



# *festival of trees* 2021

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**LAKE AREA  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

## **INSIDE SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER**

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## **LAKE AREA TECH COLLEGE FESTIVAL OF TREES**

The 22nd Annual Holiday Festival of Trees was held, Friday, November 19, 2021. This was the 6th year it was held on the LATC Campus – and our most successful Festival of Trees yet! On behalf of the Lake Area Technical College Foundation, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the countless people involved in helping make our event a success. We were thrilled to welcome our many alumni and friends to our campus again this year. A virtual attendance option was also offered again this year as it allowed many to attend from afar! Together, we had nearly 400 individuals attend either in person or virtually. The Festival of Trees creates an opportunity allowing 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 College, 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 2021 Festival of Trees. We appreciate your partnership in our students' success.



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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



## LAKE AREA TECH COLLEGE SETS FIRST-YEAR/FRESHMAN STUDENT ENROLLMENT RECORD

Lake Area Technical College's first-year (freshmen) student enrollment surpassed the 1,000 mark during the fall 2021 semester with 1,005 new students seeking degrees, an increase of 8.1% compared to the 2020 fall semester. Total student enrollment for fall semester 2021 at Lake Area Tech is 2,190.

Increase of students in programs is evident across campus, however, the most significant growth came from Diesel Technology, Healthcare, and Energy Technology. The Lake Area Technical College enrollment upsurge reflects the college's commitment to business and industry to provide a skilled workforce for this region in these areas of study.

With the growth of the current student body, the current campus expansion plan is in full motion to address additional space needs for labs and classrooms. Lake Area Tech College launched a \$40M I'm IN Capital Campaign that has already funded the Prairie Lakes Healthcare Center of Learning and The Lab. Future building expansion includes a Diesel Technology addition, Business and Advanced Manufacturing Center, and a connecting archway. Additionally, Custom Paint and Fabrication and an Aviation Center for Aviation Maintenance, Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot and UAS programs are part of the future expansion projects.

Lake Area Tech's accomplishments tell the story, including a 99% placement rate after graduation, the creative delivery of education, strong industry partnerships, robust retention, and high-demand degrees.



## LAKE AREA TECH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WE'RE IN. ARE YOU?

We're IN, are you? Lake Area Technical College is in the midst of our \$40M I'm IN Capital Campaign. LATC's current campus is currently "over capacity". We are unable to physically accommodate all of the students who wish to study here, nor can we supply the many employers searching for the very skills we are proud to produce. As a result, a comprehensive building and expansion plan to serve more students and produce more graduates was developed. These plans include needed space for the healthcare, business, advanced manufacturing, diesel technology, custom paint and fabrication, and aviation maintenance, professional fixed-wing pilot and drone programs!

The I'm IN Campaign has been well received, is highly supported by industry

partners, and was endorsed by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem. The I'm IN Capital Campaign will enable LATC to "change lives and launch careers" for many South Dakotans, as we provide a pathway to rewarding careers and good lives for our citizens. We hope you will help us reach our campaign goal and consider a contribution by joining the I'm IN movement to help advance technical education at Lake Area Technical College as we kick off our Alumni & Friends I'm IN Campaign. Whether you are a friend of Lake Area Tech or one of our over 25,000 graduates – we need everyone IN as we work to complete these projects, equip these facilities, furnish classrooms and labs, and create much needed capacity.



**HELP US HELP STUDENTS!**  
The goal of the I'm IN Campaign is to successfully complete the expansion plan without placing any burden on our current or future students.

### CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

#### CASH OR CHECK

One of the most common gifts to the Lake Area Technical College Foundation is through a one-time cash contribution.

#### CREDIT CARD

Contribute via credit card through our online system, or call our office to make your contribution!

#### GIFTS OF STOCK

Did you know you can transfer gifts of stock? Contact the Foundation to begin the process.

#### GRAIN/COMMODITIES

The Foundation accepts gifts of grain/commodities. Donate a bushel or more!

#### LEGACY GIFTS

These gifts represent a future gift. These can include, but are not limited to; Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Beneficiary Designations, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Gifts of Property.

