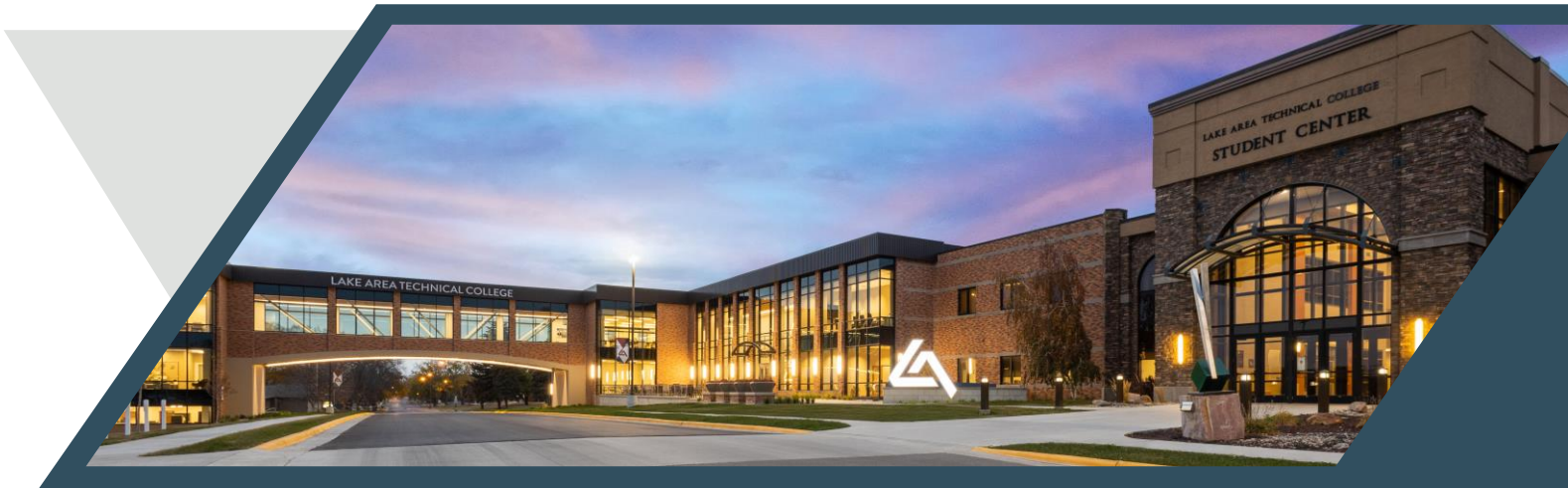




LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Sanford Health Gift Completes LATC Surgical Technology Learning Center

A new partnership between Lake Area Technical College (LATC) and Sanford Health will bring state-of-the-art equipment to the school's Surgical Technology program.

Sanford Health announced its \$500,000 investment during the 2025 Governor's Luncheon at LATC. As a Cornerstone Partner, Sanford Health's gift will provide necessary match to maximize equipment grants appropriated by the South Dakota Legislature during its most recent session.

LATC launched its Surgical Technology program in 2023, and it has since attracted strong and growing student interest. The new learning center is scheduled to open in August 2025.



2035 Lake Area Tech Master Campus Plan Released

In April, Lake Area Technical College released it's 2035 Master Campus Plan, the culmination of five months of stakeholder engagement. The plan is designed with three broad goals in mind:

1. **Grow the number of LATC graduates** each year to at least 1,015. This will require adding approximately 730 more students to campus than are enrolled in 2024-25.
2. **Improve programs and facilities to aid in recruitment and retention** of both students and faculty/staff.
3. **Carry forward the momentum** on Lake Area Tech's campus.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK



1) Quality Across the Board

Reinforce program identity across campus through quality learning environments that advance faculty, staff, and student success.



2) Campus Connectivity

Improve connectivity across campus – including social, programmatic, and physical connections – to foster relationships and strengthen LATC's sense of community.



