

South Dakota Department of Labor  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, July 30, 2009  
**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

## **Labor Department invests in WDT program for laid off workers**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has partnered with Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDT) to expand the truck driving program.

DOL provided WDT \$119,500 to support the cost of an additional truck, fuel and instructors. In addition, laid-off workers may each be eligible for up to \$3,600 in tuition assistance from DOL.

“Workers who have lost their jobs and are interested in a new career are being referred to this program by DOL staff,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “This training will help them get back into the workforce more quickly.”

The truck driving program lasts six weeks. It is designed for students to get Class A commercial drivers’ licenses. Eight students will be accepted per class. The next class starts Sept. 2.

“Truck driving is a high-demand and high-growth occupation,” said Secretary Roberts. “In addition, drivers earn high wages.”

To determine eligibility for tuition assistance, DOL considers workers’ current employment status, 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](http://www.sdjobs.org).