HIGH SCHOOL Students STEP UP With Hands-on Camps

Taking Care of BUSINESS Students Research, Develop, and Launch Real-World Project

JASON Leigh
Life is Great

www.southeasttech.edu
As 2009 has come to a close, Southeast Tech is looking forward to an unprecedented number of students for 2010. It is with deep pride, that I step forward into the new year leading an organization that is poised to help thousands of individuals discover a new career or redefine themselves in this challenging economy.

At Southeast Tech our goal is to give our graduates the tools to succeed, and partner with our community members to make South Dakota an even greater place to live, work and raise a family.

Take a moment to read through this issue of Living Blue and get to know some of our alumni, students, staff and business partners. Their commitment and influence on our community has truly been a testament to the power of Southeast Tech.

Jeffrey R. Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute

Shining Star
Anlis Hartmann discovers her calling.

Family Balance
Erin Jankord handles school and home life.

Ditch the Desk
STI instructor rolls up her sleeves.

Spreading Opportunity
BIT teams up with the South Dakota DOL.

Student Profile
An inside scoop on STI student Kallie Larsen.

Bragging Writes
See the latest achievements throughout campus.

Jason Leigh
Leaving behind a successful aerospace career in Seattle, Washington; Jason Leigh finds his destiny in Sioux Falls with a great job, a happy marriage and a promising future.
A Redwood Falls, Minnesota native, Anlis Hartmann had no inkling that she would be attending Southeast Technical Institute. In fact, she had never even heard of it until she met with a recruiter visiting her high school. “I really wanted to get into ultrasound but I couldn’t find a school,” remembers Anlis. “One of Southeast’s recruiters happened to make a visit and the receptionist knew I was looking for a school that offered ultrasound degrees so they called me into the office.” That fall, Anlis enrolled in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography-Abdominal Ob/Gyn program.

At Southeast, all health students must complete a clinical experience, which is a supervised hands-on internship working with real patients. Once students have completed their classroom requirements, they become board-certified by the state and are required to find a clinical site to finalize their degree. The first student to obtain a clinical experience at St. Anthony’s in Carroll, Iowa, Anlis wasn’t sure what to expect from a small town hospital. “The day I moved to Carroll was the first day I was there. The community is nice and very friendly which made it really easy to move there.

St. Anthony’s is a Catholic hospital, so on top of being there with a nice place to live and with nice people, it’s almost like God’s message saying this is what you need to do. I feel like he lined it up for me.” Having finalized her required clinical, Anlis was happy to start her new life and career. After networking with a traveling ultrasound tech with Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, she secured a job as an evening ultrasound tech. “I was in complete shock when I got the phone call that I got the job! It’s a full-time night shift and I won’t have to work weekends, holidays or on-call,” smiles Anlis. As to whether she enjoys her new career?

“Everyone is really nice and very helpful. I still have a lot to learn but the radiologists are very easy to talk with and I enjoy going to work everyday.”

–Anlis Hartmann

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Southeast has the program, come here. It’s going to be a challenge though! I spent many hours studying and crying but I made it through. There aren’t many places you can go and get out right away with a great job but you can do that here.”

–Anlis Hartmann

When you ask high school students what an associate’s degree is, most aren’t sure. In fact, when asked what the differences between a technical institute and a traditional college are, you get even more confusion. To help more clearly define what a technical institute is, and what kind of degree and experience you can expect to get, Southeast’s Tech Prep Coordinator Anna Fischer has established an innovative series of day camps to help solve the mystery.

According to Anna, “My job as a Tech Prep Coordinator is to work with high school students to explain exactly what forms of higher-education are available to them in South Dakota. Sometimes, coming to a campus and actually getting hands-on experience makes my job much easier because they can literally experience what it is like to be a student on campus.”

Anna has a clear vision as to whether she enjoys her new career?

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Shining STAR

Anlis Hartmann

Discovers Her Calling

Tech Prep Introduces Innovative Way to Test-drive Technical Education

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Anna along with other staff and instructors at Southeast Tech organized six TRYSTI Days for the 2009-2010 school year, even going so far as to pay for travel and providing lunch for attendees.