3) Bold Future Mindset

Make visionary moves that set LATC up for success well into the future, being mindful of flexibility and adaptability in new facilities.



4) Resource Stewardship

Promote efficient and flexible use of existing campus spaces and resources.



5) Mission and Vision Alignment

Invest in facilities to continue the legacy of a premier technical education campus. Make available the tools and spaces necessary for programs, faculty/staff, and students to thrive, thus improving recruitment and retention.



These goals can be accomplished through seven key efforts:

Phased Projects

1. Cold Storage & Student Center Updates
2. Public Safety Training Center
3. Program Hubs
4. Construction Trades Center
5. Improved Campus Edges, Entrances & Parking

Independent Projects

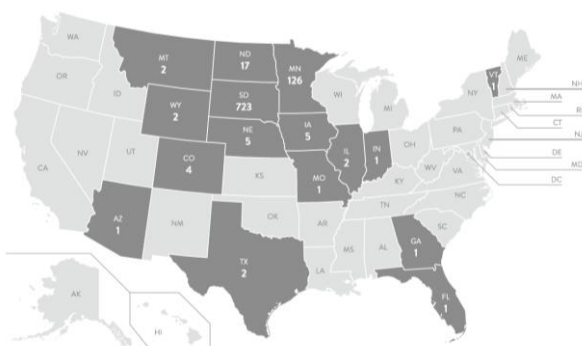
1. Aviation Center
2. Student Housing Partnerships

GRAD FEST \\\ 58th COMMENCEMENT



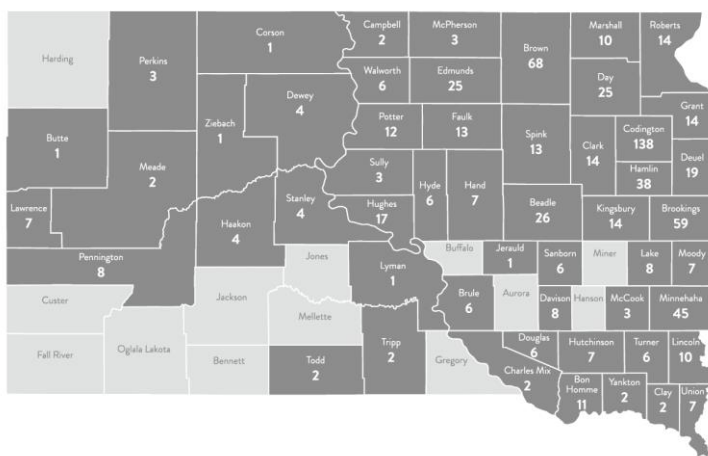
Lake Area Tech's 2025 graduation was a two-day celebration, May 15th and 16th. Grad Fest kicked off the festivities with a parade featuring all of LATC's technical programs. On campus, there was food, family-friendly games, and a live performance from the legendary Johnny Holm Band. Students and staff, alumni, and the public participated.

Also on Thursday evening, Native American graduates were honored with eagle feathers for their graduation caps, recognizing their academic accomplishments. Graduation events culminated with the college's 58th commencement ceremony on Friday, May 16th. Nearly 900 graduates were awarded credentials.



Class of 2025 by the Numbers:

- 81% from SD, 19% from 15 other states
- South Dakota students represented 166 communities in 53 of our 66 counties.
- 70% worked while they were at LATC. Nearly 40% of them worked for 20 or more hours per week.
- 15 grads were veterans; 87 were military-connected
- 21% were the first to earn a college degree in their family



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMPUS

2025 Governor's Lunch Raises Funds for Scholarships

LATC was honored to welcome South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden to campus in April for the 23rd Annual Governor's Luncheon. Each year, the event brings together business partners and community members to raise funds for student scholarships.



