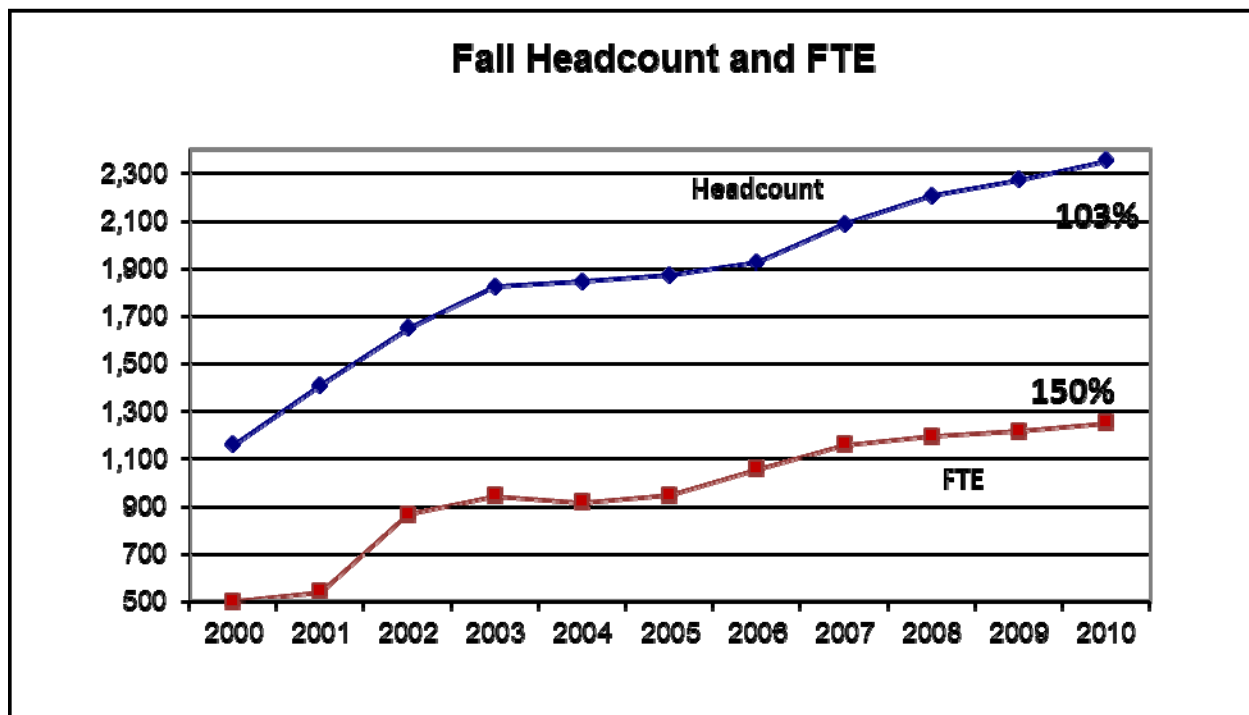


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### University Center Enrollment Increases for Fall 2010

SIOUX FALLS, SD – October 4, 2010 – Enrollment at South Dakota Public Universities & Research Center (University Center) is up 3.6% for the fall of 2010. Total enrollment at UC this fall is 2,356 students, an increase of 81 students over fall 2009.

“This fall continues the consistent pattern of growth we have seen over the last several years” said Mark Lee, University Center Executive Dean. In the past five years, University Center has grown from 1,874 students in the fall of 2005 to 2,356 today – an increase of over 25%. In the past decade, University Center has seen dramatic change – moving from the Bergeland Center in downtown Sioux Falls to occupying more than 115,000 square feet of facilities in northwest Sioux Falls, and more than doubling headcount in that time.





For the fall 2010 term, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students at University Center is 1,251. This is determined based on credit hours taken at undergraduate and graduate levels. The difference between University Center's headcount enrollment and FTE number points to the type of students who study at University Center – individuals attending part-time while working full or part-time jobs. Lee noted, "Our continued growth confirms our mission to serve the unique needs of adult learners in the Sioux Falls community." The average age of a student attending University Center is 27.

The total number of credit hours taken by students who attend at UC increased 9.3% over last year, with the area of online education showing the strongest growth. The increase in online credit hours along with the development of University Centers in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Pierre indicate that South Dakota Public Higher Education is committed to increasing student access and academic achievement.

University Center operates out of a classroom building and research center at North Career Avenue and 60<sup>th</sup> Street while also using additional classroom space on the Southeast Tech campus. Construction is underway on a second classroom building, scheduled to open in August 2011, which will allow University Center to consolidate its activities into one location at North Career Ave and 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

### About University Center

South Dakota Public Universities & Research Center, or University Center, provides the greater Sioux Falls community with convenient local access to public higher education programs from in-state partner Universities. University Center offers programs from the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University and Black Hills State University. At University Center the focus is on the adult learner and academic programs and courses that foster and support the economic development of the Sioux Falls area.

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