SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY

Lake Area Technical College

Substantive Program Application

Associate of Applied Science

Radiologic Technology

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness ("Committee") met on 7/9/2026 to consider the merits of the above application. After review, the Committee makes the following action recommendation to the Board of Technical Education:

☒ Approval
☐ Disapproval
☐ Deferral
☐ Other:

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Institution	Lake Area Technical College
Program Identifier Code (If applicable)	
Program Title	Radiologic Technology
Program Award Level: Check all that apply	☐ Short-Term Certificate ☐ Long-Term Certificate ☐ Diploma ☒ Associate of Applied Science
CIP Code (6 Digit)	51.0911
Projected Implementation Date	8/23/2027
Location	☒ Main Campus ☐ Other:

SUMMARY

Type of Substantive Change	☒ New Program (B.1.1) ☐ Significant Curriculum Modification (B.1.2) ☐ Other:

Describe the change the institution is seeking approval of.

Lake Area Technical College (LATC) is seeking approval to establish an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Radiologic Technology to address workforce needs for medical imaging professionals. Radiologic Technologists serve as a vital part of the imaging teams in hospitals and clinics which are currently in short throughout South Dakota, particularly in rural facilities.

Radiologic Technologists are trained to use specific techniques of capturing images using X-rays. Radiographers, also known as radiologic technologists or X-ray technologists, are healthcare professionals trained in operating X-ray machines and positioning patients to obtain high-quality images. They work under the supervision of radiologists or other physicians and are responsible for obtaining the necessary images requested by the referring physician.

The program is designed in-line with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (https://www.jrcert.org/jrcert-standards) Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography. The standards are designed to promote academic excellence, patient safety, and quality healthcare. Upon graduation from a JRCERT accredited program, Radiologic Technologists can sit for licensure by taking the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) exam to become fully certified for employment.

Industry demand is driving this proposal. Expert testimony, employment numbers, and wage data reveal that the typical geographical area in which LATC serves has a critical shortage of permanent radiography technicians. Several rural health care hospitals and clinics are unable to procure enough imaging professionals to meet their existing needs, let alone the projected demands as they focus on timely responses and diagnostic services close to home. As a result, another training program in a strategic location is needed.

The healthcare industry is experiencing ongoing changes to imaging protocols in rural settings; these challenges have been brought to LATC frequently and consistently over the last two years from providers in northeast South Dakota, central South Dakota, western Minnesota, and southeastern North Dakota. Though Mitchell Technical College and Western Dakota Technical College have expanded and added programs respectively, LATC's partners report that workforce demand continues to outpace supply. LATC is positioned to help address this gap by launching a Radiologic Technology (Rad Tech) program with a dual focus on student affordability and financial sustainability for Lake Area Tech. Early career wage expectations for graduates range from $48,000 - $55,000; the program target cost will be approximately $24,000. Considering these projections, LATC expects that graduates will earn back the cost of their degree in less than six months.

Lake Area Technical College Radiologic Technologist Program Details:

1. **Credential:** Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Radiologic Technology
2. **Program Length:** 5 semesters
3. **Proposed Start:** Fall 2027 or Fall 2028
4. **Initial Cohort:** 14 students
5. **Planned Growth:** 28 students
6. **Faculty Ratio:** 14:1 *(JRCERT Standards)*
7. **Estimated total cost to students:** $24,000
8. **Rad Tech Median Wage:** $64,392 *(Lightcast, LATC 26-county area, March 2026).*
   Top earners in the rad tech profession earn nearly $80,000 per year. Experience, shift differentials, and workers' specific certifications heavily impact earnings. With the foundational Rad Tech degree, professionals are poised to add credentials for specialized imaging modalities such as MRI, CT Scan, PET Scans, Mammography, and advanced ultrasound techniques.

CRITERION 1: MISSION

The program aligns with the system's mission and strategic priorities.

1.1. The program aligns with the system's mission of preparing a technically skilled workforce prepared to serve the state of South Dakota and its regions.
1.2. The program aligns with the system's strategic priorities.

1.1. Describe how the proposed program aligns with the system's mission.

The mission of Lake Area Technical College, as part of the South Dakota Technical College System, is to provide superior, comprehensive technical education that changes lives and launches careers. The structure of LATC's proposed Radiologic Technology program ensures that students can complete an AAS degree, aligned with industry expectations, at a price point that returns high value to graduates.

The new program will align with regional healthcare providers' expectations and employment prospects while and training skilled professionals to operate imaging services, particularly for the high need in rural areas. This approach supports patients who may need more timely and local care. Focusing on healthcare outcomes of community service, patient safety, and academic excellence, the addition of the Radiologic Technology program at LATC will further enhance the healthcare offerings on campus.

CRITERION 2: DEMAND

The program leads to meaningful employment, adequate student enrollment, and/or fulfills needs not being met by existing education and training providers.

2.1. The program leads to high-wage occupations that have an average/mean wage greater than the median wage across all occupations.
2.2. The program leads to high-demand occupations that have project annual openings (a measure of demand for workers) greater than the average across all occupations or is shown as an economic and/or labor market emerging field for the state of South Dakota and its regions.
2.3. The program's student enrollment is adequate to justify program existence.
2.4. The program fulfills a demand not being met by existing education and training providers in the region and/or state.

2.1. Describe the wage projections for occupations associated with the proposed program by completing Appendix 2.A.

2.2. Describe the demand projections for occupations associated with the proposed program.

A. Complete Appendix 2.A.

B. If an emerging field for the state of South Dakota, describe the field. Letter(s) of support, detailing demand, should be attached as appendices.

Radiologic Technology is not an emerging field in South Dakota. However, the present capacity in Rad Tech programs in the state does not meet the growing industry demand, causing healthcare providers to rely on traveling services and to delay patients' access to care. All current and projected data reveals a significant shortage of Radiological Technologists across the state and neighboring regional healthcare centers.

2.3. Describe projected student enrollment for the proposed program by completing Appendix 2.B.

2.4. Describe how the proposed program fulfills a demand not being met by existing education and training providers in the region and/or state.

1. Identify closely related program(s) that currently exist at other public higher education institutions in the system or state. If none, write "None."

The following list summarizes the various Radiologic Technology programs in South Dakota:

- **Technical College AAS Degree Programs:**
  - Mitchell Technical College (Mitchell): Radiologic Technology
  - Western Dakota Technical College (Rapid City): Radiologic Technology
- **Hospital-Based Certificate Programs:**
  - Avera McKennan School of Radiologic Technology (Sioux Falls)
  - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital School of Radiologic Technology (Yankton)
  - Sanford Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology (Sioux Falls)

- **University Degree Programs:**
  - University of South Dakota (Vermillion): Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Sciences with a Radiologic Technology specialization (2 years at USD + 2 years in a hospital program).
  - University of Sioux Falls (Sioux Falls): Offers both Associate of Arts (AA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) in Radiologic Technology.

2. If applicable: Describe the ways in which the demand is not currently being met by the aforementioned program(s) and provide justification as to why the program should be approved by addressing the following conditions that warrant duplication (BP 303.2). Select all that apply.

☒ Unmet Demand (C.5.1.1)
☒ Industry Partnership (C.5.1.2)
☒ Increases Student Access (C.5.1.3)
☐ Other:

I. For each condition selected above, provide a brief justification.

Unmet Demand:

Across 2024 and 2025, members representing the healthcare industry on the Lake Area Technical College Strategic Advisory Council, the Foundation Board, and the Nursing program's Advisory Board articulated a growing concern regarding facilities' needs for Radiologic Technologists in hospitals and clinics, notably acute in rural healthcare centers. These healthcare administrators consistently shared examples of delayed scheduling for patients close to home; a large reliance on costly, traveling Rad Techs; and patients being required to travel for needed, often urgent, services and diagnosis. These challenges have impacted patient care and costs and were referred to resoundingly by the healthcare community as unsustainable.

