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Labor Department Awarded \$700,000 to Expand Apprenticeships

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) was recently awarded a \$700,000 State Expansion Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s ApprenticeshipUSA program to increase the number of pre-apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships in South Dakota.

One hundred apprentices total will be served in the health support specialist, skilled trades and manufacturing occupations. Target populations include the underrepresented groups of women, Native Americans, limited-English proficient individuals, youth and people with disabilities.

“The apprenticeship training model combines work-based learning with related classroom instruction using the highest industry standards,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “It is a viable opportunity to quickly and effectively close skills and training gaps, resulting in more workers employed in high-skill, high-wage jobs.”

The grant will allow DLR to expand training opportunities such as distance learning and soft skills development; educate job seekers, businesses and parents of apprenticeship benefits; train staff through partner meetings; align resources among private and non-profit sectors; and report data across management information systems.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard issued [a proclamation](#) to recognize Registered Apprenticeship Week Nov. 14-18. This week is designed to promote the importance of apprenticeship training and the essential role it plays in the educational development and diversification of South Dakota’s workforce.

For more information about U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeships, visit http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_training/apprenticeship.aspx.