

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Lake Area Tech Wins the Aspen Award!

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SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Lake Area Tech President Mike Cartney accepted the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence award from the Honorable George Miller, former U.S. Representative from California and Aspen Prize Jury Co-Chair, at the Aspen Prize ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 14, 2017. Photo credit: Patrice Gilbert.

After being named a Finalist-With-Distinction for the past three cycles, the Aspen Institute named Lake Area Technical Institute the 2017 winner of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence on March 14, 2017 in Washington, D.C.! Representing Lake Area Tech at the ceremony were President Mike Cartney, Director of Student Services LuAnn Strait, and Dean of Academics Kim Bellum. Here are President Cartney's reflections and excerpts from his acceptance speech on the eventful day that will go down in history as one of Lake Area Tech's greatest:

When we went to the ceremony, we did not know the results. When it was announced that we had won, I was ecstatic, and my first

thought was about everyone that make Lake Area Tech successful:

"My heart and thoughts go to the great faculty, staff and students of Lake Area Tech. Their hard work, dedication and innovation epitomize that it is not about being the best, but doing your best. We could not be prouder of each and every one of you... This award truly belongs to them. My thoughts also go to the community of Watertown, our Board, and Superintendent Jutting, whose outstanding leadership enables Lake Area Tech to push the bounds. To the vibrant, supportive communities and industry partners across South Dakota that make Lake Area Tech such a magical place – thank you. And Governor Dugaard, all the state agencies,



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LAKE AREA TECH WINS THE ASPEN AWARD

our Legislature, and all our Champions, which are too many to name, who do so much to make South Dakota one of the best places in the nation to Work, Live, and Learn, we are grateful for your support.”

For Lake Area Tech, it has been an eight year journey to the pinnacle, but we have learned so much along the way:

“All this time, the competition has been like a light. That light that enabled Lake Area Tech to see what we needed to do to improve our students’ success. We knew that college is pathway, not a destination. And for more than 40% of our students, college is the road out of poverty. But the light revealed that we were not serving them as well. We all have the tools and data to identify at-risk students, and those needing extra attention. But it’s what we do in response to the data that determines our success.

Our response: we redefined success as placement – not graduation – because it makes college more relevant, we avoided labeling students because fitting in is already hard enough, we ensured students knew the paths to success with clear expectations, and we emphasized every employee had a role in student success. Then we wrapped those efforts in our Culture of Caring: We will care about our students, and they will know we care. We will believe in our students, and they will know we believe in them. And, we will listen to our students, and they will know we are listening. These principles may sound self-evident, but unless highlighted, they are often overlooked. It was these guidelines that made a road that was previously perceived as less traveled, now seem achievable and a journey worth taking.”

Aspen has had a profound impact on community colleges, not just in South Dakota, but across the nation:

“At a time when the conversation could have went many different directions, the engagement and work of the Aspen Institute, and specifically this Prize, shaped the national dialogue about community colleges in a powerful and positive way. The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence highlights the key role Community Colleges play in workforce readiness as well as continuing education. It is driving the conversation towards the Good THINGS going on in community colleges across this country.”

Although we will remain as a standard to be measured against in future Aspen Prize cycles, we cannot enter the competition. My hopes for the future are:

“One categorically undeniable outcome is the direction this competition is taking all of us. Through this process, we are moving from 1100 Community Colleges individually striving for excellence, towards 1100 Community Colleges working together to help our students, to better our communities, to raise our nation. The future is not 1100 community colleges each striving to be the best, it is 1100 community colleges TOGETHER doing our best.”



Save
the date

MAY
12
LAKE AREA TECH
GRADUATION

JUNE
17
BOULDER MEMORIAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Prairie Winds Golf Club

Lake Area Tech Boulder Memorial Golf Tournament

Sponsored by: LATI Alumni Association

June 17, 2017



PRAIRIE WINDS
— GOLF CLUB —

10:00 am Check In
11:00 am Calcutta
12:00 pm Shot Gun Start

2-Person Team
(Stroke Play – Tin Whistle Scoring)

Entry Fee: \$150
Includes Greens Fees for 2
Cart / 2 Mulligan Per Person / Meal

REGISTER BY JUNE 12TH

Online • Email • Phone

lakeareatech.edu

605-882-5284 Ext. 308
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PROUD TO BE AN ALUM

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Check out the STAX Bookstore on
LATI campus or purchase online at
<http://bookstore.lakeareatech.edu/>



FINALLY We Did It!

