



March 28, 2022

TO: State Board of Technical Education

FROM: Michael Cartney, President

RE: Lake Area Technical College: Oct to Dec Notes for State Board of Tech Ed

- 1. LATC Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) dashboard (January 2022).** Quarterly LATC provide its leadership boards the progress and status around seven Key Performance Indications: Enrollment (Students); Financial Health; Plant Capacity and Conditions; Human Resources; Industry – Regional Relationships; and Assessment. A goal for each KPI is provided as well as measures of success. The dashboard, presented to the meeting of the SAC is attached (Attach 1).
- 2. Military-Friendly College Award.** Lake Area Technical College has once again earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly ® School Gold-Level designation. Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation are evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-2023 survey with 665 earning **special** awards for going above the standard. This is Lake Area Tech's 12th year of receiving the recognition.
- 3. Admissions.** Nationally there is a movement for Colleges to move to “testing optional” admissions protocols. Driven in many areas by issues getting access to testing sites, LATC has been looking at relying more on the new diploma options (Advanced, Advanced Career, and Advanced Honors) as the determination of student acceptance (at least for SD students). Lots of work to do here, but it is proving difficult to show a strong correlation between test scores and general success. Test scores would still be used for placement and merit scholarships. Changes would not take effect until the Fall 2023.
- 4. Pierre Women's Prison Upskill Program.** With Diane Stiles leadership, the Precision Machining Certificate program is off to a strong start at the Pierre Women's Prison. Lake Area Tech hired a full-time instructor to teach the program. The Department of Corrections performed the necessary facility upgrades to support the program enabling the equipment and supplies to support the program to be installed. The students are performing well in both the general education and Precision Machining courses. Representatives will be meeting with the students individually to develop career or continuing education plans upon release. The Department of Labor, Department of Corrections, and Lake Area Tech are going the extra step and working together to provide the graduates with the economic and social support needed to achieve their post-graduation goals. A special graduation ceremony is also in the planning process to celebrate their achievements. Conversations about expanding the educational opportunities available to those incarcerated in South Dakota are ongoing.
- 5. Native American and New Americans Initiative.** On January 5 and 6, Hani Shafai from Dream Design International, a developer from Rapid City, was joined by CJ Foods, Terex, and others to engage in strategic discussions about initiatives to get Native Americans and New Americans into the South Dakota workforce. Hani Shafai's briefing can be downloaded at [Jan 2022 HH presentation.pdf.zip](#). Discussions on

getting more Native American and New Americans into the manufacturing workforce was extremely fruitful. Next steps are refinement of the steps for employers as well as meeting with Tribal representatives. Also, strategic discussion on New Americans in the workforce is being coupled with efforts to bring Ukrainians into SD. Leadership from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate have already visited LATC and Terex. The discussions were positive and there is strong interest in both manufacturing and education collaboration.

- 6. Build Dakota Scholarship and Stretch the Million.** Our Stretch-the-Million Partnership program continues to grow each year. Currently, 87 industry partners have signed up to interview applicants for the eighth cohort of Build Dakota Scholarship at Lake Area Tech. In addition, more than 40 students have already secured an industry partnership through their current employer or other connection; this the highest number of ‘recruits’ we have seen prior to the interviewing phase which begins the day after the student application window closes.
- 7. I’m IN Capital Campaign.** – LATC Foundation’s “I’M IN” campaign is moving out of its silent phase. LATC is currently breaking ground on the Diesel Technology Expansion, and is in the bid process on the Archway Complex. The \$40M Capital Campaign gives industry and individuals opportunities to receive recognition for gifts to the LATC Foundation. Commitments may be remitted over the course of five years.
- 8. In the news:**
 - a. KXLG story on Scholarships:
https://www.mykxlg.com/news/local/good-news-story---dorothy-tesch-memorial-scholarship-established-at-lake-area-technical-college/article_11526a08-ab8b-11ec-876f-67dfb8e3dfd4.html
 - b. SD News release on:
<https://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=30019>
 - c. Military Friendly Designation
<https://www.lakeareatech.edu/latc-earns-2022-2023-military-friendly-school-designation/>
 - d. VITA Tax Prep Services
<https://www.lakeareatech.edu/lake-area-tech-offers-free-income-tax-preparation-services-5/>
- 9. Student Perspectives:** Why Community College Was a Good Choice. The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Alliance hosted a webinar featuring a Lake Area Tech student’s perspective on community colleges. Hsa Say, a first year Law Enforcement student, served on the panel. She shared her inspiring story from living in a refugee camp in Thailand to where she is today.

