The Opportunity

The South Dakota Board of Regents invites nominations, expressions of interest and applications from candidates to become the next president of the University of South Dakota.

Founded in 1862 on the banks of the Missouri River in Vermillion, South Dakota, the University of South Dakota is the state’s flagship institution and its designated liberal arts university. As the largest employer in Vermillion, USD plays a critical role as an economic driver and generates $786 million in annual economic impact to the state. USD is home to the state’s only medical and law schools as well as the state’s first and longest-standing College of Fine Arts. It also houses the Beacom School of Business, School of Education, College of Arts & Sciences, School of Health Sciences and the state’s largest Graduate School. For more than 150 years USD has produced the state’s leaders, thinkers, politicians, judges, medical professionals and entrepreneurs.

With an enrollment exceeding 10,000 students and employing more than 400 faculty members, USD has a strong commitment to student outcomes and success. The 274-acre main campus in Vermillion — housing more than 4,000 students, over 130 student organizations and 18 NCAA Division I sports — has undergone $300 million in upgrades over the last decade and been named one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation. USD has a strong track record of successful programs and initiatives that will provide a solid and steady foundation on which the incoming president can build.

USD is part of a system of six universities governed by a nine-member Board of Regents. Member institutions are expected to collaborate, share resources, increase efficiency and cost savings, limit program redundancy among universities, and make it easier for students to access programs and transfer easily throughout the system. The USD president reports to the board through the executive director.

The USD president provides the strategic vision and leadership for the campus. The president will be expected to continue the university’s current momentum and leverage existing strategic initiatives toward the development of new campus-wide priorities.

USD’s president will be a visible representative of the institution, both on and off campus, responsible for cultivating external relationships and building strong ties within the community, local industry and with statewide government officials. The president also will serve as the university’s chief fundraiser, leading the campus to the successful close of its current $250 million campaign (currently on pace to surpass $300 million) and engaging current and prospective donors to identify new sources of revenue. A continued focus on increasing enrollment, student retention and graduation rates will be critical to future success. The president should be a strong advocate of faculty and staff, encouraging cross-disciplinary partnerships and program innovation to enhance academic excellence.

Successful candidates will have significant administrative and leadership experience with a high level of interpersonal skills and a deep commitment to student success. Candidates should demonstrate a track record of fundraising and building strong relationships and community partnerships with external constituents. The campus seeks a president who is highly visible, both on and off campus, transparent and collaborative.

For information on how to apply or to submit nominations, please refer to the section, “Procedure for Candidacy” at the end of this document.
The Expectations

Develop External Relations and Community Partnerships

As the largest employer in Vermillion and a major economic driver in the region, USD finds its success deeply integrated with that of the community and the state. The incoming president should serve as a key leader and visible ambassador of the institution and be actively engaged with a wide variety of external partners. The president will advocate for the advancement of the institution, demonstrating a sincere and authentic interest in making a positive impact on the surrounding community. The next president will be expected to effectively communicate with, and make a compelling case for, support from donors, alumni, government officials and industry to advance the mission, goals and objectives of the institution. Furthermore, a continued partnership with University Center—a face-to-face course delivery site in Sioux Falls where students can choose classes from the six public South Dakota universities—offers the opportunity to expand the university’s footprint and provide innovative options for student success in South Dakota’s largest metropolitan region.

Advance Fundraising Initiatives and Build New Revenue Streams

USD is currently in the final stage of a successful $250 million comprehensive campaign. Having surpassed its goal with 14 months remaining, the university is on track to raise approximately $308 million, which would be the largest fundraising campaign in state history. The campaign has provided funding for improvements across campus including construction of the Sanford Coyote Sports Center; academic space for kinesiology, physical therapy and occupational therapy; and the Lillibridge Track complex. The incoming president will have the opportunity to plan USD’s next campaign, which will provide funding for a new School of Health Sciences building, student housing, academic programs and scholarships, among other priorities. As the chief fundraiser and revenue generator, the president will actively engage current and prospective donors and alumni in philanthropic activities while identifying new and creative revenue streams through public/private partnerships, government grants and other strategies that contribute to the institution’s long-term financial success and sustainability.
Maintain Momentum and Continuity of Strategic Initiatives

The University of South Dakota has established a strong foundation of successful programs and initiatives under the leadership of outgoing President James W. Abbott. The incoming president should build on the existing strategic plan that guides the campus through 2020, while collaborating with campus constituents and key stakeholders to begin identifying and developing new campus-wide priorities that inform the next strategic plan. The campus seeks a president who will maintain and build on its positive, upward momentum and ensure continued growth and innovation into the future.