Robot Games

The Robotics program hosted their annual Robot Games on campus in late April. Students are challenged each spring to build robots to perform certain tasks. This year's challenges were all carnival themed. More than 300 middle and high school students came to cheer on the robots and visited programs in advanced manufacturing.



4th Graders & Sloppy Joes

Early in 2025, two Watertown 4th graders wrote to the superintendent, petitioning the district to bring sloppy joes back to the lunch menu. The boys won their case and, as a reward, had a chance to spend the morning with their classmates at Lake Area Tech. They chose to see the Aviation and Drone, Dental, and Robotics programs. The finale to their visit was a sloppy joe lunch in Market 65.

Junior Tech Day

After being postponed from an April Fools blizzard, nearly 300 Juniors came to campus to check out their collegiate options and connect with faculty and staff.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMPUS

Aviation Fly-In

The LATC Aviation programs hosted their annual fly-in on May 3rd. Three dozen planes, from World War II era to modern kits, came from throughout the upper Midwest. Students cooked up pancakes, eggs, and sausage, feeding more than 250 community members.



Show & Shine



The LATC Auto Body & Paint Program hosted a Show & Shine in early May to show off student work from throughout the year. Auto enthusiasts from the Watertown area added vintage and restored cars to the lineup as well, totaling 106 entries.

LATC Student Voice Delivers Gratitude Wagons

In April, LATC's Student Voice put together floral arrangements and delivered gratitude wagons to business partners who provided match for recent equipment grants the college received. The wagons were made by Welding students and engraved by the Robotics program.



MTC Welcomes Sixth President

With decades of progress and a strong national reputation to uphold, Mitchell Technical College embarked on an extensive search for a new president.

The Mitchell School District Board of Education and the South Dakota Board of Technical Education were seeking an experienced, visionary leader to help MTC continue down its path of success. They formed a search committee composed of six individuals associated with the Mitchell School District, Mitchell Technical College and the South Dakota Board of Technical Education to find the school's next top leader.

The right person for the job was there all along.

In late April, Theresa Kriese was officially announced as MTC's sixth president. Kriese served as the interim president at MTC and was more than ready to step into the role.

"I am honored to accept this position," Kriese said. "There is so much excitement and momentum on the campus of Mitchell Tech, and I am grateful to the search committee for allowing me the opportunity to build on that momentum for the future."

The long-time Mitchell resident has extensive experience in higher education administration, serving as the business manager for the Mitchell School District for the past two years. Prior to that,



Theresa Kriese
Mitchell Technical College President

she was an integral part of Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, serving as the executive vice president/CFO, interim president and chief financial officer, and vice president for business and advancement.

Her resume also includes time at Mitchell Tech, where she was vice president for administrative services from 1994-2007, and, most recently, interim president.

During her tenure at DWU, Kriese managed the construction of five new facilities and several administrative areas, including business operations, institutional

advancement, information technology, enrollment and admissions, new program development, human resources, athletics, and auxiliary operations. Her extensive background in financial management, strategic planning, and fostering positive community relationships helped her stand out in a strong field of potential candidates.

In addition to her professional credentials, Kriese is also an active member of the community, generously giving her time and energy on several boards and committees, as well as local non-profits and volunteer organizations.

Kriese and her husband, Rick, are the parents of two children and have four grandchildren.

MTC Sends Two Teams to the College Lineman Rodeo



Eight Mitchell Tech power line students traveled to Alpena, Michigan, in April to compete in the 2025 College Lineman Rodeo. The students utilized the knowledge and skills learned in MTC's nine-month program to test themselves against power line students from across the country.

Each contestant strapped on climbing spikes, safety belts, and hard hats to complete events based on traditional lineman tasks, such as Cross-Arm Changeout, Obstacle Climb, and Framing a C-1 Structure. All three are timed events and were judged for accuracy, speed, knowledge, following proper procedures, and incorporating safety requirements.

The students also tested their classroom skills with a written Lineman Knowledge Exam.

