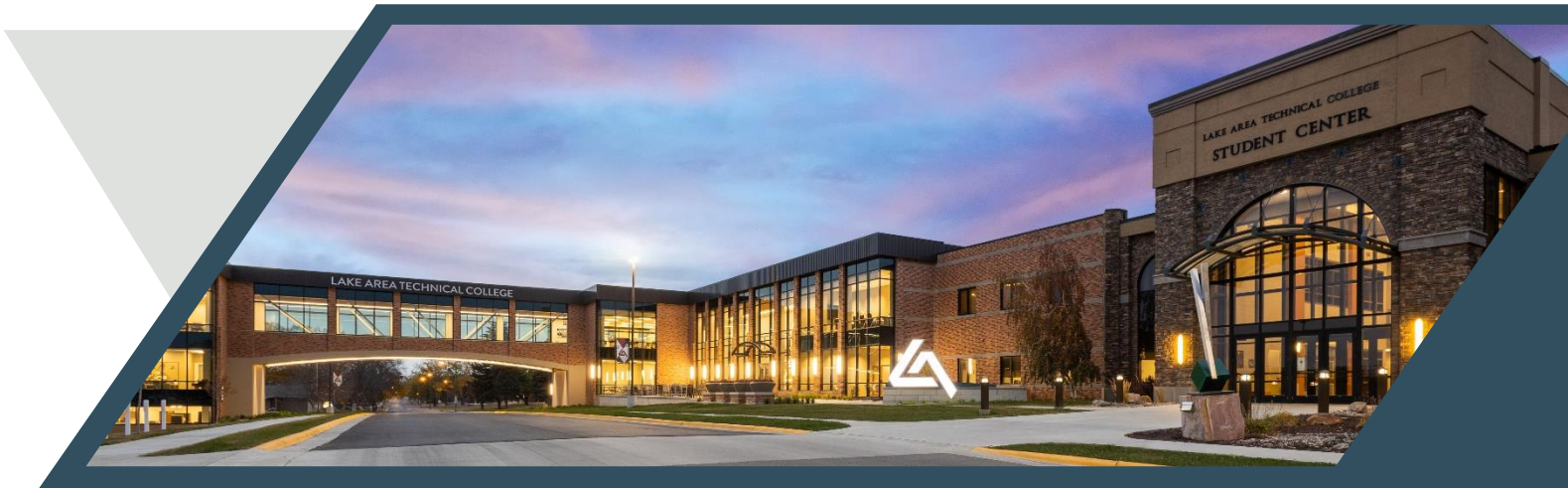




LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



LATC/DSU Articulation Agreements Inked

In May 2025, the SD Board of Regents approved three articulation agreements between Lake Area Technical College and Dakota State University, creating clear degree advancing pathways in computer science, business, and financial services. The agreements begin with the Fall 2025 semester and apply to LATC students who graduated in 2025 (or future years).

Students who complete either the Networking & Cybersecurity or Software Development & Database Administration option in LATC's Computer Information Systems AAS degree may apply up to 70 credits toward Dakota State University's Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems. As a second option, LATC graduates may apply up to 70 credits toward DSU's Bachelor of Science in Network and Security Administration degree.

Lake Area Tech graduates who wish to earn their Bachelor of Business Administration degree (120 total credits required) at Dakota State University can do so from several program options:

- LATC Business – Entrepreneurship grads may apply up to 51 credits toward the BS degree
- LATC Business – Marketing/Management grads may apply up to 57 credits
- LATC Business – Human Resources grads may apply up to 63 credits
- LATC Financial Services – Business Accounting grads may apply up to 60 credits

“We’re proud to partner with DSU to provide clear, affordable, and high-quality pathways that empower students to continue building their futures.” – LATC VP, Cam Corey

New Pathway to Secondary CTE Teaching Careers for LATC Graduates

Collaboration between Northern State University and Lake Area Tech will open a pathway to middle and high school Career & Technical Education (CTE) teaching careers in South Dakota. For years, there has not been a teacher preparation program for fields like welding, residential construction, health science, or automotive. Now, following action by the SD Board of Regents at their July 2025 meeting, Northern State University will offer a BSEd in CTE starting in Fall 2025.

