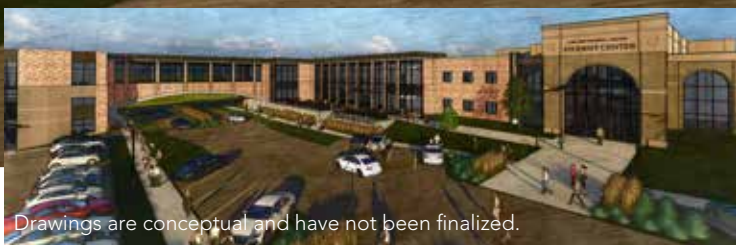
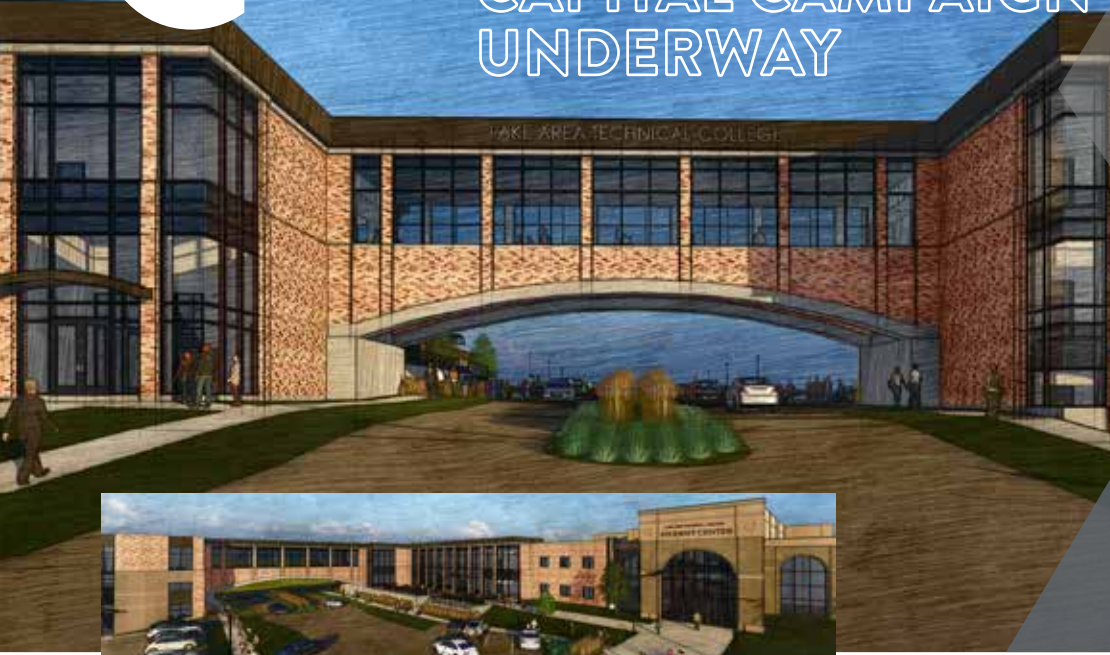




# LAKE AREA TECH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY



Drawings are conceptual and have not been finalized.

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## LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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South Dakota needs technical college graduates now more than ever before. For every graduate, there are multiple career openings in South Dakota – and employers are curtailing production, turning down contracts, and slowing economic growth due to the lack of skilled workforce. Lake Area Tech needs produce more grads, but we simply do not have the space, and we cannot put the cost of new facilities on our students. We need your help, not only in getting our story out – but in helping this campaign become a reality.

Today, Lake Area Tech has the student population projected for 2043 in facilities built to hold far fewer students. Yet, we still cannot meet industries needs for graduates to fill the technically skilled workforce demand in SD. Lake Area Technical College must expand its capacity, but must do it without increasing the burden of that expansion on our students – college is

already too expensive. That was the genesis of the “I’m IN” capital campaign. We have completed two buildings, but all six are key to our success. As the campaign enters its next phase, we have received another huge boost in the form of a \$10M impact gift from MacKenzie Scott. But even with two buildings complete, and the MacKenzie Scott funds in the bank, we still have a long ways to go.

