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Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

South Dakota Students Earn National Career Readiness Certificates

PIERRE, S.D. – During the 2014-2015 school year, 2,655 students from 76 high schools completed assessments to earn a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). (See [report on the number of certificates awarded by school district](#), in Adobe .pdf format*).

The NCRC is an industry-recognized, evidence-based credential used across all sectors of the economy. It verifies essential skills needed for workplace success, such as reading, problem solving, critical thinking and work-related mathematical reasoning.

The opportunity for South Dakota high school juniors and seniors to obtain an NCRC resulted from a joint workforce development effort between the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) and Department of Education.

“Choosing a career path is not easy, and creating core foundational skills needed for all jobs is something that we support,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “The NCRC measures these skills and can assist certificate holders in obtaining satisfying and sustaining employment.”

The NCRC also provides evidence of workplace skill level and can connect the students’ skill levels to occupations in which they have interest.

"The NCRC can help students make connections between their education and the world of work. It provides them with information they can use to make decisions about potential career choices and postsecondary training options," said state Education Secretary Melody Schopp.

South Dakota schools will have the opportunity to participate in the NCRC project in the 2015-2016 school year. Participation is optional. To learn more about the school assessment process, contact DLR at 605-773-5017.

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*Opening and printing Adobe .pdf files requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. [Click here](#) as needed to download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.