



**LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

It's your world.

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Alumni AND Friends

FALL 2015
www.lakeareatech.edu



Save the
LATI Alumni
Association money
and the planet.

To receive the LATI friends
and family newsletter
electronically send your
information to:

**Morgan.Fitts@
lakeareatech.edu**

Lake Area Tech Experiences a Dozen Years of Growth

What Lake Area Tech has accomplished in growth the past twelve years is something few colleges can say they have ever experienced.

Coming off the heels of President Obama's commencement address for Lake Area Tech's Class of 2015 in May and a third Aspen Prize nod, enrollment figures once again climbed this fall after the final tallies had been counted in early September.

For the twelfth consecutive year, Lake Area Tech has surpassed its previous fall semester enrollment with a total of 1,846 students. That number is a 7% increase over last fall semester's enrollment of 1,729 students. The freshman class count is also up at 1,087 new students, which is a 6% growth from last

years' incoming group. The overall increase is driven by a strong return of upperclassmen, 11 programs achieving full enrollment, 89 new online E-Degree seeking students - compared to 65 at this time last year - and a significant increase in Dual Status enrollment.

Lake Area Tech Director of Student Services, LuAnn Strait comments, "What Lake Area Tech has accomplished in growth the past twelve years is something few colleges can say they have ever experienced. With the national attention we've drawn this past year by receiving the Aspen Prize recognition as

Lake Area Tech Experiences a Dozen Years of Growth

CONTINUED FROM 1

one of the top two-year colleges and President Obama delivering our 2015 commencement address, we were fully aware that there could be an influx of interest in Lake Area Tech."

Strait continues, "The interest was definitely there, but we wanted to make sure we didn't lose sight of the things that have made us who we are – a college which provides a caring culture for students, hires the best staff, has strong community and industry support, gives students the skills they need to be successful, retains students and makes sure they have meaningful employment upon graduation."

Lake Area Tech attributes its growth to several factors: the full-ride Build Dakota Scholarships; 98% placement rate after graduation; the ability to offer programs in high-demand, high-pay fields; the growing popularity of online E-Degrees; and being named a Finalist with Distinction for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence which nationally recognizes the learning outcomes, retention, degree completion, employment and earnings, and success for minority and low-income students.



Block Party Kicks Off 2015-16 School Year

Lake Area Tech students and staff enjoyed burgers, games, and a great show by the Johnny Holm band Sept. 3 during the Block Party held outdoors at the Ag/MET Center parking lot. The well-attended Block Party offered a chance for new and returning students to take a break from the books and gather with friends before heading home for the long Labor Day weekend.



JULIE STEVENSON
Foundation Director
WHS Class of '85

It's ALL About Relationships

I have worked in marketing, public relations and fundraising within K-12 education, higher education and health care my entire career. I loved each opportunity because of the people I had the privilege to meet and the long-standing relationships that developed!

Through my marketing and foundation positions, I have worked with large corporations, small business owners, community organizations and many individuals. While each relationship is unique, there is always one common denominator: all are amazingly generous and committed! Each relationship was focused upon building a genuine partnership!

When companies and organizations donate funds for student scholarships or provide a much-

needed piece of equipment as an in-kind gift; they demonstrate that they value their LATI partnership.

When people become Legacy Society members through the generosity of a planned gift, they are indicating that they want LATI to be a part of their family, forever.

The Lake Area Technical Institute and the LATI Foundation have been blessed with, and have worked hard to develop, many wonderful partnerships over the years.

I look forward to the opportunity to work side-by-side with our alumni, business/community partners and individual friends as we work together to enhance relationships for the benefit of future students and work force development in our region!

GROW YOUR OWN SKILLED SCHOLAR . . .

Become a Lake Area Tech "Stretch the Million" Partner



The Build Dakota Scholarship Program is a remarkable opportunity whereby each South Dakota Technical Institute will nominate scholarship candidates for its designated funding.

In an effort to 'stretch' the available dollars in this program, we invite our industry partners to consider a unique opportunity to participate in our "Stretch the Million" Scholarship Drive.

Industry partners who support a Skilled Scholar with half of the total college expenses, can request Build Dakota funds be used to cover the remaining eligible programs.

