

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

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Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Labor Department awards last GED Career Pathway Scholarship

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded Rodney Waddington of Custer with the last of 10 GED Career Pathway Scholarships for \$1,000.

The scholarship program was created by DOL to assist GED graduates with the costs of attending a state technical institute in order to help grow the South Dakota workforce.

“We searched for recipients who are motivated and will make a positive impact in our future workforce,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “Rodney has plans and ambition to become a paramedic and give back to the community.”

Waddington is currently enrolled in Western Dakota Technical Institute’s paramedic program. In his letter of application, Waddington wrote, “I became a volunteer firefighter as a way to pay back my community. This led to finding my real calling in life: I know that I want to be a paramedic and care for the members of my community in their greatest times of need.”

“While Rod has some physical disabilities, he overcomes discomfort by sheer determination,” said Stephenie Rittberger, instructor at the Southern Hills Adult Education and Literacy Center. “He is a testament to the idea a positive attitude and good work ethic can get an individual through nearly any trial.”

To be eligible, scholarship applicants must have scored 2750 or higher on the GED test and plan to pursue studies leading to employment in one of five target industries under the Workforce 2025 initiative including:

- Manufacturing,
- Construction trades,
- Financial services,
- Healthcare or
- Energy/communications infrastructure.

The funds were applied to tuition, books or required fees. Additional information on workforce training and educational programs is available at www.sdjobs.org.