



# LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

It's your world.

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MLT instructors Mona Gleysteen (back) and Alison Albertson demonstrate the capabilities of the sim lab's new MicroScan unit that was purchased with grant funds.

# Alumni AND Friends

SEPTEMBER 2013  
[www.lakeareatech.edu](http://www.lakeareatech.edu)

### OCTOBER

- 2 Construction/Energy/ Manufacturing Camp
- 11 No Classes – ATEA
- 14 No Classes – Native American Day
- 16 Ag & SCRUBS Camp
- 17 Career Search Expo
- 22 3M Camp
- 23 Ag Center Open House

### NOVEMBER

- 7 Senior Tech Day
- 11 Veterans Day – LATI Closed
- 28 Thanksgiving – LATI Closed
- 29 Thanksgiving Break – No Classes

### DECEMBER

- 19 Fall Semester Ends
- 25 Christmas Day – LATI Closed

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day – LATI Closed
- 6 New Students Arrive
- 7 Classes Begin

## New Medical Lab Equipment Boosts Students' Experience and Confidence

**Now, students are able to perform the lab tests in sequence in the new sim lab before they begin their clinicals. This virtually eliminates the learning curve students experienced in the past and it boosts their confidence when they begin their clinicals...**

Lake Area Tech's Medical Lab Technician students may feel as if they're walking into a hospital laboratory now that the new lab equipment has arrived. The equipment, purchased with a federal \$1.15 million T.A.A. grant, places students a step ahead in preparation for their clinical experience.

"Our plan is students will spend the first few weeks of their 19-week clinical on campus using the new equipment in our sim lab," said Alison Albertson, LATI's MLT Department Supervisor. "Then, when they go to the hospital setting, they'll already be familiar with the lab equipment and how it operates."

Prior to acquiring the new lab equipment, MLT students learned the lab concepts and testing procedures in segments at LATI, then incorporated them in sequence once they arrived at their clinical setting during their second year of the two-year program. Now, students are able to perform the lab tests in sequence in the new sim lab before they begin their clinicals. This virtually eliminates the learning curve students experienced in the past and it boosts their confidence when they begin their clinicals since they're already accustomed to using the lab equipment.

## LATI's New Medical Lab

CONTINUED FROM 1

The sim lab – short for simulation lab – mimics a true clinical lab since the new lab equipment is the same (or newer) as the equipment used in their clinical setting. The lab tests are also the same. One difference is the specimens. MLT Instructor Mona Gleysteen said, "We make all of our specimens in the lab and the students treat the specimens as if they are from real patients."

The microbiology equipment includes a new automated system that detects the presence or absence of microorganisms and bacteria in blood and other body fluids; and a microscan instrument which offers rapid panels and specialty panels that identify the bacteria causing an infection.

The blood banking equipment includes new cell washing centrifuges that will reduce the time required to wash blood cells during testing.

Both instructors are excited the students will be able to gain familiarity with the new equipment. "Most clinics and smaller hospitals have little or no microbiology and blood banking available for our students," Albertson said. "With exposure to the new equipment, they will gain much more experience and confidence."

The Medical Lab Technician program at Lake Area Tech is a 20-month program that offers both on-campus and online options. On-campus students begin in the fall and online students may begin in either the spring or fall. To learn more about the program and its options, visit [www.lakeareatech.edu](http://www.lakeareatech.edu).



# Aspen Prize Money Distributed Widely



After winning a Top 4 spot in the nation for two-year colleges last spring, Lake Area Tech received its generous \$100,000 prize from the Aspen Institute. With many worthy causes on campus, a committee of students and staff members met to discuss distribution options. After hearing feedback from peers, the committee members' final recommendations were presented and approved by the School Board for the following causes:

<b>Marketing Under-Enrolled Programs</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will be used for the development of marketing videos for under-enrolled programs. The videos, highlighting program attractions and potential jobs, will be posted online.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mini-Grants for Instructors to Develop Best Practices</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors can apply for funding to develop or purchase small equipment or supplies.</li> </ul>	
<b>Solar Car Project</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will be used to purchase the solar car motor, which can be used for many years in various solar cars.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mini-Grants for Instructors to Develop Electronic Textbook Replacements</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will be applied to develop electronic curriculum, hopefully replacing expensive textbooks, thus lowering the cost of education for students.</li> </ul>	
<b>Tutoring</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will be used to develop and promote online tutoring modules.</li> </ul>	
<b>Campus Read and Fiction Section for LATI Library</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will be used for activities to promote literacy, including Campus Read and adding fiction books and e-books to the LATI library.</li> </ul>	
<b>Diversity Outreach Student Helper to Assist Part-Time Diversity Coordinator</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds will be used to support a helper 10-15 hours per week to expand diversity and support services.</li> </ul>	

With many worthy causes on campus, a committee of students and staff members met to discuss distribution options.

◀ FROM LEFT: Alumni Wendy (Raile) Brockel ('89 Nursing), Dawn (Carlson) Hrcir ('85 Cosmetology), and Doug Price ('75 Diesel Technology) were three of 25 Alumni who attended a campus tour during the New Student Kick-Off Event. Wendy's son, Brady, is enrolled in Energy Technology, Dawn's son, Luke, will attend Diesel Technology, and Doug's son, Wayne, is enrolled in the new Heavy Equipment Operator Program.



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# 3M Awards Lake Area Tech Two Manufacturing Grants

The commitment by 3M, and other industry partners, is a key piece of LATI's continuing success.

Two grants totaling \$110,000 from 3M will be used at Lake Area Tech to generate interest and increase student enrollment in manufacturing career programs.

"3M is pleased to partner with LATI and area manufacturers on this program that will increase the college's ability to train more students using the latest technology for careers in the skilled trades," said Ann Getting, Plant Manager of 3M Brookings.

The \$10,000 Manufacturing Career Camps grant will fund day-long camps in Lake Area Tech's Robotics and Precision Machining programs for area high school students. Camp objectives include generating female interest in the industry, recruiting more students into the programs, and providing regional industries an expanded graduate pool.

The \$100,000 Expanding the Regional Manufacturing Skilled Workforce Pipeline

grant will fund the purchase of two high-tech industrial robots for LATI's Robotics and Electronic Systems Technology programs. The additional robots will allow students to train on high-tech robots similar to those used in manufacturing plants.

"Lake Area Tech is elated 3M shares our vision and is willing help us raise the level of excellence in our Advanced Manufacturing programs," said Tom Paulson, Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation Executive Director. "The commitment by 3M, and other industry partners, is a key piece of LATI's continuing success. As we see manufacturing becoming more reliant on automation, the robots purchased through 3M's generosity fill a critical need providing our students the tools for success now and for the future."



▲ ABOVE: First and second year Electronics Systems Technology and Robotics students celebrate as 3M provides a \$100,000 check. From left; LATI President Deb Shephard, Program Department Supervisor Gina Grant, 3M Plant Manager Ann Getting and Plant Engineering Manager Scott Lawler.



*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!

## New Student Kick OFF Week Activities



Lenard Lustfield (Automotive) from Hendricks, MN impresses us with his cup stacking skills.



Students enjoyed the "Duck Dynasty" themed photo booth.



World Famous Illusionist Reza performs to 300+ students during Kick OFF Week.



Michaela Trail (Cosmetology) from Yankton, SD was the winner of a retro fridge provided by the LATI Alumni Association.

# LATI's New Ag Center Opens!

We Asked Ag Students What Their Impression Is About the New Ag Center...



"It's great! Students are able to find their way around easily and the instructors are easy to find. It's not confined and there's plenty of space to communicate with other students."

*Sawyer Giese, 1st Year*  
HOMETOWN: Clear Lake, SD  
OPTION: Precision Technology

"It's really, really nice! I like that all of the classrooms are together and I don't have to walk all over to get to my classes. I'm looking forward to working in the new shop with all of that space."



