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Pierre celebrates CTSO Legislative Shadow Day

PIERRE, S.D. – February is National Career and Technical Education Month. As part of the celebration, nearly 40 student leaders came to Pierre Feb. 10-11, for the South Dakota Career and Technical Student Organizations' Legislative Shadow Day.

Students, legislators, cabinet members and state agency staff kicked off activities with an evening social Feb. 10. On Feb. 11, students shadowed legislators at committee meetings and watched House and Senate floor sessions.

"Students and legislators alike look forward to CTSO Legislative Shadow Day," said Tiffany Sanderson, director of career and technical education for the South Dakota Department of Education. "It's a great learning opportunity for students to see public servants in action through the legislative process. The experience sparks interest and builds confidence in talented young people who will lead our communities and state in coming years."

Five CTSOs are active in South Dakota: DECA, an association of marketing students; Future Business Leaders of America; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; FFA; and SkillsUSA, an association of trade, technology and health occupation students.

CTSOs give students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom through competitive events; develop leadership and employability skills; and serve their communities.

Career and technical education seeks to equip students with core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills for careers and life. CTE emphasizes employability skills like critical thinking, responsibility and technical skills related to specific career pathways.