



May 11, 2022

TO: State Board of Technical Education

FROM: Michael Cartney, President

RE: Lake Area Technical College: April to May Notes for State Board of Tech Ed

1. **LATC Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) dashboard (April 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. **First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard investment.** At the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup>, First Premier Bank President Dave Rozenboom announced an \$8M gift to LATC's I'M IN Capital Campaign as the Match to the State's \$7.5M investment. The \$8M gift is the largest donation ever from an industry partner to LATC. The gift will help construction the iconic Archway Building on LATC campus. Premier is a great friend of LATC and this community. Premier gift announcement is part of the \$40M I'M IN Capital Campaign. The campaign is to address LATC's student over capacity issues through 7 new buildings. The campaign is committed to not increasing the burden on technical college students as we expand our future workforce pipeline. This gift does more than construct a building, it will change 1000s of lives and launch 1000s of careers!
3. **Watertown School District (WSD) approves Archway Complex bid.** The WSD approved LATC's recommendation to accept Gray Construction's base bid of \$19,380,000 and both Alternates (#1-\$810,000 and #2-\$410,000) for a total bid award of \$20,600,000. Gray Construction was the sole bidder. The cost breakout for the project by building is Archway (\$11,274,110 - \$12,494,110 with both alternates), Advanced Manufacturing Lab (\$6,429,1100), and renovation (\$1,676,780). The estimated costs with fees and contingency totals \$22,993,025. This project is funded by the I'm in Capital Campaign private donations and the \$7.5M state allocation from the legislature. WSD is the fiduciary agent for the project, and will draw the \$7.5M state allocation in arrears through SD Dept of Ed/BOA.
4. **Graduation.** 13 May 2022 at 4pm. This is LATC's 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and 55<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony. Our Commencement speaker will be First Gentleman Bryon Noem. By the numbers:
  - a. 722 graduates (762 if you include Upskills/certificate completers\*)
    - i. 147 represent communities from 2 foreign countries and 9 other states
    - ii. 575 come from 56 of the 66 counties in South Dakota representing 156 communities across South Dakota.
    - iii. 54.3% are male, 45.7% female
    - iv. 90.3% White/7% Non-white/2.7% Unknown
    - v. 9.4% are veterans or a spouse/child of a veteran

- vi. 44% were Pell-eligible
  - vii. 54% received scholarships
  - viii. 15% are Build Dakota Scholarship recipients
  - ix. 76% were employed
    - 1. 40% worked more than 20 hours a week
  - b. Our students did over 100,000 hours of community service and service learning.
  - c. Investing in our future. LATC Foundation
    - i. 1,000 individual scholarships totaling over \$1.4M
    - ii. Another \$1.4M in Build Dakota Scholarships
    - iii. Industry partners provided \$918.5K in Stretch-the-Million scholarships.
    - iv. That is over \$3.7M invested by this community in our students this year
- 5. Native American and New Americans Initiative.** Continuing the effort of increasing the engagement of Native Americans in SD workforce, Darryl Niven (Terex US) and Mike Cartney travelled to Old Agency Village for discussions with Tribal Leadership. Discussions included potential joint ventures between SWO and Terex, as well as ways Terex could get more tribal members in their workforce. The Chairman stated that he and all the council members were in support of these efforts. On the New Americans workforce initiative, and effort titled **Freedom’s Haven for New Americans’ Workforce** is underway to tout SD as welcoming and seeking legal immigrants and refugees (particularly Ukrainian) to join SD’s middle and high skilled workforce.
- 6. Mini-Maker Camp.** Lake Area Technical College in partnership with Yankton Thrive, South Dakota Manufacturing Technology Solutions, and a number of local Yankton manufactures held a Mini-Maker Camp on the CMTEA/RTEC campus on Thursday March 31st. The event was led by Lake Area Tech staff and students and presented to over sixty-five Yankton High School CTE students. YHS students were taken through various technical demonstrations, including 3-D printing, Cobot technology, drone construction, precision machining, autonomous vehicles while hearing about the variety of programs that technical education and Lake Area Technical College offer.
- 7. LATC Financial Aid Staff Recognition** – At the 2022 South Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SDASF AA) Conference held in Rapid City April 19-21, Carrie Jordanger was recognized for her service to the SDASF AA Executive Council as Treasurer this past year, as well as for serving on the 2021 Committee of Record and Website. Marlene Seeklander was recognized for serving on the 2021 Fall Training Committee and the Review Committee. Julie Forman was recognized for serving on the High School Counselor Workshop Committee. Marlene also received a 25+ year pin from our regional association, the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (RMASF AA). They were doing some “clean up” of awards for individuals who were not present at the 2021 RMASF AA Conference.
- 8. In the news:**
- a. Brooks Jacobsen featured on cover of ATEA Magazine:  
<https://www.facebook.com/LakeAreaTech/photos/a.367121767753/10159157403232754/?type=3>

