

South Dakota Department of Labor
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Labor Department invests in LATI programs for laid off workers

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has partnered with Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) to create a truck driving and sales training program.

DOL provided LATI \$157,620 for the truck driving program and \$28,000 for the sales training program to re-train workers who have lost their jobs, purchase equipment and pay instructors.

“DOL staff have been working closely with dislocated workers and referring them to these training opportunities,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “Gaining new skills will make them more employable as they transition back into the workforce.”

The truck driving program lasts six weeks and will run seven times in one year. It is designed for students to get a commercial drivers license. The Aug. 27 class is full due to high interest. The next scheduled class is Sept. 8. Six students will be accepted per class.

“Truck drivers are a high demand and high growth occupation,” said Secretary Roberts. “In addition, they also earn high wages.”

The sales training program will be taught over three days to classes up to 40 people. The training will be provided by Dale Carnegie programs of South Dakota and parts of Nebraska, Iowa and Wyoming. Classes are being scheduled and can be expected to run in August.

“Dale Carnegie programs have provided coaching experiences for over 450 of the Fortune 500 companies,” said Secretary Roberts. “This quality curriculum will help enhance the participants’ skills in attitude, relationships, communication and selling.”

Laid off workers may each be eligible for up to \$5,200 in tuition assistance from DOL for other programs as well. 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.

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.

