

### **TIME TO REGISTER FOR SPRING 2025 COURSES!**

Spring 2025 registration for all current students will be open on Friday (April 5th) and many students can register today. **As you interact with students, please encourage them to make a registration appointment with their advisor as soon as possible** - classes and advisor calendars are quickly filling!

**Students can schedule with their advisor through JacketHub and should be registered for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 before leaving for summer break.** Rapid City students can email [Janette.Hettick@BHSU.edu](mailto:Janette.Hettick@BHSU.edu) to schedule. If students are not registered for Fall 2024, it is imperative that they do so immediately as many classes are nearing or at capacity.

THANK YOU for working with our students to ensure timely registration and the best schedule possible. Help and encouragement from the whole campus is what makes BHSU great!

*Submitted by Janette Hettick-Waltz on 2024-04-02*

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### **EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY OPENS TODAY**

Today, Tuesday, April 2nd, the 2024 Employee Satisfaction Survey will be distributed to our employees. You will receive an invitation with details about the survey and how to log on. This invitation will be sent to you via email from ModernThink ([surveys@modernthink.net](mailto:surveys@modernthink.net)).

When you receive the invitation, please take a moment to complete the survey. This is a chance to make your voice heard, and a high response rate helps ensure an accurate representation of our community. At the close of the survey, we will receive reports that summarize the organizational competencies and relationships that most directly impact and influence our culture.

As part of Goal 3 of the University's Strategic Plan, Black Hills State University has decided to participate in an institution-wide 2024 Employee Satisfaction Survey. The data we receive from this survey will be helpful as we continue the process of creating the best workplace possible. Survey topics include work quality, communication, management, workplace culture, benefits, and many other subjects. You will be able to access the survey wherever a computer is available, even at home.

The survey is voluntary and completely confidential; our institution will not be able to trace results back to individuals. Your survey will be processed by ModernThink LLC, an independent management consulting firm focusing on workplace quality in higher education. They can be reached at 888.684.4658 or at [surveys@modernthink.net](mailto:surveys@modernthink.net).

We encourage everyone's participation and hope you will take this opportunity to share your honest feedback! Thank you, in advance, for your participation. Please

contact [Kathy.Johnson@BHSU.edu](mailto:Kathy.Johnson@BHSU.edu), [Cynthia.Anderson@BHSU.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Anderson@BHSU.edu), [Rob.Houdek@BHSU.edu](mailto:Rob.Houdek@BHSU.edu) or [Garrett.Stevens@BHSU.edu](mailto:Garrett.Stevens@BHSU.edu) if you have any questions.

*Submitted by Garrett Stevens on 2024-04-02*

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### **BLACK HILLS HISTORY TALK**

Dr. David Wolff, BHSU Professor Emeritus, will present "Landmarks in Black Hills History: Pioneer Cabins, Stories That May or May Not be True." Several Black Hills communities feature historic cabins, either at their museums or in their public parks. These cabins have been saved to highlight and commemorate that town's pioneer past. Each cabin has a story behind it, and this talk will discuss those stories, a few of which have been distorted over the years. While demonstrating how well we remember our past, this PowerPoint presentation will also provide a quick overview of these Black Hills landmarks. Sponsored by the High Plains Western Heritage Center in conjunction with the Leland D. Case Library at Black Hills State University. Admission is free with voluntary donations taken at the door.

When: Saturday, April 6, at 1 pm

Where: High Plains Western Heritage Center, 825 Heritage Drive, Spearfish, SD

*Submitted by Lori Terrill on 2024-04-02*

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### **E-UPDATE EVENTS: 03/05/2024**

*Here are the upcoming events for the next 4 weeks. If you don't see something that should be listed, please submit an event through our submission form.*

#### Event Request

#### **List of Upcoming Events:**

##### **Apr. 2nd**

- Last Day To Drop With An Automatic "W"
- 10-11AM What Am I Doing With My Life: Adventures in Major and Career Exploration! *E.Y Berry Library 175 (Career Development)*

##### **Apr. 3rd**

- Faculty Senate Meets
- 9AM-3:30PM HSSO Blood Drive, *Jacket Legacy Room (Student Union)*
- 11AM-3PM (*While Supplies Last*) Lakota Omniciye Indian Taco Sale Fundraiser, *Under The Bookstore (Student Union)*
- 2-3:30PM Faculty Workshop: Video Editing Basics, *Jonas Academic 207/Online*

- 5-6PM What Am I Doing With My Life: Adventures in Major and Career Exploration, *E.Y Berry Library 171 (Career Development)*

**Apr. 4th**

- 5-6PM Free French Language Class, *International Office (Woodburn 115)*
- 7-8PM Paul Carriveau Senior Recital, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall Auditorium*

**Apr. 5th**

- NATS Competition
- 6-9PM The Buzz FM 50th Anniversary Concert, *Club Buzz (Student Union)*

**Apr. 6th**

- 3-4:30PM Public Kombucha Lecture & Taste Testing Event! *Kathryn Johnson Life Science Building Lobby*

**Apr. 8th**

- American Indian Awareness Week
- IDEA Surveys Administered
- 9-9:50AM Myah Red Horse: "Made by Myah Jade: Creating Contemporary Native Fashion" *Jonas Academic 107*
- 1-1:50PM Collins Provost-Fields: "Finding Your Medicine" *Jonas Academic 107 or Online*

**Apr. 9th**

- American Indian Awareness Week
- 12:30-1:45PM Kinsale Drake: "Celebrating Indigenous Voices through Literature: A craft Talk and Q&A with Kinsale Drake" *Jonas Academic 107 or Online*

**Apr. 10th**

- American Indian Awareness Week
- 9-9:50AM Eunice Straight Head: "Breaking Social Barriers & Uplifting Indigenous Voices in Art" *Jonas Academic 107*
- 11-11:50AM Talon Duchneaux: "Reservation Pavement" *Jonas Academic 107*

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- American Indian Awareness Week
- 9-9:50AM Jhon Goes in Center: "Plains Indian Metal Adornment: A Historical Perspective" *Jonas Academic 107*
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- American Indian Awareness Week
- 11AM-2PM 29th Annual Lakota Omniciye Wacipi, *The Field House (Donald E. Young Center)*
- 12-2PM BHSU Softball VS. Fort Lewis, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 2-4PM BHSU Softball VS. Fort Lewis, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 6-10PM Spring Soirée, *Besler's Cadillac Ranch*

- 7-8PM Allison Olson Senior Recital, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall*

**Apr. 14th**

- 11AM-1PM BHSU Softball VS. Fort Lewis, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 1-3PM BHSU Softball VS. Fort Lewis, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 2-3PM BHSU Choir Concert, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall*

**Apr. 15th**

- BHSU Choir Tour

**Apr. 16th**

- BHSU Choir Tour
- 5-8PM Student Volunteer Awards Celebration (SVAC), *Jacket Legacy Room (Student Union)*

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- Faculty Senate Meets

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- 12-2PM BHSU Softball VS. Colorado Christian, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
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**Apr. 24th**

- 2:30-4PM Come Plant a Tree and Celebrate Arbor Day 2024! *E.Y. Berry Library*

**Apr. 25th**

- 9AM-1PM Employee Benefits Fair, *Jacket Legacy Room (Student Union)*
- Apr. 26th
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**Apr. 27th**

- **9AM-9PM** BHSU Rodeo VS. Will Lantis Yellow Jacket Stampede, *Seven Downs Arenas*
- **10AM-5PM** BHSU Spring Music Festival, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*
- **5-6PM** BHSU Orchestra Concert, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*

**Apr. 29th**

- **Final Exams**

**Apr. 30th**

- **Final Exams**

*Submitted by Charles Williams on 2024-04-02*

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**BELLMAN WRITING AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to this year's Bellman Writing Award winners, and thank you to all who participated! The presentation ceremony will take place Friday, April 12th at 3:00 in the Blackbox Theater in Woodburn Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate the exemplary undergraduate writing at BHSU!

Composition

1. Ashley Kerr  
    "Newsspeak: Erasing Words, Erasing Thoughts"
2. Claire Alley  
    "Minimum Wage versus Livable Wage"
3. Hope Namminga  
    "Maternal and Medical Leave: Is It Worth the Time and Money"

Literature

1. Emma Meeks  
    "Suicide as a Means to Freedom"
2. Mya Guptill  
    "The Duality of Religious Figures as Portrayed by the Friar and the Parson"
3. Emma Lehman  
    "Critical Review of Jeffery Ostler's 'The Lakotas and the Black Hills'"

General

1. Daniel Egemo  
    "Examining the Great Recession: A Toxic Marriage of Abundant Credit and Equitable Housing Policy"
2. Ellen Sheehy  
    "Me Thinketh to Tell You as It Seemed to Me"
- T-3. Logan Beert  
    "The Motors of War"
- T-3. Margaret O'Malley  
    "Maritime Navigation through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century"

*Submitted by Matthew Bauman on 2024-04-01*

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### **ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT**

It is time to celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of our colleagues! We are excited to announce that we are now accepting nominations for our annual employee recognition event. Remember, individual winners will each earn \$500! Now is the time to make your recommendations.

