



DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY®

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE
DECEMBER 2025



The Position of President

The South Dakota Board of Regents is inviting nominations and applications for the position of President at Dakota State University. They are seeking a visionary and collaborative leader who can further the university's mission as a leading institution in cyber education, technology-driven innovation, and student success.

Located in Madison, South Dakota, Dakota State University is a rapidly growing public university that has gained national recognition for its excellence in cybersecurity, information technology, and applied research.

Subject to the oversight and governance of the Executive Director and Board, the President is responsible for all university operations and for upholding and advancing the university's mission.



Personal Qualifications and Qualities

Visionary and Strategic Leader

A visionary leader with the strategic insight to align resources, anticipate challenges, promote interdisciplinary learning, applied research, and global engagement across DSU's academic programs while continuously evaluating and reinvigorating academic offerings to ensure relevance, innovation, and alignment with workforce and societal needs.

Student-Centered Advocate

A leader dedicated to enhancing the student experience and achieving lasting excellence in student success, support, access, and outcomes—especially in high-demand fields and through hands-on, experiential learning.

Lead with Presence, Visibility, and Engagement

An active, energetic, and visible presence on campus, accessible to students, faculty, and staff, while also serving as DSU's chief ambassador across the state, region, and nation. The President will balance an engaged on-campus presence with strategic relationship-building, representing DSU with alumni, donors, legislators, business leaders, and government partners to elevate the university's visibility and impact.

Higher Education Expertise

Knowledge about key issues affecting public universities, including enrollment trends, demographic shifts, retention strategies, and innovations in education, and willing to lead with transparency, fiscal responsibility, and entrepreneurial spirit to ensure long-term sustainability and alignment with state priorities.

Team Builder

A transparent leader who sets clear expectations and empowers faculty, staff, and a talented leadership team to implement the strategic goals of the university effectively.

Expand Research & Partnerships

Understanding and experience in growing a university's research enterprise and building and maintaining strategic partnerships with federal agencies, industry, and peer institutions - leveraging MadLabs®, DARC, and other innovation platforms to strengthen and enhance institutional reputation and create transformative opportunities that enrich the student experience.

Elevate Philanthropy & External Relations

A proven ability to cultivate and strengthen donor relationships and foster a culture of philanthropy and engagement, including collaborations with industry, government, and philanthropic partners to support DSU's mission, research, and infrastructure.

Results-Oriented Leader

A leader with a proven ability to translate vision into actionable strategies and deliver measurable outcomes. This individual demonstrates strong execution skills, effectively prioritizing initiatives, allocating resources, and driving projects while maintaining accountability and excellence across the university.

Education and Experience Requirements

An earned doctorate, or advanced terminal degree, and/or significant executive leadership experience that would garner the respect of the campus community is required. A graduate degree combined with extensive relevant leadership experience may be accepted.

Candidates for the position should demonstrate significant, successful leadership experience in a complex organization.

Must meet eligibility requirements to obtain and maintain a U.S. security clearance and access to classified or controlled information. U.S. Citizenship is required.

The Opportunity

The South Dakota Board of Regents (SDBOR) invites applications and nominations for the position of President of Dakota State University (DSU), one of the six public universities governed by the Board. Reporting to the Board, the President serves as the university's chief executive officer and is responsible for the successful leadership and management of all facets of the institution.

DSU is at a pivotal moment of growth, rooted in technological innovation, driven by research and industry partnerships, and poised to shape the future of education, workforce development, and digital transformation across South Dakota and the nation. The next president will lead a technology-infused university dedicated to preparing students for high-demand careers, advancing impactful research, and ensuring student success.

Points of Distinction

- National leadership in cybersecurity and technology education, supporting workforce and national security initiatives.
- State-of-the-art facilities including MadLabs®, The Beacom Institute of Technology, the Beacom PREMIER Athletics Complex, and the upcoming Dakota State University Applied Research Lab in Sioux Falls (opening Fall 2026).
- Robust partnerships with federal agencies, private industry, and regional employers.
- A campus culture that blends technological excellence with community connection, preparing graduates for professional success, leadership, and civic engagement.

DSU AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED

1881

LOCATION

Madison, South Dakota
(50 miles from Sioux Falls)

ENROLLMENT

Approximately 3,800 students

FACULTY/STAFF

300+ full-time faculty and staff

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

45+ undergraduate, graduate,
and doctoral programs;
four Ph.D. programs

STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

18:1

COLLEGES

The Beacom College of
Computer & Cyber Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Business &
Information Systems
College of Education &
Human Performance
Graduate Studies

NATIONAL DISTINCTION

One of only 11 NSA-designated
Centers of Academic Excellence
in Cyber Operations, Cyber Defense,
and Cyber Research

ATHLETICS

12 NAIA athletic programs,
including competitive esports

MOTTO

"We Are Rising."



