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**Workforce Development Council honors
Career Learning Center of the Black Hills**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Medical Reimbursement Specialist program, operated by the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills, recently received the 2006 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Outstanding Adult Program award at the South Dakota Workforce Development Council's (WDC) awards ceremony held in conjunction with the WIA state conference. Nationally certified instructors, Teena Gregory and Dodi Anderson, accepted the award. They manage the instruction and successful career placement of students.

This program was developed in 2003 by collaborated efforts between the Rapid City Career Center and the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills due to the fast-growing healthcare industry. Approximately 62 students have enrolled in the program and the success rate for employment has been in the 90 percent range, with the pay scale ranging from \$9.00 to \$16.50 per hour.

Students must pass each assignment within this intensive training with at least an 80 percent average. A distance program was also developed, which enables working personnel the opportunity to expand their knowledge in their current field. Those who are under-employed and looking to pursue a new career can also take the program.

The SDDOL and the Workforce Development Council together are able to address today's workforce issues. Their main objective is to plan and evaluate job training and education programs in South Dakota. SDDOL and the Council also assist in the implementation of WIA programs by selecting service providers and evaluating progress toward program goals. Members of the Workforce Development Council represent various business, labor and education interests. In addition to the SDDOL, the Council works closely with the Departments

of Human Services and Social Services; the Office of Career and Technical Education; Tourism and State Development; and other state agencies. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.