

ADDRESSING THE  
HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE  
NEEDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA  
THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN THE  
DEPARTMENTS OF  
EDUCATION, LABOR &  
REGULATION, HEALTH AND  
THE BOARD OF REGENTS

# Healthcare Workforce Update

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## HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE COLLABORATIVE

Greetings from the South Dakota Office of Rural Health. This office along with our many partners continues to work at addressing South Dakota's healthcare workforce needs. Read on to see what's noteworthy over the past few months as well as upcoming! As always, we welcome your feedback regarding these and other workforce development issues.

# SOUTH DAKOTA ANNOUNCES NEXT GENERATION OF EMS SERVICES

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRESS RELEASE

**PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA:** The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) is pleased to announce the launch of a new telehealth partnership between DOH, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Agencies, and Sioux Falls-based telemedicine provider, Avel eCare. This initiative will use telemedicine to transform the delivery of care provided to patients throughout the state. During the 2022 Legislative session, Governor Noem requested, and the South Dakota Legislature approved, three funding initiatives to infuse up to \$20 million into EMS in South Dakota. Telemedicine in Motion is one of the three initiatives, with a budget of \$1.7 million dollars. Avel eCare was selected after a nationwide Request for Proposals process.

“Telemedicine in Motion will connect EMS agencies throughout South Dakota to board certified Emergency Physicians and registered nurses via telemedicine from Avel eCare,” said Joan Adam, DOH Cabinet Secretary. “Many of our EMS agencies experience long distances to travel, when our residents need care the most. Through Telemedicine in Motion, Avel will provide virtual triage and consulting services to EMS professionals through two-way audio and video in the back of the ambulance. This initiative will improve the coordination of care between our EMS providers and hospitals.”

The partnership with Avel offers each participating licensed ground ambulance service in South Dakota a telehealth solution that will include the necessary hardware, software, installation, training, support, and telehealth subscription for professional consulting services at no cost. Avel will work directly with EMS providers on the initial installation and continued support. The goal is to support the retention and recruitment of EMS workforce with access to on-demand support.

“Avel eCare is honored to partner with the South Dakota Department of Health to deliver telemedicine services to our EMS agencies across the state ” commented Becky Vande Kieft, Vice President and General Manager of Emergency Services at Avel eCare. “We have deep roots in South Dakota, and our team of clinicians look forward to helping these EMS professionals - our friends and neighbors - manage patient care and promote high quality outcomes while in transit.”

The communities of Dell Rapids and Humboldt have already received equipment installation and are undergoing testing this week. The DOH and Avel aim to have at least 60 EMS agencies up and running with virtual telemedicine capabilities by next spring.

“This investment in the future of EMS in South Dakota ensures a seamless care experience in the most critical times,” said Secretary Adam. “The model of care we established through this public-private partnership is unprecedented. This statewide initiative is the first of its kind and is a pioneering opportunity to advance care to patients and support pre-hospital professionals.”

Learn more by visiting <https://ems.sd.gov/initiatives/>

[View the full press release](#)

# THE 1815 PROJECT - IMPROVING THE CARE OF SOUTH DAKOTANS WITH DIABETES, HEART DISEASE, AND STROKE: YEAR FOUR RECAP

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Investigators from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at South Dakota State University are engaged in a five-year CDC-funded project to develop solutions to improve the care of South Dakotans with diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. According to the team, Year Four was a year of “continued implementation and evaluation. More programs were expanded and launched, quality improvement continued throughout the year, and evaluation of data collected throughout implementation began.”

Work completed in Year 4 included continuation of the “Your Pharmacist Knows” campaign, as well as the analysis of surveys to assess patient awareness of pharmacy services in the state. Additionally, the team continued to administer APhA trainings to South Dakota pharmacists. The team also began evaluating data collected from collaborating sites and developing manuscripts to disseminate subsequent findings.

Work designed to help practitioners continued. A practitioner survey was conducted at a collaborating Urban Indian Health Center to identify facilitators and barriers to care, and a Patient Stories Reporting Tool was developed to facilitate exchange of information between practitioners.

