The Lead-Deadwood High School Career Prep class recently attended a Business Seminar. Through the use of Perkins Funds, Lenessa Keehn was able to procure speakers and a convention center room to host a seminar to focus on Career Readiness and practical application. Morning speakers talked about how to properly fill out a job application and have a successful job interview with a potential employer. All students were able to practice filling out a job application and used time to practice asking and answering questions for a job interview with tips and advice offered on what an employer looks and listens for in a potential employee.

The mid-morning speaker covered social etiquette with the students. This session offered students with information on cultural differences in the hiring process as well as how students should conduct themselves in social situations in an employment setting. Students had the opportunity to practice handshakes, introductions, as well as table manners.

The afternoon speakers included a session on Time & stress management with organizers and a short mind/numbers game. The final afternoon speaker took time to address professional
dress with the students. Examples of business professional, business casual and business hip were defined and shown to the students. Each student had the opportunity to rate and identify correct dress for a variety of positions when applying for a job.

The entire business seminar was paid through the use of Perkins Funds/grant money. Speakers were paid a fee for his/her time and preparation to meet with the students. Also paid through Perkins funding was the host, for a conference room fee. After meetings with a local advisory group as well as Student Internship Trainers (local businesses that sponsor students) many expressed the very topics that were presented as the number one topics in which students in our community need to be versed. Through the meetings and on the advice of the local advisory group, local business men and women were contacted to present to the students. A focus on local presenters was very important for the business seminar due to the high number of local businesses that employ high school and college age students. Overall, the business seminar was a success and without the use of Perkins funding, the opportunity for students to participate in an activity with real-world application would not have been possible.

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