- Students accepting a Build Dakota Scholarship must agree to work in that field in the State of South Dakota for three years.
- Stretch The Million Scholarship recipients would be bound by the Build Dakota Scholarship requirements and any additional requirements arranged with their industry sponsor.

- Stretch the Million sponsors have the option to add specific requirements and criteria to your portion of the scholarship (such as the requirement that the awardee work at your company for three years after graduation)!

Stretch the Million is a win-win for new students at Lake Area Technical Institute and for participating industries. Your company will have a known return on investment.

The overall goal of the Stretch the Million program is to add even more skilled employees, with industry support, to the critical needs workforce pipeline in South Dakota.



View the list of eligible BDS programs at Lake Area Technical Institute at <http://builddakotascholarships.com>

For more information, please contact the Foundation office at 605-882-5284.



*A shared project brought to you by Lake Area Tech, H20-20, and the community of Watertown

Community U Offers Something for Everyone

If you're looking for a fun and educational evening with friends, your options are only a click away! Community U, a collaboration between Lake Area Tech, Watertown H20-20, and the community of Watertown, is a semester-long series of educational, inspirational, creative, and fun classes that are offered to the public here on campus or at a local business.

The fifth round of Community U classes began September 22 and will last through mid-November. The one-night courses include Coffee & Create, Glacial Lakes Distillery Tour, Basic Car Maintenance, 3D Modeling, Genealogy, Photographing Children, Cupcake Decorating, Couples Massage, Brush Up on Ukraine, Antiquing/Repurposing, Party Appetizers, Making Lefse, Home Decorating, Fall Makeup Trends, and Hands-On Technology. The cost of the courses is only \$5 with the exception of one class that collects money for supplies.

To see the Fall 2015 Community U schedule, please visit www.lakeareatech.edu and click on the homepage's Community U banner.





1



3



5



7



2



4



6



8

New Board Members



JAY BOOMSMA
Agri-Partners/
Complete Ag



MARK DUNN
First Premier
Bank



COREY MUSHITZ
LATI Diesel/CAT
ThinkBIG
Department
Supervisor



JIM SEURER
Glacial Lakes
Energy, LLC



JEN VANLAECKEN
VanLaecken
Orthodontics

'65 Chevy Bel Air Winner Drawn!



Congratulations to the winner of the 1965 Chevy Bel Air! Kristina Rieffenberger of Watertown drove away in the Bel Air after her name was drawn from an estimated 3,700 purchased raffle tickets. The Drawing was held at the Vintiques Car Show. For the last three years, students in Lake Area Tech's Auto and Custom Paint & Fab programs diligently worked on its restoration in commemoration of LATI's 50th anniversary this year. Ticket sales began at last year's Festival of Trees (which is where Kristina purchased hers) and were still being sold just minutes before the drawing. Raffle tickets sales exceeded \$60,000. All proceeds from the raffle benefit scholarships at Lake Area Tech. We thank everyone who supported this effort and congratulations again to Kristina!

LATI HAPPENINGS (LEFT)

1. During freshman orientation, new students signed their official Lake Area Tech letters of intent. Welcome to LATI!
2. Students don't get far without their Student I.D. Luckily, students made new friends while waiting in line for one!
3. At the Street Fair, nearly 70 area businesses welcomed LATI students to Watertown and had a chance to talk to them about their services.
4. The Rock Star Project® with Jason LeVasseur provided a much-appreciated fun, informational, and inspirational talk for our students during Kick-Off Day.
5. Lake Area Tech Drafting Class of 1973 Reunion (L to R) Lynn Hjellming, Don Falconer, Bob Haufschild, Gary Mikkonen, Ken Kappenman, Lenny Kemnitz, Chuck Carbonneau, Steve Solum
6. Our great staff helped spruce campus for Sweat Equity Day!
7. At Hometown Day, new students have a chance to chat with students from their hometown as well as meet new friends.
8. Hometown Day is always a hit! Who can resist games, prizes, and free food?!

LAKE AREA TECH FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE

2015 FEUERSTEIN SEMINAR SERIES

Fun Is Good:

The Power of Passion,
Creativity & Engagement!

The proven Fun Is Good philosophy outlines how a fun and passionate work environment leads to a creative and engaged workforce. Study after study proves that fun (the Fun Is Good philosophy) has a positive physical and mental impact on work productivity.

