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**Workforce Development Council honors Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc.**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. of Yankton recently received the 2006 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Outstanding Large Business award at the South Dakota Workforce Development Council's (WDC) awards ceremony held in conjunction with the WIA state conference. CEO Joe Vig accepted the award.

Kolberg-Pioneer has played an integral part of the training and job opportunities for WIA dislocated workers, youth and adult participants. The plant employs welders, assemblers, machinists and maintenance workers. They offer on-site training programs through WIA work experience for the young person with no experience, and also offer on-the-job training for those individuals needing to improve and expand their current skill sets.

Kolberg-Pioneer helped the Regional Technical Education Center develop a welding program by providing scrap metal and hiring the completers of each class. This past year, they hired eight directly upon graduation, and another seven after completing WIA on-the-job training.

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](http://www.sdjobs.org).