This event serves as an opportunity to honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and teamwork in their roles. We encourage all employees to take a moment to reflect on the hard work and accomplishments of their peers and nominate those who have truly made a difference. You may nominate multiple colleagues across different categories if you believe they meet the criteria. Awards will be given out at the State of the University this fall!

Visit <https://portal.sdbor.edu/bhsu-fac-staff/Pages/Human-Resources.aspx> for nomination forms and descriptions of the awards. The deadline for nominations is May 6, 2024. Please email the nominations to [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu). Call HR at 605.642.6549 or email [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu) with any questions or for more information.

Thank you!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-03-28*

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### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FAIR, APRIL 25, 2024**

On, April 25, 2024, a variety of our employee benefit companies will be on campus and available from 9 am - 1 pm in the Jacket Legacy Room to meet with you about your health, wellness, investing opportunities and your employee benefits. A few local businesses will be there as well! SDRS speakers are scheduled to present in the Trump Room in the Student Union as shown below:

**9:00–9:45: SDRS - A general overview of the SD Retirement System and what this means for you!**

**9:45 - 10:30: SDRS Supplemental - A summary of the 457 and Special Pay Plans.**

Open to all BHSU employees, students, and spouses with a chance to win door prizes and grand prizes for those who attend and stop by some booths! This is a great opportunity to learn about investing as well as ask questions about your employee benefits!

Also, individual retirement sessions will be available throughout the day. Please contact HR at 605.642.6549 or email us at [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu) to sign up for a ONE-ON-ONE session with SDRS - limited spots are available!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-03-28*

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### **AVAILABLE POSITIONS AT BHSU!**

Check out these BHSU job openings! Please share with anyone you know that might be interested!

- Admissions Counselor
- Assistant Professor, Biology
- Assistant Professor, Mathematics
- Assistant Professor, Political Science
- Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Bookstore Buyer
- Coordinator of Athletic Video & Multimedia Content
- Dean of Education
- Head Women's Golf Coach
- Instructor of English
- Library Director
- Professional Advisor

Staff and Faculty job listings can be found here:

<https://www.bhsu.edu/About-BHSU/Employment-Opportunities>

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-03-28*

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### **FACULTY WORKSHOP: VIDEO EDITING BASICS**

*A workshop from the Center for Faculty Innovation*

**Description:** Traditional classrooms will always be part of higher education, but we are discovering new ways to use digital resources to provide high-quality education to our students. Original video is an increasingly useful resource in many class settings - as a supplement to a traditional course, as a key element of an online and hybrid class, as a precondition for "flipped" teaching.

In this workshop, get hands on with video editing. Join Skott Chandler and Nick Van Kley to practice video editing techniques, learn foundational principles in video editing, and talk through strategies for making effective video for your classes.

**Hosts:** Nick Van Kley (Center for Faculty Innovation); Skott Chandler (Mass Communications)

**When:** Wednesday, April 3, 2:00pm-3:30pm

**Where:** Jonas Academic 207 (see RSVP link for limited remove attendance option)

**Questions:** Contact [Nicholas.VanKley@bhsu.edu](mailto:Nicholas.VanKley@bhsu.edu)

**RSVP:** [RSVP for this workshop](#)

*Submitted by Nick Van Kley on 2024-03-28*

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### **SEND-A-THANKS RECIPIENTS**

The Send-a-Thanks platform was developed for employees to be able to send a special thank you, or kudos, to one of their colleagues across campus. Employees who receive a send-a-thanks are entered into a monthly drawing for either a bookstore gift card or a mug and gift card courtesy of Einstein's.

We would like to give a SHOUT OUT to the following individuals who received some KUDOS!

- Emery Beals - Student Employee, Central Receiving
- Alyssa Blake - Financial Aid Advisor, Student Financial Services
- Ryan Delzer - Database/Systems Engineer, Network and Computer Services
- Tirzah Knight - Director, Student Financial Aid
- Reilly Lane - Student Employee, Central Receiving
- Joe Lapka - Network Engineer, Network and Computer Services
- Sydney Pollack - Network Engineer, Network and Computer Services
- Brenna Sadowski - Registration Officer, Registration and Records
- Melissa Simpson - Budget Coordinator, Business Office
- Garrett Stevens (X's 2) - Cybersecurity Engineer, Network and Computer Services

If you would like to send a special recognition to someone, please click the quick link on the main e-Update email.

Thank you for everything you do for BHSU!!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-03-28*

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**LET'S ROLL!**



Do you know we have bike rentals on campus? At only \$8 an hour, have some outdoor fun + explore Spearfish Rec Path (7.5 miles of beauty). Located at the DYC, renting is easy- just download the Movatic App to get rolling!

*Submitted by Dr. Breon Derby on 2024-03-28*

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### **YOU GOT MAIL AT THE NEW PARCEL LOCKERS!**

Our new mail parcel lockers are ready! Beginning on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Mail Services will be using the new automated locker package pickup system. These lockers are located in the Student Union inside the entry doors under the skywalk.

You will receive an email telling you to pick up your package at this location, with a number code and a barcode scan. Use either of these at the screen located in the center of the lockers and a door will open giving you access to your package. When you take your package, please close the door to reset the scanning screen.

If you receive an email without a code or barcode scan, please come to the Mail Services window to pick up your package.

Please contact Jim Roberts at Mail Services if you have any questions!  
605-642-6396

*Submitted by Debbie Liddick on 2024-03-27*

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### **STAFF SENATE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR SENATORS**

Staff Senate is seeking nominations for the following Senate positions: Academic Affairs (2 senators), Athletics (1 senator), the Colleges (1 Senator), Enrollment Management (1 Senator), Facility Services (2 Senators), and President's Office / University Advancement / University Marketing and Communications (1 senator). Nominations can be emailed to [Nancy.Shuck@bhsu.edu](mailto:Nancy.Shuck@bhsu.edu) by April 8, 2024. Willingness to serve will be ascertained before the election to be held next month. Anyone (administration, faculty, staff, or students) can nominate staff members to vacant Senate positions - Senate position is determined by administrator to whom staff member ultimately answers (and Staff Senate can determine eligibility for positions). Please help us fill our Senate vacancies and nominate the person you think would best serve the staff of BHSU (NFE or CSA staff). Thank you!

*Submitted by Nancy J Shuck on 2024-03-26*

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### **BHSU EARTH DAY FESTIVAL!**

The Sustainability Department is proud to present the First Annual Earth Day Festival at BHSU!

**When:** April 20th, 11am-3pm

**Where:** Campus Green

**Details:** This is a community-wide celebration of our amazing planet! There will be vendors, crafts, music, art, solar panel tours, free houseplants, speakers, a scavenger hunt, and more! You won't want to miss it!!! To stay up to date on the festival, respond to the Facebook event!

If you have questions or want to participate, please contact Kate Shelton, Sustainability Graduate Assistant at [Julia.Shelton@yellowjackets.BHSU.edu](mailto:Julia.Shelton@yellowjackets.BHSU.edu)

[View event flyer](#)

[View vendor application flyer](#)

*Submitted by Kate Shelton on 2024-03-21*

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### **COME PLANT A TREE AND CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY 2024!**

Please join us in celebrating Arbor Day at Black Hills State University on **April 24th from 2:30pm - 4pm** at E.Y. Berry Library for hands on tree grafting workshop and tree planting techniques!

Activities include presentation of the 2023 Tree Campus Higher Education recognition plaque, a demonstration of proper tree planting techniques and a hands-on demonstration of grafting an apple tree to another rootstock.

We are looking forward to hosting students, faculty, staff, and community members. Please contact Debbie Liddick or Eric Hanson if you have any questions at 605-642-6560.

*Submitted by Debbie Liddick on 2024-03-20*

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### **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (SAAM)**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The theme for 2024 is '**Building Connected Communities**,' which emphasizes how we can work together to provide safe, supportive, + respectful spaces- your voice has power! Please stop by the Title IX table in the Student Union 4/9-4/18 to learn more.

*Submitted by Dr. Breon Derby on 2024-03-19*

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**LAKOTA OMNICIYE INDIAN TACO FUNDRAISER**

Come support the Lakota Omniciye Indian Taco Sale fundraiser.

Tacos will be sold 4/3/24 under the bookstore at 11 am until sold out.

All proceeds will support the annual Wacipi held April 13, 2024. Thank you!

*Submitted by Alberta Miner on 2024-02-02*

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### **BELLMAN WRITING AWARDS CELEBRATION**

Help us celebrate exceptional undergraduate writing at Black Hills State University by attending this year's Bellman Writing Awards. The ceremony will take place Friday, April 12th at 3:00 pm in the Blackbox Theater, Woodburn Hall.

*Submitted by Matthew Bauman on 2024-04-09*

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### **SEND-A-THANKS RECIPIENTS**

The Send-a-Thanks platform was developed for employees to be able to send a special thank you, or kudos, to one of their colleagues across campus. Employees who receive a send-a-thanks are entered into a monthly drawing for either a bookstore gift card or a mug and gift card courtesy of Einstein's.

We would like to give a SHOUT OUT to the following individuals who received some KUDOS!

- Lori Dubry - Print Services Coordinator, Marketing and Communications
- David Fickbohm - Building Maintenance Specialist, Facility Services
- Jin Kim - Director, Career Development and Dakota Career Services

If you would like to send a special recognition to someone, please click the quick link on the main e-Update email.