- b. Lake Area Tech announces \$15.5M gift from First Premier Bank, state of South Dakota, to build archway:  
<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/education/2022/05/06/lake-area-tech-announces-15-5-m-gift-first-premier-bank-south-dakota/9634658002/>
- c. School board accepts \$20.6 M bid for Lake Area project, seeks bids for athletics complex: <https://www.thepublicopinion.com/story/news/2022/05/10/lake-area-technical-college-latc-archway-request-bids-watertown-high-school-athletics-complex/9703774002/>
- d. Robot Games not just bolts and wires, Lake Area students learn teamwork under pressure: <https://www.thepublicopinion.com/story/news/2022/05/03/robot-games-not-just-bolts-and-wires-latc-students-learn-teamwork/9572404002/>
- e. CHS Foundation awards precision agriculture grants to 6 colleges:  
<https://www.agdaily.com/news/chs-foundation-precision-agriculture-grants-6-colleges/>
- f. Good News Story - Dorothy Tesch Memorial Scholarship Established at Lake Area Technical College - Interview w/ Morgan Johnson:  
[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](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)
- g. Students to explore careers during summer camps on college campuses:  
<https://drgnews.com/2022/04/29/students-to-explore-careers-during-summer-camps-on-college-campuses/>

**9. Robot Games.** Lake Area Tech hosted the Mario-themed Robot Games this week. Teams of Electronics/Robotics students partnered to create a robot as their capstone project for their degree. The robots competed in six games including autonomous line following, basketball, tennis ball shooting, golf, ramp, and pick and place. Over 20 industry partners supported the event through judging and/or financially sponsoring the event. There were over 400 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from area schools in attendance throughout the two-day event. Congratulations to the students on this accomplishment! They are tired after many late nights building (and fixing) their robots.

