

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

2022 | A YEAR IN REVIEW



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



YEAR IN REVIEW

Volume 1 | Issue 1

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DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

A Message from the Dean

I am several months into my new role as the Dean of the College of Education, and I already love the students, instructors, faculty, and staff at Dakota State! The warm welcome I received exceeded my expectations. I thoroughly enjoy the family atmosphere.

Despite joining as the dean halfway through the calendar year, it's been a delightful and distinctive year in the College of Education. Over the past year, we've witnessed our alumni recognized for their exemplary service and our College of Education team won Team of the Year for our dynamic relationship building.

DSU is one of the only teacher preparation programs in the Midwest to use the two leading forms of simulations to train our students to be teachers in safe environments through experiential learning. We've been using the Virtual Avatar Learning Experience (VALE) for the past several years, providing a mixed-reality teaching experience in real time that offers the opportunity to practice classroom management. School Sims, a new addition this year, allows participants to watch an initial video and choose from several options for a response that moves the simulation along. Each choice leads to a different video, similar to a choose-your-own adventure book that you may have read as a child.

On October 5, we enthusiastically welcomed more than 175 high school students and their teachers for a day on campus as part of the Diversity Conference/Ed-Rising Expo. These high schoolers are prospective DSU students, and their teachers are critical partners for DSU in the region.

Our online education teacher program targets working professionals and aims to attract current school paraprofessionals into the teaching profession.

The College of Education is partnering with the College of Business & Information Systems to create courses for a new esports program. We're excited to work together in an innovative new area in higher education.

This fall, we made four hires. Dr. Luke Chowing and Dr. Nicole Koskovich joined our exercise science team. Megan Schuh was hired as an assistant professor of education, and Nicole Steele was hired to serve as our next director of field services.

We are ready for another exciting year in 2023 and look forward to sharing it with you!



GO TROJANS!

David De Jong

Dr. David De Jong
Dean of the College of Education

Student News



Meg Turner

Turner's life changed by DSU

Meg Turner spent eight years in the Army, and was stationed in Sioux Falls, S.D., when she became a Trojan. Today, she is living in her home state of Texas where she was a student teacher this fall.

“I would just like to say that DSU has changed my life,” she said. “From the administrative faculty to every professor I have had, every single member of the DSU team has been kind and helpful. I have been endlessly impressed by this school, and I am so proud to be a student here.”

The program enabled her to continue working and supporting her family financially while still working toward her goal of becoming a college graduate.

“I simply cannot say enough good things about the ELED/SPED online program I have been a part of at DSU,” she said. “The instructors have really done a fantastic job of building relationships, even over a digital environment.”

Turner recommends the program because it is so well done, and the professors are incredible, noting the positive feedback she's received from teachers and school staff while completing hours of observation and student teaching.

DSU alumna returns for new degree

After earning two degrees from Dakota State in 2007, Lisa Olson, '07 returned to DSU as an online student to earn her elementary education (ELED) degree.

“I've always wanted to be a teacher, so I finally decided to go back and pursue my ELED degree in January 2020.”

Olson earned bachelor's degrees in graphic design and multimedia web development during her first time at Dakota State. She knew that when returning for a new degree, she would be in a professional community with excellent professors.

For the 2021-2022 year, she substitute taught full-time in the Tea Area School District while continuing her online classes.

“I would recommend substitute teaching to anyone pursuing a degree in teaching,” she said. “I learned so many valuable things and got to know many knowledgeable teachers and administrators. I loved being in the classrooms, experiencing the day-to-day action.”

The online education Olson is receiving has helped her build a solid foundation. Despite not being in face-to-face classes, Olson finds her professors exceptionally helpful.

As a mom and full-time employee, Olson appreciates the flexibility offered through online classes. “I have a family and a busy schedule, so being able to take classes online is very convenient,” she said. “It enables me to complete things on my own time.”

“I hope my story reaches anyone considering going back to school and shows them that anything is possible,” she said.



Lisa Olson

Student Awards

The V.A. Lowry Scholar for 2022

This award is based on the student's scholarly involvement and leadership in their program of study. It is named for V.A. Lowry, who was president of DSU from 1933-1962. He devoted much of his life to creating an environment of academic excellence at this university.