“I wanted to make sure that everyone, no matter their situation, has the opportunity to attend one of these camps. It is really important that students research their opportunities and understand them before making a choice,” she shares. “Although the majority of students come as a class from their high school, any South Dakota high school student is welcome to attend.”

The scheduled camps include Horticulture, Scrubs (healthcare), Construction, Business, Computer/Manufacturing and Law Enforcement. Camps consist of presentations from industry experts, hands-on activities with Southeast instructors and staff and an explanation of the types of careers students can expect to enter with specific degrees.

To experience a TRYSTI Day, visit www.southeasttech.edu and click the link to see a video of the TRYSTI Business day.

Although the Horticulture, Scrubs and Business camps have already successfully run, three TRYSTI days are scheduled including Computers/Manufacturing on January 27, Law Enforcement on February 24 and Construction on April 14. For more information or to register for these TRYSTI Days, contact Tech Prep Coordinator Anna Fischer at anna.fischer@southeasttech.edu or 605.367.5467.
Erin Jankord thought she was finished with school. Originally from Madison, South Dakota, she enrolled directly into Dakota State University where she attended for two years. An excellent runner in track, she transferred up to North Dakota State on a track scholarship and to finish her degree in Exercise Physiology. Finishing up with school, Erin was ready to begin her new career in a new location.

“I moved to Boise, Idaho and worked as a personal trainer. However, when I did my internship I worked in cardiac rehabilitation and I fell in love with the heart. As it turned out I ended up getting married and having kids,” Erin shares. “When we decided to move here, I knew I couldn’t find what I was doing there and I wanted to do ultrasound so I looked into it.”

After researching the Cardiovascular Ultrasound Technology program at Southeast, Erin made the decision to go back to school even though she was a young mother with two young sons, JJ who was 2 and Brandon who was just 1, to support and take care of. “After determining that Southeast had a great reputation because they produce some of the best sonographers in the country, I just wanted to come here. My parents were totally on board and encouraged me to do it.”

Today, Erin has excelled in her program and is in the home stretch of finishing her degree. With only a clinical experience that stands between her and her degree, Erin couldn’t be happier with her decision to return to school. “It’s tough being a mom and a student but I have a great family and good friends…it’s not anything I can’t handle,” she smiles.

“I feel very blessed to receive these scholarship funds. This money is helping me and my two children get on our feet a lot faster. It allows me to concentrate on completing my Cardiac Ultrasound Degree, become a sonographer, and spend more time enjoying these little guys. Saying thank you just doesn’t seem like enough to express my real gratitude.”

–Erin Jankord

Take advantage of scholarship opportunities

Erin took the time to fill out a scholarship application and was the recipient of a $1,000 scholarship from the Southeast Tech Foundation.

When I tell someone that I’m a machinist, they don’t understand what I do. However, there are very few industries that aren’t directly related to a machinist. Every tool a dentist uses comes from a machinist, so do appliances and what’s under the hood of your car. There’s really nothing a machinist doesn’t come into contact with, it includes artificial heart pieces and every rocket that’s been launched into space.”

–Jason Leigh

Full-Time Student and Mother Keeps Life On Track

Want to reconnect with Southeast friends?

Visit www.southeasttech.edu and click on the Alumni tab. You can register at our virtual Techville to find old friends. Did you meet your True Love at Southeast Tech? Tell us your story—how you met and what you’re doing now. A prize for the best story will be selected each February for Valentines Day.

www.southeasttech.edu
MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY at Southeast Tech


MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY, AAS DEGREE

MACHINE TOOL OPERATIONS, DIPLOMA

Machinists, tool, die, and mold makers use machine tools, either power-driven or hand tools, to remove metal and shape it to a specified form and size. Machining equipment is stationary or power-driven. There are many jobs in Machine Tool Technology such as CAD/CAM programmers, mold makers, diemakers, production machinists, maintenance machinists and machinists.

