

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3 – B**  
**DATE: December 13-14, 2023**

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**SUBJECT**

**Resolution of Recognition**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

None

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

Laurie Nichols served the people of the state of South Dakota in leadership roles at South Dakota State University, Northern State University, and, most recently, as the president of Black Hills State University.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

The South Dakota Board of Regents wishes to recognize Black Hills State University President Laurie Nichols for her outstanding service to the higher education system in South Dakota.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – Resolution of Recognition – Laurie Nichols

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**DRAFT MOTION 20231213\_3-B:**

I move to recognize Black Hills State University President Laurie Nichols for her service to South Dakota’s system of public higher education.

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Laurie Nichols served the people of the state of South Dakota in leadership roles at South Dakota State University, Northern State University, and, most recently, as the president of Black Hills State University, before her retirement from the South Dakota Board of Regents; and

**WHEREAS**, President Nichols worked in secondary and post-secondary positions in South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Ohio, Idaho, and Iowa; and

**WHEREAS**, during her four years with Black Hills State University, Nichols' list of accomplishments is long, including the creation of the West River Health Science Center in Rapid City and the expansion of Black Hills State University – Rapid City; and

**WHEREAS**, President Nichols helped solidify partnerships with Ellsworth Air Force Base, bringing degree programs to active military and their families, and strengthened the academic **relationship** with Crazy Horse and American Indian University of North America.; and

**WHEREAS**, as president, Nichols prioritized a strong leadership team who valued ambitious goals. Their efforts aided in the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan for the university and a specific plan for enrollment, 10-year Higher Learning Commission accreditation, record fundraising, and nationally competitive athletics.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that it is the desire of the Board of Regents to recognize Black Hills State University President Laurie Nichols for her service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that President Nichols be thanked for her contributions and dedication to the betterment of students' higher education, and it is ordered that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this Board and that a copy thereof be forwarded to President Nichols.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

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Tim Rave, President

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Jeffrey D. Partridge, Vice President

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Douglas Morrison, Secretary

**Special Resolution Number 06-2023**