Thank you for everything you do for BHSU!!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-08*

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### **AVAILABLE POSITIONS AT BHSU!**

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- Assistant Professor, Biology
- Assistant Professor, Mathematics
- Assistant Professor, Political Science
- Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach
- Bookstore Buyer
- Coordinator of Athletic Video & Multimedia Content
- Dean of Education
- East Complex Director-Residential Operations Coordinator
- Head Women's Basketball Coach
- Head Women's Golf Coach
- Instructor of English
- Library Director

- Professional Advisor
- Professional Advisor (Rapid City Campus)

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*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-08*

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**Apr. 29th**

- Final Exams

**Apr. 30th**

- Final Exams

**May. 1st**

- Final Exams
- TBA BHSU Conducting Symposium, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall*

**May. 2nd**

- Final Exams

**May. 3rd**

- Final Exams

**May. 4th**

- 10AM-12PM Commencement, *Donald E. Young Center*

*Submitted by Charles Williams on 2024-04-08*

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**ONE WEEK LEFT! 2024 EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY**

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to find and complete the **2024 Employee Satisfaction Survey** sent to your email

from ModernThink ([surveys@modernthink.net](mailto:surveys@modernthink.net)). The original survey invitation was sent on April 2nd, with the first reminder sent on April 5th. If you have not completed the survey yet, additional reminders will be sent to you, today April 9th, again on April 12th, with a final reminder on April 16th.

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We encourage everyone's participation and hope you will take this opportunity to share your honest feedback! Thank you, in advance, for your participation. Please contact [Kathy.Johnson@BHSU.edu](mailto:Kathy.Johnson@BHSU.edu), [Cynthia.Anderson@BHSU.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Anderson@BHSU.edu), [Rob.Houdek@BHSU.edu](mailto:Rob.Houdek@BHSU.edu) or [Garrett.Stevens@BHSU.edu](mailto:Garrett.Stevens@BHSU.edu) if you have any questions.

*Submitted by Garrett Stevens on 2024-04-08*

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## OPEN ENROLLMENT MAY 1-15

Attention All Benefit Eligible Employees -

**Benefits Open Enrollment will be May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

The choices you make during Open Enrollment will be effective FY25 - July 1, 2024 **You must take action during Open Enrollment.** Employees must actively elect or opt out of coverage by logging into Employee Space between May 1 - May 15, 2024. If you do not make your selections or opt out by May 15, you will be enrolled in the Washington employee-only plan. Your dependents will have to wait until next year's open enrollment to sign up for benefits unless you experience a Qualifying Life Event. Dental, vision, and other flexible benefits will not roll over.

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**IMPORTANT:** Please take the time to log into [Employee Space](#) *before* Open Enrollment. This will allow you to view your current benefits, dependents, and beneficiaries, and to ensure that you can make your elections when Open Enrollment begins.

For questions regarding FY25 Open Enrollment, please contact the System Payroll Center at [PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu](mailto:PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu) or the Bureau of Human Resources and Administration at [BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us](mailto:BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us).

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-08*

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### **COME PET THE STRESS AWAY!**

The Western Hills Humane Society has kindly offered to bring several friendly, fur babies to campus the week of finals week! Significant research shows the positive impact pets can have on our emotional and physical well-being. Some studies indicate those who have pets live longer and lead happier lives! Pets offer us social support and help us to reduce stress.

Please stop by to give cuddles and to receive some cuddles and love! **Pet the Stress Away will be on April 29th and May 2nd from 11 to 2 pm.** We will be outside on the green in front of the student union or inside the student union, pending weather. For further questions, please contact the student health and counseling center at 605-645-6520.

*Submitted by Rebecka Funk on 2024-04-05*

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### **AMERICAN INDIAN AWARENESS WEEK**

April 8th, 2024

Myah Red Horse “*Made by Myah Jade: Creating Contemporary Native Fashion*”  
9:00-9:50 am | Jonas Academic 107

Collins Provost-Fields *"Finding Your Medicine"*  
1:00-1:50 pm | **Jonas Academic 107**  
[Here is a Zoom Link to view this speaker virtually!](#)

April 9th, 2024

Kinsale Drake *"Celebrating Indigenous Voices through Literature: A craft Talk and Q&A with Kinsale Drake"*  
12:30-1:45 pm | **Jonas Academic 107**  
[Here is a Zoom Link to view this speaker virtually!](#)

April 10th, 2024

Eunice Straight Head *"Breaking Social Barriers & Uplifting Indigenous Voices in Art"*  
9:00-9:50 am | **Jonas Academic 107**  
Talon Duchneaux *"Reservation Pavement"*  
11:00-11:50 am | **Jonas Academic 107**

April 12th, 2024

Jhon Goes in Center *"Plains Indian Metal Adornment: A Historical Perspective"*  
9:00-9:50 am | **Jonas Academic 107**  
Indi.Go.Go Studios *"We Are Here To Make A Statement"*  
1:00-1:50 pm | **Jonas Academic 107**

*Submitted by Alberta Miner on 2024-04-05*

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### **SEND A THANKS RECIPIENT WINNER**

Michael Zorichak is BHSU's March Send a Thanks Recipient Winner!! Michael, BHSU appreciates all you do for the campus. Your hard work and dedication certainly do not go unnoticed.

Keep up the amazing work!!

Also, thank you to Sodexo for this month's prize!

If you would like to Send a Thanks to an employee at BHSU, please follow the link below. You can also find the link on the BHSU Human Resources page. Each employee that receives a kudos will be entered in next month's drawing!

<https://www.bhsu.edu/Faculty-Staff/Human-Resources/Buzz-Around>

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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## ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT

It is time to celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of our colleagues! We are excited to announce that we are now accepting nominations for our annual employee recognition event. Remember, individual winners will each earn \$500! Now is the time to make your recommendations.

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Please email the nominations to [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu)

Awards will be given out at the State of the University this Fall!!

**!! The deadline for nominations is May 6, 2024!!**

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FAIR, APRIL 25, 2024

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A few local businesses will be there as well!

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Also, individual retirement sessions will be available throughout the day. We still have open spots to sign up!! Please contact HR at 605.642.6549 or by email

at [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu) to sign up for your ONE-ON-ONE session with SDRS  
- Hurry and reserve your spot today!!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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### **HOW TO KEEP YOUR AFLAC POLICIES**

How to Keep your Aflac Policies! Please click the link provided to learn more:  
[Aflac Guide to Online](#)

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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### **TRIO STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to Devin Messer for being TRIO's April Student of the Month! Devin is from Dickinson, North Dakota and majoring in biology. He stated that he selected this major because of his love for science and because he excels in the topic. When asked why he applied to TRIO and what resources he uses, he said it was because of the success rate of students and the extra help. He utilizes the tutoring and printing resources. Devin says that being selected to do undergraduate research is a personal achievement since starting college. His advisor Aric Bakeberg says, "Devin is doing a fabulous job of staying involved with the sciences, his major path of study, while also balancing other activities he enjoys. He is already positioning himself into research roles, gaining experience in his field, traveling across the country to present, and taking the time to think critically about all the opportunities he is setting himself up for. Devin is also not afraid to ask questions or seek assistance when needed. He utilizes the resources available to him and keeps his mind open to new ideas. I am so excited to see his hard work continue to open doors and propel him forward in his goals."

*Submitted by Ashley Kircher on 2024-04-04*

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### **IDEA SURVEYS**

IDEA surveys have opened for your courses. Instructors should already have received an email with information on completing Objective Selection Forms for each course section being surveyed. Please do carve out time during your face-to-face courses for students to fill out the surveys as this will greatly impact the response rate. Reports on students' responses will be sent out after final grades have been submitted for the semester.

All IDEA surveys will close April 26th. The link students will use for filling out their surveys is <https://sdbor.campuslabs.com/courseeval/>, which they have already received via email.

*Submitted by Rebecca Rodriguez on 2024-04-03*

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### **BHSU EARTH DAY FESTIVAL!**

The Sustainability Department is proud to present the First Annual Earth Day Festival at BHSU!

**When:** April 20th, 11am-3pm

**Where:** Campus Green

**Details:** This is a community-wide celebration of our amazing planet! There will be vendors, crafts, music, art, solar panel tours, free houseplants, speakers, a scavenger hunt, and more! You won't want to miss it!!! To stay up to date on the festival, respond to the Facebook event!

If you have questions or want to participate, please contact Kate Shelton, Sustainability Graduate Assistant at [Julia.Shelton@yellowjackets.BHSU.edu](mailto:Julia.Shelton@yellowjackets.BHSU.edu).

[View event flyer](#)

[View vendor application flyer](#)

*Submitted by Kate Shelton on 2024-03-21*

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### **COME PLANT A TREE AND CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY 2024!**

Please join us in celebrating Arbor Day at Black Hills State University on **April 24th from 2:30pm - 4pm** at E.Y. Berry Library for hands on tree grafting workshop and tree planting techniques!

Activities include presentation of the 2023 Tree Campus Higher Education recognition plaque, a demonstration of proper tree planting techniques and a hands-on demonstration of grafting an apple tree to another rootstock.

We are looking forward to hosting students, faculty, staff, and community members. Please contact Debbie Liddick or Eric Hanson if you have any questions at 605-642-6560.