#### MEMORIALS/TRIBUTE GIFTS

A memorial or tribute gift is a wonderful way to honor an alumni, parent, mentor, or other loved one who has impacted you.

#### MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE

Set up a multi-year pledge and maximize your impact over 5 years.

#### VENMO

Send your contribution via Venmo by using the QR code to the right for the Foundation.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE I'M IN CAMPAIGN, VISIT WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU AND CLICK ON THE I'M IN LOGO OR, CONTACT TRACY HLAVACEK, FOUNDATION DIRECTOR AT TRACY.HLAVACEK@LAKEAREATECH.EDU OR 605-882-5284 X268.**



# LAKE AREA TECH COLLEGE ANNUAL STUDENT FOR HALF A DAY



WE WERE EXCITED TO BRING BACK OUR ANNUAL STUDENT FOR HALF A DAY EVENT THIS YEAR! THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST TALKED ABOUT EVENTS WE HOST ON CAMPUS!

Members from the community and the region, are invited to step into the shoes of a Lake Area Tech student and be enrolled in one of the 31 programs at Lake Area Tech.

This event is designed to increase awareness about Lake Area Tech, from a unique perspective.

**STUDENT FOR 1/2 A DAY CLASS OF 2022!!**



## SAVE THE DATE

**MAY  
13**

**GRADUATION**

**JUNE  
18**

**BOULDER  
MEMORIAL**

**AUGUST  
17**

**FALL  
SEMESTER**

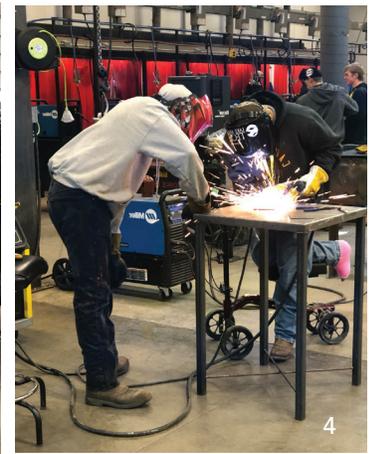
**NOV  
18**

**FESTIVAL  
OF TREES**



# HAPPENINGS

1. Student for Half a Day!
2. Approximately 60 high schoolers attended Lake Area Tech's first-ever Drone Camp! The students received hands-on learning in the areas of drones, coding, circuitry, 3D printing, robotics and more.
3. Our Diesel Technology program capitalized on Senior Tech Day by inviting regional diesel businesses to the shop. Representatives not only visit with the visiting seniors, but with our Diesel students about opportunities in the industry.
4. Our Second-Annual Weld-Off was a huge success in December! 250+ high schoolers participated in the event that included the welding competition, tours, and industry roundtables. Shout out to our judges & sponsors: Marmen Energy, Miller, A-Ox Welding, GS Trailers and Build Dakota!



5 & 13. Our Agriculture program recently received a grant from Corteva Agriscience for safety equipment. A portion of the funds was used to purchase safety vests. Pictured are a few of our Ag students wearing their new vests! Corteva also awarded a generous grant to our Food Pantry this semester. Thank you, Corteva!

6. Several Lake Area Tech programs and departments, including Cosmetology pictured here, visited with students last semester at the Redfield Career Fair.

7. Lake Area Tech's Sculpture Reveal unveiled "Reach" by Weld Artist Tessa Holien last semester. Tessa is a 2020 LATC Welding graduate. She designed and crafted this spectacular welded creation, erected on campus on the corner of Arrow Ave and 13th St NE.

8. Our Physical Therapist Assistant instructors, Chris and Brenda, along with second-year student Sierra, volunteered last semester at the Senior Games in Watertown. This is a great example of our approximately 100,000 hours of community service/service learning LATC contributes annually.



9. Ag program students hosted seniors in the Ag shop on Senior Tech Day and visited with them about the latest technology in the world of Ag.

10. A big THANK YOU goes out to the 160 businesses who attended our Career Search Expo in October! The expo is an amazing opportunity for our students to network, learn more about businesses in their field, and – possibly – interview for an internship or job!