Lake Area Technical College Quarterly Dashboard: January 2022

Indicator	Goal	Measures	Current Value	Previous Value	Trends	Planned Actions/ Notes
Enrollment	Increase enrollment and retention to grow the South Dakota workforce pipeline by engaging diverse populations to make progress towards reaching equilibrium with industry demand	Enrollment: 3,000 students by 2025 (unduplicated headcount), FTE stable above 2000, increasing as new facilities come online Retention: >80% Placement: >98%	Enrollment 2021-2022: Fall 2190 (1005 new students in programs) Retention (Fall 2021): 79% Placement (2020 Graduates): 99%	Enrollment 2020-2021: Fall 2217, Spring 2608, Summer 2641 (Unduplicated Headcount) FTE: 1960 Retention (Fall 2020): 84% Placement (2019 Graduates): 99%	Enrollment Trend Increase of 39.5% (headcount) since 2014 (Headcount/FTE): AY20-21: 2641/1960 (+1.0%) AY19-20: 2618/1995 (-0.34%) AY18-19: 2624/2032 (+5.7%) AY17-18: 2487/1947 (+1.4%) AY16-17: 2451/1962 (+11.5%)	Spring 2022 New Programs and Expansions: Precision Machining Upskill Certificate at the Pierre Women's Prison, Drones Option in Professional Pilot Program; Community Health Worker Corporate Education Certificate New Programs and Expansions: Electric Vehicles AAS Degree - Third Year Option (Fall 2022); Surgical Technology AAS Degree (Fall 2023) The NET: Consolidated and expanded student services to improve retention
Fiscal Health	Funding to meet growing operational requirements with needed expansion	Operational Budget: Funding for equipment and operations with reserve >15% Facilities Expansion: Funding secured for the execution of the Campus Plan	FY23 Governor's Budget: Per Student Allocation: 6% increase Instructor Industry Adjustment: 6% increase Maintenance and Repair: Increase to \$1,544,973 (+\$325,362), goal of 1% by 2024 Tuition Buy-down: \$10/credit Facility Funding: \$7.5M grant for Archway Legislative Advocacy: Equipment and additional instructor adjustment funds	FY23 Legislative Request: Per Student Allocation: 3% increase Instructor Industry Adjustment: Distribution method change, 3% + \$2.3M fair market Maintenance and Repair: Increase to \$1,544,973 (+\$325,362), goal of 1% by 2024 Equipment (66%/33%): \$6.54M state, \$9.76M total Tuition Buy-down: \$10/credit Facility Funding: \$7M grant for Archway	Tuition and Fees: 4th highest nationally; Approximately 70% of the cost is covered by the students. Campus Plan: Bond fund availability is limited though the buy down proposal is promising. Capital Campaign is key to expanding the facilities to meet workforce demand without increasing financial burden on students.	FY23 Legislative Priorities: Legislative advocacy to uphold the Governor's budget recommendation and increase funding for priority projects not funded in the Governor's budget including the instructor adjustment and equipment funds Student Affordability: Priority for state to increase access to technical education.
Plant Capacity & Condition	Safe, well-maintained facilities conducive to learning and sufficient to meet workforce demand/student population	Maintenance and Repair (M&R): Invest 2% of replacement value annually Campus Plan: Implement the campus plan to accommodate student growth	Diesel Technology Expansion: The Diesel Technology Expansion project was bid and awarded to Gray Construction at \$7,772,000. Groundbreaking scheduled in Spring 2022. Archway Project: Advocating for \$7.5 in one time legislative funds to match the lead private gift. Design and engineering in progress. Campus Plan: Final buildings to complete the 2016 Campus Plan are the Custom Paint and Fabrication and Aviation buildings.	Fall 2022 Projects: The Net student service area is complete. North parking lot near completion. Prairie Lakes Healthcare Center of Learning: Planning stages for Dental Assisting remodel. Campus Plan: Permission to bid the Diesel Expansion in November. Design stage of Archway building is underway with projected bid date in early spring.	Enrollment: Campus facilities at the capacity projected for 2046 according to the previous campus plan (2008). Campus Plan: Next phases of the Campus Plan are building the Diesel Expansion and Archway buildings. Aviation and Custom Paint and Fabrication remain. Maintenance and Repair: State funding increase towards a goal of 2% replacement value annually	Short-term Accommodations: Implementing short-term plans to accommodate student growth, including off campus locations. Field land purchased for the Agriculture department. Outreach Locations: Partnerships with employers and communities to offer workforce development training through facilities in the region. Apprenticeship programs to assist with industry demand and for workforce training.
Human Resources	Highly qualified, quality staff and faculty that enhance Lake Area Tech's culture of caring sustained by controlled retirements and deliberate hiring practices	Turnover Rate: <10% HLC Requirements: Meet HLC Qualified Faculty Guidelines Staff/Student Ratio: Adequate to support enrollment growth	Employee Recruitment: Filled three custodial, one nutrition services, one childcare, one student services, and two instructional positions for Spring 2022 Employee Bonus: School board approved an employee retention bonus in December.	Employee Tenure (Fall 2021): 5 years or less (41%) Between 5 and 15 years (42%) 15 years or more (17%) Retirement: 55+ years old (27%) 15 employees eligible for early retirement, 1 final year of eligibility	Turnover Rate: FY21 29/205 (14.1%) FY20 19/208 (9.1%) FY19 23/205 (11.2%) FY18 29/202 (14.4%) FY17 21/202 (10.4%) FY16 14/202 (6.9%) Employee Retention Rate: 86.4% (9/1-8/31)	Culture: Focus on resilience training and mental health to retain faculty and staff as we transition to back to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty Professional Development: Enhancing professional development in teaching and learning for new and continuing faculty.
Industry – Regional Relationships	Engaged regionally in mutually beneficial partnerships resulting in successful corporate education offerings, Capital Campaign, Build Dakota program, and scholarship base	Scholarship Funds: 10% increase in overall funds for scholarships, campus improvements, and program enhancement Build Dakota: Meet or exceed cohort target number Corporate Education: Financially self-sustaining and a 10% increase in the number of companies and individuals served Foundation: Financially self-sustaining, successful 1'm In Capital Campaign	Corporate Education {2020-21}: Companies Served: 156 Individuals Served: 891 2021-22{2nd Quarter, Combined}: Companies Served: 39, 133 Individuals Served: 264, 550 Capital Campaign: Naming Rights (5.1% of value): 4; Impact Partners (\$100-\$500k): 3; Cornerstone Society (\$500k-\$1M): 1, & Alumni & Friends Campaign (1st Qtr. 2022) Foundation Trust: \$4,618,345 2021-22 Scholarships: \$799,813. YTD including unrestricted, endowed, and pass through scholarships	Corporate Education {2020-21}: Companies Served: 156 Individuals Served: 891 2021-22{1st Quarter}: Companies Served: 94 Individuals Served: 286 Capital Campaign: Embarking on the community engagement phase of the campaign through Impact Partners, Cornerstone Society, & Alumni & Friends Campaign. Foundation Trust: \$4,413,675 - Market loss 2021-22 Scholarships: \$413,021 YTD including unrestricted, endowed, and pass through scholarships	Foundation Trust Account: 2021: 4,403,897 2020: \$3,566,635 2019: \$3,410,920 2018: \$3,105,279 2017: \$2,758,668 2016: \$2,234,154 2015: \$2,112,867 Corporate Education: COVID-19 continues to impact the number of companies and individuals served. Numbers are improving.	Corporate Education: Strategic plan to increase the number of companies served after the COVID-19 pandemic Build Dakota STM Partners: 46, highest demand in Diesel, Precision, & Nursing New Apprenticeships: CDL, Healthcare (CNA, LPN, RN with HOSA), Dakota Tube - Plant Maintenance UPCOMING EVENTS January 1 - March 31: Build Dakota Scholarship Cycle January 25: Scholarship Luncheon February 16: Student for a 1/2 Day TBD: Governor's Luncheon
Assessment	Maintain institutional quality as reflected in Higher Learning Commission as well as program accreditations and certifications	Accreditation and Certifications: Accredited and in good standing with industry, state, and national standards including Higher Learning Commission	Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Program Accreditations: HLC Assessment Academy: Continued work on the Quality Initiative project to enhance co-curricular and general education assessment including outcome mapping. Program Accreditations: Practical Nursing: Part-time, on campus approved for Spring 2022 Registered Nursing Online: Fall 2022 Occupational Therapy Assistant: Sept 2022 Dental Assisting: Fall 2022 Med/Fire Rescue: 2022 (postponed)	Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Program Accreditations: 4 year review complete, all criteria met with no monitoring required. HLC Assessment Academy: Focused on improving assessment practices across campus as the Quality Initiative project. Upcoming Program Accreditations: Occupational Therapy Assistant: 2022 Dental Assisting: 2022 Med/Fire Rescue: 2022	Good Standing: Lake Area Tech and programs are in good standing and meet accreditation standards. Assessment Software: Implementation of an Accreditation Platform software (SPOL-Strategic Planning On Line) for institutional management of accreditation, assessment, planning, budgeting, and credentialing.	HLC: Highest rating achieved, all criteria met with no monitoring or reporting. The Quality Initiative is the Assessment Academy project led by a committee of faculty and staff with the goal of improving assessment practices campus wide. Assessment Software: Implementation of an Accreditation Platform software (SPOL-Strategic Planning On Line) for institutional management of accreditation, assessment, planning, budgeting, and credentialing.

