Ending up on TOP

Living Green and Loving It

5 Blue Stories
Thinking about buying the right laptop for school? At Southeast Tech, you won’t have to worry about making the best choice.

Starting Fall 2009, all students in laptop programs will have their laptop provided by Southeast Tech.

**Laptop Benefits Include**

- **FREE** tech support
- Guaranteed software compatibility
- 3-year warranty, including onsite repair and customer support
- Each laptop is customized for each student with software specific to their program
- Laptop may be financed with Financial Aid if applicable

For more information, contact Southeast Tech at 605.367.7624 or visit www.southeasttech.edu

The concept of ‘Living Green’ is being embraced everywhere you look – the introduction of more fuel-efficient cars, recycled materials and the search for more effective methods of production. The rationale behind it is based on fact – there are only so many resources at our disposal and we have only one planet to preserve.

At Southeast Tech, we feel it is a wise choice to ‘Live Blue’ as well. An alternative to traditional higher-education, Southeast Tech has offered more streamlined and cost-effective methods of education. Since 1968, more than 12,000 students have chosen to ‘Live Blue’ at Southeast Tech, to achieve their degrees and start a new life full of opportunity! Discover what a change ‘Living Blue’ has made for our alumni and our community as you read through our winter issue of Tech Times.

Jeffrey R. Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute
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Finding fun is easier than you thought!
Jason Wildeboer and Zach Porter love their jobs. As owners of Executive Landscapes in Tea, SD, they have built a successful and highly rewarding business creating lush landscapes for both commercial and residential clients.

Jason smiles, “We started our business in 2002. Both Zach and I had worked at other companies and we decided that it was a good time to start a new business.”

Committed to the environment and the community, a horticulture career was a perfect fit for Jason. “Horticulture is a great field with many opportunities. With our growing economy we help establish new developments and maintain and update existing properties,” he notes. “I love to create breath-taking results. It's like taking a blank canvas and creating a beautiful landscape. It feels great to be able to better our community, offer great services and provide jobs.”

Both Jason and Zach received their Horticulture Technology degrees from Southeast Tech in 2000. After just two years of working in the field for other companies, they collaborated to create Executive Landscapes. They have been in business since 2002.
Southeast Tech delivers the most cost-effective solution for students in the Sioux Falls area. Check out the cost per credit rate to compare STI with our Sioux Falls competitors!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STI</th>
<th>CLOSEST COMPETITOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>$127.25</td>
<td>$229.00</td>
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**HOW DOES THIS ADD UP IN ONE YEAR?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STI</th>
<th>$4,072.00/year*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLOSEST COMPETITOR</td>
<td>$7,328.00/year*</td>
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*Based on 32 credits per year or 16 credits per semester.

**Tuition Costs of other Public or For-Profit Higher Education Providers in Sioux Falls**
*(Based on fall 2008 rate survey)*

- Cost Per Credit Range: $229.00 to 390.00
- Yearly Tuition Range: $7,328.00 to 12,480.00

**COST PER CREDIT BREAKDOWN BY INSTITUTION**

- STI: $127.25
- KILIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE: $229.00
- THE UNIVERSITY CENTER: $237.20
- NATIONAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY: $250.00
- COLORADO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY: $260.00
- GLOBE UNIVERSITY: $390.00

[www.southeasttech.edu](http://www.southeasttech.edu)
The day Ellen Grode discovered she was losing her job was devastating. A working wife and mother, Ellen loved the position she had held for several years with a local company in Sioux Falls. After the company announced that it was closing, not only was she in the position of needing to find a new job, she was also looking at finding one without a degree.

Instead of jumping into the job market and finding another job without further education to back her up, Ellen decided to invest in a degree. She shares, “One of my goals with this experience was to create an opportunity to do something good, so I decided to go to school. I chose Southeast Tech because I could get my degree in two years in Sioux Falls. It was also flexible, which was important because I have three children.”

After receiving her Computer Programming degree with honors and a 4.0 grade point average in 1999, Ellen was hired on at Bryne Companies in Sioux Falls. Tasked with developing the mailing data department, she was asked to step into the department manager position just 12 weeks later. “It was challenging and difficult but I ended up working in that position for four years,” remembers Ellen. “I’m not sure I’d recommend that for everyone but it worked for me,” she laughs.

Proving herself to be an excellent employee, Ellen was promoted to an administrative position in Human Resources. Today, she continues to work as the Director of Human Resources for Byrne Companies. She smiles, “I feel very blessed that Bill Byrne, the owner, saw I had potential to do this… he saw a talent I didn’t realize I had. I feel like I am where I should be.”

