

ALUMNI & FRIENDS



LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



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SANDERSON NAMED LAKE AREA TECH'S NEW PRESIDENT

On January 1, 2023, Tiffany Sanderson began her tenure as the sixth President of Lake Area Technical College. During her first semester, her objective was to gain extensive knowledge about the programs offered at Lake Area Tech and connect with the partners who advise and support the college.

"It's an honor to be part of the Lake Area Tech team; I'm excited for the opportunities ahead of us," says Sanderson. Campus is expanding to accommodate our student body; two new programs will kick off this fall in Surgical Technology and with ButlerMAX ag diesel; and we're honing in on the ways we support and educate students to ensure more skilled scholars enter South Dakota's workforce."

Since taking the reins as president, South Dakota's public college system was named the best in the country for return on investment for students. President Sanderson continues, "Graduates of Lake Area Tech realize an incredible value. That positions them to strengthen their families, employers, and communities very early in their careers."

The average Lake Area Tech College graduate in 2022 earned enough in their first job after college to earn back the cost of their college degree in just 14 months. Seventeen percent of 2023 graduates had full-ride scholarships and no debt following college.

Sanderson previously served as the South Dakota Secretary of Education. Her career has focused on education and workforce development in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Notably, she led South Dakota's technical college system as Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and helped develop important efforts like the Build Dakota Scholarship, the state's reduced tuition dual credit program, and funding for technical colleges and regional CTE facilities.

Sanderson grew up on a ranch and graduated from Lemmon High School in 1998. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education from South Dakota State University and Master's degree in Administration: Human Resource Management from the University of South Dakota. Sanderson and her husband Nathan have a 15-year-old son, Carter.

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

JESSI.EIDSON@LAKEAREATECH.EDU



WIRTJES NAMED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ALLY OF THE YEAR

Heidi Wirtjes, Business Partner Specialist at Lake Area Technical College, has been named the Community Health Worker Ally of the Year. The award was presented at the second annual Community Health Worker South Dakota (CHWSD) conference held in Sioux Falls. The CHW Ally of the Year award is presented to a tireless supporter of the Community Health Worker field and plays a key role in growing, developing, and sustaining the CHW workforce in South Dakota.

Lake Area Tech Community Health Worker Program Supervisor Kelly Heesch submitted the nomination and said, "Heidi was the first Community Health Worker instructor in the state of South Dakota. In addition to her role as Lake Area Tech's Business Partner Specialist, Heidi meets regularly with healthcare and social service organizations promoting the Community Health Worker role across our state. Heidi is actively involved in educating these and other organizations about the important role of CHWs, as well as the cost savings realized by organizations that employ CHWs."

Heidi sought the guidance of CHWSD to establish a solid foundation for the Community Health Worker program at Lake Area Tech. CHWSD Community Outreach Coordinator Ben Tiensvold remarked, "Heidi is such an asset to the CHW workforce in South Dakota through her years of working. She has worked tirelessly to get the LATC CHW training program to where it is today, and, in doing so, has significantly impacted the workforce for years to come. We are so fortunate to have such a developed CHW training program available in South Dakota."

Lake Area Tech offers an online Community Health Worker certificate program. Heesch went on to say, "Heidi adapted and revised LATC's CHW associate degree program to meet the needs of the SD Disparities Grant, creating the first CHW one-semester online curriculum for students across our state."

To learn more about the online Community Health Worker certificate program at Lake Area Tech, please visit www.lakeareatech.edu.



PROGRESS UPDATE

The amount of progress happening on campus is exciting! Read on for the latest updates on the Diesel Expansion and Archway projects. Keep up with our monthly progress updates on our website at www.lakeareatech.edu.

DIESEL EXPANSION UPDATES

- All shop floors have been poured.
- 75% of the electric and plumbing work is finished in the shop area.
- Work continues on the overhead bridge crane system.
- The wash bay floors are poured. Classrooms are next.
- The shop space will be open for the fall semester.