The new program option creates a 2+2 degree model where Lake Area Technical College graduates can pair their technical degree with a 2-year teacher education block (pedagogical preparation) at Northern State University to complete their bachelor's degree and enter the secondary teaching profession.

This option fills a long-standing gap in teacher preparation in the state. Now, rather than needing to go out of state to earn teacher certification in CTE, future teachers can stay in South Dakota while securing confidence in industry-aligned technical skills and classroom instruction.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMPUS

Sensory Camp

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Students hosted 2 Sensory Camps in June. Campers were paired one-on-one with LATC students and found the joys of outdoor activities at Joy Ranch of South Dakota. LATC students were able to put their learning into practice while assisting campers.

Spring Scholarship Awards

Stand-out students from across campus, nominated by their peers and faculty, were recognized with scholarships as the school year came to a close.

Nursing Pinning Ceremonies

As the summer term came to a close in July, 84 Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) and 44 Registered Nursing (RN) students were pinned and welcomed to the Nursing profession. This is the largest cohort of LPNs LATC has graduated.

New Student Orientation

Hundreds of incoming students and their support teams spent time on campus in June, preparing for their college careers.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMPUS

Industry Training in High Gear Over Summer Months

Lake Area Technical College has hosted hundreds of technicians from industry on campus over the summer months for continuing education and credentialing sessions. Examples of industry partners include Coeur Mining, Terex Utilities, Kubota, and the South Dakota State Fire School.



LATC Students Excel at National SkillsUSA Competition

Lake Area Tech students Kolten Eszlinger and Joe Sundvold medaled in their respective national competitions in Atlanta in June 2025. Kolton brought home the Silver medal in Criminal Justice as a first year LATC Law Enforcement student. Joe was a 2025 graduate in Networking and Cybersecurity and earned 5th place in the Internetworking competition. Well done, Gentlemen!

Campus Construction and Improvements Underway at Mitchell Tech

As Mitchell Technical College kicks off the 2025–26 fiscal and academic year, several campus construction projects are in progress—some just beginning, others nearing completion.

Campus Drainage Improvement Projects

Several drainage initiatives are underway to enhance campus infrastructure and protect buildings from water damage.



- The dredging of the existing retention pond north of the Nordby Trades Center has been completed. This project increased the pond's capacity by removing accumulated silt and expanding its footprint, allowing it to better support ongoing campus development and future expansion.
- Another key infrastructure improvement involved the installation of underground intakes to divert runoff designed to effectively capture and divert stormwater runoff from north of the Nordby Trades Center to the campus retention pond. This enhancement improves overall drainage efficiency,

reduces the risk of surface flooding, and supports long-term sustainability efforts by better managing water flow during heavy rain events.

- The final phase of this comprehensive drainage improvement project, installing underground stormwater infrastructure just north of the Muth Electric Technology Center, is nearing completion. This critical component will further enhance the campus's ability to manage runoff by connecting newly developed areas to the expanded retention system. Once completed, the entire system will provide a more resilient and efficient solution for stormwater control, supporting both current needs and future campus growth.