Estimated Program Cost: $15,061
Estimated Diploma Cost: $9,836

FIND THE MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY VIDEO AT:
www.southeasttech.edu/college101
www.southeasttechnicalinstitute.com
www.facebook.southeasttech.edu
www.youtube.com/southeasttechvideos

FROM TOASTERS TO ROCKETS

Jason Leigh Helps Create Tools That Make the World go ‘Round

Growing up in the state of Washington, Jason Leigh didn’t realize at that time where his destiny was pulling him. Having served in the Marine Corps as a military policeman for four years, he decided to make a change and followed his sister and brother-in-law to LeMars, Iowa to work in their new machine shop creating crankshafts for outboard engines. It was then that Jason fell in love with the Midwest, but determined he would need to get formal training to succeed in the field.

After bouncing between school and work, he discovered the Machine Tool program at Southeast Tech. “Southeast provided me with the opportunity to learn a high-tech skill and apply it immediately after I graduated, which I did. I really believe if you have an aptitude for something and Southeast provides a course for it you’ll succeed. Their Machine Tool program is hands-down the best in the area.”

After graduating, Jason spent two years working in the Sioux Falls area as well as teaching a class at Southeast. It was then that he was presented with an offer he couldn’t refuse with an aerospace company, taking him to Washington once more. Not just any job, Jason was working to produce high-test titanium parts and prototypes for a fire suppression system. Although he loved the work and had a great title, it wasn’t enough. After just six months and with a phone call nearly every day from Bob Scherer, owner of Scherer Corrugating and Machine in Tea, South Dakota, Jason came back to Sioux Falls.

Today, as a Computer Numerical Control Operations Manager for Scherer Corrugating in Tea, Jason works on developing materials for the agricultural industry, including biofuels, specializing in parts that were previously only offered overseas with a three-month wait. “My boss created a machine to crack corn as you harvest it and then when the ethanol boom hit we stepped into that as well which has become the mainstay of our business.”

So confident in his own education from Southeast Tech, Jason has since hired three additional CNC machinists from Southeast to join his team. A move he has been very pleased with. “Southeast’s machine tool program is a hands-down great program. It is cutting-edge and way ahead of the game, and they turn out great employees.”

As to whether Jason is happy with his decision to return to the Midwest?”I think I was destined to end up in Sioux Falls forever. It has allowed me to buy a home, get married and give a little bit of it back. It has been wonderful coming back to raise a family. Everything has just been perfect for my wife and I.”

Jason Leigh
Computer Numerical Control Operations Manager
Scherer Corrugating; Tea, SD
STI Class of 1996
Degree: Machine Tool Technology

NIMS Accredited

Southeast Technical Institute has the only Machine Tool Program in the state of South Dakota accredited by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills. This accreditation allows students to obtain credentials proving competency with specific tools and machines through hands-on execution of required tasks, which are then evaluated by objective industry professionals. Once the student has completed this portion of the credentialing process, they are then required to complete an online written exam.
STI grads get smooth path to bachelor’s degrees with Bellevue University.

When STI grads want to earn their bachelor’s degrees, Bellevue University gives them a fast, affordable, and convenient way to do that. Bellevue University accepts ALL the credit earned with every STI associate of arts, general studies, and applied science degree. This means students don’t have to repeat courses already taken and paid for. And it means they start with more credit – and finish sooner. Bellevue University’s accelerated bachelor’s degrees can be completed in as little as a year.

Best yet, students attend class conveniently right here on the STI campus, or in Bellevue University’s award-winning active learning online classroom. With both options students learn with other adults and professors with real world experience in engaging, interactive classrooms. The class curriculum covers lessons and case studies applicable to the marketplace today, and students are encouraged – and expected – to add to the discussions and learning with perspectives from their experiences.

A leader in adult learning, Bellevue University offers more than 20 career-relevant majors in healthcare, business, security management, IT, and more.

In addition to the major courses, students take the Kirkpatrick Signature Series, a unique nine-credit hour cluster of courses on American Vision & Values considered essential learning for all Bellevue University students.

Bellevue University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This regional accreditation assures students that the University maintains standards that qualify graduates for professional application of their learning in the world.

To learn more about how STI associate’s degrees move smoothly into Bellevue University bachelor’s degrees, contact Heather Knight at 335-8010 or see bellevue.edu/siouxfalls.