The College of Education

» Kayla Gerken

College Student Leaders for the 2021-2022 school year

» Payton Harrell, '22

» Bridget Thill

Student employee of the year off campus for the 2021-2022 school year

» Alison Kienholz

Student Campus leaders for the 2021-2022 school year

» Jazlynn Pederson

Faculty News

David De Jong named new Education Dean at Dakota State



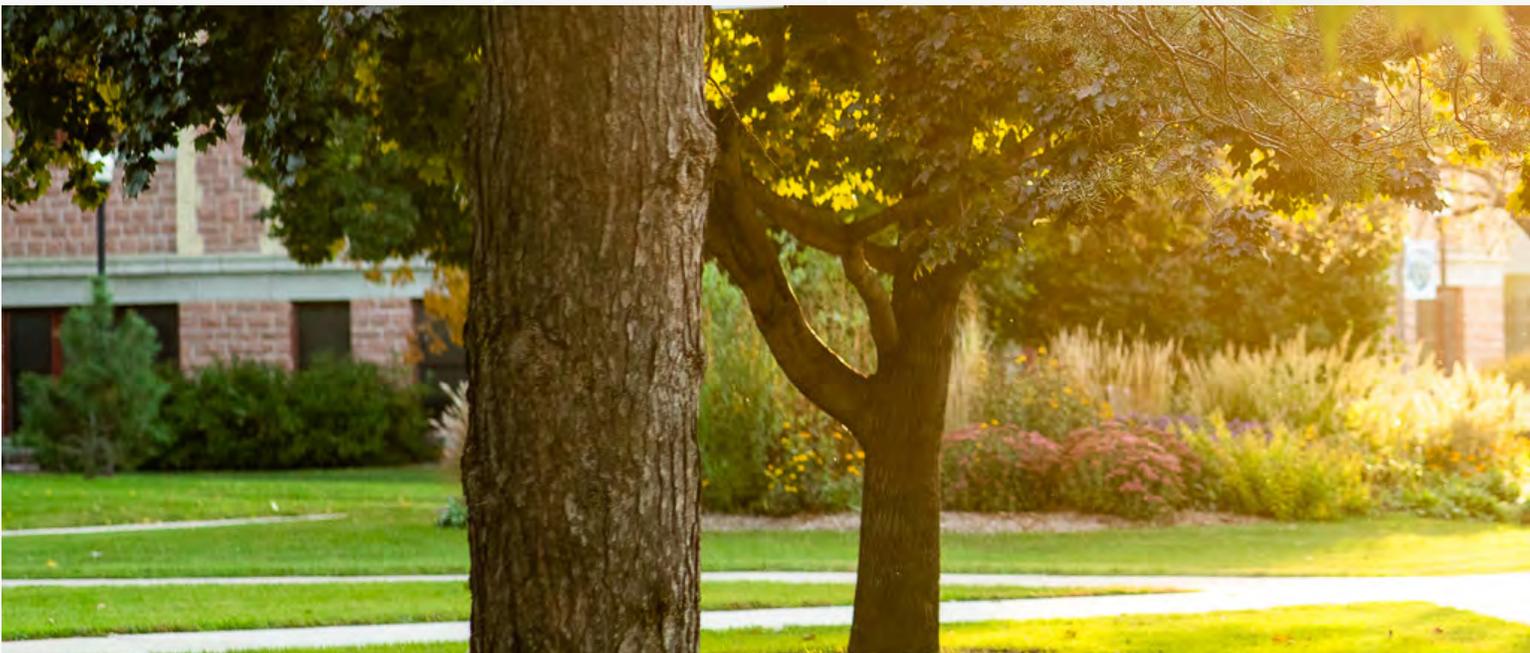
Dr. David De Jong (pronounced De Young) has been named the new Dean of the College of Education.

De Jong was serving as the Chair of the Division of Educational Leadership at the University of South Dakota, but said he was inspired to apply for the DSU position because of DSU's heritage mission in education, which is now augmented by its signature mission with technology.

"I was drawn to DSU's College of Education because of the opportunity to inspire educators at a university with an emphasis on technology and innovation," he stated.

De Jong brings to this position a great deal of experience and training in the field of education. He has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Middle-Level Education from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI); a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Drake University; a Superintendent's License in Educational Leadership from UNI, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, also from UNI.

In the K-12 arena, he has taught elementary classrooms and served as an elementary principal and superintendent in schools in Pella, Iowa. At USD, he taught and developed many graduate education courses, served as an advisor and on many dissertation committees. He has trained over



150 K-12 schools, colleges, and universities in facilitating simulations, and has led 13 national webinars on simulations and other topics. His own research has been published in peer-reviewed journals, and he is active within professional organizations.