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- 14. The Lake Area Tech Aviators Club hosted a Fly-In last semester complete with a pancake breakfast! Attendees saw a great variety of aircraft and met students and faculty during the morning event.
- 15. New students arrived early and stayed late during Kick-Off Day 2021! They hit the bookstore, got IDs, listened to comedian Chris James, perused the Street Fair, found classrooms, and enjoyed free walking tacos!
- 16. Lake Area Tech bid farewell to Administrative Assistant Charlene Kruger after 53 years of dedicated service. Thank you for your time and talents as Lake Area Tech's longest tenured employee, Charlene!



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- 11. Our annual 6th Graders at the Farm event at the Lake Area Tech demonstration farm took place last semester. The students learned about ag topics from our ag students including: soil structure, erosion prevention, yield estimation, harvest procedures and animal facts. Special thanks to Valley Queen Cheese for the cheese sticks!
- 12. Many thanks to the CHS team for providing lunch last semester for our Ag and Diesel students. It was a great opportunity for our students to connect with CHS representatives and learn more about the company and its workforce outlook.

**UPDATE YOUR INFO**

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

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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



## STILES CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERS

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program announced that Lake Area Technical College Vice-President Diane Stiles is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2021-22 class of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship, a highly selective leadership program preparing the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

The Rising Presidents Fellows embark on the 10-month fellowship that began in November 2021. Delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, the fellows will be mentored by esteemed current and former community college presidents who have achieved exceptional outcomes for students throughout their careers, and will learn strategies to improve student outcomes in and after college, lead internal change, and create strong external partnerships with K-12 schools, four-year colleges, employers, and other partners.

Lake Area Tech President Mike Cartney said, “The Aspen Institute certainly made an outstanding decision by selecting Diane Stiles to fill the critical leadership shortage in higher education. This will be a great investment in Diane, Lake Area Tech, and this state.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE NEWS SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU](http://WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU).**

## LAKE AREA TECH LAUNCHES ESPORTS & DRONE RACING CLUBS

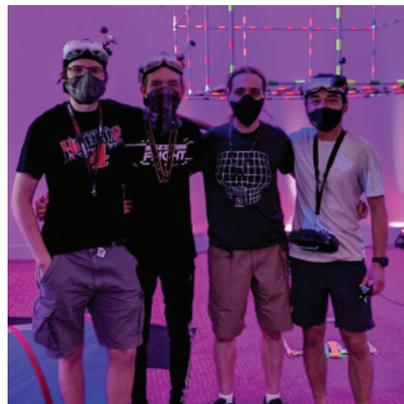
Lake Area Tech is excited to offer our students two new campus clubs: eSports and Drone Racing! Our new arena opened last semester and is located directly across from the Net and the Library and includes the latest in gaming systems and drones for racing.

To ensure our students’ studies are paramount, those wishing to participate must meet eligibility requirements and follow the written Code of Conduct. Students interested in becoming an eSports or Drone Racing team member may stop in the arena during open hours or contact LATC Student Activities Coordinator [megan.reiffenberger@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:megan.reiffenberger@lakeareatech.edu) or eSports/Drone Racing contact [zachary.drees@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:zachary.drees@lakeareatech.edu).

The clubs are not completely new to Lake Area Tech. Last summer, two students representing Lake Area Tech placed in both team and individual competitions at the Inaugural Collegiate Drone Sports at the Mall of America in Minneapolis. The drone team included Hunter Jensen a.k.a. “Jensen8333”, a Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot student from Brookings, SD, and Ethan Ingram a.k.a. “Stitches”, a Robotics student from Mountain Home, Idaho.

Jensen and Ingram both earned top honors in the Combined Team Champion competition as their team “The Empire” finished first. They were joined on the team by drone pilot representatives from Apple Valley High School, MN; Tiny Turbines, Twin Cities, MN; and Alabama School of Cyber Technology & Engineering, Huntsville, AL.

The eSports Arena is sponsored by Würth Electronics Midcom and Invenergy Services.



Left: LATC Drone Team pilots Hunter Jensen (far left) and Ethan Ingram (far right) pose with members of The Empire drone racing team that captured top honors at the Collegiate Drone Sports Championship held this summer.



