

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

CHS Foundation and LATI Partner in Development of Precision Ag Sim Lab

INSIDE

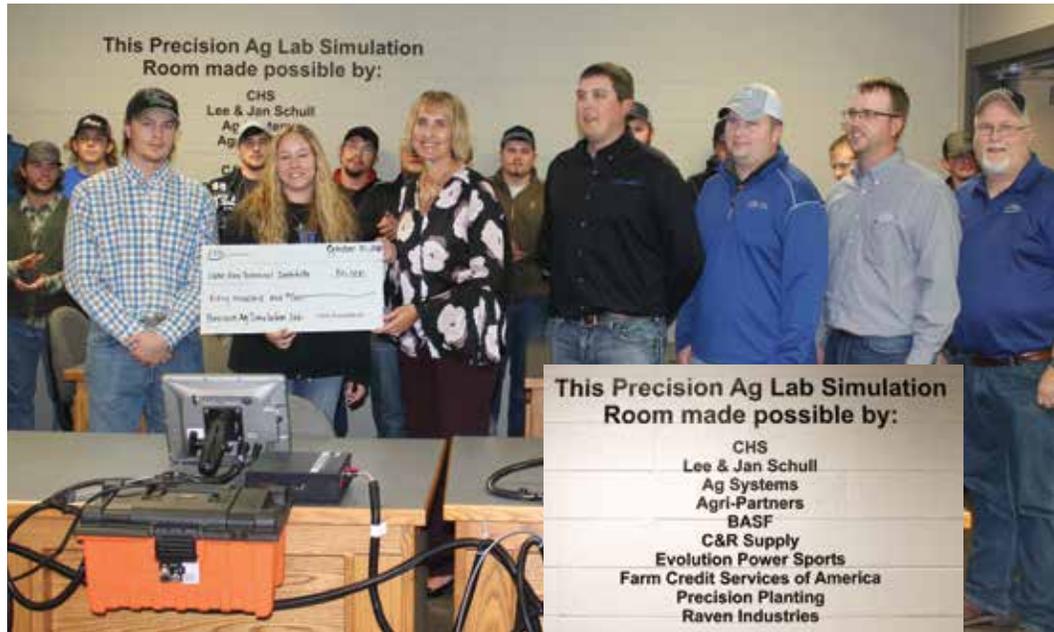
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The CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., is excited to announce the continuation of a long-standing relationship with Lake Area Tech as part of the CHS Foundation's work to develop a new generation of ag leaders for life and cultivate university partnerships. Most recently, the CHS Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to Lake Area Tech to assist in the development of a state-of-the-art precision agriculture simulation lab which will provide a unique, hands-on experience with precision ag equipment and better prepare students for careers in the ag industry.

The CHS Foundation grant gave Lake Area Tech a unique edge in precision agriculture education by helping develop a simulation lab and aiding with the purchase of eight student Viper 4 work stations and one instructional station.

"The CHS Foundation is dedicated to developing a new generation of ag leaders," says Nanci Lilja, president, CHS Foundation. "Through support of the Lake Area Tech precision ag program, we are helping students be prepared to make meaningful contributions to the ag industry."

Additionally, the grant leveraged other notable contributions of cash, in-kind donations and expertise to make the simulation experience for the student as real as possible. Thanks to these efforts, the precision agriculture simulation lab is also home to several Hawkeye spray simulators, Viper 4 Auto steer simulators, Precision Planting planter pogo sticks, John Deere work stations and a flow control station.

The notion of a simulation lab for precision agriculture has been a vision of the program for



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

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CHS FOUNDATION AND LATI PARTNER IN DEVELOPMENT OF PRECISION AG SIM LAB

quite some time but became more of an urgency each year as students were asking for additional hands-on learning experiences.

“When you live in this part of the country, sometimes your opportunities are limited by Mother Nature,” says Brian Olson, Ag department supervisor. “We were excited about pursuing a simulation lab much like other programs of study at Lake Area Tech have done to help with their training needs.”

Lake Area Tech was notified they received the CHS Foundation grant and immediately put the wheels in motion so the lab would be ready for students’ fall 2018 semester.

