

ALUMNI & FRIENDS



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LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE NAMES SCOTT CARBONNEAU DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES

Watertown alumnus Scott Carbonneau returned to serve as the next Dean of Student Services at Lake Area Technical College on April 1, 2024, succeeding long-serving Student Services Director LuAnn Strait, who worked full-time at Lake Area Tech from 1987 to 2023.

"For as long as I can remember, Lake Area Tech has held a special place in my heart," Carbonneau said. "My father joined Lake Area Vocational Technical Institute in 1970 and I am incredibly honored to follow in his footsteps more than 50 years later. I'm also excited to give back to the community where I grew up and reconnect with friends and colleagues."

Carbonneau leads the team at Lake Area Tech that supports students in non-academic capacities including recruitment, admissions, enrollment services, financial aid, resources for student success, campus life activities, and career services.

"Scott is driven to see students realize their aspirations and Lake Area Technical College thrive," said President Tiffany Sanderson. "His experience and creativity

will help LATC advance our mission as the nation's premier technical college."

Carbonneau had been the Vice President of Integrated Marketing at First PREMIER Bank since 2018. He brings more than 30 years of professional experience in community development, program management, communications, and marketing to Lake Area Technical College. Scott has been active in Junior Achievement and Kiwanis International. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University, the American Banking Association's School of Marketing and Management, and Leadership South Dakota.

"The staff and faculty at Lake Area Tech are truly amazing," Carbonneau said. "They have consistently made transformational advancements in education, while always providing the highest level of service to their students and industry partners."

Scott and his wife, Laura, have three children and one grandchild. Outside of work, Carbonneau enjoys traveling, golfing, and attending his children's activities.

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BOULDER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Lake Area Technical College Foundation & Alumni Association hosted the Boulder Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 15, at Prairie Winds Golf Course in Watertown. The annual event is a “friend and fund” raising event designed to provide student scholarship support at Lake Area Tech. Just over 90% of Lake Area Tech students receive financial aid, including foundation scholarships.

The tournament is a two-person team Stroke Play - Tin Whistle Scoring with refreshments and pin prizes that followed the event. Thank you to our event sponsors and teams that participated!

BOULDER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS:

NET WINNERS:

1. Bruce Fish & Amy Nawroth
2. Ryan Yost & Josh Claymore
3. Jason Goette & Ben Jackson

GROSS WINNERS:

1. Justin Johnson & Josh Hanson
2. Taylor Rymerson & Tanner Siegling
3. Jaxon Engstrom & Drew Norberg



LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY HELD MAY 10

Lake Area Technical College held its 57th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 10, at the Civic Arena in Watertown, SD. The class of 2024 included 806 graduates completing their certificates, diplomas, or degrees in 31 programs of study.

South Dakota State Representative Will Mortenson delivered the commencement address to a full house of nearly 5,000 family members, guests, and graduates. In his message, he congratulated the graduates on reaching this milestone and encouraged them to go out and be builders and makers in their pursuit of the American Dream.

This year, Lake Area Tech College 2024 graduates represented 57 South Dakota counties, 15 states, and three countries. Amongst the graduates, 17 were veterans and 76 were from military-connected families. They were part of a cohort that completed 103,977 community service and service learning hours and 75% were employed while attending school.

During the ceremony, Lake Area Technical College recognized five retirees: Chris Barrett, Physical Therapist Assistant program instructor and supervisor; Randy Carl, Building Trades Technology instructor; Kris Lindahl, Medical Assisting instructor and supervisor; Gary Mudder, Precision Machining instructor; and Marie Palluck, Business instructor. Together they dedicated 101 years of service to Lake Area Technical College.

Lake Area Technical College 2024 Retirees

 Chris Barrett Physical Therapist Assistant Department Supervisor 28 Years of Service	 Randy Carl Building Trades Technology Instructor 17 Years of Service	 Kris Lindahl Medical Assisting Department Supervisor 29 Years of Service
 Gary Mudder Precision Machining Instructor 10 Years of Service	 Marie Palluck Business Program Instructor 17 Years of Service	

Thank you for 101 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!

WELCOME BACK BRITTANY ROST



Brittany re-joined the Lake Area Tech Foundation team in March 2024 as the Scholarship Coordinator. Brittany's experience includes working with non-profits, banking and lending. Brittany was previously employed in the Foundation Office from 2016-2020.





NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Campus buzzed with excitement during New Student Orientation Week in June! More than 600 new students, plus their families, spent time familiarizing themselves with our campus, learning about student resources, and visiting their programs of choice. Orientation is held in half-day increments over three days and is designed to welcome and integrate new students into college life at Lake Area Tech.

President Tiffany Sanderson welcomed students at the beginning of each session after which they spent time in their programs meeting faculty and absorbing great program information. Parents and significant others were also there to learn as they had the opportunity to hear from campus leaders who talked about a variety of student services and other important resources available to our students.

Following the general session and program tour, students spent the remainder of their time on campus visiting resource tables, the bookstore, financial aid, and much more.

The goal of New Student Orientation is for the students to walk away feeling confident, prepared, and excited as they begin their academic journey at Lake Area Tech. Fall semester begins August 26!



LATC RETIREES GATHERING!

Six times a year, the LATC Retirees Group gathers back on campus to learn about current happenings and to catch up. During a recent meeting they were gifted a new shirt that read "What day is it today? Who knows, I'm retired!"

From left: Mark Wayt, Computer Information Systems; Larry Kohlhoff, Ag; Al Raeder, Financial Services; Greg Klein, Aviation Maintenance Technology; Myron Johnson, Ag/Corporate Ed; Deb Shephard, President Emeritus; Nancy Ronke, AEL; Chuck Carbonneau, Drafting; Kay Steffensen, AEL; Kristi Jerzak, Educare; Audrey Rausch, Medical Assisting; Robin York, Nursing; Mona Gleysteen, Medical Lab Technician; Kim Bellum, Academics; Dennis Heller, Information Technology; Alison Albertson, Medical Lab Technician; Marlene Seeklander, Financial Aid; Marnee McConnell, Business Office; Doug Jerke, Building Trades; Jo Vitek, Law Enforcement; Vice President Cam Corey; and Laurie Malimanek, Administrative Assistant.

Find ^{your future} employees
at the BEST two-year college in the
NATION!

CAREER
LATC Student Center
SEARCH
October 17, 2024
11 AM-1:30 PM
EXPO



LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

1201 Arrow Avenue NE • Watertown, SD • 605.882.5284 or 1.800.657.4344



LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO LAUNCH DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Lake Area Technical College (LATC) is set to expand its renowned healthcare education offerings with the approval of a new Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program in Dental Hygiene to begin fall 2025. This initiative marks a significant milestone for the college, which was the first and only in the state to successfully operate and maintain a CODA-accredited Dental Assisting program for 56 years.

The approval of the Dental Hygiene program comes as a response to the growing demand for skilled dental hygienists in the region. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Lightcast, the employment of dental hygienists (in South Dakota) is projected to grow 6.9 percent from 2023 to 2033, faster than the average for all occupations. When upcoming retirements and natural job turnover is factored in, there will be a 13.61% increase in employment of dental hygienists in South Dakota between 2020-2030 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Nicole Pahl, director of the Dental Assisting program, expressed her enthusiasm for the new program, “The addition of the Dental Hygiene program aligns with our mission to provide a superior, comprehensive technical education that meets the needs of our community and industry partners. Our long-standing success in Dental Assisting has paved the way for this new endeavor, and we are committed to upholding the same standards of excellence.”

LATC’s Dental Assisting program, a cornerstone of the college’s healthcare education, will operate as the first step for the new Dental Hygiene program. The Dental Assisting program has a storied history of preparing students for successful careers, with a curriculum that emphasizes both the clinical and administrative aspects of dental care. The Dental Hygiene program will be the second step if students choose to continue their education after completing the Dental Assisting program. The program will uphold the high standards of LATC and the profession, by providing curriculum that utilizes the newly renovated “state of

art” LATC Dental Clinic. The clinic facilities include 14 simulation stations for pre-clinic skills and 10 dental operatories with Nitrous Oxide, radiography equipment, a sterilization center and a full dental laboratory.