ARCHWAY COMPLEX/DANA J. DYKHOUSE BUSINESS CENTER OF LEARNING/ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CENTER UPDATES

- North Side: Upper floors are poured and exterior framing has begun.
- Underground plumbing is nearly complete.
- Brickwork will begin later this month.
- South Side: Interior structure steel is being set.
- Renovation work in the existing building is nearly complete.
- Site work will begin in early July.

SPRING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED AT LUNCHEON

Nine Lake Area Technical College students were honored as Foundation scholarship recipients at a luncheon held at Lake Area Tech in May. Scholarship winners include Casey Assman, Colome, SD (Diesel Technology) \$1000 Carl Tesch Most Improved Scholarship; Benjamin Byer, Watertown, SD (Financial Services) \$1,000 Aspen Institute Scholarship; Josh Cordell, Watertown, SD (Diesel Technology) \$1,500 Dennis Tesch Memorial Scholarship; Jaren Hartman, Lennox, SD (Heavy Equipment Operator) \$1,000 President Obama Inspirational Scholarship; Carly Heuer, South Shore, SD (Registered Nursing) \$1,000 Mary Tesch Memorial Scholarship; Joshua Hoffman, Leola, SD (Financial Services) \$1,000 Don Lindal Outstanding Student Scholarship; Journey Green, Wilmot, SD (Human Services Academic) \$1,000 President Obama Inspirational Scholarship; Sam Mahowald, Watertown, SD (Business) \$1,000 Dorothy Tesch Memorial Scholarship; and Elsa West, Hayti, SD (Practical Nursing) \$1,000 Mary Tesch Memorial Scholarship.

LAKE AREA TECH BIDS FARWELL TO PRESIDENT MIKE CARTNEY

Lake Area Tech held a retirement celebration to honor President Emeritus Mike Cartney in December. Mike began his career at Lake Area Tech in 2007 as Vice President then assumed the presidency in 2014. The retirement reception was well-attended by staff, friends, and family, and was a fitting tribute to his 15 years of dedicated service to Lake Area Technical College. Remarks by dignitaries were delivered, a proclamation declaring "Mike Cartney Day in South Dakota," was read, and gifts were presented to him before he concluded with his closing remarks.

As the reception card said, "May you be proud of the work you have done, the person you are, and the difference you have made!" Mike, your remarkable dedication to the students, faculty, and staff at Lake Area Technical College during your tenure is greatly appreciated. Thank you for everything!



LATC WELCOMES JESSI EIDSON

Jessi joined the Lake Area Tech Foundation team in April 2023 as the Foundation Development and Alumni Coordinator. Jessi's experience includes working in banking and healthcare industries.

Lake Area Technical College 2023 Retirees

Greg Klein <small>Aviation Dept. Supervisor 28 Years of Service</small>	Mike Lee <small>Diesel Technology Instructor 10 Years of Service</small>	Kelly McDaniel <small>Agriculture/Econ Instructor 17 Years of Service</small>
Laurie Malimanek <small>Admissions Administrative Assistant 20 Years of Service</small>	Marlene Seeklander <small>Financial Aid Director 16 Years of Service</small>	LuAnn Strait <small>Director of Student Services, Marketing & Public Relations 35.5 Years of Service</small>

Thank you for 126.5 years of combined service to
 Lake Area Technical College! Your contributions will be
 missed by all whose lives you've touched.
 Congratulations on your retirements!



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/



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FESTIVAL OF TREES SETS RECORD



On Friday, November 18, 2022, the 23rd Annual Holiday Festival of Trees was held here at Lake Area Tech with approximately 380 individuals in attendance. It was the Foundation's most successful Festival of Trees yet! On behalf of the Lake Area Technical College Foundation, we extend a sincere thank you to the countless people involved in helping make our event a success. It was a great pleasure to have numerous alumni and friends back on our campus this year, celebrating the seventh consecutive year of organizing the event on campus.

