

South Dakota Department of Labor
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
www.sdjobs.org

For Immediate Release: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009
Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094

Healthcare Work Experience Provided for Youth

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor provided 17-year-old Aubrey Todd a 14-week work experience opportunity with DeSmet Good Samaritan Center nursing home to learn more about the healthcare field.

Todd was one of nearly 800 young people, ages 14-24, who benefited from \$2.9 million in federal stimulus funds South Dakota received for job-training opportunities through the Summer Youth Work Experience program. The program helped them establish work histories, gain references, acquire new skills and build good work habits.

Todd's family relocated to South Dakota from New Jersey in May. She says she was considering a degree in nursing but wanted to get some real life experience in this field.

As a nurse's aid, Todd provided personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support and other personal care items to coworkers, customers and residents. In addition, she gained skills in the areas of documentation and record keeping, workplace communication and decision making. Todd successfully completed the certified nursing aide training on Aug. 18.

Todd's instructors say she enjoyed the work and quickly learned the various skills listed in the training program.

Good Samaritan Center hired Todd permanently after the work experience ended Sept. 25. Todd plans to work there throughout her senior year at DeSmet High School and possibly throughout the summer. She is also considering attending South Dakota State University to become a registered nurse after graduation.