The Dental Hygiene curriculum will equip students with the elevated theoretical knowledge and practical skills required of a dental hygienist. Once the student successfully completes the Dental Assisting AAS degree, they can apply to continue for an additional year of instruction to obtain their Dental Hygiene AAS degree. The program will comprise of comprehensive curriculum, including advanced oral anatomy, periodontology, preventative dental health, radiography, instrumentation, ethical conduct and community dental health issues. Students will also gain hands-on experience through clinical rotations, allowing them to apply their learning in real-world settings under the supervision of local experienced professionals.

The 1 + 1 design of the Dental Hygiene AAS degree is unique. Dental Hygiene graduates from LATC will earn two degrees, an AAS in Dental Assisting and an AAS in Dental Hygiene, in only three years. Furthermore, our graduates will be more flexible in their job role by providing both dental assisting and dental hygiene skills.

The introduction of the Dental Hygiene program is expected to have a positive impact on the local community as well. By training more dental hygienists, LATC aims to improve access to dental care, LATC will be working to establish and maintain partnerships with area dentists to accommodate students’ clinical hours and skills. Any questions or interest in being a clinical site should contact Nicole Pahl.

Applications for the Dental Hygiene program will be accepted beginning fall of 2024 with the first cohort set to begin classes in fall of 2025.





Pictured from left to right are LATC graduates Taytum Bissonette, Ashley Roulette, Jacinda Ossala, Paul Pulling, Chye Livermont, Markee'Rae Shaving, Brock Gisselbeck, and Leighah (Hertel) Stambach.

HONORING CEREMONY

A special Honoring Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 9, at Lake Area Technical College celebrating Native American students from Lake Area Tech and Watertown High School. Luke Wilson, LATC Adult Education instructor welcomed the honorees and guests. The event featured messages from LATC Vice President Cam Corey and WHS Assistant Principal Scott DeBoer, as well as special music by Arnold (Mato Ohitika) Williams of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. Nine Lake Area Tech graduates and 11 Watertown High School graduates were honored. Grant funds for the event were provided by the Watertown Area Community Foundation and the Dakota Indian Foundation.

22ND ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON

The 22nd Annual Governor's Luncheon was held on Friday, April 19, 2024 in the Lake Area Tech Student Center. Over 250 attendees came to hear Governor Kristi Noem speak. The Governor's Luncheon helps raise funds for much needed student scholarships. The event helped to raise over \$20,000. Included in this year's event was hearing from past Build Dakota Scholarship recipient, Jasmine Green and Foundation Scholarship recipient, Keegan Tvedt on their experiences on the financial help they received while attending LATC. Thank you to all attendees for supporting scholarships at Lake Area Tech!



SAVE THE DATES

**AUG
26**
FALL
SEMESTER

**SEPT
1**
SCHOLARSHIP
APP CYCLE

EST. 2000
FESTIVAL OF TREES
Celebrating 22 Years
NOV 22

**JAN
16**
READY SET GO
EVENT

**MAY
16**
LATC
GRADUATION



HAPPENINGS

1. It was Lake Area Tech night at a Sioux Falls Skyforce game earlier this semester! Our students had a great time handing out swag and telling our story.
2. We had nearly 200 high school seniors visit during Senior Tech Day! They toured a program of choice, interacted with program faculty and students, and learned about student support services - all with a lot of fun in the mix!
3. Our first Camp Med for 8th graders featured hands-on activities in our healthcare programs including Medical Assisting, Medical Laboratory Technician, Dental Assisting, Nursing, Med/Fire Rescue, Physical Therapist Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Surgical Technology, and Community Health Worker.
4. The Mini Health Career Fair was an excellent opportunity for students in LATC health programs to connect with healthcare facilities and learn about their opportunities.
5. Our Agriculture students gained a deeper understanding of cooperatives at the College Conference on Cooperatives in Minneapolis earlier this year.
6. This spring's Women in Science STEM Camp featured outstanding presenters who talked to 110 8th grade girls about careers in STEM fields and offered hands-on learning activities.
7. Lake Area Tech's eSports team made history by attending the first-ever South Dakota eSports High School State Championship in Brookings this spring!
8. High school juniors who attended Junior Tech Day toured programs of choice, visited with students and instructors, and found out what it takes to be a student at Lake Area Tech.
9. Area high school students were immersed in healthcare topics at the Prairie Lakes Healthcare System/Lake Area Tech Explore Camp!
10. Our faculty and staff heard an inspirational message during in-service from SDSU's standout football coach emeritus, John Stiegelmeier. Coach Stiegelmeier shared invaluable insights during his presentation on handling growth and rising up.
11. Farm Show Week brings out the best in our Ag students! This year, they manned a booth and helped with the Crop Show.
12. The Electronic Systems Technology and Robotics programs entered two teams in the Autonomous Snow Plow competition in Minneapolis!