The Festival of Trees creates an opportunity that allows 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 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 2022 Festival of Trees. We appreciate your partnership in our students' success. We hope you will join us for the Festival of Trees this year on Friday, November 17, 2023, at Lake Area Tech.



SAVE THE DATES

**AUG
21**

**FALL
SEMESTER**

**SEPT
5**

**SCHOLARSHIP
APP. CYCLE**

**NOV
17**

**FESTIVAL
OF TREES**

**MAY
10**

**GRADUATION
DAY**





LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATES LARGEST CLASS EVER

Lake Area Technical College held its 56th Annual Graduation Ceremony on Friday, May 12 at the Civic Arena in Watertown, SD. The Class of 2023 marks the largest graduating class in school history with 926 students completing their certificates, diplomas, or degrees in 31 programs of study.

Dana Dykhouse, CEO of First PREMIER Bank and Chair of the South Dakota Board of Technical Education, delivered the commencement address to a full house of nearly 5000 family members, guests, and graduates. His message highlighted admiration of the graduates' accomplishments and words of encouragement for their future.

This year, Lake Area Tech College 2023 graduates represented five countries and U.S. territories, 12 different states, and 185 South Dakota communities.

During the ceremony, Lake Area Technical College retired Presidents Deb Shephard and Mike Cartney were recognized for their prior work at the college and were granted President Emeritus status.

Six retirees were also recognized for their service to the college including: Greg Klein, Aviation Faculty and Department Supervisor; Mike Lee, Diesel Technology Faculty; Laurie Malimanek, Admissions Administrative Assistant; Kelly McDaniel, General Education and Agriculture Faculty; Marlene Seeklander, Director of Financial Aid; and LuAnn Strait, Director of Student Services, Marketing and Public Relations.

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE HITS RECORD ENROLLMENT IN 2022-23

With summer session underway, final enrollment for the 2022-23 academic year at Lake Area Technical College (LATC) is in and a new record has been set. With 618 students taking classes over the summer, Lake Area Tech ends the year with a total of 2,655 students, the largest number enrolled in the college's history.

Since 2007, LATC has experienced noteworthy growth, challenging national trends of decreasing enrollments in higher education. The progress is a continued result of focus on the college's mission of changing lives, launching careers, and delivering a strong return on investment for students and employers.

"Our college's approach is designed to help both our students and industry partners win," comments LATC President Tiffany Sanderson. "Students don't come to Lake Area Tech just to graduate. They seek out our programs to both graduate and to launch into great careers."

With continued student body growth, Lake Area Tech's current campus expansion will address needs for additional labs and classrooms. The Diesel Technology addition is scheduled to open this fall. The Dana J. Dykhouse Business Center of Learning and the Advanced Manufacturing Center will open in the fall of 2024.

The average LATC graduate in 2022 earned enough in their first job after college to earn back the cost of their college degree in just 14 months. Seventeen percent of 2023 graduates had full-ride scholarships and no debt following college.

"Graduates of Lake Area Tech realize an incredible value," Sanderson continues. "That positions them to strengthen their families, employers, and communities very early in their careers."



Monica Feuerstein, Taya Kyle (Keynote Speaker) and Lew Feuerstein from a Feuerstein Series Event in 2018.

FEUERSTEIN SERIES TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE FOUNDER'S PASSING

Lake Area Technical College created the Feuerstein Leadership Seminar Series to bring inspiring speakers to campus who spark personal growth in individuals. In 2000, Lew Feuerstein, along with family, friends and local business leaders, created the Feuerstein Leadership Series in loving memory of his wife, businesswoman and educator, Dee Feuerstein.

On September 23, 2006, Lew married Monica Kwasniewski. They, along with their family and Lake Area Technical College, carried on the Feuerstein Leadership Seminar Series tradition. Prairie Lakes Healthcare Foundation joined as a co-sponsor in 2015.