Olson continues, “The CHS Foundation is passionate about preparing the students for future careers in the ag industry. Providing the funds to purchase the high-tech simulators was a natural fit for them and actually ended up leveraging other donations which has made the lab an enormous asset to the Lake Area Tech Precision Ag program.” The lab, of which some is mobile, will provide training for the Lake Area Tech students, high school ag students, and employees who are currently in the precision ag industry.

CONTRIBUTE TO A SCHOLARSHIP

Tanner Wiedebush was a LATI student in the Agriculture Production Program. He passed away on March 27, 2018. Tanner’s family and friends established the Tanner Wiedebush Memorial Scholarship. Each year two \$250 scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in the Agriculture Program. This scholarship has been endowed to continue helping students at LATI perpetually.

Benjamin “Ben” Andree was a 2017 LATI graduate in the Energy Operations Program. He passed away on September 5, 2018. Ben’s family and friends have started a scholarship account to continue Ben’s legacy by supporting an energy student.

Contributions to these scholarships can be mailed to the LATI Foundation at P.O. Box 730; Watertown, SD 57201. Acknowledgements will be made to the families on the donor’s behalf.

More than 130 businesses from the region were on hand to visit with our students about future jobs and internships in October at the Career Search Expo. Mark your calendars for the next one in February!



FEB 21

CAREER EXPO

At this joyous time of year,

we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to each member of the Lake Area Tech community. We are fortunate enough to be among some of the greatest friends, volunteers, donors and alumni. On behalf of the Lake Area Tech Foundation, we would like to wish each of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year filled with peace and joy.

As we approach the end of 2018, many of us are busy preparing for another hectic holiday season. This is also the time of year when we pause to reflect on all that is truly important in our lives and look forward to the New Year with great expectations. We are reminded of the true meaning of the season as we plan to spend time with loved ones, exchange gifts, and make plans to give back with our end-of-year donations to various charities and institutions. Your gift to the Lake Area Tech Foundation is an investment in the future of an exceptional group of bright, intelligent and engaged individuals in pursuit of their dreams.

There is a famous quote that captures the spirit of this holiday season:

**“We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.”**

– Sir Winston Churchill –

DONATE VIA MAIL: Send a check made payable to LATI Foundation by using the enclosed envelope.

DONATE ONLINE: www.lakeareatech.edu/foundation/make-a-gift/

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Benefits LATI Students & Manufacturing Employers

Lake Area Tech Robotics students will soon be programming collaborative robots to gain automated systems experience and also to assist regional manufacturing industries become more competitive and efficient.

Thanks to a \$1 million NIST MEP (Manufacturing Extension Partnership) Competitive Awards Program grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Lake Area Technical Institute will be part of a collaborative effort to increase competitiveness and efficiency in regional manufacturing industries. The grant was recently awarded to South Dakota Manufacturing & Technology Solutions (SDMTS). SDMTS has partnered with Lake Area Tech, the University of South Dakota, and Impact Dakota to fulfill the grant's objectives over the next three years.

As a grant recipient, Lake Area Tech's involvement includes testing and integrating automated systems that have been developed by NIST and replicated by SDMTS.

To accomplish this, LATI will incorporate new technology in the Robotics laboratory for training and demonstrations of grant-acquired Collaborative Robots (cobots) and Autonomous Guided Vehicles (AGVs); develop curricula to incorporate into the current Robotics program; and create training programs for regional manufacturers through LATI's Corporate Education division.

Robotic students will begin programming and interfacing the cobots and AGVs as early as next semester. Further development of the systems will include determining which tasks the automated systems can perform and developing end effector technologies for cobots and vision capabilities for AGVs. Further analysis, programming, and maintenance of the automated systems will continue in the lab throughout the duration of the grant.

"The unique training and expertise our students receive as a result of this grant is invaluable," said Brooks Jacobsen, LATI Robotics/EST Department Supervisor. "Upon graduation, these students will be in high demand throughout the country and beyond."

Also benefiting will be employees in our regional manufacturing industries. Per the grant's objectives, Lake Area Tech's Corporate Education division will offer training workshops as early as next fall designed to assist industries identify areas in which automated systems would be advantageous.

