

■ USD

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benefit on the University of South Dakota, he added, noting that the campus is home to the Al Neuharth Media Center. The DakotaDome, where USD's commencement exercises were held Saturday, became a reality over three decades ago thanks to the hard work and leadership of Robbie.

9. There is no such thing as a self-made person. "You got here through the help of a lot of parents, spouses, teachers, preachers, friends and Scout leaders," he said.

8. The harder you work towards a goal, amazingly, the luckier you get. Gilbertson noted that he is struck by the accomplishments of some of USD's best-known graduates, ranging from Neuharth and Robbie, to Ernest Lawrence, Tom Brokaw, and Joe Foss. "Every one of these individuals gives credit to USD as one of the primary foundations for their success," he said.

7. Always treat others the way you want to be treated, or suffer the consequences.

6. Life is not always fair. "In fact, if I can give you a guarantee today, it will be that life is not fair," Gilbertson said.

5. Learn to appreciate and care for the finest things in life, which are often free. "A friend of mine is fond of saving, as we both look at a sunset going down over a lake we both love, 'God's not making any more shoreline these days.' What we have, we have to protect, and we have to take care of it," he said.

4. As Dorothy told Toto in the Wizard of Oz, "Toto, there's no place like home." Gilbertson said USD can be justly proud of it 150 years of training leaders for the state, nation and world. "Graduates, I would ask

you to consider staying in South Dakota. I did, and I've never regretted it," he said.

3. Strive to achieve a balance in your life. "While work is important, take time to smell the roses and enjoy life. Family should come first. No one, on his or her deathbed, was ever heard to say they wished they had spent more time at the office," Gilbertson said.

2. Learn the skill of listening. Listen instead of talk. "I don't know of anyone who ever got into trouble by listening," he said, "but I know a lot of people who got into trouble by not listening or by talking."

1. "When I was in high school, and had assured myself that I had learned everything I needed to know for life to be a howling success, I came out the door one day, and here was my mother on her hands and knees, planting flowers," Gilbertson said. "I looked at her said, 'Why are you doing this? This is a parsonage; we don't own it; we will never own it. Why don't you go inside where it's cool?'"

Gilbertson said her mother replied, "I've never owned a home, and I may never own a home, but every place I've lived, I've always tried to leave it a little nicer than I found it. Graduates, may we take a clue from this. Wherever you wind up, may you leave it a little nicer than you found it."



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Beacom School of Business students excel beyond classroom, exceed international testing standards

According to results provided by the national Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the international Bloomberg Assessment Test, University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business students are exceeding the national standards for students entering the global business workforce.

In a test administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) of Princeton, NJ, this fall, 58 undergraduate students from the Beacom School of Business at USD took the exam, and in aggregate scored in the top 2 percent (98th percentile) nationally. The Major Field Test, first administered by ETS in 2002, was developed by leading educators nationally to assess the skills of graduating business students. In addition to factual knowledge, the test evaluates students' abilities to analyze and solve problems, understand relationships and interpret material.

Leading the way in posting the highest overall score ever for Beacom School of Business students taking the ETS' Major Field Test (a 165.0 raw score) were six USD students who were presented with Exemplary Performance Awards for finishing in

the top 10 percent of all students taking the exam: Jared Leshar of Pierpoint, SD, a finance major; Travis Jamison, a management major from Sioux Falls; Michael Neilson of Gilbert, AZ, majoring in Health Services Administration; economics major Tanya Hubert of Yankton; Gregory Schmidt, an accounting major from Avoca, SD, and accounting major Lucas Ashland of Rapid City.

The Major Field Test, explained Daniel Tracy, Ph.D., associate professor of decision sciences at USD, provides the Beacom School of Business with an assessment of how well students are learning basic skills across the specialty areas of business that prepare students for careers in business and commerce.

The exam measures conceptual and skill development in several areas, including Accounting, Economics, Finance, Information Systems, Legal/Social Environment, Management, Marketing, Quantitative Business Analysis, and International issues. More than 580 colleges and universities in the United States administer this exam to their undergraduate business students.

In addition to the outstanding achievement in the national ETS exam, USD students also performed extremely well in the Bloomberg Assessment Test (BAT). The BAT is a global online exam developed by the Bloomberg Institute to assess the aptitude and the relevant business and finance knowledge of an individual.

An intended purpose of the test is to match the talents of job seekers with the needs of employers. Some employers did find BAT useful in finding pre-qualified talents, and according to Yewmun Yip, Ph.D., associate professor of finance at USD, a couple of USD finance students, who did exceptionally well in the test, received interviews from investment firms from Nashville, Tenn. and other places outside the region.

Since the fall of 2010, a total of 15 Beacom School of Business students have taken the BAT test. Not only did all 15 students who took the test score above the global average, their average total score was 23 percentage points higher than the global average (i.e., 70.3 percent versus 47.7 percent).

Additionally, the average scores of USD students also exceeded the global averages in

each of the 11 sections on the test, and in seven of those sections, the USD students exceeded the average by at least 20 percentage points. The areas in which USD students excelled the most are capital markets, global markets, financial statement analysis, investment management and math skills.

"This is an international test administered by the leading provider of financial information in the world," said Michael J. Keller, dean of the Beacom School of Business. "The results of both the BAT and ETS exam reveal the quality of our graduates and why employers are eager to interview and hire graduates from the Beacom School of Business."

For more information about the Beacom School of Business at USD, visit www.usd.edu/business.

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