Develop Strategies that Drive Student Enrollment Growth and Success

Over the last decade, South Dakota’s high school graduation rates have flattened and only recently begun to slowly rise. Furthermore, the state does not have a traditional community college system that feeds academic transfer students to its four-year institutions. It does, however, have a system of state technical institutes with which collaboration could be enhanced. Competition for students makes it necessary for USD to intensify state and local recruitment efforts while expanding to other regions of the country. USD is one of two institutions in the system that has experienced recent incremental enrollment growth. However, it will be important for the incoming president to build an effective recruitment and marketing plan targeted at both in-state and out-of-state students that drives growth while increasing measures of student success, including retention and graduation rates. Increasing available scholarship funding will also be a high priority as the university strives to attract and retain high-merit students, many of whom have significant financial need.
Embrace and Support Transparency, Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of South Dakota values transparency and is highly committed to diversity and inclusion throughout the institution. The incoming president should be highly communicative and authentically invested in the greater good of the campus and its faculty, staff and students. It will be important for the next president to act with empathy, authenticity, warmth and a supportive nature while promoting and advocating for student, faculty and staff achievement and success. The president should be inclusive and work closely with faculty and staff to ensure they have the necessary resources and support to serve USD students. The campus is dedicated to fostering a culture of inclusion and diversity, and it will be important for the next president to continue to prioritize these efforts.

Prioritize Academic Excellence

USD is a flagship research university in the South Dakota system, boasting highly-ranked programs across campus, including the Sanford School of Medicine, the USD School of Law and the Beacom School of Business, all three of which are nationally recognized. The president should be a strong advocate for academics and faculty, working closely with the academic leadership to inspire productive working relationships that foster interdisciplinary collaborations. The president should be a key partner with the provost and campus deans to innovate and develop academic programs to help differentiate the institution from its peers and move the research agenda forward. As long-time faculty begin to retire, it will also be important to recruit and retain high-quality faculty and continue to raise academic standards. Although nationally recognized, the law school has felt the effect of national trends, applying downward pressure on enrollment and bar passage rates. The president will be expected to work closely with the school’s leadership to develop strategies and tactics to counter these challenging developments.
The Qualities and Characteristics

The ideal candidate will be an experienced leader with a demonstrated track record of providing strategic vision and leading institutional growth with strong interpersonal skills. USD is a liberal arts-focused research university, and candidates should have an appreciation for the wide range of programs offered across campus. The president of USD will be a key leader and visible ambassador in the local community and be expected to be a visible, active participant in town and gown relations. Candidates should be externally focused with a history of successful fundraising. The president should also be accessible to students and highly engaged in campus events.

It will be important that the incoming president has a demonstrated commitment to shared governance and the democratic process. A collaborative and transparent approach will be key to success.

Strong candidates will have many of the following qualities and characteristics:

- Ability to lead a high functioning executive team capable of making decisions in the best interests of the entire university
- Strong track record of academic excellence
- High level of emotional intelligence and strong interpersonal skills
- Student-oriented; committed to student success
- Accessible and visible
- Experienced fundraiser; demonstrated ability to cultivate and close major gifts, both in and out of a comprehensive campaign
- Ability to develop strong relationships and work productively with state legislators
- Strategic thinker; visionary and forward-thinking
- Entrepreneurial
- A strong command of oral and written communication, including effectiveness as an active listener
- Ability to make tough decisions in an environment of shared governance
- Ability to bring people together, make strong connections and build partnerships
- Encouraging, supportive, and positive with a sense of humor
- A deep understanding of the higher education landscape and forces that impact its future
- Transparent and communicative
- Skilled in crisis management
- Ability to thrive in a rural campus environment
- Ability to work collaboratively within a system of higher education
Inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. For fullest consideration, applicant materials should be received by March 2, 2018. Candidates should provide a Curriculum Vitae, a letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and requirements described in the leadership profile and the names and contact information for five references. Candidate confidentiality will be respected and references will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of candidates. Inquiries and application materials should be sent via email to the search consultants, Zachary A. Smith, Ph.D. and Sophie Stava of Witt/Kieffer, at USDPresident@wittkieffer.com. Questions may also be directed to the consultants through the office of Eden Stroud at 630-575-6154.