"When industries use cobots to complete repetitive tasks or AGVs to retrieve parts, employees who were doing those jobs can be upskilled," LATI Corporate Education Director Steve Hauck said. "That's a win-win for everyone and an incredible return on investment. Cobots can perform a task throughout the day while valuable employees can build upon existing skills and possibly advance in their career."

For more information, please contact Lake Area Tech through its website at www.lakeareatech.edu.

CHARLENE CELEBRATING 50 AND MARSII 30 YEARS AT LAKE AREA TECH!

Friends, family, and a whole lot of current and former LATI staff were on hand in August to celebrate Charlene Kruger as she reached her 50th year at Lake Area Tech! Charlene graduated from Watertown High School and, later that summer, began her career at LATI. She says she has no plans to retire and thoroughly enjoys working with the staff and students. We are very honored by her dedication to Lake Area Tech and we thank her for sharing 50 years with us (so far)! Congratulations, Charlene!

In October, another milestone celebration was held for Marsi Rider, who reached her 30th year at Lake Area Tech! Friends, family, and co-workers congratulated Marsi during a reception held in the atrium. Congrats, Marsi! We thank you for your 30 years of dedication!



LATI HAPPENINGS

1. A record 123 students earned a Build Dakota Scholarship through LATI this year! To celebrate, students and BD Stretch the Million partners gathered for the BD Team Meeting/lunch. We thank Scott Stern, Commissioner of the Governor's Office of Economic Dev, for being our speaker!
2. Computer Information Systems student Ryen Lindner was selected for the 2018 Cisco Live Networking Academy Dream Team held in Orlando, FL, in June. Lindner was one of 10 students selected from nearly 70 applicants across the United States and Canada.
3. Incoming freshmen attended one of five summer orientations before classes began in August.
4. Our Energy Operations and Energy Technology programs recently hosted their popular annual Chili Cook-Off as a fundraiser for the Angel Tree program in Watertown, which purchases toys at Christmas for kids in need. The programs set a record this year, raising a whopping \$2,000!
5. At the SDSU/LATI Opening Doors event, our students learned how easy it is to transfer their Associate's degree from Lake Area Tech to a Bachelor's degree from South Dakota State! Thanks for being here for the event, President Dunn, and everyone from SDSU!
6. On National Read a Book Day, our Educare welcomed guest readers Watertown School District Dr. Danielson Superintendent (pictured), former LATI President Deb Shephard, and LATI Vice-President Diane Stiles.
7. Our Diesel Tech Club raised \$500 this semester for Educare playground equipment through donations for outside projects that are normally parts-cost only. Thank you Diesel Tech Club!
8. Lake Area Tech's Educare Center staff and children wholeheartedly thank the Watertown Community Foundation for its generous \$600 Infant grant to our Educare center. The grant was used to purchase much-needed supplies including diapers and food. Our staff and kids very much appreciate being a WCF grant recipient!
9. The 51st annual Lake Area Tech graduation marked another record number of graduates at 808! The ceremony was held May 11 and featured SD Speaker of the House Mark Mickelson giving the keynote address.
10. Custom Paint & Fab student Moses Sesay was named the Malco "Head of the Class" recipient at LATI last spring. The Malco student recognition program honors outstanding students graduating from career education programs including Autobody Repair. Moses was part of the graduating class of 2018.
11. Our students did it again! The annual food drive for the Watertown Area People Against Childhood Hunger (PACH) food pantry was an overwhelming success! Sixteen programs donated a record 10,967 pounds of food! Energy program students led the way by donating 2,823 pounds, or 64.15 pounds per student. Thirty-two Aviation Maintenance students followed by donating 1,696, or 53 pounds per student. Great job everyone!
12. The Watertown Job Fair is always a hit with students at the beginning of the year!



19TH ANNUAL Feuerstein Series

The 19th Annual Feuerstein Series was held at Lake Area Tech on October 29th. Lew Feuerstein, along with family, friends and local business leaders, created the Feuerstein Series along with an annual student scholarship in loving memory of his wife, businesswomen and educator Dee Feuerstein. Because of her love for students and business, each year a scholarship is awarded in her memory to a female student enrolled in the Business Division at Lake Area Technical Institute.