“I’m happy where I’m at in my life. It all fit together so well… Southeast worked for my family life and the commitments I had with my children. My husband was so proud that I earned my degree, he even had a graduation party for me. He is very supportive of me, which is incredibly important. I wouldn’t be where I am today if I wouldn’t have gone to Southeast Tech.”

–Ellen Grode, Director of Human Resources, Byrne Companies
With a student population of more than 2,000, Southeast’s students come from all walks of life. From straight out of high school to working moms, the diversity of the student body has created a welcoming and accepting presence that has become synonymous with Southeast Tech. Read on to find out how five students, some still attending classes and some that have moved on to fulfilling careers, are Living Blue.
Kellie Ten Napel

Hometown: Ireton, IA
Grad Date: 2008 & 2009
Degree: Graphic Communications & Marketing

“Southeast offers an affordable education and I feel like I am well-prepared for my future job. I chose to gain two degrees because I have always liked art and marketing is interesting to me.”

On Kellie: All American Crew. $22.99. STI Bookstore

Beau Daale

Hometown: Fairview, SD
Grad Date: 2005
Degree: Civil Engineering Technology

“I work at DGR in Rock Rapids, IA as a Survey Tech and I really enjoy it. Attending STI was awesome. I hear employers say STI is one of the best places to hire from.”

On Beau: Thermal Raglan. $19.99. STI Bookstore

Brian Jacobsma

Hometown: Ocheyedan, IA
Grad Date: 2009
Degree: Cardiac Ultrasound Technology

“I have attended other colleges but I didn't finish. The cool thing about STI is that you get into your profession right out of the gates. It gets you where you want to be ASAP!”

On Brian: Pullover Hoodie. $36.99. STI Bookstore
Jen Brower

Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
Grad Date: 2000 & 2001
Degree: Business Administration & Marketing

“I pursued these degrees because they offer a diverse culture to choose from in the business arena. Today I am focusing on my new business venture by continuing to grow and expand Moonlight Rose Company.”

On Jen: Soho Hoodie. $34.99. STI Bookstore

Ethan Serck

Hometown: Alvord, IA
Grad Date: 2009
Degree: Financial Services

“I plan to transfer to the University of Sioux Falls to complete a bachelor’s and master’s in business and finance after I get my degree from Southeast. I will use the degree and my experience to begin a career at a federal bank.”

On Ethan: Pullover Hoodie. $36.99. STI Bookstore
Student Saves Time & Money by Transferring Credits

Yuliya Adamyan has always cared about her education. In fact, she regularly made goals for herself and maintained at least a 3.3 GPA at Roosevelt High School even though she chose to take advanced classes in science and math. “I took hard classes because I wanted to challenge myself,” notes Yuliya. “I talked to my counselor a lot. I knew I wanted to go into a health career so I took as many classes as I could that related to it like physics and chemistry.”

All public high schools in Sioux Falls, as well as several others in the state, have agreements with Southeast Tech called articulation agreements. According to Tech Prep Coordinator Anna Fischer, “Every high school in South Dakota has the opportunity to make an articulation agreement with the South Dakota technical institutes. As the Tech Prep coordinator, I help organize these arrangements.”

The articulation agreements are different for every school and are based on what is being taught in the high school course versus what is being taught at the technical institute. When a student determines that they can articulate the credit, they merely pay $5.00 a credit to transfer the credit. For Southeast Tech, the savings are substantial. Yuliya smiles, “We had a manual that goes through all the courses that transfer but I didn’t pay attention back then. After I toured Southeast Tech, I started to look at the book more closely.”

Today, Yuliya is pursuing her degree in Electroneurodiagnostic Technology (ENDT) and couldn’t be happier. “I was able to take just 12 credits my first semester because of the credits I transferred in. It takes a big load off my shoulders knowing I can get the same amount done with less work, less stress and I’m saving a lot of money. I feel proud that I did most of the credits that I needed to in high school.”

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Southeast Tech Articulation Cost Savings

By taking an active role in her education, Yulia wisely saved nearly $2,000 by transferring in 16 credits from Roosevelt High School.

This is how articulation works:

**REGULAR COST OF SOUTHEAST TECH TUITION PER CREDIT:** $127.25

**HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT TRANSFER SAVINGS:**

Students pay only $5 per credit, saving $122.25 for each credit they transfer in at Southeast Tech.

Calculate your savings by determining how many credits you are able to transfer, and then multiplying that number by the $122.25 cost savings per credit. Don’t know if your high school has an agreement? Check with your counselor.
Memorial Endowment Honors Horticulturist Donald E. Johnson

Former founders, owners and operators of Johnson's Nursery in Sioux Falls, Don Johnson and his wife Dorothy were profoundly committed to their business and their community.

