

South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)

**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011

## **Labor and Regulation Department Receives National Recognition for Unemployment Insurance Performance**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) has been named the top small state performer nationally for the *Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Payment Excellence* award.

The national awards were instituted by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2006. South Dakota won the same award in 2006 and 2008 as the top performer among 15 states of similar size.

“We continually strive to offer exceptional services to both employers and employees in our state,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. “Winning the award for the third time in six years is a testament to the dedication and ability of the Unemployment Insurance Division staff.”

The award is presented for excellence in timeliness of payments, timeliness of determination of eligibility and quality of determination of eligibility. State Unemployment Insurance Director Pauline Heier accepted the award on Wednesday at the UI State Performance Excellence Awards ceremony in Rhode Island.

Unemployment insurance provides temporary financial assistance for workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own until they find other employment. South Dakota's UI program is financed by employers through payroll taxes; workers do not contribute to this plan. For more information, visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).