



## July 2024 \\\ Board of Technical Education Report

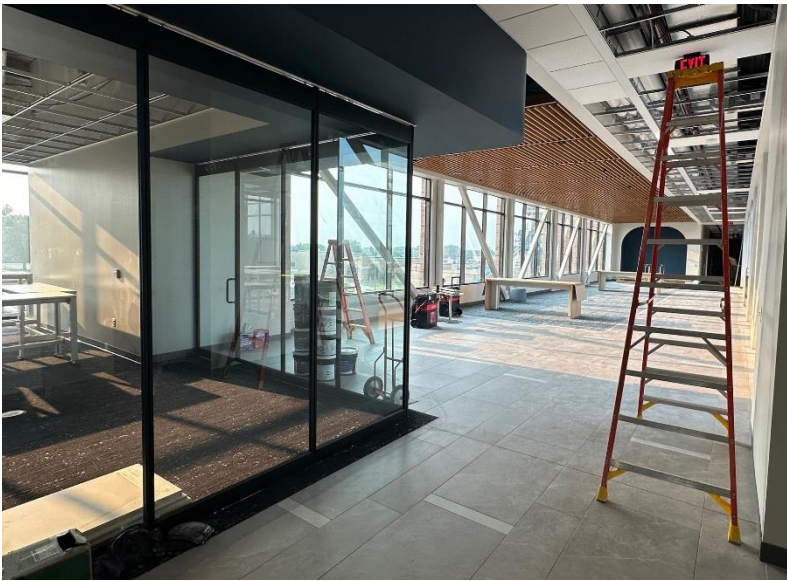
### LATC Strategic Direction

**Construction Projects Near Completion:** As the 2024-25 academic year kicks off, Lake Area Technical College (LATC) will open two new hallmark spaces that allow the campus to accept hundreds more students and for students to learn in world-class labs and classrooms.

The Dana J. Dykhouse Business Center and the Advanced Manufacturing Lab (a.k.a. “The Archway”) will be home to LATC’s Business, Financial Services, Robotics, and General Education programs. This expansion caps off the I’m IN Campaign that raised more than \$50 million for campus improvements and expansions in the last decade. The public is invited to join the LATC Community for a Ribbon Cutting and Open House on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.







Dustin Sinner, a Watertown artist, completed a mural in the new facility to showcase Lake Area Tech's history. It features all the logos and tag lines from over the years. [Watch a video](#) of Dustin's work in process online.



The Dental program facilities will be freshly remodeled, including 10 operatories, a radiography lab, a materials lab, simulation center, and classroom. The new space will be full furnished with equipment purchased with state funds through Governor Noem and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and Perkins grant funds. With the new facility and addition of the Dental Hygiene program for Fall 2025, LATC's Dental Assisting program has filled to capacity for Fall 2024.



## LATC Programs

- Lake Area Tech's **Natural Resources Management program** will move to an option within the Agriculture program in 2025-26. The following options will be available to Ag students:
  - o Agri-Business
  - o Agri-Production
  - o Commodity Merchandising
  - o Dairy
  - o General Science Dual Degree (with SDSU)
  - o Livestock Production & Management
  - o Natural Resources Management
  - o Precision Technology
- **Precision Machining on the Move:** The existing LATC Precision Machining program housed at the South Dakota Women's Prison is moving to Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. The relocated program will begin in Fall 2024. New workforce training programs for the Women's Prison are being discussed with the SD Departments of Corrections and Labor.

## LATC in the Community

**Summer Session Brings Students of All Ages to Campus:** The summer months brought a buzz of activity and learning to Lake Area Tech's campus beyond the classes and internships LATC students pursued. Hundreds of students from middle school to late career attended camps and trainings to explore career options and hone technical expertise. The photos below share a few glimpses of LATC summer activities, including the South Dakota Fire School, trainings for industry partners [like Terex](#), Drone Camp, Occupational Therapy Sensory Camp, three sessions of Dakota Dreams Camps, Titan Diesel Camp, and the TK Diesel Camp.











