

BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP

FOR ADULT LEARNERS



WHAT IS THE BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP?

A GREAT WAY TO BUILD YOUR FUTURE

There's more than one path to a high-paying career. And it's never too late to start. With the Build Dakota Scholarship, you can earn a full-ride scholarship at one of four South Dakota technical colleges. Whether that means advancing the training you already have or trying something completely new, we're here to help.

\$0 IN STUDENT LOANS
98% JOB PLACEMENT
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



BENEFITS



**COST
EFFECTIVE**



**JOB BEFORE
COLLEGE
GRADUATION**



**HANDS-ON
LEARNING**

8 BENEFITS OF BUILD DAKOTA

1

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The scholarship covers tuition, fees, books, and other costs, easing the burden on students who may have other financial responsibilities.

2

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

It provides opportunities for career advancement and skill development, perfect for anyone changing careers or looking for advancement with their current employer.

3

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

Many programs supported by the scholarship offer flexible scheduling options. So, if you're working while you learn or have family commitments on the side, you can still advance your skills.

4

HANDS-ON TRAINING

The scholarship supports programs that offer hands-on, practical training – ideal for anyone seeking immediate, applicable skills.

5

JOB SECURITY

Want to talk job stability? Build Dakota Scholars have a job waiting after graduation.

6

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Connections with industry partners provide networking opportunities, internships, and job placements, helping non-traditional students transition smoothly into the workforce – and get paid to train.

7

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Being part of the scholarship program often means joining a community of peers and mentors. We'll help answer any questions and put you in touch with more resources on your path to a great career.

8

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Build Dakota isn't just for graduating high school seniors. You'll develop necessary skills for a rapidly changing job market.



WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT TECHNICAL COLLEGE?

GLAD YOU ASKED

#1

YOU LEARN REAL SKILLS

Technical colleges train you with skills that are immediately applicable in the workforce. You'll benefit from hands-on learning that leads directly to a high-paying career.

#2

IT'S A FAST, COST-FRIENDLY WAY TO LEARN IMPORTANT SKILLS

Technical colleges are a cost-effective route to career readiness. In one or two years you can earn a diploma or associate degree.

#3

WE HAVE EMPLOYERS READY TO HIRE

South Dakota technical colleges have strong ties to businesses across the state. Through these partnerships, you'll have endless access to internships, apprenticeships and job placement opportunities. That's why at least 98% of Build Dakota Scholars have jobs waiting for them when they graduate.



