

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

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010
Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Summer Work-Experience Program Ends

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor’s (DOL) summer work-experience program has ended, providing 334 teenagers and young adults with jobs to learn workplace skills.

“These participants earned almost \$460,000 during the two and a half month program,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “Some of the experiences were so successful, the employers ended up hiring those young people permanently.”

Priority was given to applicants who were recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, along with youth receiving public assistance or those eligible under the Workforce Investment Act.

“Many applicants had no prior work histories, so this was the perfect opportunity for them to learn good work habits and gain real world work experience,” said Secretary Roberts. “The program was a great success because it pointed many participants in a more positive direction and gave them confidence in themselves.”

A total of 218 businesses created the summer jobs as a result of the work-experience program. DOL’s 19 field offices worked directly with employers and participants to find appropriate matches. DOL then paid up to \$5,000 of each participant’s wages, including necessary supportive items such as work clothing, tools and transportation.

“All of this was made possible through a \$3 million federal grant the Department of Social Services pursued and received,” said Secretary Roberts. “I appreciate the partnership we have with DSS Secretary Deb Bowman and her staff.”

The federal grant was awarded from the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund in June to provide work-experience jobs for those who were 16-24 years old.