## Mitchell Tech's Conner Odens Takes Third at National SkillsUSA Competition

Scotland Native Impresses with Marine Technology Knowledge



## Mitchell Tech's Campus Interstate Billboards Are Set to be Updated Soon

Watch for the new vinyl panels to be installed soon as we continue to feature MTC current and graduated students and the scholarships that help them along the way.

## Mitchell Tech Admissions Have Set the Dates for Campus Events

Admissions will promote their campus events through print, website, social media, etc.



**July 2024**

Board of Technical Education  
Dr. Cory Clasemann, STC President



## **Southeast Technical College Offers Fall Start for Behavioral and Mental Health Technician Program**

Staying true to Southeast Technical College's mission to meet the workforce needs of the region, STC is adding a fall cohort for its Behavioral and Mental Health Technician program for the Fall 2024 semester.

"The community need for behavioral and mental health technicians is great, so we are expanding the opportunity to train more professionals yet this year," said Tracy Bird, STC's program director for the Behavioral and Mental Health Technician program. "Our program at STC provides students the knowledge and hands-on skills to promote holistic and evidence-based care in human services."

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/stc-offers-fall-start-for-bmht.php>

# **SOUTHEAST** Technical College

## **Graduate Outcomes Report – 41 programs with 100 Job Placement**

STC's latest Graduate Outcomes Report, published in late May, shows that 41 of Southeast Tech's academic programs had a 100 percent job placement rate. For all academic programs combined, the rate is 98 percent.

41 PROGRAMS  
**100%**  
JOB PLACEMENT RATE

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/learning-experiences-propel-students-into-jobs.php>



## **STC Awards Record Number of Build Dakota Scholarships – For the Third Year in a Row**

Southeast Technical College awarded 164 full-ride Build Dakota Scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year. A special signing ceremony and recognition event took place on campus in June. This marks the third year that STC has topped the total number of scholarships from the year before, and every scholarship has an industry sponsor. Congressman Dusty Johnson, R-S.D.; Dana Dykhouse, Build Dakota Scholarship Board, S.D. Board of Technical Education Chair, and First PREMIER CEO; and Jim Dover, President and CEO at Avera Health; spoke at the program.

[https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/build-dakota-signing-day\\_2024.php](https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/build-dakota-signing-day_2024.php)

### **EVENT PHOTOS:**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/195833788@N04/53776402120/in/album-72177720317413119>



## **Southeast Tech Partnering with SFPD for Second Year of Career Cadet Program**

Southeast Tech is partnering with the Sioux Falls Police Department for the second year of Career Cadets, an initiative designed to familiarize individuals with careers in public safety while earning college credit from veteran officers.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/southeast-tech-and-sfpd-look-for-next-group-of-career-cadets.php>



## **STC Foundation's Comprehensive Campaign on Track to Surpass Goal**

The Southeast Technical College Foundation's Campaign NEXT launched in early 2023 with a \$25 million fundraising goal. The campaign will run through 2025 and is on track to surpass its goal. Additionally, four new members began on the Foundation Board on July 1. Selene Zamorano, owner of ZBM and CEO of the South Dakota Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Steve Vlk, CEO of Marsh McLennan Agency of Sioux Falls and Fargo; Luke Tibbets, VP of Business Banking at First PREMIER Bank; and Dr. Cory Clasemann, President of Southeast Technical College.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/southeast-tech-addresses-workforce-needs-with-fundraising-campaign.php>

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/four-new-members-elected-to-stc-foundation-board.php>

## **IN THE NEWS**

- **South Dakota Focus:** What's Next For High School Graduates – Southeast Technical College was prominently featured in this piece by South Dakota Public Broadcasting exploring what high school graduates do when they graduate.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/whats-next-for-high-school-graduates.php>

