UpSkill Summary

Upskill is a partnership between the Board of Technical Education and the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR). This effort helps bring opportunities to South Dakota residents dislocated from their job due to COVID-19 and are eligible for Reemployment Assistance benefits.

The BOTE approved 24 programs that are approximately 18 credits each. These programs were approved based on high demand predictions according to data provided by the DLR Labor Market Information Center. All programs are embedded in exiting academic programs allowing a pathway for students to continue their studies to receive an Associates of Applied Science. Clusters: agriculture, finance, health sciences, information technology, manufacturing, and marketing.

Technical colleges agreed on a $240/cost per credit. Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding provides $200/credit while DLR WIOA National Dislocated Worker Grant covers the remaining $40/credit. The GEER fund also offered stipends up to $600/student for educational related expenses.

The program was announced on July 27, 2020, with classes starting as soon as August 17. DLR provided outreach to unemployment benefit claimants and enrolled close 120 individuals, with 101 becoming UpSkill participants. Some have decided not to continue their studies, but are now engaged in the workforce system and receiving services to assist them.

DLR is assisting the continuing students with services such as tutoring, resume assistance, job search assistance, financial literacy, etc.

UpSkill participants will be graduating in May of 2021. Many are seeking part-time work related to their field of study, and will be available for work if you are looking for a skilled employee in one of the industries listed.

UpSkill offers credentials in a variety of high-demand industries, including:

Lake Area Technical College
- Accounting
- Agriculture
- Banking
- Community Healthcare
- Entrepreneurship
- Human Resources
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Medical Coding
- Network and Cybersecurity
- Programming

Mitchell Technical College
- Dietary Management
- Leadership
- Medical Information
- Office

Western Dakota Technical College
- EMT/Pre-paramedic
- Phlebotomy
- Plumbing

Southeast Technical College
- Computer Support
- Java Programming
- Medical Billing
- Network Support
- Web Programming