It is imperative that Lake Area Tech move forward to meet the needs of our highly skilled technical graduates and the recruitment needs of our workforce pipeline. If we rely on government funding alone, we cannot expand nor excel. That is why we are asking for partners in this major gifts campaign. With help, we can achieve our capital campaign goal.

The “I’m IN” Capital Campaign will unify the Lake Area Tech workforce development

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)**



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To receive the Lake Area Tech friends and family newsletter electronically send your information to:

**MORGAN.JOHNSON@LAKEAREATECH.EDU**



LAKEAREATECH.EDU

**(FEATURE STORY CONTINUED)**

community by bringing students, faculty, and programs together in state-of-the-art, industry-focused training facilities. There is no better time than now to say “I’m IN” and be part of this historic, pivotal time at Lake Area Tech.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN OR TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE CONTACT THE FOUNDATION OFFICE AT 605-882-5284 OR EMAIL MIKE OR TRACY.**



## LAKE AREA TECH SELECTED FOR FAA TRAINING PROGRAM

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has selected Lake Area Tech’s upcoming new Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot option for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems-Collegiate Training Initiative program (UAS-CTI).

“Being designated a UAS-CTI program means our graduates will have access to a professional consortium that facilitates sharing best practices in this industry through UAS training tools, resources, and guidelines,” Lake Area Tech Aviation Department Supervisor Greg Klein said. “Upon graduation, our students will have obtained the unparalleled knowledge and skills needed to pursue successful careers in the drone industry.”

The FAA’s UAS-CTI program recognizes institutions that prepare students for careers in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones. In order to qualify for the initiative, schools must offer a bachelor’s or associates degree in UAS or a degree with a minor, concentration, or certificate in UAS. Schools must provide curriculum covering various aspects of UAS training, including hands-on flight practice, maintenance, uses, applications, privacy concerns, safety, and federal policies concerning UAS.

Lake Area Tech’s new Unmanned Aerial System’s Pilot option will begin Fall 2021 as an expansion of the Professional Fixed Wing Pilot program. The option will prepare graduates to pursue careers operating large unmanned aerial vehicles beyond the visual line of sight and in controlled air spaces.

## LAKE AREA TECH STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL ATEA AWARDS

Dr. Sandra Krebsbach, Executive Director of the American Technical Education Association (ATEA), announced in April that two of ATEA’s national award recipients are from Lake Area Technical College. The awards were presented during ATEA’s Annual National Conference.

The ATEA National Awards Panel selected second-year Aviation Maintenance Technology student Ian Radach of Watertown the 2021 Outstanding Technical Education Student of the Year. The recipient of the award must be a full-time student in a post-secondary technical education program. The student must be very strong academically and show potential in his/her chosen technical field and must be a student at a school with active institutional membership in ATEA.

Ian’s nomination included letters of endorsement which included this excerpt, “Along with being a full-time student, Ian also supports his wife and two beautiful children. After spending seven hours at school each day he does not get to go home and relax with friends or go to the gym. He goes to his job and works late into the night to make sure they have the best life possible. All of this is what makes Ian such a great candidate for this award. The fact that he can juggle everything that is going on in his life and still find time to spend with his children and provide them with everything they could ever need to thrive in life is remarkable.”

Lake Area Tech’s second award winner is also from the Aviation Program. Aviation Maintenance Technology Department Supervisor Greg Klein was named the AETA 2021 Outstanding Technical Teacher of the Year. Greg’s tenure began as a graduate of the Lake Area Tech Aviation Maintenance program and, for the last 26 years, as an instructor and Department Supervisor. The award is presented to a full-time postsecondary technical education instructor whose performance and



contributions are exceptional. Innovative teaching strategies must be apparent and involvement with business and industry is essential.

Greg’s nomination also included letters of endorsement and included this excerpt, “Greg is an excellent educator and a fantastic person. His knowledge in the education realm, and his commitment and dedication are fine examples of this. He is positive, professional and has a tremendous work ethic. Greg is always willing to go the extra mile for everyone and genuinely cares about all students and staff. Greg possesses strong organizational, communication and leadership skills. He is dependable, conscientious, and a team player. Greg is a self-starter and very task oriented. You can rely on him to carry out his responsibilities with enthusiasm and great attention to detail. He is amazing!”