We were saddened by Lew's passing on Thursday, April 6, 2023. Lake Area Technical College, Prairie Lakes Healthcare Foundation, and the Feuerstein Family plan to continue the tradition of the Feuerstein Leadership Seminar Series in the coming months.



HAPPENINGS

1. During our Week of Welcome for Lake Area Tech President Sanderson, an ambitious group of runners and walkers participated in our inaugural President's Run/Walk throughout the hallways of LATC. The registration 'fee' was a non-perishable food item for our Food Pantry, which was generously restocked thanks to the many donations we received!

2. We hosted an outstanding group of high school seniors on Senior Tech Day who toured their program of choice, got in on some hands-on projects, and learned all about becoming a Lake Area Tech student!

3. Our Ag program had a booth at the Watertown Winter Farm Show this year. Visitors to the booth got to spin the wheel, test their ag knowledge, and learn some pretty cool facts from our students.

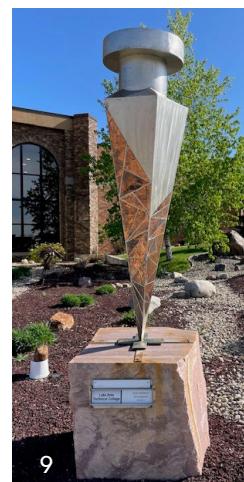
4. We had a great turnout at our Student for Half a Day event! Thank you to all of the community members who participated and learned something new in their program of choice.

5. Nearly 160 Diesel Tech students and faculty had the opportunity to permanently embed their signatures on the final bar joist to be placed in the new addition of the Diesel Technology shop. The shop, which is scheduled for completion Fall of 2023, will provide needed additional space for equipment, training aids, and students. The diesel tech expansion is made possible through the generous contributions of our amazing industry partners.

6. Second-year students in the Custom Paint & Fab program honed their skills on this stage prop for the Premiere Playhouse in Sioux Falls for its production of Grease.

7. More than 250 high school students from the region participated in our third-annual Weld-Off which included a welding competition, a written test, industry speakers, lunch, and awards. Special thank you to our sponsors: Marmen Energy, A-Ox Welding Supply/ Purity Plus Specialty Gases, Miller, and GS Trailers; and also a big thank you to our contest assistants: GMAW Short Circuit Transfer, Marmen Energy CWIs for judging; and to the LATC Welding Students.

8. We thank all of the vendors who participated in our Mini Health Career Fair at Lake Area Tech this semester! This is an excellent opportunity for our students in health programs to connect with healthcare facilities and learn about their opportunities.





9. Take a look at the new sculpture installed at Lake Area Tech! "Point of Reference" was created by Tim Jorgensen and is one of a variety of new sculptures installed in Watertown by the Watertown Community Foundation for the Sculpture Walk.

10. Thank you to Governor Kristi Noem and everyone who attended the annual Governor's Luncheon fundraiser benefiting student scholarships! Your support of our students' success is greatly appreciated.

11. Thank you to all of the business and industry members who attended the Lake Area Tech Career Expo this year and connected with our students. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to meet potential employers and for employers to meet potential employees!

12. Lake Area Tech Robotics students showcase their skills at the annual two-day Robot Games competition. Area students in grades 6 and up were invited to attend and learn all about the exciting world of robotics!

13. SD, MN, ND, and Guam Air National Guard members completed two weeks of training at Lake Area Tech this spring. Through our Corporate Ed division, the airmen and women received Diesel Hydraulics and Emissions instruction that included classroom theory and hands-on training led by LATC Diesel Tech instructors.

14. We had a full house on hand this semester to celebrate the Grand Reopening of our GED® program at Lake Area Tech!

15. There was a large crowd of scholarship recipients and donors at the Spring Scholarship Luncheon! The annual event provides an opportunity for our student scholarship recipients to meet in person with their donors. We thank all of the scholarship donors who support student success here at Lake Area Tech.

