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### **Students to explore careers during South Dakota Week of Work**

PIERRE, S.D. – The annual South Dakota Week of Work is scheduled for April 3-7. During the week, middle and high school students will connect with local businesses and explore potential careers in South Dakota. It is also a time to celebrate work-based learning partnerships that happen year-round.

“Don’t assume youth in your community are familiar with local businesses, the types of jobs available, the necessary training, or all the great benefits and opportunities right here at home,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “The Week of Work is a great way to connect with students and provide a positive experience.”

Work-based learning is a critical component of a student’s career exploration journey. It exposes them to high-wage, high-demand careers within their own communities. For businesses, it’s a chance to proactively address workforce challenges by building a pipeline of interest among the next generation.

“South Dakota’s economy thrives when business, industry, and education come together to provide opportunities that benefit our young people and develop the future workforce of our state,” said South Dakota Secretary of Education Joseph Graves. “The Week of Work is one vehicle for driving these important connections.”

Schools and businesses will celebrate with activities such as job shadows, internships, tours, guest speakers, and career fairs. Those who participate in the week’s activities are encouraged to share photos and success stories using **#SDWeekofWork** on social media.

The South Dakota Week of Work is sponsored by the South Dakota departments of Labor and Regulation and Education in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, the South Dakota Retailers Association, and the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**Editor’s note:** Contact individual districts or schools for details on local activities.