

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Riggs Seniors Earn National Career Readiness Certificates

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation tested its first pilot group of students last Thursday for the National Career Readiness Certificate™ (NCRC), and the results were impressive. The pilot group included approximately 100 T.F. Riggs High School seniors.

The NCRC is an assessment-based credential used to verify individuals' core employability skills. It measures three essential areas – reading for information, applied mathematics and locating information.

“As students prepare to leave high school, most will enter the workforce in some capacity,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. “Knowing your skills set can help determine your career path.”

The NCRC assessment will help students identify if they have the foundational work skills required in the workplace. As they seek employment, they can determine what education and training they need to meet their short- and long-term goals.

“We approached the Department of Labor and Regulation about the possibility of offering this assessment to our seniors,” said Bobbi Brown, counselor at Riggs High School. “We were very pleased things came together allowing us to provide the NCRC credential to our 2012 graduates.”

Out of the 107 students tested, all passed and earned a NCRC. Three students earned the top honor of a platinum level certificate. Thirty-five earned a gold level, 61 a silver level and eight a bronze level.

“This is highly commendable,” said Secretary Roberts. “It demonstrates our students are learning the skills necessary to be quality employees.”

The NCRC will soon be available to more high school students as part of Governor Dugaard's South Dakota Wins (workforce initiatives). Approximately 2,000 students statewide will be assessed. The credential typically costs \$100. However, funds allocated by the 2012 legislature will cover the testing fees for all selected sites.