Students to Participate in Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

While many people will have the day off from work and school this coming Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a group of dedicated students, faculty, and staff from the University of South Dakota will be spending their free time helping improve their community.

The USD Center for Academic & Global Engagement (CAGE) will be organizing a number of community service projects for volunteers to help with on the national day of service.

Among the multitude of organizations which volunteers will be able to help with are: the River City Domestic Violence Center, the Vermillion Welcome Table, the Vermillion Food Pantry, the Vermillion Public Library, the Vermillion Recycling Center, the Sanford Care Center, SEDSAC Inc., the National Music Museum, the Boys and Girls Club of Yankton, St. Agnes School, the Heartland Humane Society and the Newman Center.

Kim Albracht, the assistant director of academic engagement for CAGE, said volunteers will be involved in a wide array of activities, from facilitating creative and social activities for some of the organizations to helping with the cleaning and maintenance duties for others.

“I believe there is a strong culture of volunteerism and community service here at USD and in the Midwest in general,” she said. “Celebrating the legacy of Dr. King with people across the nation as we engage in service demonstrates and reminds us that we do care and want to make our communities, and our country as a whole, stronger by working together.”

Volunteers will begin the check-in process and enjoy hot cocoa in the Muenster University Center at 12:15 p.m. and then will be sent to perform service for organizations across Vermillion and Yankton from 1-4 p.m.

To participate in the event, visit the registration web page. Additional information about MLK Day can be found on the CAGE website.
In addition to the volunteer opportunities provided by the Center for Academic and Global Engagement in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 15, a keynote lecture will be held the following day on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 11:30 a.m. in Aalfs Auditorium.

Frank Tuitt, senior adviser to the chancellor and provost on diversity and inclusion at the University of Denver and a professor of higher education in the Morgridge College of Education, will speak about his research, which explores topics related to access and equity in higher education; teaching and learning in racially diverse college classrooms; and diversity and organizational transformation.

Staff Appreciation Days with the Coyotes

The USD Coyote men’s and women’s basketball teams would like to welcome USD faculty and staff and their families to the USD Faculty and Staff Appreciation Days coming up. All faculty and staff can get half-priced tickets to the following games:

- Saturday, Jan. 13, 1 p.m.
  (Women vs. Fort Wayne)
- Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
  (Men vs. Fort Wayne)

Faculty and staff can get half price admission for themselves and their families on all of these dates. You can purchase in advance by clicking here and using the promo code “USDSTAFF,” and can also purchase tickets on the day of the game with a staff ID. If you purchase online, make sure you go to the “Group Sales” tab to enter the promo code.

For more information contact the USD ticket office at 605-677-5959.

#YotesCare

I CARE BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

Committed to preventing and responding to sexual assault at USD through programming and advocacy.

I CARE Introduction Panel Q&A
Come out and learn more about the I CARE strategic initiatives and ask your questions to the I CARE panel.

January 11, 2018 • 6–7:30 p.m. • Old Main • Farber Hall

I CARE Launch
The University of South Dakota invites you to the I CARE launch. Come out and meet the I CARE team.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

January 22, 2018 • Noon • MUC Pit

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate, please contact Disability Services 48 hours prior to attendance of the event at 605-677-6389 or email disabilitieservices@usd.edu. This document is available in alternative formats, upon request from Disability Services.
Center for Teaching and Learning to Facilitate Mentoring Workshops for Faculty and Staff

A series of workshops this spring will aim to give University of South Dakota faculty and staff members the tools they need to be successful mentors for their students.

The USD Inclusive Science Initiative and the Center for Teaching and Learning will hold 10 weekly, 45-minute sessions of guided training on best practices for being a mentor at the university level using the curriculum developed by the nationally recognized National Research Mentorship Network.

Sessions will start on Jan. 16 and 17, and will be held on Tuesdays from 9 - 10 a.m. and Wednesdays noon - 1 p.m. The workshops will continue every week after that through March 27-28 with no meetings taking place during spring break.

Participants who attend eight of the 10 workshops will receive a Statement of Achievement in Mentoring from the CTL. The workshops will be held in MT110, and Collaborate links will be provided for faculty who wish to participate online.

Brian Burrell, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences and one of the main organizers of the workshops, said the programs benefit both the faculty mentors and their student mentees.

“Studies have shown that faculty who receive mentor training experience greater productivity by their trainees,” he said. “Furthermore, student success in college is greatly impacted by the quality of faculty mentoring that they receive and this is especially true with students from underrepresented groups.”