Right: The LATC eSports and Drone Racing arena opened last semester across from the Net and includes the latest in gaming and drone equipment.



# NEW PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES LAUNCH AT LAKE AREA TECH

It's been a whirlwind of activity at Lake Area Tech with the implementation of five new program opportunities.

The Precision Machining program at the Women's Prison in Pierre is a pilot collaboration between the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Lake Area Tech, and the Women's Prison. Currently, 10 inmates are enrolled in the Precision Machining program, which began in January 2022. Upon completion of the one-semester program, participants will earn a certificate and will be eligible to continue on to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Precision Machining.

The Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot program's Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot option will prepare graduates to pursue careers operating large unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly referred to as drones, beyond the visual line of sight and in controlled air spaces. The program option has been designated an Unmanned Aircraft Systems-Collegiate Training Initiative program by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Registered Nursing full-time online option begins Fall 2022. The e-degree hybrid RN program is offered in the fall semester each year. Upon completion of this program, graduates are eligible to take the NLCEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses) The program lasts 11 months over two semesters and one summer and builds on the student's LPN degree.

Another nursing opportunity began in January 2022 with the start of a Practical Nursing part-time on-campus program. The new opportunity provides on-campus students the same hands-on and classroom experiences, on a part-time basis to better fit home and family obligations. The program begins in the spring semester each year and runs 22 months.

The Electric Vehicle Automotive Technology option for Automotive graduates is now being offered. Graduates of an ASE Education Foundation Master Level accredited automotive technician program may enroll in the new one-year Electric Vehicle option that begins Fall 2022. Upon completion of this option, graduates will be able to develop diagnosis and repair procedures for electric and hybrid vehicles; demonstrate electric vehicle and hybrid safety and service procedures; describe electric vehicle and hybrid batteries and service as well as electric vehicle and hybrid electric motors, generators, and controls; and describe regenerative braking systems as well as electric vehicle and hybrid powertrains and power steering.

While not a program or option, the new Trap and Skeet Club joins Drone Racing and eSports as the newest club offering for Lake Area Tech students. Students interested in learning more about the new club or other clubs may visit with Student Activities Coordinator Megan Reiffenberger in the Net or by emailing her at [megan.reiffenberger@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:megan.reiffenberger@lakeareatech.edu).

## STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT – THE “PANDEMIC PAUSE” CONTINUES

If you are an alum who is in repayment on your federal student loans, you should be aware that originally the “pandemic pause,” (where the interest rate was set to 0% and payments were waived until September 30, 2021), was extended...and extended again.

On December 22, 2021, President Biden announced while the job recovery in our country is strong, the Administration feels that millions of student loan borrowers are still coping with the pandemic and need more time before resuming repayment. Thus, it has been granted another 90-day extension until May 1, 2022.

Between now and May, please make sure you are in contact with your Department of Education loan servicer. Those loan servicers will also be reaching out to borrowers in the next few months. For many borrowers, if you previously had your payments set up via ACH, that agreement has expired and you will need to complete a new ACH agreement.

Since the pandemic started in March 2020, many of you have graduated and have never been in repayment. Please make sure you know who your loan servicer is and respond to any correspondence they send to you that needs your action, such as setting up ACH if you want to have your payments automatically withdrawn from a bank account.

As always, the LATC Financial Aid Office staff is available if you have questions about who your loan servicer is or you need the servicer's contact information. We want to make sure you are prepared for repayment!



## 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
- Electric Vehicle Option

### 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 Top Tech
- Diesel Technology John Deere Option

### ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

- Biomedical Technician Option

### ENERGY OPERATIONS

### ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

### ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Agri-Financial Services Option
- Business Accounting Option
- Consumer Financial Services Option

### HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

### 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 – CERTIFIED

### MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

### NURSING – LPN

### NURSING – RN

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

### PRECISION MACHINING

### ROBOTICS

- Biomedical Technician Option

### 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

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

### LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

### MED/FIRE RESCUE

- Emergency Medical Technician – Cert Only
- Paramedic Option

### MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

### PRACTICAL NURSING

### PRECISION MACHINING

### REGISTERED NURSING – FALL '22

### ROBOTICS

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