As the project team wrapped up Year Four, attention began to shift toward beyond the project’s conclusion. The team provided recommendations on what still needs to be done and will likely continue to need to be done over the coming years. Each of the 24 recommendations fell into one of three categories: “Expand the reach and support of resources,” “Expand and mature transdisciplinary relationships,” and “Continue to grow confidence.” Learn more about [The 1815 Project](#).

Contact: **Jacob Ford**, Scientific Writer; [Jacob.ford@sdstate.edu](mailto:Jacob.ford@sdstate.edu), 605-670-9658

## DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY JOINS AMERICAN MEDICAL INFORMATICS ACADEMIC FORUM

CONTRIBUTED BY DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dakota State University is now listed in the [directory](#) of the American Medical Informatics Association Academic Forum. The directory was created to help workforce members looking for education to locate informatics programs. There are currently 79 organizations listed in the directory of education providers. The organizations are divided by program format, program type (level), and accreditation status. DSU’s Master of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management (MSHIIM) program is listed as an online program that is CAHIIM accredited.

Dakota State University’s MSHIIM program offers an opportunity for healthcare workers looking to advance skills and knowledge in health informatics. With the electronic health record implementation, many healthcare workers are enrolling in education programs to enhance informatics capabilities to better utilize healthcare information for daily decision-making. Dr. Renae Spohn, Program Director of the Health Informatics and Information Management programs at DSU stated, “many of our students who are healthcare workers have commented that our program contains the information they need to make improvements and become more efficient within their jobs at the workplace.” DSU’s MSHIIM program routinely enrolls students who are professionals working in healthcare, making a diverse interprofessional program delivery environment.

For more information about DSU’s MSHIIM program, contact **Dr. Spohn** at [renae.spohn@dsu.edu](mailto:renae.spohn@dsu.edu).

Do you care for  
someone with  
memory  
loss?



If you live in rural, farming,  
or small town community  
and care for a person with  
memory loss...

A free 6-week online  
workshop may help you!

Check if you are eligible at:  
[caregiverproject.ucsf.edu](https://caregiverproject.ucsf.edu)

Join a research study of the University  
of California, San Francisco

**Rural Dementia  
Caregiver Project**



## RURAL DEMENTIA CAREGIVER PROJECT

CONTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The Rural Dementia Caregiver Project seeks to help caregivers of people with memory loss from rural, farming, or small-town communities learn new skills and improve their health. It is a research study of the University of California, San Francisco.

### If you join the study, you will receive, for free:

- Access to a 6-week online workshop—any time, day or night (no Zoom or video required)
- Workbook to keep—on skills and resources for caregivers
- Support from trained staff and other caregivers
- Up to \$80 in cash for completing 4 surveys

### Are you eligible?

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Able to access the internet
- Provide care for at least 10 hours per week

By “care” means assistance with dressing, meals, transportation, medications, appointments, or similar support. Your participation is private and confidential.

Check if you are eligible at [caregiverproject.ucsf.edu](https://caregiverproject.ucsf.edu)  
For other further questions, call toll free at 1-833-634-0603



# SDSU NURSING, PHARMACY, THEATER STUDENTS TEAM UP FOR SIMULATIONS

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

South Dakota State University's nursing and pharmacy programs teamed up with the theatre department to create more realistic training simulations for future healthcare workers.

SDSU actors helped create realistic scenarios in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions and the College of Nursing's Healthcare Simulation Center. Theater production students participated over the course of the semester through a one-credit activity course.

Simulations are an essential training tool and are especially important in providing nursing and pharmacy students with hands-on learning experiences.

To prepare, theater students watched instructional videos and toured the simulation center. The patients dressed in specific wardrobes with hair and makeup done to resemble different health care situations. The "standardized patients" were sent patient information, including the simulation topic, medical history, and a list of example questions and answers to help get into their characters' mindsets.

Previously, either fifth-year nursing students, nursing faculty or mannequins would play the role of the patients. Both students and faculty agree that theater students enhance the realism of the simulations, which leads to better practice for the students.

Simulations allow theater students to work on their improv acting. For the nursing and pharmacy students, the scenarios can reach an intense level, but that leads to great practice for their future clinicals and careers.

