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For Immediate Release: March 19, 2008

Gov. Rounds announces Workforce 2025 efforts to enhance South Dakota's workforce

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Rounds announced the efforts of Workforce 2025 today, which include innovative initiatives focusing on providing South Dakota a competent and qualified workforce to allow for economic growth and expansion.

“We need to accelerate workforce development now, because we are facing a serious shortage of workers in the future,” said Gov. Rounds. “From 2005 to 2025, our elderly population will grow by 90,000. To keep our economy thriving as these baby boomers retire, we need to continue to provide career opportunities and find the people to fill open positions.”

The South Dakota Departments of Labor, Tourism and State Development, Education, and the Board of Regents have partnered to offer the following programs:

- **Dakota Roots** is recruiting individuals to South Dakota by connecting them to career opportunities with the state's leading businesses. Companies interested in relocating or expanding also can receive assistance.
- **Live Dakota** is retaining current South Dakotans by educating them about the rewarding career opportunities in-state and the ability to get on the career fast track.
- **Grow Dakota** is preparing students for the workforce and providing teachers and principals a vision for the 21st century high school.
- **Dakota Seeds** is creating new internship and assistantship opportunities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- **Build Dakota** is developing solutions to immediate, intermediate and long-term workforce challenges facing industries statewide.

“Individuals in every community across the state can become involved in these great programs. We need your participation to move forward.” said Gov. Rounds. “I’m especially excited about our young people, Generation Y, taking part in Live Dakota. I think they’ll be pleasantly surprised to learn how fast they can move up the career ladder.”

More information about Workforce 2025 is available by visiting www.Workforce2025.com or by calling Dawn Dovre at 605.773.3101.

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