

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving! As I write this greeting, we are just weeks away from the conclusion of the fall semester. The time has flown...it has been a productive and fun semester for me. Two weeks ago BHSU partnered with the Spearfish Economic Development Corporation to hold two Listening Sessions with Spearfish-area employers. Our goal was to gain more insight into current and emerging workforce needs of Spearfish employers. The information, in turn, will inform the university as we better align our academic offerings to workforce needs. Our ultimate goal is to support economic development in and around Spearfish, while keeping BHSU graduates in the region as they find good paying jobs. I thank the businesses who participated and provided us with such valuable feedback.



These listening sessions were followed by a campus visit by Tom Johnson, the new CEO of Elevate Rapid City. Tom met with campus leaders to discuss economic development initiatives of Elevate Rapid City, and related workforce needs of the Rapid City area. Once again, we learned valuable information that will make BHSU even more relevant to preparing future workers and leaders of Western South Dakota.

Our work on developing a strategic enrollment plan for BHSU continues. We have engaged the services of Ruffalo Noel-Levitz to assist us in both assessing our recruitment/retention outcomes, and developing an enrollment plan for BHSU. More to come on this over the next several months.

As we approach the holiday season, I'm grateful to share a few impactful stories from Black Hills State University. Read through this month's report to learn about new designations and milestones BHSU is reaching, and join us as we celebrate the successes of our students and alumni.

Go Jackets!

*Laurie S. Nichols*

Interim President, Laurie S. Nichols



## BHSU INCLUDED IN BEST FOR VETS: COLLEGES 2020 RANKINGS BY MILITARY TIMES

Black Hills State University was named to the 2020 listing of "Best for Vets: Colleges" by Military Times, an independent source of news and information for service members and their families.

*Black Hills State University was named to the Best for Vets: Colleges list by Military Times based on policies related to military and veteran students, academic outcomes, and a military-supportive culture.*

BHSU serves veterans and dependents throughout the world, and at the BHSU campus in Spearfish and in Rapid City, with education benefits assistance, transfer information, and career counseling. The University has consistently earned the Best

for Vets recognition over the last decade. [Read more](#)

## LOCAL CFO CREDITS MASTER'S DEGREE FROM BHSU-RAPID CITY WITH PROVIDING SKILLS FOR PROMOTION



*Dorothy Voorhees says earning her MBA from Black Hills State University-Rapid City was key to her becoming the Chief Financial Officer at Sentinel Federal Credit Union.*

When the opportunity to become Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Sentinel Federal Credit Union came along, Dorothy Voorhees was ready, thanks to her MBA (Master's in Business Administration) degree from Black Hills State University-Rapid City.

Dorothy chose to attend BHSU rather than an online MBA program because the BHSU business program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Further, "the class schedules at BHSU-Rapid City are convenient, set for adult learners with other commitments, and geared for busy, professional people," says Dorothy. [Read more](#)



*Black Hills State University was recognized as a 2019 "Cool School" by Sierra magazine.*

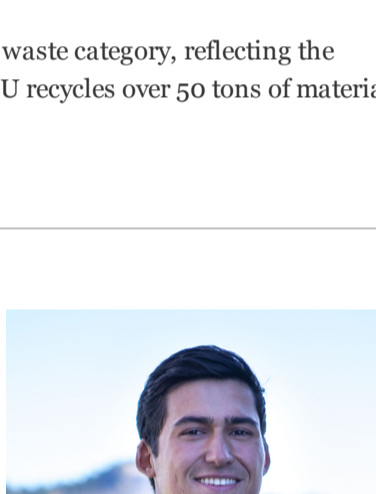
## BHSU NAMED A "COOL SCHOOL" BY SIERRA MAGAZINE

Black Hills State University was recognized as a 2019 "Cool School" by Sierra magazine for the university's commitment to eco-savvy courses, cafeteria provisions, and carbon-neutral land and energy policies. BHSU is the only school in South Dakota on the list.

Sierra, the national magazine of the Sierra Club, ranked and scored schools in five categories: curriculum, food, energy, waste, research, and transportation.

Of all the categories, BHSU achieved its highest ranking in the waste category, reflecting the university's commitment to waste reduction and recycling. BHSU recycles over 50 tons of material every year. [Read more](#)

## BHSU GRAD NAMED INTERN OF THE YEAR, EARNS \$43K IN THREE MONTHS



*Collin Powers*

Following his graduation from BHSU in May, Collin Powers of Big Horn, Wyo., wanted an opportunity where he could "bet all the cards on himself" and prove his ability. After a record-breaking internship experience, he is now a full-time employee expecting to make six figures this summer and will be visiting the BHSU campus to recruit student interns for his company.

