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For Immediate Release: May 7, 2007

Department of Labor's UI staff awarded for workforce development efforts by SD-IAWP

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Dept. of Labor (SDDOL) staff were presented awards by the South Dakota chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (SD-IAWP) at the annual conference on April 12. Those recognized showed outstanding contributions to workforce development. Local award recipients include the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division Benefits Section in Aberdeen. They received 2nd place internationally for the UI Group award.

The Benefits Section was also recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Labor at the October 2006 UI Directors National Conference in Denver. They received the National Award for Performance Excellence in Benefit Payments. This award acknowledged performance which exceeded all other states in how quickly claims were paid and for the speed and accuracy of decisions on claim eligibility.

“The overall UI Benefits Section has 33 employees with a combined 607 years of service, or an average of just over 18 years,” said Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “Their expertise ensures the UI program operates efficiently.”

Staff have made significant strides in recent years in offering convenient and efficient claim filing options to applicants. Claims can now be filed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by telephone or Internet at www.sdjobs.org.

The awarding of the international award winners will take place at the 94th International Educational Conference in Boise, ID, on June 3-7, 2007. IAWP is a nonprofit educational association representing 13,000 professionals worldwide who work in public and private workforce development programs. For more information on the SDDOL, visit www.sdjobs.org.