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Labor Department invests in MTI program for laid off workers

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has partnered with Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) to create a facility maintenance/operations certificate training program.

DOL provided MTI \$145,000 to cover start-up costs for equipment and instructors. In addition, laid off workers may each be eligible for up to \$3,200 in tuition assistance from DOL.

“DOL staff are recruiting workers who have lost their jobs and are interested in short-term training,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “This training will provide them a new set of skills to help them re-enter the workforce in a high-demand job.”

To determine eligibility for tuition assistance, DOL considers the worker’s current employment situation, need to learn new technologies to find a good job and determination to support themselves and their families.

The 12 week program offers specialized courses in HVAC maintenance, electrical and hydraulic maintenance, and construction maintenance to train students for work in commercial facilities.

“There are facility and plant operations job openings across the state that need to be filled,” said Secretary Roberts. “By 2016, we project the repair and maintenance industry to grow by 15.9 percent.”

Classes start August 3. A maximum of 20 students will be accepted per class. After completing the certificate, students may continue with additional training to receive a diploma in HVAC, construction or electrical construction.

Anyone interested in learning more about the training and tuition assistance should visit with their local DOL office. Information on other training opportunities and a directory of DOL offices is found at www.sdjobs.org.