The simulations allow students to practice getting comfortable with hard or awkward questions and figure out what language works and what doesn't. Students have also been focusing on the nonverbal reactions of their patients.



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REGISTRY OF VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**What is SERV SD?** A database of pre-registered healthcare professionals who are ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency.

**Who should volunteer?** Everyone! All skill levels and experience needed.

**When registering with SERV SD,** you can join preparedness groups in your community.



LEARN MORE AT [SERV.SD.GOV](http://SERV.SD.GOV)

# SDAHO OFFERING LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO HELP WITH NURSING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS



## NURSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### Focus Areas

How to Have Crucial Conversations©

Board of Nursing & Licensure

Clinical Ethics & Decision Making

Legal Aspects of HR Management

Understanding Healthcare Finance

Establishing a *Just Culture*

Communicating Effectively

Using Evidence-Based Practice

State Resources & the Importance of Advocacy

Wellness & Emotional Intelligence

- NEW TOPICS
- NEW EXPERTS
- SAME MISSION: SUPPORTING NURSE LEADERS



### Launching January 2023

Nurse leadership program for current and emerging leaders, customized for South Dakota nurses and led by an experienced, professional development nurse and other industry experts.

The South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations continues to work towards finding solutions to workforce challenges, specifically our statewide nursing shortage. SDAHO recognizes the need to think outside of the box for solution-based ideas but ensuring nurse leaders are at the table when making decisions. Our job is to ensure that nurse leaders have the tools and resources they need to be effective when making decisions at the bedside, or the boardroom.

SDAHO is excited to announce the continuation of the Nurse Leadership Program. For the 2023 program, attendees will see some changes, but the mission remains the same, which is to help South Dakota Hospitals and Long-Term Care facilities support, retain, and recruit nurse leaders.

The development of future nurse leaders is more crucial than it's ever been.

The Nurse Leadership Program training is designed to give nurse leaders education that can be immediately applied to their current role. The content will be taught by South Dakota nurse leaders and other South Dakota healthcare industry experts regarding current best practice, applying change management principles to real world concerns and developing critical communication skills in a fast-paced healthcare field.

One of the primary focuses of the 2023 program is to provide hands-on resources and education, along with tools to help with communicating effectively, through an interactive Crucial Conversations Training.

This 9-month program will allow both in-person and virtual training. Expectations for successful completion of the program include:

- Attending at least 8 of the sessions (2 must be in person)
- Attend all 4 Crucial Conversation training. When complete, you can obtain 12 nursing contact hours.
- Submission of final independent project study.

Professionals who attend this program will build skills and confidence in leadership, critical thinking, conflict management, effective team building, and change management.

The nurse leadership program is available to current and emerging nurse leaders within hospitals and post-acute care (nursing home, assisted living, home health and hospice) settings. If you are a Nurse Executive, Director of Nursing, Associate DON, Nurse Manager or an emerging nurse leader, this program is for you!

Learn more about the [SDAHO 2023 Nurse Leadership Program](#). Have questions? Contact **Debra Morello** at [debra.morello@sdaho.org](mailto:debra.morello@sdaho.org) or call 605-789-7536.

# LEARNING TO LEAD: STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTHEAST AND NORTHEAST SD AHEC

Southeast SD AHEC and Northeast SD AHEC, in collaboration with Avera Health, hosted their second Learning to Lead: Student Leadership Workshop in Sioux Falls on Saturday, October 1st. This program came to fruition through conversations with NE & SE AHEC Board members, community partners, and health organizations about the need for students to develop quality leadership skills before full integration into the healthcare field. Students from USD SSOM, USD Physical Therapy, SDSU Pharmacy, SDSU Medical Lab Science, SDSU Nursing, and MTC Speech Language Pathology Assistant participated in the day!



Students completed a DiSC assessment prior to the event so that they could participate in activities facilitated by Avera staff. Students learned about their own personality, communication, and professional style before breaking up and learning about how the other styles may differ from their own. Students were able to collaborate with one another to develop communication skills and build better relationships to understand similar and different styles. Southeast and Northeast are working to continue this yearly event for health professions students. If you are interested in assisting with future planning or want to learn more, please email [info@yrahec.org](mailto:info@yrahec.org).