MTC Power Line instructor Mike Puetz accompanied the students and was impressed by both their individual and team efforts.

"This is a chance for our power line students to cap off the program in a fun and competitive environment," said Puetz. "The rodeo helps them gain confidence and realize they have what it takes to be successful in this industry."

Mitchell Tech students were divided into two teams.



Students in tan represented Team Two, (l-r) Britt Carlson, Kade Odens, Holden Lottman, and Colton Ruether.

Team Two Results:

Cross-arm Changeout 3rd (Team)

C-1 Framing 1st (Britt Carlson)



In addition to the Power Line Rodeo opportunity, power line students wrapped up the year with an annual night climb, designed to test their skills, endurance, and teamwork in the dark. The night climb was held in April, and the future line workers handled the milestone project like professionals.



Students in black represented Team One, (l-r) Chapin Cooper, Jack Anderson, Vander Sage, and Jaxon Fulton.

Team One Results:

- C-1 Framing 1st (Team)
- C-1 Framing 3rd (Jack Anderson)
- Cross-arm Changeout 2nd (Chapin Cooper)

MTC Graduation Provides Opportunities



Five hundred and thirty-three graduates received diplomas and degrees from Mitchell Technical College on May 9, launching them into fields ranging from diesel mechanics to medical assistants. Thanks to nationally recognized programs and a reputation for quality students, many of the graduates already had jobs waiting for them, a testament to MTC's 99% job placement rate.

The ceremony marked the fifty-seventh commencement since the school was established in 1968. Since that time, Mitchell Tech has moved from a single building to a modern campus on the south side of Mitchell. Students have access to five state-of-the-art learning facilities, leading technology, hands-on experiences, and beautiful, accessible spaces for all, with exciting plans for the future.

The Class of 2025 included dozens of Build Dakota students, who received full-ride scholarships in exchange for their commitment to live and work in South Dakota for three years after graduation. The program continues to grow at MTC, helping boost South Dakota's workforce in high-need industries and retain local talent.

"Build Dakota is such an incredible opportunity for both students and employers," said Theresa Kriese, President of Mitchell Technical College. "The program funnels skilled graduates into some of our state's most important industries. We are grateful to the business partners who make it possible for so many of our students to graduate debt-free."

Mitchell Tech hosts three commencement ceremonies each year, dividing up graduates by divisions and programs to accommodate each graduating student's family and friends wanting to attend the ceremony in the Corn Palace. The ceremonies featured student commencement speakers, words from Student Representative Board members, Spirit of MTC Awards (awarded to one graduating student from each program, selected by their program instructors), and the conferring of diplomas and degrees.



Open House Boasts Progress at Mitchell Tech



Mitchell Technical College alumni, business partners, and community members who hadn't been on campus recently, were introduced to some impressive new changes and innovations during MTC's recent Open House. The event, held on the evening of May 13, allowed the general public to tour the campus, explore the classrooms and labs, meet the new college president, and learn about future construction projects.

The tour included many first-time visitors to the new Diesel Power Lab, which was completed last spring. The building was annexed onto the northeast corner of the Nordby Trades Center and features over 36,000 feet of space.

Theresa Kriese welcomed people to the event in her new role as MTC President.

"My favorite part of the open house was showing off this incredible campus and seeing how impressed people are by all we have to offer," said Kriese. "Mitchell Tech is one of the best technical colleges in the nation, which is such a benefit to our community."



Attendees also had a chance to hear about exciting plans for the Energy Center expansion project. A new 34,000 square foot underground lab will allow students to complete dig exercises indoors during the winter months. The second phase of construction will add 14,000 square feet of space dedicated to Electrical Utilities and Substation Technology labs and classrooms.

Connect, Celebrate, and Remember!

The Mitchell Tech Scholarship Luncheons are special events organized by the Mitchell Tech Foundation, to facilitate connections between scholarship donors and recipients. The luncheons aim to provide donors with an opportunity to meet the students benefiting from their generosity. These events take place in the Oak Room, a venue located on the Mitchell Tech campus.