LEGEND (Goals: Blue = exceeds goal; Green = meets goal; Yellow = slightly below goal; Red = significantly below goal)

Trends: Blue = improving trend; Green = stable trend; Yellow = cautionary trend; Red = trend requires immediate attention/action)



Thursday, April 7th – 2021

TO: State Board of Technical Education
FROM: Mark Wilson, President
RE: Brief Updates

1. MTC Career Services-The 2022 Career Fair Day (2/16/22) was another SUCCESSFUL Mitchell Tech event!!! A total of 125 organizations that had registered since September, 10 cancelled, one walked in unexpected for the afternoon, so we had a total of 116 employers participating in the day!
117 students participated in the Energy Career Fair with thirty companies in attendance.
368 students participated in the Campus-Wide Career Fair with ninety-six companies in attendance.
Total of **485 students** attending the fairs!
The employers were VERY PLEASED and had so many positive comments about our career fairs!

2. Inside Enrollment-Admission Reps and Instructors recently traveled to Wagner, Marion, Sturgis, and Pierre Career Expos.
March 3rd. MTC hosted our 2nd Exploration Day. We received many positive comments about the day, ambassadors, facilities, and instructor interaction.

MTC will be hosting our last Exploration Day of the school year on March 30th and several others:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Brandon, 6 Sioux Falls & Winner College Fair | Gregory Career Expo |
| Hosting the Dept of Labor & JAG | Lakota Tech Career Expo |
| Culinary Camp | Welding Competition |
| Host Leadership Mitchell | Exploration Day |
| HOSA | FPLA – Aberdeen |
| Region ACTE Vendor – Rapid City | |

3. New/Expanded programs for Fall of 2022- Pending approval for an AAS Option-Entrepreneurship (Business & Service Industries Division) that will initially be designed as a third year for several programs. Offer a “Certificate” option in Welding/Manufacturing. Expand footprint of Radiological Technology program.

4. Flashy competition at Mitchell Technical College as welders show off skills-Student with passion for creation help showcase school program, industry partnerships (Friday, March 25th, 2022)

<https://www.mitchellrepublic.com/education/flashy-competition-at-mitchell-technical-college-as-welders-show-off-skills>

By Erik Kaufman

March 25, 2022 03:21 PM

MITCHELL — For the students at the Nordby Trades Center on the campus of Mitchell Technical College, the most pressing task at hand Friday morning was fusing two pieces of metal together. Shielding their eyes from the brilliant flash of a welding torch, they each do their part to create strong, quality welds as the judges look on.

