

# ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

## Lake Area Tech Endowment Results in Future Student Opportunities

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SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

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A new Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation endowment has created a wealth of scholarship opportunities and Agriculture program enhancements for current and future LATI students. It all began with an idea.

In December 2016, Lee and Jan Schull of Watertown approached Lake Area Tech Foundation officials with the idea of donating the use of 200 acres on their property north of Watertown. The Schulls were familiar with a similar concept in Iowa, in which a landowner donated a parcel of ground to a college Agriculture program and the results were extremely beneficial on numerous levels. Foundation officials then contacted Lake Area Tech Ag faculty to discuss the proposal. The discussion didn't last long as all involved agreed it would be a great opportunity for current and

future students in the Ag program and other programs at LATI.

Planning began immediately, since the 2017 planting season was only a few months away. To make the most of the generous donation, LATI Ag faculty quickly contacted area agriculture representatives for further donations of seed, chemicals, fuel, equipment usage, insurance, etc.

LATI Ag instructor Brian Olson said the donors were more than willing to contribute. "Even in the difficult ag economy, the donors were excited to participate in this project," he said. "They knew it would not only benefit current students who would be working on the project, but future students as well."

Before even one seed was planted, Ag students were diligently using their skills in precision technology to maximize productivity and



To receive the LATI friends and family newsletter electronically send your information to:  
[morgan.johnson@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:morgan.johnson@lakeareatech.edu)



# LATI AG PROJECT

## CONTRIBUTORS

- Agri-Partners
- Bach Family
- Lowell, Kevin, Nate
- BASF
- Dow Chemical
- GLC
- NRCS
- Precision Planting
- Schull Family
- Sioux Valley Coop
- Titan Machinery
- Watertown Coop Elevator

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**LAKE AREA TECH ENDOWMENT RESULTS IN FUTURE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

profitability on each acre of land. Using site-specific technologies, students managed the corn and soybean fields acre by acre and made application adjustments accordingly. Prior to harvest, Ag students also put their commodity merchandising skills to the test to secure the most crop profitability. Finally, students manned the combines to harvest the soybeans and corn. "The additional acres gained from this project allowed more of our students to operate combines and gain valuable hands-on experience," said LATI Ag instructor Darrel Woolery.

The profits from harvest this year (and in the coming two years) resulted in the formation of four on-going \$500 scholarship endowments, one in each name of the Schulls' children. The scholarships are available now to first-year students: one to a student enrolling in the Ag program, and the other three to students from an agriculture background entering any program at Lake Area Tech. Other profits from the three-year project will be used for Ag program improvements including equipment purchases and program enhancements.

Also contributing to the success of the project was securing a Natural Resources Conservation Service grant that allowed students to perform nitrate trials and additional program demonstrations. These activities will be expanded in the coming years, thanks to the Schull donation and the NRCS grant.

"We can't thank the Schull family enough for their generous donation," Olson said. "Their generosity, along with the generosity of the other ag donors that contributed to this project, provided our students more real-world opportunities to expand their agriculture knowledge. Future Lake Area Tech students will also realize the benefits of this project through scholarship opportunities and hands-on experience with new ag equipment and program enhancements."

Please see the side-bar list of contributors, whose donations were instrumental to the success of this project. Lake Area Technical Institute sincerely thanks each and every one.



## PROUD TO BE AN ALUM

GET YOUR LAKE AREA TECH

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



MAY  
**1**  
 GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON

MAY  
**11**  
 LAKE AREA TECH GRADUATION

JUNE  
**16**  
 BOULDER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
*Prairie Winds Golf Club*



# LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE Named a 2018 Military Friendly Gold-Level School

For the eighth consecutive year, Lake Area Technical Institute has earned the 2018 Military Friendly® School designation. This is the second year in a row it has received the gold-level status. Each year, the list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members and their families, helping them select the best college, university, or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career. Bronze, silver, and gold schools are recognized for going “over and above” in efforts to assist service members.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media’s proprietary survey. For the first time, student survey data was taken into consideration for the designation. More than 1,300 schools participated in the 2017-2018 survey with 849 receiving the designation.

“Our staff excels at serving our student veterans and assisting them as they transition from boots to books and beyond,” Lake Area Technical Institute President Mike Cartney said. “The gold-level Military Friendly® School Award is not only an honor for our institution, but great recognition for our veteran services staff.”



