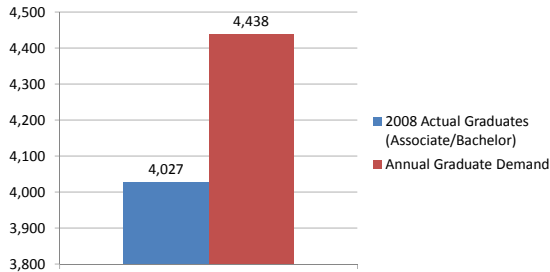


## Degree Holders in South Dakota



## Issues to Consider if the Legislature Closes A University

- South Dakota's public universities are serving 32,943 students, an all-time record.** We need to increase the universe of students served by South Dakota higher education, not eliminate existing opportunities. The *National Center for Higher Education Management Systems* estimates the U.S. will need to produce at least 55% more degree holders by 2025 to be internationally competitive in the workforce. To reach this benchmark, **South Dakota must graduate at least 411 more degree holders annually.**
- The knowledge-based economy that South Dakota finds itself competing in today demands a highly-educated workforce of people in the age bracket of 25 to 44. However, the reality is that **South Dakota's pipeline of young to mid-aged workers is shrinking.** In order to build that workforce, the public universities are focused on strategies to:

  - ⇒ **Retain more students** in college;
  - ⇒ **Educate more non-traditional-aged students** (we currently have 113,496 South Dakota citizens who have completed some college, but no degree);
  - ⇒ **Attract more non-resident students** to our universities than those we send out of state (for a net in-migration);
  - ⇒ **Grow our graduate education and research programs**, which will support economic development in South Dakota and make our state more attractive to students planning their future careers.
- House Bill 1298** envisions a scenario where current students enrolled at an institution that is closed will remain in South Dakota for their higher education. If that is the goal, it means moving students from one location to another, which also requires moving the facility infrastructure and personnel needed to support those students. **Rather than saving money, it will increase costs.**

  - ⇒ For example, if the Legislature closed SDSM&T and moved its students to SDSU, it would require \$131 million in new facilities to accommodate the added student population, along with the ongoing operational cost of faculty, support staff, and student services that would be transferred to the new location.
- Dollars of support that come from foundations and alumni associated with the closed institution would be lost.** Capital campaigns for the six public universities have raised, or are in the process of raising, \$471 million to support their respective missions. Close a university and you lose those private dollars, which support the state's higher education investment. Private supporters provide much-needed revenue for programs, scholarships, and building projects.

## South Dakota's Attainment Challenge

