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CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us or
Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

**Technical institute graduates enjoy strong job placement;
program expansions approved**

PIERRE, S.D. – At its meeting earlier today, the state Board of Education heard a report on technical institute job placement of graduates.

Technical institute graduates continue to enjoy strong job placement. Each technical institute surveys graduates six months after graduation. Over 90 percent of 2016 graduates responded, with just over 98 percent of respondents reporting they are employed, in the military or continuing their education. Just over 83 percent of respondents are employed in their field, in South Dakota.

“Our state’s technical institutes are vital components in growing our state’s workforce,” said Tiffany Sanderson, director of career and technical education for the South Dakota Department of Education. “Graduates leave these schools with great prospects for well-paying careers.”

The board approved program expansions at Mitchell Technical Institute. MTI is expanding its automated engineering technology program and its electrical construction and maintenance registered apprenticeship program. The board also heard about Southeast Technical Institute’s expansion of its medical coding certificate program.