**STRUCTURAL  
INSULATED PANELS**

## Make Your Alumni Profile Today!

To fully engage with our Alumni we have created an Alumni Profile on the Lake Area Tech website.

Check it out and develop your profile today!

View our Alumni Profiles at...

**lakeareatech.edu**  
**/category/alumni-spotlight/**

## Alumni Spotlight

Enercept has been a proud supporter of Lake Area Tech since before we even began producing panels. In 1977 Enercept founder, Harold Henley left his career in vocational education to start a company called Energy Industries. What started as a mobile home skirting business quickly developed into two separate entities, Benchmark Foam and Enercept.

Most of the manufacturing equipment still used by Enercept was built in the early 1980's by Lake Area Tech students and staff.

Harold Henley's vision now produces Structural Insulated Panels or SIPs for a variety building projects. Enercept ships this Watertown product across the Country and as far away as the South Pole.

Enercept currently employs nine Lake Area Tech alumni with a combined 94+ years of experience at our Watertown facility. We have routinely employed LATI students when running a second shift, and have had our employees participate in many learning opportunities at Lake Area Tech.

For many years we have hosted annual tours for the Building Trades Program. In the fall of 2017 we hosted the first annual Building Trades Lunch and Learn Program. This is a hands-on building-system learning experience for our future builders and contractors.

Lake Area Tech and its Alumni have made a huge impact on Watertown and the surrounding area. You make our community a better place to live. Thank you.

# LATI HAPPENINGS

1. Our Ag program faculty and students hosted the annual 6th Graders at the Farm tour where Watertown and area 6th graders take part in several ag-related stations at our demonstration farm. Students learn about plant health, soil erosion, precision technology, and more!
2. Energy Operations and Energy Technology students and faculty hosted the fifth annual Chili Cook-Off in December. The annual event, attended by staff, students, and the public, is a fundraiser for Watertown's Angel Tree.
3. Our Diesel Club students and faculty held their annual community service ditch clean up in October. The interstate north of Watertown looked so nice and clean afterwards! Thanks Diesel Club!
4. The 18th Annual Festival of Trees was held on the Lake Area Tech Campus for the second year!
5. During SCRUBS Camp at Lake Area Tech, area high school students get the opportunity to tour our medical programs and experience hands-on healthcare activities.
6. Our third annual TEDxLATI drew a large crowd of students, staff, and the public who heard eight inspiring Ted Talks focusing on the theme of It's Your World.
7. More than 300 area high schoolers joined us for our annual Big Camp Out! Students experienced career exploration with hands-on activities in our programs and were able to speak directly to students and faculty.
8. The first ever Opening Doors event with SDSU celebrated our articulation collaboration. We thank SDSU President Dunn and staff who were on hand for the event... and for the SDSU ice cream!



# Lake Area Tech Students Restore Legendary Racecar

Students in Lake Area Tech's Custom Paint & Fab (CPF) program possess a flair for creativity, design, and perfection – all traits that lend themselves well to learning the skills used by professionals in the automotive custom paint and fabrication world.

During their tenure here, students refine their skills by working on vehicles brought in by the public or, in many cases, work on their own vehicles. That is until last year, when a 1997 Chevy Monte Carlo entered the shop... originally owned and raced by NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon.



After the initial shock and awe, students learned from CPF Department Supervisor Todd Bretschneider that the racecar is now owned by a good friend of Lake Area Tech, Larry Clement, whose wish was to restore the racecar to its original state. Clement entrusted LATI's Custom Paint & Fab program with the total restoration of the racecar that won the 1997 NASCAR championship and, after Clement purchased it, won two ARCA championships in 1998 and 2000 with driver Frank Kimmel.

"This is such a rare opportunity for our students to get the chance to put their skills to the test on this well-known racecar," Bretschneider said. "Since the fall of 2016, second-year students have nearly completed a total restoration of the racecar." He said the car needed extensive body work, a total refinish and paint job, and detailed finishing touches including precise decal application. "This isn't a little old lady's car that was driven to church on Sundays... this is a racecar," he commented about the amount of restoration involved.

