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‘Select Dakota’ Website Links College and Workforce Initiatives

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A new web portal aimed at aligning college preparation efforts with South Dakota workforce initiatives has debuted online.

The website, called **Select Dakota** (www.selectdakota.org), is a “comprehensive approach designed to foster postsecondary pathways for both traditional and non-traditional students,” said Paul Turman, the South Dakota Board of Regents’ associate vice president for academic affairs. The Board of Regents will manage the new web portal, which links the user to information about all public postsecondary education opportunities in South Dakota, including the six public universities and four technical institutes in the state.

Initial plans were to create a website reaching out to older students with significant college credit who had stopped out of higher education before completing their degree. But as the work proceeded, it was determined that a more comprehensive approach would be best, directing college readiness advice to current K-12 students and recent high school graduates, as well as to the older non-traditional student. “The idea is to seamlessly align college-prep efforts with a number of the governor’s workforce initiatives, by encouraging South Dakota high school graduates and residents to pursue public postsecondary education opportunities,” Turman said.

Select Dakota has five primary objectives:

1. Encourage South Dakota high school students to attend one of the public postsecondary institutions in the state;
2. Provide middle and high school students with information emphasizing how and why they should pursue postsecondary degree completion;
3. Promote avenues for transfer students to return to public institutions in South Dakota;
4. Persuade adult learners to either begin their postsecondary experience or return to a public institution to complete their degree; and
5. Offer parents and counselors a variety of resources that aid in their students’ postsecondary preparation.

The **Select Dakota** web portal may be accessed at www.selectdakota.org.