

## **SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Statewide Postsecondary Attainment Goal**

During their August 2015 planning session the Board of Regents reviewed an item entitled “Promoting Higher Education in South Dakota through Goal Setting,” (see Attachment I) which reinforced that by the year 2020 roughly 65 percent of jobs in South Dakota are expected to require some level of postsecondary education (i.e. technical, associates, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees).<sup>1</sup> Data from the US Census Bureau indicate that, as of 2013, only 38 percent of working-age South Dakotans (those age 25 years or older) hold an associate’s degree or higher. This means South Dakota needs to increase the educational levels of its citizens in order to satisfy the needs of the future workforce and the item introduced the idea of setting a statewide postsecondary education attainment goal that would aim to meet the state’s workforce needs of 2020. Considering this idea, the Regents discussed adopting a 65% statewide postsecondary education attainment goal based on projections by the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute’s Center of Education and the Workforce.

Because this goal would span all postsecondary communities – technical institutes as well as public, private, and tribal colleges and universities – it would create an opportunity for a collaborative dialog amongst all educational institutions and statewide stakeholders. Considering that South Dakota has increased its postsecondary educational attainment by only about 15 percentage points since 1990, meeting the 2020 workforce demand will require a new way to address the challenge. During their October 2015 meeting the Board of Regents adopted a statewide postsecondary education attainment goal with the provisional aim of 65% of the South Dakota citizens aged 25-34, holding a postsecondary credential by the year 2025. Furthermore they approved the adoption of this provisional goal with the understanding that the provisional metric may be adjusted once additional input was obtained from potential partners and state level stakeholders.

During their December 2015 meeting the South Dakota Workforce Council also adopted the provisional attainment goal and the Board of Regents seeks similar approval from the South Dakota Board of Education considering the need to jointly engage the state’s Technical Institutes in meeting this goal.

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<sup>1</sup> Georgetown University Public Policy Institute, Center on Education and the Workforce (2013). Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020.