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) STAFFING SHORTAGE DRIVES INTEREST IN FREE EMT COURSES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

CONTRIBUTED BY SANFORD HEALTH

An overwhelming shortage of EMS responders across the State of South Dakota has prompted a drive for recruiting EMS personnel in multiple communities. The instructional delivery of initial EMT education through creative and innovative platforms is helping offset some of the challenges encountered with accessing an EMT course locally. Three generous grant opportunities have helped support distance learning education for individuals pursuing EMT certification between 2021 and 2024. Two SAMHSA grants (one with the City of Redfield and a second with Tripp County) have provided financial support for high school seniors and adults to enroll in EMT courses delivered by Sanford Health Center for Prehospital Care and Simulation in 2022 and 2023. A third grant from the Department of Labor through SD AHEC and the City of Redfield has provided additional funding for EMT education in 2021-2024 with Sanford Health. All three grant opportunities allow qualified participants to attend a LIVE EMT course from the comfort of their home utilizing distance learning technology. Regionalized EMT skills labs limit the amount of driving required by students to fulfill academic requirements in obtaining hands-on clinical skills as an EMT. The regional skills labs also promote recruitment by local EMS agencies through their promotion of the EMT courses and involvement in skill lab sessions. A goal with all grant and non-grant supported EMT students is recruiting their availability and skills set back into the community to support local EMS agencies. Hopefully through the generosity of the grant recipients and the funding sources the States EMT staffing crisis can be reduced by 2024. If you are interested in obtaining more information about the EMT/EMS courses offered throughout the year by Sanford Health or those supported by grant opportunities email: [EMServices@sanfordhealth.org](mailto:EMServices@sanfordhealth.org) for more information. Feel free to contact **Travis Spier** at Sanford Health for more details 605-328-6389 or [travis.spier@sanfordhealth.org](mailto:travis.spier@sanfordhealth.org)

# DSU HEALTH INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DELIVERY OPTIONS EXPAND

CONTRIBUTED BY DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dakota State University undergraduate programs (associate and bachelor's degrees) in Health Informatics and Information Management will deliver a face-to-face hybrid option for students looking for additional opportunities to spend more time with instructors starting Fall 2023. The online program offerings for the associate and bachelor's degree programs also continue to be available for individuals needing more flexibility who are working or raising children.

A career in health informatics and information management prepares individuals for many different career paths in healthcare. Obtaining Registered Health Information Technology (RHIT) or Registered Health Information Administration (RHIA) credentials continues to be a preferred standard for entry-level jobs in healthcare. For more information, please contact Dr. Renae Spohn, Director of Health Informatics and Information Management programs at DSU, at [renae.spohn@dsu.edu](mailto:renae.spohn@dsu.edu).



## SDSU'S ONLINE PHLEBOTOMY PROGRAM RANKED #1 IN THE NATION BY EDUMED

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Phlebotomy Certificate program at South Dakota State University has been ranked first in the category of "Online Phlebotomy Classes & Certification Programs 2023" by EduMed.

EduMed is a web resource that "connects students with the best and most affordable online degree programs in more than 60 medical and health fields."

According to Wes Harris, outreach coordinator at EduMed, "As we look to the future of health care... it is paramount that those who are interested in medical careers can find the best opportunities to get the necessary education to kick start their dreams—and South Dakota State University offers just that."

To rank these programs, EduMed requires that schools have institutional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and offer at least one program in the subject area partially or fully online. Schools are then weighted based on factors such as online program availability, cost, academic counseling, and career placement.

"This award is affirmation of the great work that was done by those who got this relatively new program off the ground," said Dan Hansen, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. "They recognized the workforce need, worked with our clinical partners to develop a solution, and the result is a program that is able to meet the needs of students here on campus and across the region."

SDSU's Online Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program, Online Nurse Practitioner Program, and Online Nursing Program also ranked high.

Learn more about [SDSU's online Phlebotomy program](#).