Another exciting part of the restoration process is collaborating with Hendrick Motorsports. Lake Area Tech ordered the paint from the company to match the original Rainbow Warrior color scheme and also ordered replicas of the racecar's original sponsor decals from Hendrick Motorsports. The entire process has been a dream come true for students and faculty. Leading the students in the restoration were Bretschneider and CPF instructor Cully Lantgen.

"It's a very cool opportunity for last year's second-year students and this year's second-year students to be able to say they've worked on this iconic racecar," Bretschneider said. "We're very grateful to Larry for giving our students this rare, hands-on experience."



## Car Care

The first of two community fundraising events kicked off the year for students in LATI's Automotive Technology, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Custom Paint & Fab, and High Performance Engine Machining programs. The ninth annual Car Care Inspection event was held in October in the Automotive Technology building on campus.

During the event, students thoroughly inspect vehicles brought in by the public. The 40-point checklist includes checking lights, fluids, battery operation, belts and pulleys, hoses, tires, etc. and ends with a thorough detailing. OTA students offer a Car Fit screen following the inspection to ensure motorists are correctly positioned in the driver's seat.

This year's event raised \$490 for Operation Black Hills Cabin. Located near Custer, SD, Operation Black Hills Cabin offers a week-long respite to qualifying combat-wounded veterans (and their families) from the Iraq/Afghanistan campaigns at little or no expense to them, except transportation.



Tracy Hlavacek

I am excited to be back at Lake Area Tech. As an alumnae of Lake Area Tech, I have a strong understanding of the importance of technical education for students. I also know the impact a financial gift to the Foundation can have on a student because I was one of those young people who was blessed with a scholarship to attend Lake Area Tech. The education and hands-on experience students receive at Lake Area Tech is second to none and I am making it my goal to continue that amazing legacy of giving. My career path after graduating from Lake Area Tech was in the non-profit sector and that has continued for the past 17 years. Most recently I was the Executive Director of the Watertown Area United Way, another organization that has a lasting impact on its recipients. As the Executive Director of the Lake Area Tech Foundation, I am looking forward to getting to know and working with our business partners, alumni and other stakeholders. We are hitting the ground running as our scholarship application cycle just began and soon we will be officially kicking-off our I'm IN Capital Campaign to expand the campus for much needed space to meet the demands of the workforce shortage we are currently facing.

## Scholarship Luncheon



Retired LATI President Deb Shephard delivers the keynote address to 350 Scholarship Recipients and Donors. Shephard stressed the importance of giving, much as the donors voluntarily give to the scholarship recipients.

“Scholarships are only one way to give,”

Shephard said, alluding that, in exchange for giving a recipient a financial break, donors are preparing the next generation of employees who may ultimately give in turn. While giving is considered a selfless act, Shephard said science has shown giving offers pleasurable rewards.

“It makes you happier,” Shephard said.

By providing a scholarship, Shephard said a donor is making a long-term investment in a current student and also making a bet the cycle begins anew.

This event is a great time for recipients to spend time with their donors and thank them for investing in them and their education at Lake Area Tech.

## Prairie Lakes Healthcare System Donates Gift

The Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation is honored and excited to announce receipt of a \$3.1M gift from Prairie Lakes Healthcare System. The PLHS donation not only officially kicks-off the Lake Area Tech Foundation I'M IN Capital Campaign but also is the first-ever donation for naming rights of a campus building.

The Prairie Lakes Healthcare Center of Learning will house all current and future Lake Area Tech healthcare programs and labs. Construction of the healthcare building is part of a larger overall campus plan to accommodate a growing LATI community where space has become limited. The Prairie Lakes Healthcare Center of Learning construction is anticipated to begin in 2019 and will be located at the north end of the campus and connected to an already existing building.

“Lake Area Tech, and this community, are blessed to have a partner such as Prairie Lakes Healthcare System.” comments Lake Area Tech President Mike Cartney. “We had a need and they recognized it. Together, we will be a force in providing a highly-trained healthcare workforce in this region.”

The donation will be the first of its kind in naming a building at Lake Area Tech. To receive naming rights, the donor must provide at least 51% of the cost of construction. PLHS stepped up as they saw the opportunity to invest in the future healthcare workforce. Jill Fuller, CEO of Prairie Lakes Healthcare System states, “The projected shortages of healthcare professionals is a real concern. Our support of LATI’s healthcare education programs is a win for our community and other regional healthcare providers.”