To register for this series or to receive the Collaborate link, please sign up at CTL@usd.edu.

If you have specific questions about the program or want to see a detailed curriculum, contact Brian. Burrell@usd.edu or Bruce.Kelley@usd.edu.

Curriculum
Week 1: Introduction to Mentor Training Program
Week 2: Aligning Expectations
Week 3: Promoting Professional Development
Week 4: Maintaining Effective Communication
Week 5: Addressing Equity and Inclusion
Week 6: Inclusion within South Dakota & the Surrounding Region
Week 7: Assessing Understanding
Week 8: Fostering Independence
Week 9: Cultivating Ethical Behavior
Week 10: Articulating Your Mentoring Philosophy and Plan

Diversity Theme Chosen for New Semester

What constitutes privilege and who has it will be at the forefront of diversity discussions on the University of South Dakota’s campus this coming semester.

The USD President’s Council on Diversity and Inclusiveness announced that the theme of “privilege” will be the centerpiece of diversity programming on campus that they hope other groups will rally behind with programming of their own.

Beth Boyd, a member of the President’s Council on Diversity and Inclusiveness and the director of the clinical psychology program at USD, said the theme can be addressed in a wide variety of ways and from a wide variety of perspectives.

“It could be racial, ethnic, cultural, gender, religious, ability, language privilege or probably many others,” she said. “Groups could choose to address it by dialogue, demonstration or didactics. It would hopefully open up a campus-wide conversation about privilege and what it means and how we, as the USD community, interact with it.”
"Special Collections," a radio program that highlights remarkable museums, featured The National Music Museum in Vermillion as part of its winter season offerings. An episode featuring the museum was broadcast in December.

"Special Collections: Radio Tours to All the Cool Places" is a new hour-long program that is produced by Brigham Young University and BYUradio. It's heard across the United States on Sirius XM Radio, channel 143, airing on Saturdays at 4 p.m. Eastern. You can also listen to the show via www.byuradio.org/specialcollections. Archived episodes are also available as podcasts through iTunes and Stitcher.

The National Music Museum audio is available here.

Many other great museums are featured as well, including:
- National Great Blacks In Wax Museum
- Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site
- Newseum
- Hall of Flame
- Graceland
- Museum of Broken Relationships
- Forks Timber Museum
- New England Maple Museum
- Bran Castle
- The Castle Halloween Museum
- Salem Witch Museum
- Meguro Parasitological Museum
- A Christmas Story House and Museum

The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre’s 2018 spring musical “Cabaret” will be choreographed by veteran Broadway director and choreographer Chet Walker.

“We are excited and blessed to have an artist the caliber of Chet Walker working with our students. Walker’s creative scholarship is inspiring, relevant and exciting. He will provide our students with unique, powerful and significant learning opportunities while he is in residence,” said associate professor of theatre Patricia Downey, who was instrumental in bringing the acclaimed artist back to USD after his first stint as a guest artist in 2014.

Walker’s residency spans 10 days in the Department of Theatre, during which time he will choreograph eight dances for “Cabaret,” conduct dance workshops and lecture about legendary jazz choreographer and performer Jack Cole.

“Cabaret” director Joe Stollenwerk said he is thrilled at the prospect of working with the renowned artist.

“I saw his choreography in “Pippin” three years ago and was blown away. I think it really speaks to the quality of the theatre program that we have such a talented and in-demand artist returning to work with our students again,” Stollenwerk said.

Walker has garnered acclaim onstage in theaters across the globe, as well as on screen and other media.

Walker originally conceived the show “Fosse,” which won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Musical. In 2013 he received the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, the Astaire Award and a Tony nomination for his choreography of Stephen Schwartz’s “Pippin.” The show garnered 10 Tony nominations, winning four, including Best Revival of a musical.

His work as a director and choreographer has taken him around the world, including London, Amsterdam, Mexico City, Madrid, Japan, Argentina, Israel, Brazil, Serbia and many other locales. Some of his recent shows include “A Chorus Line,” “Follies,” “Working,” “Funny Girl,” “The Producers” and many other musicals, dance operas and ballets. Walker’s newest project is the musical “Heat Wave,” which he will direct and choreograph for Broadway.

“Cabaret” performs April 11 – 22 in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre on the USD campus. Tickets can be purchased in the afternoons at the USD Theatre Box Office or by calling (605) 677-5400; tickets can also be purchased online.
USD Presidential Search Actively Underway

Please be aware that our search consultant is actively seeking candidates for the position of president at USD.