Contact: **Jacob Ford**, Scientific Writer; [Jacob.ford@sdstate.edu](mailto:Jacob.ford@sdstate.edu), 605-670-9658





## **SISTERS AND COWORKERS: TWINS FOUND A CAREER BOOST THROUGH BUILD DAKOTA**

CONTRIBUTED BY AVERA HEALTH

Identical twins Alix and Bailey Peterka both set a goal as high school seniors of working in health care – and the Build Dakota Scholarship gave both a boost toward landing great jobs at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

“We both took a ‘World of Work’ course as seniors, and it let us shadow people at a number of jobs,” said Bailey Peterka, CST, a certified surgical tech. “It let us dip our toe in the water – and we both found things we wanted to pursue.”

Bailey learned about surgical technicians and their duties. Staff at Avera Sacred Heart helped her to make a path toward that career. Her sister, Alix, really liked the hustle, bustle and behind-the-scenes work as a medical laboratory technician. She loves puzzles; she sees lab tests as pieces of the whole that comes from a care team.

“Lab work connects so many things in health care, and having that role, contributing the overall effort – I really love it,” Alix said. “We have a good team; we all help one another when things get hectic.”

### **About the Build Dakota Scholarship**

The **Build Dakota Scholarship** was formed to address high-need career areas in the state. It covers half of tuition, books and other required program expenses. As an industry sponsor, Avera covers the other half of expenses. In return, recipients work in their field of choice for their industry sponsor for a minimum of three years.

Bailey visited Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, where she found a good fit for her interest. Alix found a study program she liked at Mitchell Technical Institute.

“The Build South Dakota program allowed me to focus on my studies, so I didn’t have to work while I attended college,” Alix said. “It gave me peace of mind, too. I knew I had a job waiting for me when I graduated.”

Avera Health Director of Talent Development Pam Hilber, PhD, said the Build Dakota program is an exceptional way for both Avera and South Dakota to address critical workforce needs. The Peterkas are a great example of how the scholarships work.

“Young people seek careers, and South Dakota needs skilled employees, like Alix and Bailey,” Hilber said. “At Avera, we’re excited to have them on our team. We hope their experience helps show others that there are resources that can help them reach their professional goals.”

Avera sponsors more than 70 students in a wide range of care fields, from surgical, medical, radiology and laboratory technicians to nurses, LNPs and more. Hilber said the program is always looking for more participants.

### **Finding Their Roles on New Teams**

Both Alix and Bailey have worked in their roles for two years at Avera Sacred Heart. They realize the benefits of their professional opportunities at the facility.

## SISTERS AND COWORKERS: TWINS FOUND A CAREER BOOST THROUGH BUILD DAKOTA- CONT.

“In the lab, we take turns running the many areas we cover, from microbiology to chemistry to blood bank,” Alix said. “It also gives us a chance to interact with patients, when we do blood draws.”

When things get busy, every tech on her team joins the effort to make sure patients get results and clinicians get the information they need. When they see a teammate in need, they help out.

“It was nice to learn from surgery staff who had a lot of experience, who were veterans of the profession,” Bailey said. “We are like a big family. We learn from each other and teach one another, too.”

What began for each as exploration of the

future now is a concrete reward: good pay, a great team and jobs that fit their personalities and hopes.

“I like putting the pieces of the care puzzle together, and helping people,” Alix said. “It’s never the same thing two days in a row.” Since surgery is like an orchestra, with teams made up of surgeons, technicians, nurses and more, Bailey said she thrives. “It’s fast-paced, it varies a lot but at the heart of everything is the patient,” she said. “I love knowing I help patients every day at work.”

Both Peterkas recommend anyone considering care careers to look into the program that helped them achieve their goals and find professions that fit them so well.

## USD NURSING GETS \$1 MILLION HRSA GRANT TO GROW SOUTH DAKOTA NURSING WORKFORCE

CONTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

USD’s Department of Nursing has garnered a substantial grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase the number of nurses in rural and underserved areas in South Dakota.

USD Nursing Assistant Professor and Associate Chair Anne Kleinhesselink and Chair Anne Pithan are managing the \$1,050,000 million grant, which will be disbursed in increments of \$350,000 per year for the next three years.

With the HRSA grant, USD Nursing will create training models to strengthen skills and work to increase the diversity of the nursing workforce, including students from tribal lands and rural areas, who will then go on to practice in South Dakota’s underserved communities spanning the entire state. The training developed will provide students with intensive, real-world experiences and perspective of the nursing role in rural clinical settings, including working with experienced professionals in a variety of departments.