16. Custom Paint & Fab students and faculty program held their annual Show & Shine Car Show in May. All proceeds from the event are donated to a local cause. This year's recipient, which is voted on by students, was the Glacial Lakes Humane Society and Shelter. The event raised \$400 for the shelter!

17. Our Aviation Maintenance Technology program students and staff hosted the 12th Annual Lake Area Tech Corporate Aviation event that promotes the aviation maintenance industry as an exciting and rewarding STEM-related field!

18. Native American students' achievements were honored during graduation week at a celebration for Lake Area Tech and Watertown High School graduates.

19. LATC Law Enforcement and Med/Fire Rescue students rolled up their sleeves this spring to help the City of Watertown. They assisted in filling 2,000 sandbags in only a couple of hours to protect critical infrastructure against the rising flood waters.

20. Thank you to the Watertown community for the overwhelming attendance at our Chamber After 4 Meet and Greet with our new President Tiffany Sanderson!



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ASHLEY WIEKAMP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Ashley Wiekamp Memorial Scholarship fund was established in November 2022 by Willard & Jean Wiekamp. Ashley passed away Wednesday, September 21, 2022. She grew up on the Wiekamp family farm near Bemis, SD, and attended Castlewood School through 7th grade, then open enrolled at Watertown High School, graduating in 2009. Ashley earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Animal/Plant Science Education from South Dakota State University in December 2014; and went on to teach at Northeast Technical High School. She had a vibrant smile and bright blue eyes with a sassy personality that lit up the room.

Ashely's scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a Lake Area Technical College Agriculture program to a student residing in Codington, Deuel or Hamlin counties. Students involved in FFA or who attended Northeast Technical High School will receive special consideration.

Ashley is dearly missed by her family and friends. Those wishing to contribute to the Ashley Wiekamp Memorial Scholarship may send contributions to the Lake Area Tech Foundation at P.O. Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201.

Alumni Spotlight

Julie Kneeland

Q. Name / Hometown / Location Today?

A. Julie (Ellingson) Kneeland originally from Sisseton, SD, but currently residing in Watertown, SD

Q. Program of Study / Year of Graduation

A. Agri-Business 1999

Q. What memories of your time at Lake Area Tech stand out?

A. The staff and teachers were AMAZING!! Our class had great relationships with our teachers - especially Jim Clendenin, Myron Johnson and Larry Kohlhoff! I am still in contact with all of them. Along with numerous classmates! I do regret not getting more involved with the clubs and activities that were offered. 1997-1999 were two of the greatest years of my life! I am

just AMAZED at what this school has accomplished and continues to do!

Q. Where are you employed today?

A. After graduation, I worked at the Watertown Co-op Elevator before accepting a position in the Accounting Department at Hesco, Inc. I married Tony Kneeland who is a LATC alumni of the Building Trades program. After 5 years, I took a job at Angus Palm in their Cost Estimating Department. After 5 years there, I chose to stay at home with our three sons and do paperwork for our business, Kneeland Construction. After 8 years of helping Tony, I was offered a part-time position as the Executive Officer of the Watertown Area Home Builders Association where I am currently employed. Tony and I were given a great opportunity in 2019 and purchased Glass Products. We are both PROUD alumni and supporters of LATC!! I am humbled to have been asked to serve as the 2022-2023 President of the Alumni Association Board. I was very honored to have inducted the Class of 2023 into our Alumni Association - the largest graduating class ever! Keep doing phenomenal things, LATC!!

If I am not working or not on the sidelines of one of our sons' games (softball, football or basketball), I enjoy attending live music - especially country concerts.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE OUR NEXT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT?

