

# Miss USA

From Page 1

didn't hear my name, I instantly dropped to my knees because I couldn't believe it. You go in hoping to win it but not expecting to win it. "I'm excited for the year to come."

Schenk will compete in the Miss USA Pageant next year. If she wins, she would go on to compete for Miss Universe.

Schenk said that competing in the Miss USA pageant is a dream come true. "I have been watching Miss USA on TV since I was young, and I still can't wrap my head around the fact that I am going to be up there wearing the South Dakota banner," she said. "It's a weird feeling right now. But I think it will sink in soon."

Schenk said that her favorite category of last week's competition was the interview.

"It is very personal," she said. "All the questions that they ask you are about yourself. It's just like a fun conversation with the judges so they get to know you."

Schenk said that she also likes the competitiveness of the contest.

"I love being back stage and listening to the music, then getting all pumped up to go out on stage," she said.

Schenk said she is very excited about the travel that will be involved.

"I'm not a big traveler, but I want to see more of the world," she said.

Schenk said she hopes that she will inspire other women to compete.

"If you are feeling like you want to compete, just do it. You will get something from it, no matter what," Schenk said. "It's really a confidence

booster. Nothing beats the feeling of being up on stage. You look your best and feel your best."

But the competition isn't all dress-up and tiaras: There is also a great amount of charity work involved with the pageants.

"There are a wide variety of charities that we will work with — not only through the state but when we get to the national pageant," Schenk said. "It's not just a pageant."

Right now, Schenk is involved with Special Olympics for the state of South Dakota. At the Special Olympics she helps out with basketball, track and bowling.

"It's a huge honor to represent South Dakota while doing charity work," Schenk said.

## MARLEY HANSON

Hanson, Vermillion High School senior, said she was

in complete shock when she received the Miss South Dakota Teen title.

"I didn't even remember what my name was after they called the first runner-up," she said. "It definitely took a few minutes to get the thought of me winning to sink in."

Hanson will go on to represent South Dakota in the Miss Teen USA pageant.

"I am so honored to represent the state and promote this great program. It is a lot to take in," Hanson said. "At first, it was very overwhelming and now it's just very exciting."

For Hanson, the best part of the competition is the new friendships she has made.

"I made a bunch of new friends that have been super supportive," she said. "It was super fun."

She said that though she loves the pageant part of her title, she is also excited to spread the word about the

Weekend Backpack Program in Vermillion with which she is involved.

"The main goal of the Weekend Backpack Program is to provide kids with food over the weekend if their parents don't think they can provide them with enough," she said. "There are no income requirements. If the parents think that the kids need the food, they can sign up and get it every weekend."

Hanson has been involved with the program since freshman year at VHS. Since then, she has put in more than 160 hours of service.

She said she's also excited to help out other charities throughout the state.

Hanson hopes to inspire other girls to compete in such events.

"If you want to compete, the best way to win is practice public speaking skill, join organizations and get

confident with yourself."

Hanson is active in show choir, National Honor Society and 4-H. She is also senior class secretary at VHS and takes dance lessons at the Green Room in Yankton.

She said that being involved in organizations helps people become involved with their community and with their public speaking.

"The only chance you have of winning is at least trying," said Hanson

For more information on the MISS USA and MISS TEEN USA state pageants visit [www.missouthdakotausa.com](http://www.missouthdakotausa.com) or call Future Productions state pageant offices at (651)222-9650.

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# EB-5

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written answers Rounds recently gave to a reporter about his involvement in EB-5 while governor.

Rounds said repeatedly that the EB-5 program operated under the state Board of Regents at Northern State University by Joop Bollen, director for the South Dakota International Business Institute.

Rounds' involvement in EB-5 as an economic development tool came to light in the past year after the Oct. 20 death of Richard Benda.

Rounds is the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate in South Dakota's Nov. 4 election.

The letter came from a source who demanded anonymity if the letter was

used for a news story.

Requests for comments about the letter were sent Friday to three officials who worked in Rounds' administration during the 2005 period.

One was Rob Skjonsberg. He was Rounds' chief of staff in 2005 and currently is Rounds' campaign manager. Comment also was sought from Rounds.

Skjonsberg said Friday afternoon he didn't recall the letter.

"This looks like collateral material for a pamphlet," Skjonsberg said by email.

He added that the letter "most" likely came from the state Department of Agriculture or the Department of Tourism and State Development.

"Doubt it crossed my desk — looks pretty generic..." Skjonsberg wrote. "Davisco and Bel Brands need a lot of cows to make their facilities work"

Jim Hagen, who is now sec-

retary of tourism in the Daugaard administration, was secretary of tourism and state development at the time of the letter.