*Wyatt Gundvold, 2nd Year*  
HOMETOWN: Brandon, SD  
OPTION: Ag Production

"I think it's awesome! The live animal lab is really impressive and so is the shop space. It shows how much Lake Area Tech has advanced and it made my decision to come back a lot easier."



*Austin Malsam, 3rd Year*  
HOMETOWN: Roscoe, SD  
OPTION: Precision Technology  
(Grad of Ag Prod)

## ag center update



Welcome to the new Ag Center! Visitors and students are greeted by the friendly assistants, Eileen and Bonita, who are enjoying their bright and spacious area.



Environmental Technology instructor Chad Foust has settled into his program's area in the new Ag Center. The Environmental Technology area includes lab and classroom space.



The new Heavy Equipment Operator program is off to a great start in the new building! Instructor Steve Henningsgaard observes as his students learn to operate an excavator using the new virtual simulator. Then, it's on to the real thing!



Second year Large Animal Tech option students, Traci Weatherly from Brookings (left), and Amber Powell from Lake Preston stand next to Annabelle in the new classroom that overlooks the live animal lab.



Kick-OFF Day was a hot one, but new students and parents cooled off with ice cream served by second year Ag students in the new reception area.



On Kick-OFF Day, Ag students and parents were the first to sit in one of the new large classrooms. Ag Dept. Supervisor Jim Clendenin said opening the new center went far better than his expectations and it has created a great environment for staff and students.

OCTOBER

23

Mark Your Calendar  
**AG CENTER  
OPEN HOUSE**

# Alumni Update

## 1969 Paula Mack

(Cosmetology) and her husband Leon celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on August 25, 2013. They reside in Watertown, SD.

## 1983 Matt Moeding

(Aviation) is Vice President of Operations at Horizontal Machining & Manufacturing Inc. in Huron, SD.

## 1996 Billie Lenius

(Medical Laboratory Technician) is employed at the Children's Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia.

## 2005 Tim Prater

(Automotive Technology) married **LaNora (Weatherly) Prater** ('04 Medical Assisting) in Las Vegas, NV on August 30, 2013.

## 2006 Lucas Deutsch

(Engineering Drafting Technology) is engaged to be married to Nicole Flemming on October 5, 2013 in Watertown, SD.

## 2009 Angela Agnes

(Dental Assisting) married Travis Van Hofwegen in September 2013.

## 2011 Megan Warne

(Med Fire Rescue) is engaged to be married to Darin Sinner on October 26, 2013. They reside in Brookings, SD.

## 2012 Brad Larson

(Diesel Technology) married **Julie (Virchow) Larson** ('06 Dental Assisting) in September 2012. Brad is employed at Schuneman Equipment and Julie is employed at VanLaecken Orthodontics.

They reside in Watertown, SD.

## 2013 Cody Palmquist

(Welding Technology) owns Palmquist Welding in Doland/Carpenter, SD.

## 2013 Jessica (Herrick)

**Snaza** (Human Service Technician) Jessica, a Preschool Teacher in Summit, SD, married **Nick Snaza** ('10 Diesel Technology) on June 18, 2011. They have a two-year old daughter, Mallory, and are expecting their second child in November.

## 2013 Brian West

(Financial Services) married **Ashlea Russman** ('12 Financial Services) on August 24, 2013 in Watertown, SD.

# Lake Area Tech Ranked Number One for Graduation Rate

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently named Lake Area Technical Institute the number one public two-year college in the nation for graduation rates. LATI's 73.5 percent graduation rate more than triples the national average of 20.4 percent for public two-year colleges. Lake Area Tech was also 13.7 percentage points higher than the number two public two-year school's graduation rate.

The compiled data includes freshman retention rates. LATI's retention rate is 83.1 percent, which is among the top in the nation. These figures reflect the school's mission to provide students a meaningful and relevant education.

"Lake Area Tech places a great deal of emphasis on graduation rates because our entire mission is to provide a superior streamlined education that will lead to great jobs," said LATI Retention Coordinator Lee Quale. "Our staff does an excellent job working closely with our business partners to continually reinforce to students what industry expects. Through partnerships, students see the possibilities of what a Lake Area Tech degree can do for them and the value of graduating."