During the luncheons, gourmet meals are served, prepared by students in the Culinary Academy of South Dakota program. The Scholarship Luncheons serve as a platform to foster personal connections between the donors and the students. These luncheons not only acknowledge the generosity of the donors but also create a sense of community and support among the Mitchell Tech scholarship recipients. The events help strengthen the bond between the institution, its students, and its benefactors, promoting a culture of giving and investment in education.





May 2025

Board of Technical Education
Dr. Cory Clasemann, STC President



STC Students, Staff Break Community Service Records

Volunteers Work with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to Build 86 Beds for Children in Need

As part of Southeast Tech's semi-annual Service to Community (STC) Days, 367 student, faculty and staff volunteers partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build 86 beds for area children in need. The event was both STC's single largest community service event in terms of volunteers, as well as the Sioux Falls chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace's largest bed building event to date.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/stc-day-sleep-in-heavenly-peace.php>

Annual Plant Sale

STC's Horticulture program held its annual plant sale April 30-May 1, and exceeded its previous sales record, set in 2024. Horticulture students chose the plants to grow and sell at the sale, and the money raised goes back into the program. This year, the sale included perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs, succulents and hanging baskets.

Prior to the sale, the event was featured on Kelo: <https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/plant-sale-featured-on-kelo.php>

Healthcare Students Participate in Crisis Simulation

Students from multiple healthcare programs teamed up with the Sioux Falls School District Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy and area emergency responders for a full-scale emergency response drill simulating real-world disasters like tornadoes, plane crashes and bus collisions.

The STC Healthcare Simulation Center was used as a “hospital” to treat patients, and students from Nursing, EMT, Behavioral and Mental Health Technician, Surgical Technology and Invasive Cardiovascular Technology programs were able to apply the skills they are learning in a high-pressure, collaborative environment.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/healthcare-students-participate-crisis-simulation.php>

STC Students Present Metal Flags to First Responders

Students in the Collision and Welding programs created metal American flags and presented them to area first responders at a ceremony in April. Welding students cut the patterns and grinded down rough edges, then turned the metal over to the Collision department, where the flags were given a professional-quality paint job. Each flag had one stripe painted a unique color, representing the agency that received the flag.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/students-present-metal-flags-to-first-responders.php>



STC Gearing up for Summer Career Academies

This summer, STC is offering two dual credit earning opportunities for high school students at the Horticulture Career Academy and the Construction Career Academy. Each program offers accepted students the opportunity to earn college credit and a paycheck, learning their trade from experienced industry professionals. The academies begin May 27.

Southeast Tech Earns Military Friendly Designation

Southeast Technical College earned the Silver 2025-2026 Military Friendly® School designation. Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2025-2026 survey with 830 earning special awards for going above the standard.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/military-friendly-2025.php>



STC Hosts De-Stress Fest

Student Event Held Prior to Finals Week

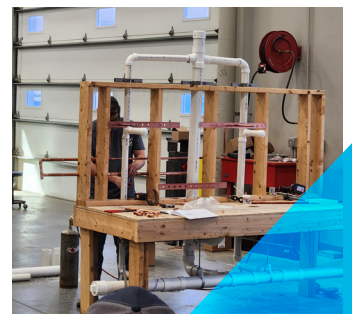
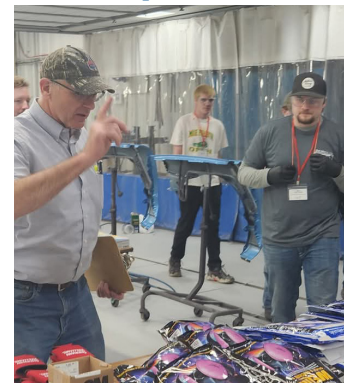
STC's Academic Resource Center (ARC), Student Government Association (SGA), Horticulture program, Gaming Club and Student Activities held De-Stress Fest, an event for students to unwind, de-stress, and gear up for the end of the semester. About 90 students participated in the event, which featured therapy dogs, yoga, games, plants, coloring, puzzles, food and door prizes.