Nomination forms are submitted by the nominees’ peers and are reviewed and awarded by the National Awards Committee comprised of Sue Smith, President of ATEA and VP of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering and Applied Sciences; Dr. Shawn Mackey, Executive Deputy for Accountability for Mississippi Community College Board; Dr. Betty Reynard, President of Lamar State College Port Arthur, Port Arthur, Texas; Chelle Travis, Executive Director of SkillsUSA; Adrian San Miguel, Director of Projects in Career and Technical Programs of the Idaho Department of Education and Chair of the ATEA National Awards Committee; and Brooks Jacobsen, Supervisor of Electronic Systems Technology and Robotics, Lake Area Technical College, Watertown, SD.



## LAKE AREA TECH COLLEGE HONORED WITH UNEXPECTED GIFT

Lake Area Technical College was surprised and deeply honored to receive the news this past winter that they were the recipients of a \$10 million impact gift from philanthropist and popular novelist, MacKenzie Scott.

Lake Area Technical College along with 383 other organizations across the country received generous donations to assist in continuing the good work they are already doing. The college will be using the donation to support transformative initiatives that will remove barriers for students and allow them the success everyone deserves.

MacKenzie Scott focused her giving on immediate support to people suffering the economic effects of the pandemic crisis but also sought out organizations for their leadership's track record of effective management and significant impact in their fields. She recognized the important role played by these organizations in continuing to provide vital services during the pandemic. Scott acknowledges that these organizations are known for the profound encouragement felt each time a person is seen, valued and trusted by another human being.

Her team took a data-driven approach to identifying organizations with strong leadership teams who get results, and who have low access to philanthropic capital. Scott identifies organizations with high potential for impact and paves the way with unsolicited and unexpected gifts given with full trust and no strings attached.

Lake Area Technical College President Mike Cartney comments, "It's humbling to be recognized for our good work and it's our intent to be exceptional stewards of the gift. There is no doubt, it will impact LATC current and future students, and citizens of South Dakota for a long time to come."

According to Scott, "These 384 carefully selected teams have dedicated their lives to helping others, working and volunteering and serving real people face-to-face at bedsides and tables, in prisons and courtrooms and classrooms, on streets and hospital wards and hotlines and frontlines of all types and sizes, day after day after day." Scott continues, "We shared each of our gift decisions with program leaders for the first time over the phone, and welcomed them to spend the funding on whatever they believe best serves their efforts. They were told that the entire commitment would be paid upfront and left unrestricted in order to provide them with maximum flexibility."

**READ MACKENZIE SCOTT'S FULL BLOG AT :**

**[HTTPS://MEDIUM.COM/@MACKENZIE\\_SCOTT/384-WAYS-TO-HELP-45D0B9AC6AD8](https://medium.com/@mackenzie_scott/384-ways-to-help-45d0b9ac6ad8)**



### GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON

The 19th Annual Governor's Luncheon was held on Monday, May 10th on the campus of Lake Area Tech College. Nearly 350 attendees came to hear Governor Kristi Noem speak. The LATC Foundation raised approximately \$35,000 for scholarships from the event which was generously underwritten by the Watertown Community Foundation.

Governor Noem also announced the remarkable unbelievable \$10M gift from MacKenzie Scott. Thank you, Governor Noem for your continued support of technical education and Lake Area Tech. President Mike Cartney in appreciation presented Governor Noem with a shield made by the LATC Welding Students for that was inscribed, "Thank you for making an incredible mark on technical education in South Dakota."

## STORY BECOMES CATALYST FOR PAY IT FORWARD MOVEMENT

Sometimes, random acts of kindness can move mountains. Last semester, a Watertown Public Opinion subscriber perused a front page story about three Lake Area Tech College students enrolled in healthcare programs and working the front lines in long-term care facilities to help pay for their education. Their stories of taking care of the elderly, filling the void for the family who can't be with them, listening to life experiences, and comforting them in their loneliness during COVID-19 weighed heavily on the reader's mind. That person was compelled to ensure the

three students know they are deeply appreciated for being indispensable frontline workers and made the decision to assist with their tuition.

