



LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

It's your world.

inside

PBS Features LATI	2
Native Plant Lab	3
Ag Open House	4
Alumni Updates	5
Iron Man	6
FFA Award	7



LATI students Laramie and Sawyer Strand (on horseback) and MacKenzie Kilber (center) kicked off the Ag and Environmental Center's grand opening with the official "rope" cutting ceremony. See full story on page 4.

Alumni AND Friends

JANUARY 2014
www.lakeareatech.edu

JANUARY

- 23 Senior Tech Day
- 28 Student for a Day

FEBRUARY

- 5 Gap Inc. Business Camp for High School Students & Transportation Camp
- 6 GAP Business Seminar for LATI Business Students
- 11 Scholarship Recognition Event
- 13 Career Search Expo
- 17 President's Day – LATI Closed

MARCH

- 5 Equity Day
- 10 Spring Break Begins
- 11 Women in Science
- 12 Men in Health
- 14 Spring Break Ends
- 17 Midpoint of Semester
- 26 3M Camp

President Shephard To Retire in June

It has been my privilege to work with so many outstanding administrators, school boards, and Lake Area Tech staff. The employees are incredibly dedicated and work each day to create bright futures for our students.



President Deb Shephard has announced her intent to retire from Lake Area Technical Institute the end of June 2014. Shephard has been employed by Lake Area Tech in several different capacities for the past 35 years, and the past seven years as President.

Shephard comments, "It has been my privilege to work with so many outstanding administrators, school boards, and Lake Area Tech staff. The employees are incredibly

dedicated and work each day to create bright futures for our students."

In 1978, Deb Shephard was hired by Lake Area Tech as an instructor in the Recreational Therapy program. Over the years, Shephard continued her higher education career at Lake Area Tech in several different capacities including Counselor, Director of Enrollment/Registrar, and Vice President.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

President Shephard To Retire in June

CONTINUED FROM 1

During Shephard's tenure as President, she has seen consistent increased enrollment at the Institute which reached an all-time high of over 1800 students in fall of 2013 and a 99% placement rate of its graduates. She has successfully directed the Institute through its first major gift campaign and subsequent four-phase building project of which the final phase was completed in October. Also during this time, Lake Area Tech received the prestigious Aspen Institute Award for Excellence as a top two-year college in the United States for two consecutive years. The Institute has also been designated, for the past five years, as a Great Place to Work For, A Top Finalist for the President's Award for Community Service for the past five years and a Military Friendly School for the past four years.

Shephard continues, "As a team, we have continued to expand Lake Area Tech's footprint and have enhanced our reputation as a leader in technical education. I am confident the Institute will continue to be one of the outstanding schools of its kind nationwide for years to come."

Deb, and her husband Scott, plan to continue living in Watertown.

Shephard's announcement will allow ample time for the process of hiring her successor. A Lake Area Tech Presidential Search Committee, consisting of several Lake Area Tech staff, district administrators, school board and community members, and business partners will come together to work through the hiring process serving as an advisory committee to the Watertown Superintendent of Schools and the district school board. The position will be advertised locally, regionally and nationally in January of 2014. The deadline to submit applications for the position will be February 28. Candidates will be screened and interviews will occur in April. If the appropriate candidate is found, a recommendation to the Watertown School Board will take place at the regularly scheduled May meeting. It is the goal of the Search Committee to have a new president in place by July of 2014.



PBS Documentary Highlights LATI's Successful Outcomes

Lake Area Tech's success with graduation rates and program planning piqued the interest of a national PBS television station earlier this semester.

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) of Lexington, KY, is producing a four-part documentary highlighting the national student dropout rate and efforts to improve it. Students and staff in LATI's Diesel, Heavy Equipment Operator, and Agriculture programs were interviewed regarding best practices, program innovation, and successful outcomes.

"Our audience is a general audience and we are very hopeful this (documentary) can be used to expose communities to these issues," said Producer Marsha Hellard. "A high school equivalency isn't going to be enough for the workforce of the future."

Hellard explained the four-part documentary will include an overview of the dropout problem and its effects on society; a look at programs that re-engage recent dropouts; stumbling blocks that lead students to drop out; and finally, successful options, such as meaningful continuing education. LATI will be included in the documentary's successful options segment.