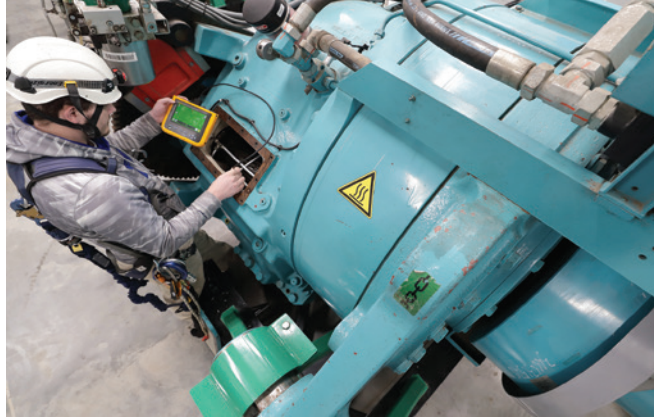
Sidewalk Upgrades

Sidewalks across campus were replaced as part of an ongoing effort to improve campus accessibility and enhance the overall appearance of the grounds. These improvements support a more welcoming campus environment. *(Continued on page 2)*

Mitchell Tech Program Update



Mitchell Technical College paused its Wind Turbine Technology program in 2024 for restructuring and has now hired a new instructor, Matthew Pearson, targeting updated training for evolving industry demands. Pearson is a Mitchell Tech alumnus and program graduate.



and working on Mitchell Tech's operational 1.5 MW turbine at Crow Lake Wind Farm.

With strong demand, job placement rates will be high, and graduates will be offered competitive salaries along with opportunities for advancement. Companies urgently need trained

technicians to maintain existing wind farms and new sites, bolstered by major grid expansion investments in the region.

The Wind Turbine Technology program will also support economic growth, providing trained technicians across the Midwest while energizing local communities. South Dakota ranks among the top in the nation for wind-powered electricity, with about 1,417 turbines generating ~3,600 MW as of 2024.

Campus Construction and Improvements Underway at Mitchell Tech *[Continued from page 1]*

Energy Training Center Improvements

Renovations in the Energy Training Center are progressing on schedule. Tile flooring has been replaced with polished concrete, and fresh paint is being applied in most classrooms and labs. All updates are expected to be completed before classes begin on August 25.



Energy Training Expansion Project

The next major project is the construction of the 34,000-square-foot underground indoor training lab. Site preparation and dirt work have already begun, led by Gil Haugan Construction. Once complete, this state-of-the-art facility will give students hands-on, indoor training before they move outdoors to apply their skills in real-world conditions.

MTC Students Attend SkillsUSA National Competition



Mitchell Technical College sent two students to represent South Dakota at the 2025 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, held in Atlanta, Georgia, this June. Competing among more than 6,000 of the nation's best career and technical education students, Andrew Jons and Sergey Pretre showcased the technical excellence and professionalism of Mitchell Tech.



(L-R) Alfredo Salcido Mitchell High School student, Andrew Jons, MTC student, Gabe Schneider, Mitchell High School student, and Sergey Pretre, MTC student.

Andrew Jons competed in Electrical Construction Wiring; demonstrating his proficiency in residential, commercial, and industrial electrical systems. Sergey Pretre represented Mitchell Tech in 3-Axis CNC Programming, showcasing his skills in one of SkillsUSA's most technical and precise

competitions. Both individuals represented Mitchell Technical College and South Dakota well.

Beyond competition, the students engaged in a week of networking with industry leaders, employers, and students from across the country. Hands-on training and educational sessions in their respective fields as well as leadership development through workshops and award ceremonies were also a part of the week.

“Walking into a room full of the best students from every state—it was humbling and motivating,” said Jons. “It makes you realize how much potential you really have.”

Build Dakota Scholarships Power Workforce Growth with \$3.7M Awarded to Incoming Students

The Build Dakota Scholarship Fund is continuing its mission to strengthen South Dakota's workforce by awarding \$3.7 million in scholarships to incoming Mitchell Technical College students for the 2025 academic year. With an additional \$1.4 million in matching funds provided by industry partners, this initiative is creating powerful pathways into high-demand careers across the state.

Among this year's standout statistics:

- Electrical Construction and Maintenance saw the highest number of recipients, with 40 students receiving full-ride scholarships.
- Radiologic Technology had the highest percentage of recipients, with 22 of 28 incoming students earning Build Dakota support.
- Industry partners with the largest number of participating students include Muth Electric, Avera Health, Sanford Health, and Monument Health—key employers helping fuel the talent pipeline.
- The Mitchell Tech program welcomed 36 new industry partners this year, expanding opportunities and strengthening community engagement.

