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## **Pierre Student Scores Platinum in National Career Readiness Certificate**

PIERRE, S.D. – A Pierre student from T.F Riggs High School scored at the platinum level of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Senior Jesse Gates accomplished what only .52 percent of certificate holders across the nation can claim.

The NCRC is an industry-recognized, evidence-based credential used across all sectors of the economy. The credential verifies essential skills needed for workplace success, such as reading, problem solving, critical thinking and work-related mathematical reasoning. Certificates can be earned at platinum, gold, silver and bronze levels.

“The NCRC helps students set workplace goals,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “Students taking the NCRC are able to identify how their skills correlate to their goals.”

Gates achieved a perfect score in the locating information assessment, which focuses on locating, synthesizing and applying information presented graphically in workplace documents.

"I admit I am proud of this achievement, but I have to credit my teachers for their incredible support throughout the years," said Gates. "It is only through their effort I can succeed."

In the 2015-2016 school year to date, 3,625 students have tested for the NCRC in South Dakota.

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 and Department of Education.

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*Photo Credit to Bobbi Brown  
Pictured L-R: Jesse Gates, Principal Kevin Mutchelknaus*