

BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPER
EDITION



WHAT IS THE BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP?

A GREAT WAY TO BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

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

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**

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. This is how we're turning a scholarship into something that impacts businesses throughout the workforce, helping companies grow their talent pipeline.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN PARTICIPATE

#1

CURATE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WORKFORCE

You can work with our Program Manager to host Community Conversations About Workforce. You'll arrange the time and place and send the invites, and our group does the rest. These community conversations are designed to help identify workforce needs in that community and strategize about how high schools, economic development and businesses are working as a team to fill those needs.



#2

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 can also be done at the technical college level. When we build better relationships between the technical college and the businesses who hire their students, everyone benefits.

#3

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.

#4

SPONSOR STUDENTS

Economic development groups can directly sponsor students to fill a workforce need in their community or consider offering grants to their local businesses to offset the expense for them to partner.

ENCOURAGE CAREER EXPLORATION

Economic development groups have a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between local businesses and schools. Students can't explore career paths they don't know exist. That's where you can step in, educating students and instructors on specific career fields and open positions in the area.

How can you start? Make a list of businesses in your community and the areas in which they are hiring. Keep it updated each year and provide it to your local high school to make connecting between the two easier for job shadowing/internships/part-time work.

Below you'll find a sample career inventory map. Not only does it help students identify local businesses, it helps them see how a range of occupations are needed at each business. Even if some of these careers go beyond the Build Dakota scope, creating opportunity maps helps everyone see the big picture.

Need help getting started? Find downloadable templates for your own career inventory map, career fair signage and more resources at **builddakotascholarships.com/toolkits/economic-developer**.

SAMPLE CAREER INVENTORY MAP

[illegible]

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 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE A KEY
TOOL IN THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
TOOLBOX — REMOVING FINANCIAL BARRIERS
AND EQUIPPING STUDENTS WITH IN-DEMAND
SKILLS WHILE STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND
EMPLOYERS. IT’S AN ALL-AROUND WIN FOR
STUDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITIES!”**

YANKTON THRIVE

DENI MARTIN, PROGRAM MANAGER

(605) 347-1804 | deni@bulddakotascholarships.com

RITA NELSON, WORKFORCE RELATIONS COORDINATOR

(605) 760-4284 | rita@bulddakotascholarships.com

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