South Dakota 811

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October 28, 2022

To the Joint Committee on Appropriations:

South Dakota One Call Notification Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the Joint Committee on Appropriations for its continued support of the scholarship authority as granted in January 2020. Our Board of Directors recognized an opportunity to work with the technical colleges and upcoming work force to develop safe excavation practices while furthering education. Partnering with Build Dakota and industry partners, South Dakota One Call is pleased to have been able to support future excavators and utility staff by developing and implementing a $20,000 expenditure annually.

Build Dakota has robust requirements in place for the success of the students and the program. South Dakota One Call adopted those policies with additional stipulations.

Policies as established for the South Dakota 811 Scholarship Program:

1. South Dakota One Call Board will work with an industry partner and Build Dakota to sponsor a student.
2. Each student is offered a full tuition scholarship if they meet the following criteria through a signed contract with Build Dakota and their sponsor:
    a. Student will maintain a C average or better.
    b. Student agrees to meet and maintain attendance requirements of the technical college.
    c. Student agrees to work in South Dakota with the industry partner for a minimum of three years.
    d. If any of these requirements are not met, the student agrees to repay the scholarship in full, at which time the scholarship money will be returned.

South Dakota One Call added the awarded student is to attend a Damage Prevention Meeting Presentation, held across the state and at the technical schools. In addition, South Dakota One Call will receive a letter from the student relaying the importance of the scholarship and future plans.

In 2021, South Dakota One Call awarded one scholarship through Mitchell Technical College with Muth Electric, Inc. as the industry partner.

Through Build Dakota, Western Dakota Technical, Mitchell Technical and Lake Are Technical, South Dakota One Call is proud to confirm thirteen scholarships have been awarded in the 2022 – 2023 school year!

Western Dakota Technical College, 1 student In Construction Technology in the amount of $2,205. The industry partner is Scull Construction.

Mitchell Technical College, 1 student in Wi-Fi and Broadband Technologies in the amount of $2,400. The industry partner is Venture Communications.

Lake Area Technical College, 11 students in Heavy Equipment Operator, in the amount of $1,100 per each student totaling $12,100. Industry Partners include Webster Scale with 2 students; Lien Transportation with 2 students; Turkey Ridge Construction with 1 student; AGC of South Dakota with 2 students; First Rate Excavate with 2 students; Mart Brothers Construction with 1 student and SDDOT with 1 student.

There were no scholarships awarded with Southeast Technical College this year.

In continuing its mission of education, South Dakota One Call will again host Damage Prevention Meetings at all four technical colleges in the spring of 2023. These presentations offer understanding of One Call Laws, purposes, utilities safety and safe excavation practices while addressing student and educator questions.

On behalf of South Dakota One Call Notification Board, thank you for your continued support and leadership in the authority granted with this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

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