **Consent Agenda** **September**

MaSU: Increase the Northwest Hall rehabilitation project authorization to \$900,000

NDSU: Proceed with installation of sprinkler systems in Thompson Hall and Sevrinson Hall at a cost of \$1,621,400

NDSU: Proceed with \$1.55 million in miscellaneous parking projects

NDSU: Proceed with replacement of the chiller system for the West Dining Center and Seim Hall, Sevrinson Hall and Thompson Hall at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million

UND: Increase authorization for construction costs of miscellaneous site and paving improvements adjacent to the Energy and Environmental Research Center by \$159,000 for a total estimated cost of \$409,000

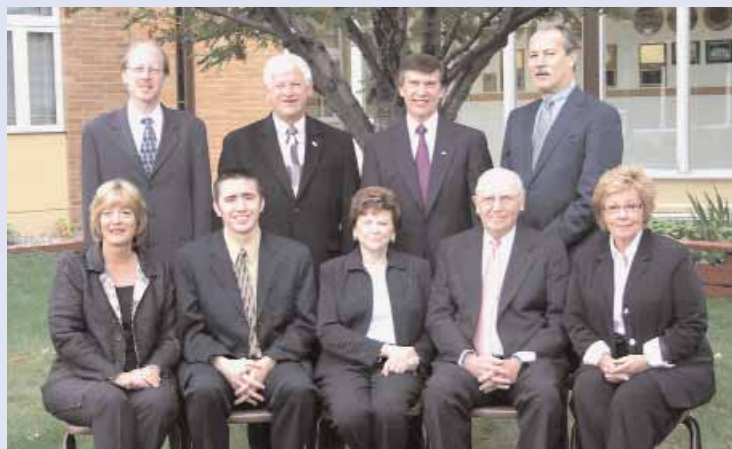
UND: Increase authorization for relocation of a section of the steam distribution pipeline and construction of a new access manhole by \$167,000 for an estimated total cost of \$417,000

Personnel Consent Agenda

State Grant Advisory Board: Appointed Robin Holden, UND financial aid administrator, and Ron Dorn, MiSU fiscal officer, to terms that will expire June 30, 2009; appointed Jeannie Rolland, CCCC student representative, to a term that will expire June 30, 2007.

Guiding the University System

Members of the 2006–07 State Board of Higher Education pictured at the Sept. 21, 2006, meeting at Lake Region State College are, left to right: (seated) Sue Andrews, Nick Rogers, Bev Clayburgh, John Q. Paulsen and Pam Kostelecky (standing) Faculty Advisor John Pederson, Bruce I. Christianson, Chancellor Eddie Dunn and Richie Smith.



LRSC Photo

Celebrating Successes

In the spirit of the Roundtable on Higher Education, North Dakota University System colleges and universities share the following examples of their contributions to the economic growth, educational excellence and social vitality of North Dakota.

Bismarck State College

About 100 community leaders, energy industry representatives and educators attended the Aug. 21 groundbreaking ceremony for the facility to house BSC's Industrial Maintenance Technology Program. The 12,500 sq. ft. building is being built in east Mandan and will be called the BSC-Mandan Campus. The program begins in January 2007.

BSC sophomore Catherine Klein, Golden Valley, N.D., was elected president of the American Student Association of Community Colleges in Park City, Utah, in June. BSC has been active in the ASACC for several years.

The July issue of *Campus Career Counselor* included an article about a BSC video project that helps students learn what employers expect during job interviews. Available on BSC's Web site, the videos were developed through a team effort of BSC, Job Service North Dakota and area human resources personnel.

Dickinson State University

DSU achieved record fall enrollment for the 11th consecutive year. Enrollment hit 2,572 students, a 2 percent increase over last year. Contributing to the university's growth are increasing numbers of nontraditional and international students. The number of adult learners rose to 582, up 20 percent from a year ago, while 260 international students from 28 countries enrolled.

DSU's 2005-06 Graduate Placement Survey shows that 98.7 percent of the graduates have obtained employment

or are choosing to continue their education. Also, 93 percent of the North Dakota residents who graduated from DSU and found jobs are working in the state, while 59 percent of the employed non-resident grads are working in North Dakota.

DSU students are passing the national CPA exam at a level exceeding the national average. DSU students have a 58.3 percent pass rate, more than 14 percent higher than the national pass rate of 43 percent. DSU students' pass rates also ranked highest among all North Dakota colleges and universities.

Lake Region State College

Lloyd Halvorson, peace officer training director, was elected a regional director of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) at the group's 2006 annual convention. Halvorson now will represent 10 midwestern states on the IADLEST executive committee.

In cooperation with the Fargo Police Department, LRSC graduated 25 students from its summer police academy in August. This is the fifth academy conducted in partnership with the Fargo Police Department. More than 100 police officers have graduated from the academy; a large percentage of them are working as police officers in the Fargo area.

Mayville State University

"Show Your Comet Pride" was the theme for MaSU's Farmers Bowl 2006 held Sept. 16. The annual day-long festival teams MaSU with a celebration of the region's agricultural

way of life. Highlights included a parade, corn and hot dog feed, football game and a charity auction. Nearly \$45,000 was raised in the auction that benefits MaSU and its students.

About 130 women attended the first "After Hours" social sponsored by the MaSU Division of Business and CIS. "After Hours" is a new monthly event that will be hosted by women of the community and will serve as a fundraiser for the MaSU Division of Business and CIS.

Minot State University

The "Beaver Dam," a new \$1.15 million student activity center, opened this fall. Located in the MiSU Student Union, it houses a fireplace, supreme sound system, digital jukebox, plasma big-screen TVs, pool tables and a portable dance floor and stage. Made-to-order food items and Starbucks coffee products are available.

