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For Immediate Release: Thurs., April 9, 2009
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Labor stimulus funds help employers with wages; teach young workers new skills

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has received almost \$3 million in federal stimulus funds for youth job training. DOL will pay the wages for eligible participants 14 to 24 years old who are employed in a newly created work experience.

Private sector businesses, non-profit organizations and government agencies are all encouraged to create job training opportunities. Training can include summer jobs for youth, along with paid summer internships for college and technical institute students.

Stimulus participants under this program will be paid the going rate for the specific job.

“The purpose of this program is to help less experienced workers gain employment skills,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “Employers who can provide a meaningful work experience and teach these skills will get an employee at virtually no cost while helping to develop the future workforce of South Dakota.”

The work site should offer participants the opportunity to establish a work history, gain references, build good work habits and learn new talents.

“Any employer interested in being part of this program should contact their local Department of Labor office for more information,” said Secretary Roberts. “The stimulus dollars will help fund up to 600 work sites.”

DOL works to provide businesses with employment-related solutions and help people with job placement and career transition services. To learn about available programs and view an office directory, visit www.sdjobs.org.