For the third year, the Lake Area Tech Foundation and Prairie Lakes Healthcare Foundation were proud to jointly host Taya Kyle. Taya Kyle is the widow of late U.S. Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle commonly known as the American Sniper after the title of his New York Times Best Selling memoir of the same title. After the book was made into Academy Award winning film directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Bradley Cooper, Taya published her New York Times bestselling memoir American Wife.

With a crowd of over 780 individuals that traveled from various communities and states, it was our largest Feuerstein Series to date. With humor and vulnerability, Taya recounted the tremendous highs and lows in her unpredictable life as the wife and now widow of an American hero.

If you are interested in purchasing Taya Kyle's book, "American Wife", there are a few left available for purchase. Contact the LATI Foundation at 605-882-5284 extension 292.

Pictured Left to Right:
Monica Feuerstein, Taya Kyle,
Lew Feuerstein



LATI Receives United Way Mini Grants

Lake Area Technical Institute gratefully accepted two United Way Mini Grants today that were generously awarded to two LATI programs. The first was granted to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program's Sensory Adventures Camp for specialized equipment for the camp use, and the second was granted to the LATI Health and Safety program for CPR manikins. The manikins will not only be used at LATI for student certification, but for community CPR classes as well.

Accepting the grants on behalf of Lake Area Tech were Health, Safety and Wellness Coordinator Heidi Wirtjes and OTA students Timothy Rickert, Marshall, MN; Kristina Sakry, Milnor, ND; and Mary McCullough, Mitchell, SD. They are pictured here with members of the Watertown Area United Way Board of Directors.

Lake Area Tech staff and students extend a very gracious thank you to the Watertown Area United Way for these beneficial grants.



On behalf of the Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the countless people involved in bringing our 19th Annual Holiday Festival of Trees "Home for the Holidays". We were thrilled to welcome our many alumni and friends "home" to our Campus again this year. This opportunity allowed us to showcase the beauty and wonder of our facility while maximizing our fundraising efforts in support of our students through scholarships, program enhancements and campus improvements. At Lake Area Technical Institute, our faculty and staff work hard to keep our programs cutting-edge to meet the workforce needs. Our distinctive technical education provides students the tools for successful careers in high-demand fields, whether it be right here in Watertown or across the region! Thank you to all, who played a role in the 2018 Festival of Trees. We appreciate your partnership in our students' success.

Lake Area Technical Institute Receives a \$10,000 Grant for Precision Ag Simulation Lab

Lake Area Technical Institute received a \$10,000 grant for an ag simulation lab through Farm Credit Services of America's (FCSAmerica) Working Here Fund. Lake Area Tech will use the grant to purchase Viper 4 Simulators to develop a Precision Ag Simulation Lab.

"We feel the incorporation of a simulation lab will further expand and enhance the Precision Agriculture program," said Brian Olson, agriculture instructor. "Simulators will help students to operate, troubleshoot and learn more about these operating systems before entering the workforce."

There will be a variety of simulation labs including a Raven Viper 4, John Deere, CASE, as well as flow controls and direct injection labs.

"We understand that by educating tomorrow's farmers today, we are supporting the future of rural communities," said Matt Lindgren, vice president of retail operations at FCSAmerica's Watertown office.

Lake Area Technical Institute is one of 13 organizations to receive an expanded Working Here Fund grant. FCSAmerica awarded each organization up to \$10,000 for a total of \$103,250 to support projects focused on agricultural education, hunger and nutrition, young and beginning producers or essential services and rural disaster relief.

Photo: Pictured (from left) Terry Fjeldheim, Farm Credit Services Watertown Marketplace Vice-President ; Darrel Woolery, LATI Ag Department; Jane Jaspers Farm Credit Services Insurance Account Specialist; and Brian Olson, LATI Ag Department.



