



LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

It's your world.

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The Solar Car Team builds a solar golf cart as a prototype project for LATI's upcoming solar race car.

Alumni AND Friends

JULY 2013

www.lakeareatech.edu

calendar

AUGUST

- 20 New Student Orientation
- 21 First Day of Classes
- 23 Watertown Wants U Job Fair

SEPTEMBER

- 2 LATI Closed – Labor Day
- 17 Feuerstein Series – FISH Philosophy

OCTOBER

- 2 Construction/Energy/Manufacturing Camp
- 14 No Classes – Native American Day
- 16 Ag & SCRUBS Camp
- 17 All Campus Job/Internship Fair

NOVEMBER

- 7 Senior Tech Day

LATI's Solar Car Project Sparks Innovative Collaboration

The project will demonstrate the use of solar energy as an environmentally friendly alternative energy source and will foster students' interests and skills in technology, science, engineering, and business.

Brainstorming and teamwork are just a couple of words that come to mind when talking about LATI's latest ambitious project – building a solar car!

The Lake Area Tech Solar Car project is a collaborative, real-world team effort that offers a unique opportunity for students from several programs to apply their talents to the design, creation, and implementation of a race-ready solar car. The project will demonstrate the use of solar energy as an environmentally friendly alternative energy source and will foster students' interests and skills in technology, science, engineering, and business. Lake Area Tech is the first South Dakota team to undertake this challenge.

Students will apply mechanical skills to plan, design, and build the aerodynamic frame; electrical skills to manage the solar cells and batteries; and business skills to acquire and manage sponsorships and promotional events. Fundraising will be required for solar car construction materials, electronic/mechanical components, operating costs, etc. To help reduce expenses, the Aspen Committee voted to earmark a portion of the \$100,000 Aspen prize to purchase the engine.

"The project began in fall 2012 and to date, the team has built a test-run solar car golf cart in preparation for the design, creation, and implementation of the full-size solar race car," said Brooks Jacobsen, LATI Electronic Systems Technology instructor. Jacobsen and

LATI's Solar Car Project

CONTINUED FROM 1

Scott Leitheiser, LATI Energy Operations and Energy Technology department supervisor, are coordinating and advising the students throughout the project.

The team expects a completion date of early 2014. At that time, they will register to race the car in the Formula Sun Grand Prix in Austin, Texas and the American Solar Car Challenge at a location yet to be determined, following an intense scrutineering process during which each car is thoroughly inspected for compliance.

During the Formula Sun Grand Prix, solar-powered race cars compete on a track and are tested on the ability to handle curves, brake, and accelerate. The American Solar Challenge is a cross-country, timed rally event that covers a 1,200-1,800 mile course over multiple cities in the country.

Currently, there are students from 12 programs working on the project: Automotive Technology, Aviation Maintenance Technology, Business Associate, Custom Paint & Fabrication, Diesel Technology, Electronic Systems Technology, Energy Operations, Energy Technology, Financial Services, Precision Machining, Robotics, and Welding Technology. All students are welcome to participate in the Solar Car project. Credits are offered to students in related programs.

LATI alumni and friends are invited to take part in the Solar Car fundraising efforts by purchasing a solar cell for \$40. For more information, or to purchase a solar cell, please contact the Lake Area Tech Foundation Office or visit their web page at: www.lakeareatech.edu/alumni/solarcell/order.asp

Looking back at the numbers, Lake Area Tech has realized an increase in the unduplicated student enrollment numbers every year for the last nine years.

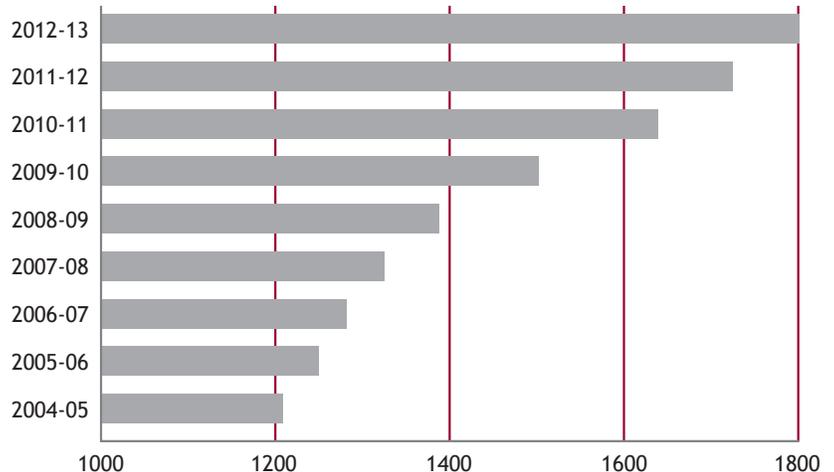
LATI Reaches Milestone Enrollment Figure

