

BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP

STATE AGENCY EDITION

BUILDING SOUTH DAKOTA'S FUTURE

HOW A STATEWIDE
WORKFORCE INITIATIVE
WORKS TO BRING STUDENTS
& EMPLOYERS TOGETHER

WHAT IS THE BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP?

A GREAT PATH TO
A LIFELONG CAREER

There's more than one path to a high-paying career. With the Build Dakota Scholarship, students can earn a full-ride scholarship at one of four South Dakota technical colleges. The scholarship aims to address the workforce shortage in high-need industries by equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.

**OUR MISSION: HELP SOLVE SOUTH
DAKOTA'S WORKFORCE SHORTAGE,
ONE DEGREE AT A TIME.**



**PROMOTES CAREER
EXPLORATION**



**STARTS AT THE
LOCAL LEVEL**



**HELPS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



CAREERS WE TARGET

**WE'RE WORKING TO PUT MORE STUDENTS
TO WORK IN SOME OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S
MOST-NEEDED FIELDS:**

- 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.

ALL ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

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 a minimum of three years in South Dakota. In return, the scholarship covers costs for 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 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 writing before the commitment is finalized.

HOW DO INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS WORK?

Students can earn a Build Dakota Scholarship through the application process – or by finding an industry partner. 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 a degree, and the employer gains a skilled scholar.

Students aren't required to have a Build Dakota partner to apply – but it's highly encouraged. If they apply without a partner, their application will be released to our Build Dakota sponsor businesses and they may be contacted by businesses interested in potential sponsorships.

4 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

#1

PROMOTE LOCAL CAREERS & OPPORTUNITIES

If we're going to make an impact on the workforce shortage, it starts with collaborative efforts at the local level. You can work with local businesses and community partners to spread the word and share opportunities for workforce growth. This includes attending Build Dakota Road Show presentations or helping connect our staff to presentation opportunities. It also means encouraging local economic development groups to create opportunity maps that share career possibilities in the community.

#2

HELP RECRUIT

We need to work together to promote local job opportunities to new audiences, including non-traditional students: people who have started college and quit or people who have never pursued higher education. These audiences are perfect for hands-on learning.

#3

LEAD WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There's no replacement for real experience. Help arrange part-time work and job shadows in areas students might be interested in. Something that starts small may even turn into a scholarship or industry partnership.

#4

KNOW WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Build Dakota is a tool for your workforce development toolkit. We work with local businesses and provide funding for them to train employees. Get to know our industry partnerships initiative and you'll see we're far more than a scholarship program.



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 BUILD DAKOTA.”**

BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLAR

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