The campus community can play a critical role by nominating qualified individuals, as well as by reaching out to peer groups around the nation to ask if there is anyone who might be a good fit for the position. Once a nomination is entered, the search consultants will reach out to these individuals to see if there is interest. When reaching out to your peers, feel free to use the search website that has been developed for the presidential position: www.usd.edu/presidential-search.

Nominations can be forwarded to one of the search committee members, or you can submit the nominations directly to the search consultant by using the following email address: USDPresident@wittkieffer.com.

Faculty and Staff to Receive Monthly News Compilation E-Newsletter

Starting this month, the Office of University Relations will send out a monthly e-newsletter highlighting USD news and happenings. The newsletter, called "Update," will be delivered electronically to the Board of Regents, legislators and political leaders, as well as to USD faculty, staff and students. Update is an aggregate of USD news highlights and points of pride, representing different areas of the university.

The first of these was sent Jan. 8, and it will continue to be distributed monthly.

Graduate School and USD-N3 Announce Competition

The Graduate School and USD-N3 announce the 3-Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition.

The 3MT is a communication competition in which students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance. This competition challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience. Students interested in competing must (1) be enrolled and in good standing in a thesis master’s or Ph.D. program, (2) have their advisor’s approval and (3) be available for the preliminary round (Feb. 14 in MUC 216, 2 - 5 p.m.) and final competition (Feb. 21 in the Al Neuharth Media Center Freedom Forum, 3 - 5 p.m.)

An information session will be held Feb. 7 in MUC 216, 3 - 5 p.m. Applications are due by Monday, Jan. 31 and students can register here.

The first place winner will be reimbursed for all eligible travel expenses for participation in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT competition, Grand Rapids Michigan, April 4-6. An additional prize of $250 will be awarded for second place. More information about the 3MT can be found at this link.
The University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business announced the creation of a proof-of-concept partnership with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) designed to take academic research from idea to the market at a press conference hosted at the University Center - Sioux Falls.

“I couldn’t be more pleased that USD Discovery District will serve as a platform for a proof-of-concept program that will foster bioscience innovation in the state,” said USD President James W. Abbott.

In October 2017, the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded $17 million to 42 organizations, including nonprofits, institutions of higher education and entrepreneurship-focused organizations from 28 states to create and expand proof-of-concept and commercialization programs.

As co-applicants, GOED/USD was awarded a matching grant totaling $996,000 to be used over three years to implement a proof-of-concept program to evaluate and move bioscience innovations from idea to market and develop the necessary skilled workforce.

“Research has shown that proof-of-concept centers are vital to commercialize university-based research,” said Venky Venkatachalam, dean of the Beacom School of Business. “We are delighted to win the i6 Challenge Grant.”

Teams consisting of researchers, entrepreneurs, technical and business students, equity capital investors and potential strategic partners will be created to submit proof-of-concept applications and execute projects. Applications will be submitted to the SD Board of Regents Research and Affairs Council and business/investment experts for technical and business review.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard said the program expects to award grants to eight to 10 projects per year in order to help “prove their concept to help them move from idea to commercial success.”

“I am excited about the future of the biotechnology sector at the USD Discovery District,” Gov. Daugaard said.

Greg Bertsch, president and CEO of Antimicrobial Materials, Inc., leads the first team awarded an i6 Challenge Grant to commercialize research that is able to “create surfaces that disinfect themselves.” His team will build a conveyor belt to be installed at a meatpacking plant to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the invention.

These activities will support economic development through knowledge discovery, student engagement and academia-industry collaboration utilizing the USD Discovery District and all three major research universities in South Dakota.

Bernie Wone, an assistant professor of biology at the University of South Dakota, has been awarded $85,400 from the South Dakota Board of Regents to investigate genes for improving drought stress responses in crop plants, such as canola.

Wone’s research will try to determine if certain genes improve water-use efficiency and/or drought tolerance in less drought-tolerant plants.

Wone said his research is critical in helping solve food insecurity issues related to a warming planet. “If you think in terms of global population, we’re projected to be at about 9 billion people by the end of the century, so we have to find some way to provide food security, whether that be for our nation or other nations,” Wone said.

Wone received a Track I grant, which is considered the most competitive type of grant offered by the BOR. With the funding, Wone said he’s been able to recruit another graduate student to help him with his work. The research team includes master’s student Atia Amin as well as Ph.D. student Kumudu Rathnayake.