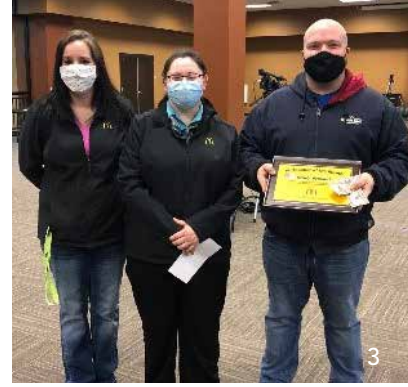
Lake Area Tech College Foundation Executive Director Tracy Hlavacek explained that as the anonymous donor stepped forward to help with the students' tuition, a challenge to do the same was extended to the donor's friends, family and co-workers in an effort to show appreciation to all the Lake Area Tech healthcare students for the career they chose, especially during this

difficult time. And so, a quiet movement began and the Lake Area Tech College Heroes and Halos Scholarship Challenge commenced.

"A \$10,000 match challenge was cast by the anonymous donor and raised in just a few short days," Hlavacek said. "As a result, some very lucky students enrolled at Lake Area Tech in the nursing, medical assisting, community healthcare worker and medical lab technician programs will receive some form of scholarship for the 2021 spring semester."



# HAPPENINGS



1. Spring semester orientation looked a little different this year with social distancing and masks, but we made it a fun day for our new students!
2. Our Career Search Expo always offers our students a great chance to network and explore future career opportunities. We have great participation by business and industry across the state and further.
3. Congratulations to Lake Area Tech Energy instructor, Brady Brockel, for being named the March McTeacher of the Month!
4. Career Search Expo
5. Senior Tech Days was a hit this spring as we welcomed a large group of area high school seniors who toured Lake Area Tech programs and learned what it's like to be a student!

6. Custom Paint & Fab had a great turnout for the program's Show and Shine held May 1 on our campus. It was fun to see a variety of vehicles!
7. Governor Kristi Noem delivered the keynote address during the 19th Annual Governor's Luncheon held in support of student scholarships and campus improvements. President Cartney presented her a shield in honor of her support of technical education.



8. Congratulations to Financial Aid Representative Carrie Jordanger! She received the South Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator's Outstanding Service Award at their Spring Conference.



9 & 10. Downtown Watertown's Gather Coffee Shop hosted a Meet the Photographers event for Lake Area Tech photography students. The Spring Exhibition at Gather showcased the students' best photography exhibits and was enjoyed by the public.

11. Our Physical Therapy Assistant program participated in the Beacon Center's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event held the end of April. Great participation for a great cause!

12. The PAWS (Pet Away Stress) event has become a highly popular event during finals week each semester. Thank you to everyone who shared their furry friends with our students!

13. Junior Tech Day attendees participated in hands-on activities like these high school juniors who chose to tour the Medical Lab Technician program.

14. Robot Games were not one, but two days this year to accommodate the large group of area



grade school students who watched the annual Robotics Program competition. Our students' created and designed very clever robots again this year!

15. Lake Area Tech's Student Voice group hosted a cupcake fundraiser in place of the Polar Plunge to raise funds for SD Special Olympics. They delivered 1,800+ cupcakes and raised \$2,146! Student Voice member, Haley Skinner, presented a check to Special Olympics representative, Salena Engels.

## “REACH FOR THE STARS” NASA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME



The “Reach for the Stars” NASA internship program at Lake Area Tech was one of nine recipients honored by the South Dakota Hall of Fame’s Acts of Excellence program during a celebration in the Student Center in April. The Acts of Excellence program recognizes individuals and organizations who are helping young people chase their dreams in building a culture of excellence in South Dakota.

Over the last five years, students in Lake Area Technical College’s Electronic Systems Technology, Robotics, and Aviation Maintenance Technology programs have successfully landed competitive internships with NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, at sites across the nation.