After spending a lifetime building a successful business together, Don and Dorothy knew what it meant to work hard. They also knew, through personal experience how difficult it was to find the money to attain a degree. According to Dorothy, “Don and I liked to see everyone have an education. I think it’s because we had trouble getting financial aid for our education. We really had to work hard, and we just would like to help others.”

Sadly, Don passed away on March 13, 2007, but not before he asked Dorothy to make a significant contribution to Southeast Technical Institute. “Don thought Southeast was a wonderful school. He didn’t believe that everyone had to attend a four-year college because he really felt that they could start a profession in a year’s time or two with the right education,” smiles Dorothy.

Don and Dorothy had the opportunity to experience the ability of Southeast students first hand. “I think the students in technical education are very focused and hard working. I know because we had them working for us at our nursery. We liked the students very much and they all came to learn. It was part of their learning process in school and that impressed both Don and I very much.”

“I think there are many business owners or retirees like Don and I that have the ability to do this. I would certainly encourage others to think about investing in the future as we are. You think of how much you’re helping other people and our gift will go on and on. It makes me feel so good to know we are helping someone attain their degree.” — Dorothy L. Johnson

To honor Don’s commitment to his profession, education and Southeast, Dorothy chose to endow a generous donation to the Southeast Technical Institute Foundation. The money will be used to assist horticulture students in the form of scholarships awarded annually. Dorothy notes, “Don would be very happy to know I did this. He never wanted to take credit for anything. I can just see him smile. It makes me feel very happy to think that I can do this for him, to give him the recognition that he deserves.”
As one of Canton, South Dakota’s largest employers, Adams Thermal Systems is a world-class manufacturer of engine cooling systems for off-highway and on-highway vehicle applications.

According to Bryan Plowman, Director of Human Resources and Information Technology at Adams Thermal, “At Adams Thermal, we make radiators, and charge air coolers and oil coolers, so it’s very industrial. One of the things we need is welders and a lot of them.”

However, needing welders and finding a well-trained workforce are two different stories, especially with a limited workforce pool to pull from. “For us it was a couple of things. First of all, we needed to figure out how to train our welders, and then secondarily, once we get them, how do we get their skill level to where we need them to be at?” notes Bryan. “Working with Business and Industry Training allowed us to basically tailor an in-house class especially for our staff. It’s just gone beyond our expectations. The service level and the interest in helping make our business succeed is phenomenal.”

The Business and Industry Training division at Southeast Tech has met the needs of many South Dakota businesses allowing them to improve productivity and satisfaction among their workforce. Both on-campus and training programs on-site are options for a variety of industries ranging from soft-skills to industrial technology expertise.

For more information about how BIT can assist your business with affordable training solutions that work, call 605.367.7619 or visit www.trainsiouxfalls.com.
Welcome to Techville: Your Virtual Alumni Community

www.southeasttech.edu/alumni

Test your texting knowledge! Add up how many abbreviations you already know and see where you stand.

0-8 your thumbs are rusty
9-16 they’re getting fit...
17-24 those thumbs are on fire!

The BIG Alumni Prize will be given to one lucky winner who is registered in Techville. It includes gift cards, event and entertainment tickets. New prizes will be added through May 2009 when the BIG Alumni Prize winner is announced.

www.southeasttech.edu/alumni

Join us in Techville!

Meet Alumni Guy and Alumni Girl — your animated guides in Techville, created by real STI alumni Adam Prunty and Caroline Jacobsma.

Don’t wait! Register today at www.southeasttech.edu/alumni

BF - Boyfriend
BRB - Be Right Back
BTW - By The Way
CMON - Come On
CYA - See Ya
FYI - For Your Information
G2G - Got To Go
GF - Girlfriend
IDK - I Don’t Know
JMO - Just My Opinion
L8R - Later
LOL - Laugh Out Loud
LYLAS/B - Love You Like A Sister/Brother
OMG - Oh My Gosh
PIX - Pictures
PLZ - Please
PPL - People
PROB - Problem
ROFL - Rolling On Floor Laughing
SWAK - Sealed With A Kiss
THX - Thanks
TTFN - Ta Ta For Now
TTYL - Talk To You Later
TXT - Text
Although winter can be cold and dreary, it’s easy to find exciting things to do around Sioux Falls. In fact, there’s plenty of outdoor and indoor activities to keep you busy up until the time we can unwrap for spring. Check out these great ideas and start making plans!