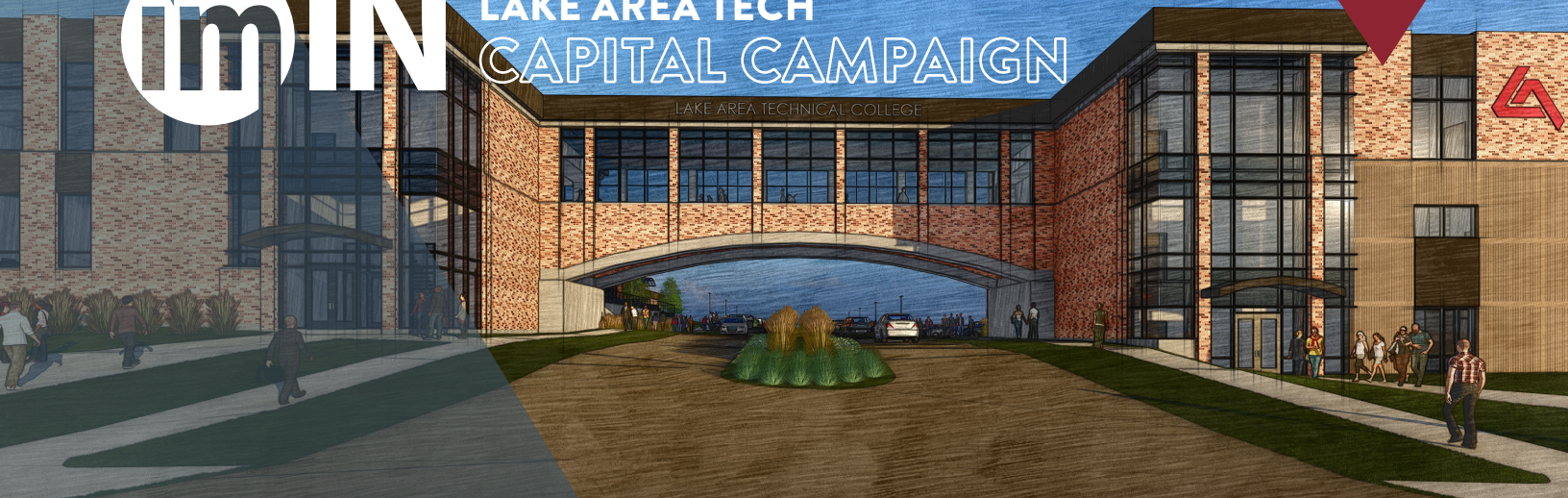
Contact Jessi at jessi.eidson@lakeareatech.edu to ask how!





LAKE AREA TECH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



For more information visit
www.lakeareatech.edu
click the I'm IN logo.



WE'RE IN ARE YOU?

The I'm IN \$50M Capital Campaign will unify the Lake Area Tech workforce community by bringing students, faculty and programs together that will allow for state-of-the-art, workforce focused training, collaboration and development, and will amplify Lake Area Tech's position as a national leader in technical education and workforce development. We plan to accomplish this without placing any financial burdens on our students through bonding.

There is no better time than now to say, "I'm IN", to help grow Lake Area Tech!



Please accept
my gift of:

- ☐ \$250
- ☐ \$500
- ☐ \$1,000
- ☐ \$2,000
- ☐ \$5,000
- ☐ \$10,000
- ☐ \$25,000
- ☐ Other
\$ _____

MY GIFT.
Check all that apply.

- ☐ is a one-time gift and enclosed in full.
- ☐ is an annual commitment for the
next _____ year(s).
- ☐ is pledged over _____ year(s) and
the first commitment is enclosed.
- ☐ will be given in installments as noted.

☐ I would like to make my contribution online:
www.lakeareatech.edu/foundation/make-a-gift/
(Please reference: I'm IN)

\$ _____ ☐ Yes, I will make a pledge online.

☐ Please bill me.

☐ Once ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

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\$ _____

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LAKE AREA TECH GRANTED \$3.5 MILLION NIST AWARD

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) granted a \$3,561,000 cooperative agreement award to Lake Area Technical College (LATC) to operate South Dakota's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center. The MEP Center, known as South Dakota Manufacturing and Technology Solutions (MTS), provides manufacturers with resources and services dedicated to helping them prosper and grow by reducing costs, increasing revenue, developing their workforce, and optimizing for automation. LATC assumed oversight of MTS on January 1, 2023.