The SMOOTHEST path to your bachelor’s degree.

FAST – Bellevue University accepts ALL the credit in your STI associate’s degree so you start with more credit, and complete your bachelor’s degree in as little as a year!

AFFORDABLE – There’s NO repeating courses you’ve already taken – and paid for:

CONVENIENT – Learn in class right here on the STI campus, or 100% online in Bellevue University’s award-winning online classroom.

Enroll today!

Contact Heather Knight
heather.knight@bellevue.edu
335-8010

In 1990, Stacy Hotchkin was working as a dietary supervisor in Sioux Falls. Although she enjoyed her job, it wasn’t her passion. Stacy shares, “I decided this wasn’t for me. My husband Dale was operating Dakota Lawn and Landscape Service, a business he had started with my sister who graduated from Southeast with a horticulture degree. I had been helping them when I got off from my job in the afternoon and I just fell in love with it. I decided I was tired of working inside and wanted to do what I really enjoyed doing.”

Upon making her decision to change careers, Stacy enrolled in the horticulture program at Southeast and earned her horticulture degree. She shares, “My intentions were to work full-time with Dale and our business, but then a Lab Specialist position opened up at Southeast and I applied for it and got it. It’s a great job because I get to share what I know. I just like being able to help people learn things.”

Today, Stacy works at Southeast and has also helped the family business evolve into a full-service landscaping company. “We added more of the landscape design and installation services after I got my degree. We also keep a plant nursery with trees, shrubs and perennials. Owning your own business is nice but it’s a lot of work. It does give you flexibility and you definitely get the satisfaction of a job well done.”

Not thinking of another job change any time soon, Stacy knows she has landed exactly where she wants to be. “I love my job because I enjoy being outside and working with plants. It’s no comparison to my previous job because when I have to sit and do paperwork inside I go crazy. I have to be up and doing something.”

“I feel blessed to be able to work in the field that I really enjoy. Southeast provided good hands-on education that helped me succeed. Today, I love sharing my knowledge with students.”

– Stacy Hotchkin

www.southeasttech.edu
Partnerships, much like invention, often arise from necessity. This has been the case for the South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL)-Sioux Falls office, Business and Industry Training (BIT), a division of Southeast Technical Institute.

Over the last 18 months, many people in the Sioux Falls region have found themselves out of work due to the economic downturn. This left the DOL with many displaced-worker clients in need of direction, guidance and in some cases, hope.

Fortunately, due to the ongoing partnership and working relationship between BIT and the DOL, many of these displaced workers were able to transition into an educational or training program and take the first steps toward a new career.

According to Danyell Skillman, Assistant Manager of the Sioux Falls DOL office, “We have about 400 displaced workers in our program. Our workforce training program provides opportunities for individuals who are laid off through no fault of their own, to assist them to go back to school or go to school and obtain a degree.”

The partnership between the DOL and BIT is a natural fit. The DOL works with clients and provides funding for those that are looking for ways to improve their employability. BIT provides educational and training opportunities to help people prepare for employment in specific careers. With the two entities working together, the chances for positive outcomes increase greatly. Skillman adds, “Our program is life-changing for people, if they are part of our program and have the commitment. It can allow them to get the additional training or education to give them a better life for them and their families.”

For more information about BIT, call 605.367.7619 or visit www.trainsiouxfalls.com.

Jan Karpen Wins Outstanding Training Provider

Each October, the South Dakota Department of Labor presents awards to individuals and agency partners that have had a positive impact on employment in South Dakota. This year’s recipient of the Outstanding Training Provider award is Jan Karpen, Administrative Assistant for BIT, South Dakota Department of Labor. She was honored with the Training Provider award is Jan Karpen, Administrative Assistant for the Business and Industry Training Division of Southeast Tech.

Here is just one of the many positive comments from the nomination letter: “Jan goes above and beyond her professionalism and the genuine concern that she exhibits on a daily basis to the students and the WIA Team.”