Securing internships are program requisites for many students in higher education, including those at Lake Area Tech in Watertown. The students in the Electronic Systems program have shown that the sky really is the limit. The internships with NASA involve a complex application process overseen by the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSG). Lake Area Tech students apply to SDSG for funding. If approved, the students move on to

NASA’s application process. NASA personnel and SDSG’s management team jointly review the applicants.

An example of the kinds of internships available is the one earned in the summer of 2019 by Watertown student Jacob Pagel. Pagel received an internship at the Armstrong Flight Research Center, Edwards Air Force Base in California. He spent 10 weeks in the program, which included hands-on experience in maintenance repair and integration of flight experiments on support and experimental aircraft. Other Lake Area Tech students have been located at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. During the internships, the students interact with NASA engineers and others to learn more about careers in science and engineering.

Funds have been earmarked for the NASA internship program through 2023. It’s just one of many ways Lake Area Technical College uses partnerships and collaborations to give its students the best possible educational experiences.

**UPDATE  
YOUR INFO**

Newly Married?  
New Job?  
New Business?  
Moved?  
Children?

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

VISIT US AT [WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU/](http://WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU/)  
CONNECTIONS/ALUMNI-ASSOCIATION/ALUMNI-LISTINGS/



LAKEAREATECH.EDU

# CONGRATULATIONS LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2021 AND RETIREES!

Lake Area Tech’s 54th Annual Graduation Ceremony was held Friday, May 14, in the Watertown Civic Arena. President Cartney congratulated 842 graduates on their accomplishments while at Lake Area Tech during the in-person ceremony that was also livestreamed for friends and family who weren’t able to attend. President Cartney noted the Class of 2021 is the first to graduate from Lake Area Technical College, since our name change last July. This year’s commencement speaker was Secretary of the SD Department of Labor and Regulation, Marcia Hultman. Adam Fischbach, LATC Alumni Association President, welcomed the Class of 2021 into the association.

The 2021 Lake Area Tech retirees were also recognized by Vice President Diane Stiles during the event. More than 120 years of service to Lake Area Tech were accumulated by six retirees: Patty Foley, Nursing; Darrel Grohs, Precision Machining; Brad Heesch, Academics; Dennis Heller, Information Technology; Mark Ramsey, Precision Machining; and Brad Thuringer, Physical Therapist Assistant. Congratulations to the Lake Area Tech graduates and retirees!



**Congratulations 2021 LATC Retirees**



# LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM EARNS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) has awarded Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation to the Law Enforcement program at Lake Area Technical College. CALEA® accreditation serves as the International Gold Standard for Public Safety Agencies.

“Being CALEA® accredited means our students are graduating from a program that provides training using the highest standards in safety and professional excellence, said Lake Area Tech Law Enforcement Supervisor Asa Stiles. “There are only a handful of programs in the country that have international accreditation in public safety training therefore, the communities in which the Lake Area Tech Law Enforcement graduates serve will greatly benefit.”

Lake Area Tech’s Law Enforcement faculty completed a rigorous two-year program self-assessment, which required a review of policies, practices, and processes against internationally accepted public safety standards. That procedure was followed by a program assessment, conducted by independent assessors with significant public safety experience. After a public hearing and a review of all reporting documentation, accreditation was then rendered by a governing body of 21 commissioners.

CALEA® accreditation is a continuous process during which annual assessments will transpire until the site-based review occurs in July 2024

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CALEA® ACCREDITATION STANDARDS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CALEA.ORG](http://WWW.CALEA.ORG).**



# STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS BEWARE!

Over the years, our office receives periodic inquiries from students, former students, and staff about letters, emails, or phone calls received about their student loans and whether or not it was legitimate. We always try to alert students and staff of any financial-aid related scams that we are made aware of. We encourage individuals to reach out to our office if they receive a call or letter and they are questioning the legitimacy.

This winter one of the financial aid office staff received a phone call from a recent graduate asking if he could make an appointment to visit with someone about an offer that he took advantage of that he was now questioning the legitimacy. He came in, shared his story with one of the staff, and was then brought to my office.