A New Day in Tech Ed

It truly was another great day for technical education on September 20! Lake Area Tech was honored to host Mike Rowe, executive producer, show host, and founder of mikeroweWORKS Foundation; South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard; and Dana Dykhouse, President of First PREMIER Bank and President of the SD Board of Technical Education. The visit was part of South Dakota's New Day in Tech Ed, an event sponsored by First PREMIER Bank and PREMIER Bankcard. Rowe shared his inspirational message about the importance of technical education and its role in closing the national skills gap. Our students, staff, and guests truly appreciated his heartfelt and close-to-home message! Lake Area Tech President Mike Cartney said Rowe is a great supporter of technical education. "Mr. Rowe is talking about the shortage of workers in these fields to get people to realize we need to highly value these technically skilled jobs and highly value people who choose to go into these fields." Rowe ended his presentation by saying he would continue talking about filling the skills gap and that he would use Lake Area Technical Institute as an example of a school that's doing great things to help fill these needs. While on campus Rowe also toured select LATI programs and attended a luncheon with Build Dakota recipients and Stretch the Million Partners .

Photo credit: Lawrence & Schiller

Watertown Elks Lodge #838 Receives Freedom Grant For LATI Veteran Student Food Pantry



In the continued spirit of charitable work in the community the Watertown Elks Lodge #838 recently donated \$2000 to the Lake Area Tech Veterans' Food Pantry through a National Elks Foundation Freedom Grant.

The Elks Freedom Grant offers a unique opportunity to harness the Elks' passion for serving veterans and military members and turn it into projects that offer tangible results. The Watertown Elks Lodge submitted the charitable request to provide funds to develop a Veterans' Food Pantry at Lake Area Tech. Leaders of the local Elks group reached out when they heard there was a need for food for the pantry but wanted to focus on the students who are veterans. Local Elks member, John Stonebarger said, "Our local chapter helped Lake Area Tech this past year by providing food for their Student Food Pantry but really wanted to do something more for the veterans who attend college there. We reached out to see if there was a nutritional need for this group and found that there are a significant number of vets enrolled at Lake Area Tech and the need was there."

Lake Area Tech has had a long history of being a friend to veterans. The school has been designated a Military Friendly School for many years and most recently earned the honorable Silver Level for their dedication to this group of individuals and their families. LuAnn Strait, Director of Student Services said, "A while back, we determined there was an obvious need for a Student Food Pantry on campus and put the wheels in motion. But when the Watertown Elks asked us about providing specifically for our veteran students, we thought it was a wonderful idea!" Lake Area Tech serves approximately 115 veterans throughout the year. Strait continues, "These students have done so much for us. The transition back to civilian life can be daunting for some of them. In a small way, this allows us to give back and show them we (and this community) care. We are incredibly grateful for the Elks and their heartfelt donation."

With the dollars provided through the Elks Freedom Grant, the Veteran Student Food Pantry became a reality. The Pantry is located in the Lake Area Tech Veterans Service Office and is stocked with non-perishable food items that have been donated by the Elks. In the spirit of giving, the Elks are also providing students vouchers for a warm meal at the Watertown Elks Lodge. Students are told of the resource through word-of-mouth, posters, emails, texts, and social media.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission has awarded Freedom Grants to approximately 300 Lodges that applied for charitable projects for veterans. The Freedom Grant is to be used to serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members in the focused areas of employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health and educational support.



LAKE AREA TECH CAR CLUB RAISES RECORD-BREAKING FUNDS FOR OPERATION BLACK HILLS CABIN

Students in Lake Area Technical Institute's Automotive Technology, High Performance Engine Machining, and Custom Paint & Fab programs ended the year on a high note last spring by hosting the 13th annual Car Show for a Cause. The Car Show featured 87 entries and was open to the public. Combined with funds raised during the fall Car Care 40-Point Inspection event, the total raised for Operation Black Hills Cabin during the school year was a record \$5,700! This beat last year's amount by \$1,000! 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. Brad Johnson, representing Operation Black Hills Cabin, told the students their contribution would help fund several families' time at the cabin.



Local Elks Members (l-r): Greg Wellhouse, Mark Schroeder; Lake Area Tech Developmental Education instructor, Tina Cloutier; Elks member, John Stonebarger; County Fair Groceries employee, Jordan Eppard; and Elks member Lonnie Greenfield.



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

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SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A GREAT CAREER.

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- 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.