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Workforce Development Council honors Tesha Richards

PIERRE, S.D. – Tesha Richards of Mitchell recently received the 2006 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Outstanding Adult Participant award at the South Dakota Workforce Development Council's (WDC) awards ceremony held in conjunction with the WIA state conference.

Ms. Richards attended the Medical Coding Specialist training at the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills. WIA funds enabled her to do so, and she maintained a 98 percent average during this time. She continued on to the Medical Coding II course, in which she earned a 95 percent average. Last May, Ms. Richards earned the National Certified Professional Coder certificate. She is now employed as a full-time medical coder with Abacco in Mitchell.

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.