

South Dakota Department of Labor
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
www.Workforce2025.com
www.sdjobs.org

Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094
For Immediate Release: June 6, 2008

Labor Department and State Chamber to Host Manufacturing Workforce Summit June 24

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor and State Chamber of Commerce will co-host a Manufacturing Workforce Summit on June 24 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. The goal is to bring together individuals with a vested interest in the manufacturing workforce.

“Through the Workforce 2025 initiative, we have been focused on determining and meeting the workforce needs of the manufacturing industry,” said Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “This day will provide the opportunity for government, education, and industry to come together to strategize how to best address their current and future needs.”

Representatives from the Departments of Labor, Education, Tourism and State Development, and the Board of Regents will be available to discuss how current Workforce 2025 programs and resources can help employers. Attendees will also hear the National Association of Manufacturers’ (NAM) perspective on workforce challenges. In addition, NAM will share information on the *Dream It. Do It.* program which educates students about career opportunities within manufacturing.

“To make this event successful, we will need feedback from everyone,” said State Chamber President David Owen. “Throughout the summit, attendees can share their ideas and suggestions on recruiting and retaining a quality workforce for manufacturers.” Breakout sessions during the afternoon will offer an open forum to discuss several topics including:

- How to hook them early.
- How to change the perception of manufacturing.
- How to get them ready through technical schools.
- How to get them ready through the regental system.
- How to know if they’re prepared for the workforce.

To register for the Manufacturing Workforce Summit, visit www.sdchamber.biz or call 605.224.6161. Registration fee is \$40 per person. To learn more about Workforce 2025, visit www.Workforce2025.com.

###