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**Gov. Rounds proclaims Sept. 24 – 30
National Employ Older Workers Week**

PIERRE, S.D. — Gov. Mike Rounds and Labor Secretary Pam Roberts today announced South Dakota’s support for and celebration of National Employ Older Workers Week, Sept. 24 - 30, 2006. A proclamation was issued in an effort to show support for workers past the traditional retirement age who have re-entered the workforce.

“I applaud our state’s seniors who continue to contribute to the workforce after the traditional age of retirement,” said Rounds. “National Employ Older Workers Week is a testament to their dedication, determination and motivation, all qualities that add up to equal a valuable employee. Many issues face our seniors today, and we should do all in our power to ensure they have opportunities available to them.”

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) brings employment and training opportunities to older Americans across the nation, and has helped millions of Americans find jobs in community service and the private sector. Currently, the program serves more than 100,000 seniors each year nationally, and nearly 600 in South Dakota. In South Dakota, SCSEP sub-grants to Experience Works which is based out of Sioux Falls.

“DOL is proud of the many successes of the Senior Community Service Employment Program and Experience Works,” said Roberts. “We want to send the message to potential participants and employers that we have opportunities available to them.”

For local information about SCSEP or Experience Works, please call Jean Bennett of Experience Works at 605-332-7991 or Todd Kolden of DOL at 605-773-4999.