Attachment 1: LATC April 2022 Quarterly Dashboard

Lake Area Technical College Quarterly Dashboard: April 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	<b>Enrollment:</b> 3,000 students by 2025 (unduplicated headcount), FTE stable above 2000, increasing as new facilities come online <b>Retention:</b> >80% <b>Placement:</b> >98%	<b>Enrollment</b> <b>2021-2022:</b> Fall 2190 (1005 new students in programs) <b>Retention</b> (Fall 2021): 79% <b>Placement</b> (2021 Graduates): 99%	<b>Enrollment</b> <b>2020-2021:</b> Fall 2217, Spring 2608, Summer 2641 (Unduplicated Headcount) <i>FTE: 1960</i> <b>Retention</b> (Fall 2020): 84% <b>Placement</b> (2020 Graduates): 99%	<b>Enrollment Trend</b> Increase of 39.5% (headcount) since 2014 (Headcount/FTE): AY20-21: 2641/1960 (+.10%) AY19-20: 2618/1995 (-0.34%) AY18-19: 2624/2032 (+5.7%) AY17-18: 2487/1947 (+1.4%) AY16-17: 2451/1962 (+11.5%)	<b>New Programs and Expansions:</b> Electric Vehicles AAS Degree - Third Year Option (Fall 2022); Surgical Technology AAS Degree (Fall 2023) <b>Placement:</b> 99% overall placement; 85.4% staying in South Dakota compared to 81% from South Dakota; Average wage increased \$2 to \$23.16/hour with the highest average salaries at \$35.81/hour in Energy
Fiscal Health	Funding to meet growing operational requirements with needed expansion	<b>Operational Budget:</b> Funding for equipment and operations with reserve > 15% <b>Facilities Expansion:</b> Funding secured for the execution of the Campus Plan	<b>FY23 Governor's Budget:</b> Per Student Allocation: 6% increase <b>Instructor Industry Adjustment:</b> 6% increase <b>Maintenance and Repair:</b> Increase to \$1,544,973 (+\$325,362), goal of 1% by 2024 <b>Tuition Buy-down:</b> \$10/credit <b>Facility Funding:</b> \$7.5M grant for Archway <b>Employee Raise Allocation:</b> Additional funding to provide all employees with a minimum of 6% raise, equipment not funded at this time <b>Instructor Adjustment:</b> -\$400,000	<b>FY23 Legislative Request:</b> Per Student Allocation: 3% increase <b>Instructor Industry Adjustment:</b> Distribution method change, 3%+ \$2.3M fair market <b>Maintenance and Repair:</b> Increase to \$1,544,973 (+\$325,362), goal of 1% by 2024 <b>Equipment (66%/33%):</b> \$6.54M state, \$9.76M total <b>Tuition Buy-down:</b> \$10/credit <b>Facility Funding:</b> \$7M grant for Archway	<b>Tuition and Fees:</b> 4th highest nationally, Approximately 70% of the cost is covered by the students. <b>Campus Plan:</b> 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.	<b>FY23 Legislative Session:</b> Legislative advocacy resulted in exceeding the initial Governor's budget recommendation. Archway funding (\$7.5M) and 6% raise funded in addition to the increase in base funding. <b>Student Affordability:</b> 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	<b>Maintenance and Repair (M&amp;R):</b> Invest 2% of replacement value annually <b>Campus Plan:</b> Implement the campus plan to accommodate student growth	<b>Diezel Technology Expansion:</b> The Diesel Technology Expansion project to begin the first week of May. Gray Construction General Contractor. <b>Archway Project:</b> Bid opening April 21st 2:00pm including base bid and alternate classroom additions. <b>Campus Plan:</b> Plans to move staff impacted by construction after summer orientation for the duration of the project.	<b>Diezel Technology Expansion:</b> The Diesel Technology Expansion project was bid and awarded to Gray Construction at \$7,772,000. Groundbreaking scheduled in Spring 2022. <b>Archway Project:</b> Advocating for \$7.5 in one time legislative funds to match the lead private gift. Design and engineering in progress. <b>Campus Plan:</b> Final buildings to complete the 2016 Campus Plan are the Custom Paint and Fabrication and Aviation buildings.	<b>Enrollment:</b> Campus facilities at the capacity projected for 2046 according to the previous campus plan (2008). <b>Campus Plan:</b> Next phases of the Campus Plan are building the Diesel Expansion and Archway buildings. Aviation and Custom Paint and Fabrication remain. <b>Maintenance and Repair:</b> State funding increase towards a goal of 2% replacement value annually	<b>Short-term Accommodations:</b> Implementing short-term plans to accommodate student growth, including off campus locations. Field purchased for the Agriculture department. <b>Outreach Locations:</b> Partnerships with employers and communities to offer workforce development training through facilities in the region. Apprenticeship programs to assist with industry demand 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	<b>Turnover Rate:</b> <10% <b>HLC