About Dakota State University

Founded in 1881, Dakota State University began as Dakota State Normal School, a teachers' college serving the Dakota Territory. Over more than 140 years later, DSU has transformed into one of the nation's most technologically advanced public university, distinguished by its leadership in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation.

DSU is among an elite group of 11 universities designated by the National Security Agency as Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations, Cyber Defense, and Cyber Research.

With a mission centered on innovation, technology, and education for all, DSU empowers its approximately 3,800 students in undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs, many delivered online, expanding its reach globally.

DSU's faculty and staff, recognized for their commitment to student success and applied learning, guide learners from every South Dakota county, nearly all U.S. states, and multiple countries.

Student-athletes, the DSU Trojans, compete in NAIA athletics as members of the Frontier Conference, fielding 12 athletic programs, including one of the Midwest's most competitive collegiate esports teams.

Located in Madison, South Dakota, DSU is both a regional anchor and national innovator, transforming education and research for the digital age.

Mission & Vision

Mission: DSU's mission is to prepare cyber-savvy graduates who are lifelong learners, problem solvers, innovators, and leaders to live lives of positive purpose and consequence.

Vision: Innovative, entrepreneurial, and resilient since 1881, DSU will continue to rise through short - and long-term success of our students and graduates, increased strength in applied research and athletics, and deep engagement with our stakeholders, in an environment infused with quality improvement.





Academic Structure

DSU is organized into four colleges and graduate studies, all advancing the university's mission to embed technology into every discipline.

- The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences: Prepares students for leadership in cybersecurity, computer science, and artificial intelligence.
- College of Arts & Sciences: Integrates technology into liberal arts and sciences, fostering inquiry, creativity, and innovation.
- College of Business & Information Systems: Combines business strategy with technology and data analytics to prepare graduates for an evolving global economy.
- College of Education & Human Performance: Built on DSU's founding mission, this college combines educational innovation with human performance and tech integration.
- Graduate Studies: Oversees advanced programs, including DSU's four doctoral degrees in Cyber Operations, Cyber Defense, Computer Science, and Information Systems.

99.2%
placement rate for our
latest graduating class

ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN

51.3% enrolled in The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences
18.7% enrolled in the College of Business & Information Systems
18.4% enrolled in the College of Education & Human Performance
11.5% enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences

Madison and the Region

Nestled among the lakes and rolling prairies of eastern South Dakota, Madison offers the charm of a small town with the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. It is home to a thriving tech community, vibrant local businesses, and a strong partnership between the city and the university.

Residents enjoy a high quality of life, with abundant outdoor recreation on nearby Lake Madison and Lake Herman, affordable living, and a welcoming atmosphere. Madison's location, just 50 miles northwest of Sioux Falls, provides access to South Dakota's largest urban center while maintaining a close-knit, community-oriented environment.

DSU is deeply integrated into Madison's identity and growth. The university's influence extends well beyond campus, serving as a key driver of the regional economy, generating employment, fostering innovation, and hosting cultural and athletic events that bring the community together.

Why Choose Dakota State University

- **Distinctive Mission & Momentum:** DSU is not simply adapting to change, it is leading it.
- **Technology at the Core:** DSU integrates technology across all disciplines and degrees.
- **Student-Centered Community:** A close-knit, agile campus allows for meaningful connections between students, faculty, and staff.
- **Leadership That's Personal and Connected:** DSU values a president who is visible, approachable, and deeply connected to the campus community, while serving as a strong external advocate who builds relationships that advance the university's mission
- **Regional & Economic Impact:** Through applied research, workforce partnerships, and innovation ecosystems, DSU drives economic growth in South Dakota and beyond.



Nominations and Applications

Nominations and applications will be accepted until an appointment is made, within the practical limits of the process. For full consideration, candidates should submit materials by February 1, 2026.

All application materials should be combined into a single PDF document and submitted electronically to dsupresident@sdbor.edu and must include:

1. A letter of interest;
2. A current résumé or curriculum vitae; and,
3. Five or more professional references, please include each person's position, office or home address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers.

If interested parties have questions, please contact Kayla Bastian, Chief HR Officer of the South Dakota Board of Regents, at 605-773-3455 or kayla.bastian@sdbor.edu.

Applications will remain confidential except for those invited for campus interviews.

The South Dakota Board of Regents is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Board of Regents ensures that all employment practices are free of discrimination. Arrangements for accommodations for disabilities can be made by contacting Kayla Bastian at 605-773-3455 or kayla.bastian@sdbor.edu.