Build Dakota continues to bridge the gap between students and employers, empowering scholars to pursue debt-free education while helping meet critical workforce needs in South Dakota.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Conference



Mitchell Technical College (MTC) had the honor of hosting the annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) Conference on July 27-30, sponsored by the South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (SDACTE). This significant event brought together over 270 dedicated educators from across the state, providing a platform for professional development, networking, and exchanging innovative ideas in CTE. MTC was thrilled to open its doors and showcase its commitment to advancing technical education.

The conference officially kicked off on Sunday evening with division socials at various venues throughout Mitchell. These informal gatherings provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to connect with peers in their respective fields. The atmosphere of the socials was one of enthusiasm, collaboration, and a positive tone for the intensive days ahead, while also giving guests a chance to experience the hospitality of the Mitchell community.

Monday's agenda started with an inspiring keynote address from the renowned educator and speaker, Gerry Brooks. His insights and engaging presentation resonated deeply with the audience, offering valuable perspectives on the evolving landscape of education and the critical role of CTE. Following the keynote, attendees had more than 36 general breakout sessions, covering various topics pertinent to technical education. Each division within

SDACTE offered specific sessions and specialized training tailored to their content areas.

A key highlight of the conference was Mitchell Technical College's instructors' active involvement. Using their industry expertise, they led in-depth sessions focused on specific industry-relevant topics. These sessions provided knowledge that is directly applicable to current industry demands. Attendees also had the unique opportunity to participate in division-specific tours conducted throughout Mitchell, offering firsthand glimpses into local industries and businesses which collaborate closely with MTC.

On Tuesday, there was a bustling trade show, where vendors and organizations showcased the latest tools, technologies, and resources available to CTE programs. This provided educators with valuable information on cutting-edge advancements and potential partnerships.

Hosting the SDACTE CTE Conference was an excellent opportunity for Mitchell Technical College to not only support the broader CTE community but also to proudly share with educators from across South Dakota the comprehensive and industry-leading educational offerings available at MTC. It reinforced Mitchell Tech's position as a leader in technical education and a valuable resource for the state's workforce development.



July 2025

Board of Technical Education
Dr. Cory Clasemann, STC President



Governor Larry Rhoden Visits Southeast Technical College

Gov. Larry Rhoden and Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen visited STC this May as part of the governor's "Open for Opportunity" tour. Their visit included guided tours of STC's state-of-the-art Healthcare Simulation Center and the Ed Wood Trade and Industry Center.

Southeast Tech Hosts Girl Scouts 'Driven Women' Workshop

Southeast Technical College recently partnered with Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons to host a "Driven Women" workshop – teaching interested girls ages 11-18 "how cars can take you where you want to go in life." The girls learned basic skills through hands-on activities that can be applied to personal car maintenance or automotive career tracks. Senior level Girl Scouts earned their Car Care badge by participating. The event was June 13 in the STC Automotive Technology lab.



<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/girl-scouts-dakota-horizons-partners-wtih-stc.php>

STC Featured as 2025 'Face of Technical Education'

Southeast Technical College was recently featured as the "Face of Technical Education" in the 2025 "Faces of Sioux Falls" magazine. The publication is a coffee-table style magazine that was distributed to 23,700 single-family households and 1,300 businesses in the Sioux Falls metro area.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/stc-featured-as-face-of-technical-education.php>



TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Dr. Cory Clasemann
Southeast Technical College

Nearly a year into his leadership at Southeast Technical College, Dr. Cory Clasemann is focused on building a future as strong and dynamic as the students and industries STC serves. With a clear vision and a collaborative spirit, Dr. Clasemann has dedicated his first year to laying the groundwork for STC's next chapter.

