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VERIFICATION REPORT SHOWS FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT AT NDSCS COMPARABLE TO LAST YEAR

WHPETON — The number of full-time students at the North Dakota State College of Science is comparable to the full-time enrollment last year, according to a verification of the fall 2004 enrollment report completed last week.

NDSCS has 2,484 students enrolled for fall semester, an increase of 16 students. The headcount represents the highest student enrollment since 1997 and matches the number reflected in the original enrollment report. Of those, 1,935 are full-time students, a decrease of less than 1 percent from last year. The college has 549 students classified as part-time, a 6.9-percent increase over last year. The verified report also confirmed the college's full-time equivalency at 2,142, the same number released three weeks ago.

Dr. Sharon Hart, NDSCS president, reiterated that the details show stability at the college.

"The verified report shows that our number of full-time students remains consistent, and that's good news," Hart said. "We at NDSCS place a great deal of importance on recruiting full-time students to the campus. Yet, our number of part-time students increased from last year, and that's an indication that NDSCS is reaching prospective students who have a specific reason for taking classes. Fulfilling their needs is part of the college's mission, too."

The college's initial enrollment report released Sept. 15 included the same overall enrollment of 2,484 students but reflected a larger disparity in the full-time and part-time mix. Hart noted that the two main numbers in the initial report — headcount and full-time equivalency — were reported correctly.

Dr. John Richman, vice president for academic affairs, attributed the difference in the initial report and the verification to a transition from the longtime student records system to PeopleSoft, a more comprehensive software package that will be used by all North Dakota state

colleges and universities within the next year. Richman said NDSCS staff routinely run verification reports to check data for accuracy.

The verified enrollment report confirms the accuracy of three trends noted in the original enrollment report. Students from all 53 counties in North Dakota are registered for classes this year at NDSCS. Last year, NDSCS had students from 52 of the state's counties. Historically, NDSCS enrolls students from more counties in North Dakota than any other state college or university.

The total number of students from North Dakota comprises 67.8 percent of the college's student population, a number consistent with previous years. Finally, the number of out-of-state students rose another 3.6 percent to 782. As in past years, approximately two-thirds of those out-of-state students come from Minnesota.

NDSCS is a two-year, comprehensive, residential college in Wahpeton. The State College of Science offers degrees, certificates and diplomas in over 80 academic options in traditional career and technical studies and in the liberal arts. Approximately 97 percent of graduates from its technical programs find jobs in their chosen fields.

Unlike most two-year colleges, NDSCS offers a university atmosphere for its students, complete with residence halls, 35 affiliated clubs and organizations, music groups, theater productions, intercollegiate athletics, intramural athletics and numerous social activities.

NDSCS celebrated its centennial last year. The college opened in 1903 as the North Dakota Academy of Science.

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