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Labor Department Provides \$370,000 to Expand Apprenticeships

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) is providing \$370,000 in incentive funding to help businesses and organizations expand the number of Registered Apprenticeships Programs in South Dakota.

Businesses could apply for up to a maximum of \$20,000 in funding to help offset the initial start-up costs when developing a new program.

“Registered Apprenticeships are a great way for businesses to build a quality workforce with the exact skills they need to fill their openings,” said state DLR Secretary Marcia Hultman. “We have a pool of untapped workers ready to learn new skills, and this will expand training opportunities, especially in rural communities.”

Incentive funding recipients, occupations and funding award include:

- 3M, Aberdeen, machine operator, \$20,000
- A to Z Technology, Midland, animal care specialist, \$20,000
- AKG, Mitchell, welder and CNC operator, \$20,000
- Alleivity, Aberdeen, family entertainment center manager, \$20,000
- Banner Engineering, Aberdeen and Huron, electrical and electronic equipment assemblers, \$20,000
- The Kitchen at Bear Butte Gardens, Sturgis, commercial kitchen manager, \$20,000
- Black Hills Works, Rapid City, direct support professional, \$20,000
- Claims Associates, Sioux Falls, claims adjuster, \$20,000
- Dell Rapids Veterinary, Dell Rapids, veterinary lab animal technician, \$20,000
- Foltz and Sons, Spearfish, electrician and HVAC technician, \$20,000
- Hot Rod Institute, Rapid City, automotive restoration technician, \$20,000
- Howe Inc., Sioux Falls, mechatronics aHVAC technicians, \$10,000
- Huron Regional Medical Center, Huron, respiratory therapist, \$10,000
- Lake Area Technical Institute and Terex, Watertown and Huron, field services technician and shop services technician, \$10,000
- Lester Robbins, Rapid City, concrete construction form setter, \$20,000
- Mabee Eye Clinic, Mitchell, paraoptometric technician, \$20,000
- Masaba, Vermillion, manufacturing assembly electrician, \$20,000
- Mind Blown Studio, Deadwood, hot glass gaffer, \$20,000

- SD Funeral Directors Association, Madison, funeral director, \$20,000
- TelNet PC, Rapid City, computer bench technician, \$20,000

A presentation by Secretary Hultman, signing ceremony and orientation will be held on Friday, Nov. 15, at 10 a.m. CST in Pierre at the Chamber of Commerce.

Programs designed to increase engagement for under-represented populations such as females, Native Americans, limited-English proficient individuals, youth ages 16 to 24 and individuals with disabilities were given priority.

DLR was recently awarded a \$1.2 million State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. For more information on apprenticeships, visit StartTodaySD.com.