*Submitted by Debbie Liddick on 2024-03-20*

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**TIMESHEETS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON SNAP BY: MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 BY 9:00AM MST**

Please note, missed timesheet submissions or approvals will cause a delay in pay so be mindful of the deadline!!

**Timesheets for April 2024 (03/22/24-04/21/2024)**

Employees - Timesheets must be completed by 9:00 AM MST on Monday, April 22, 2024

Supervisors - All timesheets must be approved by 4:00 PM MST on Monday, April 22, 2024

**CSA and NFE Overtime Eligible Employees: (HOURLY)**

- There are 168 hours in the March 22 - April 21 pay period.
- Enter 8 Administrative Hours on Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday.
- Enter 8 Administrative Hours on Monday, April 1 in observance of Easter.
  - Employees not scheduled to work do not get these administrative holidays.
- Please send leave requests through the Leave Request System.

**CSA and NFE Overtime Exempt Employees: (SALARY)**

- Enter 8 Administrative Hours on Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday.
- Enter 8 Administrative Hours on Monday, April 1 in observance of Easter.
  - Employees not scheduled to work do not get these administrative holidays.
- Please send leave requests through the Leave Request System.
  - Exempt must take leave in 8-hour increments.

**Faculty:**

- Please send leave requests through the Leave Request System.
  - Exempt must take leave in 8-hour increments.

**Supervisors:**

- Please ensure your employees are requesting the appropriate time off and that the leave requests are approved prior to approving their timesheet.
- Please make sure to have a proxy set up for when you are out of the office or have last minute change of plans. This can be updated directly in SNAP.
- Review hours to ensure there are at least 40 hours accounted for Sunday - Saturday each week for CSA/NFE OT Eligible Employees.

**Supervisors of Students:**

- Please notify your student workers of when timesheets are due.
- Please make sure student's hours are only on Shift 1 only.
- Work Study students should specify hours of a.m. and p.m.

Please reach out to Jess at [Jessica.Dold@sdsstate.edu](mailto:Jessica.Dold@sdsstate.edu) should you have any timesheet/payroll related questions. Thank you!

*Submitted by Tamara Merkwan on 2024-04-15*

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### **LAST DAY TO COMPLETE THE 2024 EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY!**

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to find and complete the **2024 Employee Satisfaction Survey** sent to your email from ModernThink ([surveys@modernthink.net](mailto:surveys@modernthink.net)). The original survey invitation was sent on April 2nd, email reminders were sent on April 5th, April 9th, April 12th, with the final reminder sent this morning, April 16th.

This is a chance to confidentially make your voice heard, and a high response rate helps ensure an accurate representation of our community. At the close of the survey, we will receive reports that summarize the organizational competencies and relationships that most directly impact and influence our culture.

As part of Goal 3 of the University's Strategic Plan, Black Hills State University has decided to participate in this institution-wide 2024 Employee Satisfaction Survey. The data we receive from this survey will be helpful as we continue the process of creating the best workplace possible. Survey topics include work quality, communication, management, workplace culture, benefits, and many other subjects. You will be able to access the survey wherever a computer is available, even at home.

The survey is voluntary and completely confidential; our institution will not be able to trace results back to individuals. Your survey will be processed by ModernThink LLC, an independent management consulting firm focusing on workplace quality in higher education. They can be reached at 888.684.4658 or at [surveys@modernthink.net](mailto:surveys@modernthink.net).

We encourage everyone's participation and hope you will take this opportunity to share your honest feedback! Thank you, in advance, for your participation. Please contact [Kathy.Johnson@BHSU.edu](mailto:Kathy.Johnson@BHSU.edu), [Cynthia.Anderson@BHSU.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Anderson@BHSU.edu), [Rob.Houdek@BHSU.edu](mailto:Rob.Houdek@BHSU.edu) or [Garrett.Stevens@BHSU.edu](mailto:Garrett.Stevens@BHSU.edu) if you have any questions.

*Submitted by Garrett Stevens on 2024-04-16*

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### **SEND-A-THANKS RECIPIENTS**

The Send-a-Thanks platform was developed for employees to be able to send a special thank you, or kudos, to one of their colleagues across campus. Employees who receive a send-a-thanks are entered into a monthly drawing for either a bookstore gift card or a mug and gift card courtesy of Einstein's.

We would like to give a SHOUT OUT to the following individuals who received some KUDOS!

- *Skott Chandler - Associate Professor, Mass Communications*

- *Jacky Easton - Executive Administrative Assistant, President's Office*
- *Sandra Kringen - Senior Accountant, Business Office*
- *Ruth Moore (X's 2) - BOR HR Generalist I, Human Resources*
- *Allen Morris - Assistant Professor, Mass Communications*
- *Sydney Pollack - Network Engineer, Network and Computer Services*

If you would like to send a special recognition to someone, please click the quick link on the main e-Update email.

Thank you for everything you do for BHSU!!

*Submitted by Cassie Maser on 2024-04-16*

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### **E-UPDATE EVENTS: 04/16/2024**

*Here are the upcoming events for the next 4 weeks. If you don't see something that should be listed, please submit an event through our submission form.*

[Event Request](#)

#### **List of Upcoming Events:**

##### **Apr. 16th**

- **BHSU Choir Tour**
- **5-8PM Student Volunteer Awards Celebration (SVAC), Jacket Legacy Room (Student Union)**

##### **Apr. 17th**

- **BHSU Choir Tour**
- **Faculty Senate Meets**

##### **Apr. 18th**

- **4-6PM Last Chance Before Graduation: Job Searching! E.Y. Berry Library 175 (Career Development)**
- **4-6PM Last Chance Before Graduation: Career Development Help! E.Y. Derry Library 171**
- **5-6PM Free French Language Class, International Office (Woodburn 115)**

##### **Apr. 19th**

- **University Curriculum Committee Meets**
- **University Curriculum Committee Proposals Due**
- **9:30AM-2PM Yellow Jacket Preview Day, Spearfish Campus**
- **4-6PM Last Chance Before Graduation: Career Development Help! E.Y. Berry Library 171 (Career Development)**

##### **Apr. 20th**



- 11AM-3PM Earth Day Festival, *Campus Green (Spearfish Campus)*
- 12-2PM BHSU Softball VS. Colorado Christian, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 2-4PM BHSU Softball VS. Colorado Christian, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 7-8PM BHSU Jazz Concert, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*

**Apr. 21th**

- 8AM-8PM BHSU Women's Triathlon VS. Black Hills Tri Fest
- 11AM-1PM BHSU Softball VS. Colorado Christian, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 1-3PM BHSU Softball VS. Colorado Christian, *Yellow Jacket Softball Field*
- 7-8PM BHSU Spring Band Concert, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*

**Apr. 22th**

- 2-6PM Faculty Workshop: Mentoring During Career Exploration, *Jonas Academic 103A or Online*

**Apr. 24th**

- 2:30-4PM Come Plant a Tree and Celebrate Arbor Day 2024! *E.Y. Berry Library*

**Apr. 25th**

- 9AM-1PM Employee Benefits Fair, *Jacket Legacy Room (Student Union)*

**Apr. 26th**

- 9AM-9PM BHSU Rodeo VS. Will Lantis Yellow Jacket Stampede, *Seven Downs Arenas*

**Apr. 27th**

- 9AM-9PM BHSU Rodeo VS. Will Lantis Yellow Jacket Stampede, *Seven Downs Arenas*
- 10AM-5PM BHSU Spring Music Festival, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*
- 5-6PM BHSU Orchestra Concert, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*

**Apr. 29th**

- Final Exams

**Apr. 30th**

- Final Exams

**May. 1st**

- Final Exams
- TBA BHSU Conducting Symposium, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall*

**May. 2nd**

- Final Exams
- 8:30AM-1:30PM Celebrating Women In Business Luncheon & Awards, *Holiday Inn-Convention Center Spearfish, SD 57783*

**May. 3rd**

- Final Exams

**May. 4th**

- 10AM-12PM Commencement, *Donald E. Young Center*

**May. 8th**

- Final Grades Due

**May. 13th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

*Submitted by Charles Williams on 2024-04-15*

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**STAFF SENATE WILL MEET APRIL 17 AT 10AM**

BHSU Staff Senate will meet Wednesday, April 17, at 10am in the Trump Room of the Student Union. A Zoom component will also be available (link on the Staff Senate website). Please join us!

*Submitted by Nancy J Shuck on 2024-04-15*

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**WELCOME NEW BHSU EMPLOYEES!**

Let's give a **Big, Warm, BHSU** welcome to the newest employee on campus!

- Carmen Smith - Accountant, Business Office

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-15*

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**AVAILABLE POSITIONS AT BHSU!**

Check out these BHSU job openings! Please share with anyone you know that might be interested!