LATC and MTS have a long-standing relationship focused on serving South Dakota manufacturers' needs for skilled employees, particularly the synergism the organizations have in helping industry with new technologies like collaborative robots for automation and 3D metal printing.

A majority of South Dakota's manufacturers have less than 100 employees and 52% have less than 10 employees. According to the South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation, the state's manufacturing industry is expected to grow by 8% by 2030. Many of LATC's programs, including Business, Computer Information Systems, Custom Paint & Fabrication, Electronic Systems Technology, Energy, Precision Machining, Robotics, and Welding Technology complement nearly every aspect of manufacturing. More than 43,000 South Dakotans are employed in manufacturing businesses across the state.

MTS began in September 2010 with key support from the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development. The state's first cooperative agreement from NIST was awarded in 2013. MTS has offices in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Watertown, and provides group training events, one-on-one business consulting, and an annual manufacturing summit.



LAKE AREA TECH EARNS 2023-24 MILITARY FRIENDLY® SCHOOL DESIGNATION

Lake Area Technical College recently earned the 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School Gold-Level designation. Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2023-2024 survey with 665 earning special awards for going above the standard.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtor with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer), and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"We are committed to providing our student veterans a seamless transition from military to civilian life to life as a successful student," Lake Area Tech President Tiffany Sanderson said. "Earning the Gold-Level Military Friendly® School award is a reflection of the efforts our entire services staff put forth every day and is a noble honor for our college."

This is the 13th year Lake Area Tech has received the Military Friendly® School award and the seventh time it has received added-level status.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LAKE AREA TECH'S STUDENT VETERAN SERVICES, VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU/](https://www.lakeareatech.edu/).



ALUMNI & FRIENDS CAMPAIGN Please Tell Us About Yourself.

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City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Cell: _____

☐ I prefer to receive a receipt with each pledge payment or

☐ I prefer to receive one year-end receipt for all of my giving.

The Lake Area Technical College Foundation is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Investments in the I'm IN Capital Campaign may be deductible as a charitable contribution. Please consult your tax advisor for deductibility of your investment.

Please recognize my gift in the following manner:

☐ Given by _____

☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of _____

☐ Anonymous _____

THANK YOU!



Your gift will make an immediate impact on our students.

If you have already pledged your support, please accept our sincere thanks. We ask you to share this pledge card with a friend, family member, fellow alumni, or other current or future friend of Lake Area Technical College.

Please complete both sides of the card.

☐ I would like to receive the Alumni & Friends Newsletter.

BEYOND VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT WAIVER AWARDED TO THE LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM

Lake Area Technical College (LATC) has been awarded the Federal Aviation Administration Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Waiver allowing their Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Pilot program and embedded program drone technology to advance to the next level of drone operation. The college is the only post-high education system in South Dakota to have acquired the waiver which will enable the students and faculty to conduct complex drone operations and facilitate drones to fly without human interference.

LATC President Tiffany Sanderson commented, "It's an honor for Lake Area Tech to receive the FAA's approval for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone flight. Our students in programs across campus are now able to learn to fly commercial, fixed-wing drones for applications in many industries."

LATC sought the BVLOS waiver with a goal of producing drone program graduates that have the unique experience of flying long-range missions atypical of small drones. The education is based mainly in a manned commercial pilot core curriculum and drone course electives. This waiver introduces an opportunity for students to perform both manned aircraft operations over a drone range and perform drone operations over the same range, from the ground.

Approval of this waiver allows LATC the ability to integrate drone operations into the Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot, Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot, and other drone technology-embedded programs. The skill sets and concepts developed with the BVLOS hands-on experience will be uniquely valuable for graduates and the drone industry. President Sanderson continued, "Students will learn mapping techniques, remote sensing methods, aerial imaging, and more for application in fields like construction, agriculture, public safety, and energy."

