

## Partnership will focus on teacher-prep programs

Fourteen higher-education institutions, including the University of South Dakota, and the Bush Foundation have announced a partnership focused on transforming teacher-preparation programs in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Collectively, the institutions will produce at least 25,000 new, effective teachers in the next 10 years. This number represents virtually all of the new teachers that will be needed in the three states in the next decade.

In addition, the institutions are guaranteeing the effectiveness of teachers who graduate from their redesigned programs. To accomplish this goal, the institutions will transform how they recruit, prepare, place and support new teachers and how they work with their K-12 partners.

The Foundation plans to invest more than \$40 million over the next decade in the 14 universities and in related activities to support their success.

"Over nine months, these universities and colleges participated in a rigorous planning process during which they completed detailed proposals for redesigning their teacher-preparation programs," said Susan Heegaard, vice president and educational achievement team leader for the Bush Foundation. "In each case, the universities are taking a bold, courageous stance in guaranteeing the effectiveness of the teachers they train." According to Heegaard, the Foundation's investment will enable the partner institutions to develop and implement their redesigned programs, starting with the 2010-11 academic year.

"Our nation's ability to lead in the global arena hinges upon how well we educate our youth, and that effort depends largely on the strength of our teachers," said Dr. Judith A. Ramaley, president of Winona State University. "Regional universities are the backbone of education. With these resources, we can drive teacher preparation to a new level."

Each institution will launch a unique strategy that plays to the institution's strengths, while challenging the status quo to ensure the teachers they prepare will be highly effective. Innovative concepts include targeted recruiting of high-caliber students representing diverse groups, integration of co-teaching strategies, creation of residency programs to

provide teacher candidates with full-year immersion experiences, deep partnerships with K-12 school districts and ongoing support to new teachers through in-person and online mentoring programs.

"We are excited and honored to participate in supporting this vision of reimagining teacher preparation by harnessing the collective effort of many higher-education institutions," said Dr. Linda Hanson, president of Hamline University, which is part of the Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative comprised of six private higher-education institutions. "To truly transform how teachers are trained requires greater collaboration and commitment than we've ever experienced."

"As part of their agreement with the Bush Foundation, each of the schools has agreed to guarantee that its program will produce effective teachers," Heegaard added. "The key to the guarantee is that they each will partner with the K-12 schools where their graduates will teach, and each university will provide continued support to the teachers for several years after graduation. This type of guarantee has never been offered before that we know of."

Heegaard noted that delivering on that guarantee will require the universities to act on four fronts – recruiting those most likely to succeed as effective teachers, training them to be effective instructors, placing them in schools led by administrators who will support them in those first critical years in the classroom and then providing new teachers with ongoing support.

"It's critical that we support all efforts to effectively train our teachers," said Dr. Rick Melmer, dean of the School of Education at The University of South Dakota. "By creating this program through the Bush Foundation, it shows that we are not just committed to improving the quality of our teachers, but it also demonstrates an investment in the future of our state's education system."

Peter C. Hutchinson, Bush Foundation president, noted that this initiative is a critical part of achieving the Foundation's goal over the next 10 years of increasing by 50 percent the number of students in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, from pre-kindergarten through college who are on track to earn

a degree after high school, and of eliminating disparities among diverse student groups.

"Research has shown that while many factors play a role in educational success, effective teaching makes a bigger difference than any other in-school variable," Hutchinson said. "Research also shows that when students consistently experience effective teaching, there are no achievement gaps. By forming partnerships with institutions who are willing to ensure that children across these three states will have effective teachers, we believe that over the decade we can significantly raise the achievement of every student and reduce disparities among student groups."

According to University of Minnesota President Dr. Robert H. Bruininks, "Ensuring that our schools have the best teachers in the country is critical to meeting the region's employment needs going forward. In order to be competitive in the global economy, all students need to graduate from high school prepared for some form of post-secondary education. I am very excited that the University of Minnesota will play a strong role in revamping the teacher-education curriculum to improve teaching and learning – for all students – throughout the state and region."

To support the work of its education partners, the Bush Foundation also is working with the Value-Added Research Center (University of Wisconsin-Madison) to develop assessment tools and reporting mechanisms that teachers, schools and higher-education institutions can use to measure effectiveness and improve performance.