It is all part of the welding competition hosted by the Welding & Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program, which sees high school juniors and seniors from around the state and beyond descend on Mitchell to take part in a little friendly competition as well as to get a look at the opportunities available to them at Mitchell Technical College. “It is mainly for the students to explore the manufacturing world through competition,” said Travis Peterson, director for the Welding & Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program at MTC.

The competition is in its seventh year at the school and has become a showcase event for the welding and manufacturing program. Students begin the competition phase back at their high school, where they are administered an online welding exam, the results of which are relayed back to the judges. Those students then arrive at Mitchell Technical College for a physical welding exam. They attempt a number of welding styles and techniques and are graded on their performance before the scores are compiled and the top finishers calculated. “Welding quality, strength of the welds and knowledge,” Peterson said about the criteria the students will be judged on.

The competition is good-spirited fun and doing well is a point of pride for those involved. But the real prizes are two-fold, with high school upperclassmen getting a chance to explore further educational opportunities in a skilled trade and industry members getting a chance to pitch employment opportunities after graduation.

5. *MTC Newsletter- March 11, 2022* –

President's News

Legislative Session

The 2022 Legislative Session comes to an end. Overall, with all the trips to Pierre, conference calls, phone calls, and emails, it was very successful for Mitchell Tech and the Technical College System.

For our STUDENTS, returning and new-incoming, there will be no increase to our state tuition, state fees, and no increase to our local institutional fees.

For our FACULTY and STAFF, there will be salary increases and an additional perk for the 2022-23 college year.

For our CAMPUS, there will be the initial construction of a new Ag Power Diesel Building, initial water-drainage projects, remodeling, continued upgrades of lighting, etc.

Please enjoy your time for Spring Break next week.

Mark Wilson, President



Mitchell Technical College is seeking \$5,000,000 dollars in one-time State/Federal funds, to be matched with MTC's \$5,000,000 from donated and local funds to construct an estimated 55,000 – 60,000 sq. ft. technical lab and shop space for the Agriculture and Diesel Power programs.

Currently, MTC students in three programs (Precision Ag, Diesel, and Light Truck), travel to an outdated diesel shop with limited space (7,000 sq. ft.) on the west side of town to complete lab activities and assessments. Agriculture/Precision students do not have a designated technical lab space for large course projects. The additional square footage would have minimal effect to the Technical Colleges' maintenance & repair funds and there will be zero funds in state and/or local bonding.

The proposed additional square footage would allow the college to add new dedicated technical lab and shop space, creating an opportunity to greatly expand the scope and depth for educating and training on-campus students, corporate education clients, industry partners, and the region's diverse workforce.

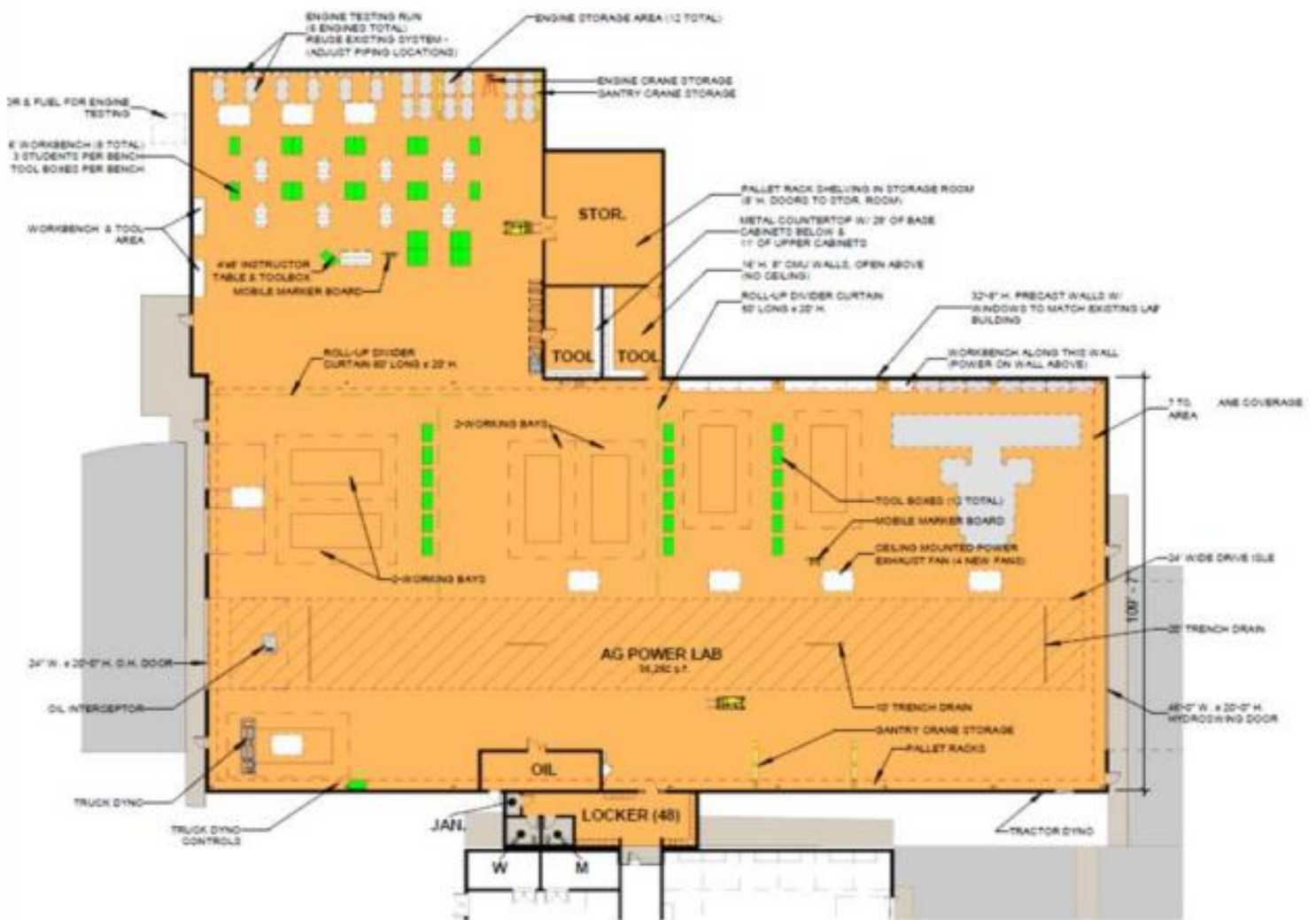
MTC's Technical Lab & Shop Space: An Investment in the Future of the SD Ag Economy