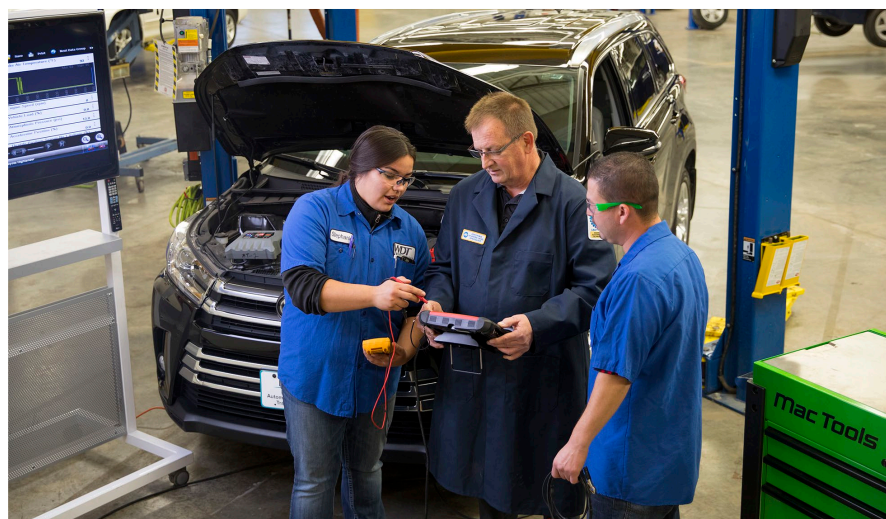
- **Three Generations Attend STC** – It's a family tradition. Meet three generations of women that all attended STC for it's hands-on education and quick entry into the workforce.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/three-generations-attend-stc.php>

- **STC Featured as 'Face of Technical Education'** – Southeast Technical College was featured as the "Face of Technical Education" in Spotlight Media's "Faces of Sioux Falls" publication, which hit mailboxes in Sioux Falls mid-July.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2024/stc-featured-as-face-of-technical-education.php>





July 2024

S.D. Board of Technical  
Education Report

Ann Bolman, Ed.D.  
WDTC President

WESTERN  
DAKOTA  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



# Learn. Do. Now

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## President's Report to the South Dakota Board of Technical Education

July 2024

Dear Board of Technical Education members:

Thank you very much for your on-going support of Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC). While the Spring Semester included an unusual number of challenges as January began, as all the pieces shook out, many have now fallen (mostly neatly) into place. Out of gratitude for all the people (including the BoTE and, of course, local WDTC board members), who helped us reach such positive outcomes, I invite you to celebrate some excellent news with us in this update. This spring has demonstrated the immense community and state support for WDTC and increased awareness of the key role technical colleges play in developing great lives for students and a robust economy for everyone.

Thank you!

Ann Bolman, Ed.D.  
President, Western Dakota Technical College  
Rapid City, S.D.



# Lawsuit with City of Rapid City Settled



City regarding the joint use of a burn tower between the RC Fire Department and WDTC. The City Council

The proactive efforts of WDTC legal counsel, State Sen. Dave Johnson, and Rapid City Mayor Jason Salamun were key in settling the disagreement between the Rapid City School District and the City of Rapid

City approved a resolution for a settlement agreement a couple of weeks ago, and we are waiting to hear back from the school district on the final wording of the agreement before it is ready to sign. This dispute originated in 2017, when the College's former state property lease location on Sedivy Road was traded rather than put up for sale, which prevented the City from purchasing the lot for fire training.

## Law Enforcement Academy Reciprocity Agreement Update



Joyce

I shared at the April BoTE meeting in Watertown that former Pennington County Sheriff, Kevin Thom, has been serving as a consultant to assist WDTC in getting back in good standing with the State Law Enforcement Academy's reciprocity agreement. I am very pleased to report our new program director,

Jonni Joyce, who has an extensive background in law enforcement and has worked for the past few years at a community college in Wyoming, has hit the ground running. (In her spare time, Jonni is a nationally renowned police dog trainer.) Joni has already met with Hank Prim and his team at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Academy to establish a collaborative relationship. We are on the Commission's Aug. 14 meeting agenda to provide the group with a full update on our program and to request reinstatement in the reciprocity agreement with the state academy. If the Commission approves the agreement, we will have no gaps in student eligibility to participate.

Our program director search committee included DCI staff and commissioners, and representatives from local and state law enforcement agencies. We appreciate their time and demonstrated commitment to WDTC's program success. Lake Area Technical College was also supportive in sharing their approach and insights. We are very grateful to everyone for their help and guidance.