The Rad Tech field allows workers to add to their skill set and provide specialized scanning in modalities such as MRI, Mammography, and advanced ultrasound techniques. When workers take advantage of these opportunities and commensurate wage growth, meeting other workforce needs in the process, Rad Tech positions open again. This path is important for creating a pipeline of skilled medical imagers, but creates its own obstacles and a need to continuously replenish the workforce.

To further investigate the situation and better define the need, LATC convened a Radiologic Technology Workforce discussion on October 28, 2025, bringing together 26 healthcare and industry partners from northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota. Participants expressed the dynamics of their situations and details of shortages within their facilities. The engagement demonstrated both regional workforce demand and industry readiness to support students through clinical placements, employment, and partnership. At the conclusion of the summit, and with overwhelming support, the participants encouraged the establishment of a local program at LATC. When the group was challenged with what would happen if a program is not established at Lake Area Tech, one clinic administrator described the outlook as "death by a thousand papercuts."

Participating partners included:

- Prairie Lakes Health System
- Brookings Health System
- Huron Regional Medical Center
- Madison, MN Healthcare Services
- Coteau des Prairies Health Care System
- Avera Health (Sioux Falls, Pierre, Mobridge, Milbank, Marshall, MN)
- Sanford Health (Watertown, Aberdeen, Clear Lake, Webster)
- GE Healthcare

In the months following that meeting, the LATC Academics Department contacted every participant and eight additional healthcare organizations in the region, confirming that the need for a Radiologic Technology program in the area was stronger than ever and could be sustained. Some administrators reported offering $20,000 signing bonuses to encourage commitment to permanent positions.

Increases Student Access:
For LATC students, the ability to receive training in a highly sought degree with immediate job placement in Radiologic Technology will have a significant impact on their future careers and lives. Not only does this support our institutional mission, our regional student placement retention rate could help to diminish the rad tech shortages, provide an excellent return on their educational investments, and dramatically improve rural patient care. 33% of LATC's 2024 graduates remained in the six-county area, reinforcing LATC's role as a driver of local workforce retention.

Adding a local Rad Tech program increases access for students and helps healthcare systems recruit and retain professionals who are connected to the area. While planning out clinical opportunities for the program, more than 15 regional hospitals and clinics offered their support toward establishing clinical agreements, adding inclusive rotation hours, and providing a variety of imaging distributions. Josh Mages, Imaging Account Manager at GE Healthcare, shared "students must often relocate or travel significant distances to access accredited programs. By offering the program locally, LATC would make this high-demand career path more accessible to students in northeastern South Dakota." This regional commitment guarantees our future students a range and depth of experiences.

Industry Partnerships:
As the Letters of Support attached to this application indicate, industry backing is strong and ongoing for Lake Area Tech to add Radiologic Technology. This support spans advisory roles, clinical agreements, curriculum insights, and equipment. LATC remains centered on students and has adopted a debt-conscious approach to program expansions; the program will be launched without debt or added costs to students.

Based on recent program renovations for Dental and Surgical Technology, the estimated start-up investment is approximately $2.8M – $3.0M. In order to support this commitment, industry and philanthropic backing remains essential.

Several partners expressed the degree to which this new program could transform both healthcare systems and rural communities.

- Nick Fosness, CEO of Marshall County Healthcare Center Avera, noted that "as the number of rural radiology services grows in South Dakota, the training programs need to increase to meet the increased demand for technologists to provide them. Lake Area Technical College adding a Radiologic Technology program could greatly help serve this area of the state and address healthcare shortages."

- Nikki Winseman, Director of Imaging and Respiratory Services at the Brookings Health System, stated "the development of this program would be of significant benefit. Like many hospitals, we face ongoing challenges recruiting radiologic technologists to support essential services…A strong training program would help build a reliable pipeline of future technologists and create more opportunities for collaboration between educators and healthcare."

- John J. Ayoub, CEO of Mobridge Regional Hospital and Clinics, added "as the CEO of a rural critical access hospital in South Dakota, I see firsthand the workforce challenges facing our health care system, and I firmly believe this program represents a meaningful and necessary investment in the future of healthcare across our state."

- Natalie Gauer, CEO of Milbank Area Hospital Avera, indicated systemwide support for the new Radiologic Technology AAS degree at LATC. She added that this plan "would be a tremendous asset to rural healthcare facilities like ours. Training students locally significantly increases the likelihood they will remain in the region to work after graduation. Growing our own workforce is one of the most effective strategies to address ongoing healthcare shortages."

Launching a Radiologic Technology program at LATC provides a shared solution that strengthens regional healthcare systems, supports students, and sustains the workforce pipeline for years to come.

CRITERION 3: DESIGN

The program's learning assessment strategy, program of study, and delivery methods are designed to provide students with the necessary competencies, as demonstrated through program learning outcomes.

3.1. The program is aligned to competencies, as demonstrated through program learning outcomes, that are developed with and continually validated by relevant stakeholders.
3.2. The program has a learning assessment strategy to validate student mastery of the program learning outcomes.
3.3. The program has an integrated program of study designed to develop and reinforce the program learning outcomes.
3.4. The program, when appropriate, includes a work-based learning component that develops and reinforces the program learning outcomes.
3.5. The program, when appropriate, offers flexible delivery methods to increase student access.

3.0. Describe the proposed program's alignment with the program award level requirements established in BP 301.1.

A. Does the program align with the requirements?

☒ Yes
☐ No (Requesting Exemption)

B. If no: Provide a detailed rationale for program exemption. Specify which requirement(s) in BP 301.1 are not met; cite specific policy sections (e.g., B.3.4), when appropriate. If external organizations are involved (accreditation, regulatory, licensure, etc.), reference the organization name(s), specific requirements (including citations), and a justification for why the exemption should be approved.

3.1. Describe the program learning outcomes.

A. Provide a list of program learning outcomes for each proposed award level. Learning outcomes should be specific to the program.

Upon graduation, LATC Radiologic Technology graduates will achieve the following:

1. **Clinical competence:** Graduates will perform routine radiologic procedures and demonstrate competence in patient care skills.
2. **Professionalism:** Students will show concern for patients and an understanding of professional ethics, growth, and radiation protection.
3. **Communication:** Graduates will communicate effectively with patients and demonstrate good written communication skills.
4. **Critical thinking:** The program will foster critical thinking skills necessary for the profession.
5. **National certification:** Successful completion of the program makes graduates eligible to take the ARRT national certification exam to become a Registered Technologist.

B. Describe the how the program learning outcomes were developed and validated.

At the Rad Tech workforce discussion in October 2025, the LATC Academics Department presented draft program outcomes for consideration by the industry experts attending. The outcomes were developed following guidelines from the JRCERT accreditation policies and best practices. The 26 attendees were then asked to vote

to support or amend the initial LATC Radiologic Technology program outcomes. The resulting outcomes listed above were designed from that expert feedback. Once the program has hired a Director and established an advisory board, these outcomes will drive program and curriculum development.

3.2. Describe the program's learning assessment strategy.

A. Describe how students will demonstrate mastery of the program learning outcomes. Description should be specific to the program's learning assessment plan vs. the institutional assessment plan.

All courses will contain assessment components. The assessments will be comprised of skills assessments, as well as formative and summative assessments, both in the classroom and field settings.

All program courses leading to the degree will require a pass rate of at least 80% mastery. Post-graduation surveys conducted by employers and the college's placement report also help to determine the success of the program's graduates.

All LATC programs use SPOL assessment software to map curriculum and gather institutional assessment data throughout the year. Annually, each department analyzes the assessment data. In addition, under the guidance of Lake Area Tech's Academics Department, each program creates an assessment and improvement plan annually. This assessment data is also reported to and monitored by the Higher Learning Commission.

