

# Lake Area Tech President's Report to the State Board of Technical Education

## Enrollment Statistics

### 2018-19 Wrap Up:

- Total Unduplicated Headcount: 2616
- Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTE): 2031
- Retention for the Year: 83% institution wide
- Total Grads: 797 (33% of system)
- Credentials Awarded: 842 (32% of system)

### 2019 Fall Start:

- Unduplicated headcount: 2228
  - Compared to 2245 last fall (0.5% change)
  - Outstanding, as enrollment increased 190 students last fall
  - Over the last 5 years, Lake Area Tech is up more than 392 FTE (24% growth)
  - Annual total unduplicated headcount is up 738 since 2014 (39% growth)

### Projections and Trend Analysis:

- In 2019-20, an estimated 2600+ students will complete about 60,000 credits and earn over 800 diplomas/degrees.
- Achieved 15 consecutive years of growth. Current enrollment projected for 2043
- Lake Area Tech campus is FULL. Since students are accepted in the fall, spring, and summer semesters, we place emphasis on the annual count. We do have some space constraints this year with construction of the healthcare facility and associated renovations.

## Indebtedness

For 2019, LATI graduate average federal loan debt is \$8,854.12; average debt including private loans was \$10,350. This is down from the average indebtedness of \$12,000 for 2016 Lake Area Tech graduates who received Federal Financial Aid. The national average community college debt for graduating students is approximately \$13,660 (2019-20).

## Build Dakota/Stretch the Million Scholarships

- Stretch-the-Million partnerships/contributions have increased from 5 partnerships/\$48,000 in the first cohort to 51 partners/\$810,000 in our current (fifth) cohort
- 82% of Build Dakota awards have a STM partner
- Cohort four was boosted by an additional \$100K from former Governor Dugaard allowing \$1,028,000 in contributions and 62 partners

## Articulation Agreements

- Lake Area Tech partnership with Western Governors University allows Lake Area Tech grads to seamlessly transfer credits in key programs. Lake Area Tech Grads are also eligible for WGU \$2,000 scholarships.
- Important revision to Transferrable General Education MOU between SDSU and LATI reached.
- New and continued program-to-program articulation agreements with South Dakota public universities, private, and out-of-state universities are available for Lake Area Tech graduates.

## New Programs/Options/Apprenticeships

- Programs: Community Healthcare Worker, Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot
- Options: Light Duty Diesel
- Apprenticeships: Building Trades Technology, Diesel Technology, Precision Machining, Welding, and High School Manufacturing Apprenticeships in Brookings

## New Facilities Update

- \$40 Million Plan
- 1<sup>st</sup> building (The Lab) opened Fall 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> building (Prairie Lake Healthcare Center of Learning) currently under construction represents \$7.1 million investment. \$3.1M PLHS; \$2.2M State; \$1.8M Other Local. On track to open Fall 2020
- Capital Campaign silent phase

## Aspen Workforce Playbook

Lake Area Tech was one of six community colleges across the nation highlighted in [The Workforce Playbook](#), released in June by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. Addressing the national workforce skills gap, the publication outlined Lake Area Tech's best practices for developing highly effective workforce programs. In addition, the *Playbook* detailed South Dakota's Build Dakota Scholarship program and strong industry partnerships.

## Aspen Community Strategies Growth

Lake Area Tech was highlighted for innovation in education in the WGA's [Reimagining the Rural West Initiative](#), an Aspen produced paper on "Strengthening America's Rural Innovation Infrastructure."

## Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC)

President Cartney serves as one of the South Dakota Commissioners to MHEC. Highlights from the meeting are: 1) the US Department of Education published new accreditation rules on November 1; 2) the general theme of aligning Higher Education with Industry needs was very prominent, particularly amongst the legislators, and 3) MHEC will be developing a new strategic plan focused on collaboration amongst the 12 member states and embracing innovation.

## Program & Institution Dashboards

Quarterly dashboard institutional and program summary reports provide a quick visual and factual review of the institutional and program-level key performance indicators, as well as highlighting historical and future trends at a glance.

- Institutional indicators include enrollment, fiscal health, plant capacity, human resources, industry partnerships, and assessment (Our latest dashboard is attached.)
- Program indicators include enrollment, retention, placement, employer satisfaction, student satisfaction and budget

## Lake Area Tech 2020 Initiatives

The annual Strategic Plan stakeholder session is scheduled in December. Key themes for 2020 are Back to Basics, Embracing New Technology in the Classroom, Emotional Health is Security, and Our Student Body Reflects Us.





## Mitchell Technical Institute

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November 15, 2019

Mr. Nick Wendell  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Board of Technical Education  
925 E. Sioux Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Wendell:

This letter is to inform you that we will be implementing a name change for a program at Mitchell Technical Institute. Effective Spring Semester 2020, we are changing the name of “Telecommunications” to “Wi-Fi and Broadband Technologies.”

The decision to do this comes at the request of advisory board members and involved industry supporters. Although the Telecommunications program is a long-time program at MTI and has evolved over the years to incorporate cutting edge technology, the name does not reflect that technology and young people’s experiences with communication devices. Learning objectives within the program involve all types of communication including phone, Internet, wireless (cellular) and video delivery (cable, streaming, etc.)

It is the opinion of the collaborative group that a name change will help recruit much needed students into a career and provide a highly skilled workforce to an industry that is in need of qualified technicians.