When people have fun and are engaged in what they do, they help create a healthier environment for themselves, their co-workers and their customers. When fun is absent, satisfaction and profit have left the building.

THE FUN IS GOOD TEAM:

As an author, marketing guru and owner of several wildly successful minor league baseball teams – including the St. Paul Saints, Mike Veeck is a serial entrepreneur.

Fran Zeuli, an award-winning customer service maven, has lead regional, division and corporate teams through dramatic times of transition and change.

Veeck and Zeuli will tap into their Fun Is Good experiences to punctuate how fun, passion and creativity can help us develop as business owners and managers, personally as individuals and as a community as we work toward continued growth and prosperity!

For additional information, please contact the Foundation office at 605-882-5284.

October
13

Mark Your Calendar
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
1 – 4:30PM

Lake Area Technical Institute – Student Center

Fun Is Good Registration Form

Individuals may register online at www.lakeareatech.edu or by clipping and mailing this form to Lake Area Tech Foundation – PO Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

**Thanks to the generous support
of our sponsors, The Feuerstein
Family & Watertown Development
Company the cost to attend
this event is . . .**

Individual Registration

_____ # attending @ \$35 per person = \$_____

Group Rate Registrations (5 or more)

_____ # attending @ \$20 per person = \$_____

(Attach list if more than one person is attending).

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Please Invoice

Automotive Program Receives National Accreditation



Congratulations to our Automotive Technology program! The program again received accreditation this summer by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The program has been master certified since 2010 and recently completed the recertification process. LATI's automotive program was accredited in all eight areas of ASE in addition to the related math and science classes.

To achieve this coveted recognition, the school's automotive training program underwent rigorous evaluation by NATEF. "The recertification process was completed over 16 months and involved working closely with our advisory board and NATEF to make certain our program met the strict industry standards," LATI Automotive Technology Department Supervisor Brad Herding said. "The process concluded with an onsite visit, which consisted of a NATEF representative and two other automotive technicians who assisted with the review process. We are now certified through 2020."

Upon completion of the evaluation, NATEF recommended LATI be accredited by The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.

Say Hello to Our New Instructors!

Seven new instructors joined the Lake Area Tech team for fall semester 2015. Four of the seven are Lake Area Tech alumni!

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THEM A WARM WELCOME!



SARAH BRINDLE

General Education
Former Adjunct



JOSHUA FIELDS

Heavy Equipment Operator
'08 Diesel Tech Grad



BAILEY HURLBERT

Agriculture



BAILEY RAML

General Education



STEVEN SCHWINGER

Precision Machining
'07 Machine Tool Tech



ELIZABETH SNYDER

Nursing
'10 Practical Nursing Grad



MATHEW WEINZIRL

EST/Robotics
'13 Electronic Systems Technology Grad

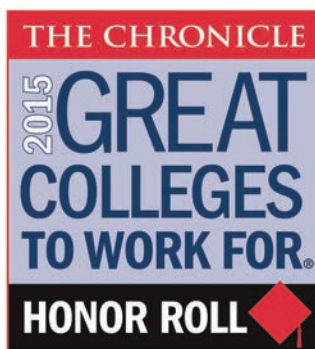
Tech Trek 5K Run/Walk



Lake Area Tech Alumni Association held its first ever Tech Trek 5K Run/ Walk. Tech Trek had 30 participants. Justin Nobles was our male winner, a LATI Computer Information Systems student from Mobridge, SD, and our female winner was Cyndee Davis, LATI Agriculture student from Wolsey, SD, and our stroller winner was Angie Bevers, a Watertown resident. The Kids Dash was a hit with sunglass prizes.

LAKE AREA TECH NAMED A "2015 Great College to Work For"

Designation by The Chronicle
of Higher Education Includes
Honor Roll Status



Lake Area Technical Institute is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the latest survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. This is the seventh consecutive year Lake Area Tech has earned this designation. In addition, Lake Area Tech once again earned the distinction of being an Honor Roll school, a result of its high rankings in the categories surveyed.

The results, released today in The Chronicle's eighth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of 281 colleges and universities. In all, only 86 of the 281 institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. This includes 62 four-year institutions and 24 two-year institutions. Of those, 42 institutions attained Honor Roll status. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with Lake Area Tech included among the small universities (2,999 students or fewer) category.