Documents that must be mailed may be sent to:
Witt/Kieffer
c/o Eden Stroud
2015 Spring Road, Suite 510
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Statement

The University of South Dakota shall offer equal opportunities in employment and for access to and participation in educational, extension and other institutional services to all persons qualified by academic preparation, experience, and ability for the various levels of employment or academic program or other institutional service, without discrimination based on sex, race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, gender, gender identification, transgender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status or on any other status that may become protected under law against discrimination. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Human Resources, Office of Equal Opportunity, http://www.usd.edu/human-resources/equal-opportunity.
USD’s 440 faculty members serve 10,260 students from across America and 50 foreign nations. The main campus in Vermillion houses more than 4,000 students with access to more than 130 student organizations and 18 NCAA Division I sports.

USD also offers extensive online education and serves students at multi-institutional learning centers and off-campus locations in Rapid City, Yankton, Sioux Falls and Pierre.

USD is designated as a “Doctoral University, Higher Research Activity,” by the Carnegie Classification. The university awards graduate degrees through 19 Ph.D. and 38 master’s programs, along with professional degrees in medicine and law. Annual research expenditures are trending upwards of $30 million with $28 million in grants and awards in FY17.

USD contributes an estimated $786 million in economic impact to South Dakota each year from a state investment of $56.6 million. USD students inject $56 million into the state economy through daily living expenses, over and above tuition and fees. USD aligns its programs, research and infrastructure with its mission to contribute to the state’s economic future and enhance citizen participation and public service.

USD’s Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) is ranked No. 1 in the nation for rural practice, producing many of the doctors who serve South Dakota communities. SSOM was recently named the top medical school in the nation for community service, honoring the school’s outreach to small towns across the state. The medical school piloted an innovative curriculum based on three pillars that combine a strong foundation in biomedical sciences with early hands-on clinical experience. Medical students can apply for a rural practice track that provides nine months of clinical training in rural communities across South Dakota including Milbank, Mobridge, Parkston, Winner, Pierre, Spearfish and Vermillion.

The South Dakota Legislature currently caps the medical school first-year class at 71 students. South Dakota residents and those with strong ties to South Dakota are preferred, although the school receives more than 700 applications for each class. Since its founding in 1907, the SSOM claims 3,758 alumni.

USD’s School of Law has produced many of the lawyers and public servants for the state of South Dakota, including seven governors over the past 80 years, Members of Congress, and all but two justices of the state Supreme Court over the past 70 years. Established in 1901, the School of Law offers a rural practice initiative that pays law tuition for students who agree to work in small towns. For the seventh consecutive year, the USD School of Law has been rated a best value law school by National Jurist magazine, averaging the lowest student debt of all ranked schools. More than 90 percent of USD law students are employed within nine months of graduation.

Across the university, small class size and highly-qualified instructors combine to offer USD students a maximum of personal attention and inspiration. Opportunities abound for students to build their non-academic transcripts through leadership in student groups and a wide variety of service opportunities.
Academic Excellence

USD confers degrees through the College of Arts & Sciences, Beacom School of Business, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, School of Health Sciences, USD School of Law, Sanford School of Medicine and the Graduate School. USD’s honors program enrolls 441 students across all colleges.

Undergraduate degrees are offered in 77 programs, and graduate degrees are offered in 57 programs. Seventy-four percent of USD professors hold the highest degree in their fields.

Classrooms and laboratories across the campus have received upgrades and new equipment over the past few years. USD has recently installed a new supercomputer that will enable ground-breaking research based on large volumes of data. The new system provides thousands of processing units, optimized software and more than 1,000 times the memory of a traditional laptop. The new machine has been named Lawrence in honor of USD alum and Nobel Laureate E.O. Lawrence.

This year USD is launching a program called Finish in Four to encourage undergraduate students to complete their degrees in four years of full-time attendance. The program estimates that students could save $61,000 in expenses and loan repayment cost by sticking to a traditional four-year plan. Finish in Four supports the BOR policy of affordability and accountability.

USD annually offers more than $7 million in scholarships.