The Foundation's efforts to increase educational achievement are part of its Strategic Goals for a Decade, launched in 2008, which also includes work to develop courageous leaders and engage entire communities in problem-solving and to support the self-determination of the 23 Native nations that share geography with Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

For more information on this initiative, go to Teacher Effectiveness Initiative page. You can learn more about the partner institutions on our Educational Achievement Partnerships page.

## Farm loan year-end reviews due

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.

## Branson-style Christmas show coming to Yankton

The Bumble Bee's are coming to Yankton and they are bringing along Santa to help with the Bumble Bee's Christmas Show.

The Lewis and Clark Theatre Company are proud to present the Bumble Bee's, Branson-style Christmas Show, on Sunday, Dec. 20, with two shows at 2 and 7 p.m.

Christmas season is not complete without good music and comradery.

The big band sound of the Bumble Bee's is the best way to present the classic Christmas and offer music of the era. You won't want to miss this show that has 15 musicians performing.

Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$5 for high school and below. You can pick up your tickets Monday thru Friday from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Dakota Theatre – Yankton, or call 605-665-4711 for reservations.

## Prairie Inn announces ribbon cutting and open house

The Prairie Inn, the hotel only, was purchased by Randy and Juli Huber from Prairie Inn, SD, LLC on July 17. Since purchasing the hotel, the Hubers have invested over \$100,000 to refurbish the hotel.

Improvements include new lobby, new breakfast room, new TVs, new beds, new carpet, new bathrooms with ceramic tile floors and granite countertops. The improvements continue with new bedspreads and draperies, new in-room microwaves and

fridges, and many rooms with new furniture.

The Prairie Inn is managed by Della Thompson.

The Hubers have been in the hotel business for over 37 years, having operated properties in Madison, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Rapid City, and Sioux City, IA.

The Hubers presently operate the Americas Best Value Inn in Rapid City as well as the Prairie Inn.

Randy, Juli and Delia invite the people of the city of Vermillion to look over the

improvements and have some hors d'oeuvres and cake from 3 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec.

14. The Vermillion Chamber of Commerce will have a ribbon cutting at 3 p.m.

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## Vermillion Public Schools Foundation



Rod Oberle, Vice President, Michael Granaas, President and Kevin Haselhorst, Treasurer.  
Other Board Members: Matt Lavin, Kevin Brown, Bob Iverson.

Nationally communities have been struggling to find ways to ensure the quality of their public schools in the face of growing expectations and diminishing budgets. Thousands of communities have turned to

**Capital Improvements Fund** – Provides resources for the purpose of purchasing buildings, or other facilities, equipment, and land, or for the construction or major renovation of buildings and other facilities.

**Student Financial Aid** – Provides resources for financial aid to VHS graduates going on to post-secondary study.

**Special Projects Fund** – Provides funding for projects, programs, activities or equipment that will enhance education for students in the Vermillion School District but that cannot be supported through any other fund.

**Professional Development Fund** – Provides funding for school district personnel to obtain professional development that is unavailable otherwise.

Those who wish to establish an additional fund are encouraged to contact a member of the Foundation Board of Directors to learn about the requirements for such funds.

The Foundation also works with community groups to support one-time fundraising efforts that benefit the schools.

educational foundations to provide supplemental support to their schools and students.

Late in 2006 a group of Vermillion citizens, with the support of the Vermillion School Board, began the process of establishing and organizing the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation. In early 2009 the foundation was officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity by the IRS, making donations to the Foundation tax deductible.

In order to provide support to our community's schools the Foundation is striving to establish several endowed funds, the income from which can be used to help meet the needs of our students and schools. The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation has established several endowment funds that, once fully funded, will help ensure the ongoing quality of education for Vermillion's children.

But, in order to succeed, we need your help. The Foundation needs your donations in order to grow these endowments. In order to help ensure a quality education for Vermillion's children for years to come. Please consider making a donation to one of these funds:

**Academic Enhancement Fund** – Provide resources for projects, programs, or activities that are intended to improve the academic achievement of Vermillion Public Schools' students that cannot be funded through other sources.

**Athletics Fund** – Provides resources for the athletic department, with special emphasis on extra-curricular activities.

**Music Education Fund** – Provides resources for projects, programs and activities in, or related to, the music department, including co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

**Arts Education Fund** – Provides resources for projects and programs that enhance the non-music, fine visual and performing arts curricula as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

**Libraries Fund** – Provides resources for the acquisition, restoration, and preservation of books, periodicals, manuscripts, maps, audiovisual equipment, and other materials and activities appropriate to a library.

### Vermillion Public Schools Foundation

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