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Over 1,000 individuals indicate interest in returning to South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. – The Dakota Roots program continues to attract former South Dakotans wishing to return home, given the right career opportunity. A total of 1,165 individuals have expressed their interest at www.DakotaRoots.com, a Web-based recruitment tool launched by Gov. Mike Rounds in October 2006 to promote workforce development.

“Over 1,000 individuals have contacted our outreach program,” said Gov. Rounds. “These individuals recognize the great quality of life South Dakota has to offer and have a desire to return home. Department of Labor representatives will continue one-on-one efforts to match them with South Dakota employment opportunities.”

Upon registration, participants are assigned to one representative who works with them through the entire process to match their skill sets with job openings in an area of their desired interest. To date, 175 participants have entered employment and moved their families back to South Dakota. The Web site attracted an average of 154 visitors daily during the month of July.

Businesses can also benefit from Dakota Roots by becoming partners. They can utilize services such as online job postings, labor market and business climate information, start up and expansion details and Web site exposure. Businesses interested may contact their local South Dakota Career Center. A directory is found at the Department of Labor Web site, www.sdjobs.org.

Dakota Roots is a joint partnership between the Department of Labor, the Governor’s Office and the Department of Tourism and State Development. It aims to connect former South Dakotans with career opportunities in the state in order for them to return – to live, grow and build.