The Lake Area Tech I'M IN Capital Campaign will vastly transform the campus with additional space to hold a growing student body. Lake Area Tech is currently at an all-time high enrollment of 2500 students which was the projected enrollment for the year 2040. With the growing national recognition of Lake Area Tech and shortage of a highly-skilled workforce, the campus growth has been phenomenal over the years but closely monitored as to not overcrowd. Lake Area Tech has reached the critical point of needing to add additional space. The I'M IN Capital Campaign will assist in those funding efforts to build the campus with additional space and retrofit existing in the areas of manufacturing, healthcare, business, computers, transportation and aviation.



## Student for Half a Day



Sixty-four business and community members were invited to participate in the 15th annual Student for ½ a Day event at Lake Area Technical institute on Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

The event has been designed to broaden the understanding of Technical education and to increase public awareness of Lake Area Tech. Each “Student” was enrolled in a program of study at Lake Area Tech. They accompanied a Lake Area Tech Student ambassador during a typical day, attending lectures, labs and participating in hands-on training. The Day also included a full campus tour, general information session and a luncheon.

# Lake Area Tech Students Place at NASA Competition

Lake Area Tech students Eric Leadabrand and Thomas Scarberry of Watertown and Dustin Wickert of Crooks, SD, attended NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi where they participated in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars competition project (NCAS). The students, all enrolled in Robotics/Electronic Systems Technology, were three of 304 community college students selected from across the United States to be part of NCAS.

In addition to attending lectures and meeting with mentors during the four-day event, the students participated in a competition in which they were assigned to teams that designed, built, tested, and operated a prototype Mars rover. Scarberry said, "The rover's challenges were to retrieve rocks from a mock Mars terrain, salvage space parts from previously crashed rovers, and rescue an astronaut." Scarberry earned first-place honors in the Mars rover competition with his team, while Leadabrand's and Wickert's teams shared second-place honors. In addition, Leadabrand was named his team's MVP for most embodying the spirit of NASA. He was presented a NASA coin constructed of metal from NASA's Curiosity Mars rover, which landed on Mars August 6, 2012.

NASA holds the competition for a number of reasons. Wickert explained, "One of the reasons is to encourage growth in the STEM fields and right now, they're looking at space exploration and habitations on planets like Mars. They're looking for bright, young minds to bring more ideas to the forefront."

Leadabrand spoke on behalf of the trio saying, "This experience was completely amazing. The fields of science and technology is growing by leaps and bounds and we have to look to the future." He said this opportunity wouldn't have been possible and the students wouldn't be where they are today without the guidance of the Robotics/Electronics instructors at Lake Area Tech. "The old saying talks about 'standing on the shoulders of giants'... we did." He also praised the NASA leaders and mentors.

Scarberry, Wickert, and Leadabrand will all graduate from LATI this spring with dual degrees in Robotics and Electronic Systems Technology. All three plan to continue their education in the engineering field.



Pictured in back from left – LATI Rob/EST instructor Matt Weinzirl, LATI Vice President Diane Stiles, Rob/EST instructor Bob Poor, LATI President Mike Cartney, and Rob/EST student Eric Leadabrand. In front from left – Rob/EST student Thomas Scarberry, Rob/EST student Dustin Wickert, and Rob/EST Program Supervisor and instructor Brooks Jacobsen. Not pictured, Rob/EST instructor Tim Moes.

Save the date

JUNE  
19

LAKE AREA TECH  
PRACTICAL NURSING  
PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE  
4-7 PM

**The Lake Area Tech  
Practical Nursing Program  
is 50 years old in 2018!**

1,894 nurses have graduated  
since the first class!

LATI'S CAMPUS. ALL GRADUATES WELCOME!

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

# ALUMNI NIGHT OUT

MARCH 22

Lake Area Tech Alumni  
5:30-7:30pm  
Harry's Upstairs Bar (16 W Kemp, Watertown)  
Entertainment: **TODD KIEFFER**  
- Current Lake Area Tech Student

Appetizers

ASPEN PRIZE WINNER

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 75 THAT RSVP.



Alumni Association  
1201 Arrow Ave. NE  
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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 WORKER 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\*

### REGISTERED NURSING

### 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.