

# Western Dakota Tech Budget Allocation and Priorities Development

Western Dakota Tech receives the majority of its budget allocation from two sources: the State of South Dakota and student tuition and fees. State funding is primarily based on reimbursements for student enrollment. Thus, the College's overall student enrollment is the primary driving force in determining budgetary resources for all college operations, including facilities maintenance.

Because student enrollment is the primary key to the College's resources, expenditures for operations must be based on priorities that support enrollment. According to Western Dakota Tech's mission, these priorities center on "quality programs, expert faculty and staff, and a commitment...to teach the knowledge, skills, and behaviors students need to be successful."

Through the Western Dakota Tech planning process, all instructional and operational programs articulate actions they will take to carry out the College's mission and strategic plan. Resources are allocated to these activities based on demonstrated need supported by data. Thus, it is critical for all planning groups to link budget and other resource requests to efforts centering on improving program quality, institutional expertise, and student learning and success.

Strategic Planning Online (SPOL) is the software adopted by Western Dakota Tech to link the College's mission and strategic plan to campus-wide planning groups' efforts to meet strategic plan benchmarks and targets. All resource requests must be included in SPOL and clearly linked to data included in planning and assessment. Budgetary resources are allocated by College leadership based on the following rubric:

- Need ranking in budgetary request.
- Strength and clarity of the connection to quality programs, institutional expertise, and student learning and support.
- The number of students anticipated to be positively affected by the resources allocated.
- Availability of funds or other resources.

Due to the seriousness of work Western Dakota Tech carries out for our state and region, it is the responsibility of every employee to engage in thoughtful, conscientious action planning and resource use and requests. It is also the responsibility of every employee to commit to meeting strategic plan benchmarks and targets as a campus-wide team through the careful stewardship of all resources available to us.