After crunching, verifying, and double-checking, the end-of-year enrollment numbers reveal Lake Area Tech reached a milestone of 1,823 students at the end of the 2012-2013 school year! The number has been an institutional goal for several years. Many factors contributed to the goal's attainment including the addition of new on-campus and online programs, an engaged staff, Aspen Institute recognition for two years in a row, and strong business and community support.

Looking back at the numbers, Lake Area Tech has realized an increase in the unduplicated student enrollment numbers every year for the last nine years.

What's our next enrollment milestone? Director of Institutional Relations LuAnn Strait said, "We expect to reach 2,000 students within the next few years, given our annual on-campus enrollment growth and online student participation."

LATI ENROLLMENT GROWTH



congratulations Agriculture program!

In the latest edition of *Community College Weekly*, the **Top 100 Associate Degree Producers** article put LATI Agriculture program as #15 out of ALL TWO AND FOUR Year colleges in the country!

◀ LEFT: Former Watertown School District Superintendent Dr. Rick Melmer, Ed.D, spoke to a full house at the 46th annual Lake Area Technical Institute commencement ceremony on May 10 in the Watertown Civic Arena. During his address to 629 graduates, Dr. Melmer offered practical advice on succeeding in the workforce.

congratulations Precision Machining and Welding programs!

The online edition of *Community College Weekly's* **Top 100 Associate Degree Producers** notes LATI's Precision Production (Welding and Precision Machining combined) as #27 out of ALL TWO AND FOUR Year colleges in the country!



Students and Ag Sector Benefit from Grain Bin Safety Trainer



One of Lake Area Tech's latest innovative projects is a custom-made Grain Bin Safety Trainer.

Med/Fire Rescue instructor Erick Wientjes* attended a grain bin safety seminar last summer where a small-scale grain bin was being used for training. Knowing several grain bin related injuries have occurred on area farms recently, Weintjes brainstormed with his peers at LATI about designing a larger, mobile demonstration bin for safety training.

A few months later, students from the Welding and Diesel programs, as well as our maintenance crew, modified a donated grain bin and auger that is now being used to train local fire/rescue departments and elevators employees on grain bin safety.

"The only thing we had to go on was a picture of the bin Erick observed," LATI's Corporate Education Coordinator Steve Hauck said. "Our staff and students fully fabricated the bin's design and construction."

To be visually effective, the grain bin was cut in half from top to bottom and fit with Plexiglass to view what happens inside a grain filled bin. During training, accident prevention methods are demonstrated using the new trainer that's housed on a donated trailer for mobility. During transport, the bin is reduced to half-size and then fully extended for training sessions.

Hauck said he's fielded calls from ag businesses interested in using the safety trainer at employee training seminars.

This project was possible through generous donations and assistance from Sukup, Berkley Agribusiness Risk Specialties, Muth Electric, and North Central Farmers Elevator.

"The safety training aid will be named "Erick's Trailer" in memory of Erick who passed away June 23, 2013 following a valiantly fought battle with cancer.



This isn't your average 1970s era corn planter. The Ag Department gave it a major overhaul this year just in time for spring planting. Along with a good tune-up, the planter was equipped with precision technology devices that use auto steering for perfectly spaced rows and variable rate technology that enables the planter to administer the right amount of seed.



Four LATI Welding students fabricated seven sets of bunk beds and three tables for the Codington County Detention Center. Codington County Sheriff Toby Wishard said, "The project is a win-win partnership for both entities as students gain real-world welding experience and the county conserves its financial resources." Welding students from left: JR Munger, Sioux Falls; Ryan Prinsen, Lakeville, MN; Mandy Slaght, Rock Valley, IA; and Cathy Bosch, Marietta, MN; Sheriff Toby Wishard; Sargent Brad Howell; and Chief Corrections Officer Tom Walder.