A key priority for Dr. Clasemann has been the development of a new strategic plan—one that aligns with the evolving needs of the Sioux Falls community and strengthens STC's role in preparing a skilled workforce.

"Our focus is on creating opportunities that are both practical and forward-thinking," Dr. Clasemann said. "We're designing a roadmap that ensures our students are career-ready the moment they graduate."

Deeply committed to community engagement, Dr. Clasemann has spent significant time getting to know STC's industry partners throughout Sioux Falls. These relationships are vital to keeping STC programs aligned with real-world demands and ensuring students have direct pathways to employment in high-demand fields.

As Sioux Falls continues to grow, so do the workforce needs of local employers.

"Southeast Tech must expand its capacity to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce. We are positioning ourselves to rise to that challenge."

With a career-focused approach, a strong network of community partnerships and a bold strategic plan on the horizon, Southeast Technical College, under Dr. Clasemann's leadership, is empowering students to dream big and achieve even bigger.

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE
2320 N. CARLEER AVE
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57107
605.367.7624
[SOUTHEASTTECH.EDU](https://www.southeasttech.edu)



State Approves Dollars to be used for Skilled Trades Education and Job Training at South Dakota State Penitentiary

Southeast Technical College will soon offer on-site instruction at the South Dakota State Penitentiary. Governor Larry Rhoden and the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development have awarded approximately \$1,518,000 in FY 26 Future Fund dollars to support skilled trades education and job training for inmates.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/state-approves-dollars-to-be-used-for-skilled-trades-education-and-job-training-at-south-dakota-state-penitentiary.php>

Southeast Technical College Awards Record-Number of Build Dakota Scholarships for the Fourth Year in a Row

Southeast Technical College recently welcomed 172 new students to campus in a celebratory event recognizing their full-ride scholarships through the Build Dakota program. Mayor Paul TenHaken and Dana Dykhous, chair of the Build Dakota Scholarship Board and South Dakota Board of Technical Education, as well as CEO of First PREMIER Bank, were on hand to congratulate students.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/southeast-technical-college-awards-172-full-ride-build-dakota-scholarships.php>



STC Named Among Top 25 Online Computer Programming Associate Degrees in the Country

Southeast Technical College was placed No. 6 on University HQ's list of Best Online Associate Degrees in the country.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/online-computer-programming-program-best-in-country.php>

Dr. Fenecia Homan Returns to STC as VP of Academic Affairs

Dr. Fenecia Homan is returning to Southeast Technical College as the Vice President of Academic Affairs. She will begin July 28, and is currently serving as the Dean of the Governor's Cyber Academy and K-12 Initiatives at Dakota State University in Madison. Prior to Dakota State, Fenecia spent 10 years at STC as a mathematics and physics instructor, and then as the Dean of Professional Studies, overseeing accreditation, assessment, institutional effectiveness, and the Professional Studies academic team.





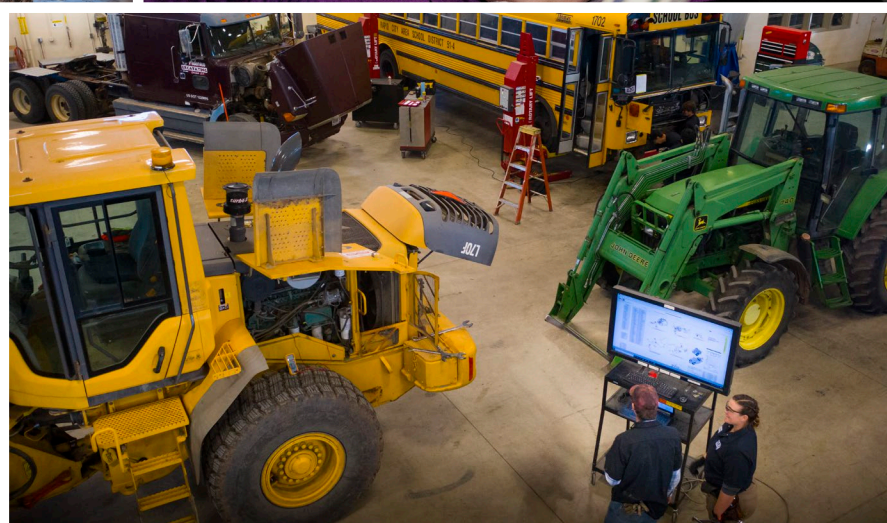
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