STC Students Earn Three Gold Metals at State SkillsUSA Competition

Group Headed to National Competition in Georgia in June

Southeast Technical College students earned 10 metals at the 2025 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference in Mitchell in April. STC sent 20 students to compete in seven areas. Among the 10 metals, three were gold metals, and those students will go on to the national competition in Atlanta in June.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/state-skillsusa-winners.php>



STC's Community Health Worker Program Earns Certification

Southeast Technical College's Community Health Worker (CHW) program has earned certification through the Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota (CHWSD) and the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH), reinforcing its high-quality training, workforce readiness and positioning STC as a leader in CHW education.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/chw-earns-certification.php>

STC Hosts 20th Annual Women in Science Event

Nearly 930 middle school girls and their teachers were at STC in March at the 20th annual Women in Science Conference, an event designed to promote a positive image and stimulate interest in science and technology careers for young women, who are historically underrepresented in science and math-related fields.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/stc-hosts-20th-women-in-science.php>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

- **Love for Cars Sparks Journey into Automotive Industry**

STC student William Knippling of Huron honors his grandpa's legacy, pursues passion for automotive technology with Build Dakota scholarship and job sponsorship at Olympic Motors.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/love-for-cars-sparks-students-journey.php>

- **Mother of Five Pursues Nursing Dreams at Southeast Tech**

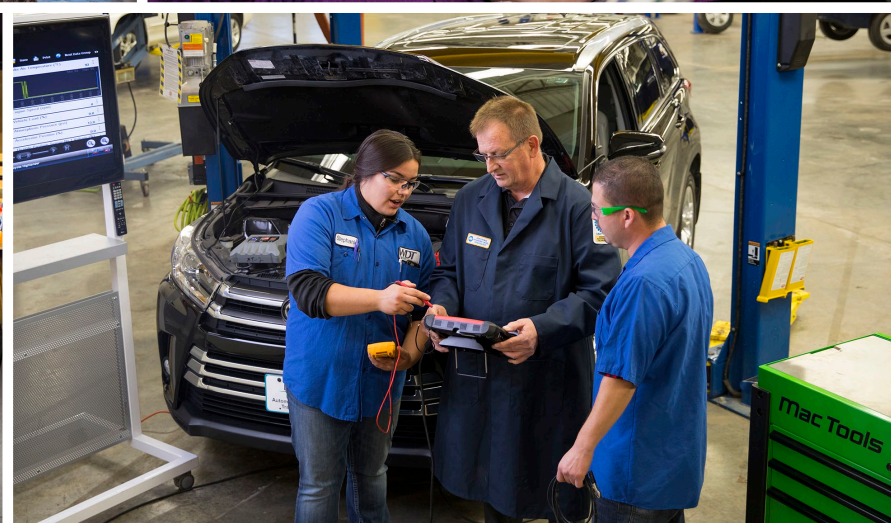
Ashley Krull was 10 years old when she decided to become a nurse. Her interest was sparked when the Luverne, Minn., native helped her grandfather recover from knee replacement surgery. Ashley landed her first job as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) when she was 18 and planned to go to nursing school that fall, but she put school on hold when her life took a different path.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/student-spotlight-ashley-krull.php>

- **From Intern to 20-Year Employee: How Starting Young has led to Tech Talent Success**

Nick Bukrey was beginning his education at Southeast Technical College, which he chose to get "running and off to the races." He would go on to earn degrees in system administration and network administration but knew he also needed firsthand IT experience to determine what he liked and didn't like.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/from-intern-to-20-year-employee.php>



May 2025

S.D. Board of Technical
Education Report

Steve Willard, Ed.D.