Only colleges with at least 500 freshmen entering in the fall of 2004 were considered for these lists that included public and for-profit two- and four-year colleges. Results are based on data at 3,800 degree-granting institutions in the U.S. and were collected by the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and the Voluntary System of Accountability's Success and Progress Rate.

Lake Area Tech's 2010 Graduation Rate Compared to National Average

**73.5%** of all 586 counted students graduated in 150% time  
U.S. average 2-year publics 20.4%

## Six Alumni Join Faculty for 2013-14 Year!



**Troy Stuwe**  
High Performance  
Engine Machining  
(’08 Precision Machining)



**Terry Dierkson**  
Automotive Technology  
(’04 Automotive Technology)



**Dan Gisselbeck**  
Diesel Technology  
(’90 Diesel Technology)



**Kasey Smith**  
Diesel Technology  
(’88 Diesel Technology)



**Liz Stepanek**  
Cosmetology  
(’12 Cosmetology)



**Darrel Grohs**  
Precision Machining  
(’82 Precision Machining)

## Connect with us.

Help LATI reconnect with "Lost Alumni" by going to:  
[www.lakeareatech.edu/alumni/lostalumni.asp](http://www.lakeareatech.edu/alumni/lostalumni.asp)

# LATI's Building Trades Program to Construct Fire Training House

Each year, Lake Area Tech's Building Trades Technology program accepts bids for new construction projects. These homes offer an invaluable experience for students to refine their trade. This year, students will again get that opportunity... but with a twist.

One of the project homes, a 1,088 square foot single-family dwelling, isn't your typical house. In fact, no one will ever live in it. The home is a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus House – SCBA House, or fire training house. Its sole purpose is to provide simulated training for fire fighters and rescuers and is a collaborative effort between LATI, the City of Watertown, and the Watertown Fire Department.

LATI Building Trades Instructor Trent Theye said the idea arose when Watertown Fire Department staff visited a training house in Sioux Falls. The fire department then approached LATI and inquired if a joint effort was possible to construct a fire-training house in Watertown. Lake Area Tech's responsibility would be to build the home as a Building Trades program project.

"This is a great opportunity for our students," Theye said. "Not only will they receive significant hands-on experience in construction, they'll also be part of a project that benefits local fire departments and Lake Area Tech's Med/Fire Rescue students."

Because of the nature of the home, the house plans require construction variations. The home will feature roof access, a breakaway floor (firefighters fall into a foam pit), moveable walls so firefighters can't memorize the floor plan, and blacked out windows. When the house is filled with smoke and trainees are fully suited up in SCBA gear, it will simulate situations firefighters encounter when fighting an actual house fire.

Theye said second-year Building Trades students will work on the training house, but there may be opportunities for future students to work on it as well when updates and enhancements are needed.

## Creating a Lasting Impact

### MIRANDA K. ADEMA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Miranda was drawn into the Lake Area Tech community in 2009 when she became engaged to Cole Adema, a LATI Med/Fire Rescue student, who she met while serving in the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.

Cole and Miranda were married on May 22, 2010. Miranda died on April 15, 2011 in a two-vehicle accident between Mobridge and Aberdeen, SD. Miranda had an immensely positive influence and was a significant part of the lives around her. She had a significant faith, talent, and smile.

With the help of family and friends, Cole created a fund in Miranda's name to provide an annual scholarship for a Med/Fire Rescue student with preference given to those indicating a desire to remain in South Dakota as an EMT/Firefighter.



### CHRISTOPHER J. GUSTAD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher John Gustad was born on September 11, 1981 in Mitchell, SD. He graduated from Platte High School in 2000 and graduated from Lake Area Technical Institute in 2002 with a degree in Aviation Maintenance.

Chris initially met Sara (Maisch) in 6th grade, and they officially began dating during their senior year of high school. On October 29, 2011, Chris married Sara, the love of his life – high school sweetheart, best friend, and soul mate – at Trinity Lutheran Church in Platte.

