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### **Technical institute enrollment up; graduates enjoying strong job placement**

PIERRE, S.D. – At its meeting earlier today, the state Board of Education heard reports on technical institute enrollment and job placement of graduates. Enrollment at South Dakota’s four technical institutes is up slightly this year, from 6,305 to 6,323. The manufacturing career cluster saw the biggest program growth, with an increase of 62 students.

“The Build Dakota scholarship program has contributed greatly to the increased enrollments in high-demand program areas,” said Tiffany Sanderson, director of career and technical education for the South Dakota Department of Education.

This year, nearly 300 students were awarded the first-ever Build Dakota scholarships which cover tuition and fees, books, equipment and other related expenses for eligible programs within eight high-need industry areas at the technical institutes. Scholarship recipients commit to stay in South Dakota to work in their field of study for three years following graduation. This scholarship program is made possible by a \$25 million donation from T. Denny Sanford and a \$25 million grant by Gov. Dennis Daugaard from the South Dakota Future Fund.

As the state’s reduced tuition dual credit program enters its second year, 512 students are enrolled in dual credit courses at technical institutes this fall, compared to 260 in fall 2014. With these courses, students get a jump start on their postsecondary pursuits by simultaneously earning high school and college credit.

Technical institute graduates continue to enjoy strong job placement. Each technical institute surveys graduates six months after graduation. Over 90 percent of 2014 graduates responded, with 98 percent of respondents reporting they are employed or continuing their education. Over 84 percent of employed respondents are employed in South Dakota.