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
ASPEN PRIZE
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE
WINNER
Lake Area Technical Institute
2017



While the celebration started with Lake Area Tech being named a Top 10 Community College by the Aspen Institute last fall, we couldn't help but pull out all the stops after being named the 2017 Winner of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence! The celebration began with a student party the week of the announcement and ended with a community parade! Here's a look back to the exciting week. To see more Aspen Celebration photos, please visit our website at lakeareatech.edu



LATI HAPPENINGS

1. Our annual Career Expo offers a great networking opportunity for our students and regional business and industries. This semester, more than 90 businesses participated!
2. South Dakota author Patrick Hicks read from his book The Commandant of Lubizec, this year's All-Campus Read book. The Author Reading was a first for All-Campus Read and was enjoyed by staff, students and the public.
3. Business leaders from Watertown and the surrounding communities took part in our Foundation's Student for Half a Day. Participants visited LATI programs for hands-on activities and education.
4. It was a great day for Lake Area Tech and our Aviation Maintenance program when the program's 1946 Piper Cub, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Haase of Webster, flew for the first time in 70 years! The aircraft was heavily damaged in a windstorm in 1947 and hasn't been flown since, that is, until our aviation faculty and students took on the donated project in 2011. Since then, more than 100 students have worked on the aircraft. Now, all of their hard work paid off!
5. Our Auto program staff and students donated their time and talents to the My School Rocks organization this semester when the 2002 Chevy Tracker they use to deliver school supplies to students in need developed engine problems. Students were able to service the engine and the Tracker is back on the road.
6. Our annual Equity Day offers high school students the chance to explore careers in fields that are normally dominated by one gender.
7. The Campus Event Center was jam-packed with area high school juniors who attended our Junior Tech Day in March. Students explored two programs of interest and participated in hands-on activities.
8. Senior Tech Day provides high school seniors the opportunity to visit Lake Area Tech programs of interest. Students visit with instructors and students and also take part in hands-on activities.



15TH ANNUAL Governor's Luncheon

The Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation's 15th Annual Governor's Luncheon was held in April.

Addressing a record breaking crowd of 350 guests, Governor Dennis Daugaard highlighted the strengths of Lake Area Tech and winning the Aspen Prize.

The reasons for Lake Area Tech's success, Daugaard said, can be categorized into four key areas: the relevancy of what students learn in a curriculum as is applicable to the career world, the high rate of certificate and degree completion, the healthy wages a Lake Area Tech graduate can earn, and the financial

aid efforts the Institute has made to offer affordable access to a college education for minorities and low-income students.

Lake Area Tech Foundation Executive Director Julie Stevenson announced that the foundation has given over \$390,000 in scholarships this academic year, exceeding last year's total of \$350,000.

The Governor's Luncheon is the kickoff event to raise dollars for the upcoming school year for scholarships. Dana Dykhouse had some closing remarks and asked guests to consider increasing their gift or simply make their first gift this year. As student enrollment continues to increase at Lake Area Tech so does the financial need of students and the responsibility of the Foundation.

Spring Enrollment Continues Upward Trend

Lake Area Tech's student enrollment continued its remarkable upward trend this spring semester, topping last year's numbers by an overall 12% increase. With 328 new students entering spring-start programs, the overall enrollment to date is 2393 students.

President Mike Cartney commented, "Our goal was to top 2300 students by the end of summer 2017. Having done so sooner than expected is good for the college, the community, the region, and in turn good for South Dakota's workforce." The continued success of the college can be attributed to the highly-skilled instructors and the outstanding programs they have developed, the outstanding students who choose to attend Lake Area Tech, and the employers who hire the graduates. Cartney continued, "Lake Area Tech is privileged to experience the continued growth and overwhelming success of its graduates. Our current student population is what we projected to have by the year 2040 which defies the national trend of declining community college enrollment."

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— LATI President Mike Cartney



Scholarship Luncheon

SPENCER BEACH

Motivational Speaker



The Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation Scholarship Recognition Luncheon was held this past February.

This annual event recognizes students' accomplishments and creates a lasting relationship between Lake Area Tech students, faculty and our very generous donors.

Over 335 people (scholars and donors) attended this event which featured motivational speaker Spencer Beach as the keynote.

On a day like any other, just doing his job, Spencer found himself suddenly engulfed in a flash fire. Within 20 seconds, Spencer Beach received 3rd and 4th degree burns to 90% of his body. He fought through the fire to escape, to live. Holding onto the fading thoughts of his wife and unborn child gave him the courage to find a way out. But he had no idea what survival would mean.

Spencer's message included a plan about turning the negative effects of anger into positivity and teaches that individuals can grow from hardship.



Angus Lochhead, second-year Occupational Therapy Assistant student at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, SD. Angus is from Claremont, CA.

LAKE AREA TECH STUDENT AWARDED NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation has awarded the Carlotta Welles Scholarship to Angus Lochhead, second-year Occupational Therapy Assistant student at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, SD. Angus is from Claremont, CA. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet a number of requirements which include attending a two-year college, being enrolled in an Occupational Therapy Assistant program, and the student must be affiliated with the American Occupational Therapy Association. Additionally, the applicant is ranked based on public service, references, and completion of an essay.

