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National Career Readiness Certificate launched in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) unveiled a new worker recruitment tool for businesses during the Governor’s Office of Economic Development conference in Sioux Falls.

The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) is an assessment-based credential used to verify individuals’ core employability skills in three essential areas – reading for information, applied mathematics and locating information.

“NCRC allows employers to easily identify the most skilled employees,” said State Labor Secretary Roberts. “Businesses need strong, skilled workforces to overcome some of today’s economic challenges.”

The NCRC uses the WorkKeys[®] research component developed by ACT, Inc. More than 16,000 occupations have been researched to determine skills needed to perform tasks in those jobs. NCRC provides a fair and objective measurement of those skills. Based on performance assessments, individuals are awarded certificates on four levels: platinum, gold, silver and bronze.

“Businesses can expect more applicants to be presenting the NCRC when applying and interviewing for jobs,” Secretary Roberts said. “I encourage them to recognize these certificates as tools to identify the best candidates.”

Employers may opt to include the NCRC as a preferred requirement when writing job descriptions.

“Requiring the NCRC would be helpful during the interview and hiring process,” Secretary Roberts said. “Our staff can help employers post available jobs with this requirement on the Department of Labor Web site.”

South Dakota joins more than 30 states that have implemented the NCRC.

“The Department of Labor has worked closely with ACT for the past two years to bring this program to South Dakota,” Secretary Roberts said.

DOL’s mission is to enhance the South Dakota workforce by providing businesses with employment-related solutions and helping people with job placement and career transition services. To learn more about the NCRC, visit any DOL local office or www.sdjobs.org