"I don't remember anything about this letter," Hagen said in email Friday afternoon.

Benda served in Rounds' cabinet as secretary of tourism and state development from 2006 through the final days of Rounds' second term as governor in early 2011.

Rounds in his Senate campaign has attempted to distance himself from EB-5.

He began running a TV ad in recent days criticizing opponents for their use of EB-5 information against him.

Benda and Bollen worked closely together in recruiting investors from South Korea and China on EB-5 projects.

In 2008, Bollen while still at NSU formed a private company, SDRC Inc., to handle pools of money from EB-5 investors.

In 2009 Bollen moved off campus at the request of NSU's new president, James Smith.

Bollen and Benda then signed a state contract making SDRC Inc. the official administrator and manager of EB-5 for state government.

At that point Bollen quit his job with the institute.

Bollen's budget received funding from NSU and the Governor's Office of Economic Development, an agency within Benda's department.

A 2007 letter recently surfaced bearing the signatures of Bollen and Benda for recruiting investors in China.

It was written on Governor's Office of Economic Development letterhead.

The Rounds letter that came to light Friday fits into the timeline of EB-5 development during his administration.

On May 31, 2003, his newly created state Department of Tourism and State Develop-

ment formally applied to the federal Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Bollen prepared the application for the department.

The application sought designation of regional center status to the institute at NSU to be responsible for all export and foreign direct investment for the state government of South Dakota.

Federal approval came in a letter dated April 8, 2004, from the federal bureau's associate director, William Yates.

Eleven months later Bollen sought a major modification for the dairy economic development region.

In his May 4, 2005, letter, Bollen asked the federal bureau for permission to expand beyond the original 12 northeastern counties.

He asked that all counties in South Dakota east of the Missouri River be part of the region, as well as Gregory and Tripp counties west of the river.

Bollen also asked for various restrictions to be lifted. He described them as self-imposed. They included:

- Eliminating the requirement that an investor be at least a 51 percent owner;
- Eliminating a prohibition against pooling investments;
- Eliminating the requirement that approximately 80 acres be purchased per facility; and
- Eliminating the restriction that an investor could invest only approximately \$600,000 in a 300-cow dairy operation or \$500,000 in a 3,000-heifer operation.

Bollen said in his letter the changes would allow pooling of investments for larger operations. He said SDIBI "naively included" the restrictions in the original application.

"The amendments do not change SDIBI's original goal to attract 216 investors for dairy projects and 22 investors for heifer operations," he wrote.

# USD

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updates, scholarships and endowments. But USD won't stop there.

"We have things we need to do to continue to be a great university," Abbott said. "We need scholarships for our students, to attract the best and brightest students, we need faculty support to make sure we can hire and then retain the best and brightest faculty. We need to support students in other ways, other than tuition scholarships. We need to make sure they have the kind of experience that they should have. Internships, study abroad, those are very important."

The university isn't the only one to benefit from the donations Mary Nettleman Dean, USD Sanford School of Medicine believes that the education for these institutions could have a global impact.

"So every department, every school, in this fine university is committed to providing an exceptional educational experience to the students," Nettleman said. "That exceptional education benefits not only the students, but also their families, their

communities, the region, the nation, the state and even the world."

Second-year medical student of the USD Sanford School of Medicine, Randall Waldner benefits directly from the Onward Campaign. He received three scholarships funded by the campaign, First District Medical Society Annual Scholarship, Nettleman Family Scholarship and Alma Carlson Scholarship.

"I feel like there's way more people like me, then there are kids who have opportunities in the world, where they've got to go out and make their way," Waldner said. "Hopefully I can bring it back, some advice, some experiences to Redfield to where maybe more kids like me will take a shot and go to school and see what they can make of themselves."

He plans to return his education to South Dakota by putting his degree to use in his hometown.

"I'll be going back to Redfield later in life to become a doctor and I hope to keep investing in South Dakota and hoping to keep this tradition alive," Waldner said.

Onward Campaign co-chair Tom Gallagher talks about another lasting benefit to donating to the university.

"The university is a good outlet for people who are look-

ing to leave a legacy," Gallagher said. "I think that with the magic of endowments any money that people contribute now can still be help benefiting students when they convene to celebrate the two hundredth Dakota Days."

USD officials are confident the Onward Campaign will reach its goals taking it one step at a time.

"Great universities are

built one student, one faculty, one department, one program, one major, and one brick at a time," Abbott said. "Great universities of the future will be built by people who are going to contribute to the Onward campaign and I'm absolutely confident that we'll make our \$250 million goal."

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