

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**  
**Consent**

**AGENDA ITEM: 6 – G**  
**DATE: June 26-27, 2024**

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**SUBJECT**

**Program Reactivation Request – USD**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[AAC Guideline 2.3.2.5.A](#) – Programs on Inactive Status

[AAC Guideline 2.3.2.5.C](#) – Reactivation of Programs from Inactive Status

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

The University of South Dakota has submitted a request asking to reactivate the Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership with specializations in Curriculum Director, Director of Special Education, Pre-K-12 Principal, and School District Superintendent (see Attachment I). USD made changes to the programs last year, and recently learned through a communication with the South Dakota Department of Education that the changes made were problematic.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

There are no additional costs to activate the program, as instructors for this degree are already in place.

Board staff recommends approval.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – USD Program Reactivation Request

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**DRAFT MOTION 20240626\_6-G:**

I move to approve USD’s request to reactivate the Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership with specializations in Curriculum Director, Director of Special Education, Pre-K-12 Principal, and School District Superintendent.



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

April 18, 2024

Dr. Janice Minder  
SD Board of Regents  
306 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 200  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Re-activation of specializations in EdD program

Dear Dr. Minder,

On behalf of the University of South Dakota, I am writing to reactivate the Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership with the specializations in Curriculum Director [UEDD.EAL-CRR], Director of Special Education [UEDD.EAL-DSE], Pre-K-12 Principal [UEDD.EAL-PKP], and School District Superintendent [UEDD.EAL-SDS] programs. After a recent communication with the South Dakota Department of Education, we have learned that the change made last year is problematic.

The administrative rules explicitly outline the eligibility criteria for individuals aspiring to serve as curriculum directors, special education directors, Pre-K-12 principals, and school superintendent. Reinstating the Ed.D. programs would fulfill the educational requirements specified by the state, thereby ensuring compliance and legitimacy in our administrator selection process. The Ed.D. programs offer a specialized, hybrid curriculum tailored to the needs and challenges of educational leadership at the building and district levels. By reactivating these programs, we provide aspiring administrators with the opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for effective administration in all educational environments. Educational leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic trajectory and overall success of our schools. Investing in the professional development of future school leaders through a rigorous doctoral program enhances the quality of leadership within our educational system. Well-prepared administrators are better equipped to address complex issues, foster innovation, and promote student achievement.

USD's Ed.D. programs are a strategic imperative that not only aligns with state regulations but also advances our commitment to cultivating effective educational leadership. By providing aspiring school leaders with the opportunity to acquire advanced qualifications and expertise, we enhance the quality and effectiveness of leadership within our educational institutions. There are no additional costs to reactivate the program, instructors for this degree are already in place.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Kurt Hackemer*

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Kurt Hackemer, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs