



DOH Healthcare Workforce Newsletter
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The Build Dakota Scholarship was created as a workforce initiative using a generous \$25 million donation from T. Denny Sanford and \$25 million match from the Future Fund Endowment by Governor Dugaard. It offers full-ride scholarships to students attending Lake Area Technical Institute, Mitchell Technical Institute, Southeast Technical Institute, or Western Dakota Technical Institute. In exchange for the scholarship, scholars commit to living and working in South Dakota for 3 years following graduation. Build Dakota covers all expenses students need to complete programs in one of the Build Dakota approved high-need fields. Hopefully, by paying for the cost of the degree, more students will consider careers in these fields. There are currently 69 approved programs including the following healthcare fields:

- Medical Laboratory Technicians
- Practical Nursing
- Surgical Technicians
- EMT/Paramedic- is currently under review for the 2017/2018 school year, but has not been officially approved.

The technical institutes also have Build Dakota partner programs in which a business can pay for a portion of the full-ride scholarship and Build Dakota pays for the rest. Students may be sponsored directly by the business or matched with a business by the technical institute. The intended result of these partnerships will be more students graduating and entering the workforce in these high-demand fields. In return, the business gains a skilled employee. Several of these partnerships have been established with hospitals, nursing homes and clinics throughout the state.

If you know someone interested in applying for the Build Dakota Scholarship or an employer looking for new strategies in addressing with a workforce shortage, please visit www.builddakotascholarships.com or contact the program manager, Deni Amundson, at deniamundson@venturecomm.net or (605) 347-1804.