This young man had been in repayment on his Federal Direct Loans and had several phone calls and a message from a company that offered to assist in making his student loan payments to his loan servicer on his behalf. Thinking it was legitimate and that the company was connected with his federal loan servicer, he signed up. After a few months, he realized that his bank account was having a monthly payment withdrawn by this company. And it wasn't going to his Direct Loan Servicer! His attempts to contact the company were futile.

While he visited with me, I did some internet searches on the company and wasn't finding favorable results. My advice to him was to go to his bank and visit with someone about stopping the monthly withdrawal from his account and ask if there was anything that could be done to recoup the funds that had been withdrawn. While the total amount that had been withdrawn wasn't huge, it was a lot of money to someone who is in his early 20s and getting established in his career.

A few weeks later one of my staff and I received the following email from this young man:

I stopped in to visit with you guys about three weeks ago about money being taken out from an unofficial company pretending to be a student loan servicer. I stopped at the bank that same day and was able to get the payments stopped and even got my money back! The company called me the next day when they realized that their money was taken, and I was able to get them to stop calling me and cancel my 'plan'. Thank you both for your help! It was a much easier process than I expected.

**ALUMS, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR OFFICE. EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NO LONGER A STUDENT, WE'RE STILL HERE TO HELP! WE CAN BE REACHED AT 605.882.5284 OR 800.657.444 OR VIA FINANCIALAID@LAKEAREATECH.EDU.**



## STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

Are you an alum who is in repayment on your federal student loans? During the pandemic, many federal student loan borrowers were granted relief in which their interest rate was set to 0% and payments were waived until September 30, 2021. Unless there is another extension granted (which seems very unlikely at this point), impacted borrowers will resume repayment on October 1st.

An estimated 45 million borrowers will need to resume repayment on October 1. As you can imagine, this will have a significant impact on the student loan servicing entities. The response time to phone calls, e-mails, and paperwork processing will take longer. Patience is key!

If you have questions about your federal student loans, I would suggest contacting your loan servicer prior to October 1 to avoid some of the longer wait times. If you need to update your loan servicer of changes to your address, phone number, etc., you can typically do that through the on-line account you may have set up with them or by calling your servicer. If you don't have their contact information handy, you can find it at <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/make-payment>.



## LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WATERTOWN, SD  
PERMIT #550



"Like" the Lake Area Tech Alumni Association page to receive updates from the Alumni Association and Foundation Office.

## SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY!

Contact us at 605-882-5284.

## SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A GREAT CAREER.

### AGRICULTURE

- Agri-Business Option
- Agri-Production Option
- Commodity Merchandising Option
- Dairy Option
- Livestock Production & Management Option
- Precision Technology Option
- General Science Dual Degree

### AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Automotive Gas or Light Duty Diesel Options

### AVIATION

- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Professional Fixed Wing Pilot

### BUILDING TRADES TECHNOLOGY

### BUSINESS

- Entrepreneurship Option
- Human Resource Associate Option
- Marketing & Management Option
- Photography/Media Option

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Graphic Design & Digital Communications Specialist Option
- Networking & Cyber Security Specialist Option
- Programming Specialist Option

### COSMETOLOGY

### COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

### CUSTOM PAINT & FABRICATION

### DENTAL ASSISTING – CERTIFIED

### DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

- Ag/Industrial Tractor or Truck Option
- CAT ThinkBIG
- CNH Forging the Future
- Diesel Technology John Deere 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\*

\*Will only be offered if it meets the minimum enrollment requirement.

### 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 – LPN

### NURSING – RN

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

### PRECISION MACHINING

### ROBOTICS

### WELDING TECHNOLOGY

## E-DEGREES

(Online Hybrid Programs)

### AGRICULTURE

- Agri-Business Option
- Commodity Merchandising
- Livestock Production & Management Option

### BUSINESS

- Entrepreneurship Option
- Human Resource Option
- Marketing & Management Option
- Photography/Media Option

### COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER – CERTIFICATION

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

### DENTAL ASSISTING – CERTIFIED

### ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (CERT. ONLY)

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

### LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

### MED/FIRE RESCUE

- Emergency Medical Technician
- Certification only and Paramedic Option

### MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

### PRACTICAL NURSING

### PRECISION MACHINING

### ROBOTICS

