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## **National Career Readiness Certificate Builds Workplace Skills**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) continues to use the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) as a tool to build workplace skills.

The NCRC uses the WorkKeys® research component developed by ACT, Inc. to verify individuals' core employability skills in three essential areas – reading for information, applied mathematics and locating information.

“ACT has researched over 16,000 occupations, and these three skills are highly important to the majority of jobs in the workplace,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. “The NCRC allows employers to easily identify the skill levels of employees.”

Based on performance assessments, individuals are awarded certificates on four levels: platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Since the NCRC launched in September 2009, 1,356 people have earned the certificate.

South Dakotans have achieved a much higher rating at the top levels than the rest of the nation. State levels of attainment include 2.2 percent platinum, 45.2 percent gold, 46.3 percent silver and 6.3 percent bronze compared to the national levels of 0.5 percent platinum, 19.7 percent gold, 54.7 percent silver and 25.2 percent bronze.

“The results show what we already knew anecdotally about South Dakotans,” said Secretary Roberts. “We do have a qualified workforce with a great work ethic. The NCRC data is a unique resource to quantify this information.”

The NCRC offers individuals, employers and educators an easily understood and nationally valued credential certifying essential workplace skills. For more information, visit any DLR local office or [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)

