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Lake Area Technical Institute Receives National Recognition for Community Service *Named to President's Honor Roll - With Distinction*

Watertown, SD For the second time, Lake Area Technical Institute has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Lake Area Tech was the only college in South Dakota to receive the 2009 Honor Roll of Distinction Award.

The Honor Roll honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. The service learning projects conducted by Lake Area Tech were numerous but included: assisting with influenza vaccination clinics, phlebotomy clinics for senior citizens, a raffle to assist a student who had expenses from a battle with cancer, water quality testing, assisting with Senior Olympics, Honor our Troops Event, road ditch cleanup, Joy Ranch projects, free income tax prep for low income and elderly, grade school farm day, surveying the dog park, dental screenings for grade school children, orphanage shoe drive, and many others. It was estimated that Lake Area Tech staff and students spent 27,500 hours in service learning projects in 08-09.

President Deb Shephard reflects, "This is an outstanding body of work and an excellent way to teach our students the importance of giving back. The students are learning to live responsibly and are sharing those qualities with those less fortunate, making them highly valued citizens in our world today. The staff and students are deserving of this award and I am very proud of all of them."

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognizes colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms., law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

"Congratulations to Lake Area Technical Institute and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service."

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The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more five million Americans in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, *United We Serve*. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.