9

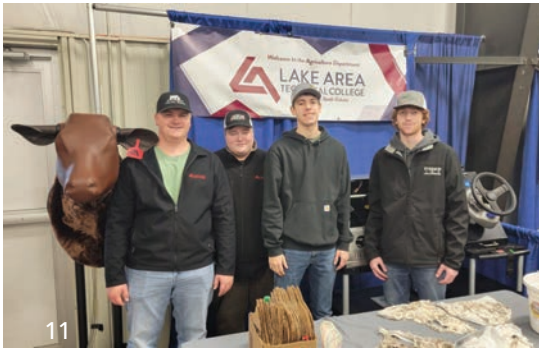


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**UPDATE
YOUR INFO**

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
VISIT US AT [WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU/
ALUMNI-ASSOCIATION-BOARD/ALUMNI-LISTINGS/](http://WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU/ALUMNI-ASSOCIATION-BOARD/ALUMNI-LISTINGS/)



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- 13. Five members of the Student Voice organization joined President Sanderson and Vice President Corey in Pierre for a day during the legislative session this winter.
- 14. Community members learned all about Lake Area Tech programs at the annual Student for Half a Day event.
- 15. Auto Body and Paint Technology students raised \$400 for the Glacial Lakes Humane Society during the annual Show & Shine!
- 16. Hats off to our amazing students who performed a whopping 103,000 hours of community service and service learning projects this academic year!
- 17. Trail King Industries provided the blueprint and our second-year Welding students provided the skills to construct this industrial trailer that will soon be in use by a Trail King customer.
- 18. Second-year Robotics students showcased their skills at the annual Robot Games competition. The captive audience included area 6-12 grade students who gained knowledge about the exciting world of Robotics!



12



14



15



16



17



18



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READY. SET. GO!

Lake Area Tech's inaugural Build Dakota Ready. Set. Go! Day offered high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to connect with Build Dakota/Stretch-the-Million business partners well before deciding which employer they may commit to through the Build Dakota Scholarship application process. Nearly 50 regional businesses were on hand to visit with future Build Dakota scholarship applicants! The 2nd Annual event will be held January 16, 2025.



SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Eight Lake Area Technical College students were honored as Foundation scholarship recipients at a luncheon held at Lake Area Tech in May. Scholarship winners include Cynthia Jacobo, (Med/Fire/Rescue) President Obama "Inspirational" Scholarship \$1,000, Cloe Swanson (Welding) Don Lindahl Outstanding Student Scholarship \$500, Lilly Hilts (Practical Nursing) The Aspen Scholarship Award \$1,000, Mark Mahowald (Business) Dorothy Tesch Memorial Scholarship \$500, Alexis Hanson (Registered Nursing) Mary Tesch Memorial Scholarship \$1,000, Dalaina Miller (Practical Nursing Online) Mary Tesch Memorial Scholarship \$1,000, Ashley Snoozy (Diesel Technology) Dennis Tesch Memorial Scholarship \$2,000, and Lane Holland (Diesel Technology) Carl Tesch Most Improved Scholarship \$1,000.



Alumni Spotlight

Justin Berry

MARKETING, MANAGEMENT, AND SALES, CLASS OF 1999

Q. Where are you currently employed?

A. Titan Machinery Inc.

Q. When was the last time you visited campus?

A. This January for the Build Dakota Career Fair.

Q. Why did you choose Lake Area Technical College?

A. Midway through my first semester at a neighboring technical institute, I knew the school and city were not the right fit for me. Thankfully several of my high school classmates who were attending LATC reached out to inform me of their positive experiences. The following semester I started classes at LATC with the majority of my credits transferring over. I chose LATC for the class sizes, accreditations, and the community its located in.