B. Is the program preparation for a professional licensure and/or certification examination?

☒ Yes (Detail in Appendix 4: Section 3)
☐ No

3.3. Describe the program of study by completing Appendix 3.

3.4. Describe the program's work-based learning component.

A. Does the program have a work-based learning component? If so, select all that apply.

☐ None
☐ Apprenticeship
☐ Internship or Externship
☒ Clinical
☐ Capstone
☐ Other:

B. If none, describe why.

3.5. Describe the program's delivery methods.

A. Select the program's primary delivery method(s)[1]. Select all that apply.

☒ On Campus
☐ Online
☐ Blended
☐ Apprenticeship
☐ Other:

[1] ***In Person****:* 100 percent of courses are available in-person. ***Online:*** 100 percent of courses are available via distance learning. Delivery is only via the Internet. ***Blended****:* Delivery includes a required combination of both in-person and online courses. If a student has the option to take courses online, but is not required to do so, the program is not necessarily considered blended.

B. Describe how flexible delivery methods are being leveraged to increase student access.

Due to the intensive coursework and large number of physical competencies required during clinical rotations, Lake Area Technical College will start the Radiologic Technology AAS program as a traditional program offering face-to-face instruction, on-campus simulation labs, and off-campus clinical rotations.

CRITERION 4: ALIGNMENT

The program is vertically aligned to an education and training pathway.

4.1. The program is vertically aligned to an education and training pathway, reflecting efficient articulation of:
4.1.1. Non-degree credential/industry certification
4.1.2. Certificate to diploma
4.1.3. Diploma to associate of applied science
4.1.4. Associate of applied science to baccalaureate

4.1. Describe the alignment of the proposed program along an education and training pathway.

A. Complete Appendix 4.

B. Describe the projected alignment between the proposed program and existing academic programs within the technical college system.

Students enrolled at Lake Area Technical College have many career path options when they enroll in a healthcare program. In most cases, the general education core, including biomedical classes like Anatomy, Physiology, and Medical Terminology, is required no matter the health science program of study. This allows students to transfer between programs easily if they are exploring their best-fit healthcare career. In particular, the Radiologic Technology AAS degree will align with several LATC healthcare programs.

1. **Physical Therapist Assistant** AAS degree contains 76.5 total stackable credits and will share 20.5 credits with the Radiologic Technology degree.
2. **Occupational Therapy Assistant** AAS degree contains 76 total stackable credits and will share 20 credits with the Radiologic Technology degree.
3. **Surgical Technology** AAS degree contains 69 total stackable credits and will share 16.5 credits with the Radiologic Technology degree.
4. **Medical Laboratory Technician** AAS degree contains 69.5 stackable credits and will share 16 credits with the Radiologic Technology degree.
5. **Licensed Practical Nursing** Diploma contains 45.5 total stackable credits and will share 13 credits with the Radiologic Technology degree.

C. As applicable: Insert any additional comments here.

CRITERION 5: CAPACITY

The institution demonstrates the internal and external resources necessary to develop, implement, and sustain the program.

5.1. The institution demonstrates the financial resources necessary to develop, implement, and sustain the program.
5.2. The institution demonstrates appropriately certified and qualified faculty are in place with expertise in content, pedagogy, and related industry to develop and validate the program learning outcomes.
5.3. The institution's physical facilities (e.g., classrooms, laboratories) reflect current industry and/or occupational standards necessary to develop and validate the program learning outcomes.
5.4. The institution's equipment and technology resources reflect current industry and/or occupational standards necessary to develop and validate the program learning outcomes.
5.5. The institution demonstrates the ability of the program to meet institutional and programmatic accreditation standards, as applicable.

5.1. Describe the institution's financial capacity to develop, implement, and sustain the proposed program.

A. Complete Appendix 5.

B. Describe the proposed program's anticipated local fee structure. Description of fee structure should be specific to the program.

The local fee structure for Radiologic Technology will mirror that of other healthcare programs. Fees will help cover the costs of items such as student and program insurance, supplies and materials for labs and clinicals, program accreditation, software, and other necessary operational expenses. Students will pay for licensing exams, uniforms, tools, and textbooks outside of the fees and tuition charged.

Due to the ratio required by JRCERT for clinical sessions (10 to 1, students to faculty) and for the required, program administrator position, the Radiologic Technology program will have higher than normal staffing costs, so department fees will reflect the costs to operate a quality program. Lake Area Tech will admit 14 students per year to begin.

C. What is the proposed program weight factor (funding formula)?

☐ Standard Cost (1)
☒ High Cost (3)
☐ High Cost, Low Density (5)

I. Provide rationale related to the selection of proposed program weight factor.

In addition to the operation costs noted in 5.1.B, JRCERT requires that the program administrator be a licensed Radiologic Technologist with at least a Master's degree. All other faculty must possess a bachelor's degree or higher. Currently, we have had several individuals who meet the JRCERT program administrator criteria (ranging from bachelor's to MS) express interest in helping with the program. We anticipate that number to grow once the program is established.

D. Describe the contingency plans in case anticipated enrollments, income, or resources do not materialize.

Through several stages of targeted renovations, LATC healthcare programs are housed in state of art operatories, patient rooms, lab spaces, simulation centers, radiology rooms, and reception areas, all designed to provide a superior educational experience for our students. Existing classroom spaces at LATC will be used to deliver face-to-face instruction. Lab space will provide state of the art simulations to develop and refine hands-on and critical

thinking skills.

Should the program enrollment or industry funding support not materialize in Radiologic Technology, the program can be put on hold or terminated without significant financial loss to Lake Area Tech.

5.2. Describe how the institution will ensure the appropriate certified and qualified faculty are in place with the expertise in content, pedagogy, and the related industry to develop and validate the program learning outcomes.

A. Describe the necessary qualifications of faculty who will be involved in the program.

According to JRCERT, the program must have a full-time program administrator.

Position Qualifications:

Program Director holds, at a minimum, a master's degree; Proficient in curriculum design, evaluation, instruction, program administration, and academic advising; Documents three years' clinical experience in the professional discipline; Documents two years' experience as an instructor in a JRCERT accredited program; Holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent, in radiography.

Clinical Coordinator holds**,** at a minimum, a bachelor's degree; Proficient in curriculum development, supervision, instruction, evaluation, and academic advising; Documents two years' clinical experience in the professional discipline; Documents one year's experience as an instructor in a JRCERT accredited program; Holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent, in radiography.

Full-time Didactic Faculty holds, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree; Is qualified to teach the subject; Proficient in course development, instruction, evaluation, and academic advising; Documents two years' clinical experience in the professional discipline; Holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent, in radiography.

Adjunct Faculty holds academic and/or professional credentials appropriate to the subject content area taught; Is knowledgeable of course development, instruction, evaluation, and academic advising.

Clinical Preceptor is proficient in supervision, instruction, and evaluation; Documents two years' clinical experience in the professional discipline; Holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent2, in radiography.

Clinical Staff holds current American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration, or equivalent, in radiography.

Explanation: Faculty and clinical staff must possess academic and professional qualifications appropriate for their assignment. Clinical preceptors and clinical staff supervising students' performance in the clinical component of the program must document American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and registration (or equivalent) or other appropriate credentials. Healthcare professionals with credentials other than ARRT certification and registration (or equivalent) may supervise students in specialty areas (e.g., Registered Nurse supervising students performing patient care skills, phlebotomist supervising students performing venipuncture, etc.).

Special Note: A full-time equivalent clinical coordinator is required if the program has more than fifteen (15) students enrolled in the clinical component of the program (e.g., the total number of students simultaneously enrolled in all clinical courses during a term). The clinical coordinator position may be shared by no more than four (4) appointees. If a clinical coordinator is required, the program director may not be identified as the clinical coordinator. The clinical coordinator may not be identified as the program director. A minimum of one clinical preceptor must be designated at each recognized clinical setting. The same clinical preceptor may be identified at more than one site as long as a ratio of one full-time equivalent clinical preceptor for every ten (10) students is maintained. The program director and clinical coordinator may perform clinical instruction; however, they may not be identified as clinical preceptors.

B. Does the instructorship(s) currently exist in the roster of Instructor Salary Support market value determinations?

☒ Yes
☐ No

I. If no: Describe the SOC(s) codes and titles that will need to be added.

5.3. Describe the existing and/or new physical facilities that will be utilized or needed to reflect current industry and/or occupational standards. Outline short- and long-term investments in physical facilities.