USD is the lead institution for the University Center in Sioux Falls. The center, located on a modern campus in the state’s largest city, offers courses from all six public universities that meet the needs of nontraditional students as well as those bound to the location because of jobs or family responsibilities. In response to work force needs expressed by the state’s employers, USD has developed a bachelor’s degree in technical leadership at University Center-Sioux Falls in conjunction with the state’s two-year technical schools. USD will accept up to 60 credits from a technical school and teach another 60 credits through the University Center to produce a graduate with a rare combination of technical knowledge and people skills for today’s high-tech industries.
Donations to the USD Foundation support 13 endowed faculty positions:

— Dean of the USD Sanford School of Medicine
— The Walter A. and Lucy Yoshioka Buhler Endowed Chair, College of Fine Arts
— Alumni Faculty Fellow Endowment
— Dr. John T. Vucurevich Chair Endowment, Beacom School of Business
— Lohre Distinguished Professorship Endowment, College of Arts & Sciences
— Odeen-Swanson Distinguished Professorship Endowment, Political Science
— Truman & Beverly Schwartz Distinguished Faculty Award Endowment, College of Arts & Sciences
— Gordon & Bonnie Held Visiting Professorship Endowment, USD Sanford School of Medicine
— Alton Ochsner Surgery Clerkship Director Endowment, USD Sanford School of Medicine
— Karl H. Wegner, M.D., Chair in Medicine Endowment, USD Sanford School of Medicine
— Dr. Charley F. & Elizabeth R. Gutch Chair in Medicine Endowment, USD Sanford School of Medicine
— Deloitte Professorship in Accounting Endowment, Beacom School of Business
— William Rothwell Chair in Economics Education, Beacom School of Business
University Administration and Governance

The university is organized into 10 divisions, each headed by a vice president or director. The provost is the chief academic officer as well as vice president for academic affairs and is responsible for academic programs and services offered through the eight colleges and schools, the Center for Academic and Global Engagement, Academic and Career Planning, Student-Athlete Academic Success, Honors, Continuing and Distance Education, and the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The vice president for health affairs is also the dean of the Sanford School of Medicine. She oversees both the medical school and the School of Health Sciences.

The other administrative units include vice presidents for student services; marketing, enrollment and university relations; administration and technology; director of athletics; vice president for research and sponsored programs; and vice president of human resources. The vice president for finance is also the chief financial officer for USD. The associate vice president for diversity reports directly to the president.

The USD Foundation is the fund-raising arm of the university. The foundation is currently involved in a $250 million effort Onward: The Campaign for South Dakota. By fall 2017 the campaign had raised $251,010,134 with the campaign continuing until December 2018. Nearly 15,000 individuals have contributed to the Onward program. The USD Foundation oversees one of the largest endowments in South Dakota, more than $258 million.

In 2016 the operational offices of the USD Foundation were combined with those of the USD Alumni Association, which counts 69,000 members around the world. USD has recently started a Student Alumni Association, which offers programming and benefits pre-graduation. USD on the Move is a program of events in cities across America with significant alumni populations.

USD’s faculty is represented by the University Senate. This organization is an elected body subject to the limitations imposed by the laws of the State of South Dakota, the Agreement between the Board of Regents and the Council of Higher Education, and the rules of the Board of Regents.

The University Senate is composed of the provost and vice president of academic affairs, a varying number of elected members of the faculty proportionally representing the schools and colleges, two undergraduate students elected by the Student Government Association (SGA) and one graduate or professional student elected by the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). One non-voting liaison chosen by the Dean’s Council shall be invited to attend the meetings. The Senate has four internal committees and eight standing committees.

Non-faculty governance is led by the Civil Service Advisory Council. The Student Government Association represents the interests of students and allocates funds to student organizations.

In addition, the president appoints special committees to assist with gathering information and making recommendations in specific areas.
Operating Budget Authority – FY2018

Total Budget = $198,037,468

- Instructional Support: $78,581,416 (39.7%)
- Research: $11,321,302 (5.7%)
- Public Service: $12,501,573 (6.3%)
- Academic Support: $33,449,752 (16.9%)
- Student Services: $18,368,847 (9.3%)
- Institutional Support: $18,372,876 (9.3%)
- Operations & Maintenance of Plant: $11,931,140 (6.0%)
- Scholarships and Fellowships: $806,664 (0.4%)
- Auxiliary Enterprises: $12,703,898 (6.4%)

Total: $198,037,468 (100.0%)
Accreditation

The University of South Dakota has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) since 1913. Institutional accreditation by the HLC of the NCA provides assurance to prospective students, parents, and others that an institution of higher education meets the agency’s clearly stated requirements and criteria. The HLC is an independent organization founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States.

The next review will be USD’s Comprehensive Evaluation, scheduled for 2020–21.