During President Deb Shephard's interview with the film crew, Hellard asked what has led LATI to national success. Shephard explained it's a combination of elements including an innovative staff, hands-on learning experiences, knowing students personally, and industry partnerships.

When asked about LATI's high graduation rate, Shephard said, "We think the graduation rate is so high because we put students into the right tract right away. In addition to that, our admissions standards and attendance policy also contributes to student success."

Josh Weiner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program, recommended Lake Area Tech to the PBS producers during an educational forum in Washington, D.C. this summer. Following several more months of filming, Hellard said the documentary will be delivered to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting next spring with an estimated air date next fall.



▲ **ABOVE LEFT:** The crew also interviewed Agriculture student Tara Parmely (Miller, SD), who explained how she'll graduate with an A.A.S. degree in Ag (Ag-Business option) and take advantage of articulation agreements to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy.

ABOVE RIGHT: Dillan Sando, a Heavy Equipment Operator student (Marshall, MN), talked to the crew about why he chose the HEO program at Lake Area Tech.

◀ **LEFT:** LATI students had the opportunity to visit with over 32 regional businesses and industries this semester during the Career Search Expo held on the fourth level of the Student Center. The expo provided students a chance to learn more about job and internship opportunities. The next Career Search Expo will be held Thursday, February 13, 2014. LATI graduates have consistently achieved a 99% placement following graduation.

Landscaping Efforts Produce Long-Term Impacts



▲ ABOVE: Students in Lake Area Tech's Intro to Range Management and Plants class recently rolled up their sleeves to incorporate a Native Plant Lab into the landscaping at the new Ag Center. Pictured from left are Ag Students Jon Petersen (White, SD), Dillon Spurr (Aberdeen, SD), Garret DeRungs (Ramona, SD), and Lori Seim from Sioux Valley Greenhouse.

Students in Lake Area Tech's Intro to Range Management and Plants class stepped out of the classroom and up to the challenge of enhancing the new Ag Center's landscaping. This wasn't a typical landscaping job, however. The well-focused native plant lab includes plants and grasses that are native to this area.

"By incorporating native plants and grasses into the landscaping, students in our program will be able to use them for identification and preservation purposes," LATI Ag Instructor Laurie Johnson said. "In addition, this experience allows students to take ownership in the new Ag Center and its surroundings."

Students spent the better part of a day identifying and planting several species of plants including perennial ornamental grasses and flowering plants. Dean Seim of Sioux Valley Greenhouse in Watertown shared his knowledge with the students as they prepared for and completed the project.

Additional plans for the native plant lab include designing signage and incorporating the lab into the Environmental Technology program coursework.

"We're extremely proud of the student's work with the native plant lab," Johnson said. "Their efforts will be appreciated for years to come both in and out of the classroom."

By incorporating native plants and grasses into the landscaping, students in our program will be able to use them for identification and preservation purposes.



Drive With LATI Pride!
GET YOUR LAKE AREA TECH LICENSE PLATE DECAL.

When your license plate renewal occurs, request an organizational license plate from your county Treasurer's Office. Purchase a \$30 set of LATI decals by calling the Alumni Association at 605-882-5284 ext. 292, stop at the Alumni Office or conveniently order online at <https://www.lakeareatech.edu/alumni/licenseplatedecal/order.asp>. When we mail the decals to you, put them on your license plates and Drive With Pride!

Camps!

Area high school students learned first-hand about our program offerings during the day-long Construction/Energy & Manufacturing, Ag & Natural Resources, and SCRUBS camps held this semester.



The Building Trades program isn't for guys only! These girls rolled up their sleeves and learned a few tips from our BTT students.



The CAT excavator simulator was a big hit for high school students attending the Heavy Equipment Operator camp.



Attendees in the Medical Lab Technician camp walked away sporting a Band-Aid after their time in the lab. The high schoolers had their blood type checked... voluntarily, of course!