One of MiSU's residence halls for upperclassmen has undergone a \$4.7 million remodel to better meet the housing expectations of students. Crane Hall now is configured into three-room suites; each suite includes a bathroom and two study/sleeping rooms. A laundry room, lounge and cooking facilities are located conveniently on each floor.

MiSU has established a mentoring program for freshmen to supplement the role of academic advisors. Mentors promote on-campus involvement, provide guidance and foster personal growth. This year, about 150 students have been teamed up with 43 faculty and staff mentors,

Celebrating Successes, from Page 6

servicing nearly one-third of MiSU's first-year population.

MiSU-Bottineau

On July 14, 15 and 16, MiSU-B commemorated its 100th anniversary with a weekend centennial event. About 650 alumni and friends converged on the campus for three days of ceremony, entertainment and reminiscing. It was a "family reunion" for students from the 1930s through recent graduates. People from 33 states and provinces attended.

"Celebration of Success" fundraising efforts connected with the college's centennial have raised \$55,000. Donations have ranged from \$25 to \$10,000. The funds will be used to supplement MiSU-B's scholarship endowment and for furniture, fixtures and files for the new arts and humanities addition.

North Dakota State College of Science

Recent NDSCS graduate Casey Martin won the Motorcycle Services Technician competition at the 42nd annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held in June in Kansas City. Martin, originally from Bismarck, completed his degree in recreational engines technology.

NDSCS student Jaden Vettel, Caledonia, N.D., is serving as the national secretary for SkillsUSA this year. Vettel was chosen as a national officer at the 42nd annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held in June in Kansas City. He is a diesel technology student.

North Dakota State University

NDSU leads a five-state region in the most recent National Science Foundation (NSF) report on research

and development expenditures among the nation's more than 600 research universities. NDSU's FY 2004 research expenditures were \$102.1 million, ranking NDSU 122nd on the national list and first in the region of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

NDSU's Fall 2006 enrollment set a record for the seventh year in a row, with 12,258 students in the undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition, NDSU graduate student enrollment (1,662) reached an all-time high for the ninth consecutive year.

strengths, such as neurosciences and aerospace/aerospace engineering, and share a number of areas of strengths, such as American Indian and Aboriginal programs, infectious diseases, rural health, and sustainable and renewable energy.

UND is one of the top 10 "Best Schools for Entrepreneurs" in the nation, according to *The Princeton Review* and *Entrepreneur* magazine. UND ranks eighth out of the top 25; in 2004, UND ranked 14 out of 25 as a top entrepreneurial campus by Forbes.com and *The Princeton Review*.

In FY 2006, UND reached an all-time high of \$94.3 million in research and sponsored program awards and set a record of \$81.2 million in expenditures. UND's research portfolio included \$315 million in ongoing and committed accounts. Researchers submitted a record 974 proposals for a value of \$255 million.



Leading ConnectND

Bonnie Neas, interim deputy CIO and executive director of ConnectND, provided an update on ConnectND challenges and successes to the State Board of Higher Education at the Sept. 21, 2006, meeting. Neas also discussed proposed 2007 legislation, staffing needs and an upcoming Oracle "health check" of ConnectND.

NDSU received re-accreditation for a period of 10 years from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). According to the final report approved by the commission's board on July 12, NDSU meets all five criteria and their core components. An HLC team made a comprehensive evaluation visit to campus in February, meeting with more than 70 committees and organizations and more than 630 people.

University of North Dakota

UND and the University of Manitoba have signed a memorandum of understanding on research collaborations. The two universities have many areas of complementary

Valley City State University

VCSU was recognized in the "America's Best Colleges 2007" edition of *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top four public comprehensive colleges in the Midwest, the ninth year in a row VCSU has received this recognition.

In the 10th year of its laptop initiative, VCSU now provides students complete "anytime, anywhere" access to educational resources. This is the latest step in the process of transforming the traditional classroom into the learning environment of the future.

After its first year of operation, VCSU's new online master of education program grew from 22 students in 2005 to 78 students in 2006. Both program concentrations, technology education and teaching and technology, showed substantial growth.

NDUS Sees Small Enrollment Gains

Celebrating Successes, from Page 7

Fall 2006 enrollment at North Dakota University System colleges and universities held steady, according to a report presented to the State Board of Higher Education at the Sept. 21, 2006, board meeting.

The 2006 Fall Enrollment Report includes all students enrolled in class as of the 15th day of the fall term or formally registered for credit classes that start later in the semester. Highlights of the report follow:

- The 42,237 systemwide enrollment is an increase of 155 students or .3 percent when compared to Fall 2005.
- When measured in terms of full-time equivalent students, the FTE enrollment of 35,373 is an increase of 95 students or .2 percent when compared to Fall 2005.

- 21 percent or 8,992 students are enrolled at the two-year colleges, and 79 percent or 33,245 students are enrolled at the four-year universities.
- The two-year colleges showed a combined net enrollment gain of 2.6 percent, while the four-year universities showed a combined net enrollment loss of .2 percent.
- North Dakota residents make up 61.8 percent of enrollments.
- 26 percent or 10,964 of students are from the contiguous states of Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota, 11.2 percent or 4,721 students are from other states, and 1 percent or 442 students are from Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Williston State College

Sen. Kent Conrad visited WSC on Sept. 18 to announce that the Petroleum Safety and Training Center had received \$200,000 in the 2007 Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. This industry-driven project was awarded \$400,000 in Economic Development Centers of Excellence funding in November 2005. The center has served more than 2,000 oilfield employees since July 2005.

Upcoming SBHE Meetings

- Nov. 9, 2006 DSU
- Dec. 21, 2006 Conf. call