USD is rated one of America’s best national universities by U.S. News & World Report and the Princeton Review. It also has been named the state’s top college by Forbes Magazine. Separately U.S. News & World Report has cited the Beacom School of Business, the USD School of Law and the Sanford School of Medicine for academic excellence and value.
Additional accreditations held by schools, colleges and programs at USD:

School of Business
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) 1949

School of Education
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE/CAEP-Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) 1956

School of Law
Council on the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA) 1923
Council on the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. Foreign Programs Subcommittee of the Accreditation Committee 2011

School of Medicine
Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) 1929

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) 2005
Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) 2009

Addiction Studies
National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission 2006 (www.nasacaccreditation.com)

Art
National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) 1979

Chemistry
American Chemical Society (ACS) 1941

Clinical Psychology
American Psychological Association (APA) 1971

Communications Sciences and Disorders

Computer Science
Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.

Counseling and Psychology in Education
Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) 1993
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2000

Dental Hygiene
American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation 1969

Health Services Administration
Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) 1998

Contemporary Media and Journalism
Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (ACEJMC) 1997

Music
National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) 1956

Nursing
The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) 1976
South Dakota Board of Nursing 2006
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) 2011

Occupational Therapy
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) 1993

Physical Therapy
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) 1993

Physician Assistant Studies
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) 1995

Social Work
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 1974

Theatre
National Association of Schools for Theatre (NAST) 1991
Student Life

In the fall of 2017, USD received the second highest number of new freshmen in the school’s history, adding to the vibrant nature of student life on campus. The number of international students is rising, and students enjoy a wide variety of ethnic events and fairs on campus each year. Students from 50 states and 65 foreign countries make up the USD student body. About 66 percent come from the state of South Dakota.

The office of international recruitment is working to attract more students from abroad as part of a university-wide effort to increase diversity on campus. The Center for Academic and Global Engagement—Study Abroad, offers more than 200 study abroad opportunities on six continents. USD offers the Native American Cultural Center along with Native Student Services to support and enrich the experience of Native American students. The Center for Diversity and Community offers a welcoming space for all students to share experiences, find support and make new friends.

About 4,000 students live on the USD campus in seven residence halls and two apartment-style buildings. Food service includes a Papa John’s pizzeria in the North Complex along with full service food options in the Muenster University Center, including Qdoba, Chick-fil-A and Einstein Bros. Bagels. The Greek system includes four sororities and eight fraternities, all emphasizing academics and service. About 130 student organizations exist to meet nearly every student’s interests.

Students also have the chance to participate in theatre, alongside the theatre majors in Fine Arts. The Black Hills Playhouse is a non-profit, professional, summer stock theatre located in Custer.
State Park near Center Lake. Founded in 1946 by Warren M. Lee, a former professor of theatre and Dean of Fine Arts at the University of South Dakota, the Playhouse serves as a cultural and educational center for the fine arts in the state of South Dakota. Each summer, theatre professionals, professors and students from across the country gather to create theatre in this unique environment. The Sound of USD recruits students from all colleges for a traditional marching band. In addition USD offers five other bands ranging from symphonic band to the percussion ensemble. Choirs include the world-traveled Chamber Singers, the concert choir and men’s and women’s choirs.

About 20 intramural sports activities are offered each semester. In addition USD offers club sports in archery, baseball, cricket, fencing, men’s rugby, women’s rugby, soccer, tennis, trap shooting, and ultimate Frisbee.
Coyote Athletics

USD competes at the NCAA Division I level and the Football Championship Subdivision. USD is a member of the Summit League and the Missouri Valley Conference.

Facilities

• The DakotDome is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the state of South Dakota. Built in 1979, this multi-purpose arena is home to the Coyote football and swimming and diving teams. It also hosts indoor track and field meets. Other public events include the South Dakota High School Football Championships and The Dakota Farm Show.

• The Sanford Coyote Sports Center (men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball), Lillibridge Track Complex, and First Bank & Trust Soccer Complex were part of a $70 million project that came online in 2016.

• The Sanford Coyote Sports Center opened just in time to host growing crowds for men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball, which formerly were played in the DakotDome. The new, 6,000-seat arena is equipped with state-of-the-art video boards, lighting and audio equipment and offers two new accommodations for donors and VIPs, the CorTrust Club for basketball and the Dome Club for football.

Notable Accomplishments

• South Dakota has won three team national championships including the Women’s NIT in 2015.

• The Coyotes have won 20 conference championships in less than 10 years at the Division I level.

• Individuals in track & field and swimming & diving have combined to win 23 national championships including two national pole vault champions at the Division I level.