1. The proposed technical lab (35,292 sq. ft.) and shop space (TBD) would create an opportunity for program expansion to an estimated additional 50 to 65 students in the Agriculture and Diesel Power programs.
2. The graduation rate for Agriculture and Diesel Power Programs at MTC is 79%; job placement averages 96% for in-field careers; and 92% of graduates are employed in South Dakota.
3. 87.5% of respondents to the 2018 Employer Survey (Ag industry employers) reported that MTC graduates met or exceeded employer expectations. Nearly 92% were either considering or already offering internships to MTC students.
4. Education and training will remain constant and consistent regardless of weather. Currently, hands-on applied learning activities on large Ag equipment is limited to a short window of time from September through November and occasionally in April.
5. The addition of the new technical lab and shop space to the MTC Campus will provide an opportunity to utilize the more than \$6 million in donated Agriculture equipment year-round.
6. Local industry partners will welcome the use of the additional space for on-campus training while having the ability to record and live-stream the training to remote locations. The majority of MTC's Ag-related employers represent implement dealerships and Ag cooperatives. These organizations maintain strong relationships with the college, and subsequently offer critical financial support for scholarships and program support.
7. The additional technical lab and shop space will be outfitted with the highest quality technology on the market. Building upon MTC's nationally recognized Wi-Fi 6 network, the facility will have access to the new Verizon 4G/5G tower that has been recently constructed in November of 2021, on the MTC campus. This capability will ensure that MTC remains a leader in today's newest wireless technology.

By completing the proposed project, the expansion would directly affect seven programs: Agronomy, Precision AG, Animal Science, Powersports, Marine Technology, AG Diesel and Light/Medium Truck Diesel Repair. Currently, these seven programs have 174 enrolled students.

The information below shows the current lab space and how the new building would support the needs of industry by expansion of student growth in these programs.

Program	Current Space	New Lab Space from Project
Precision / Agronomy Tech	0 sq. ft.	4,660 sq. ft.
Powersport Lab	1,750 sq. ft.	4,000 sq. ft.
Marine Tech Lab	2,900 sq. ft.	4,000 sq. ft.
Diesel Power First Year Lab	3,250 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Diesel AG 2 nd Year Lab	4,660 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Diesel Light Truck Lab	6,300 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Overall storage for programs	960 sq. ft.	2,000 sq. ft.



Floor Plan

1" = 30'-0"

35,292 s.f.

March 2022

Board of Technical Education

Robert Griggs, STC President

Southeast Technical College to Undergo Expansion

Southeast Tech is expanding its campus footprint and creating a new Healthcare Simulation Center. The simulation center is made possible by three large gifts to the college from Avera Health, Sanford Health and Forward Sioux Falls, totaling \$5.6 million. Those donations were boosted by a \$4.5 million appropriation by the South Dakota legislature, which was signed by Governor Kristi Noem.

The Southeast Technical College Healthcare Simulation Center will be located at 2329 N Career Ave., which is adjacent to Southeast Tech's campus and home of the former Zeal Center for Entrepreneurship.

The project will greatly expand STC's healthcare programs and aid in growing the college's enrollment in those programs.

New Graduate Outcomes Report Released, STC Has 99% Job Placement Rate

STC'S Career Services office recently completed its 2021 Graduate Placement Report. To obtain data, a survey was administered to 686 undergraduates who completed a total of 829 diplomas and/or degrees between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. The survey was supplemented with communications from Student Success via emails, text messages and phone calls, as well as connection via social media with Student Success Advisors. This data collection process aligns with the guidelines published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Southeast Tech obtained information on 87.5% of these graduates, which exceeds the minimum NACE knowledge rate by 22.5%.

- STC's overall job placement rate is 99%.
- We have 40 programs with a 100% job placement rate.
- 88% of our graduates are working in South Dakota.
- The average starting salary for all Southeast Tech grads is \$37,939.
- \$41,620 average starting salary for all healthcare program graduates.
- \$35,800 average starting salary for I.T. graduates.
- \$41,787 average starting salary for STEM graduates.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/2021-graduate-outcomes-report.php>

STC and NSU Establish New Articulation Agreements

Southeast Tech and Northern State University have signed several new articulation agreements, providing additional pathways for STC graduates to complete a bachelor's degree. The new agreements allow STC graduates with an associate of applied science in any field to receive a block transfer of up to 30 technical

credits at Northern. Bachelor's degrees are available in NSU's Human Performance, Sports Marketing and Administration, Banking and Financial Services, Business Administration, Finance, Management, Accounting and Marketing programs.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/nsu-stc-announce-articulations.php>

Southeast Technical College Receives Military Friendly Designation, Opens New Veterans Lounge

Southeast Technical College has been recognized as a Military Friendly school for the 2022-23 academic year, earning silver-level status through VIQORY, military marketing company that advocates for the military and Veterans. STC has attained this status for the past several years.