Students in the Southeast Tech Nuclear Medicine program have achieved a 100% pass rate for the national Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Boards for the third year in a row. Students at Southeast Tech are required to take and pass the Boards in order to graduate. Pat Bortnem, Director of Health at Southeast Tech notes, “The Nuclear Medicine program at Southeast gives us many reasons to be proud, not the least of which is a 100% pass rate on the National Board Exams for the past 3 years. Program instructors, Doug Warner and Brett Peterson, instill in their students a drive to do their best academically and in skill performance as well as a sense of professionalism that is evident throughout their enrollment here at Southeast. The success on the boards is a credit to those individual Nuclear Medicine graduates who worked very hard to earn their registry and everyone at Southeast who assisted them on their journey through the program.”

Check out the Nuc Med lab in a short video at southeasttech.edu; just click Academics and then Program Videos.

Southeast Tech Marketing Coordinator Margaret Pennock, Business and Industry Training Marketing Coordinator Roxanna McKenna, and Senior Graphic Designer Caroline Jacobsma were honored with several awards from the National Council on Marketing and Public Relations at the District 5 Medallion Awards. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges.

- Southeast Tech: Living Blue Tech Times–Gold; Viewbook–Silver; Shopping for a Degree–Bronze
- Business and Industry Training: Class Schedule–Bronze

Registrar Kristie Vortherms was honored with the Exemplary Service Award from the Upper Midwest Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. The Exemplary Service Award is the highest honor UMACRAO presents and is presented to those who have served the organization well and have shown great dedication to their profession. In addition, Kristie is President Elect for the organization.

Why did you choose your major?

I really love art and painting but I wanted a more stable career than being an artist would provide. I chose graphic arts because I can be a commercial artist and do what I love, but be guaranteed a paycheck and be able to support myself and a family.

What’s your advice for someone who is interested in a graphic communications career?

Choose a career that will let you use your talent and make yourself happy. You don’t have to be a fine artist to be in graphics. It helps, but you can produce amazing pieces of art even if you’re not. If you can get a glimpse of the software we use, which is really intricate and powerful, you will love it.
Studying and theorizing are excellent for learning the methodology of marketing, but for the students in Bobby Talcott’s Promotional Strategies class, the experience goes much deeper. According to Bobby, “The class is focused on a marketing and business project called the Value Card, which they are completely in control of from execution to production and ultimately distribution.”

The Value Card offers valuable and desirable discounts with many local businesses. This is nice to actually do something you can say, ‘I helped make that what it is.” It was nice to actually do something instead of simply learning about it,” shares business student Ashton Beck.

Armed with this information, the students work as a team to help design the card, develop a budget and strategy and hit the pavement to determine the deals on the Value Card.

Marketing student Laura McEnaghy notes, “I was a part of this class because I wanted the experience to put on my resume, but ended up getting so much more out of it. Speaking with business owners around Sioux Falls really gave me an insight of what to expect as I enter the workforce.”

And the students aren’t the only ones getting great experience out of the project. Bobby smiles, “The merchants know exactly what kind of students are graduating from Southeast. This is a great way for our students to meet employers, but it’s also a great way for the employers to meet our students."

“We take tours of major businesses on this trip to learn more about the business environment. We’ve done everything from MTV to Universal Studios where the VP spent two hours with us. Employers want their employees to be well traveled and to have experience. This trip gives our students the opportunity to see the world.”

–Bobby Talcott, Southeast Tech Marketing Instructor

In addition to direct student sales, the class also promotes this as a fund-raising opportunity for other groups to take advantage of.
SHOPPING for a DEGREE?

Southeast Tech delivers the most sensible and 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!

Tuition Costs of other Public or For-Profit Higher Education Providers in Sioux Falls (Based on spring 2009 rate survey)

Cost Per Credit Range $245.00 to $415.00
Yearly Tuition Range $7,840.00 to $13,280.00

Cost Per Credit Breakdown by Institution
STI $141.25
Kilian Community College $245.00
The University Center $253.95
Colorado Technical University $270.00
National American University $270.00
Globe University $415.00

*HEY! Stop by one of our upcoming Friday FYI Visitation Days to scope out campus and score some free pizza! January 29 February 26

www.southeasttech.edu • 605.367.6040 • 800.247.0789