Requirements:</b> Meet HLC Qualified Faculty Guidelines <b>Staff/Student Ratio:</b> Adequate to support enrollment growth	<b>Retirements:</b> 12 retirements, 6 faculty and 6 staff <b>FY23 Raises:</b> Employee raises at 6%+, higher raises for classified staff with an emphasis on increasing the starting wage to \$14.25/hr	<b>Employee Tenure</b> (Fall 2021): 5 years or less (41%) Between 5 and 15 years (42%) 15 years or more (17%) <b>Retirement:</b> 55+ years old (27% - 56), 15 employees eligible for early retirement, 1 final year of eligibility	<b>Turnover Rate:</b> 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%) <b>Employee Retention Rate:</b> 86.4% (9/1-8/31)	<b>Culture:</b> Focus on resilience training and mental health to retain faculty and staff as well as creating a positive work environment as we compete with business and industry positions with higher wages. <b>Faculty Professional Development:</b> Enhancing professional development in teaching and learning for new and continuing faculty. Reviewing onboarding process and leadership training.
Industry – Regional Relationships	Engaged regionally in mutually beneficial partnerships resulting in successful corporate education offerings, Capital Campaign, Build Dakota program, and scholarship base	<b>Scholarship Funds:</b> 1.0% increase in overall funds for scholarships, campus improvements, and program enhancement <b>Build Dakota:</b> Meet or exceed cohort target number <b>Corporate Education:</b> Financially self-sustaining and a 10% increase in the number of companies and individuals served <b>Foundation:</b> Financially self-sustaining, successful 1'm in Capital Campaign	<b>Corporate Education [2021-22 to date]</b> Companies Served: 167 Individuals Served: 1053 Courses Offered: 48 <b>Capital Campaign:</b> Naming Rights (51% of value): 4; Impact Partners (\$100-\$500k): 3; Cornerstone Society (\$500k-\$1M): 1; & Alumni & Friends Campaign (12 gifts) <b>Foundation Trust:</b> \$4,308,515 <b>2021-22 Scholarships:</b> \$1,211,614 YTD including unrestricted, endowed, and pass through scholarships	<b>Corporate Education [2020-21]:</b> Companies Served: 156 Individuals Served: 891 <b>2021-22 [1st Quarter]:</b> Companies Served: 94 Individuals Served: 286 <b>Capital Campaign:</b> Naming Rights (51% of value): 4; Impact Partners (\$100-\$500k): 3; Cornerstone Society (\$500k-\$1M): 1; & Alumni & Friends Campaign next quarter <b>Foundation Trust:</b> \$4,618,345 <b>2021-22 Scholarships:</b> \$799,813 YTD including unrestricted, endowed, and pass through scholarships	<b>Foundation Trust Account:</b> 2022: \$4,276,101 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 <b>Corporate Education:</b> COVID-19 continues to impact the number of companies and individuals served. Numbers are improving.	<b>Corporate Education:</b> Companies and individuals served exceeds previous year annual total at the end of the 3rd quarter <b>Foundation Trust:</b> Monitoring investment market <b>Build Dakota STM Partners:</b> 95 partners interviewing, 315 scholarship applications received <b>New Apprenticeships:</b> CDL, Healthcare (CNA, LPN, RN with HOSA), Dakota Tube - Plant Maintenance <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> May 6: Governor's Luncheon June 1: Drone and Coding Camp
Assessment	Maintain institutional quality as reflected in Higher Learning Commission as well as program accreditations and certifications	<b>Accreditation and Certifications:</b> Accredited and in good standing with industry, state, and national standards including Higher Learning Commission	<b>Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Program Accreditations:</b> <b>HLC Assessment Academy:</b> Assessment software implementation supports the Quality Initiative project. <b>Program Accreditations:</b> Registered Nursing Online: Fall 2022 Occupational Therapy Assistant: Sept 2022 Dental Assisting: Fall 2022 Med/Fire Rescue: 2022 (postponed) Surgical Technology: Initial accreditation process starting January 2023	<b>Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Program Accreditations:</b> <b>HLC Assessment Academy:</b> Continued work on the Quality Initiative project to enhance co-curricular and general education assessment including outcome mapping. <b>Program Accreditations:</b> 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)	<b>Good Standing:</b> Lake Area Tech and programs are in good standing and meet accreditation standards.	<b>HLC:</b> 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. <b>Assessment Software:</b> Initial training is complete for the 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)



Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 2022

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

**1. MTC's 54<sup>th</sup> Graduation:**

MTC held three graduation ceremonies at the Corn Palace on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/local/live-mitchell-technical-college-graduation-ceremonies>

The 11:00 graduation ceremony was for graduates in the Energy Production Transportation and Engineering Technologies divisions. The 2:00 graduation ceremony was for Agriculture & Transportation Technology and Construction & Manufacturing Technology divisions. The 5:00 graduation ceremony was for the Business & Service Industries and Health Sciences. MTC had 445 total graduates. Of those, 318 earned associates degrees, 130 earned diplomas or certificates and three individuals earned more than one degree or diploma.

Mr. John Heemstra- MTC's VP for Operations and Human Resources was the commencement speaker. John will be retiring in June and has worked at Mitchell Tech for 27 years.

Ms. Emily Zampedri, was sponsored by Black Hills Energy, is a new graduate from MTC's Natural Gas program, and was spotlighted in the Mitchell Republic newspaper:

<https://www.mitchellrepublic.com/education/mitchell-tech-grad-zampedri-finds-new-path-in-natural-gas-technology-program>

**2. Inside Enrollment:**

Build Dakota Scholarships are currently at 8.

Double Edge Scholarships are currently at 88 and multiple numbers of new Industry Partners.

**3. Program growth for Fall of 2022:**

Adding additional faculty positions in the following programs:

Radiological Technology, Agriculture and Business Management

**4. Mitchell Board of Education:**

As a friendly follow from last month's Joint Board meeting, the board unanimously approved to surplus the MTC diesel training center, located at 115 W. Pepsi Street. This property was originally purchased by MTC back in 2016 and will be sold prior to the completion of the new ag power diesel lab on campus.

**5. New Facility and Storm Water Project update:**

Construction Manager/Management applications, will be-reviewed, scored, and a recommendation will be-made on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. SPN & Associates / Jeff McCormick had a surveyor on campus last week and progress is being made.



**May 2022**

Board of Technical Education

Robert Griggs, STC President

## **Senator Rounds Keynote at Graduation**

Senator Mike Rounds was the keynote speaker at STC's spring graduation last week. He addressed the graduates on the importance of continuing to learn throughout their lives since technologies will continue to evolve.

## **Veterinary Technician Program Accredited by AVMA**

The Veterinary Technician program recently received its accreditation through the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) as a program for educating veterinary technicians.

## **Build Dakota Signing Day Ceremony Planned**

STC will be awarding approximately 140 Build Dakota Scholarships for 22-23 and will be hosting Build Dakota Signing Day on Friday, June 17. The event honors those students receiving full-ride scholarships and includes brunch, speakers from industry and a signing ceremony. Scholarship recipients also register for their fall courses.

## **Marsh McLennan Agency Invests \$50,000 in STC**

Marsh McLennan Agency recently donated \$50,000 to Southeast Tech to increase access to higher education. The donation will assist the expansion of STC's recruitment efforts of first generation, low income and underrepresented students, launching STC's new Risk and Investment Management program, and making improvements to the Academic Resource Center.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/mma-grants-funds.php>

## **STC Students Receive Awards**

Several Southeast Tech students have recently earned recognition outside the classroom. Seven students placed at this year's Skills USA in Mechatronics, Electronics, Electrical Construction Wiring, Auto Body Collision and Auto Body Refinish competitions. Winning students are invited to compete at the national competition in Atlanta this June.

[https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/skills-usa-winners.php?pk\\_vid=8f07516b53990e6716521205027fbff2](https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/skills-usa-winners.php?pk_vid=8f07516b53990e6716521205027fbff2)

Kailee Fox, a second-year Early Childhood Specialist student, was honored with the South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children's (SDAEYC) Student Award. The award celebrates students dedicated to early childhood education and acknowledges dedicated professionals whose work impacts the quality of care and early education for young children and their families.

[https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/early-childhood-student-receives-industry-award.php?pk\\_vid=8f07516b53990e6716521205117fbff2](https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/early-childhood-student-receives-industry-award.php?pk_vid=8f07516b53990e6716521205117fbff2)



## **STC Recognizes Law Enforcement Supporters**

Vehicles used by Southeast Tech's Law Enforcement program were recently dressed up with new, STC-branded graphics that include a special nod of recognition to the supporting agency providing the vehicle to the program.

The fleet includes two Dodge Chargers, donated by the South Dakota Highway Patrol, and two Ford Explorers provided by the Minnehaha Sheriff's Department.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/le-vehicles-pay-tribute-to-partnering-agency.php>

## **Sports Turf Management Hosts First Green Event**

Sports Turf Management students assisted in hosting the first, First Green event at Elmwood Golf course. The STC students organized activities at several holes of the course to teach West Central middle and high school students about STEM education as it pertains to golf. Topics included the ins and outs of maintaining a turf, water conservation, and habitat and wildlife management.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2022/first-green-camp-at-elmwood.php>

## **Campus Cleanup Part of STC Days**

Ninety-eight students participated in our campus wide Earth Day event, hosted by the Student Government, as part of our Service to Community (STC) Days. With the help of our students, our campus is now a cleaner place to serve our students and community.