CAREER EXPLORATION

IN-DEMAND CAREERS

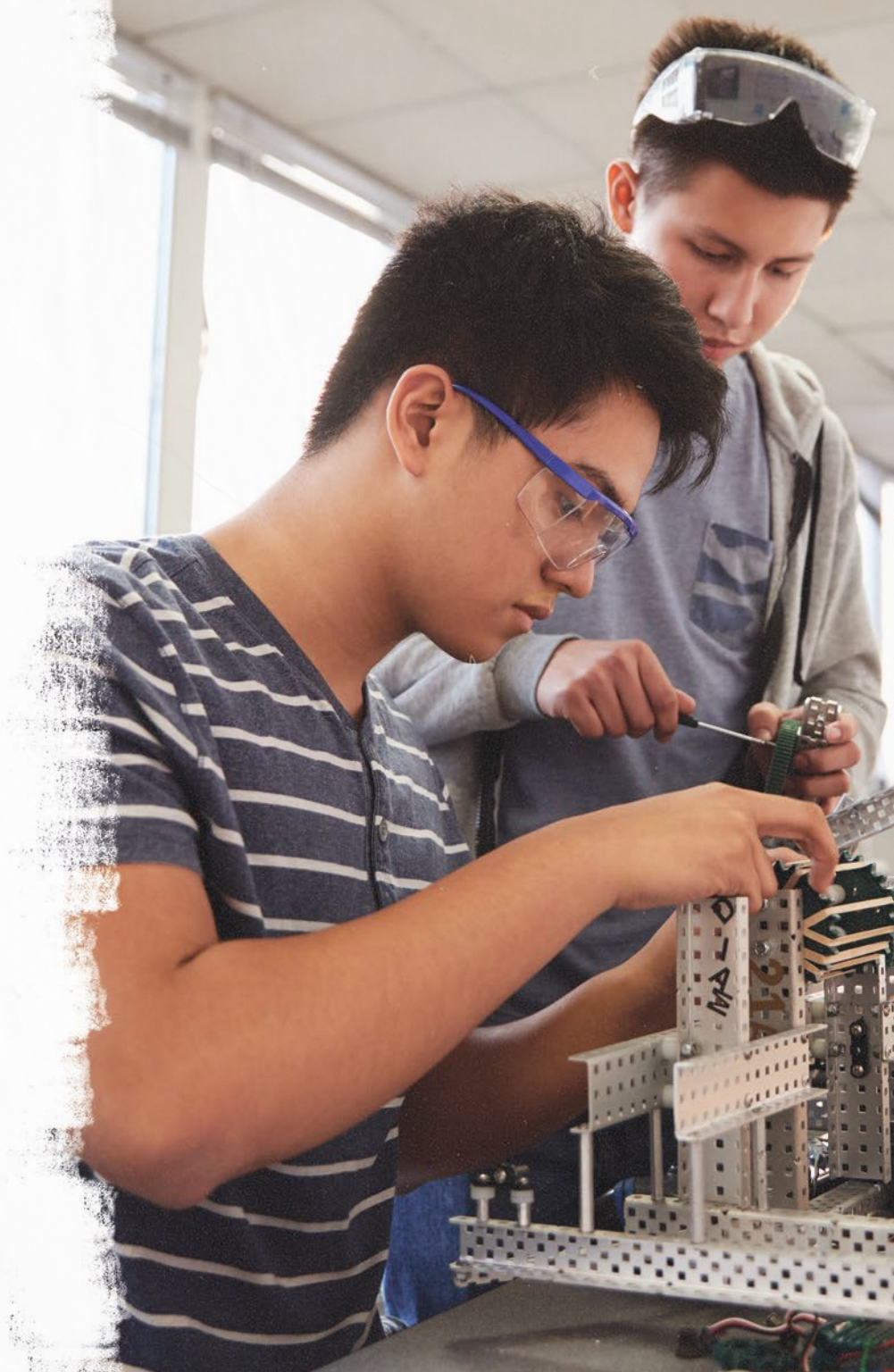
**GOOD PAY. GREAT OPPORTUNITIES.
THESE FIELDS HAVE A HIGH DEMAND
FOR THE HIGHLY SKILLED.**

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Building Trades/Construction
- Energy Technicians
- Engineering Technicians
- Healthcare
- Information Technology
- Public Service
- Welding



**SCAN TO SEE THE FULL
PROGRAM LIST**

Some programs may require an industry partner.



APPLYING FOR BUILD DAKOTA

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Build Dakota Scholarship is a full ride, not a free ride. Following program completion, each student works in their field of study for at least three years in South Dakota. In return, the scholarship covers tuition, fees, books and other program expenses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Scholars of all ages are welcome to apply. This includes both in-state and out-of-state students.

WHAT'S AN INDUSTRY PARTNER?

Students can earn a Build Dakota Scholarship through the application process – or by finding an industry partner. What are those? An industry partner is a business that sponsors students and commits to paying a portion of their program expenses. Build Dakota picks up the other portion. The student earns their degree while they train, while the employer gains a skilled employee. With a partner, students secure a position in the program and have a job waiting for them upon program completion.