- Admissions Counselor
- Assistant Professor, Biology (Anatomy & Physiology)
- Assistant Professor of Biology (Forest & Grassland Ecology)
- Assistant Professor, Mathematics
- Assistant Professor, Political Science
- Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach
- Bookstore Buyer
- Coordinator of Athletic Video & Multimedia Content
- Dean of Education

- East Complex Director-Residential Operations Coordinator
- Head Women's Basketball Coach
- Head Women's Golf Coach
- Instructor of English
- Library Director
- Professional Advisor
- Professional Advisor (Rapid City Campus)

Staff and Faculty job listings can be found here:

<https://www.bhsu.edu/About-BHSU/Employment-Opportunities>

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-15*

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### **MISSING SPOUSE/DEPENDENT SSN**

On Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, an email will be sent to employees from BHRMEMBERBENEFITS asking for SSNs for spouses and/or dependents that currently do not have valid SSNs in GHR/INFOR. The good news is that if an employee's spouse/dependent will never have an SSN, we have identified those, so those employees will not get an email. This information will also be in Jesse Merkel's weekly communication update.

This is a legitimate email, and here's what the email will say:

**Subject Line: Important Information About Your Benefits**

A recent audit of our records indicated that you have one or more dependents with a missing or invalid Social Security Number in our Human Resources Information System. Social Security Numbers are required for compliance with the Affordable Care Act for any covered members on the health plan, as well as to provide eligibility and coverage files to certain benefit vendors.

Dependent spouses without a valid Social Security Number in our HRIS system will not be able to access the well-being portal.

Please call the Bureau of Human Resources and Administration at 605.773.3148 to provide this information.

If your dependent will never have a Social Security Number, please call us and let us know, as we can identify this in our system and therefore, you will not receive future communications to update your record.

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-15*

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*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-15*

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**THE 2024 JOY OF LEARNING AT THE JOY CENTER  
BHSU TO HOST ANNUAL JOY OF LEARNING SERIES THIS MAY**

Black Hills State University will be hosting the annual Joy of Learning, a unique speaker series that allows community members the opportunity to learn from faculty and locals who are experts in their fields. This year's event will include 20 one-hour sessions and take place May 13, 14, 15, and 16.

The series will include lecture sessions on topics such as the current activity at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, landmarks in Black Hills history, a listener's guide to orchestral music, and a presentation by Black Hills Bicycles. In addition to lectures, the series will offer art demonstrations, musical performances, and a tour of a local sustainable farm.

All sessions will be held at the Joy Center on the BHSU campus unless otherwise indicated on the schedule. Sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4 p.m. each day and are free and open to the community. Donations are welcome with proceeds going towards scholarships.

"The Joy of Learning was created simply to give BHSU and the Spearfish community the delight of learning new things just for the sake of learning," said Dr. Amy Fuqua, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at BHSU.

For a full schedule and more information, visit [BHSU.edu/JoyofLearning](https://BHSU.edu/JoyofLearning). Some topics discussed may not be suitable for all ages. For questions, please contact Dr. Amy Fuqua at [Amy.Fuqua@BHSU.edu](mailto:Amy.Fuqua@BHSU.edu).

*Submitted by Katherine Kemp on 2024-04-12*

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## **2ND ANNUAL TRASH PICK UP DAY**

Beautify Spearfish - The first 2024 Trash Clean up! Please join us in keeping Spearfish Beautiful!

DATE: Wednesday April 24, 2024

TIME: 5:45 pm to 7:30 pm MDT

LOCATION: St Joe Street and Spearfish Creek/Rec Path

*Submitted by Kanda J Guthmiller on 2024-04-10*

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*Submitted by Nancy L Feiler on 2024-04-08*

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*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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Also, individual retirement sessions will be available throughout the day. We still have open spots to sign up!! Please contact HR at 605.642.6549 or by email at [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu) to sign up for your ONE-ON-ONE session with SDRS - Hurry and reserve your spot today!!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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### **HOW TO KEEP YOUR AFLAC POLICES**

How to Keep Your Aflac Policies! Please click the link to learn more:

[Aflac Guide to Online](#)

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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### **PACK THE PANTRY**

Come Pack the BHSU Student Pantry with us on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> while cheering at the BHSU Football Scrimmage.

Bring nonperishable food item/s to Friday's spring ball game. Gate opens at 3:00. Kickoff is at 3:30.

All donations will go to the BHSU Student Food Pantries, who are in great need of supplies.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL DONATION.**

*Submitted by Ashley Kirchner on 2024-04-04*

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### **BHSU EARTH DAY FESTIVAL!**

The Sustainability Department is proud to present the First Annual Earth Day Festival at BHSU!

**When:** THIS SATURDAY! April 20th, 11am-3pm

**Where:** Campus Green

**Details:** This is a community-wide celebration of our amazing planet! There will be vendors, crafts, music, art, solar panel tours, free houseplants, speakers, a scavenger hunt, and more! You won't want to miss it!!! To stay up to date on the festival, respond to the Facebook event!

If you have questions or want to participate, please contact Kate Shelton, Sustainability Graduate Assistant at [Julia.Shelton@yellowjackets.BHSU.edu](mailto:Julia.Shelton@yellowjackets.BHSU.edu)

[View event flyer](#)

[View vendor application flyer](#)

*Submitted by Kate Shelton on 2024-03-21*

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### **COME PLANT A TREE AND CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY 2024!**

Please join us in celebrating Arbor Day at Black Hills State University on **April 24th from 2:30pm - 4pm** at E.Y. Berry Library for hands on tree grafting workshop and tree planting techniques!

Activities include presentation of the 2023 Tree Campus Higher Education recognition plaque, a demonstration of proper tree planting techniques and a hands-on demonstration of grafting an apple tree to another rootstock.

We are looking forward to hosting students, faculty, staff, and community members.



Please contact Debbie Liddick or Eric Hanson if you have any questions at 605-642-6560.

*Submitted by Debbie Liddick on 2024-03-20*

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## **FACULTY WORKSHOP: MENTORING DURING CAREER EXPLORATION**

Mentoring during Career Exploration - tools and strategies for supporting students navigating career planning and transition

**Description:** As a faculty mentor, you have surely worked with students going through career transitions - a change of major, confusion about what they want to do with their degree, uncertainty about their interests. It's a normal part of college. By most estimates, more than a third of students change majors in US colleges - not to mention those who come in undecided!

And yet, faculty typically receive little advice about how to support students through these transitions. If you feel you could use additional strategies and tools for working with students on career exploration and transition, join us for this workshop. Jin Kim will share resources and approaches from BHSU Career Development and participants will have a chance to explore some BHSU-licensed career-exploration platforms that you can employ during these mentoring moments.

**Hosts:** Jin Kim (Career Development); Nick Van Kley (Center for Faculty Innovation)

**When:** Monday, April 22, 2:00pm-3:00pm

**Where:** JA 103A (RSVP for online option)

**RSVP for this event:** [Mentoring during Career Exploration RSVP](#)

**Questions?** Email [Nicholas.VanKley@bhsu.edu](mailto:Nicholas.VanKley@bhsu.edu) or visit the [Center for Faculty Innovation BHSU site](#)

*Submitted by Nick Van Kley on 2024-01-10*

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### **PLOTS AVAILABLE AT THE BHSU CAMPUS GARDEN!**

We are now taking applications for plots in the BHSU Anita Haeder Community Garden! Plots are \$25 and reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Email [Eva.Chase@BHSU.edu](mailto:Eva.Chase@BHSU.edu) for more information or to reserve your plot.

*Submitted by Eva Chase on 2024-04-23*

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### **COME PLANT A TREE AND CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY 2024!**

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We are looking forward to hosting students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Please contact Debbie Liddick or Eric Hanson if you have any questions at 605-642-6560.

*Submitted by Debbie Liddick on 2024-03-20*

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### **HOW TO KEEP YOUR AFLAC POLICIES**

How to Keep Your Aflac Policies! Please click the link to learn more:

[Aflac Guide to Online](#)

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FAIR, APRIL 25, 2024**

On, April 25, 2024, a variety of our employee benefit companies will be on campus and available from 9 am - 1 pm in the Jacket Legacy Room to meet with you about your health, wellness, investing opportunities and your employee benefits.

A few local businesses will be there as well!

SDRS speakers are scheduled to present in the Trump Room and in the Student Union as shown below:

**9:00–9:45: SDRS - A general overview of the SD Retirement System and what this means for you!**

**9:45 - 10:30: SDRS Supplemental - A summary of the 457 and Special Pay Plans.**

Open to all BHSU employees, students, and spouses with a chance to win door prizes and grand prizes for those who attend and stop by some booths! This is a great opportunity to learn about investing as well as ask questions about your employee benefits!

Also, individual retirement sessions will be available throughout the day. We still have open spots to sign up!! Please contact HR at 605.642.6549 or by email at [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu) to sign up for your ONE-ON-ONE session with SDRS - Hurry and reserve your spot today!!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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## **ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT**

It is time to celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of our colleagues! We are excited to announce that we are now accepting nominations for our annual employee recognition event. Remember, individual winners will each earn \$500! Now is the time to make your recommendations.

This event serves as an opportunity to honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and teamwork in their roles. We encourage all employees to take a moment to reflect on the hard work and accomplishments of their peers and nominate those who have truly made a difference. You may nominate multiple colleagues across different categories if you believe they meet the criteria.

Visit <https://portal.sdbor.edu/bhsu-fac-staff/Pages/Human-Resources.aspx> for nomination forms and descriptions of the awards.

Please email the nominations to [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu)

Awards will be given out at the State of the University this Fall!!

