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Watertown WorkReady Project Unveiled

PIERRE, S.D. – State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts today unveiled the Watertown WorkReady project, a community-wide effort to showcase a quality, skilled workforce.

“Job success begins with work readiness,” said Secretary Roberts. “It is important for individuals to have a complete set of basic job-related skills to be productive. Now, we have a way to measure those skills and use the information.”

The Department of Labor and Regulation can identify and validate the work ready skills of the workforce through the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), a program developed by ACT. South Dakota began issuing the NCRC in April 2010, and is currently one of 38 states issuing the national credential.

Through the Watertown pilot project, businesses are encouraged to have their employees complete the necessary assessments to earn this certification. The data can then be compiled to showcase the work readiness of a community. As an economic development tool, it quantifies the capabilities of the workforce.

“We have always known anecdotally our workers have a great work ethic and strong workforce skills, but now we can actually document it,” said Secretary Roberts.

Businesses are also asked to have at least one occupation profiled, using this skills assessment system to determine the skills needed for the job. This information is then used in the hiring process to ensure potential applicants have the right set of skills.

“Watertown business leaders have a great opportunity to lead the way for South Dakota in the work readiness project,” said Secretary Roberts.

To learn how to participate, contact the Watertown local office at 605-882-5131. Additional information on workforce services is found at www.sdjobs.org