Please let us know if you need any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilson, President

# State Board of Technical Education

## Southeast Tech Update

November 26, 2019

### **New Program Update**

This fall, Southeast Tech launched a new diploma program in medical assisting and three new certificate programs in construction. Enrollment has been strong in each of the new programs with 24 students registered in the construction certificate programs and 32 in medical assisting.

In January 2020, Southeast Tech will also launch a new LPN cohort at the Huron Community Campus in Huron, SD as part of an expanded partnership with the Huron Regional Medical Center. Additionally, Southeast Tech is partnering with Vikor Teleconstruction to use their lab facilities to offer a new certificate in Wireless Infracture Technician starting this spring semester.

### **CitiBank Foundation Grant for Youth Workforce Development**

Southeast Tech, in partnership with the Sioux Falls CTE Academy, was recently notified that we will receive a third round of Citi Foundation grant funding, which is designed to reach under-represented youth (ages 16-24) in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area and provide them with career exploration and skilled training opportunities. Our 2019-2020 *Workforce and Education through Partnerships* grant focuses on building sustainable collaborations to continue the success we have achieved through our 2017-2018 *Workforce and Educational Pathways Project* and 2018-2019 *Continuing the Momentum* grants. Southeast Tech and the CTE Academy have received \$700,000 in funding to provide high school youth opportunities to explore various careers through meaningful internship experiences, shadowing, and career fairs, as well as skilled and soft-skill training opportunities prior to graduation, which will prepare them for immediate entry into a career and/or higher education options (e.g. CNA, welding, IT, and construction certificates, EMT training).

### **New High School Partnerships**

Avera Academy – This partnership between Avera, the Sioux Falls School District and Southeast Tech provides high school seniors the opportunity to take college classes Mondays through Thursdays at Southeast Tech and explore career options at Avera on Fridays.

Classrooms to Careers (C2C) – This partnership among Sanford Health, the Sioux Falls School District, the City of Sioux Falls, First Premier, and Southeast Tech provides Washington High School juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn high school and college credit at their home schools while also learning about technical careers. The primary focus of both the Avera Academy and C2C initiatives is to provide underrepresented low income and first-generation students access to dual credit opportunities.

These programs are capturing the attention of other regional partners who want to join in and expand the current initiatives.

### **Upcoming Legislator Breakfast**

Southeast Tech will host a breakfast focused on legislative issues on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am (CST). The event will be held on the second floor of the HUB Center. Panelists for the workforce development discussion with area legislators include Dave Rozenboom, First Premier Bank, Cynthia Mickelson, President, Sioux Falls School Board, and Debra Owen, Sioux Falls Chamber Director of Public Policy.

## Western Dakota Tech Program Update--December 3, 2019

Two WDT programs were redeveloped during the 18-19 academic year and were restarted in Fall 2019. The first is the Medical Assisting program, which is a one-year program that is offered in a “hybrid” format. The program currently has 11 students enrolled.

The other program that was redeveloped into a hybrid format, and in partnership with Regional Health, is Pharmacy Technician. The program’s laboratory skill requirements were increased, and instructional time was compressed into a diploma format to better prepare students for work in hospital pharmacies. This program currently has three students enrolled, all of whom are participating in substantial clinical time at Regional Health’s pharmacy. Because of a strong partnership with Regional Health, the primary instructor is a Regional employee, which makes the program very cost effective for WDT to offer.

The WDT Registered Nursing “bridge” program successfully rolled out this fall with 16 students enrolled, which was the full cohort planned for the new program’s first year. The program launched as a hybrid program, which allows students who are currently working in the field to work around their work schedules. In other news from the nursing area, WDT’s LPN program to date has a 95% pass rate on the NCLEX, which is up from about 85% during the previous year. In addition, WDT nursing program director, Christi McArthur, has been asked to serve on the statewide Board of Nursing.

Farm and Ranch Management began the fall semester with 3 students enrolled in the program. Fortunately, because the program courses and instructors are blended with Environmental Engineering Technician program courses (which also saw an enrollment increase) along with Aquaponics, another new program this fall, programming cost increases are minimal. WDT’s Farm and Ranch Management instructor, Kaden Eisenbraun, was named to the “30 Under 30” in Agriculture by *AgGrad*.

Industrial Maintenance is a new program similar to Farm and Ranch Management in that it is embedded in existing diesel, electrical, and welding programming, so no costs were added to the College to develop and roll out this program during the Fall 2019 semester.

The Hospitality and Tourism diploma, which is tied to the Business and Technology program, had one student enrolled. Because the Farm and Ranch Management, Industrial Maintenance, and Hospitality programs are tied to existing programs, students have the option to change from or to related programs as they learn of opportunities in conversations with employers.

Other programs that saw enrollment growth include Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Computer Science, Environmental Engineering Technician, Welding, Construction Technology, Plumbing, HVAC, Automotive Technician, and Diesel Technician. The LPN, Surgical Technology, Medical Lab Assisting, and Dental Assisting program enrollments are slightly up.

The Mechanician program did not roll out this fall because of delays in faculty training; however, that program is on track to begin in the Fall 2020 semester, which will give WDT more time to promote the new program and work with potential employer sponsors. This is another excellent example of an industry partnering with WDT to provide specialized skills, this time, for mining.