

South Dakota Department of Labor  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[www.Workforce2025.com](http://www.Workforce2025.com)  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)

**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094  
**For Immediate Release:** May 21, 2008

## **Labor Department identifies construction trades industry's workforce needs**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The Department of Labor is identifying industry workforce needs through the Build Dakota program, a component of Workforce 2025. Industries including construction trades are being assessed in order to help provide solutions to their current challenges.

On Tuesday, statewide representatives from the construction trades industry met in Pierre to discuss their recruitment strategies and how state government can assist them. “Providing an open forum has allowed us to better understand how to combine efforts of the state, education and industry,” said Pam Roberts, Secretary of Labor. “We want to create not only immediate goals, but intermittent and long term goals as well.”

Those in attendance included individuals from private contractors and employers, along with professional associations including Independent Electrical Contractors, Associated General Contractors – Building, Associated General Contractors – Heavy Equipment, Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, and South Dakota Home Builders Association.

Besides construction trades, Build Dakota is focusing on the industries of manufacturing, financial services, healthcare and state government. “Reoccurring themes among the industries we have talked to include addressing generational differences, providing information to school counselors and parents about the great potential career opportunities, providing apprenticeship opportunities and retaining current employees in the workforce,” said Roberts.

The next step of Build Dakota will be to further investigate potential options with industry leaders to determine what goals they would like to focus on with assistance from state agencies including the Departments of Labor, Tourism and State Development, Education, and Board of Regents.

For more information on Build Dakota and other workforce development programs, visit [www.Workforce2025.com](http://www.Workforce2025.com).

###