

## **DWU/Technical School Partnerships Lead the Way**

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February 2005*

Congratulations to the South Dakota Regental universities as they seek to find ways for technical school students to transfer to state universities. I believe this is good for students and for our state.

It is time for the state schools to follow the precedent set here in Mitchell. At Dakota Wesleyan University, we have had these agreements in place for several years. Nearly four years ago we signed formal articulation agreements with Mitchell Technical Institute and we also have agreements in place with Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.

These agreements create a unique synergy by combining a liberal arts education from DWU with the technical educational expertise of MTI and STI. Each institution plays to and from its educational strengths, resulting in a dynamic, marketable educational experience.

Students with the Associate in Applied Science degree are able to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dakota Wesleyan, usually within two years. These programs have a clear career focus. Students have the best of both educational worlds - high tech and liberal arts. These programs provide the South Dakota economy with leaders who have the expertise of a technical education, plus the business acumen and intellectual depth of a liberal arts education. This truly is a value-added educational partnership.

And there are other wins as well: the cost, ease of transfer and the fact that a student can attain both the AAS and the BA in only four years. To date, nearly 40 students have enjoyed the educational diversity of this partnership.

### ***Public mission of a private university***

The articles of incorporation of Dakota University, as Dakota Wesleyan University was originally named, called for medical, law, engineering, music and education schools. Methodists in the Dakota Territory had big dreams for their children and university. Clearly, a chief value of DWU from the beginning was service to all people in the entire Dakota Territory. Although Wesleyan never opened a medical, law or engineering school, the spirit of commitment and service to the public good is as profound now as in the days of sod huts.

The educational values of service and leadership caused DWU and MTI and STI to seize the opportunity to work together and create new educational ventures. The result of this educational synergism, not often found in higher education, is better-educated business leaders for our Mitchell area, the state of South Dakota and beyond.

There is one more benefit of this partnership. There is no cost to South Dakota taxpayers.

We at DWU are pleased to lead the way in any endeavor which helps students become South Dakota leaders. We encourage the rest of South Dakota's universities to follow our lead.