June 10, 2002
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Mike Durfee State Prison Wins State Award

(Pierre) – The Mike Durfee State Prison (MDSP) in Springfield, SD has been named 2002 State of South Dakota Physical Plant of the Year by the Office of the State Engineer.

The honor is given for excelling in meeting a long list of criteria, including overall facility appearance, cleanliness, efficiency and energy management.

MDSP Physical Plant Director Harvey Rothschild received the award last week during a meeting of state physical plant directors in Pierre.

"We’re extremely proud of our facility and Harvey and his staff are deserving of the honor," says MDSP Warden Bob Dooley. "This is a unique setting for a prison and the buildings and grounds are always well maintained."

The Mike Durfee State Prison is located on the campus of the former University of South Dakota at Springfield (USD/S). In 1984, USD/S was closed and the Legislature authorized the Board of Charities and Corrections to establish a correctional facility there. On September 10, 1999 the Springfield State Prison was renamed in honor of Mike Durfee, Deputy Director of the South Dakota Department of Corrections and longtime staff member at the facility. Durfee died of cancer January 2, 2000.

The prison is made up of twenty major buildings and covers 70 acres. For more information on MDSP or to see pictures of the campus, visit our website at http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/MDSP.htm.

This is the second time in recent years that a prison facility received the award. The South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls was named the state’s Physical Plant of the Year in 1999.

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