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Labor Department awards SDSU \$150,000 for green jobs training

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has provided two awards of \$75,000 each to South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings as part of a green jobs training grant.

The approved SDSU proposal will develop a minor in sustainable energy systems through adapted coursework in renewable energy, bio-fuels and introduction to bio-refinery. Approximately 300 people will benefit from the expanded modules and attain certification.

“The purpose of the grant is to teach workers the skills required in emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy industries,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “The SDSU project will also result in LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certifications.”

All activities must lead to employment and teach competencies demanded by the target sector while supporting participants’ long-term career growth.

“The green jobs training grant will increase the opportunities for unemployed and dislocated workers to move into high-wage and high-growth occupations,” said Secretary Roberts.

South Dakota received \$2.5 million for the State Energy Sector Partnerships and Training Grant authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. To learn more about job training opportunities available through DOL, visit www.sdjobs.org.