FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 29, 2011
CONTACT: Michael Winder, SD DOC Communications & Information Manager

Governor Daugaard proclaims May 1-7 as Correctional Employees Week

Pierre, S.D. - Governor Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May 1st-7th as "Correctional Employees Week" in South Dakota.

“Correctional employees are committed to their mission of protecting the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to their care by the courts, providing effective community supervision to offenders upon their release, and utilizing evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation," Gov. Daugaard said in an Executive Proclamation.

Corrections employees in South Dakota are responsible for the supervision, custody and care of more than 3,400 adult inmates, 2,900 parolees and nearly 800 juvenile offenders in placement and on aftercare.

“Our correctional employees are often unsung heroes,” said Interim Corrections Secretary Laurie Feiler. “As we are so tragically reminded by the recent murder of Senior Correctional Officer Ron Johnson, these men and women put their lives on the line every day. The employees of the SD DOC are some of the best in the nation. As we continue to grieve the loss of RJ, Correctional Employee’s week is a chance to honor these brave men and women and extend our on-going sympathy to RJ’s family.”

The Department of Corrections has adult prison facilities in Sioux Falls, Springfield, Yankton, Pierre and Rapid City. The state’s juvenile corrections programs are located near Custer. Parole field offices are located in Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Watertown and Yankton. Juvenile Community Corrections field offices are located in Aberdeen, Brookings, Chamberlain, Custer, Huron, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Spearfish, Watertown, White River, Winner and Yankton.

-30-