Lake Area Tech's 2035 Master Campus Plan designated space for the Rad Tech program within the healthcare hub on the north end of campus. Starting the program will require renovations to add necessary lab and simulation center spaces.

5.4. Describe the existing and/or new equipment and technology resources that will be utilized or needed to reflect current industry and/or occupational standards. Outline short- and long-term investments in equipment and technology resources.

In addition to renovating existing campus spaces to accommodate the Rad Tech lab and simulation spaces, LATC will secure the funds necessary to purchase the equipment to finish out to facility and ensure it is launch ready for the first cohort of students. Examples of necessary equipment are outlined below.

1. **X-ray Machines:** Used to capture images of bones, organs, and soft tissues, often utilizing digital imaging systems.
    - Fluoroscopy Equipment: Used for capturing real-time, moving images of internal tissues and organs.
    - Mobile/Portable X-ray Units: Used for imaging patients who cannot leave their bed or room
    - Image Processing Workstations: Computers used to view, manipulate, and transfer images to radiologists.

2. **Safety and Positioning Equipment:** Lead aprons, thyroid shields, gonad shields, positioning aids (sponges), radiation badges, anatomical markers (L/R markers), contrast media, imaging tables and chairs, X-ray stretchers or radiology chairs, and PACS systems (Picture Archiving and Communication Systems.

5.5. Describe the institution's and proposed program's ability to meet institutional and programmatic accreditation standards, as applicable.

A. Specify Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements.

☐ Notification Only
☒ Approval Required
☐ None
☐ Other:

B. Is there an accrediting or professional organization that has established standards for the program?

☒ Yes
☐ No

C. If yes: Describe the ability of the proposed program to meet professional accreditation standards. If the program does not or cannot meet those standards, describe the area(s) in which it is deficient and indicate steps needed to qualify the program for accreditation. Provide the date by which the program would be expected to be fully accredited.

If the institution does not plan to seek specialized accreditation, provide a rationale for not seeking.

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (https://www.jrcert.org/jrcert-standards) sets the Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography. The standards are designed to promote academic excellence, patient safety, and quality healthcare. The JRCERT is recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Lake Area Technical College is capable of meeting all six standards of: 1) Accountability, Fair Practices, and Public Information, 2) Institutional Commitment and Resources, 3) Faculty and Staff, 4) Curriculum and Academic Practices, 5) Health and Safety, and 6) Programmatic Effectiveness and Assessment – Using Data for Sustained Improvement.

The LATC Academics Department has now communicated with more than 30 northeastern South Dakota and Minnesota lead radiography technicians, hospital CEOs, and healthcare professional staffing directors, and presented at various meetings regarding "workforce development" at which a Radiologic Technician program has been discussed. This proposal has received wide-spread enthusiasm and support from northeastern South Dakota health care facilities and professionals, as evidenced by the attached Letters of Support. In every interaction and meeting, maintaining and growing local radiography programs and increasing the number of permanent technicians was described as an urgent and critical need for quality, rural South Dakota healthcare.

Although we may enroll students before receiving JRCERT accreditation, we may not market the program as JRCERT-accredited until it is formally recognized. In fact, a program must have students enrolled and active in clinical rotations for JRCERT to conduct its required on-site evaluation. This step will also ensure students can sit for the ARRT exam upon graduation.

In order for our first cohort of students to attain licensure, they must graduate from a JRCERT accredited program and pass the licensing exam for national certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) exam, usually in Radiography. Graduates must pass this exam, which requires a score of at least 75, to practice in most clinical settings:

1. Licensure Exam: The ARRT exam is the primary credential recognized in South Dakota.
2. Requirements: You must graduate from an accredited radiography program before taking the ARRT certification exam.
3. Renewal: Once certified, the ARRT requires renewal every two years, which includes completing 24 hours of continuing education.
4. Limitations: While state law does not mandate a license, almost all employers in South Dakota require ARRT certification.

In summary, to work as a Radiologic Technologist in South Dakota, one must complete an accredited program, pass the ARRT exam, and maintain ongoing certification.

In order for our Radiography program to earn JRCERT accreditation, the program must commit to a voluntary, peer-review process ensuring compliance with national educational standards for quality and safety. It involves a rigorous self-study, a comprehensive on-site peer evaluation, and a final review by the Board of Directors, resulting in awards for up to eight years. The key steps to the accreditation process are listed below:

1. Initial Application & Eligibility: Programs must submit an application, pay fees, and document that they have adequate qualified faculty, students, curriculum, degree requirements, facilities, clinical spaces, competency rubrics, and financial resources to meet JRCERT standards.

2. Self-Study Report: The institution conducts an in-depth self-evaluation, analyzing its own strengths, weaknesses, and compliance with standards, documented in a formal report.
3. Site Visit: Peer evaluators conduct an on-site visit to verify the self-study report, tour facilities, review records, and interview faculty, staff, and students.
4. Report of Findings (ROF): Following the visit, a report detailing findings is sent to the program within 3 months.
5. Board Action: The JRCERT Board of Directors reviews the findings and grants accreditation, which can be up to 3 years for new programs and 8 years for continuing accreditation.
6. Interim Reporting: For 8-year awards, an interim report is required after 4 years to ensure ongoing compliance.

Following the suggested JRCERT accreditation process timeline, LATC anticipates that all of the accreditation steps will be completed within suggested timeframes. The example below assumes the college will be able to start the program in Fall 2027:

1. First cohort of 14 Radiologic Technician students enroll in Fall 2027.
2. The first site visit could occur by September of 2028.

3. The accreditation site visit could occur by January of 2029.
4. This timeframe would provide an adequate length of time for our program to receive JRCERT accreditation before the first cohort of LATC Radiologic Technician graduates take their ARRT exams in the summer of 2029.
5. Accreditation verifies that the program meets standards for student safety, curriculum, and, crucially, a 5-year average job placement rate of at least 75%.

Based on the previous successful accreditation of LATC's Surgical Technology program, with a very similar accrediting body and guidelines, Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), the college has the ability to meet all JRCERT accreditation expectations and qualifications as well.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 2.A: Labor Market Information

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

SOUTH DAKOTA								
SOC* CODE	SOC* TITLE	AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS	2022 EMPLOYMENT	2032 EMPLOYMENT	NUMERIC CHANGE: 2022-2032	PERCENT CHANGE: 2022-2032	MEDIAN: ANNUAL WAGE (2024)	AVERAGE: ANNUAL WAGE (2024)
00-0000	*Total, All Occupations*	*63,435*	*491,588*	*526,251*	*34,663*	*7.72%*	*$45,620*	*$55,480*
29-2034	**Radiologic Technologists and Technicians - SD DLR**	**68**	**1011**	**1129**	**118**	**11.67%**	**$ 66,320.00**	**$ 67,870.00**
29-2035	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists - SD DLR	13	172	200	28	16.28%	$ 68,870.00	$ 70,210.00
29-2032	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers - SD DLR	26	316	391	75	23.73%	$ 74,880.00	$ 71,360.00
29-2033	Nuclear Medicine Technologists - SD DLR	9	144	161	17	11.81%	$ 79,060.00	$ 76,000.00

NATIONAL								
SOC* CODE	SOC* TITLE	AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS	2024 EMPLOYMENT	2034 EMPLOYMENT	NUMERIC CHANGE: 2024-2034	PERCENT CHANGE: 2024-2034	MEDIAN: ANNUAL WAGE (2024)	AVERAGE: ANNUAL WAGE (2024)
00-0000	*Total, All Occupations*	*18863*	*169956*	*175167*	*5211*	*3.10%*	*$ 49,500.00*	
29-2034	**Radiologic Technologists and Technicians**	**15400**	**272000**	**284900**	**12900**	**5.00%**	**$ 77,660.00**	
29-2035	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists					2.60%	$ 88,180.00	
29-2032	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers - BLS					6%	$ 89,340.00	
29-2033	Nuclear Medicine Technologists					0.90%	$ 97,020.00	

SOURCE: South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Labor Market Information Center (LMIC) (https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/)
DATE: March 2026

NOTES:

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics https://www.bls.gov/
DATE: Updated August 2025

NOTES:

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 2.B: Student Demand Projections

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Student Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	**19**	**38**	**38**
Headcount: Full-Time	14	28	28
Headcount: Part-Time			
Headcount: Total	**14**	**28**	**28**
Total Program or Site Capacity	14	28	28

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 3: Program of Study

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

MONTHS:	20 months
SEMESTERS:	4 semesters + 1 summer session
TOTAL CREDITS:	81

PREFIX AND NUMBER	TITLE	CREDITS	DESCRIPTION	EXISTING COURSE
I. GENERAL EDUCATION CORE				
BIOL 221	Human Anatomy	4	A study of cells, tissues and organs making up the integumentary, muscular, skeletal, nervous, endocrine, digestive, respiratory, lymphatic and urinary systems of the body. Emphasis is on structure and function of the systems and the relationship of the body structures (anatomy) to their function (physiology). *College transferable.	Y
ENGL 101	Composition	3	This course concentrates on all phases of the writing/communication process. Prewriting, drafting, revising and editing are used to help students develop clear, concise and unified writing styles that will serve them well in their chosen career areas. *College transferable.	Y
PSYC 101	General Psychology	3	This course is an introduction survey to the field of psychology with consideration of the biological bases of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, learning and memory, human growth and development, social behavior and normal and abnormal behavior. *College transferable.	Y
MATH 103 or MATH 114	Mathematical Reasoning	3	MATH 103: This course incorporates mathematical reasoning as it applies to dimensional analysis, equations, exponents, basic statistics, concepts related to financial security and other mathematical topics deemed necessary. The financial security portion of the course includes but is not limited to: financial planning, managing your money, putting together a budget plan, calculating compound interest, comparing interest rates and calculating loan payments with regards to student and consumer loans. These are all taught with an emphasis on practical application and problem solving. MATH 114: Students will study the theory and application of functions including function notation, graphs, inverses, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and other functions. Course may also include additional topics such as sequences, series, the binomial theorem, linear systems, matrices, or complex numbers. *College transferable.	Y
MA 115	Medical Terminology	3	This course presents a study of basic medical terminology which will be helpful as the students progress in their course of study. Prefixes, suffixes, word roots, combining forms, special endings, plural forms, abbreviations, and symbols are included in the content. A programmed learning word building systems approach is used to learn word parts for constructing or analyzing new terms. This provides students the opportunity to decipher unfamiliar terms and check their spelling. Emphasis is placed on spelling, definition, usage, and pronunciation. Abbreviations are introduced as related terms and presented with each unit.	Y
PHGY 210	Introduction to Human Physiology	4	Physiology teaches fundamental biochemical and physical concepts that explain the workings and regulation of all body functions in animals from molecular to organism level. The course examines the coordinated activities within the hierarchy of body organization and how these activities contribute to the overall homeostasis of the internal environment of the body. *College transferable.	Y
CPR 112	Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Workers	0.5	This course is designed to train participants to save lives of victims in cardiac arrest through high-quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and know how to perform CPR in and out of hospital settings. Students will train to recognize cardiac arrest, give high-quality chest compressions, deliver appropriate ventilations, and provide early use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The course also teaches how to relieve choking and includes adult, child, and infant rescue techniques.	Y
SUBTOTAL OF GENERAL EDUCATION CREDITS:		**20.5**	**TOTAL NEW COURSES:**	**0**

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 3: Program of Study

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

II. PROGRAM CORE				
RADXXX	Introduction to Radiologic Technology	2	This course introduces the radiologic technology profession within the broader healthcare system, including imaging and allied health roles, healthcare settings, and organizational structures. Students examine accreditation, regulatory agencies, professional credentialing, and radiology organizations. The course also explores clinical education, employment pathways, and professional growth in medical imaging.	N
RADXXX	Radiologic Ethics and Patient Care	2	This course prepares students to deliver safe, compassionate, and ethical patient care in medical imaging environments. Emphasis is placed on professional communication, patient assessment, safety, infection control, and emergency response, along with ethical decision-making, legal responsibilities, HIPAA compliance, and patient consent. Students develop the skills needed to interact effectively with diverse populations while meeting professional and regulatory standards.	N
RADXXX	Radiologic Procedures I	5	This course provides a comprehensive introduction to radiographic procedures and positioning for beginning radiologic science students. Students develop skills in interpreting radiographic orders, preparing and communicating with patients, and applying correct positioning and image techniques. Instruction integrates anatomic landmarks, technical factors, and exam planning to ensure accurate, safe, and high-quality radiographic imaging.	N
RADXXX	Radiologic Procedures II	6	This course is a continuation of Radiologic Procedures I. The content builds on foundational positioning and patient care skills with emphasis on contrast studies, mobile radiography, and surgical procedures. Students perform patient preparation, positioning, and communication while applying correct anatomic and projection terminology. Special safety, technical, and procedural considerations for mobile and surgical environments are emphasized.	N
RADXXX	Imaging Equipment	3	This course is designed to establish a strong understanding of radiographic equipment including the x-ray tube, x-ray circuit, fluoroscopy, and computed tomography. The content will also provide a basic knowledge of quality control.	N
RADXXX	Radiographic Pathology	2	This course introduces fundamental pathology concepts related to diagnostic radiography. Students learn basic terminology and study disease and trauma, including etiology, classifications, and radiographic appearances. Emphasis is placed on imaging procedures used to diagnose conditions affecting major body systems.	N
RADXXX	Clinical Education I	4.5	Content and clinical practice experience should be designed to sequentially develop, apply, critically analyze, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate concepts and theories in the performance of radiologic procedures. Through structured, sequential, competency-based clinical assignments, concepts of team practice, patient-centered clinical practice and professional development are discussed, examined, and evaluated. Clinical practice experiences should be designed to provide patient care and assessment, competent performance of radiologic imaging and total quality management. Levels of competency and outcomes measurement ensure the well-being of the patient prior to, during and following the radiologic procedure.	N
RADXXX	Clinical Education II	10	Content and clinical practice experience should be designed to sequentially develop, apply, critically analyze, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate concepts and theories in the performance of radiologic procedures. Through structured, sequential, competency-based clinical assignments, concepts of team practice, patient-centered clinical practice and professional development are discussed, examined, and evaluated. Clinical practice experiences should be designed to provide patient care and assessment, competent performance of radiologic imaging and total quality management. Levels of competency and outcomes measurement ensure the well-being of the patient prior to, during and following the radiologic procedure.	N

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 3: Program of Study

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

RADXXX	Clinical Education III	10	Content and clinical practice experience should be designed to sequentially develop, apply, critically analyze, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate concepts and theories in the performance of radiologic procedures. Through structured, sequential, competency-based clinical assignments, concepts of team practice, patient-centered clinical practice and professional development are discussed, examined, and evaluated. Clinical practice experiences should be designed to provide patient care and assessment, competent performance of radiologic imaging and total quality management. Levels of competency and outcomes measurement ensure the well-being of the patient prior to, during and following the radiologic procedure.	N
RADXXX	Imaging I	3	This course introduces the principles of radiographic image production and the technical factors that affect image quality. Students study exposure factors, receptor exposure, differential absorption, spatial resolution, distortion, magnification, beam restriction, filtration, scatter radiation, grids, and exposure calculations. Emphasis is placed on analyzing radiographic images and applying standardized exposure techniques.	N
RADXXX	Imaging II	5	This course builds on Imaging I and focuses on digital imaging systems used in diagnostic radiography. Students examine digital detectors, image acquisition and processing, exposure indicators, histogram analysis, spatial resolution, and scatter control. Emphasis is placed on quality management and digital imaging errors affecting image quality and patient dose.	N
RADXXX	Board Review I	1	This course is designed to prepare students for the national certification examination. Content focuses on patient care, radiation safety, image production, and radiographic procedures. Practice examinations are formatted similar to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) exam.	N
RADXXX	Board Review II	2	This course builds on Board Review I. It is designed to further prepare students for the national certification examination. Content focuses on patient care, radiation safety, image production, and radiographic procedures. Practice examinations are formatted similar to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) exam.	N
RADXXX	Radiation Biology and Protection	3	The class introduces radiation biology and radiation protection concepts. The course also covers cellular effects of ionizing radiation, dose-response relationships, radiation risk, and safety practices for patients and health care workers.	N
RADXXX	Pharmacology and Venipuncture	2	Students learn fundamental pharmacology concepts and develop practical skills in venipuncture and contrast media administration. Topics include drug actions, contrast agents, injection methods, patient assessment, and legal and ethical considerations. Safe practice and competency-based skill development are emphasized.	N
SUBTOTAL OF PROGRAM CREDITS:		**60.5**	**TOTAL NEW COURSES:**	**15**