**!! The deadline for nominations is May 6, 2024!!**

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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**THE 2024 JOY OF LEARNING AT THE JOY CENTER  
BHSU TO HOST ANNUAL JOY OF LEARNING SERIES THIS MAY**

Black Hills State University will be hosting the annual Joy of Learning, a unique speaker series that allows community members the opportunity to learn from faculty and locals who are experts in their fields. This year's event will include 20 one-hour sessions and take place May 13, 14, 15, and 16.

The series will include lecture sessions on topics such as the current activity at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, landmarks in Black Hills history, a listener's guide to orchestral music, and a presentation by Rushmore Bikes. In addition to lectures, the series will offer art demonstrations, musical performances, and a tour of a local sustainable farm.

All sessions will be held at the Joy Center on the BHSU campus unless otherwise indicated on the schedule. Sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4 p.m. each day and are free and open to the community. Donations are welcome with proceeds going towards scholarships.

"The Joy of Learning was created simply to give BHSU and the Spearfish community the delight of learning new things just for the sake of learning," said Dr. Amy Fuqua, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at BHSU.

For a full schedule and more information, visit [BHSU.edu/JoyofLearning](https://BHSU.edu/JoyofLearning). Some topics discussed may not be suitable for all ages. For questions, please contact Dr. Amy Fuqua at [Amy.Fuqua@BHSU.edu](mailto:Amy.Fuqua@BHSU.edu).

*Submitted by Katherine Kemp on 2024-04-12*

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## OPEN ENROLLMENT MAY 1-15

Attention All Benefit Eligible Employees -

**Benefits Open Enrollment will be May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

The choices you make during Open Enrollment will be effective FY25 - July 1, 2024

***You must take action during Open Enrollment.*** Employees must actively elect or opt out of coverage by logging into Employee Space between May 1 - May 15, 2024. If you do not make your selections or opt out by May 15, you will be enrolled in the Washington employee-only plan. Your dependents will have to wait until next year's open enrollment to sign up for benefits unless you experience a Qualifying Life Event. Dental, vision, and other flexible benefits will not roll over.

The FY25 Benefit Guide can be accessed here: <https://bhr.sd.gov/BenefitsGuide.pdf>

If you want a physical copy of the Benefits Guide, please call the BHRA Benefits team at 605.773.3148 and a copy will be mailed to your home address.

Other resources, including Alex ,Registration Links for Open Enrollment Presentations and Assistance Sessions can be found here: <https://bhr.sd.gov/fy25plans/>

We encourage all employees to review the Benefit Guide and sign up for presentations to see the changes to the FY25 Benefits, including premium changes for health and dental, Well-Being Rewards changes, and the additions of the Wellness Champions, Employee Health Office, and Hinge Health.

**IMPORTANT:** Please take the time to log into [Employee Space](#) *before* Open Enrollment. This will allow you to view your current benefits, dependents, and beneficiaries, and to ensure that you can make your elections when Open Enrollment begins.

For questions regarding FY25 Open Enrollment, please contact the System Payroll Center at [PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu](mailto:PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu) or the Bureau of Human Resources and Administration at [BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us](mailto:BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us).

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-15*

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## TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR FY 2025

The **Mileage Reimbursement** and **In-State Lodging Reimbursement** rates will increase on July 1, 2024 and are outlined below. There are no other changes to meals or out-of-state/out-of country reimbursements.

### MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Effective July 1, 2024, the mileage reimbursement rate will increase to be consistent with the mileage reimbursement rate for business set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or \$0.655 per mile. If a state employee elects to use a personal vehicle for state business but an Office of Fleet and Travel Management pool vehicle is available, the mileage reimbursement rate will be set at 45% of the rate set by the IRS, or \$0.295 per mile.

### IN-STATE LODGING

Effective July 1, 2024, the maximum in-state lodging reimbursement rate will increase to be consistent with the actual cost of in-state lodging, not to exceed the rate set by the General Service Administration (GSA). The standard rate of \$107 per night will apply to travel in all counties in South Dakota, except for those specifically listed by the GSA. The lodging reimbursement rate for out-of-state and out-of-country travel will not change from the current rate of \$175 per night, with an additional \$100 available with excess lodging approval.

Primary Destination County Maximum Lodging Rate Standard Rate Applies for all locations without specified rates - \$107.00 per night.

Deadwood/Spearfish Lawrence: **October - May:** \$107.00 per night; **June - September:** \$157.00 per night.

Hot Springs Fall River/Custer: **October - May:** \$107.00 per night; **June - September:** \$152.00 per night.

Rapid City Pennington: **October - May:** \$107.00 per night; **June - August:** \$169.00 per night; **September:** \$107.00 per night

*Submitted by Anita Haeder on 2024-04-17*

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### **COME PET THE STRESS AWAY!**

The Western Hills Humane Society has kindly offered to bring several friendly, fur babies to campus the week of finals week! Significant research shows the positive impact pets can have on our emotional and physical well-being. Some studies indicate those who have pets live longer and lead happier lives! Pets offer us social support and help us to reduce stress.

Please stop by to give cuddles and to receive some cuddles and love! Pet the Stress Away will be on April 29th and May 2nd from 11 to 2 pm. We will be outside on the green in front of the student union or inside the student union, pending weather. For further questions, please contact the student health and counseling center at 605-645-6520.

*Submitted by Rebecka Funk on 2024-04-18*

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### **2ND ANNUAL TRASH PICK UP DAY**

Please join us in keeping Spearfish Beautiful!

DATE: Wednesday April 24, 2024

TIME: 5:45 pm to 7:30 pm MDT

LOCATION: St Joe Street and Spearfish Creek/Rec Path

DISTANCE: approx. 1 mile from the starting point for each crew. We will clean both sides of the road.

TOTAL MILEAGE CLEANED: 2

PARKING: Meet in The Joy Center parking lot

\*We will have some vests to use from the State if you'd like. If not, please wear a bright colored shirt that is easily seen. We will equip children with vests first. After all, they are our future!

\*We will have cloths and rubber gloves available in limited quantities along with trash grabbers, and hand sanitizer courtesy of Heisler's Hardware and buckets courtesy of TUF Storm Restoration and Quiksigns! Feel free to bring your own gloves, hand sanitizer, and another protective gear you feel is important to your safety. Mask are recommended, but not required as we are outside. That said please keep your space from others you did not arrive with.

\*Children must be supervised. Please use your best judgment on the appropriate age for your children to participate. Parents/Legal guardians are the only responsible party for their child/children's safety.

\*Please no pets at this event.

\*Please respect private property - do not go through fences, open fences, or walk through yards.

Why? We have a beautiful community and beautiful planet. We have a responsibility to be kind to our planet so future generations can enjoy her like we do. We need to be the change we want to see in others.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1145035789737032>

*Submitted by Kanda J Guthmiller on 2024-04-22*

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## **SEND-A-THANKS RECIPIENTS**

The Send-a-Thanks platform was developed for employees to be able to send a special thank you, or kudos, to one of their colleagues across campus. Employees who receive a send-a-thanks are entered into a monthly drawing for either a bookstore gift card or a mug and gift card courtesy of Einstein's.

We would like to give a **SHOUT OUT** to the following individuals who received some KUDOS!!!

- *Lori Dubry - Print Services Coordinator, Marketing and Communications*
- *Jessie Gramm - Student Engagement Coordinator*
- *Eric Hanson - Grounds Supervisor, Facilities*
- *Melissa Hart - Director of Human Resources*
- *Debbie Liddick - Assistant Director, Facilities and Sustainability*

If you would like to send a special recognition to someone, please click the quick link on the main e-Update email.

Thank you for everything you do for BHSU and helping to make this a great place to be!!

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-22*

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### **E-UPDATE EVENTS: 04/23/2024**

*Here are the upcoming events for the next 4 weeks. If you don't see something that should be listed, please submit an event through our submission form.*

#### Event Request

#### **List of Upcoming Events:**

##### **Apr. 24th**

- 2:30-4PM Come Plant a Tree and Celebrate Arbor Day 2024! *E.Y. Berry Library*

##### **Apr. 25th**

- 9AM-1PM Employee Benefits Fair, *Jacket Legacy Room (Student Union)*

##### **Apr. 26th**

- 9AM-9PM BHSU Rodeo VS. Will Lantis Yellow Jacket Stampede, *Seven Downs Arenas*

##### **Apr. 27th**

- 9AM-9PM BHSU Rodeo VS. Will Lantis Yellow Jacket Stampede, *Seven Downs Arenas*
- 10AM-5PM BHSU Spring Music Festival, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*
- 5-6PM BHSU Orchestra Concert, *Clare & Joseph Meier Hall*

##### **Apr. 29th**

- Final Exams

##### **Apr. 30th**

- Final Exams

##### **May. 1st**

- Final Exams
- TBA BHSU Conducting Symposium, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall*

##### **May. 2nd**

- Final Exams
- 8:30AM-1:30PM Celebrating Women In Business Luncheon & Awards, *Holiday Inn-Convention Center Spearfish, SD 57783*



**May. 3rd**

- Final Exams

**May. 4th**

- 10AM-12PM Commencement, *Donald E. Young Center*

**May. 8th**

- Final Grades Due

**May. 13th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

**May. 14th**

- 8:30-9:30AM Coffee & Conversation (Rapid City), *Fork Real Café in Rapid City*
- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

**May. 15th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

**May. 16th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

*Submitted by Charles Williams on 2024-04-22*

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**LIBRARY FINALS WEEK HOURS**

Saturday 4/27: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday 4/28: 2 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Monday 4/29 - Thursday 5/2: 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Friday 5/3: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Submitted by Lori Terrill on 2024-04-23*

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### **FREE STUFF IN THE MARKETING OFFICE!**

The Office of Marketing & Communications has been going through some of their storage closets and has found some old "swag" items with outdated branding. While these items can not be used as giveaway items, we did want to give faculty and staff the chance to grab some for your own personal use. We have some large chip clips, jar openers, keychain flashlights, and a few other random things. Stop by our office and grab what you would like!