De Jong began his duties at Dakota State on June 22. After the retirement of Dean Crystal Pauli in 2021, Dr. Mark Hawkes, Graduate Studies Dean, served as interim dean.

DSU hosted Dakota Dreams Career Exploration Camp

Dakota State University in Madison hosted a new type of camp this summer, the Dakota Dreams Career Exploration camp.

The camp included fifty 7th and 8th grade students, who learned about career pathways in education, health information, arts and physical sciences, cyber sciences, and marketing and finance. The group of students toured area businesses to see careers in action; they also spent one day at Mitchell Tech.

The camp is funded by the South Dakota Board of Regents, through a three-year grant with the South Dakota Department of Education.

The goal of the camp is to help students explore career options and relate their experiences to educational choices in middle school, high school, and college.

College of Education hosted annual Diversity & Technology Conference

The conference was attended by over 175 high school students interested in a career in education, current educators, and DSU students.

Event presenters included: Stephanie Ballard, Camrin Vaux, '06, Mitch Reed, Kevin Smith, '94, Kelly Bass, and Shana Cerny. The speakers covered topics like struggles of educators early in their careers, personalizing education in the elementary classroom, the importance of relationships, programs for promoting children's mental health, and enhanced understanding of trauma. Additionally, Kevin Smith offered an information session on the Master of Science in Educational Technology degree available from DSU.



Kevin Smith is writing a children's book

Dr. Kevin Smith is finalizing his children's book about math, called "Yucky," with publisher Blue Balloon Books. Smith hopes to make math fun! The book is about a student who thought math was yucky, but her world changes when she is introduced to a teacher who loves math.

Smith hopes to be able to distribute the book to as many people as possible. To learn more about the book and donate to his cause visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/DSU-Yucky>.

Be on the lookout for "Yucky" sometime this spring!



Awards & Recognitions



Camrin Vaux

DSU Alumna Camrin Vaux, '06 wins Milken Award

Dakota State University 2006 alumna Camrin Vaux has won one of the highest honors in education, a Milken Educator Award.

The Milken Educator Awards, often referred to as “the Oscars of teaching,” were created by Lowell Milken to celebrate teachers. They were awarded to over 60 teachers nationwide during the 2021-22 school year. Each award came with a \$25,000 cash prize.

Vaux’s own experiences as a learner influenced her decision to become a teacher. “I had educators in my life who inspired and motivated me not only to know I could do and be whomever I wanted to be, but also pushed me with high expectations to do and be exactly that,” she said.

This motivation inspired her to provide others with that empowerment. Her education at Dakota State helped prepare her to do that.

“My collegiate experience at DSU helped to build a firm foundation for my career in education,” Vaux said.

As a fifth-grade teacher at Camelot Intermediate School in

Brookings, she successfully created this environment.

In addition to leading the fifth-grade team, Vaux mentored new teachers and served on committees and the principal’s advisory board.

She also works with the National Inventors Hall of Fame to provide Camp Invention, a confidence-boosting STEM summer camp at Camelot for K-6 graders. Outside the classroom, she is active throughout her community. In Fall of 2022, she took on the role of Principal of Camelot Intermediate School.

Vaux earned a Master of Education in 2012 from South Dakota State University and is currently working on her Ed. D. from the University of Sioux Falls and plans to graduate in 2024.

She was also named the Outstanding Alumni – Educator at Homecoming this fall.

DSU alumnus Knudson named SD Principal of the Year

Collin Knudson, '03 high school principal of Tea Area High School for the past 10 years, was recognized as 2022’s South Dakota Principal of the Year.

Knudson graduated from Dakota State in 2003 with a degree in Elementary Education. He later earned a Master of Arts in Educational Administration Pre-K-12 Principal from the University of South Dakota.

He said his interest in education grew from a passion for working with kids and helping people while growing up.



Collin Knudson

“There were certain DSU staff members who helped instill a belief in myself, and I have had contact with them over the years.” He especially appreciated the mentors he found in Dr. Mark Hawkes and Dr. Wayne Pauli, ‘01.

“While it was years ago, the technology component of my degree provided me flexibility in endorsements and abilities to teach many different grade levels and areas. It also allowed for leadership opportunities to train other teachers in various aspects of technology and enhance teaching with technology,” Knudson said.