WDTC Acting President

WESTERN
DAKOTA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

WDTC Sweeps American Technical Education Association National Awards



Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) is honored to announce the college won in all American Technical Education Association (ATEA) national award categories for 2025!



Christina Zweber | Instructor of the Year
Practical Nursing



Gary Gregson | Innovation in Technical Education
Dining Services Coordinator



Registered Nursing | Program of the Year



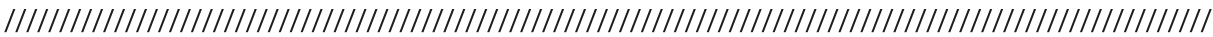
Dawson Johnson | Student of the Year
Medical Laboratory Technician
Student



Black Hills Information Security | Silver Star Award

Graduates Celebrated During WDTC's 57th Commencement Ceremony

Western Dakota Technical College's (WDTC) 57th Commencement Ceremony took place, at The Monument Ice Arena, on May 17. The celebration was attended by a large audience of enthusiastic family and friends, honoring the achievements of the Class of 2025. The Commencement Address was provided by Kumar Veluswamy, Director of Facilities and Construction at Dream Design International. WDTC takes immense pride in this year's more than 300 graduates and eagerly anticipates their promising futures ahead.



Top Students Acknowledged at Outstanding Graduates Banquet



On May 9, Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) hosted its annual Outstanding Graduates Banquet to honor at least one exceptional student from each participating academic program. (Larger programs can select two students.) The annual event has taken place since 2002, bringing together students, faculty, families and loved ones to celebrate academic excellence. This year, 22 students were recognized for their achievements. Justin Jutting, WDTC's Autonomous Equipment Technician Program Director and an Assessment Coordinator, as well as a WDTC graduate, delivered the keynote address.

College Hosts Nurse Pinning Ceremonies for Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing Grads

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) continues to contribute to the great need for more nurses. Thirty-one Practical Nursing (PN) graduates, and 23 Registered Nursing (RN) graduates, received pins upon their graduation from the college during special ceremonies on May 15. The first cohort of students from the Hot Springs satellite campus was pinned during the ceremony. Roger Habermann, Assistant Director of Simulation, spoke at the PN ceremony along with students from Rapid City, Whitewood, and Hot Springs. Holly Knox, Monument Health Patient Relations Coach, along with a RN student representative, spoke at the RN ceremony. Awards were also presented to PN and RN outstanding graduates.



Law Enforcement Technology Graduates Recognized in Special Ceremony



On May 16, Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) hosted the Law Enforcement Technology Graduate Recognition Ceremony to recognize six graduates and present awards to three students. SSA Hank Prim, Law Enforcement Training Administrator, provided remarks and the Honorable Heidi Linngren, 7th Judicial Circuit Judge, was the keynote speaker.

Native American Graduates Honored During Ceremony



Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) hosted its Native American Honoring Ceremony on May 16 to recognize graduating Native American students. This annual event has been a tradition at the college for nearly 30 years. Pastor Jonathan Old Horse was the guest speaker. Eighteen students participated in this year's ceremony.