Q. What was your favorite thing about Lake Area Tech?

A. I enjoyed learning from my instructors first hand, real-life job experiences that they integrated into their teachings. I also really enjoyed how they incorporated valuable real-life interactions with local businesses through job shadowing, guest speakers and on-site business tours.

Q. What was the biggest lesson you learned at Lake Area Tech?

A. All great journeys start with a step so don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone and take that first step.

Q. What made you want to continue your education?

A. I wanted to increase my knowledge of business and increase my earning potential. Continuing my education was the best way to achieve both.

Q. What advice would you give a current Lake Area Tech student?

A. Be active in as many programs, groups, and organizations as possible. These interactions will lead to lifelong friendships and future business relationships.

Q. What makes you proud to be an Alumni of Lake Area Tech?

A. I'm proud of the accelerated growth LATC has achieved and their dedication to future advancements in all classes offered.

Q. What advice can you give to Lake Area Tech students that will be entering the workforce?

A. Be flexible when choosing your future employer. There's an abundance of opportunities out there that you may not have considered initially.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE OUR NEXT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT?

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



Support Scholarships at Lake Area Tech!



LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- OVER \$3.5M IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED YEARLY
- 90.72% OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- 75% OF STUDENTS WORK PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL

Scholarships play a critical role for students at Lake Area Tech. As the financial need of students continues to increase... the role and the responsibility of the Foundation also increases. Please consider a financial commitment today to support scholarships here at Lake Area Tech.

99%
Graduation
Placement

31
Programs
of Study

84%
Graduates
Stay in SD

39%
Receive Federal
Pell Grants

THANK YOU!

Complete the form below or online at www.lakeareatech.edu.



LAKE AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
FOUNDATION & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Please accept my gift of:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$750
- \$1000
- 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: Scholarships)

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

Please bill me.

Once Monthly Quarterly Annually

Please charge my credit/debit card:

\$ _____

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT) _____

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CVC NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

My check is enclosed:

\$ _____

Venmo us:
Lake Area Tech
Foundation



venmo



LAKEAREATECH.EDU

LAKE AREA TECH EARNS TOP 10 MILITARY FRIENDLY® SCHOOL DESIGNATION

Lake Area Technical College has achieved the prestigious 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Top 10 School designation among similar-sized two-year colleges across the country. This accomplishment marks the 14th year that Lake Area Tech has received the esteemed Military Friendly® School award, and for the first time, it secured Top 10 status.



The designation is recognition for Lake Area Tech having meaningful and sustained education paths for the military community. The college is currently serving 107 military-connected students. Twenty-one Lake Area Technical College employees are veterans or actively serving in the guard or reserves.

"I am proud that Lake Area Tech is once again recognized as being a top Military Friendly® school in the nation," said Lake Area Technical College President Tiffany Sanderson. "This designation reflects the appreciation we have for our service men and women as they pursue their educational and career aspirations."

Lake Area Tech has a dedicated Veteran Services office designed to support military students. The office representatives work one-on-one with military members to ensure their transition from military life to student life is as seamless as possible. Lake Area Tech's military-friendly community provides a solid foundation for employment in today's high-demand fields.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated on data related to success in student retention, graduation, career placement, loan repayment, educational persistence (degree advancement or transfer), and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey with 537 earning special awards for going above the standard.

THE 2024-2025 MILITARY FRIENDLY® SCHOOLS LIST CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.MILITARYFRIENDLY.COM. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LAKE AREA TECH'S STUDENT VETERAN SERVICES, VISIT WWW.LAKEAREATECH.EDU/.



Pictured is Tracy Buisker and Cherrie Cloos.

CHERRIE CLOOS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

The Cherrie Cloos Nursing Scholarship fund was established at Lake Area Tech Foundation in May 2024 by Cherrie Cloos, but its origins go back almost 50 years. Cherrie attended Presentation College in Aberdeen, SD and earned her AAS in Practical Nursing. The first nursing scholarship awarded through Cherrie's commitment to support future nurses was in 1991. When it was announced in the summer of 2023 that Presentation College would be closing, Cherrie wondered what she could do with her established scholarship. With the help of the Presentation College Foundation, the scholarship was transferred to Lake Area Tech Foundation to ensure that the scholarship would continue to support those entering the nursing profession.