## Hot Springs Practical Nursing Cohort Site Approved for Student Financial Aid

We just received word from the Department of Education that WDTC has been approved to offer federal financial aid for qualifying students enrolling at the satellite Hot Springs location. Practical Nursing students will begin enrolling there for the beginning of WDTC's Fall Semester in August. We are, again, very grateful to community members (including those from the State Veterans' Home and Fall River Hospital) in Hot Springs, and local WDTC board members, for supporting and facilitating this effort. These off-site locations give prospective students who are "place bound" because of family, work, or other community obligations, the ability to take classes close to home and work close to home when they complete the program and pass their licensure exam. The partnership opportunities for CNA's to scaffold up to the Practical Nursing program are also exceptionally strong in Hot Springs. Adding this location also expands the number of Practical Nursing seats available in WDTC's program.



# Rapid City Bus Routes Changing to Serve WDTC



service is changing to bring a line much closer to WDTC. Growth studies identify the new population center point for Rapid City as Cambell Street, which is roughly half a mile to the west of the WDTC campus, and currently the closest bus stop. Being in the heart of the city and

With much new construction happening on the east side of Rapid City, the City's bus

connected to many other locations in town with a bus service will significantly increase accessibility to WDTC. Staff at the transit office and city staff have been candid in laying out the issues with bringing a transportation line to the campus, and with lots of community and united support for change, have finally been able to get the needed resources to update the system's lines. We are told the new routes will be implemented in Fall 2024. Again, I would like to give Mayor Jason Salamun a shout-out for his support of WDTC.

## Unique Housing & Partnership Efforts Positively Impacting Student Enrollment

Over the past two years, WDTC has experienced a significant decline in enrollment, largely due to the substantial increase in pay for low-skilled jobs in Rapid City. This economic shift has made immediate employment more attractive than pursuing further education. Additionally, a severe housing shortage and high rental prices have compounded the issue, particularly affecting students who live beyond a reasonable commuting distance to the college. These factors have created a perfect storm, presenting substantial challenges to maintaining enrollment numbers at WDTC.

As I have reported previously, a housing partnership with a VRBO partner on Mt. Rushmore Rd. has assisted in filling some of the gap for over a year now, and now that the word is out about the housing option, we anticipate that space will max out this upcoming school year. This is an exciting event for us because it clearly demonstrates, for anyone who had any doubt, the need for WDTC to have affordable student housing available close to campus.

However, the tide is shifting, and we now are highly optimistic that we hit the low and are on the upward trend again. First, Spring Semester enrollment came in stronger than we anticipated, and Summer Semester enrollment exceeded expectations, as well. In addition, a fantastic partnership with Rapid City Area Schools' CTE programs has provided unprecedented collaborations between the schools and WDTC. We are grateful to District leadership for this collegiality and look forward to increasing opportunities for great paying careers for traditional-aged residents of Rapid City who might not be able to afford living away from home. High school staff have been welcoming and gracious in inviting WDTC to their campuses. We were also able to take this

innovative partnership to school districts outside Rapid City and anticipate increased numbers of young people deciding to take the two-year career-focused options as they hear from their friends and relatives about the success they have experienced at WDTC.

Two years ago, staff from a variety of WDTC departments kicked off a Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, and, since that time, several major process improvements have been implemented. Everything from new software to new attitudes about how and when to offer programming have been the flavor of these two years as we have held tight through all the bumps in the road experienced during implementation. Using these new tools, we now see that we will meet or exceed enrollment targets set for the Fall Semester. We also have a highly trained trio in Financial Aid, who have not only smoothly managed issues with the new FAFSA, but also have handled new Veteran financial planning requirements and entered into an agreement with 2nd Chance Pell with the State Department of Corrections and the Department of Labor to allow incarcerated individuals to attend classes at WDTC.

WDTC's innovative approach to "prison education programs" has been recognized by VERA, the HLC, and AACC and is being touted nationally as a model for other colleges to consider. We look forward to supporting a much broader community of learners and stand in support of efforts in Pennington County to bring additional reforms into play locally through providing the ability for city and county prisoners to receive micro credentials in a variety of both soft skills and job skills.