• Pole vaulters Emily Grove and Chris Nilsen represented the United States at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London. Grove was a six-time All-American and became the ninth woman to break the 15-foot barrier during her career. Nilsen was the 2017 NCAA Indoor Champion and vaulted a personal best 18-10 ¼ at the U.S. Outdoor Championships.
Research

Research at the University of South Dakota is founded on the philosophy that research and education combine with a powerful synergy, and further, that research and education provide critical economic drivers for the state.

USD has research strengths in health and medicine, ecology and sustainability science, advanced materials development, dark matter detection, and business analytics. The University is the lead institution for three Governor's Research Centers: The Center for Functional Fluorinated Materials, The Center for Genetics & Behavioral Health, and the sustained Center for Ultra-low Background Experiments.

The University’s Missouri River Institute engages faculty and students in a multi-state collaboration for the ecological, economic and human factors impact of land-use changes in the upper Missouri River basin. The multi-institutional Center for Security Printing and anti-Counterfeiting Technologies grew out of one of the earliest Governor’s Research Centers and is now supported through the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice. A new Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship will be established through an award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

In Fiscal Year 2017, USD was awarded $28 million in grants and contracts. This includes awards from the National Science Foundation for three Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) sites and for a National Research Traineeship (NRT) program for graduate students. It also includes an award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to broaden undergraduate participation in STEM fields and an award from the National Institutes of Health promoting undergraduate participation in STEM through the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN).

The National Science Foundation has made awards to promote technology transfer and university/industry connections through a Partnerships for
Innovation program. During FY17, USD had 10 NIH R01 awards to individual investigators and two NSF CAREER awards to junior faculty. USD grants and contracts also include public service awards for the Head Start program and for the South Dakota School for the Deaf. The U.S. Small Business Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology provide public service awards to operate the South Dakota Small Business Development Center and Manufacturing and Technology Solutions for South Dakota companies.

USD is developing its first research park, called the USD Discovery District, in Sioux Falls. The 80-acre park will adjoin the existing University Center-Sioux Falls, which offers classes from all six public universities. Ground was broken for the USD Discovery District in spring 2017, the first streets and utilities have been installed, and construction will start soon on the first 25,000-square-foot tenant building and a hotel. The USD Discovery District will emphasize biomedical engineering and products in cooperation with the city of Sioux Fall, Forward Sioux Falls, the state of South Dakota and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

USD offers a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at the Graduate Education & Research Center (GEAR,) next door to the USD Discovery District. GEAR also provides technology-transfer incubator space with a certified Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) laboratory for pharmaceuticals production and packaging. Plans are in the works to expand the GEAR Center for a second time in order to accommodate all the companies wanting approved lab space to conduct FDA trials on medical devices and treatments.
Campus and Community

Vermillion, a historic Missouri River town, is located on high bluffs on the north bank of the river. Located near the convergence of South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, Vermillion, South Dakota, is 29 miles from Sioux City, Iowa, 62 miles from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 137 miles from Omaha, Nebraska, and 300 miles from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Vermillion community has supported the university since its founding 155 years ago. A town of 10,000 hosting a university of 10,000 is in a unique position to combine small town charm with big town amenities. USD provides the largest payroll in town, and draws large crowds at campus cultural and athletic events.

The USD president is highly visible and plays a significant role in town/gown relations. The relationship between USD and the Chamber of Commerce/Development Company has become an example in the region and beyond for successful partnerships.

USD’s state of the art Wellness Center was developed to serve community members as well as students. The university stepped in to help save the town’s movie theaters by investing with a community group that refurbished the cinemas.

USD’s CFO is appointed to the Chamber board of directors, and others associated with USD are often elected to the board. Joint projects include events, housing and economic development ventures. Currently, a downtown historic building is being refurbished to provide collaborative co-working space, a visitor center and space for the USD retail store, Charlie’s.

These partnerships result in jobs and internships for USD students as well as thousands of hours of community service performed by students annually. Most recently, students helped start a program to save surplus food from the campus dining service to feed the needy.

Vermillion prides itself on a progressive attitude and a safe, welcoming environment. Residents enjoy recreation on the last natural stretch of the pristine Missouri River along with hiking and biking trails. The city’s hospital is newly remodeled and expanded, and the town has installed a new pool and water park.
Conclusion

The next president will join a venerable university writing new history through student success, strong enrollment, growth in research including a developing research park, and success in NCAA Division I athletics. USD has a reputation as a provider of top-notch professionals in medicine, law, science, business and government. It is looking for a new president who will build upon and continue to grow this reputation.