

For Immediate Release: Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011
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Workforce Development Council Honors Award Winners

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) and its Workforce Development Council held a ceremony today to name the recipients of the 2010 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) awards.

The WIA employment program is designed to increase workplace skills for adults and youth through education and job training. Nominations were accepted across the state and judged on performance excellence in completing the program.

Winners included:

- Outstanding Dislocated Worker Participant: Eva Monson, Rapid City
- Outstanding Adult Participant: James Johnson, Sioux Falls
- Outstanding Youth Participant: Laci Nichols, Watertown
- Outstanding Employer: Oh My Cupcakes!, Sioux Falls
- Outstanding WIA Staff Member: Tammy Silvernagel, Spearfish

“These award winners should be extremely proud of their accomplishments in increasing their employability skills and providing opportunities for individuals,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “All are deserving of this recognition.”

Workforce training opportunities help participants overcome employment barriers and gain skills to find jobs and increase their earnings. Employment counseling and job coaching are also offered through DOL local offices.

“The Department of Labor’s workforce training programs can help people who have lost their jobs because of the economy, need to learn new skills or are determined to make the break from public assistance,” said Secretary Roberts.

WIA is not an entitlement program. Selection for participation is based on individual employment needs, interests, abilities and motivation. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org