

Dakota ACAC - SD Executive Director's Report – March 18, 2004

SD PLANNING DAYS: We will have our first ever three-week schedule this year. Most of the host sites have returned agreement forms.

This year's RHS program was lightly attended. **Do we wish to continue the RHS program next year?**

We are again planning a program at the Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion and will expand the number of high schools attending. We have a meeting set at the Pavilion March 29 to discuss options including some min-sessions on ACT and Financial Aid and an opening general program on college planning.

I have also met with the Career Expo Committee of the Sioux Falls School District and suggested they move this spring program to the fall to coincide with the Pavilion program. This could create more interest from the SF District in attending our program. The Expo committee has some concerns on whether a fall program giving them adequate time to plan,

Scott Fossum of Mitchell Tech is again planning a Career Expo at the Mitchell fairgrounds to coincide with our program at DWU. This Expo was well received by counselors last year. Some high schools have suggested changing to the Mitchell program as a result of the Expo.

We will again arrange for a bus to Mobridge and Eagle Butte from Aberdeen.

We will again offer a drawing for a \$500 scholarship each of the four weeks.

I have discussed with ACT and SAT the possibility of them having tables at some of next fall's programs.

Does the Board have any thoughts on ACT/SAT participation in planning days?

Planning Day contracts and membership information to should be sent to 100+ post-secondary institutions in mid-April.

FALL WORKSHOPS: Dates and sites for the six 2004 programs have been set. We anticipate a morning program of general interest to K-12 and an afternoon program focusing on college planning, with participation by the SD Dept. of Labor, EAC, ACT, Dept. of Defense and (for the first time ever) The College Board. I also will approach the SD Board of Regents and Dept. of Education to participate in a morning LISTENING session to hear concerns from the counselors. I plan to meet with the SDSCA Board in April to discuss topics.

A total of 262 participated this past fall including: Rapid City, 51; Pierre, 36; Mitchell, 38; Watertown, 29; Aberdeen, 29; Sioux Falls, 79.

PUBLICATIONS: No major changes are planned.

The *Photo Directory* has been incorporated into the web site and the printed copy will likely be discontinued.

A list of SD HS visitation policies should again be prepared and posted to the web site. I will send requests for information to all high schools in mid-April.

Some 27,000 copies of the *Student Planning Guides* are delivered to my garage each fall and some 20,000+

are re-counted and re-bundled to provide each high school enough for all their juniors and seniors. The papers are then transported to the fall workshops for distribution. Another 1,000 copies are provided to the Dept. of Labor for the career centers and additional copies are mailed (along with wall charts) to some 230 out-of-state high schools. During the workshops we provide each attendee a copy of the *Counselor Information Directory* and give each high school copies of the *Wall Chart*.

WEB SITE: A new Dakota ACAC web site was prepared during November and December and launched in January. The cost of hosting the site at ValueWeb is \$20 per month, paid by DACAC. The SD portion of the site contains governance information, photos and web addresses for all SD HS counselors and program information. We also provide links to all member college web sites and downloadable copies of the college information sheets. **Some possible other**

additions:

- o Travel Information and Maps for Planning Days
- o National Issues: Survey the SD Congressional Candidates on education subjects (NCLB, Pell Grant, and HEA) and post their responses, with photos and links to their webs sites.
- o Photos and e-mail addresses for SD Admission Personnel
- o History of the SD Council

MEMBERSHIPS: Recent requests for Affiliate Memberships include: US Coast Guard, The College Board.

JUNIOR SURVEY: As of this date, we have received 3,853 surveys from 105 (of 194) high schools with 2,632 entered. Last year's total was 7,632 surveys from 165 high schools.

I have requested and received computer lists of juniors for Sioux Falls and Rapid City schools and these will be matched with the surveys received.

We should be able to provide most responding high schools with a PDF report on their students by early April. Results should be sent to SD colleges by the early June.

NACAC Conference: The program will be in Milwaukee, WI, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Jack Rabbit Lines said the cost of a 47-passenger bus leaving from Sioux Falls Thursday morning would be \$2,150 if we return Saturday night or \$2,300 if we return Sunday morning -- plus the cost of a room for the driver, **Does the SD Board wish to charter a bus to NACAC for interested school counselors and admission personnel? Do we want to fund any counselor participation?**

-- Tom Cool, Executive Director