A desire to help as many students as possible motivated Knudson to earn his graduate degree. “As a teacher, one is in a position to help all the students in the classroom. As a principal, one can help all the students in the building.”

Knudson described being selected as S.D. Principal of the Year as a great feeling, “but an award like this is far from an individual award. The true recognition goes to the supportive community, school board, superintendent, staff, and students.”

Alumni & Philanthropy



Maroney donates millions to Trojans Unite Campaign

Thanks to DSU alumnus Patrick Maroney, ‘67, \$7 million dollars have been donated to the athletics facilities for the Trojans Unite Comprehensive Campaign: Building Champions. He has donated an additional \$1.5 million to scholarships as part of the Academic Success pillar of the campaign.

“Pat’s gift was essential in our ability to break ground on the athletics facility this spring,” said Jon Schemmel, CEO of the DSU Foundation. “He has been a great supporter and advocate for DSU for years. Jill Ruhd has done an amazing job growing our relationship with Pat for years and his legacy

will now directly impact students into perpetuity.”

Maroney grew up in nearby Howard, S.D. and while he started his college career elsewhere, he finished at Dakota State, then known as General Beadle State College, earning a degree in education in 1967.

“I really enjoyed my time there,” he said, “and I stayed connected, living 20 miles away.”

After graduation, he took over his family’s bar in Howard and has spent his life being involved in his community. Maroney spent time as a county commissioner, chairman of the Miner County Community Revitalization Organization, and chairman of the board of the Rural Learning Center.

He also spent 11 years as a member of the Dakota State Foundation Board of Trustees. While Maroney has retired to Sioux Falls, he’s continued to follow Dakota State and is impressed with the changes and improvements happening on campus.

“What I see now is just amazing,” he said. “This university is going places.”

Maroney is excited about DSU’s expertise in the increasingly important field of cybersecurity, the Applied Research Lab that will be opening in Sioux Falls, and phase one of the new athletics facilities.

A sports fan for his entire life, he was inspired to donate to the athletics facilities and is elated over the recent groundbreaking. “It’s one thing to plan and dream,” he said, “it’s another thing to put shovels in the ground.”

He is thrilled to watch the dynamic growth of DSU in academics and athletics, adding that he wishes he was younger and could come back to DSU and earn a degree in technology.

In addition to the \$7 million for athletics facilities, \$1.5 million will be donated for scholarships, to be dispersed between athletic and academic scholarships in his name.

The expense of college makes the need for scholarships very important, Maroney said. “Scholarships are a valuable investment; they are a way to invest in other people’s lives.”



From paraprofessional to teacher

Stacy Van Overbeke, '22 has spent a lot of time in the classroom, first as an occupational therapy assistant, then as a paraprofessional, and now in her current position as a special education teacher.

Van Overbeke worked as a paraprofessional at the West Central School District while earning her Elementary and Special Education degree from Dakota State.

“DSU and the West Central School District accommodated my needs to grow as a future educator,” she said. “I was able to gain hands-on experience and knowledge while learning about teaching different populations of students.”

Her work in the classroom allowed her to meet the requirements of her case studies, create lesson plans for math, reading, and writing, and collect data for specific class assignments at DSU.

She also completed her student teaching at West Central. “I truly believe this helped me obtain my first teaching job at West Central,” she said. “I was able to work my way up with the help of supportive administrators at West Central and numerous professors at DSU.”

The online program gave Van Overbeke the flexibility to work at her own pace, complete classwork on nights and weekends, and still attend to her other responsibilities at her job and with her family. She wouldn't have gone back to school without the online program.

“I was able to work on school when my boys were sleeping or simply just watching a movie,” she explained. “I was able to find the balance of work and home. This was a huge benefit for me being a part of DSU's online education program.”

She recommends the DSU program to any non-traditional students who want to better themselves. “You can totally make this work in your already busy schedule.”

Former Trojan added to the DSU coaching staff

The Dakota State University football team announced Andy Yost, '96 returned to DSU as an assistant coach, where he serves as the Trojans Offensive Coordinator.

Yost played tight end for the Trojans from 1990-93 and graduated from DSU in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education with coaching endorsements.

He came to Dakota State after coaching at Benedictine College (Kan.) where he served as running backs coach for the last five years. He helped the Ravens to an impressive 45-14 record in the previous five seasons, including an appearance in the 2018 NAIA Football National Championship game.

