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**(S.D.)-President Of South Dakota School Of Mines Dies**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/19/2012 11:04 AM

**RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) -** The president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City has died.

The death of Robert Wharton was announced Wednesday both by the school and the South Dakota Board of Regents. Neither gave a cause of death.

Wharton was diagnosed with neck cancer late last year. He went through seven weeks of radiation and chemotherapy treatments at a Rapid City cancer center. He issued a statement last April saying the treatments succeeded and he was cancer-free.

Wharton came from Idaho State to become Mines' 18th president in July 2008. The Board of Regents says School of Mines Provost Duane Hrcncir (HURN'-suhr) has been named acting president.

The school says flags on campus have been lowered to half-staff. Funeral arrangements for Wharton are pending.