FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

F**or more information, contact**: Audry Ricketts (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs) at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

SDDVA Secretary Whitlock's February Column – New Training Opportunity for Veterans!

Are you a Veteran looking for hands-on training to help you land a well-paying job in the high-tech industry?

Are you a tech company looking for skilled workers with a background in leadership, teamwork and mission focus?

Launching in April of 2019, the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses program (VET TEC), piloted by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, will help veterans in advancing their IT careers.

This innovative new pilot program pairs eligible veterans with market-leading training providers offering high-tech training and skills development sought by employers. Veterans will have their classes and training paid for by the VA and will receive a monthly housing stipend during their training.

VET TEC is unique because the computer skills training programs take just months or even weeks to complete. Acquiring essential skills in such a short amount of time gives veterans the opportunity to advance their career sooner rather than later.

The five high-demand training areas include computer software, information science, media application, computer programming and data processing.

Veterans will have to apply to the VA to determine eligibility for VET TEC, and then to a VA-approved Training Provider. Once accepted into the program, veterans will train in one of the five areas of high-tech training. After completing the program, veterans will have new skills that will help them secure meaningful employment in the modern workforce.

Participation in the VET TEC program will not count against GI Bill entitlement. With just one day of unexpired entitlement left, veterans can apply to participate in VET TEC.

For more information on education benefits, the apprenticeship program and on-the-job training program, we encourage you to call our education team at 605.773.3269

Greg Whitlock, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

-30-