

Students Gain A 'Jump Start' On College Success

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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A program aimed at giving incoming freshmen students a "Jump Start" on their college careers finished its first summer session last Friday and for the 33 students in the program, the bridge to success has set them firmly on the path to a college degree.

"We had a very successful summer and I have greatly enjoyed working with the students on campus this summer," said Michael Suing, University of South Dakota (USD) Jumpstart advisor. "The summer bridge brought the students on campus for four weeks of classes where they were able to earn seven credits toward their graduation requirements."

He said the classes included a math class, a leadership class and either speech or psychology, all at no cost to the students.

"All housing, credits and meals are covered by the federal grant we received for the program," Suing added.

The \$3.6 million federal grant, allowed USD, in partnership with six other South Dakota higher education institutions, to develop the South Dakota Jump Start program.

The program intends to serve 900 Native American and low-income students, helping them succeed in college by providing an affordable academic "jump start."

USD Dean of Students and vice president of Student Services Kim Grieve said eligible individuals include Native American and low-income students who have graduated from a South Dakota high school and want to attend college for the first time.

"The program is set up that once the students are on campus they will meet with Mike (Suing) who will be their advisor on campus for the program," she said. "But it isn't your typical advisor role, it is coaching, intensive advising, building a strong network on campus and then they are also cohorted (all living in the same area) in the residence halls so they are able to develop a strong peer network, as well."

"This summer bridge will expose them to our culture, they will learn about financial literacy and get to



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Jump Start program this summer.

know the campus, so when the semester starts they are not overwhelmed."

However, just because the summer campus-based experience is complete, the program is still ongoing for the students.

"The next two summers, students will continue to earn college credits and participate in guaranteed part-time employment, internships, or undergraduate research to help pay for their higher education," Suing said. "During the school year, students will work with me on campus to connect with resources, create a success plan, and participate in Jump Start events and activities."

Suing said another part of the plan to aid the students is in the area of financial assistance to aid with the purchase of textbooks and access to computers designed to help students continue to succeed.

"For their general education courses we have set up a textbook and laptop lending library," he said. "At the beginning of the semester they can borrow the books for their general education classes on loan and then return them for the next student to use. It is a great way to help them succeed, because we all know the cost of textbooks can be very high."

In all, the grant runs for four year

and three summers on campus.

"The second and third summers will be earn and learn opportunities for the students," Suing said. "They will be able to earn six credits free of charge and at the same time serve internships gaining valuable work knowledge that they can carry forward. The summers are very intense, but well worth it. It is giving them the confidence to succeed with a taste of college and the comfort of having been here."

The four-year program is operating at all six public universities under the authority of the South Dakota Board of Regents, as well as at Oglala Lakota College, a tribal institution. Institutions partnering with USD are Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, Oglala Lakota College, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, and South Dakota State University.

"This program not only gives students a Jump Start on success in college, but it also provides the personnel and the resources to give students momentum toward the ultimate goal, which is graduation and a great future for South Dakota students and for South Dakota," said Rhoda Smith, project director for South Dakota Jump Start.

USD School Of Medicine Program Aids Native American Students

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine has been awarded \$446,671 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help Native American students on the Pine Ridge and Yankton reservations.

The grant, from the HHS' National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program, funds the first year of the medical school's multi-year Native American Scholars Program. That effort provides career and academic mentoring as well as career awareness-building activities for selected upper-level high school students from the Red Cloud High School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Wagner Community School on the Yankton Indian Reservation.

The Native American Scholars Program is a part of the school's strategic diversity plan and contributes to its efforts to further diversify health care professions, said Gerald J. Yutzenka, associate dean for diversity and inclusion.

"We are working to assist Native American high school students who have demonstrated an interest in becoming a physician or in pursuing careers in one of the other health care professions. If the program's Native American high school students decide to attend USD, which we hope they will all do, we will then have the opportunity to continue to foster their development as they move along their career path," he said.

The USD program to help identify, mentor and encourage young Native Americans to pursue careers in health care begins this year and will continue into 2020.

Korean War Veterans Might Qualify For Ambassador Peace Medal

Korean War veterans who served in the Korean Theatre of War from June 25, 1950, through October 25, 1954, may be eligible for the Ambassador Peace Medal. The Ambassador Peace Medal is for the Korean War Veterans who sacrificed for Korea's democracy and freedom and is aimed at expressing the Korean Government's gratitude and respect to them.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is taking the lead in informing veterans of this medal and is planning on recognizing the recipients in January of 2016.

"Recognizing these heroes one era at a time provides us an opportunity to thank and honor the sacrifices they made," said Larry Zimmerman, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Every veteran has a story to tell and along with that military service comes a variety of medals and awards."

Veterans that served during this time frame are encouraged to contact their local County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer for an application. Veterans will need a copy of their DD214 form as well.

"Our Korean War Veterans are a great, tough, honorable generation," said Zimmerman. "This small token from South Korea is a chance for all of us to get to know these heroes and thank them individually."

For further information on obtaining this medal, please contact your local Veterans Service Officer. The Clay County Veterans Service Office is located on the second floor of the County Courthouse in Vermillion. Grab your DD-214 and come and see us.

Get To The Point Set For Sept. 26

The Clay-Union foundation host it's second 'Get to the Point' half marathon on Sept. 26th, at Casey's, exit 18 off I-29 at Elk Point. The registration is online at www.runsignup.com under Get to the Point. Early registration saves some money. All proceeds support the local mentoring program.