Lake Area Tech's Ag Program Acquires Advanced Precision Technology Equipment

Students in Lake Area Tech's Ag program completed a major upgrade to the program's corn planter this semester. Precision Planting of Tremont, Illinois, donated a portion of the cost for a new V-Set Select system to the program. The precision technology used in the V-Set Select system allows maximized corn yields due to its ability to customize planting. Two hybrids can be planted in the same row, switching back and forth as field environments change, planting the hybrid that will produce the highest yield in each area of the field. The new technology will be used to plant corn at Lake Area Tech's demonstration farm.





Lake Area Tech Caterpillar ThinkBIG students Trysten Studemann of Ivanhoe, MN, (left) and Nathan Timmerman of Lennox, SD, (right) are each the recipient of a \$1,000 mikeroweWORKS Tool Scholarship. They are pictured with Lake Area Tech Diesel/ ThinkBIG Supervisor Corey Mushitz.

LAKE AREA TECH STUDENTS EARN MIKE ROWE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Lake Area Technical Institute Caterpillar ThinkBIG students Nathan Timmerman of Lennox, SD, and Trysten Studemann of Ivanhoe, MN, are each the recipients of a \$1000 mikeroweWORKS Tool Scholarship from the mikeroweWORKS Foundation in partnership with the AED Foundation, an affiliate of Associated Equipment Distributors (AED). Timmerman and Studemann are enrolled in the Caterpillar ThinkBIG program and are sponsored by Butler Machinery.

Recipients of the scholarship are selected based on academic and skill performance in the Caterpillar ThinkBIG program. Students who receive the scholarship must also be enrolled an AED-affiliated school. Timmerman and Studemann will graduate from Lake Area Technical Institute in May of 2017 with Associate of Applied Science degrees in Diesel Technology, with Caterpillar endorsements. They have both been secured for employment by Butler Machinery; Timmerman in Sioux Falls and Studemann in Aberdeen.

Ferris "Jim" Buhler's Day Off

TICKETS AVAILABLE MAY 1ST THROUGH JUNE 17TH, 2017

The Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation and Alumni Office is raffling a trip to Florida (value over \$4,500) with VIP treatment from one of our very own faculty members!

Personal trip tour guides: Jim and his wife Mary Buhler (welding instructor for 28 years at Lake Area Tech.) Are generously providing their home/guided tour services for this Foundation fundraising event.

*****Proceeds will be utilized for scholarships; with a new scholarship being developed in Jim's honor. The Jim Buhler Welding Scholarship will be given for the first time in the 2017 - 18 academic year.**



The winning ticket holder will receive:

- 1 week (6 nights) in Port Charlotte, Florida for a family of 6 or 4 adults
- ~Housing accommodations -View home amenities at www.nomoresnow.net
- ~Voucher for \$1,000 to utilize toward air travel and/or rental car
- ~Optimal excursions with the Buhlers
- ~The Buhlers are available with a fleet of boats for the days/times that you want to "tour" during your week
 - *Deep sea fishing
 - *Island Hopping
 - *Beach Shark Fishing

For Tickets:

www.lakeareatech.edu
or
605.882.5284 ext:292

Ticket Price:

\$50 for (1) ticket
\$75 for (2) tickets



***Time Frame:** July 15, 2017 – Jan. 10, 2018
(excluding month of Sept. / Thanksgiving / Christmas weekend)
*All meals paid by vacationers



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lakeareatech.edu



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SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A GREAT CAREER.

AGRICULTURE

- Agri-Aviation Option
- Agri-Business Option
- Agri-Production Option
- Commodity Merchandising Option*
- Dairy Option*
- General Agricultural Option
- Large Animal Technician Option*
- Precision Technology Option
- Ranch Management Option*
- Swine Management Option*

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Light Duty Diesel (3rd Year Option)

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY*

- Agri-Aviation Option
- Flight Training Option*

BUILDING TRADES TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

- Entrepreneurship Option*
- 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

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE WORKING NEW FALL 2018

COSMETOLOGY*

CUSTOM PAINT & FABRICATION

- Auto Body Technician Option
- General Fabrication Option

DENTAL ASSISTING*

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

- CAT ThinkBIG*
- CNH Forging the Future*
- Light Duty Diesel (3rd Year Option)*
- 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

- Virtual Academy

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

E-Degrees (Online Hybrid Programs)

AGRICULTURE

- Agri-Business Option
- Commodity Merchandising Option
- Ranch Management Option

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

- Entrepreneurship Option
- Marketing & Management Option

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Network Specialist Option
- Programming Specialist Option
- Visual Communications Specialist Option

DENTAL ASSISTING

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

FINANCIAL SERVICES

LAW ENFORCEMENT VIRTUAL ACADEMY

MED/FIRE RESCUE

- Emergency Medical Technician Certification
- Paramedic

MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

NURSING

- Full Time/Part Time Options

PRECISION MACHINING

ROBOTICS

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