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## **Nearly 800 individuals gain work experience through stimulus funds**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) is paying the wages this summer for 756 youth participating in an economic stimulus program designed to help young people gain real world employment experiences.

“DOL has dedicated all of the \$2.9 million received from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create new job training opportunities for South Dakota youth,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “We immediately put this funding to use to help stimulate our economy.”

Summer work experiences were developed for 14 through 24-year-olds to establish work histories, gain references, acquire new skills and build good work habits.

“Our workforce specialists within the Department of Labor worked closely with both the youth participants and employers to find the best matches possible,” said Secretary Roberts. “This program has been providing extremely positive experiences in high demand jobs which match the individuals’ desired fields of interest.”

New jobs and internships were created in local communities throughout the state in a variety of areas ranging from engineering to nursing to construction to computer technology.

“The overwhelming response and outstanding success of this program was more than we imagined,” said Secretary Roberts. “These young workers are getting opportunities to explore South Dakota’s careers, which certainly will help build and strengthen our economy and develop our future workforce.”

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](http://www.sdjobs.org).