

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016  
**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

## **Use Career Readiness Certificate to Hire Skilled Workers**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation and South Dakota Retailers Association (SDRA) are providing a free webinar Tuesday, Aug. 16, at 10 a.m. (CDT). It will focus on skill-based hiring using the National Career Readiness Certificate™ (NCRC).

The NCRC™ provides a reliable assessment of a person's workplace skill levels. The webinar will explain how job seekers are assessed and the advantages of using it with employee screening, hiring, training, promotion and retention.

“Some job applicants may not have completed high school, but have the necessary foundational work skills,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “The NCRC can serve as a preferred credential and baseline for employers in their overall hiring practices for a variety of positions with varying educational levels.”

To earn the NCRC™, individuals must take three WorkKeys® assessments: applied mathematics, locating information and reading for information. These assessments measure real world skills employers believe are critical to job success. Assessment questions are based on situations in the everyday work world and verify the demonstration of problem solving and critical thinking skills.

“Employers constantly tell us there is a real need for basic math and information-gathering skills in the workplace,” said SDRA Executive Director Shawn Lyons. “When an employer hires a person who has obtained this certificate, they can be confident the worker already has a great foundation, and they can build on that with training.”

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/hro8x43> or email [donna@sdra.org](mailto:donna@sdra.org). Include the person participating, business or agency, and city. The webinar is designed for all South Dakota employers, and will contain information helpful for owners, managers, supervisors and HR personnel. Closed captioning will be available. All registrants will receive a link with the recorded webinar for playback.