This BVLOS waiver presents opportunities for LATC students to be actively engaged with companies that develop drone equipment and software, and data collection along with internships and employment opportunities by immersing them in a highly advanced, real-world experience that has a direct influence on the FAA's goal of safe integration of UAS into the national airspace system.



STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT – THE “PANDEMIC PAUSE”

ANOTHER EXTENSION AND PAYMENT RESUMPTION ON THE HORIZON

It's been an ongoing story. On October 14, 2022, the Department of Education launched a website allowing qualified borrowers to apply for student loan debt relief. Less than a month later, it was removed as a result of a November 14th federal appeals court decision to block President Biden's debt forgiveness plan.

On November 22nd, the Department of Education announced an extension of the payment pause. A second notice on studentaid.gov reads, "*The student loan payment pause is extended until the U.S. Department of Education is permitted to implement the debt relief program or the litigation is resolved. Payments will restart 60 days later. If the debt relief program has not been implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, 2023 – payments will resume 60 days after that. We will notify borrowers before payments restart.*"

Over the recent Memorial Day weekend, President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy agreed to a proposal regarding the debt ceiling. This proposed bill text contains a provision that would codify President Biden's planned resumption of the student loan repayments by sunseting the payment pause and interest accrual 60 days after June 30, 2023.

If you need to repay a federal student loan, be proactive! With June 30th just around the corner, you need to periodically check studentaid.gov for updates. Also, make sure that you are receiving communications from your federal loan servicer as they will also provide updates once a repayment date is established.

Marlene Seeklander, LATC Director of Financial Aid, stated, "We want to make sure that all of our student loan borrowers have an uneventful transition to repayment. If you don't know who your federal loan servicer is, please contact our office and we can assist you in finding that information." The LATC Financial Aid Office can be reached at 605.882.5284 or 800.657.4344 or by email at financialaid@lakeareatech.edu.

Disclaimer: This article was written as of May 30, 2023 and this is an evolving situation. To find the most up-to-date information, please check out studentaid.gov for updates.



LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Alumni Association
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P.O. Box 730
Watertown, SD 57201-0730

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- Commodity Merchandising Option
- Dairy Option
- General Agriculture - Dual Degree
- Livestock Production & Management Option
- Precision Technology Option

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Diesel Technology Option
- Electric Vehicle Option
- Light Duty Diesel Option

AVIATION-AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

- Certified Flight Instructor Option
- Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot/Technician Option

BUILDING TRADES TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS

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

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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

COSMETOLOGY

CUSTOM PAINT & FABRICATION

DENTAL ASSISTING – CERTIFIED

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY

- Ag/Industrial Tractor or Truck Option
- Butler Max Option
- CAT ThinkBIG Option
- CNH Top Tech Option
- Light Duty Diesel Certificate Option
- Techknowledge 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

- Law Enforcement Academy

MED/FIRE RESCUE

- Emergency Medical Specialist Option
- Paramedic Option

MEDICAL ASSISTING

MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

NURSING – PRACTICAL NURSING

NURSING – REGISTERED NURSING

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

PRECISION MACHINING

ROBOTICS

- Biomedical Technician Option

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

WELDING TECHNOLOGY

E-DEGREES

(Online Hybrid Programs)

AGRICULTURE

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

BUSINESS

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

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER – CERTIFICATE

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Graphic Design and Digital Communications Specialist Option
- Networking & Cybersecurity Specialist Option
- Programming Specialist Option

DENTAL ASSISTING – CERTIFIED

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT VIRTUAL ACADEMY

MED/FIRE RESCUE

- Emergency Medical Technician – Certificate
- Paramedic Option

MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

PRACTICAL NURSING

PRECISION MACHINING

REGISTERED NURSING

ROBOTICS

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