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Skilled labor pool available to employers

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) continues to assist dislocated workers by connecting this skilled labor pool to employers in need of quality applicants.

There is currently a workforce of around 5,000 recently laid off workers who are not the typical unemployed worker.

“The only reason this group is out of work is because of the recession,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “They have solid work histories, extensive experience, transferable skills and have rarely been unemployed in the past.”

DOL re-employment representatives work one-on-one with each dislocated worker to create an action plan to quickly get them back into the workforce. The representatives refer the worker to job openings in the same or similar field of work. Job training programs are also available if upgraded or new skills are needed.

“Businesses have a great opportunity right now to hire employees who will be valuable, long-term assets to their company,” said Roberts.

DOL provides a variety of recruiting services to businesses such as listing job openings online, accepting applications, screening and testing job seekers, making referrals and scheduling job interviews. All services are provided at no charge.

“The Department of Labor has worked closely with other state agencies and business leaders to respond to the needs of both employees and employers during this economic downturn,” said Roberts. “As South Dakota transitions to recovery, we will have a more skilled workforce to help our economy grow.”

DOL provides businesses with employment-related solutions and helps job seekers with job placement and career transition services. For information on DOL workforce programs and a directory of the 18 local DOL offices, visit www.sdjobs.org.