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New regional CTE facility in Aberdeen to open in fall 2015

PIERRE, S.D. – Today the South Dakota Board of Education heard an update on construction and toured the Aberdeen Technical Education Center, a new regional career and technical education facility in Aberdeen, located on the campus of Central High School. Students from the Northwestern Area, Frederick Area and Warner school districts, Aberdeen public schools and Aberdeen Roncalli will begin taking classes at the A-TEC in fall 2015.

“The new A-TEC facility will provide enhanced college and career opportunities for all high school students,” said Dr. Becky Guffin, superintendent of the Aberdeen School District. “We believe gaining and applying technical, academic and employability knowledge and skills is essential for students to become lifelong learners, informed citizens and prepared members of the workforce.”

As one of 12 recipients of Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s Career and Technical Education Grants, awarded in 2014, the Aberdeen School District received \$2 million to build the A-TEC and expand CTE course offerings. The grants were made available through the South Dakota Future Fund, which was created by Gov. George S. Mickelson to invest in South Dakota’s workforce and build its economy. They were made available on a one-time basis, so grant projects must be self-sustaining beyond the initial investment.

This new facility will replace what was formerly known as the Hub Area Multi District. During the 2014-15 school year, the Aberdeen School District worked with partner school districts to dissolve the Hub Area Multi District, which had previously provided CTE programming to students in the surrounding area. Guffin provided a report on this process at today’s board meeting.