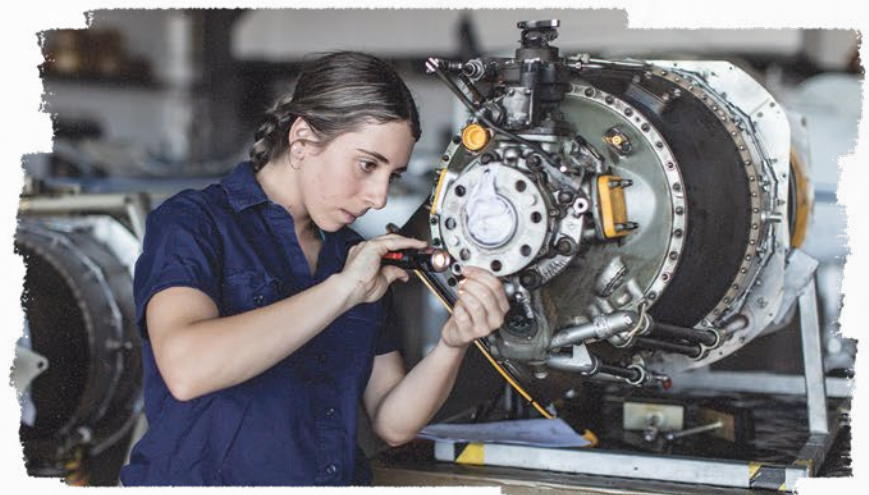
We are always adding new partners. Even if you don't see a business you're interested in on the list, ask them about Build Dakota or contact the technical college with questions or to help connect.

Head to **BuildDakotaScholarships.com** for a full list of industry partners, program contacts and career opportunities.

WHAT'S THE COMMITMENT?

A Build Dakota Scholar agrees to:

- Enroll full-time in a Build Dakota Scholarship-eligible program at a South Dakota technical college (Lake Area Technical College, Mitchell Technical College, Southeast Technical College, or Western Dakota Technical College). Diploma programs typically require 1 to 1.5 years to complete and AAS degree programs require 2 years.
- Work full-time in South Dakota in the field of study for a minimum of three years following program completion.
- Maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.
- Adhere to the technical college's attendance policy.
- If the scholar has an industry partner, the partner may have additional requirements outlined in a separate contract before the commitment is finalized.





GETTING STARTED

THE PATH TO APPLICATION

STEP 1

Gain real-world experiences in your chosen field. Explore careers you're interested in and build relationships with industry leaders.



STEP 2

Apply to your technical college and reserve a seat in the program. This can be done up to 18 months prior to applying for Build Dakota. Apply early! Some colleges allow their industry partners to start reviewing applications in January.



STEP 3

Visit the Build Dakota website. Click on the logo of the college you plan on attending. This will take you to the scholarship application at that college. All students are encouraged to apply even if you don't already have an industry partner.

PATHS TO PARTNER MATCHES

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A PARTNER SECURED, there will be questions for you to provide this information in the application.

Your technical college will contact an employer on your behalf if they have questions or you need assistance with that process.

APPLY WITHOUT A PARTNER and your technical college will share your application with partners hiring in your field.

You may be contacted by employers for next steps. We recommend you apply early in the application window as employers reach out quickly.

APPLICATION PERIOD: JANUARY 1 — MARCH 31

Learn more about the program and requirements at BuildDakotaScholarships.com.

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

What does everyone get out of this? It's all about economic development: high schools, technical colleges and businesses working together as a team to identify workforce needs and ensuring students have opportunities to explore much-needed careers. Here's a summary of what the Build Dakota Scholarship does for all associated groups.



STUDENTS

- Increases opportunities for career exploration
- Gain important skills and a guaranteed job after college
- Start their next chapter free of debt and ready to excel
- Students with partners receive priority in scholarship awards and gain the extra benefit of having a job waiting for them following program completion at their technical college



INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Use Build Dakota funds to train their own workforce
- Support their community by investing in its future
- Stay competitive with other businesses who understand the need of investing in training to get more people into high need fields
- Get involved directly with technical colleges to build the workforce their business needs
- Help change perceptions of these high-demand fields
- Increase the use of job shadowing, internships, and part-time work as a tool for recruiting
- Build relationships with potential employees and create a culture of recruitment and retention



COMMUNITIES

- Attract and retain workforce, especially in rural communities
- Send students off to school but have a job waiting for them at home
- Keeps local communities thriving and schools alive
- Grow relationships between employers and students, working together to improve opportunities for career exploration

**“BUILD DAKOTA IS THE REASON I WAS
ABLE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL. BEING A
MOM OF THREE, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO AFFORD MY PROGRAM WITHOUT
THE HELP OF BUILD DAKOTA.”**

BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLAR

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