This fall, a new Veterans Lounge opened on campus as both a resource center and lounge for our students serving in the military.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/military-friendly-2022.php>

Online Computer Programming AAS Receives National Accolades

STC's Online Computer Programming program was ranked No. 1 and No. 4 by University HQ and ZDNet, respectively.

The No. 4 ZDNet ranking is based on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and the College Scorecard. Their methodology builds rankings based on expert curation, research, and meticulous editing. Schools cannot pay for inclusion in ZDNet's rankings, which ensures the objectivity and accuracy of each program listed. <https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/best-online-computer-programming.php>

The No. 1 ranking is from University Headquarters, an industry-leading, independent educational organization with a comprehensive set of information for students who wish to pursue a higher education.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/computer-programming-best-online-aas.php>

Women in Science Meet at STC

More than 700 middle school girls were on STC campus exploring and learning more about STEM careers at the Women in Science event, held in early March. A variety of professionals – doctors, veterinarians, pharmacists, zoologists, optometrists, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, chemists, computer analysts, geographers and engineers – gave presentations. Each girl heard a minimum of five presentations and got a first-hand look at STEM careers at 25 interactive exhibits. Students from Lennox, Ben Reifel, Beresford, Parker, George McGovern, Brandon Valley, Alcester-Hudson, Madison, Tea Area, Sioux Falls Lutheran, Chester, Canton, Marion, Edison, Garretson and West Central middle schools participated.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/women-in-science-2022.php>

****Event coverage on KELO:** <https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/women-in-science-event-teaches-students-about-careers/>

Career Services Serves Hundreds of Students at Career Fairs

This spring, Career Services has been busy hosting Job Fairs for students in several career areas, including Veterinary Technology, Information Technology, Mechatronics, Healthcare, Engineering Technology and Construction. Collectively, nearly 400 students connected with more than 70 employers.

Coming up next are the Job and College Transfer Fair on April 19 and the Health Career Fair on May 5.

Southeast Tech Continues to Develop New Strategic Plan

Starting last summer, Southeast Technical College began developing a new strategic plan. Leading us in this effort are Rick Melmer (Leadership South Dakota) and Mike Siebersma (Marzano Research). Last fall, Rick and Mike facilitated surveys and conducted focus groups. Industry representatives, employees, community members and students were surveyed about STC's performance. During November, six focus groups met, including faculty, students, staff, area high school administrators and industry and community representatives. Then, in mid-December during a two-day retreat, a 40+ group of STC constituents discussed the research results. The goal of the retreat was to develop an outline of the strategic initiatives that will drive Southeast Tech moving forward, and the six goal areas that emerged from that retreat. Workgroups have been formed and met throughout March to develop metrics and action steps and hope to have a strategic plan in place by May.

NOW Campaign Wraps Up, Funds Raised More Than Double Initial Goal

The Southeast Technical College Foundation has successfully concluded a capital campaign after raising more than double its goal. With an initial target of \$6.2 million, the three-year New Opportunities in Workforce Development (NOW) campaign launched in fall 2018 and ended on Dec. 31, 2021, after raising more than \$13 million in new pledges and gifts. This includes more than 1,300 individual gifts from more than 300 donors.

The NOW campaign's four goals were to:

- Grow industry sponsors and scholarships to support an increase in enrollment;
- Fund needed support services to significantly improve recruitment and retention of first-generation and diverse students;
- Strengthen industry connections, apprenticeships, internships and annual unrestricted funds to meet industry needs; and,
- Financially support the new renovation for the Veterinarian Technician and Dental Assisting programs, as well as other smaller projects.

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

WDTC Report for the Board of Technical Education,
March 25, 2022

Dear Board of Technical Education Members:

Greetings from WDTC!

For this update, I am including the following stories that WDTC included in our Crackerbarrel updates during the legislative session. Rapid City area Crackerbarrels were held at WDTC in partnership with Elevate Rapid City throughout the 2022 session.

- WDTC launched two new programs in Spring 2022, Meat Cutting and Processing, and Autonomous Equipment Technician.
- The Higher Learning Commission is WDTC's regional accreditor, and we have three updates on accreditation action:
 1. Successful site visit to Whitewood, SD, WDTC's first satellite campus, in February 2022.
 2. HLC approval to move forward with satellite campus in Philip, SD.
 3. Comprehensive peer team site review at WDTC on March 28-29.
- The South Dakota Skills USA state competition begins on April 7 on WDTC's campus in Rapid City and ends on April 8. We are excited to host the contest in person on campus this year!
- Nominations for American Technical Education Association awards celebration with WDTC's advisory board members.
- Bellwether Community College Futures Assembly Competition and WDTC Student Success Center.
- Aspen Institute Update

I hope that you find this overview of early spring happenings to be enjoyable! Let me know if you have any questions!

Ann Bolman, Ed.D.
Ann.Bolman@wdt.edu

WDTC Launches New Program to Fill High-Need Careers in Autonomous Tech Industry

Four Caterpillar-Sponsored Full-Ride Scholarships Available for Fall Semester 2022

Four Caterpillar-Sponsored Full-Ride Scholarships Available for Fall Semester 2022

As the use of autonomous technology is increasing in mining, agriculture, and construction, so is the need for specialized employees.

[Western Dakota Technical College \(WDTC\)](#) is excited to be at the forefront of training future employees for this growing industry. After receiving employer requests to help train future employees, the college started a 9-month [Autonomous Equipment Technician \(AET\)](#) certificate program in January 2022. Students in the program learn the skills required to install, commission, and maintain electrical and mechanical systems in autonomous vehicles used in mining, agriculture, and construction.