The 65 Chevy is rolling on a new set of wheels and tires as it continues to be transformed by Automotive Technology and Custom Paint & Fab students in preparation of the 50th Celebration of Lake Area Tech in 2015. The 1965 Chevrolet Bel Air will be raffled during the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

During training, accident prevention methods are demonstrated using the new trainer that's housed on a donated trailer for mobility.



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

When your license plate renewal occurs, request a non-profit/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!

Spotlight on E-Degrees

LATI's E-Degrees make it easy to earn an A.A.S. degree online while maintaining a job or raising a family. In this spotlight, learn more about the Agriculture and Precision Machining options.

AGRICULTURE –

New grads average \$16.71 per hour!*

The Agri-Business E-Degree is a perfect fit for people interested in a well-rounded foundation in agriculture, business and management. The 20-month coursework is required for on-campus students, the only difference online is that students complete the coursework at home.

Ag's fast-paced Commodity Merchandising option is for anyone interested in buying and selling commodities on the cash market, coordinating grain transportation, and offering commodity financial advice. E-Degree students complete most of the 20-month program at home with limited time spent on-campus.

Ag's Ranch Management E-Degree is a great option for people already employed on a ranch or for anyone wishing to manage their own ranch. It's a great opportunity to expand their knowledge in animal husbandry, farm management, and environmental conservation. Students complete most of the 20-month program online, only coming to campus to complete labs or hands-on projects.

PRECISION MACHINING –

New grads average \$15.71 per hour!*

Students earning an E-Degree in Precision Machining will complete their online coursework over six semesters and two summers. During that time, students learn theory and watch video presentations online, then come to campus every few weeks for hands-on projects using our CNC machines.

Program Update

Our Surveying/Mechanical CAD program will no longer be offered due to continued low enrollment. Current students will complete their degree during the upcoming school year.

*Wages based on 2012 LATI placement survey.

ag center update



The massive shop area in the new Ag Center will house equipment and training aids for the Ag, Heavy Equipment Operator, and Diesel CAT programs. Adjacent classrooms enable convenient shop access for students.



The impressive live animal lab allows ample space for students in Ag's Large Animal Technician option to work with and observe cattle and other large animals.



Ceiling tiles are being installed in the Environmental Technology lab, a sign that the lab will soon be ready for equipment.

Here's a SNEAK PEEK inside Lake Area Tech's new Agriculture Center!

The 70,000 square foot complex will house the Agriculture, Environmental Technology, Heavy Equipment Operator, and Diesel CAT programs. In addition to classrooms and office space, other features include a live animal lab, soil lab, grow room, environmental lab, and a shop area. Nearly 300 students will utilize the new facility next fall.



The Ag Center's reception area (shown here), offices, classrooms, and the testing center are nearly complete and will be ready for students when classes begin August 21.



Brickwork, painting, and window installation are rapidly progressing on the Ag Center's exterior, despite the wet weather in May and June.

Alumni Update

1968 Loren Fenske

(Aviation Maintenance Technology) is employed with Farmers Implement & Irrigation in Brookings, SD. He resides in Volga, SD.

1970 Bob Zimney

(Aviation Maintenance Technology) is employed with American Airlines in Tulsa, OK. He resides in Owasso, OK.

1980 LeRoy Benson

(Welding Technology) and his wife Joyce celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 11, 2013. They reside in Watertown, SD.

1982 Paula Hanson

(Practical Nursing) and her husband Norlyn celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on May 1, 2013. They reside in Watertown, SD.

1984 Lonnie Zemlicka

(Machine Tool Technology) and his wife MaryLynn celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on May 14, 2013. They reside in Watertown, SD.

Carol (Loterbauer) Horn

(1973 Medical Assisting) of Sioux Falls, SD passed away on April 15, 2013, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Wayne Pietz

(LATI CASE IH Corporate Trainer of 32 years) of Watertown, SD passed

1985 Renae (Stangeland)

Mills (Modern Office Occupations) is employed with South Dakota State University Financial Aid in Brookings, SD, where she also resides.

