

PRESS RELEASE

SDHSAA

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### **SDHSAA RECOGNIZES "OUTSTANDING" HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCILS**

The South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) announced today that twenty-one South Dakota high school student councils have been recognized as being "Outstanding Student Councils" for the 2009-10 school year. This is the twentieth year that this statewide program has been sponsored by the SDHSAA to recognize those South Dakota high school student council's that meet or exceed the rigorous standards of excellence that are necessary to achieve the "Outstanding Student Council" designation. Student councils that achieve the "Outstanding Council" recognition can best be described as being "very" active within their school and their community throughout the school year. "Outstanding Councils" excel in having a well-rounded program of activities and projects for the year. The work completed by these "Outstanding Student Councils" has been a benefit to both their school and their community throughout the school year.

The major focus of the "SDHSAA Outstanding Student Council" program consists of each participating student council completing a self-evaluation of their organizational structure and their successful completion of projects in a variety of areas. The evaluation also considers the involvement of the student council in their school and community. Kenneth Pickering, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director, stated that "It is the intention of the High School Activities Association to recognize those student councils that meet the stringent standards and criteria demanded by this program. The twenty-one student councils that have been recognized with this year's 'Outstanding' designation are each well organized and highly motivated. These student councils have met the rigorous standards necessary to be called 'Outstanding'." Pickering explained that, "The self-evaluation focuses upon the structure of the student council as well as the positive involvement of the student council in the activities of their school and community."

To be recognized as an "Outstanding Student Council" every council was involved in various projects in the areas of "Community and School Service", "Health, Safety or Chemical Awareness", "Education", "Leadership" and others. Completion of projects in a wide range of areas was necessary to fulfill a variety of goals for the student council. Pickering states that "Each school receiving the "SDHSAA Outstanding Student Council" award has demonstrated a desire for self-improvement and individual growth by participating in leadership workshops and conventions as well as other educational programs."

#### **The 2009-10 "SDHSAA Outstanding Student Council" Award recipients are:**

##### **Aberdeen Central High School**

Advisor: Kevin Rook

##### **Edgemont High School**

Advisor: Scott Corbett

##### **Custer High School**

Advisor: Dale Schaffer

##### **Estelline High School**

Advisor: Julie Rieckman

##### **Dell Rapids St. Mary High School**

Advisor: Cami Fitzgerald

##### **Faith High School**

Advisor: Nancy Reimer

**Harrisburg High School**

Advisor: Renee Rebnord

**Herreid High School**

Advisor: Janelle Rossow

**Hurley High School**

Advisor: Erik Sommervold

**Lead-Deadwood High School, Lead**

Advisor: Gary Linn

**Lemmon High School**

Advisor: Linda O'Donnell

**Lennox High School**

Advisor: Mary Stack

**Lyman High School, Presho**

Advisor: Tom Authier

**McCook Central High School, Salem**

Advisor: Tracy Chase

**Mitchell High School**

Advisor: Judy Thiesse

**Philip High School**

Advisor: Pam DeJong

**Pierre Riggs High School**

Advisors: Darlene Neiles

**Plankinton High School**

Advisor: Kathy Guindon

**Sioux Falls Washington High School**

Advisor: Sandy Hoff

**Sully Buttes High School Onida**

Advisor: Wanda Meyer

**Yankton High School**

Advisor: Paul Harens

"The ultimate value of the 'Outstanding Student Council' program is the revelations which a Student Council discovers about itself and the creation of an awareness of areas for improvement that each school needs to make in the future." Pickering concluded by stating that "Those Student Councils that receive the 'Outstanding' designation, irregardless whether the council is from a larger school or a smaller school, are deserving of the recognition."

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