Chris enjoyed being an aircraft mechanic and loved the challenge of troubleshooting different issues.

Chris was diagnosed with kidney cancer in May of 2011. Needing weekly treatments, Chris and Sara moved to Sioux Falls and Chris accepted a full-time position with Sanford as an aircraft mechanic in March 2012. He was a natural fit for the Sanford team and even while in hospice offered trouble-shooting advice. The Lord called Christopher John Gustad home on Wednesday, August 01, 2012.

Sara chose to create a scholarship for Lake Area Tech students in the Aviation Maintenance Technology program because Chris loved attending Lake Area Tech so much. He immensely enjoyed the program and thought highly of his instructors,



## Lake Area Tech receives two new endowment funds!

respecting them and their knowledge of aviation maintenance. He made great friends at Lake Area Tech who he kept in touch with up until the day he passed away.

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.

**Correction:** In a story on Endowed Scholarship in the last issue of the LATI Alumni and Friends issue, we incorrectly spelled two names. The correct spellings are the Luverne (Vern) Kraemer Memorial Scholarship and the Kelly Zillgitt "Live For Others Scholarship." While we make every effort to avoid errors, we sincerely apologize to the family and friends of Vern and Kelly and are grateful for their support.

# Lake Area Tech Named a 2014 Military Friendly School



**It comes with a lot of pride in knowing that what we are doing here at Lake Area Tech is benefiting our veterans.**

For the fourth consecutive year, Lake Area Technical Institute has been named to the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list. The 2014 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and technical schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

"Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools® shows Lake Area Tech's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, Vice President at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran.

According to Lake Area Tech Vice President and Veterans

Representative, Mike Cartney, "It is an honor to be selected to be on the Military Friendly Schools list. It comes with a lot of pride in knowing that what we are doing here at Lake Area Tech is benefiting our veterans. They are taking another huge step in their lives and making career decisions that may have been delayed as they served our country. It is a big transition for them and we are here to make it easier."

In addition to its current student veteran services, LATI has implemented new marketing and recruitment strategies within the last year. These include enhancing the veterans' services website information, creating a LATI Boots to Books Facebook page, and adding new part-time veteran support coordinators. Additional recruiting strategies and marketing campaigns are planned for the coming year.

# Lake Area Tech Reaches a Decade of Enrollment Growth

For the tenth consecutive year, Lake Area Tech has surpassed its record fall semester enrollment with a new total of 1593 students. That number is a 5.6% increase over last fall semester's enrollment of 1508 students. The increase is driven by a strong returning upperclassman count of 654 students, which is a 10.3% increase over last fall and 939 new students starting programs resulting in a 3% increase over fall of 2012. In the past decade, Lake Area Tech has grown by an unprecedented sixty percent.

Lake Area Tech President, Deb Shephard comments, "Lake Area Tech has accomplished a decade of growth. That is something few colleges can say they have experienced, especially with the ups and downs in the economy. Although the growth is great, we realize that we need to stay focused on the things that have made us who we are such as hiring the best faculty, establishing strong community and industry support, creating a caring culture for students, giving students the skills they need to be successful, retaining students, and making sure they are placed upon completion."

Lake Area Tech attributes its growth to several factors: 99% placement rate after graduation; offering programs in high-demand, high-pay fields; adding new programs; expanding online E-Degrees; and receiving the Aspen Award for being ranked one of the top four two-year colleges in the nation.

## Fall Enrollment

1967	234
1977	746
1987	715
1997	889
2007	1059
2013	1593

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# 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

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## E-Degrees

(Online Hybrid Programs)

**NEW** ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### AGRICULTURE

Agri-Business Option  
Commodity Merchandising  
Ranch Management Option

### BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Marketing & Management Option

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

### DENTAL ASSISTING

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

### MED/FIRE RESCUE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

**NEW** (EMT) CERTIFICATION

### MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

### NURSING

### PRECISION MACHINING

### ROBOTICS

See [www.lakeareatech.edu](http://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.