1986 Andy Walsh

(Building Trades Technology) and his wife Maggie reside in Preston, MN with their children Mike and Caitlyn. Andy is a union carpenter in the Mayo Clinic Cabinet Shop, in Rochester, MN.

1995 Crystal (Theisen)

Birkholz (Agriculture Business) is employed with Sanford Canby Medical Center in Canby, MN where she resides.

2000 Darnell (Halajian)

Frerichs (Dental Assisting Program) is a stay at home mom of 6 children. She resides in Milbank, SD.

2002 Amanda Howard

(Cosmetology) works for Pierre Dental Clinic, in Pierre, SD where she resides.

In Memory Of:

away suddenly on June 2, 2013.

Erick Wientjes

(LATI CPR Instructor of 4 years) of Watertown, SD passed away on June 23, 2013 after a valiantly fought battle with cancer.

Mary Lou Shriver

(former Nursing instructor

2003 Brett Zerfoss

(Welding Technology) works for Burdick Brothers Machine & Repair in Redfield, SD where he resides.

2006 Jarod Heinz

(Marketing/Management/Sales) recently took a position at Diesel Machinery, Inc. in Aberdeen, SD. He resides in Webster, SD.

2008 Keith Waldman

(Engineering/Drafting Technology) and Jessica Popham were married October 6th, 2012 in Watertown, SD. They reside in Aberdeen, SD.

2011 James Eagle

Chasing (Energy Operations) is a current student at the SD School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, SD where he and his family reside.



2005 John Nichols (Aviation Maintenance Technology) is employed with M1 Support Services and is stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany. Nichols' notes, "My LATI education has made it possible for me to work all over the world!" John is shown in this photo fueling an aircraft in Bagram, Afghanistan at sunset.



The 11th Annual Boulder Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, June 15th. Fifty-eight golfers turned out for the event. Proceeds raised through golfer registration and hole sponsorships provide scholarships for students this fall at Lake Area Technical Institute. FROM LEFT: Todd Randall (01' Marketing/Management/Sales & Alumni Board Member), Jason Goette (03' Computer Information Systems, Alumni Board Member & LATI Staff Member), Eric Negaard (01' Machine Tool Technology & Alumni Board Member) and Brent Mandery.



LATI 2013 Retirees FROM LEFT: Ron Meidinger (Diesel Technology), Jeanie True (Counselor), Scott Shephard (Business Associate Photo/Media Option), and Nancy Iverson (Educational Services Center). These four people represent 91 years of service!

Connect with us.

Help LATI reconnect with "Lost Alumni" by going to:
www.lakeareatech.edu/alumni/lostalumni.asp



Scholarship Endowment

Scholarships are important at LATI, as nearly 89% of students depend on financial assistance. One form of scholarship is the Endowed Scholarship, which may be established by a one-time gift or by gifts given over time. These scholarships are awarded from the interest earned on the fund's principal balance. Listed below are three of our newest endowed scholarships, joining 53 other scholarships.

LUVERNE (VERN) KRAMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vern's lifelong love affair with aviation spanned eight decades. He was a private pilot and airplane mechanic before, during, and after WWII. Vern also earned his commercial license and was a flight instructor. He received numerous aviation awards including the FFA Mechanic of the Year. In 1992, he was honored at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum for his Civil Air Patrol service. His scholarship is awarded to an Aviation Maintenance Technology student.

JOHN & AVIS DEBERG SCHOLARSHIP

John, a retired veteran and farmer, and Avis, a retired teacher, believe giving back and helping fund education for those that can't afford it is very important! "The more you give away...the more you get back" is the reason they chose to endow a scholarship. It is given annually to a student with the most financial need.

KELLY ZILLGITT "LIVE FOR OTHERS SCHOLARSHIP"

Kelly's passion was teaching. He loved every day of his 27 years in the LATI Diesel program. People knew him for his caring and giving nature – helping others in any way he could. A life-long learner, Kelly believed in the importance of education and felt everyone should be given the chance to become whatever they feel driven to do. His legacy of living life for others is exemplified through his annual scholarship to a Diesel Technology student, chosen by instructors.

Lake Area Technical Institute Named a "2013 Great College to Work For"

Recognition by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* puts Lake Area Technical Institute in Elite Company.