WDTC Students Excel at Statewide SkillsUSA Competition

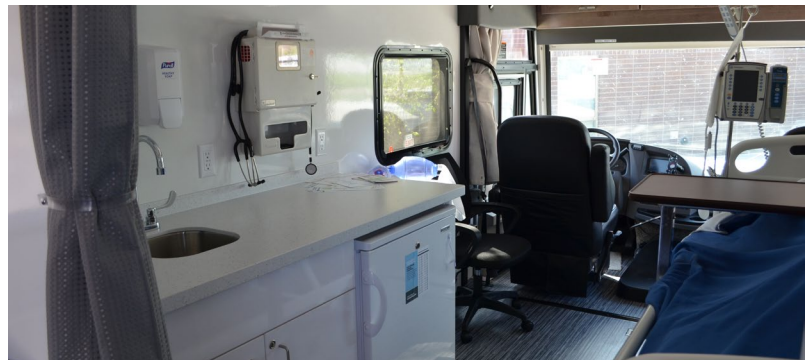
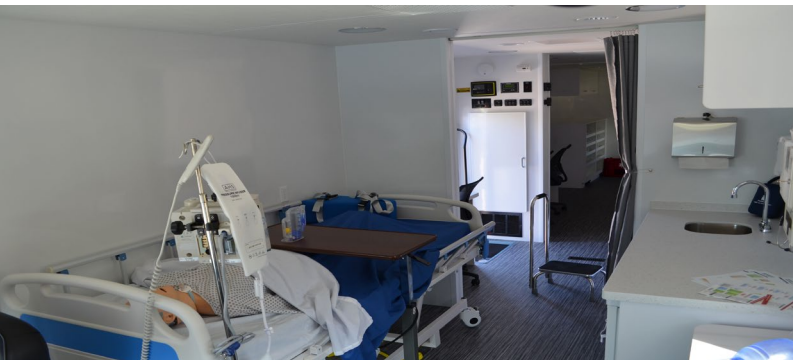
Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) students showcased their outstanding career and technical skills at the SkillsUSA South Dakota Skills Championships, April 10–11, in Mitchell. Competing against peers from Lake Area Technical College, Mitchell Technical College, and Southeast Technical College, WDTC students earned top honors—placing in 11 different events and earning an impressive 19 event medals.



- Architectural Drafting 1st place: Tia Guptill.
- Automotive Service Technology 1st place: Vincent Hawkins; and 3rd place: Rylan Silbernagel.
- Cybersecurity 1st place: Team A: Haley Erickson, Kjersten Kennedy; and 2nd place: Team B: Casey Clarke, Marshal Haag.
- Internetworking 3rd place: Haley Erickson.
- Information Technology Services 1st place: Anthony Kost; 2nd place: Scott Valentine; and 3rd place: Caitlin Katen.
- HVAC-R 1st place: Trigg Laplante; and 3rd place: Cash Hinzman.
- Plumbing 2nd place: Tyler Hopkins.
- Technical Drafting 1st place: Ethan Eliason; and 2nd place: Marvin Mohammed.
- Welding Individual 1st place: Ayseluna Hockenbary; and 2nd place: Loman Hanson.
- Welding Sculpture 1st place: Ayseluna Hockenbary; and 2nd place: Loman Hanson.
- Welding Fabrication Team W 2nd place: Collin McCracken, Jett Nix, Christian Green.

The WDTC SkillsUSA SD medal recipients were honored during a recognition event at the college on May 1. SkillsUSA SD competition gold medal winners qualify to compete in the national SkillsUSA Championships, June 23-27, in Atlanta, Ga.

Rural Healthcare Training Expansion Made Possible by WDTC's New Mobile Simulation Unit



Thanks to an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant focused on rural healthcare training, Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) has recently acquired a Mobile Simulation Unit. This state-of-the-art unit allows us to deliver high-fidelity, hands-on training directly to nursing students located in remote areas—bringing essential skills and experiences to those who might otherwise face barriers due to distance.

Beyond serving WDTC students, the Mobile Simulation Unit will support regional outreach. WDTC is excited to partner with area high schools to offer engaging, hands-on healthcare activities for students exploring careers in the medical field.

Additionally, the unit is available for hire by healthcare providers and employers looking to train their staff on-site. In rural South Dakota, ambulance services and small hospitals often can't afford to send staff away for a full day of training. With this mobile unit, WDTC can bring the training to them, helping ensure high-quality, accessible professional development without the disruption of travel.

This resource allows WDTC to extend realistic, industry-standard simulation experiences across the region—regardless of proximity to Rapid City—supporting both education and workforce readiness in rural healthcare.

800 Mickelson Dr. • Rapid City, SD 57703