<https://www.facebook.com/SoutheastTechSD/posts/10166152687425133>

## **STC Partnering With the Sioux Falls Development Foundation on Class B CDL Training**

The Sioux Falls Development Foundation, STC and the Governor's Office of Economic Development are partnering to offer UPSKLL Sioux Falls, a cost-sharing program that reimburses employers for Class B CDL training.

STC offers courses for each of the components needed to obtain a Class B CDL. Employers can register their employees for classroom training, then submit for reimbursement from the SFDF.

<https://siouxfallsdevelopment.com/the-sioux-falls-development-foundation-launches-upskill-sioux-falls/>

# WESTERN DAKOTA



## TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

May 20, 2022

Dear Board of Technical Education:

Greetings from Western Dakota Technical College! We have had an extremely busy spring semester. We had a Higher Learning Commission Re-Affirmation Site Visit in March and we hosted the SkillsUSA South Dakota Leadership and Skills Conference in April.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Thank you!



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



# Higher Learning Commission Year Four Peer Site Review Update



Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) hosted a fourth-year site review on March 28-29. As the college had previously been on probation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), 2016-2017, this review was a reaffirmation visit and was therefore not a typical four-year site review. A team of five higher education professionals from across the HLC region visited WDTC and reported that WDTC met all assumed practices and all criteria for accreditation. The site report will be reviewed by the HLC's Institutional Actions Council (IAC) late this month (May 2022), and following that meeting, WDTC will receive the final decision on whether WDTC's institutional accreditation is reaffirmed. If it is, WDTC's next HLC reaffirmation site visit will take place in six years: 2027-2028. Below are excerpts from the HLC site visit report:

## **CRITERION 1: MISSION**

"WDTC exemplifies instilling and communicating its mission, vision, and values to all campus constituents."

## **CRITERION 2: INTEGRITY: ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT**

"The site visit team was impressed with the coordinated effort the employees displayed in preparing its assurance argument, the open participation during the site visit, the support employees expressed for the changes and current leadership, the enthusiasm displayed for the Mission, and the optimism projected for the future direction of the College."

## **CRITERION 3: TEACHING AND LEARNING: QUALITY, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT**

"It is evident to the site visit team that the College provides quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered...WDTC is poised to continue its growth and impact on the Western Dakota region as it navigates its new governance process and expands its service and programming footprint beyond Rapid City.

## **CRITERION 4: TEACHING AND LEARNING: EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT**

"In an in-depth review of the evidence and the argument provided, and as the site visit team engaged in robust conversations with faculty, staff, administrators and Board Trustees, WDTC clearly demonstrated the College ensures the quality of its educational offerings, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes that support continuous improvement."

## **CRITERION 5: INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, RESOURCES, AND PLANNING**

"WDTC was recently selected as a finalist for a Bellwether award, which recognizes colleges that excel in 'the promotion and replication of best practices addressing workforce development, instructional programs and services, and planning governance and finance.' WDTC is also an Aspen 150 college. Selection for these awards, a strong CFI, and comprehensive use of data in planning and budgeting provide clear evidence that WDTC is well-positioned to respond to future challenges and opportunities."

## **SUMMARY**

"WDTC provided clear evidence of strong processes for planning, budgeting, curriculum, assessment, and community involvement, and is well-positioned to assist in the anticipated growth in the Rapid City region the College serves."

"WDTC's administration and Board of Trustees, with substantive input from faculty, staff, and community stakeholders, have established a true sense of trust and shared governance at WDTC...However, WDTC is not resting on its laurels and is continuing to look for ways to improve in all areas."

## **SUGGESTIONS**

The site team also provided insightful suggestions to make WDTC stronger. Each of the team's suggestions below is followed by our plan of action.

- o First, the team recommended succession planning for top leadership roles.

*In response to this suggestion, plans are underway for developing and rolling out a leadership development program for WDTC employees in Fall 2022.*

# Higher Learning Commission Year Four Peer Site Review Update *continued*

o Second, the team recommended including a KPI around diversity, along with a review of support strategies for diverse student populations.