Jolene Brown Featured

at LATI's First Celebration of Agriculture Event

A chilly December day did not stop nearly 300 attendees at a "Celebration of Ag" event hosted by the Lake Area Tech Foundation in the LATI Student Center. Internationally known speaker, Jolene Brown – Certified Speaking Professional, entertained and informed the group during two presentations: a workshop, "If We Huff & Puff, Will We Blow Your House Down?" and a keynote address, "It's a Jungle Out There." Attendees also toured the new \$10 million Agriculture and Environmental Center and enjoyed a beef dinner in the new Student Center. Ag Department Supervisor, Jim Clendenin commented, "I wish every student we have and each one of their family members could have heard these presentations on the transfer of wealth within farm families. The information was so important and so accurate." The event was completely free thanks to event sponsors; CHS, CK Seeds LLC of Clark, First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC, KWAT Radio, North Central Farmers Elevator, Titan Machinery and Valley Queen Cheese Factory.

I wish every student we have and each one of their family members could have heard these presentations...



LATI's Agriculture and Environmental Center Grand Opening Commemorates Final Building Phase

A large crowd gathered October 23 at Lake Area Technical Institute to celebrate the grand opening of the new Agriculture and Environmental Center. Ag students on horseback carried out the official "rope" cutting during the ceremony.

South Dakota Secretary of Ag Lucas Lentsch congratulated LATI on its commitment to provide students a solid agricultural background and to prepare them to enter the ever-growing and changing world of agriculture. "Agriculture is not going to slow down in this state. It's only going to become more relevant," he said. Superintendent Dr. Lesli Jutting, School Board President Tammy Rieber, and LATI President Deb Shephard also delivered remarks.

The Agriculture and Environmental Center was the fourth and final Excellence by Design Campaign building phase. The newest addition to the LATI campus features 70,000 square feet and houses the Agriculture, Heavy Equipment Operator, CAT ThinkBIG, and Environmental Technology programs and features a large mechanical shop, grow room, animal lab, soil lab, and state-of-the art classrooms. The approximately \$10 million building accommodates more than 250 students.

The previous phases included three other significant building projects. Phase One, the Manufacturing, Energy, and Transportation Center, houses Lake Area Tech's Diesel, Welding, Precision Machining, Robotics, Electronics, Human Services Technology, and Energy programs. The \$8.8 million project features 63,000 square feet of cutting-edge training space, classrooms, and laboratories.

The \$4.4 million Automotive and Construction Technology Center, built during Phase Two, offers 43,000 square feet of space for Automotive Technology and Building Trades Technology students. It features a spacious and modern auto lab, a spray booth, building shop area, and classrooms.

The Student Center was built during Phase Three of the project and includes 55,600 square feet of space for a centrally located food service, bookstore, student services, conference rooms, and a large group meeting area. The \$6.3 million project was completed in 2012.

Alumni Update

1973 Jerry Oster

(Electronics Systems Technology) is employed at WNAX Radio where he resides in Yankton, SD.

1977 Paul Bevers

(Diesel Technology) and his wife **Jody (Gibbens) Bevers** ('77 Medical Assisting) reside in Sioux Falls, SD. Paul is a fuel transportation specialist for Howes Oil and Jody is an Office Manager for Leyva Drywall and Insulation LLC. They have two daughters, four grandsons and one granddaughter.

1978 Scott Briggs

(Dental Lab Technician) is the owner of Tri-State Dental where he resides in Sioux City, IA.

1979 Rich Kranz

(Engineering/Drafting Technology) resides in Watertown, SD.

1986 Pat Weisgram

(Diesel Technology) is employed at Butler Machinery Company where he resides in Aberdeen, SD.

1990 Jeff Bendix

(Aviation) is the owner of BENDIX Imaging, Inc. where he resides in Watertown, SD.

1995 Shane Wagner

(Automated Manufacturing) is employed at Whiting Oil & Gas, where he resides in Dickinson, ND.

2001 Debra

(Stroschein) Tanner (Agriculture Business) is employed at DJO/Empi Global in Clear Lake, SD. She has two daughters the ages of three years and nine months.

2006 Kristin Namken

(Medical Assisting) is engaged to marry Evan Peterson on January 14, 2014 in Hayti, SD.

2007 Barbara

(Lunsford) Wollschlager (Robotics) is employed at B & G Welding where she resides in Watertown, SD.

2007 Faren Barber

(Financial Services) is employed at Dacotah Insurance and resides in Watertown, SD.

2008 Anthony Hieb

(Diesel Technology) resides in Aberdeen, SD.