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 4: Alignment Projection

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

TOTAL CREDITS IN PROPOSED PROGRAM:
81

I. STACKABLE OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAM NAME					If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Stackable Program	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are in this stackable program opportunity?
		Short-term Certificate	X	Existing			
		Long-term Certificate		Forthcoming			
Physical Therapist Assistant		Diploma					
	X	AAS				76.5	20.5
PROGRAM NAME		Short-term Certificate	X	Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Stackable Program	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are in this stackable program opportunity?
		Long-term Certificate		Forthcoming			
Occupational Therapy Assistant		Diploma					
	X	AAS				76	20
PROGRAM NAME		Short-term Certificate	X	Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Stackable Program	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are in this stackable program opportunity?
		Long-term Certificate		Forthcoming			
Surgical Technology		Diploma					
	X	AAS				69	16.5
PROGRAM NAME		Short-term Certificate	X	Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Stackable Program	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are in this stackable program opportunity?
		Long-term Certificate		Forthcoming			
Medical Laboratory Technician		Diploma					
	x	AAS				69.5	16
PROGRAM NAME		Short-term Certificate	X	Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Stackable Program	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are in this stackable program opportunity?
		Long-term Certificate		Forthcoming			
Licensed Practical Nursing	X	Diploma					
		AAS				45.5	13

II. ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS (BACCALAUREATE)

PROGRAM NAME	COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY		Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Bachelor's Degree	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are projected to be accepted in the articulation agreement?
			Forthcoming			
PROGRAM NAME	**COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**		Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Bachelor's Degree	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are projected to be accepted in the articulation agreement?
			Forthcoming			
PROGRAM NAME	**COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**		Existing	If Forthcoming: Projected Timeline	Total Credits in Bachelor's Degree	How many PROPOSED PROGRAM credits are projected to be accepted in the articulation agreement?
			Forthcoming			

III. LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

The PROPOSED PROGRAM will qualify students to pursue the following licensure and/or certification opportunities:

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION	OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION	Will the licensure/certification require reporting per SDCL 13-1-61?
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification (ARRT)	JCERT	Yes
LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION	**OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION**	Will the licensure/certification require reporting per SDCL 13-1-61?
LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION	**OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION**	Will the licensure/certification require reporting per SDCL 13-1-61?

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 5: Financial Projections

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

	Pre-Lauch	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Student FTE		**18.9**	**37.8**	**37.8**
I. PROJECTED EXPENDITURES				
A. ONE-TIME				
New/Renovated Facilities	$ 1,200,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
Equipment	$ 1,300,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 45,000.00
Other		$ -	$ -	$ -
Sub-Total: One-time	**$ 2,500,000.00**	**$ 60,000.00**	**$ 50,000.00**	**$ 45,000.00**
B. RECURRING				
B.1. PERSONNEL				
FTE (Faculty and Staff)	1	1	2	2
Salary & Benefits	$ 92,000.00	$ 94,760.00	$ 195,205.60	$ 201,061.77
B.2. OPERATING				
Rental / Lease	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Contractual Services	$ 7,500.00	$ 17,000.00	$ 28,000.00	$ 28,000.00
Equipment **	$ 3,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00
Supplies	$ 8,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 18,000.00	$ 18,000.00
Travel	$ 2,500.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 8,500.00	$ 5,000.00
Other ***	$ 10,500.00	$ 56,915.00	$ 86,630.00	$ 79,630.00
Sub-Total: Operating	$ 31,500.00	$ 91,915.00	$ 146,130.00	$ 134,630.00
Total: Recurring	**$ 123,500.00**	**$ 186,675.00**	**$ 341,335.60**	**$ 335,691.77**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (A + B)	**$ 2,623,500.00**	**$ 246,675.00**	**$ 391,335.60**	**$ 380,691.77**
II. PROJECTED REVENUE				
Tuition		$ 75,978.00	$ 151,956.00	$ 151,956.00
State Fees		$ 24,948.00	$ 49,896.00	$ 49,896.00
Local Fees		$ 51,828.00	$ 103,656.00	$ 103,656.00
Location-Based Fees		$ -	$ -	$ -
State Sources ****		$ -	$ 130,653.43	$ 261,306.86
Federal Sources *****	$ 92,000.00	$ 63,489.20		$ -
Private Grants or Gifts	$ 2,500,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 45,000.00
Other ******		$ 10,500.00	$ 21,000.00	$ 21,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 2,592,000.00**	**$ 286,743.20**	**$ 507,161.43**	**$ 632,814.86**
REVENUE - EXPENDITURES	**$ (31,500.00)**	**$ 40,068.20**	**$ 115,825.83**	**$ 252,123.10**

**Projections are held constant based on current fiscal year. Inflation or rate changes are not factored.*

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 5: Financial Projections

Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

Notes:

** Equipment: Technology
*** Other includes: Adjuncts, Accreditation, Furniture, Books + Kits, State Facility Fees, M&R
**** State Sources are Projected FY27 Per Student Funding for LATC
***** Federal Sources: Perkins to off-set 1 salary for 2 years
****** Other (Revenue): Books + Kits

Marshall County
Healthcare Center
Avera

413 9th Street
Britton, SD 57430
(605) 448-2253
Fax (605) 448-2304

February 25, 2026

South Dakota Board of Technical Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

To Whom It May Concern,

Marshall County Healthcare Center would like to express the need for an additional Radiologic Technology training program in the state of South Dakota. Many healthcare facilities in the state are experiencing radiology staffing shortages.

Marshall County Healthcare Center is a critical access rural hospital serving patients in northeast South Dakota. Our Radiology department has faced staffing shortages and recruiting difficulties as we have expanded our range of radiology services to include CT and MRI. Part of this need stems from limited Radiologic Technology programs in the state. As the number of rural radiology services grows in South Dakota, the training programs need to increase to meet the increased demand for technologists to provide them. Lake Area Technical College adding a Radiologic Technology program could greatly help serve this area of the state and address healthcare shortages.

Marshall County Healthcare Center is a hospital, clinic, and assisted living facility offering 24/7 care through our emergency department. We would be willing to serve as a clinical site for future Lake Area Tech Radiology students to experience multiple modalities and healthcare in a rural area. Our facility offers X-Ray, CT, DEXA, MRI, as well as outreach Mammography and Ultrasound. Radiology students would experience quality clinical rotation in rural healthcare.

Sincerely,

Nick Fosness, CEO

Brookings
HEALTH SYSTEM

Nikki Winseman

Director of Imaging and Respiratory Services

Brookings Health System

300 22nd Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006

605-696-8057

nwinseman@brookingshealth.org

March 2, 2026

South Dakota Board of Technical Education

800 Governors Drive

Pierre, SD 57501

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Lake Area Technical College's efforts to develop a Radiologic Technology (X-ray) program in Watertown, South Dakota. As the Director of Imaging and Respiratory Services at Brookings Health System, I have firsthand experience with the ongoing and increasing demand for qualified radiologic technologists across our state and region.

South Dakota currently has only a limited number of radiologic technology programs available, and the number of graduates each year is not keeping pace with workforce needs. At the same time, the demand for diagnostic imaging continues to rise due to population health needs, growth in outpatient services, and expanded access to advanced imaging and specialty care. Across South Dakota, there are approximately 600 open positions for radiologic technologists,

Brookings
HEALTH SYSTEM

demonstrating the severity of the staffing shortage and the urgent need to expand educational pathways.