For the fifth consecutive year, Lake Area Technical Institute has been named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a new survey by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. In addition, LATI earned the distinction of being a 2013 Honor Roll school, a result of its high rankings in all categories.

The results, released in *The Chronicle's* annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of more than 44,000 employees at 300 colleges and universities. In all, only 97 of the 300 institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with Lake Area Technical Institute included among the small universities with 2,999 students or fewer.

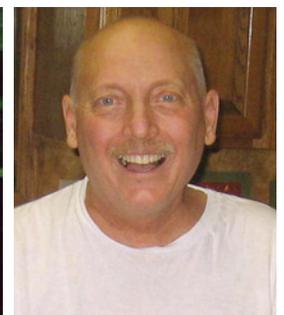
Lake Area Tech employees rated the institution highly enough to be recognized in the following categories: Collaborative Governance, Professional/Career Development Programs, Teaching Environment, Facilities, Workspace & Security, Confidence in Senior Leadership, and Respect and Appreciation.

"This is a very satisfying affirmation of Lake Area Technical Institute, but our real goal is not recognition – it's being a community that values the needs and contributions of every individual. In that sense everyone at Lake Area Technical Institute helps to make this a great place to work," said Lake Area Technical Institute President Deb Shephard.

To administer the survey and analyze the results, *The Chronicle* worked with ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous "Best Places to Work" programs, surveying hundreds of thousands of employees nationwide.

"Great Colleges to Work For" is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. For more information and to view all the results of the survey, visit *The Chronicle's* website at <http://chronicle.com/AcademicWorkplace2013>

▼ Three of LATI's newest Endowed Scholarships
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Vern Kramer, John and Avis DeBerg and Kelly Zillgitt.



◀ LEFT: This is a panoramic shot of the "Photography" hallway in the Student Center. The gallery is a display of photographs taken by the Business Associate, Photography/Media option students.

Closing the Workforce Gap

Recruiting new employees for expansion and replacing retiring employees is a constant challenge for companies and organizations, especially against the backdrop of an aging workforce.

Many realize workforce development begins before they need employees. Communicating and familiarizing themselves with Lake Area Tech students prior to graduation can provide an advantage that makes the difference.

"Lake Area Tech is a premier regional workforce resource. Partnerships with

business and industry enable Lake Area Tech to provide the education, training and skill sets our graduates need to enter the workforce ready to perform. The stronger our partnerships are, the better our graduates become. An investment in education strengthens the entire region," said Shephard, President.

The following LATI Business Partners have pledged \$100,000 or more to the Institute over a period of five years to assist in developing facilities and technologies and to ensure a steady workforce resource remains available.

\$250,000+



\$100,000+



11th Annual Governor's Luncheon

SD Governor Dennis Daugaard continued the tradition of providing the keynote address at this year's 11th Annual Lake Area Tech Governor's Luncheon. The luncheon raised \$42,575 in contributions which will help meet a record \$250,000 in scholarship support to be awarded to students during the 2013-14 year.

During his address, Governor Daugaard notes, "More and more, students want the great education they can receive at Lake Area Tech. More scholarships mean more students can afford to come here for their education. By coming to Lake Area Tech, they gain the knowledge and skills they need so they can be qualified for new and current jobs all across South Dakota. How good it must feel to help a young person achieve their dreams. There are so many young men and women out there who will be eternally grateful for the scholarships they receive."

Hope Gauger, a Business Associate student from Watertown and Tanner Thomsen, a Diesel Technology student from Tyler, MN also spoke about the value of scholarships to over 250 people in attendance.

Hope Gauger notes in her speech, "There is no greater inspiration to do your best and go for your dreams than knowing there are individuals out there who believe in you enough to invest in you and your future. So thank you all for your past donations and the ones yet to be given. You have no idea how much weight you have helped to take off of our shoulders. Scholarships are the key to inspiration! And that is truly inspiring to me. Thank you!"

RIGHT: ▶ Hope Gauger and Tanner Thomsen with South Dakota's 32nd Governor, Dennis Daugaard. Thomsen graduated in May 2013 and Gauger will graduate in May of 2014.



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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JULY 2013
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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

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.