Prior to Benedictine, Yost was the head coach and offensive coordinator at Creighton Prep High School in Omaha, Nebr. Yost also had head and assistant coaching stints at Red Oak High School (Iowa), Sioux City West High School (Iowa), Sioux City Bandits indoor football (Iowa), West Sioux High School (Iowa), Hamar (Norway), Washington & Jefferson College (Pa.), Nampa High School (Idaho), and Dell Rapids St. Mary's High School (S.D.).

Tech lessons for teachers

Kayla Janssen Havrevold, '18 knows quite a bit about using technology in her 6th grade science and health classroom at Lennox (S.D.) School District.

She graduated in 2018 with a degree in K-8 Elementary Education, along with minors in technology, reading, and a kindergarten endorsement. But she learned the exceptional value of that technology experience in her second year of teaching, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Because of what she had learned at Dakota State, she knew what technology would work and what wouldn't.

“I actually kind of became the technology coordinator for the grade level,” she said. She helped her colleagues set up Google Docs and a Google classroom, made sure things were accessible for the students and that they had access to easy-to-find resources. They began to use Zoom and utilize Teams and have tried to keep using both district-wide with teachers and students. “Consistency is key for everybody,” she said.

New technologies she learned at the free GenCyber Teachers camp this summer will certainly apply to her classroom, she said. Instructors even had them make lesson plans to see exactly how to incorporate the concepts into classes.

Department & Program Updates



The DSU College of Education won Team of the Year as part of the 2022 True Trojan Awards.

2022 Team of the Year – The College of Education

Educating the next generation of teachers is Dakota State's heritage mission, and the team members in the College of Education were recognized for their efforts to continue this mission. The team knows that relationships are one of the most important parts of teaching, and faculty and staff model this for students by building those relationships, according to nomination letters. They also exhibit a spirit of collegiality across the university.

The team consists of Dr. Katie Anderson, Stacy Anderson, Addie Borah, Megan Bousquet, Dr. David De Jong, Lori Engbretson, Dr. Tim Fiegen, Dr. Mark Hawkes, Dr. Scott Klungseth, Jennifer Munger, '02, Dr. Gabe Mydland, Dr. Jennifer Nash, Shelly Rawstern, Betsy Schamber, Kindra Schneider, '08, Megan Schuh, '06, Dr. Kevin Smith, '94, Nicole Steele, and Sandi Steinhoff-Muller.

School Sims provides safe learning opportunities

An employee comes into the principal's office to share concerns about a disruptive teacher. What are the next steps that should be taken?

School Sims, an organization that provides a library of simulations, enables educators and aspiring educators to walk through different scenarios with options to choose from on how to respond. This program is now in use at DSU.

College of Education Dean Dr. David De Jong describes the School Sims videos as similar to the Choose Your Own Adventure book series, which enables readers to make choices that impact how the story turns out.

"It creates a safe place for us to have deep, meaningful conversations at each decision point," he explained.

After watching the initial video, participants can choose from several options and decide on a response to the situation that moves the simulation along. Each choice leads to a different video.

"I've learned so much about leadership and valuing different perspectives of people who don't look like me, think like me, or have the same past experiences as me," De Jong said.

Additionally, the simulations permit students and educators to participate asynchronously when their schedules allow. This also enables them to go through a simulation multiple times to experience a variety of reactions and their consequences.

Through research, De Jong has proven that students who complete the simulations online asynchronously go through Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory, which means that participants go through a four-stage learning cycle of experiencing, reflecting, thinking, and acting.



From the Director of Field Services

Dakota State University's College of Education understands the value of authentic classroom experiences as we train this next generation of teachers. We strive to give our pre-service teachers field experiences throughout the program in various settings, including a robust culminating student teaching experience. This fall, the College of Education sent 50 pre-service teachers into classrooms for their student teaching experience. These students came from majors including Elementary Education, Special Education, Physical Education, English Education, Math Education, and Computer Education. The placement rate for these upcoming graduates is anticipated to remain at 100%. Simply put, school leaders want to hire our teachers.