There are AET career opportunities available in the region, nation, and internationally now.

“An important part of our mission at Western Dakota Technical College is to adapt to workforce needs. We had industry asking us if we could start this first-of-its-kind program to train their future employees to do this type of work. They told us they wanted to hire graduates right out of the program and would pay great wages,” said Ann Bolman, Ed.D., WDTC President. “After understanding what type of skills these future employees would need, and knowing we already had the faculty with expertise in these areas, it was an easy decision to begin the process to start the new Autonomous Equipment Technician program.”

AET Program Director Justin Jutting said graduates of this program will bridge the gap between basic mechanical systems and advanced Information Technology (IT) systems. Principles of electricity, networking, welding, and mechanical skill will provide a foundation for various autonomous



systems.

Program training will provide students the flexibility to pursue different areas of employment in the autonomous technology industry, from hardware and software implementation and upgrading to troubleshooting and consulting.

Graduates will have the skills to support technology offerings that range from machine health and fleet management software to fully autonomous operations. Potential on-site roles include site manager, application specialist, builder, controller, service technician, and site engineer. In addition, graduates will find opportunities to work in remote support centers that provide 24/7 service for technologies. Training includes virtual reality simulation, hands-on learning, welding, mechanical, electronics, and autonomous technology training.

Individuals with experience working on diesel engines, welding, working in electrical trades, and those with computer-science experience should consider this program and career field. (This would be a benefit to the student but is not a program requirement as the skills necessary to succeed will be taught in the program.)

Career placement following the completion of this short program should be great as industry has expressed the desire to hire our students upon graduation.

Wall Meats & Western Dakota Technical College Collaborate in New Meat Processing Program



Wall Meats and [Western Dakota Technical College \(WDTTC\)](#) have created a new partnership that is sure to benefit many in this region.

WDTTC and Wall Meats have implemented a [Meat Processing instructional program](#) at the college that started this Spring Semester 2022. Students have a choice of a one-year certificate program and an 11-month diploma program.

“There is a current shortage of people skilled in professional meat cutting and processing not only in western South Dakota but throughout this region and the state. There is great demand for high-quality ‘ranch to table’ protein sources,” said Ann Bolman, Ed.D., WDTTC President. “This partnership will result in high-need, great paying careers for graduates and will also help meet the demand for more meat cutters and value-added meat processing. Increasing the availability of meat processing

professionals and shops also gives ranchers and producers another market for selling their product, making better pricing available for both producers and consumers. Ken Charfauros, Wall Meats owner who approached the college about offering the program, helped develop the curriculum for the meat cutting and processing courses to ensure the courses meet industry standards. Charfauros, photo right, is assisting in teaching the hands-on meat cutting and processing courses in his new Rapid City Wall Meats business location.

Charfauros knows first-hand the great need for more professionally trained meat cutters and processors.

“We’re honored to enter into this agreement with Western Dakota Tech. We are looking forward to this partnership and there is such a high need right now. People looking to have their own meat processed have had to travel as far away as Gordon, Neb., and often have to wait several months,”

Charfauros said. “It is important to learn academically what your industry is all about and that is what we will do. It is good to learn as much as you can in your initial training as opposed to 15 years down the road.”

Western Dakota Technical College started a Farm and Ranch Management program in 2019. Dr. Bolman said the Meat Processing Program is adding a highly needed profession within the broader farm and ranch field to the college’s offerings.

Kaden Eisenbraun, WDTTC Farm and Ranch Management program Director, is also the director of the new Meat Processing program. He led the planning and approval for the program and courses and is also teaching some of the required courses on the WDTTC campus.



National Award Nominees Honored by WDTC



[Western Dakota Technical College \(WDTC\)](#) formally announced and honored its 2022 American Technical Education Association (ATEA) Award Nominees during an All-Program Advisory Board meeting, at the college, on Feb. 23.

The WDTC ATEA award nominees are as follows. L-R, top row: Outstanding Technical Student Nominee - Emily McGuire, Paramedic Program; Outstanding Technical Student Nominee Monica Sherman, Computer-Aided Design Program; and Outstanding Technical Instructor Nominee Dr. Kelsey Murray. L-R, bottom row: Outstanding Technical Program Nominee - [Computer-Aided Design](#),