2009 Nathan Van Zee

(Welding Technology) is engaged to be married to **Jade Grabinski** ('13 Human Services Technician) on March 29, 2014.

Alumna Michelle Grant Named SD Physical Therapist Assistant of the Year

Congratulations to LATI alumna Michelle Grant of Watertown, who recently received the prestigious South Dakota Physical Therapist Assistant of the Year award at the SD Physical Therapy Association's fall conference.



After graduating from Watertown High School in 2000, Michelle earned a massage therapy degree. "I was working as a massage therapist and loved it, but I felt like I was not actually solving the problems my clients were having," she said. She then enrolled in LATI's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program and graduated in 2011.

Michelle said her job as a PTA at Big Stone Therapies in Watertown offers tremendous satisfaction, including helping a diversified population of patients. Most of all, she said she loves seeing people get their life back.

Michelle's advice to students who are considering the field of physical therapy is to shadow at a clinic and see what the therapists actually do. In addition, she said students should explore different environments (inpatient, outpatient, long-term care, schools, etc.) since a therapist's day can vary depending on the setting.

In addition to her work as a PTA, she also holds credentials as a massage therapist, certified lymphedema therapist, and she recently became LSVT BIG – certified.

Michelle has two sons, Maxwell, 8, and Hobbes, 2, and is married to Matthew Grant ('10 Drafting).

In Memory Of:

LATI is saddened by the news that David Thompson, custodial staff from 1985 to his retirement in 2006, passed away December 20, 2013 from small cell lung carcinoma.

We want to hear from you!

Newly Married? New Job? New Business? Children? >>>>>>>

Update us @

Alumni/Alumni Connection
www.lakeareatech.edu

LATI Receives New Endowed Scholarship

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of South Dakota – Building Chapter recently established the newest endowed scholarship account at Lake Area Technical Institute with a \$15,000 gift. Endowed accounts provide annual scholarship awards generated from the annual interest earning. AGC’s account brings the total number of endowed accounts at Lake Area Tech to 57.

The scholarship awards from the account will be available to full-time students with preference given to those enrolled in LATI’s Building Trades Technology Program.

Lake Area Tech Executive Director Tom Paulson stated; “The investment the AGC Building Chapter is making at LATI will provide a life-long impact to students. It speaks to helping students gain an education and to helping provide a continual workforce resource for the building industry to rely upon.”

This year, the LATI Foundation will award over \$300,000 in scholarship support to talented and deserving students, endowed scholarships provide a portion of that amount each year.



Mack takes on Ironman Challenge



Congratulations to Michael Mack ('13 graduate of LATI's Med Fire Rescue program), who completed his first Ironman competition in Louisville, KY, last August. The Ironman Triathlon is a long-distance triathlon race consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bicycle ride, and a marathon 26.2-mile run, raced in that order without a break. Most Ironman events have a strict time limit of 17 hours to complete the race. Michael completed the race with an overall time of 16 hours, 43 minutes, and 27 seconds.



This wasn't his first race; he has completed over 20 races of half marathon (13.1 miles) distance or greater including 6 full marathons (26.2 miles).

While attending Lake Area Tech he participated in:

- Ultra Marathon (Approximately 31 miles)
This entire race took place in Destin, Florida on the beach.
- Death Valley, California Trail Marathon (13.1 miles)
He started near the lowest point in the US (282 feet below sea level) up a vertical climb of 2600 ft in 6.5 miles and back.
- Las Vegas Rock n Roll Half Marathon (13.1 miles)
Three miles into the race he renewed his vows with his wife of five years.

Michael began his job at Watertown Fire Rescue (WFR) while still attending school. He works full-time at WFR as a firefighter/paramedic. While keeping busy with his family of four, he's also an adjunct instructor for LATI's Med/Fire Rescue teaching CPR and First Aid. If that doesn't keep him moving, he also is taking online classes to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Health Science.

He appreciates the education received at LATI and has established the Michael and Karen Mack scholarship for a student showing promise in the paramedic program going into the second semester. The first scholarship was awarded to Christopher Mikkelsen (Lennox, SD).



Each year, a scholarship will be awarded to a student in the Aviation Maintenance Technology program with preference given to candidates from the South Dakota counties of Charles Mix, Brule, Gregory or Lyman.