*Submitted by Maegan Detlefs on 2024-04-30*

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### **PLOTS AVAILABLE AT THE BHSU CAMPUS GARDEN!**

We are now taking applications for plots in the BHSU Anita Haeder Community Garden! Plots are \$25 and reserved on a first-come first-served basis.

Email [Eva.Chase@BHSU.edu](mailto:Eva.Chase@BHSU.edu) for more information or to reserve your plot.

*Submitted by Eva Chase on 2024-04-30*

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### **END-OF-YEAR/RETIREMENT RECEPTION**

Please add this event to your calendar:

#### **ALL FACULTY & STAFF are invited to attend the End-of-Year & Retirement Reception**

Thursday, May 2, 2024 - Open House

4:30 Brief Program

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - The Joy Center

*Submitted by Jacky Easton on 2024-04-30*

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### **SEND-A-THANKS RECIPIENTS**

The Send-a-Thanks platform was developed for employees to be able to send a special thank you, or kudos, to one of their colleagues across campus. Employees who receive a send-a-thanks are entered into a monthly drawing for either a bookstore gift card or a coffee mug courtesy of Einstein's.

We would like to give a SHOUT OUT to the following individuals who received some KUDOS!

- *Cynthia Anderson - Dean, College of Business and Natural Sciences*
- *Bailey Froelich - Human Resources Assistant*
- *Jane Klug - Dean of Students*

- *Garrett Stevens - Cybersecurity Engineer, Network and Computer Services*
- *Richard Woodworth- Database/System Administrator, Network and Computer Services*

If you would like to send a special recognition to someone who has gone above and beyond, please click the quick link on the main e-Update email.

Thank you for everything you do for BHSU!!

*Everyone wants to be appreciated, so if you appreciate someone, don't keep it a secret." - Mary Kay Ash*

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-30*

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### **BENEFIT FAIR DOOR PRIZE WINNERS!**

**Congratulations!** Thanks to all who came to the HR Benefit Fair last week. Below are the winners of the door prizes:

Cheryl Anagnopoulos - 8 pack of truffles at Chubby Chipmunk

Michael Baum - \$50 Black Hills Beef gift card

Matt Bauman - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Leon Biggs - \$25 Scheels gift card

Alyssa Blake - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Gary Callies - 2 Elks Theater movie passes

Anthony Conklin - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Christy Couch - \$15 Spearfish Brewery gift card, tumbler, and stickers

Maegan Detlefs - 1 session at the Hot Room

Stephen Detlefs - BHSU Bookstore coffee mug

Stephen Digioia - \$25 Beck's Nursery gift card

Tommy Donovan - \$25 Green Bean Coffeehouse gift card

Lori Dubry - Brumate can coozy from WEX

Oxana Gorbatenko - 2 free smoothies at Tropical Smoothie Café

Roxanne Harrowa - 1 month membership at Spearfish Strength & Fitness and t-shirt

Kellie Hatch - 1 session at the Salt Cave

Janette Hettick - BHSU Bookstore hat

Caitlin Hill - Horace Mann gift bag

Jennifer Holz - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Dawn Hunter - 4 tickets to Lauren Alaina at the Deadwood Mountain Grand on June 27<sup>th</sup>

Naomi Jacobson - Crow Peak Brewery sweatshirt

Mike Jastorff - MetLife Blanket

Katrina Jensen - BHSU Bookstore golf set

Kristina Jones - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Katie Kemp - \$20 Wild Rose gift card

Megan Kenny - \$50 Black Hills Beef gift card

Tirzah Knight - \$50 Black Hills Beef gift card

Sandra Kringen - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Charlie Lamb - 2 free smoothies at Tropical Smoothie Café

Jackson Mailloux - Crow Peak Brewery hat

Stephen Marshall - 18-hole golf at Red Rock Golf Club

Dawn Miller - BHSU Bookstore tumbler mug

Stephanie Murphy - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Justin Nauta - 1 free smoothie at Tropical Smoothie Café

Rhyse Naylor - \$25 Lucky's Pub gift card

Micheline Nelson - \$100 certificate for Bicycle & Boats

Fred Nelson - free large popcorn at Northern Hills Cinema

Prasanthi Pallapu - free large popcorn at Northern Hills Cinema

Kaitlin Palmer - 2 Elks Theater movie passes

Rebecca Rodriguez - 2 free smoothies at Tropical Smoothie Café

Lexi Salazar - 1 session at the Hot Room

Roxy Schmit - 2 free smoothies at Tropical Smoothie Café

Greg Scholz - \$20 Good Earth gift card

Leah Shockey - day pass for Spearfish Rec Center Waterpark

Shaun Skavang - Horace Mann gift bag

Carmen Smith - 18-holes at Spearfish Golf Canyon for 4 people (includes carts)

John Sprecher - 1 night stay and 5 waterpark passes for Watiki

Greg Strobel - \$25 Stadium Bar & Grill gift card

Becca Walters - day pass for Spearfish Rec Center Waterpark

Diane Watson - 45-minute massage at Crow Peak Massage

Myndi Weidenbach - 1 session at the Hot Room

Sandra Wellman - toothbrush from Delta Dental

Austin Westland - \$50 Black Hills Beef gift card

Karen Williamson - Wellmark Lap Desk

Dante Zacher - day pass for Spearfish Rec Center Waterpark

HR will reach out to you when your prize is ready to be picked up!

*Submitted by Bailey Froelich on 2024-04-29*

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#### **E-UPDATE EVENTS: 04/30/2024**

*Here are the upcoming events for the next 4 weeks. If you don't see something that should be listed, please submit an event through our submission form.*

## Event Request

### List of Upcoming Events:

#### **Apr. 30th**

- Final Exams

#### **May. 1st**

- Final Exams
- TBA BHSU Conducting Symposium, *Clare & Josef Meier Hall*

#### **May. 2nd**

- Final Exams
- 8:30AM-1:30PM Celebrating Women In Business Luncheon & Awards, *Holiday Inn-Convention Center Spearfish, SD 57783*

#### **May. 3rd**

- Final Exams
- 5-7PM Senior Fine Arts Exhibition, *Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City*

#### **May. 4th**

- 10AM-12PM Commencement, *Donald E. Young Center*

#### **May. 8th**

- Final Grades Due

#### **May. 13th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

#### **May. 14th**

- 8:30-9:30AM Coffee & Conversation (Rapid City), *Fork Real Café in Rapid City*
- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

#### **May. 15th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

#### **May. 16th**

- 9:30AM-4PM Joy of Learning, *Joy (Proctor) Krautschun Alumni/Foundation Welcome Center*

#### **May. 27th**

- Memorial Day

*Submitted by Charles Williams on 2024-04-29*

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### **SUMMER BOOK CLUB WITH THE CENTER FOR FACULTY INNOVATION**

The BHSU Center for Faculty Innovation is hosting a summer book club. In June and July, we'll read *What Inclusive Instructors Do* (Routledge, 2021); both faculty and staff are welcome to join. You can participate in person, remotely, or asynchronously. We have 16 five copies left to give away.

We all care about our students; we want every one of them to do well in college, to find meaning in our classes, and to feel like they belong at BHSU. How do we best accomplish that goal? *What Inclusive Instructors Do* will help us explore that question. For more information on the book, our reading schedule, or to sign up, visit our SharePoint site: [Announcement, 2024 CFI Summer Book Club](#).

Register for the book club here: [RSVP 2024 Summer Book Club](#).

Questions: email Nick Van Kley (CFI Director) at [Nicholas.VanKley@BHSU.edu](mailto:Nicholas.VanKley@BHSU.edu)

*Submitted by Nick Van Kley on 2024-04-29*

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### **FINE ARTS SENIOR EXHIBITION RECEPTION** **BHSU Senior Fine Arts Exhibition**

**Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City**

**Exhibition Dates: 04.05.24 - 06.01.24**

**Exhibition Reception: May 3, 5-7PM**

**Sen. Stan Adelstein & Lynda K. Clark Gallery**

Works in this exhibition feature BHSU seniors who are graduating either in May or December of 2024 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree or a Bachelor of Science Education Degree in Art-Teaching. The exhibition will feature a variety of mediums, techniques, and concentrations as each student is responsible for creating their visual narratives through their work. Some of these techniques include ceramics, photography, painting, textiles, and screen printing. The class of 2024 Fine Arts and Art Education majors are emerging artists and creative leaders who are excited to exhibit their capstone pieces at the Dahl Arts Center.