By the end of the grant term, which is September 2025, USD nursing will:

- Increase number of USD nursing graduates practicing in acute care settings in underserved communities by 5% annually.
- Increase the confidence of current and future nurses by developing their leadership, communication and critical thinking skills.
- Increase the number of USD nursing students from underserved communities by 5%.
- Increase the number of Native American nursing students at USD by 5%.
- Train 24 nursing students annually in acute care settings in underserved communities.

# 3RNET AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RURAL HEALTH CLINICS (NARHC) PARTNERSHIP

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

3RNET and the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) are pleased to announce their successful website integration launch. Jobs posted to 3RNET.org from rural health clinics (RHCs) and critical access hospitals (CAHs) nationwide are now automatically added to the NARHC website through technology powered by 3RNET. [View the website connectivity](#).

“This technology allows jobs to immediately be live on both websites and furthers the reach of job openings at RHCs and CAHs without adding any extra steps. We’re excited to work with our partner, NARHC, to enhance our aligned missions of serving rural communities,” said Mike Shimmens, 3RNET Executive Director.

“We believe that hosting 3RNET’s nationwide rural health-specific job board on our website will help both employers and employees find career opportunities in rural health, and we are excited to begin this partnership,” said Nathan Baugh, Executive Director of NARHC.

If you are a rural health clinic or critical access hospital seeking a wide variety of health professionals, [apply](#) to post jobs on 3RNET today.

Health professionals can view [available RHC and CAH jobs](#) across the country on 3RNET.

## HRSA RELEASES UPDATED WORKFORCE PROJECTIONS DASHBOARD- THE DASHBOARD PROVIDES PROJECTIONS OF THE FUTURE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) has released its updated [Workforce Projections Dashboard](#).

This interactive dashboard shows projections of the supply and demand for the health workforce across the United States.

You can use this tool to:

- View projections of the supply and demand for health care workers at the state and national level.
- Analyze supply and demand trends by discipline.
- Analyze projected ‘What if?’ scenarios in the event of changes in the health care landscape.

The projections are based on the Health Workforce Simulation Model that estimates the current and future supply and demand for healthcare workers by occupation, geographic area, and year. This model incorporates factors such as the changing population size, demographics, and location of the U.S. population; new entrants and exiting providers in various occupations; and differing levels of access to care.

If you have any questions, send them to [NCHWAinquiries@hrsa.gov](mailto:NCHWAinquiries@hrsa.gov).

# SDSU RESPIRATORY CARE SCHOLARSHIP FUND GROWS

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Scholarship support for the respiratory care program at South Dakota State University grew by \$10,000 this Fall, thanks to awards from the National Board for Respiratory Care.

Each of the 400-plus programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care received \$5,000 to use toward scholarships for current and future practitioners. SDSU received \$5,000 for its program at the Rapid City campus and \$5,000 for the satellite program at Sioux Falls, according to Lacy Patnoe, director of Respiratory Care in the Department of Allied and Population Health within the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Dan Hansen, dean of the college, said, "The respiratory care program joined the college in 2020. Scholarships are the major focus of fundraising. While we have had initial success in this area, there is still an unmet need."

SDSU's Respiratory Care program currently accepts up to 24 students annually. There are eight slots at the Rapid City campus at Monument Health, and up to 16 are accepted at the Sioux Falls campus located at both Avera and Sanford hospitals. An upward mobility bachelor's program also is available for practicing respiratory therapists.

Nationally, the demand for respiratory therapists is expected to grow at a rate of 14%, ranking third among all occupations. The national median pay with an associate degree in respiratory therapy is \$61,830, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Learn more about [SDSU's Respiratory Care program](#)

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# HOT CAREERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND REGULATION

Seven of the careers identified by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation as Hot Careers (high demand/high wage) to 2030 are in the healthcare field.

To be on the Hot Careers list, an occupation must meet the following criteria:

- Be projected to show employment growth from 2020 to 2030.
- Have projected annual openings (a measure of demand for workers) greater than the average across all occupations (83) for 2020-2030.
- Have an average/mean wage greater than the median wage across all occupations in 2021 (\$37,708).