◀ **LEFT TOP:** AGC Building Chapter Board Vice President, Rusty Fiegen (Fiegen Construction of Sioux Falls), LATI President Deb Shephard, AGC Building Chapter Board President, Gerald Johnson (GA Johnson Construction of Sioux Falls), AGC Member, Vic Brownell (Gray Construction, Watertown) and Bryce Healy, Executive Director of the AGC Building Chapter present their gift.

LEFT BOTTOM: Following the check presentation, the group visited one of the current 2nd year student projects. AGC Building Chapter Past President, Dallas Hanson (Dallas Hanson Construction, Ortonville, MN) joined the group. From left center: Vic Brownell, Dallas Hanson, Rusty Fiegen and Gerald Johnson.

Delta Dental Care Mobile Brightens Smiles in Watertown



The purpose of the unit is to offer kids without access to adequate dental care a place to go.

Kids ages 0-21 came out in droves to take advantage of the Delta Dental Ronald McDonald® Care Mobile hosted by LATI's Dental Assisting program this semester. The purpose of the unit is to offer kids without access to adequate dental care a place to go.

During the week-long stay at Lake Area Tech, 67 patients received professional dental care including cleanings, fillings, crowns, and extractions from a local dentist.

That amounted to more than \$30,000 of dental care, provided free to patients who might not otherwise receive dental care.

Dental Assisting Department Supervisor Rhonda Bradberry said her students volunteered to help on the unit during its time in Watertown. "It was a wonderful experience for them, it not only gave them hands-on experience in providing dental care, it also makes them aware of the satisfaction gained from participating in volunteer activities," she said. "We so enjoy being a partner in providing these dental care services to both the children in the Watertown area and for Lake Area's students."

Greg Klein Named SD Technician of the Year by the FAA

Klein was selected for the award based on dedication to his field, experience, involvement as an FAA representative, and his work as a safety education volunteer.

Congratulations to Lake Area Technical Institute's Aviation Maintenance Technology Instructor Greg Klein, who was named the South Dakota Technician of the Year by the Federal Aviation Administration. Klein was selected for the award based on dedication to his field, experience, involvement as an FAA representative, and his work as a safety education volunteer.

FAA Safety Team Program Manager Jeff Boe said Klein was nominated for the award by his peers and was ultimately selected for the award by a regional Federal Aviation Administration board in Chicago, Illinois.

Klein received his Airframe and Powerplant certificate from Lake Area Tech in 1977. He then entered the United States Air Force as an aircraft maintenance technician. While in the Air Force, he maintained F-4D Phantoms, Lockheed T-33 Shooting Stars, and F-15A Eagles. He also maintained aero club Cessna 172s and taught an airframe and powerplant course on a part-time basis.

▼ BELOW: LATI Aviation Maintenance Technology Instructor Greg Klein (left) accepts the South Dakota Technician of the Year award from Jeff Boe, FAA Safety Team Program Manager.



RANKED
ONE OF THE
TOP 4
two-year colleges in the
NATION!
with Associate Institutes
Community College Exchange Program

Lake Area 20 Technical Institute 13

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

It's your world.

Areas OF Study

AGRICULTURE

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*

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY*

Flight Training Option*

BUILDING TRADES TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Fashion/Retail Merchandising Option*
Hospitality and Tourism Option*
Human Resource Associate Option*
Marketing & Management Option
Photography/Media Option*

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

CISCO Specialist Option*
Network Specialist Option
Programming Specialist Option
Security Specialist Option
Visual Communications Specialist Option

COSMETOLOGY*

CUSTOM PAINT & FABRICATION

Auto Body Technician Option
General Fabricator Option

DENTAL ASSISTING*

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

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

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

ENERGY OPERATIONS*

Power Plant Option*
Process Plant Option*

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY*

ENTREPRENEURSHIP*

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 (NEW FALL 2014)

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



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
POSTAGE
PAID
WATERTOWN, SD
PERMIT #550

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

christina.brownell@lakeareatech.edu



JANUARY 2014
www.lakeareatech.edu

E-Degrees

(Online Hybrid Programs)

AGRICULTURE

Agri-Business Option
Commodity Merchandising
Ranch Management Option

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Marketing & Management Option

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DENTAL ASSISTING

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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.