This exhibit is sponsored by BHSU College of Liberal Arts Fund, BHSU Art Club, the BHSU Photography program, and the South Dakota Arts Council with funds from the

State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

*Submitted by Michael Baum on 2024-04-28*

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## **RUDELL GALLERY EXHIBITION RECEPTION**

*Super Fine*, Annual Student Juried Exhibition

Exhibition Reception, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 5-7PM

Please join the Fine Arts Department for a public reception on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> celebrating the work of current students featured in the Annual Student Juried Exhibition entitled *Super Fine*. Every spring this popular juried exhibition introduces the Black Hills State campus and Spearfish audiences to the work of fine arts undergraduates. The juried exhibition features pieces from a wide variety of mediums including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fibers, bookmaking, design, and photography. This year's exhibition was juried by Ryan Stander, Associate Professor of Photography at Minot State University in Minot, ND.

*Submitted by Michael Baum on 2024-04-28*

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## **UNITED WAY OF THE BLACK HILLS SEEKING BHSU REPRESENTATIVE**

BHSU's seat on the Northern Hills Cabinet, currently held by Becca Walters, is becoming available.

This is an opportunity for staff/ faculty to represent BHSU through the United Way of the Black Hills. Meetings are held in Spearfish once a month alongside fellow community representatives and the United Way staff.

Becca has enjoyed her time on the Cabinet and is happy discuss more details regarding the position. Feel free to email her at [Becca.Walters@BHSU.edu](mailto:Becca.Walters@BHSU.edu) or call 642-6849.

*United Way of the Black Hills' mission is to unite people and resources to improve lives in the Black Hills by delivering measurable long-term solutions to community issues in education, financial stability, and health.*

*Submitted by Becca Walters on 2024-04-26*

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## SUMMER HOURS START 5/6

SUMMER HOURS IN EFFECT: Monday, May 6 - Friday, August 16, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ALL Offices must remain open and covered Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Normal hours resume August 19.

Flex time options (supervisors may work with employees):

- Four 10-hour days during the week. Day off to be determined by employee and supervisor.
- Four 9-hour days Monday - Thursday + Friday morning from 7:30-11:30.
- Four normal days (7:30-4:30) + remote work on fifth day (7:30-4:30).

Options can be approved for some weeks (but not all) summer months. For example, July - work alternative schedule for two weeks/work normal schedule for other two weeks.

Schedules require supervisor's approval. Offices must be open and coverage is a must. Small offices may partner with other offices so all have the ability to take advantage of summer hours.

Reminder: Flex time may impact hourly timesheets. Make sure you have all hours listed for the month per the timesheet reminders HR puts in the e-update the week before payroll.

Please contact Human Resources at 605-642-6549 with any questions.

Have a great summer everyone!

*Submitted by Melissa Hart on 2024-04-26*

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## “RATS OF THE FIASCO” - ACTORS & WRITERS SHOWCASE

Come see the play "Rats of the Fiasco," this semester's collaboration between Karl Lehman's Advanced Creative Writing class and Casey Hibbert's Introduction to Acting class. The script was written from scratch this semester and will be performed as a showcase by a cast of eighteen.

*Submitted by Karl Lehman on 2024-04-25*

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## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Attention All Benefit Eligible Employees: **You must take action during Open Enrollment.**

## Benefits Open Enrollment will be May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>

The choices you make during Open Enrollment will be effective FY25 - July 1, 2024

Employees must actively elect or opt out of coverage by logging into Employee Space between May 1 - May 15, 2024. If you do not make your selections or opt out by May 15, you will be enrolled in the Washington employee-only plan. Your dependents will have to wait until next year's open enrollment to sign up for benefits unless you experience a Qualifying Life Event. Dental, vision, and other flexible benefits will not roll over.

The FY25 Benefit Guide can be accessed here: <https://bhr.sd.gov/BenefitsGuide.pdf>

If you want a physical copy of the Benefits Guide, please call the BHRA Benefits team at 605.773.3148 and a copy will be mailed to your home address.

Other resources, including Alex ,Registration Links for Open Enrollment Presentations and Assistance Sessions can be found here: <https://bhr.sd.gov/fy25plans/>

We encourage all employees to review the Benefit Guide and sign up for presentations to see the changes to the FY25 Benefits, including premium changes for health and dental, Well-Being Rewards changes, and the additions of the Wellness Champions, Employee Health Office, and Hinge Health.

**IMPORTANT:** Please take the time to log into [Employee Space](#) *before* Open Enrollment. This will allow you to view your current benefits, dependents, and beneficiaries, and to ensure that you can make your elections when Open Enrollment begins.

For questions regarding FY25 Open Enrollment, please contact the System Payroll Center at [PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu](mailto:PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu) or the Bureau of Human Resources and Administration at [BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us](mailto:BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us).

*Submitted by Nancy L Feiler on 2024-04-25*

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## TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR FY 2025

The **Mileage Reimbursement** and **In-State Lodging Reimbursement** rates will increase on July 1, 2024 and are outlined below. There are no other changes to meals or out-of-state/out-of country reimbursements.

### MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Effective July 1, 2024, the mileage reimbursement rate will increase to be consistent with the mileage reimbursement rate for business set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or \$0.655 per mile. If a state employee elects to use a personal vehicle for state

business but an Office of Fleet and Travel Management pool vehicle is available, the mileage reimbursement rate will be set at 45% of the rate set by the IRS, or \$0.295 per mile.

### IN-STATE LODGING

Effective July 1, 2024, the maximum in-state lodging reimbursement rate will increase to be consistent with the actual cost of in-state lodging, not to exceed the rate set by the General Service Administration (GSA). The standard rate of \$107 per night will apply to travel in all counties in South Dakota, except for those specifically listed by the GSA. The lodging reimbursement rate for out-of-state and out-of-country travel will not change from the current rate of \$175 per night, with an additional \$100 available with excess lodging approval.

Primary Destination County Maximum Lodging Rate Standard Rate Applies for all locations without specified rates - \$107.00 per night.

Deadwood/Spearfish Lawrence: **October - May:** \$107.00 per night; **June - September:** \$157.00 per night.

Hot Springs Fall River/Custer: **October - May:** \$107.00 per night; **June - September:** \$152.00 per night.

Rapid City Pennington: **October - May:** \$107.00 per night; **June - August:** \$169.00 per night; **September:** \$107.00 per night

*Submitted by Anita Haeder on 2024-04-24*

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### OPEN ENROLLMENT MAY 1-15

Attention All Benefit Eligible Employees -

**Benefits Open Enrollment will be May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

The choices you make during Open Enrollment will be effective FY25 - July 1, 2024

***You must take action during Open Enrollment.*** Employees must actively elect or opt out of coverage by logging into Employee Space between May 1 - May 15, 2024. If you do not make your selections or opt out by May 15, you will be enrolled in the Washington employee-only plan. Your dependents will have to wait until next year's open enrollment to sign up for benefits unless you experience a Qualifying Life Event. Dental, vision, and other flexible benefits will not roll over.

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For questions regarding FY25 Open Enrollment, please contact the System Payroll Center at [PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu](mailto:PayrollSSC@sdstate.edu) or the Bureau of Human Resources and Administration at [BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us](mailto:BenefitsWebsite@state.sd.us).

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-15*

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## **THE 2024 JOY OF LEARNING AT THE JOY CENTER BHSU TO HOST ANNUAL JOY OF LEARNING SERIES THIS MAY**

Black Hills State University will be hosting the annual Joy of Learning, a unique speaker series that allows community members the opportunity to learn from faculty and locals who are experts in their fields. This year's event will include 20 one-hour sessions and take place May 13, 14, 15, and 16.

The series will include lecture sessions on topics such as the current activity at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, landmarks in Black Hills history, a listener's guide to orchestral music, and a presentation by Rushmore Bikes. In addition to lectures, the series will offer art demonstrations, musical performances, and a tour of a local sustainable farm.

All sessions will be held at the Joy Center on the BHSU campus unless otherwise indicated on the schedule. Sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4 p.m. each day and are free and open to the community. Donations are welcome with proceeds going towards scholarships.

"The Joy of Learning was created simply to give BHSU and the Spearfish community the delight of learning new things just for the sake of learning," said Dr. Amy Fuqua, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at BHSU.

For a full schedule and more information, visit [BHSU.edu/JoyofLearning](https://bhsu.edu/JoyofLearning). Some topics discussed may not be suitable for all ages. For questions, please contact Dr. Amy Fuqua at [Amy.Fuqua@BHSU.edu](mailto:Amy.Fuqua@BHSU.edu).

*Submitted by Katherine Kemp on 2024-04-12*

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### **ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT**

It is time to celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of our colleagues! We are excited to announce that we are now accepting nominations for our annual employee recognition event. Remember, individual winners will each earn \$500! Now is the time to make your recommendations.

This event serves as an opportunity to honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and teamwork in their roles. We encourage all employees to take a moment to reflect on the hard work and accomplishments of their peers and nominate those who have truly made a difference. You may nominate multiple colleagues across different categories if you believe they meet the criteria.

Visit <https://portal.sdbor.edu/bhsu-fac-staff/Pages/Human-Resources.aspx> for nomination forms and descriptions of the awards.

Please email the nominations to [BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu](mailto:BHSUHumanResources@bhsu.edu)

Awards will be given out at the State of the University this Fall!!

**!! The deadline for nominations is May 6, 2024!!**

*Submitted by Ruth Moore on 2024-04-04*

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