Creating an additional radiologic technology program at Lake Area Technical College would be a meaningful and highly impactful solution. This program would strengthen the regional healthcare workforce by providing students with a local, accessible option for training and certification. It would also improve recruitment and retention by allowing students to remain in the area for education, clinical training, and eventual employment.

From the perspective of Brookings Health System, the development of this program would be of significant benefit. Like many hospitals, we face ongoing challenges recruiting radiologic technologists to support essential services such as emergency imaging, inpatient and outpatient radiography, fluoroscopy, and specialty diagnostic procedures. A strong local training program would help build a reliable pipeline of future technologists and create more opportunities for collaboration between education and healthcare.

In addition to meeting staffing needs, this program would also support improved patient access. Imaging is a foundational service for timely diagnosis and treatment, and staffing shortages directly impact appointment availability, turnaround times, and the ability to expand services. A radiologic technology program in Watertown would strengthen healthcare delivery not only for Brookings, but for surrounding communities throughout eastern South Dakota.

Lake Area Technical College has an excellent reputation for workforce development and technical education, and I am confident this program would be successful and well-supported by healthcare partners. I fully support this initiative and strongly encourage approval and continued development of the Radiologic Technology program.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to strengthening healthcare education and workforce capacity in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Nikki Winseman

Director of Imaging and Respiratory Services

Brookings Health System

Mobridge Regional Hospital and Clinics

1401 10th Avenue West • Mobridge, South Dakota 57601
Phone: (605) 845-3692 • FAX: (605) 845-8172
www.mobridgehospital.org

February 17, 2026

South Dakota Board of Technical Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Members of the South Dakota Board of Technical Education:

I am writing to express my strong and enthusiastic support for Lake Area Technical College's proposal to establish a Radiologic Technologist program. As the CEO of a rural critical access hospital in South Dakota, I see firsthand the workforce challenges facing our healthcare system and I firmly believe this program represents a meaningful and necessary investment in the future of healthcare delivery across our state.

First and foremost, the need for additional radiologic technologists, particularly in rural communities, is well documented, both nationally and within South Dakota. Access to diagnostic imaging is foundational to timely, high quality healthcare, yet many rural healthcare organizations struggle to recruit and retain qualified professionals. As a personal example, during my more than nine years as CEO at Mobridge Regional, we have continuously advertised for radiologic technologists. Over that entire period, we have successfully hired only two individuals, not necessarily due to excessive selectivity, but rather because the applicant pool has been extremely limited. One of those hires occurred within the past two weeks and that individual will not begin working until later this year. Currently, we employ six technologists; one will retire within the next four months and another is expected to retire within the next two years. I believe we could easily support seven techs if we could find another quality applicant. This reality highlights the urgency of developing a sustainable pipeline of well-trained imaging professionals within our state.

In addition to addressing workforce shortages, radiologic technology represents an outstanding career pathway for South Dakota students. These positions offer strong wages, long-term stability, and significant opportunities for professional growth. Within our organization, newly graduated radiologic techs typically begin with foundational X-Ray competencies and quickly expand their skill sets through additional modalities. Most progress into CT imaging, DEXA scanning, nuclear medicine, and mammography, and ultimately develop advanced competencies within ultrasound. For example, to independently take overnight call in our hospital, a technologist must be proficient in X-Ray, CT, and foundational ultrasound skills. As individuals expand their competencies, their earning potential and professional versatility grow substantially. This is truly a career that offers upward mobility, meaningful work, and the opportunity to serve communities in a deeply impactful way.

While Mitchell Technical College currently operates a radiologic technology program, I do not believe the addition of a second program at Lake Area Technical College would diminish or compete with existing educational efforts. On the contrary, the workforce need is so significant that graduating students from multiple programs would provide a net benefit to healthcare organizations throughout the state. Expanding educational capacity will help stabilize the workforce pipeline, reduce reliance on temporary staffing solutions, and improve access to care for rural residents.

Additionally, strong programs in South Dakota have the potential to attract students from neighboring states, further strengthening our healthcare workforce and contributing to regional economic development.

From a healthcare community perspective, this program is both timely and essential. Graduates will enter a job market where opportunities are abundant and meaningful employment is virtually assured. Beyond meeting immediate staffing needs, this initiative represents an investment in the long-term sustainability of rural healthcare in South Dakota.

Our organization would be honored to support this effort by serving as a clinical rotation site for students enrolled in the program. We are committed to partnering with educational institutions to help develop the next generation of healthcare professionals and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to hands-on training experiences that prepare students for successful careers.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important proposal and for your ongoing commitment to strengthening workforce development across South Dakota. I would be pleased to discuss the needs of the healthcare community more broadly, as well as the specific challenges and opportunities faced by our organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or assist with next steps in any way.

Sincerely,

John J. Ayoub, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

February 20, 2026

Dear South Dakota Board of Technical Education,

I am writing to formally express the need for a new Radiologic Technology program in South Dakota. As Radiology Manager at Coteau des Prairies Hospital in Sisseton SD, I have firsthand experience with the increasing difficulty of recruiting qualified radiologic technologists.

Our facility, and many others across South Dakota, are facing significant staffing shortages in medical imaging. The increasing demand for diagnostic services—including X-ray, CT, and specialized modalities—has outpaced our current staff capacity. This shortage leads to longer patient wait times, increased workload for current staff, or reliance on costly traveling technologists.

While we serve a diverse population in the North East area, there are limited accredited training options nearby. A local program would provide a vital pipeline, allowing us to train, retain, and employ skilled professionals within our own community. This is crucial for maintaining high-quality patient care in rural areas.

Coteau des Prairies Hospital is committed to partnering with this program by providing Clinical placement slots for students, Qualified staff to act as preceptors and an opportunity for long-term employment for graduates.

A new program will not only fill immediate vacancies but also secure the future of diagnostic imaging in South Dakota. I strongly urge you to approve this proposal to meet this critical workforce demand.

Sincerely,

Trisha Crosby R.T (R)
Radiology Manager
Coteau des Prairies Hospital
Trishac@cdphospital.com
205 Orchard Drive
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-698-4630

Milbank Area Hospital
Avera

301 Flynn Drive
Milbank, SD 57252
605-432-4538
Fax: 605-432-5412

February 26, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Milbank Area Hospital Avera in my role as Administrator to express our strong support for Lake Area Technical College's application to establish a Radiologic Technology program.

As a rural healthcare organization serving our community and surrounding region, we are experiencing a significant and growing shortage of qualified radiologic technologists. Access to timely imaging services is essential to providing safe, high-quality patient care. However, recruiting and retaining certified x-ray technologists in rural South Dakota has become increasingly challenging. Open positions often remain unfilled for extended periods.

The shortage directly impacts patient access, increases reliance on traveling technologists, and places added strain on our existing staff. In a rural setting, where resources are already limited, this creates operational and financial pressures that are not sustainable long term.

Establishing a Radiologic Technology program at Lake Area Technical College would be a tremendous asset to rural healthcare facilities like ours. Training students locally significantly increases the likelihood they will remain in the region to work after graduation. Growing our own workforce is one of the most effective strategies to address ongoing healthcare staffing shortages.

We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Lake Area Technical College by serving as a clinical training site and supporting students through hands-on learning experiences. Investing in this program is an investment in rural healthcare access, workforce sustainability, and the health of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative. I strongly encourage the approval of Lake Area Technical College's request to establish a Radiologic Technology program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Gauer

Natalie Gauer
Administrator/CEO

South Dakota Board of Technical Education,

I am writing to express strong support for Lake Area Technical College developing and offering a Radiologic Technology (X-Ray Technician) program. Establishing this program would address critical workforce shortages, expand educational opportunities for students, and strengthen healthcare services throughout our region.

Healthcare providers across South Dakota and neighboring states are experiencing an increasing demand for qualified radiologic technologists. With aging populations, expanded access to healthcare, and rapid advancements in diagnostic imaging, the need for skilled X-ray technicians continues to grow. Local hospitals, clinics, and specialty care centers rely heavily on radiologic technologists to perform essential diagnostic imaging that supports accurate and timely medical treatment.