- **Student Spotlight: Noah Kieckhefer Charting his Future**

Brookings native Noah Kieckhefer describes experience with hands-on learning in Land Surveying and Civil Engineering at Southeast Technical College. Kieckhefer has a Build Dakota scholarship and will be working at Banner Associates.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2025/noah-kieckhefer-charting-his-future.php>





July 2025

S.D. Board of Technical
Education Report

Dr. Kendra Ericson
WDTC President

WESTERN
DAKOTA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

WDTC Welcomes 10th President – Dr. Kendra Ericson



**I am
excited
to join Western
Dakota Technical
College and
collaborate
with the Board of
Trustees, faculty,
staff, and the
community
WDTC serves.**

- Dr. Kendra Ericson

On July 1, Dr. Kendra Ericson began her position as the Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) President.

Dr. Ericson has a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Phoenix, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Trinity College of Nursing.

Dr. Ericson comes to WDTC as the President of St. Luke's College in Sioux City, Iowa, for the past five years. Prior to that, she served as the Director of Nursing Education for seven years at Des Moines Area Community College, in Iowa, and LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas.

Her career spans multiple sectors, beginning as a practicing nurse before transitioning into academic coaching, professional

development leadership, and faculty roles. Dr. Ericson's diverse and robust background in career and technical education equips her with profound insights into both the academic and practical facets of workforce development. This expertise uniquely positions her to influence not only WDTC but also help advance workforce development throughout western South Dakota and beyond.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Ericson and look forward to the next chapter together.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Steve Willard for his leadership and service as Acting President. His steady guidance and support during the transition were invaluable, and we are grateful for his commitment to WDTC and its mission.

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A total of 133 students receiving Build Dakota Sponsorships, amounting to \$3 million in awards, along with their sponsors, were recognized during a special ceremony at the college on June 26. During the event, scholarship recipients are called to the stage to sign their Build Dakota Scholarship certificates and receive college pennants.



Students Excel at SkillsUSA National Competition



Eight WDTC students, accompanied by three faculty, traveled to Atlanta, Ga., in June, to compete in the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. Four students placed in the top 10 in their competitions for Cyber Security, Information Technology Services, Welding Sculpture, and Welding. WDTC is grateful to the industry sponsors that made it possible for our students to travel and compete in this prestigious event.



New Program Launched – Radiologic Technology



Nan Bradeen

Beginning in Fall 2025, students in the Radiologic Technology program will start Fall of 2025. Students will officially begin their technical coursework in Fall 2026. Until now, students have been completing prerequisite classes.

Kelsie Phillips joined WDTC in July as a Program Instructor. She joins Program Director Nan Bradeen.

While construction of the college's dedicated lab space is underway, we are grateful to our community partners who are generously providing access to their lab facilities in the meantime.



Kelsie Phillips

Employees Honored During Annual Years of Service and Awards Ceremony

WDTC employees were celebrated for their dedication and passion for technical education on May 19. Interim Board Chair, Lynn Kendall, and Acting President, Dr. Steve Willard, expressed their appreciation to WDTC employees. During the ceremony, 12 employees were thanked for their years of service, spanning from five to 35 years. Four awards were presented, including:

- Fawn Wilde, CTE Consortium Director, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.
- Criminal Justice, Academic Department of Excellence.
- Admissions, Non-Academic Department for Excellence.
- Jay Banick, Professional Truck Driving Program Director, Customer Service Excellence.



Fawn Wilde



Criminal Justice



Jay Banick



Admissions