The table below shows the seven healthcare occupations, along with the specific data putting them on the Hot Careers list.

## SOUTH DAKOTA HOT CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE

Occupation Title	Average Annual Openings 2020-2023	2020 Employment	Projected 2030 Employment	Projected Numeric Change in Employment 2020-2030	Projected % Change in Employment 2020-2023	Annual Annual Wage 2021
Clinician Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	104	1,325	1,485	160	12.1%	\$50,790
Dental Assistants	117	860	970	110	12.8%	\$42,007
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	175	2,046	2,193	147	7.2%	\$41,883
Medical and Health Services Managers	96	864	1,083	219	25.4%	\$112,068
Medical Dosimetrists, Medical Records Specialists, & Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	104	1,263	1,377	114	9.0%	\$47,163
Radiologic Technologists	84	973	1,098	125	12.9%	\$56,169
Registered Nurses	889	13,436	15,046	1,610	12.0%	\$60,538

Source: Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, December 2022.

# HOT CAREERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE - CONT.

Learn more about [South Dakota Hot Careers](#) and related resources available from the Labor Market Information Center. Resources include Occupational Profiles, links to full details in the virtual labor market data system, and links to current job openings.

Beyond these seven hot health careers, South Dakota offers many additional great opportunities in the healthcare field. Explore all [health-related occupations](#).

Please contact the Labor Market Information Center at 605.626.2314 with questions or for more information.

## SDSU FACULTY AUTHOR MANUSCRIPT ON HARM REDUCTION EFFORTS COMPLETED THROUGH THE START-SD PROJECT

CONTRIBUTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Seven faculty from South Dakota State University have authored a manuscript on harm reduction strategies implemented through the START-SD project, which has been recently published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

“Harm reduction is a key component of the Overdose Prevention Strategy developed by the Department of Health and Human Services with a goal of promoting health and reducing the negative consequences of drug use such as drug-related deaths, risk of infection related to unsterile injections, and stigma associated with substance use disorders,” according to the publication.

Drs. Erin Miller, Chris Robbins, Jennifer Ball, and Jeremy Daniel from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, Drs. Mary Emery and Patricia Ahmed from the School of Psychology, Sociology, and Rural Studies, and Dr. Aaron Hunt, the former coordinator of SDSU’s Public Health program, each contributed to the article, which is titled “Promoting harm reduction in rural South Dakota using an interdisciplinary consortium.”

The article “Describes harm reduction and prevention activities implemented through START-SD to reduce the impact of SUD in South Dakota,” including establishing an interdisciplinary consortium and advisory board, establishing partnerships, increasing access to programs, facilitating educational activities and trainings, and working to reduce stigma.

START-SD is a two-pronged project that is focused on working to increase access to and effectiveness of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorders in South Dakota, including Opioid Use Disorder and Psychostimulant Use Disorder.

Learn more about [START-SD and view the manuscript](#).

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# USD'S DNAP PROGRAM RECEIVES FULL ACCREDITATION

CONTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The University of South Dakota's Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program has received full accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education (COA), demonstrating its readiness to deliver the degree preparing registered nurses to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

The program's inaugural director, Shauna Rich Jacobson, is a doctoral prepared CRNA with nearly 30 years of experience in the nursing profession. She said gaining official accreditation is the culmination of months of preparation.

"This initial accreditation signifies that our Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program has met or exceeded the established national standards for nurse anesthesia educational quality," said Rich Jacobson. "The curriculum incorporates simulation experiences in our state-of-the-art simulation lab designed with the students in mind. This enables students to practice skills, develop competencies and reinforce didactic knowledge in a safe and controlled environment."

The program's first classes will start in spring 2023 to help meet the continued need of growing and building South Dakota's health care workforce. USD is the only public university in the state to offer the DNAP degree.

"Our program offers several strengths: small class sizes, affordability, clinically relevant faculty and invaluable clinical sites and preceptors. This allows for personal attention and quality advising relationships and strong interprofessional clinical relationships that enhance the student experience," Rich Jacobson explained.

The initial accreditation period is for five years, with reaccreditation in 2028 for 10 more years.

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