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## **Youth work experiences wrapping up for the summer**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor’s (DOL) summer youth work experience program, which started May 1, will end on Sept. 30.

DOL created a total of 803 work experiences and internships with assistance from \$3.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

“This program was a huge success with significant results,” said state Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “DOL field staff matched participants to employers who could provide them real world work experience.”

Work experiences were developed for youth, ages 14 thru 24, to help establish work histories, gain references, acquire new skills and build good work habits. DOL paid the prevailing wage for each position, which averaged \$9.24.

“We were able to provide experiences which might not have been otherwise possible because of the downturn in the economy,” said Secretary Roberts.

New jobs and internships were created in a variety of areas, ranging from engineering to nursing, to construction to computer technology.

“South Dakota’s youth gained valuable insight into what South Dakota has to offer for career opportunities,” said Secretary Roberts. “This is a positive step in working to strengthen our future workforce.”

While some participants returned to school in the fall, others were hired full-time or part-time by the worksite.

DOL works to provide businesses with employment-related solutions and help people with job placement and career transition services. To learn about available programs and view an office directory, visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)