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### **Governor's technical institute tuition buy-down keeps tuition flat**

Tuition at the state's four technical institutes will remain flat for the upcoming year, thanks to a tuition buy-down that was proposed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and supported by the State Legislature.

"In South Dakota, we have a demand for workers in areas like engineering, information technology, health care and manufacturing," said Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. "To address our future workforce needs and prepare our young people for future opportunities, it is important for technical education to be affordable. Steadying the tuition rates for the upcoming year is a step in that direction."

Though tuition will remain flat next school year, fees will increase slightly. At its meeting today, the South Dakota Board of Education approved a \$4 increase in facility and maintenance and repair fees.

More than 2,000 students graduated from South Dakota's technical institutes in 2013. Eighty-seven percent have obtained employment, with 79 percent of those working in their chosen field. Just over 76 percent of graduates have secured job placement in South Dakota.

Graduates working in manufacturing are the highest wage earners with an average hourly wage of \$18.51. The average hourly wage for graduates working in the information technology field is second highest at \$16.97.