Collin started his internship with Caliber, an industry leader in direct to consumer sales, selling Dish Network memberships door-to-door from May through August. Typically, new interns with Caliber can expect to earn \$10,000 over the summer. But Collin earned four-times that amount, \$43,000 in three months, and was named Intern of the Year. [Read more](#)

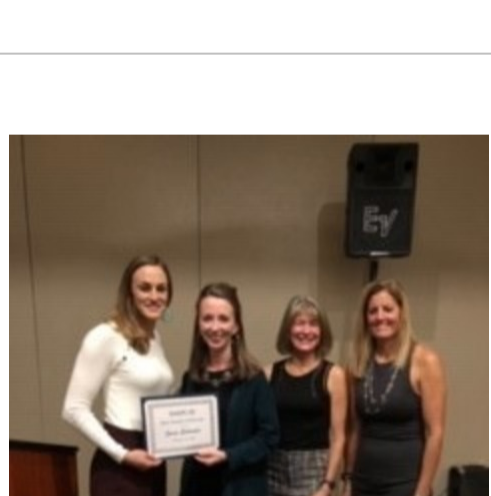


*Every performance by the BHSU Choir in Europe was received with either standing ovations and/or encores from the audience.*

## CHOIR PERFORMS IN EUROPE, CONNECTS STUDENTS TO MUSIC HISTORY

Dr. Jonathon Nero, professor of music, accompanied 45 students and chaperones from the BHSU Choir across Europe this summer where they performed music, gained appreciation of their craft, and connected with significant music history. The group visited locations in Germany, the Czech Republic, and Austria. Performances were booked in local venues, town squares, and churches or cathedrals. [Read more](#)

The BHSU Music Department presents the traditional "Madrigal Dinner" Dec. 5-7. Learn more at [www.BHSU.edu/Madrigal](http://www.BHSU.edu/Madrigal)



## ALUM NAMED NEW PE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

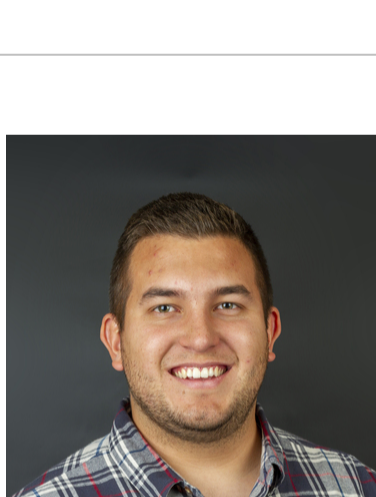
Black Hills State University alum Jamie Schroeder, Class of 2015, was named New Physical Education Professional of the Year for the South Dakota Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE SD). She teaches adapted physical education for the Spearfish School District.

"Jamie constantly views the world through a teacher's eyes. She starts her lessons with 'it can be done' rather than 'could it be done,'" says Dr. Betsy Silva, associate professor of physical education/pedagogy at BHSU.

*Jamie Schroeder, BHSU alum from the Class of 2015, received the New PE Professional of the Year Award for South Dakota Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE SD). Left to right: Schroeder; Staci Carlson, SHAPE SD past president; Dr. Betsy Silva, associate professor of physical education/pedagogy at BHSU; and Nikki Heinz, SHAPE SD awards chair.*

Jamie took an untraditional road to the field of education. She already had a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in exercise physiology when she decided to earn a teaching degree at BHSU. [Read more](#)

## BHSU STUDENT FROM ARGENTINA AWARDED WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP



*Claudio (Sebastian) Escudero*

Claudio (Sebastian) Escudero, business major from Argentina, was selected as the South Dakota scholarship recipient for the World Affairs Council of America (WACA) Conference "The Eight Forces Reshaping the Global Economy." The conference was held in Washington, D.C., this month.

Sebastian transferred to BHSU this year after attending Western Nebraska Community College. He wanted to complete his bachelor's degree in the U.S. as he thought that is AACSB-accredited (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). The BHSU School of Business earned AACSB accreditation in 2014. [Read more](#)

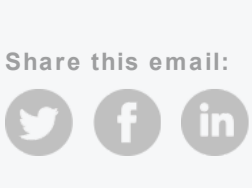


*BHSU Triathlon Team (L to R) top row: Chelsea Basford, Hannah Hirschi, middle row: Mathilde Bernard, Myna Buckley, seated: Kennedy Tessink.*

## TRIATHLON THIRD AT WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Black Hills State Triathlon Team had their best performance of the season at the Women's Collegiate National Championship in Tempe, Ariz., earlier this month. With triathlon as an emerging sport in the NCAA, the Yellow Jackets face the challenge of competing alongside both DI and DII teams from across the country. This marks the third year running that the team has made an appearance in the top three at the National Championships. [Read more](#)

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