October 28, 2021

To the Joint Committee on Appropriations:

The South Dakota One Call Notification Board began safety training at Mitchell Technical Institute in 2013 and expanded this training over the next several years to include Lake Area Technical Institute, Western Dakota Technical Institute, and Southeast Technical College. The One Call Board has recognized a need and opportunity to assist some of these students in their education. One Call partnered with Build Dakota in 2020 to educate students in the importance of safety by contacting 811 before digging to protect themselves from injury, to protect buried infrastructure, and to understand South Dakota One Call laws.

Eighty-four percent of all students require financial aid to attend technical schools. Of those, 41 percent qualify for a federal Pell Grant, indicating they have significant financial need. Scholarships become crucial to their success. These scholarships not only encourage students to further their education, but also to remain in their South Dakota communities. Technology continues to advance, requiring new skill sets. Competition for employees is fierce, and those with training and experience are needed. Offering scholarship opportunities makes great business sense for South Dakota, and employers investing in hiring educated employees through industry partnerships are likely to experience a greater return on their investment.

In January 2020, the South Dakota One Call Notification Board presented JCA with a request for authority to use up to $20,000 of One Call funds to provide scholarships through the technical institutes in South Dakota. Students involved in areas of study involving excavation would be eligible to participate. A large percentage of the required funds to support the scholarship program are offset by using penalties collected throughout the year from the One Call Complaint process. The Board believes that moving penalty payments to scholarships is a prudent use of One Call funds, and that these scholarships are a solid practice in educating students and limiting future damages to buried infrastructure. In May 2020, JCA forwarded a Letter of Intent and requested a report, annually, by November 1st.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND BOARD APPROVED STUDY AREAS

Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown, South Dakota
--Building Trades and Heavy Equipment Operators

Western Dakota Technical Institute, Rapid City, South Dakota
--Construction Technology, Electrical Trades, and Plumbing Technology

Southeast Technical College
--Electrical, Plumbing, Civil Engineering Technology, Construction Management, and Land Surveying

Mitchell Technical Institute, Mitchell, South Dakota
--Electrical Construction and Maintenance, Electrical Utilities and Substation Technology, and Telecommunications

SOUTH DAKOTA ONE CALL NOTIFICATION BOARD 811 SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES and GUIDELINES

Requirements to receive a South Dakota 811 Build Dakota Industry Partner Scholarship include:

--The South Dakota One Call Board will work with an industry partner and Build Dakota to sponsor a student.
--Each student is offered a full tuition scholarship if they meet the following criteria through a signed contract:
--The student will maintain a C average or better.
--The student agrees to meet and maintain attendance requirements of the institute.
--The student agrees to attend a South Dakota One Call Damage Prevention presentation.
--The student agrees to provide a letter to the One Call Board describing why this scholarship is important to them and what it means to their career.
--The student agrees to work in South Dakota with the industry partner for a minimum of three years.
--If any of these contract requirements are not met, the student agrees to repay the sponsorship in full, at which time the scholarship money will be returned and awarded to another deserving student.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

Lake Area Technical Institute
No scholarship awarded in 2021

Western Dakota Technical Institute
No scholarship awarded in 2021

Southeast Technical College
No scholarship awarded in 2021

Mitchell Technical Institute
Industry Partner – Muth Electric
$5,000 South Dakota 811 Scholarship awarded to one student in Electrical Trades.

The South Dakota One Call Notification Board is pleased to have been able to award this scholarship, along with an industry partner, and the Build Dakota Scholarship Program. It is the belief of the One Call Board that assisting students in trades that involve digging will be beneficial to them by instilling a knowledge of safety in a meaningful way through the use of best safety practices.

The South Dakota One Call Notification Board wishes to thank the Joint Committee on Appropriations for its leadership and continued support in granting authority to utilize One Call Board funds for this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Janes
Executive Director
South Dakota One Call Notification Board

SOUTH DAKOTA ONE CALL, established in 1993
SOUTH DAKOTA 811, since 2013

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

"Let's all do our part to make our communities and state a safe place to work and live".
Always Call or "Click" 811 Before You Dig.

For information about South Dakota One Call, please visit www.SD811.com.