*In response to this suggestion, Kelly Oehlerking, WDTC Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success, has drafted a KPI around diversity that will be reviewed by the College's Cabinet in May. If approved by Cabinet, the KPI will be considered for approval by WDTC's Board in June, and efforts across units will be coordinated in the strategic planning process in the upcoming academic year.*

*In a deep dive into WDTC's cohort retention model data, and verified in discussions with community leaders, WDTC has identified several strategies to*

*support the retention of students from poverty and students of color. The effort to build on-campus housing is one of these, as is an updated student government model.*

o Third, the team recommended formalizing WDTC strategies for ensuring effective support for off-site locations.

*This effort has been underway informally since the opening of the Whitewood satellite site; however, we need to formalize and systematize the approach to make it easy for all involved areas of the College to remember and replicate work in a strategic timeline for each new off-site location.*



## WDTC Students Excel at SkillsUSA S.D. Skills Conference

### *Welding & Fabrication Instructor Earns SkillsUSA S.D. Hall of Champions Award*



[Western Dakota Technical College](#) (WDTC) students demonstrated exceptional career skills at the recent SkillsUSA South Dakota Leadership and Skills Conference earning many awards, including gold medals in 14 events!

In addition, WDTC Welding and Fabrication Instructor [Troy Barry](#) was honored for his contributions to SkillsUSA S.D. receiving the SkillsUSA S.D. Hall of Champions Award.

During the SkillsUSA S.D. conference, which took place at WDTC on April 7-8, about 250 career and technical education students from high schools and colleges across South Dakota participated in skills challenges to show they are ready for careers in manufacturing, transportation, construction, hospitality, and human services.

WDTC post-secondary events and student award winners were as follows:

- 1. Advertising Design** – Gold, Chaplin Harris; Silver, Abby Williams; Bronze, Andria Williams.
- 2. Architectural Drafting** – Gold, Eric Gonzalez.
- 3. Auto Service Technology** – Silver, Ross Collins; Bronze, Micha Kooima.
- 4. Cybersecurity** – Gold, David Bonner.
- 5. Diesel Equipment Technology** – Gold, Anthony Simonson; Bronze, Andrew Neilan.

**6. Extemporaneous Speaking** – Gold, Stephanie Moak; Silver, Olivia Campbell.

**7. HVAC** – Gold, Justin Rohrenback; Silver, Matthew Bicskei; Bronze, Raul Rojas.

**8. Information Technology Services** – Gold, Thomas DeJong.

**9. Internetworking** – Gold, David Bonner.

**10. Job Skill Demonstration A** – Gold, Gannon Pudwill.

**11. Prepared Speech** – Gold, Stefanie Moak; Silver, Olivia Campbell.

**12. Related Technical Math** – Gold, Courtney Brinkman.

**13. Technical Drafting** – Gold, Dylan Schmitz; Silver, Mason Nash; Bronze, Monica Sherman.

**14. Welding Individual** – Gold, Taven Hauf; Silver, Nation Theis.

**15. Welding Fabrication** – Gold, WDTC Team W (Cy Eixenberger, Cam Paisley, and Kallie Shook); Silver, WDTC Team R (Cale Benson, Brennan Busse, and Jaxon Tabert).

Photos of most WDTC award winners can be viewed on the Western Dakota Tech [Facebook page](#).

First-place winners earn the opportunity to go on to compete in the national event, the SkillsUSA Championships, this June in Atlanta, Ga.

## Troy Barry



Barry, WDTC Welding and Fabrication Instructor, was recognized with the SkillsUSA S.D. Hall of Champions Award at the conference. The award is bestowed upon those who help the youth develop the components of the SkillsUSA Framework in a changing world.

Barry is a graduate of the Western Dakota Technical College welding program and is now a Welding and Fabrication Instructor at WDTC. He helped coordinate the recent 2022 SkillsUSA S.D. Conference at WDTC. Barry is a former SkillsUSA S.D. Champion, is Vice President of the S.D. SkillsUSA Board of Directors, and was named one of five 2019 SkillsUSA Outstanding Career and Technical Educators! He was also named a 2020 American Technical Education Association Outstanding Faculty Award finalist.