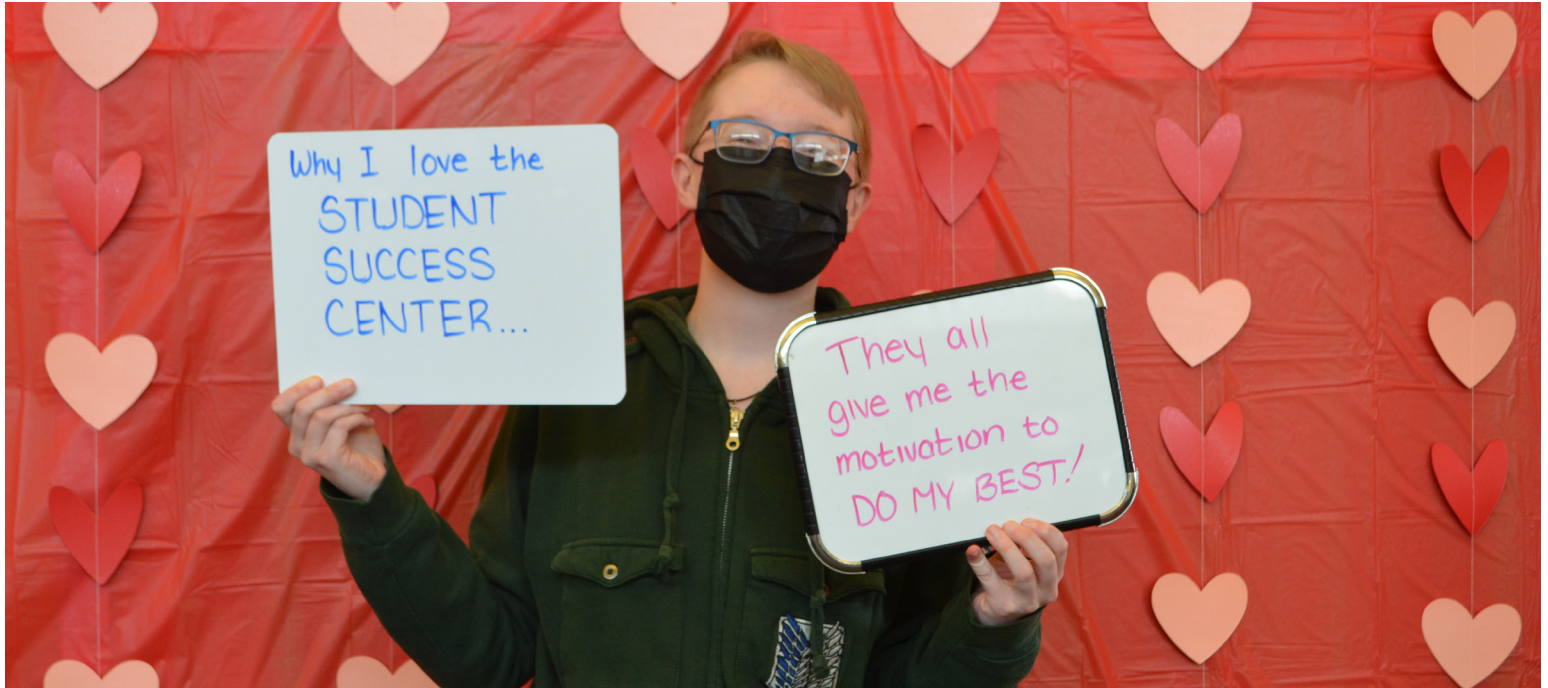
Program Co-Directors James Loverich and Todd Anderson; and ATEA & National Technical Honor Society Silver Star of Excellence Nominee - Pennington County Sheriff's Department, nomination award accepted by Chief Deputy Brian Mueller.

On March 15, WDTC learned that the Pennington County Sheriff's Department has won the national Silver Star of Excellence Award for an outstanding industry partner, and Dr. Kelsey Murray, EET/CEA program director, is a finalist for the faculty award. The ATEA faculty award winners will be announced during the organization's virtual national conference on April 26.



Students Share Why They Love the Student Success Center

Student Success Center Outcomes Subject of Award Entry in WDTC is a national finalist



The success of the [Western Dakota Technical College \(WDTC\) Student Success Center \(SSC\)](#) is a national model for how other colleges can build impactful centers. It is the focus of our national Bellwether award presentation that has earned WDTC a place as a finalist in the 2022 Planning, Governance and Finance division. (WDTC will learn next week if we are an award winner.)

The WDTC SSC helps ensure students have all the academic and personal support they need. It is the go-to source for our students. The SSC is home to our Student Success Coaches, tutoring resources, support, academic tips, club and organizational connections, and links to additional outside resources for students.

The WDTC SSC opened in 2014 to address important issues facing students - retention and persistence to completion (graduation). An analysis took place in 2021 to determine the college's Return on Investment (ROI) regarding the SSC. The data below proves the great difference the SSC has and is making in the lives of our students.

- Cohort Graduation rates went from an average of 43% in 2013-14 to an average of 47% in 2018-19.
- Student withdrawals have gone down and revenue has increased.
- The SSC's estimated ROI is up to 57.1% annually, which means the Center pays for itself through improved retention and employee productivity improvements.
- Productivity of administration and faculty increased because of specialized Coaches were able to handle student issues and questions (annually).
- The SSC's estimated annual impact on tuition revenue is between \$290,673 and \$454,643.



WDTC Selected a Top 150 Community College

The Aspen Institute has selected [Western Dakota Technical College \(WDTC\)](#) as one of 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

According to the Aspen Institute, colleges selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

As one of the 150 colleges eligible to apply for the Aspen Award, WDTC has submitted requested data and narratives as the first step in an intensive data and practice review process, which will culminate in the announcement of the Prize winner in spring 2023. On Jan. 25, 2022, WDTC received notice it has now been selected to continue in the Aspen Prize process by participating in a 45-minute interview in February.

"It is an honor for Western Dakota Technical College to have been selected for this recognition," said Ann Bolman, Ed.D., WDTC President. "We strive for continual improvement as a college and for all students to be successful on their path to achieving their career goals. I thank our Board, faculty, and employees for their tremendous efforts to make a difference in the lives of our students which has culminated in this special designation."

The 150 Aspen Prize eligible colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. Located in urban, rural, and suburban areas across 34 states, these colleges serve as few as 230 students and as many as 57,000.

In the first round, eligibility for the Aspen Prize was based on publicly available data. Eligible colleges must show



strong and improving student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity. Nationwide, 15 percent of community colleges (150 of the approximately 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide assessed for the Prize) have been invited to apply—the full list can be accessed on the [Prize homepage](#).

The announcement of the Aspen Prize winner will take place in late spring 2023.

The full list of the top 150 eligible institutions and additional information is available at www.highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize.