The Cherrie Cloos Nursing Scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in either the Practical Nursing or Registered Nursing Program at Lake Area Technical College beginning in the Fall of 2024. The Lake Area Tech Foundation is honored to continue Cherrie's legacy of supporting future nurses.



ALUMNI & FRIENDS CAMPAIGN Please Tell Us About Yourself.

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Cell: _____

- I prefer to receive a receipt with each pledge payment.
- 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 to the Lake Area Technical College Foundation may be deductible as a charitable contribution.

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.

HALL NAMED TO AOTA'S ROSTER OF HONOR



Lake Area Tech's Occupational Therapy Assistant Instructor, Kory Hall (MA, BA, COTA/L), was honored with a spot on the esteemed American Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Honor. This recognition took place at the 2024 Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, Florida, in March.

The Roster of Honor recognizes occupational therapy assistants who through their knowledge, expertise, leadership, advocacy, and/or guidance have made a significant contribution over time to the profession with a measured impact on consumers of occupational therapy services and/or members of the Association, according to the AOTA website. Kory's many contributions include the establishment of the Sensory Adventures Camp in 2013, which she continues to enhance for children with sensory impairment in the Watertown area. The establishment of the camp was an innovative approach to the Occupational Therapy Assistant student level 1 fieldwork at Lake Area Tech.

LATC Occupational Therapy Assistant Department Supervisor Julie Kalahar commented, "I have witnessed many of the exceptional tasks and creative ideas Kory has implemented through the years. She has made an enormous impact on the future of the occupational therapy practice as a role model to the OTA students; however, her impact has reached much farther than the students in her classroom. Kory has reached her community and other professionals."

A 2001 graduate of the Lake Area Tech Occupational Therapist Assistant program, Kory continued her formal education by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2005 from Mount Marty University in Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions. In 2008, she began her position as an instructor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at Lake Area Tech. Currently, she is pursuing her Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from South Dakota State University. She has also been highly involved in the state and national Occupational Therapy Association and regularly participates in professional educational programs.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION'S AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS HERE: WWW.AOTA.ORG/COMMUNITY/AWARDS/2023-AWARDS.



LAKE AREA TECH NAMED TOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Intelligent.com ranked Lake Area Technical College number one on its 2024 Best Community Colleges in South Dakota list. The methodology for the ranking included an extensive analysis of academic quality, graduation rates, cost-effectiveness, return on investment (ROI), and the availability of student resources.

In addition, Lake Area Tech was also ranked on Intelligent's national Top Online Associate in Marketing Programs list and on its national Top Community Colleges list.

"Students choose Lake Area Tech because they know they'll earn a top-notch technical education that will lead to well-paying, in-demand careers," says President Tiffany Sanderson. "The focus of every staff and faculty member on our team is to ensure our students have tools for success as they pursue their goals. The value proposition is high for LATC students."

Intelligent.com assists students in their pre-college journey by ranking colleges and programs across the country using aggregated publicly available data.



DIESEL CLASS OF 1977 REUNION

3rd Row (L to R): Randy Maag, Watertown, SD; Danny Peterson, Hitchcock, SD; Paul Bevers, Sioux Falls, SD; Harvey Virchow, Bryant, SD; Rod Koistinen, Lake Norden, SD; Mike Stewart, Salem, SD

2nd Row (L to R): Bob Ragatz, Frankfort, SD; Tim Kvale, Lemmon, SD; Bill Hansen, Eagle River, AK; Kyle Hesby, West Fargo, ND; Mark Chaplin, Sturgis, SD; Instructor Kenny Dagel, Waverly, SD

1st Row (L to R): Mark Wernsmann, Gillette, WY



LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

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ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT #550

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Contact us at 605-882-5284.



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

SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A GREAT CAREER.

AGRICULTURE

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

AUTO BODY & PAINT TECHNOLOGY

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

AVIATION-AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

- Aviation Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot
- 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
- Software Development & Database Administration

COSMETOLOGY

DENTAL ASSISTING – CERTIFIED

DENTAL HYGIENE - FALL 2025

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

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

- Paramedic Option

MEDICAL ASSISTING

MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER – CERTIFICATE

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Graphic Design and Digital Communications Specialist Option
- Networking & Cybersecurity Specialist Option
- Software Development & Database Administration

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

LAKEAREATECH.EDU