# A Great Day for On-Campus Student Housing at WDTC



I reported at a recent BoTE meeting on WDTC's being selected as part of the Metallica Scholars Cohort. Wow! We thought the \$100,000 for direct support of students was amazing, but that was only the beginning. This new relationship with AACC (American Association of Community Colleges) and Metallica's All Within Our Hands Foundation has led to additional grants to support direct aid to students from the Lowe's Foundation and Carhartt. That, combined with solid support from the WDT Foundation Board led to an additional amazing adventure with a potential P3 agreement with Loop Capital. This investment and real estate company based in Chicago connected with the Metallica Scholars initiative to identify two-year colleges interested in a P3 partnership for student housing. WDTC quickly rose to the top of the list with architectural plans, support from HEFA, and rezoning and platting processes progressing well through municipality approvals. WDTC has nearly completed the platting process, and we have lots of ideas, based on extensive research and discussions

with our sister colleges, about what will work financially for students in Rapid City.

Three representatives from Loop Capital and a staff member from AACC conducted an extensive site visit at WDTC during the first week of June. They had done their homework before arriving and were blown away by WDTC's commitment to a diverse student population, program performance and national recognitions. Thank you, Kay Schallenkamp, for taking time out of your schedule to attend the community meeting with Loop Capital. In addition to Kay, several local elected officials, local board and foundation board members, Elevate Rapid City staffers, and representatives from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation attended the meeting to demonstrate support for WDTC's efforts to build on-campus student housing. It was fantastic to hear about the possible partnerships and interest in on-campus student housing. (Mayor Salamun was on hand at the Camp Drive Event held at Black Hills Tire to greet the site visitors, who also participated in some community events while they were in town.)



# Record Breaking Number of WDTC Build Dakota Scholarship Recipients and Industry Partners

WDTC has broken our own record for the second year in a row for Build Dakota industry sponsors and student scholarship recipients, many of whom live in the off-campus WDTC housing with our VRBO partner. Our scholarship team has excelled in acquiring partner support both for Build Dakota and local WDTC scholarship programming.

Note:

- There are 140 Build Dakota Cohort 10 recipients.
- 97 of the 140 recipients are sponsored by industry. (\$884,000 in support.)
- There is \$2.7 million in anticipated Build Dakota scholarship awards.

Students receiving Build Dakota Scholarships, and sponsors, were recognized in a special ceremony at the college on June 27. This, the second year for the popular event, is similar a student sports signing day.



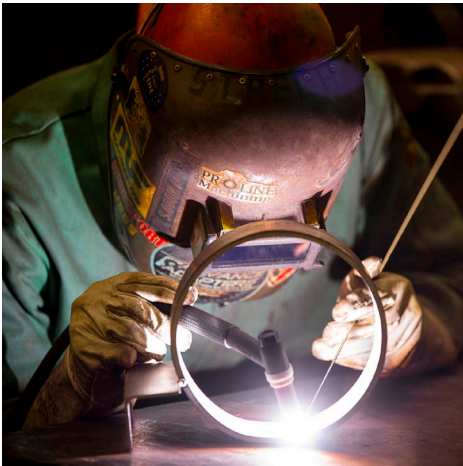
# Student Retention Back in the Black



After a thorough review of factors influencing the past couple of years’ retention dips, WDTC is back on track and training new staff in the Success Center. Many of you likely remember that the John T. Vucurevich Foundation provided WDTC with six years of “seed money” for the coaching program, and the trust this Foundation extended to us and our early successes because of their support gives us a sense of obligation to get back on track with best practices and proven strategies. We are very happy to see an increase in Fall to Spring Semester retention back up at 76%, improving from 69% the previous year. This data is based on our internal cohort retention model, which is also broken out by program for faculty to review each year through our planning

processes, so it looks different from the state retention reports.)

In addition to this shift to get back to the methods that our data demonstrates work, WDTC has also added some new methods to support our residential students currently off campus, but soon on campus at WDTC: a staff member to assist students with transportation around town when needed, and, student activities both on campus and for students in our off-campus housing. Finally, we were inspired by Lake Area Tech’s movement to join the NJCAA by adding Esports, and we plan to do likewise. Perhaps students will experience some fun, in-state technical college competition!



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