Currently, students interested in pursuing radiologic technology often must relocate or travel significant distances to access accredited programs. By offering this program locally, Lake Area Technical College would make this high-demand career path more accessible to students in northeastern South Dakota and surrounding rural communities. This aligns with the college's mission of providing career-focused education that meets regional workforce needs.

In addition, a Radiologic Technology program would:

- Strengthen partnerships with local healthcare facilities through clinical training opportunities
- Increase enrollment and attract new students seeking in-demand healthcare careers
- Support economic growth by preparing graduates for stable, well-paying positions
- Help reduce staffing shortages in rural healthcare settings

Lake Area Technical College has a strong reputation for hands-on, technical education and workforce alignment. Expanding into radiologic technology would be a natural and strategic addition to its healthcare offerings.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I am confident that implementing a Radiologic Technology program would greatly benefit students, healthcare providers, and the broader community.

Sincerely,
Josh Mages BSHA RT(R)

February 23, 2026

Dear South Dakota Board of Technical Education,

I am writing in regards to the Radiologic Technology program proposal at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, SD. The Upper Midwest, particularly South Dakota, is lacking educational opportunities for Radiologic Technology. Over the years, I feel that there has been a decline in program availability, with an increasing demand for technologists within the Radiology field.

Coteau des Prairies Healthcare, along with other facilities in our region, are experiencing a shortage of staff in the imaging field. This would include modalities such as CT, MRI, mammography, and other specialized modalities related to the radiology field. This has been a common trend now for several years.

From a rural standpoint and personal experiences, I feel that having a program in Watertown, SD is accommodating for a lot of people that are unable to commute to larger cities for further education, especially those with lower income or farming culture. I feel that this would help hospitals in the MN, SD, ND region find skilled employees that prefer small hospital employment versus large scale hospital experience.

By opening the doors at Coteau des Prairies as a clinical site for those Lake Area students, it would give a mutual opportunity for students and hospitals alike to fill staffing vacancies and obtain professional experience within the imaging field.

Sincerely,

Erin Haanen Biel R.T. (R)(M)(CT)
Lead Radiologic Technologist
Coteau des Prairies Healthcare

PO Box 730 \\\ 1201 Arrow Avenue NE \\\ Watertown, SD 57201 \\\ 605.882.5284

LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

MEMO

TO: SD Board of Technical Education's Committee on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness and Staff
FROM: Tiffany Sanderson, President
DATE: July 2, 2026
RE: Rad Tech Application Considerations

Since the SD Board of Tech Ed's Committee on Academic Affairs met in April and the technical college presidents met in May 2026 to discuss a systemic approach to Radiologic Technology programs, Lake Area Technical College (LATC) has continued to work on Rad Tech program development. The work has honored both the critical workforce needs of industry partners, particularly in rural areas, and the sensitivity of clinical scheduling so that three programs can exist synergistically across the college system.

Through this work, the magnitude of need in the profession in central and northeast South Dakota has continually been made known; employers have been highly engaged in working with LATC to provide approaches for quality clinical experiences while not impacting existing clinical partnerships in current Rad Tech programs. The notes below highlight key points that give additional clarity to current shifts underway in the profession and within accreditation requirements that will be of benefit to all South Dakota Rad Tech providers.

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) is the accrediting body for Radiologic Technology. The organization is currently revising the Rad Tech Accreditation standards. The revisions will go into effect in 2031. Program continuous improvement, student outcomes, and clinical quality are points of emphasis in the 2031 draft standards. There are notable

changes to provide timely and progressive (i.e., sequenced) skill development to build students' competencies, including through clinical experiences. There is also additional emphasis on ensuring students don't simply get a check for performing a competency, but that students are able to demonstrate competencies under appropriate supervision and conditions.

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) sets the professional education requirements for certification and registry in the profession. ARRT requirements for rad tech performance function in tandem with the JRCERT accreditation standards for education programs. Currently the Didactic and Clinical Competency Requirements for Radiography are undergoing revisions. The new standards will take effect March 1, 2027, reflecting what Rad Techs are now expected to do on the job. Candidates for professional certification who "complete their educational program after February 28, 2029, must use the 2027 requirements." Included in the revised competency requirements are the procedures which are mandatory for certification, those that are elective, and those which are eligible for simulation.

With the revisions that are underway for the profession and education programs and with the caution expressed around clinical rotations by existing programs in the tech college system, Lake Area Technical College proposes a revised cohort size as the college starts the program. For the first year of the program (2027-28), LATC will accept 7 students. In the second year, the program will build to 14 students between first- and second-year students. After the program is established and clinical sites have been calibrated, LATC will work to build the program's capacity while honoring what was noted in the program application from March 2026 and the memo addressing duplication concerns from April 2026.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Appendix 2.B: Student Demand Projections

REVISED JULY 2, 2026

Lake Area Technical College

Radiologic Technology

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	YEAR 1	**YEAR 2**	**YEAR 3**
Student Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	**9**	**19**	**19**
Headcount: Full-Time	7	14	14
Headcount: Part-Time			
Headcount: Total	**7**	**14**	**14**
Total Program or Site Capacity	7	14	14

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 5: Financial Projections
REVISED JULY 2, 2026
Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology

	Pre-Lauch	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Student FTE		**9.45**	**18.9**	**18.9**

I. PROJECTED EXPENDITURES				
A. ONE-TIME				
New/Renovated Facilities	$ 1,200,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
Equipment	$ 1,300,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 45,000.00
Other		$ -	$ -	$ -
Sub-Total: One-time	**$ 2,500,000.00**	**$ 60,000.00**	**$ 50,000.00**	**$ 45,000.00**
B. RECURRING				
B.1. PERSONNEL				
FTE (Faculty and Staff)	1	1	1	1
Salary & Benefits	$ 92,000.00	$ 94,760.00	$ 97,602.80	$ 100,530.88
B.2. OPERATING				
Rental / Lease	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Contractual Services	$ 7,500.00	$ 17,000.00	$ 28,000.00	$ 28,000.00
Equipment	$ 3,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00
Supplies	$ 8,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
Travel	$ 2,500.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Other	$ 10,500.00	$ 38,907.50	$ 53,915.00	$ 46,915.00
Sub-Total: Operating	$ 31,500.00	$ 73,907.50	$ 102,915.00	$ 93,915.00
Total: Recurring	**$ 123,500.00**	**$ 168,667.50**	**$ 200,517.80**	**$ 194,445.88**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (A + B)	**$ 2,623,500.00**	**$ 228,667.50**	**$ 250,517.80**	**$ 239,445.88**

II. PROJECTED REVENUE				
Tuition		$ 37,989.00	$ 75,978.00	$ 75,978.00
State Fees		$ 12,474.00	$ 24,948.00	$ 24,948.00
Local Fees		$ 25,914.00	$ 51,828.00	$ 51,828.00
Location-Based Fees		$ -	$ -	$ -
State Sources		$ -	$ 60,601.72	$ 121,203.43
Federal Sources	$ 92,000.00	$ 63,489.20		$ -
Private Grants or Gifts	$ 2,500,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 45,000.00
Other		$ 5,250.00	$ 10,500.00	$ 10,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 2,592,000.00**	**$ 205,116.20**	**$ 273,855.72**	**$ 329,457.43**
REVENUE - EXPENDITURES	**$ (31,500.00)**	**$ (23,551.30)**	**$ 23,337.92**	**$ 90,011.55**

**Projections are held constant based on current fiscal year. Inflation or rate changes are not factored.*

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Appendix 5: Financial Projections
REVISED JULY 2, 2026
Lake Area Technical College
Radiologic Technology
Notes:

Equipment	Technology
Other	Adjuncts, Accreditation, Furniture, Books + Kits, State Facility Fees, M&R
State Sources	Projected FY27 Per Student Funding for LATC
Federal Sources	Perkins to off-set 1 salary for 2 years
Other	Books + Kits