Lake Area Tech won honors in four categories:

- Collaborative Governance
- Respect & Appreciation
- Job Satisfaction
- Teaching Environment

"This is a very satisfying affirmation of Lake Area Tech, but our real goal is not recognition – it's being a community that values the needs and contributions of every individual working together towards our common goal of student success," said Lake Area Tech Vice President Diane Stiles. "In that sense everyone at Lake Area Tech helps to make this a great place to work."

PTA Program Recognized by Foundation for Physical Therapy

Congratulations to our Physical Therapist Assistant program! The Foundation for Physical Therapy has recognized the program with the Most Successful PTA Newcomer Award for the 2014-2015 Miami-Marquette Challenge. This award is given to the PTA school who raises the most money out of other first-time participants.

The award recipients of the 2014-2015 Miami-Marquette Challenge were announced during the Foundation's 2015 Gala at APTA's NEXT Conference and Exposition in National Harbor, MD this summer. Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students from 146 schools across the country raised \$275,423 to support physical therapy research.

The Challenge is the Foundation's signature annual fundraising campaign and since its inception in 1989, 235 schools have participated in raising over \$3 million for physical therapy research.

Giving Form

I want to play a role in "Building A Better
Lake Area Technical Institute" with a tax deductible
gift to the Lake Area Technical Foundation!

I/We would like to make a contribution as follows:

- ☐ My/Our gift of \$_____ is enclosed.
- ☐ My/Our pledge of \$_____, will be provided as
\$_____ per year for _____ years.

How often would you like to receive an invoice?

- ☐ Annually ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Other _____

- ☐ I have made a gift of \$_____ online at
www.lakeareatech.edu

- ☐ I wish my gift to remain "Anonymous"
- ☐ Please direct this gift to where it is most needed.
- ☐ Please direct this gift to _____

- ☐ I am an Alumni of LATI

Program: _____ Yr: _____

PLEASE PRINT:

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Signature: _____

Areas OF Study

AGRICULTURE

Agri-Aviation Option
Agri-Business Option
Agri-Production Option
Commodity Merchandising Option*
Dairy Option*
Environmental Option*
Equine Management Option*
Large Animal Technician Option*
Precision Technology Option
Ranch Management Option*
Swine Management Option* **NEW FALL 2015**

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY*

Flight Training Option*
Agri- Aviation Option

BUILDING TRADES TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Entrepreneurship*
Human Resource Associate Option*
Marketing & Management Option
Photography/Media Option*

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Network Specialist Option
Programming Specialist Option
Security Specialist Option
Visual Communications Specialist Option

COSMETOLOGY*

CUSTOM PAINT & FABRICATION

Auto Body Technician Option
Diploma Option

DENTAL ASSISTING*

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

CAT ThinkBIG*
CNH Forging the Future*
Tractor Option
Truck Option

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

ENERGY OPERATIONS*

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY*

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY*

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Agri-Financial Services Option
Business Accounting Option
Consumer Financial Services Option

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR*

HIGH PERFORMANCE ENGINE MACHINING*

HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICIAN

Child Development Option
Developmental Disabilities Option
Mental Health/Activity Technician Option
Youth Offender Option

LAW ENFORCEMENT

MED/FIRE RESCUE

Emergency Medical Specialist Option
Paramedic Diploma

MEDICAL ASSISTING

MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

NURSING

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT*

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT*

PRECISION MACHINING*

ROBOTICS

WELDING TECHNOLOGY

* Indicates these programs are unique to Lake Area Tech in SD.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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1201 Arrow Ave. NE
P.O. Box 730
Watertown, SD 57201-0730

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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FALL 2015
www.lakeareatech.edu

E-Degrees

(Online Hybrid Programs)

AGRICULTURE

Agri-Business Option
Commodity Merchandising Option
Ranch Management Option

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Entrepreneurship
Marketing & Management Option

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DENTAL ASSISTING

FINANCIAL SERVICES

MED/FIRE RESCUE

Emergency Medical Technician Certification

MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

NURSING

PRECISION MACHINING

ROBOTICS

See www.lakeareatech.edu for detailed program by program E-Degree information.



**LAKE AREA TECH
IS ON FACEBOOK**

"Like" the Lake Area Technical Institute Alumni Association page to receive updates from the Alumni Association and Foundation Office.