Same day registration should begin as soon as the tables are set up, roughly 7:20 a.m., with walkers leaving at 8:15 a.m. and runners leaving at 8:30 a.m. Food, snacks, beverages and dri-fit shirts will be given to those registered.

Dri-fits will be as available, so earlier registration helps with the total count.

The route is a flat course on blacktop. Ribbons will be given out for the top three male and female runners in each age division.

The GTTP had 52 entries last year, from five states and Poland. This year, the goal is to double the number of entries.

Contact John Gille at 605-421-5050 for more information or to sign up as a volunteer.

Techincally Speaking Series Returns To The Edith B. Siegrist Library

An E-Book & Audiobook Workshop is set for Tuesday, Sept. 1, from 3-4 p.m. at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library.

Are you interested in using eBooks and audiobooks offered through the EBSVP library? Curious about how eReaders work? Need help setting up your new device?

During the first half of the workshop, we will answer frequently asked questions. We will also discuss various eBook features and how to access or download an eBook. If you would like to bring your laptop or mobile device, stick around for the second half of the workshop where we help you set up your device. Call or stop by our circulation desk to register. There are no fees for this workshop.

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is located at 18 Church Street in Vermillion. For more information call the Library at 605-677-7060.

Kammer Earns UNL degree

LINCOLN, Neb. — Sean Michael Kammer of Vermillion was among nearly 750 students granted degrees during the summer all-university commencement ceremony Aug. 15 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Kammer earned a doctor of philosophy from the Graduate College.

The graduates were from 35 states, the District of Columbia and 25 countries.

Meals On Wheels Program Reaching Out To Those In Need In Vermillion

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Imagine being in your home, hungry and for a variety of reasons being unable to fix a meal or not having food to eat at all.

Unfortunately, it is a situation that is affecting millions of Americans and is happening right here in Vermillion.

For one such resident, Alice K., that situation is exactly what she was facing.

"My eyesight is really bad, I am blind in one eye and have very poor vision in the other," she said. "I tried cooking something and because I couldn't see, I started it on fire. It was very frightening. So, now I am afraid to cook unless someone else is here."

She said in the last year she has lost close to 80 pounds and her doctor told her she had to find a way to maintain what little weight she has left or she would have to go to a nursing home.

"I don't want to go to a nursing home, this is my home," she said. "I have friends who stopped by to check on me and Sharon (Birgholtz) came and said

that someone wanted to sponsor me for the Meals on Wheels Program."

Birgholtz is the head cook and program director for Vermillion's Dakota Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels programs.

She said she knows there are many other people in the community in similar situations and hopes that with awareness, they will reach out for help.

"Dakota Senior Meals program provides a nutritious noon meal five days a week at the senior center to anyone age 60 year or older and to anyone who is disabled or has special needs," she said. "Home delivery is also available for those who are unable to leave their homes through the Meals on Wheels program."

Birgholtz said currently the Meals on Wheels program serves 34 meals daily and an additional 22 meals at Town Square.

Senior citizens, including those with some physical special needs, can either come to the center for a lunch serving from 12-1 p.m. Monday-Friday or can sign up to be a part of the Meals on Wheels program. People can, and do, start arriving

around 11 a.m. for lunch.

"We take pride in sending home great meals for those on the program," she said. "This time of year we also have people donating a lot of fresh produce items from their gardens that we like to send home, as well. This week we were able to make a special cucumber salad that was sent home. We have sent tomatoes and other vegetables, also."

Alice said that she looks forward to the meals provided.

"They taste good," she said. "They are filling and most times I have more than I can eat in one sitting. I can't tell you what it means that someone wanted to donate the money to give me this."

Birgholtz said the program typically asks for a \$4 donation for each meal, and that the other half of the food cost is covered by the state government.

However, she said if there is someone who can't afford the cost, they will always give them a meal anyway.

"We never want anyone to go hungry," she said. "We have people who donate to the program, some as me-

morials, some just donate meals like with Alice, but we can always use more."

In order to help raise money for the program the center is holding a yard sale on Sept. 15. They will also be doing a bake sale, and during D-Days will be having a hot dog stand.

"Any dollars help, it all adds up," she said. "If anyone is interested in donating or if you know someone who is in need of the program, please call us and visit with us."

People interested in bringing items to the center need to drop them off at the kitchen at 320 West Main Street in Vermillion and can call 624-7868 if they want to find out more information.

Birgholtz said that the program could use more volunteers and people who could be used as "back-ups" for deliveries and other types of works.

She said that those interested should call 624-7868.

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Board From Page 1

board I had three very young kids in this district. I was a graduate of Vermillion High School, a life-long resident. My boss encouraged me to run. She said we needed a female on the board and that we needed somebody young. I just wanted to get involved and be directly involved in my children's education and influence that, as well as, get more involved in the community and learn leadership skills."

She said she felt she has accomplished those goals.

"This is not easy for me," Esping admitted. "Jim will finish out the year for me, elections are typically held in April but sometimes it can be a little bit later.

Some years we go with the city election. So I am only giving up 11 months, but a lot can happen in those 11 months."

When asked if he is considering running for a full-term, Peterson said his intent is to serve longer than June or July, but he will take the next six months to see how it goes and then reassess the situation at that time.

Esping said she believes she is leaving the board in good hands.

"Just keep focusing on the kids and what is best for all of the kids in the district," she said. "It is important to keep moving forward. We are one of the best schools in the state and I think it is important to maintain that. Just do what is best for the school."

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