**CULTURAL VENUES**
Sioux Falls has several museums and venues for you to explore. Log on to www.accesssiouxfalls.com to find out exactly what they have to offer.
- Horse Barn Arts Center
- Old Courthouse Museum
- Pettigrew House & Museum
- Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science

**DANCING**
Inspired by Dancing With the Stars? Get your groove on when you take professional dancing lessons from any of these local studios.
- Ballroom at the Bridges
- Balleraena Dance Studio
- DANCE Ballroom & Studio
- Dance Gallery of SD
- Liquid Hip Therapy – Belly Dance
- Main Stage Ballet and Dance Academy
- Midwest Dance Center

**INDOOR SPORTS**
- **Bowling:** Who doesn’t love to throw a strike? Grab a group of friends and head down to the lanes at either Empire Bowl or Sport Bowl.
- **Ice Skating:** Take a spin on the ice at the Sioux Falls Ice and Rec Center.

**MOVIES**
- Catch a flick with some hot buttered popcorn and a good friend. Check out Carmike Cinemas and Century Theatres for the newest releases or go on the cheap at the West Mall 7 Theatres where the movies aren’t quite as new but tickets are just $3.00 each. Experience edge-of-your-seat thrills on the giant screen of the Wells Fargo CineDome Theater at the Washington Pavilion.

**OUTDOOR SPORTS**
- **Skiing:** With 14 downhill trails, you can ski, snowboard or even tube at Great Bear Ski Valley on the edge of Sioux Falls.

When you need to rest or warm up, step into the chalet for food and drinks. Take advantage of 2fer Tubin Tuesdays where you get two tube tickets for the price of one.

- **The Outdoor Campus:** Take advantage of free cross country skiing and snow shoeing instruction by on-staff naturalists.

**SEMI-PRO SPORTS**
- Love sporting events? Catch the excitement at the Sioux Falls Arena
- **Basketball:** With single game tickets as cheap as $6 each, don’t miss out on the Sioux Falls Skyforce.
- **Hockey:** Join the Stampede and the best fans in the league to experience a fast and exciting game. Check out specials on Wednesday nights.
A second year Law Enforcement student decided to donate a Christmas tree to set up in the Health Center. The tree was turned into a “Giving Tree” for the Children’s Inn. All students and faculty from STI were encouraged to take an “ornament” off the tree and fulfill the gift item listed on there. Several faculty members and students met at the Children’s Inn December 19, delivering over a truck load of gifts to the women and children there.

Members of SkillsUSA, a student chapter involving Diesel, Automotive, and Collision Repair students, committed $2,000 to sponsor ten families at Christmas. In mid-December, a group of 20 SkillsUSA members and two advisors went to the local Wal-Mart and purchased $1,300 worth of gifts for the families. The remaining $700 was used to purchase HyVee gift cards for each of the ten families to ensure they had decent meals for the holidays.

Steven Zingler placed 3rd in the world-wide Netspace Skills Pursuit 2008 Competition sponsored by Cisco. The competition is open to any Networking Academy student or alumni who has a registered public profile on AcademyNetSpace.com, has a valid account in Academy Connection, and who has network access that supports participation.

ENDT students organized a Christmas card drive for inpatients at the VA.

we're coming to YOU!

We understand that sometimes it’s difficult to drive to Sioux Falls to visit with an Admission Representative. It may be the cost of fuel, the weather, or simply finding enough time in your busy schedule. That's why we make it easy – we're coming to you! Southeast Tech Admission Representatives attend more than 30 college fairs and visit over 200 high schools in the region. We have also started holding Regional Open House events in the evenings so you can visit with a representative at your convenience!

Each Open House Runs from 4:00 - 8:00 pm. Join us at:

Rapid City, SD – March 4, 2009 – Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites (near the Rushmore Mall)
Sioux City, IA – March 10, 2009 – Marina Inn Hotel and Conference Center
Marshall, MN – March 24, 2009 – AmericInn of Marshall

Stop by to learn about:
- Applying for Admission
- Transferring Credits
- Transferring Financial Aid
- Moving to Sioux Falls
- On and Off Campus Housing
- Why Southeast Tech is a Great Place

Join us for our Last Campus Visitation Day February 6, 2008
LOVE THE OUTDOORS?
Want to make a living working with your hands?

At Southeast Tech, earn your Associate’s degree in Landscape Technology, Turf Management or Horticulture in just two years.

Want to know more? Come visit Southeast’s campus for a Horticulture Program Showcase. Ask your school counselor for more details today!

Horticulture Program Showcase
March 10 • 10 am - 1 pm
Free Lunch • Door Prizes
ask your counselor for more info!