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### **Tech institute tuition and state fees set; welding certificates added**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Education has approved 2017-18 state tuition and fees at the state’s four technical institutes. The overall cost per credit will be \$155. Students will pay \$114 per credit in state tuition. State fees consist of maintenance and repair at \$5 per credit, \$1 per credit in technology fees and \$35 per credit in facility fees.

The board also approved a new welding certificate option at Mitchell Technical Institute and heard updates on options at Southeast Technical Institute. A new advanced welding certificate at MTI is an alternate second-year option in the existing associate of applied science welding program. The current program emphasizes machining/manufacturing in the second year. This new option focuses on increasing skills in specialized welding processes like gas metal arc, gas tungsten arc, shielded metal arc and flux core arc. Students could complete both second year options in the welding program for maximum marketability in the welding industry.

At STI, new certificates in shielded metal arc, gas metal arc, flux core arc and gas tungsten arc welding are being offered for individuals in the welding industry who want to increase their skills in certain areas or for individuals looking to quickly start working as a welder. Options will be offered in the evenings and during the current daytime welding program. Individuals will have the opportunity to test for American Welding Society (AWS) certification prior to the end of the program.