

## SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 4

Introduced by: Senators Smith (VJ), Blare, Kolbeck, Langer, Novstrup, and Soholt and Representatives Reed, Anderson, Duba, Duvall, Finck, Howard, Hunhoff, Karr, Mills, Post, Qualm, and Reimer

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring and commending South Dakota State University for its ten-year anniversary as a successful NCAA Division I university.

WHEREAS, President Emeritus Peggy Miller and former Athletic Director Fred Oien initiated the bold vision to move SDSU to the Division I level; and

WHEREAS, it was already recognized that SDSU academic and research programs were commensurate with other Division I university institutions and moving SDSU to Division I athletics created exciting new challenges for young athletes, national exposure for a South Dakota collegiate athletic program, and enhanced statewide pride; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2008, the NCAA Division I Management Council Administrative Committee announced that SDSU had met all the requirements to become an active Division I program; and

WHEREAS, athletic programs have excelled in Division I, including the women's Jackrabbit basketball team has participated in the NCAA National Tournament eight out of the past ten years, the men's Jackrabbit basketball team has participated in the NCAA National Tournament five out of the past ten years, and the Jackrabbit football team has participated in the NCAA Football Tournament eight out of the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2018, Seth Gross became the first Jackrabbit to win a Division I national title when he won the 133-pound division at the NCAA Wrestling Championship; and

WHEREAS, SDSU has had seventy-five combined team and individual postseason appearances; and



WHEREAS, Jackrabbit student athletes have excelled in the classroom, combining for a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher for twenty-one consecutive semesters and have received Academic All-American honors thirty-nine times in the last decade:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Legislature commends and honors South Dakota State University for its successes as an NCAA Division I university.