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**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019  
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## **Governor Noem Recognizes Registered Apprenticeship Week in South Dakota**

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem has [proclaimed Nov. 11-17 as Registered Apprenticeship Week](#) in South Dakota.

“Apprenticeships help bridge the skills gap and equip folks with the tools they need to work high-paying, in-demand jobs right here in South Dakota,” said **Noem**. “It’s important we highlight the value of apprenticeship opportunities, and I’m hopeful this week will make more people aware of the ways an apprenticeship could open new doors for them.”

Over the past three years, the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) has received \$1.6 million in apprenticeship grant funding. It has provided incentive funding to businesses to help offset the initial start-up costs when developing a new program.

“This program has been successful because employers provide their own innovative solutions, resulting in a higher-skilled workforce,” said **Noem**. “We’ll continue working to bolster our work-based learning programs and expand career opportunities.”

Results from the incentive funding include 17 new programs, 300 new apprentices, and an increase of 15 percent in the number of female apprentices.

“Our vision is to provide South Dakota businesses with a proactive strategy to engage individuals in their communities, improve skill sets, and meet workforce needs,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman.

DLR is currently accepting applications to award four contracts up to \$50,000 each for the Pathway Partnership Initiative to build high-quality youth apprenticeship programs. Awardees will receive technical assistance from DLR and the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship. View RFP #1808 at [http://bit.ly/pathway\\_partnership](http://bit.ly/pathway_partnership).

To learn more about how to be an apprentice or business sponsor, or to find student opportunities, visit [StartTodaySD.com](http://StartTodaySD.com).