Compared to other state schools, DSU has the largest number of education majors that remain in South Dakota to teach, which shows our commitment to the state. To help match students with potential teaching positions in the state, DSU's Career Services will be hosting a teacher job fair on February 15th. Through this fair, South Dakota school district administrators will have the opportunity to visit with upcoming graduates and students preparing to begin student teaching, which will allow them to begin building relationships with future teachers an entire year earlier than what was done in the past. Some districts will advertise incentives to student teach or an opportunity to sign "early contracts" within their districts, knowing it is common for student teachers to accept positions in the district where they student taught. As school districts continue to navigate the teacher shortage and the demand for flexibility in gaining teacher certification continues, the College of Education is committed to looking for ways to recruit high-quality candidates and continue to adapt to the evolving needs of K-12 education.

DSU Virtual TEACH camp returns

DSU Teach Camp is a one-day virtual conference with all sessions held via Zoom. It is open to all Pre-K-12 teachers. The event is free, or \$40 for participants who would like to receive one graduate credit.

This was the seventh year DSU offered the teaching camp. In 2016, through a grant from Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), the College of Education offered DSU STEAM Camp, a one-day workshop that focused on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) topics.

In 2019 the EPSCoR grant ended, and in 2020, the pandemic altered the ability to host teachers on campus, so they reworked the event into what is now called DSU Teach Camp, according to Dr. Kevin Smith, '94 Assistant Professor/Coordinator for Master of Science in Education Technology.

"The goal of the 'new' event was to increase the number of attendees and offer sessions that addressed all areas of teaching instead of only focusing on STEAM," Smith said.

They expected 300-400 attendees in 2022, and hosted 15 presenters, including: Kristen Mulder from Sioux Falls Christian; Travis Lape from Harrisburg Public Schools; Erica Boomsma, the 2019 South Dakota Teacher of the Year; Elizabeth Tweedale, the CEO and founder of Cypher Coders; and several more.

By the Numbers

352

Total Enrollment



43

SD counties

5

countries

21

states

94

student athletes
in 13 sports

AVERAGE
ACT SCORE

19.55

Placement Rate

100%
Undergraduate Students

100%
Graduate Students

13/18

faculty/adjuncts

8

Staff

1

Student employee



Ongoing research
programs (MadLabs,
COE, etc)

Majors/Programs

Bachelor

[Biology: Biology Education \(BS\)](#)
[Business Education \(BSE\)](#)
[Computer Education \(BSE\)](#)
[Elementary Education \(BSE\)](#)
[Elementary Education/Special Education \(BSE\)](#)
[English Education \(BSE\)](#)
[Exercise Science \(BS\)](#)
[Mathematics Intermediate Education \(BS\)](#)
[Mathematics Secondary Education \(BS\)](#)
[Physical Education \(BSE\)](#)

Certificates

[Online Secondary Education Certificate](#)
[Online Teaching and Learning Certificate](#)

Master

[Master of Science in Educational Technology \(MSET\)](#)

Minors and Endorsements

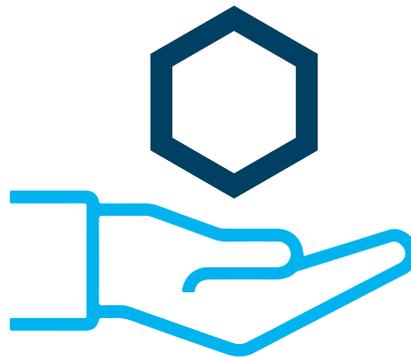
[Adapted Physical Education Endorsement K-12](#)
[Art Minor/K-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Biology Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Business Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Chemistry Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Computer Education Minor](#)
[Educational Technology Endorsement Program \(K-12\)](#)
[Educational Technology Minor \(K-12\)](#)
[English as a New Language Minor](#)
[English Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program in Literature and Composition/Grammar](#)
[Health Minor/K-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[History Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Kindergarten Endorsement Program](#)
[Marketing Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Mathematics \(K-8\) Minor](#)
[Mathematics Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Physical Education Minor/K-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Physics Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Reading \(PK-12\) Minor](#)
[Sociology Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)
[Speech Communication Theatre Minor/5-12 Endorsement Program](#)

Accreditation Information

Dakota State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

DSU's eight teacher education programs are accredited by the South Dakota Department of Education. This assures quality for educator preparation. Any institution seeking to recommend candidates for certification must have its programs approved by the State Board of Education. The South Dakota Department of Education reviews the courses and experiences an institution requires candidates to complete and recommends approval to the state board on a seven-year cycle. In addition, the institutions must also be accredited by a regional accrediting agency; DSU is accredited through The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

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