alumni of THE YEAR
Double grad Bob Jensen.

customized TRAINING
Pinpoint your training efforts.

think BIG
Civil Engineering Technology students embark on a true western adventure.
A Season of Goodwill

Typically as I determine what I would like to share with you, it inevitably centers on our relationships with our community.

This time, however, I have been overwhelmed by the genuine caring and heart-felt generosity my own staff and students have been so willing to put great effort toward to benefit our community. Therefore, I would like to commend them and share their commitment with you.

Charitable fund drives for breast cancer research, volunteering and funding food for The Banquet, assisting to build a home for The Habitat, a food and clothing drive for the needy, a five-year high in giving to the United Way, fundraising for the Children’s Miracle Network, an Adopt a Highway project and a food drive for the Food Pantry along with many more endeavors have truly been a blessing for our community. As President of Southeast Tech, I am proud to lead this phenomenal group of individuals who are helping to shape our future with their knowledge and willingness to help others in need.

Please take a minute to look through this issue of Living Blue Southeast Tech Times to see how our graduates, partners and students are making an impact every day!

Jeff Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute

Living Blue is published three times annually by the Marketing Department of Southeast Technical Institute and distributed at no cost.
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Civil Engineering Technology students pack up and head out.
A desire to become a Civil Engineer leads Heidi Austin to a fulfilling career with a Civil Engineering Technology Degree.

Heidi Austin always knew she wanted to become an engineer. But committed to learning the field inside and out, she chose to pursue a Civil Engineering Technology degree from Southeast Tech first.

According to Heidi, “Right out of high school I knew what I liked. I enjoyed math, so I originally planned on becoming a Civil Engineer. However, I wanted to learn the technical side of the industry as well as the basics like materials testing and surveying. I had previously interned at a firm and witnessed engineers that didn’t know basic techniques that the technicians did. That is what pushed me to choose Southeast Tech, I knew it would give me a strong foundation for my engineering career.”

Originally from Hudson, SD Heidi enjoyed the small class sizes and personal attention she received as a student in her Civil Engineering Technology classes. “I definitely made the right choice. The classes were small and it’s more one on one unlike a large college. It was nice to have that help and that attention.”

In 2000, Heidi graduated at the top of her class. Already working part-time for Sayre Associates in Sioux Falls, she applied for a full-time position with the engineering firm and was hired on. Heidi has worked there ever since, moving her way up through the company. She shares, “My title is AutoCAD Manager, but my job includes much more than just managing. I draft and interpolate plans using AutoCAD Civil 3D, I provide IT support and coordinate professional IT support, I maintain and enforce plan standards, I distribute and monitor work load for the AutoCAD department, report project status and problems to the Operations Manager, manage staff and recommend equipment and/or software updates.”

Today, Heidi is still content with her decision to gain an Associate’s Degree through Southeast Tech and has had a very fulfilling professional career. “I’m happy with my career and the choices that I made along the way. At first, I did plan to pursue a higher degree, but I have decided that I’m happy where I’m at with the opportunities I’ve been given at Sayre Associates. I always have dreams and goals for myself and that is what continues to motivate me. I am definitely happy with what I’ve done.”

“I had previously interned at a firm and witnessed engineers that didn’t know basic techniques that the technicians did. That is what pushed me to choose Southeast Tech, I knew it would give me a strong foundation for my engineering career.”
exciting opportunity
for USD health sciences majors

In the Fall of 2010, Southeast Tech and The University of South Dakota received approval for a groundbreaking forward and reverse articulation agreement between the two institutions. USD students who have completed two years of the Health Sciences degree have the ability to transfer to Southeast Tech to complete one of STI’s six health programs, and transfer credits back to USD towards the BS in Health Sciences. Graduates who complete the requirements for the two health programs will earn both an Associate's and Bachelor's degree.

Applicants Must Complete and Submit the Following

- STI + USD Application for Admission
- Official High School Transcript/GED Certificate (contact your high school)
- Official College Transcript (contact the USD Registrar’s Office)
- Drug Screen Results
- Criminal Background Check Results
- Current Immunization Records

Prerequisite Course Requirements

Students not completing the required coursework or not receiving the minimum grades or GPA will not be allowed to begin courses at Southeast Tech.

A minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA from USD is required. All HSC and PHYG courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

All application materials must be received by Southeast Tech’s Admission’s Office before February 1 of the year in which you intend to begin courses to be eligible for preferred placement through the STI+USD application pool in a Southeast Tech program.

For more information, contact Southeast Tech’s Admission Specialist Nancy Munson at 605.367.4456.
A graduate of Southeast Tech in both 1969 and 1974 with two Computer Programming diplomas, Bob Jensen is the Director of Assessment Technology and Information Services for the Sioux Falls School District.

Bob was certain of his desire to enter the fascinating and new world of computers after visiting with representatives from IBM at a college career day at his high school in Watertown. At the time, Bob was entering such a new field of study that many of his counterparts thought it ridiculous, even a ‘lost career path’. He remembers, “We were still using manual typewriters back then. Laptops and desktops weren’t even a reality yet!”

Sticking to his instinct that computers were the wave of the future, Bob researched to find training that would put him on the cutting edge of this innovative technology. That search brought him to Southeast Tech. “Through my research, Southeast Tech offered the training that I was looking for so I enrolled into the program,” Bob shares.

However, his career plans were placed on hold because after finishing his diploma from Southeast Tech in 1970, Bob enlisted in the military. He notes, “I decided to enlist rather than wait to be drafted and I served three years, two in Europe.” After returning back to his civilian life, he once more enrolled at Southeast Tech, again in Computer Programming. This time, to learn new technology because the field had advanced dramatically in the three years he had been in the military.

Once more, Bob finished his diploma and moved on to enter the computer field working for the City of Sioux Falls, John Morrel & Co. and finally the Sioux Falls School District. Today, Bob has been with the District for 32 years and heads up the Assessments Technology and Information Services department for South Dakota’s largest and most technologically progressive school district.

Managing 28 employees, his department serves 37 sites plus seven remote sites, 21,000 students, 1,600 teachers and 1,400 employees. “This job is always changing, it’s been a great field to be in and there’s never been a dull moment. It’s rewarding to see the excitement students have when they get to take advantage of the new technology we introduce to them. Southeast Tech gave me an excellent foundation to start my career and today is second to none with their technology they provide for students.”

Bob continued on with his education after completing his diploma with Southeast Tech. In addition, he earned the following degrees:

1982: Bachelor’s in Business Administration, National American University
2010: Master’s in Business Administration, University of Sioux Falls
WESTERN ADVENTURE

For Southeast Tech Civil Engineering Technology students, 2010 was a great year. For the first time ever, the Civil Engineering Technology Student Organization was invited to survey multiple campground facilities in awesome Yellowstone National Park. Possible through the tenacity of one very determined and articulate student along with the backing of Southeast Tech’s faculty and administration, two instructors and 16 students had the experience of a lifetime.
Civil Engineering Technology students survey Yellowstone National Park.
Civil Engineering Technology is a popular program at Southeast Tech for several reasons. According to instructor Elizabeth Kassing, PE, “Civil Engineering is such a diverse career. Many people like the field because when they are completed with a project they can see the results. You can see the building that you helped survey, while driving on the road that you helped design.” In addition, it is a highly technical and math oriented profession that allows individuals to work outdoors instead of an office environment.

A two year associate’s degree, Civil Engineering Technology also has a structured student organization that all students can participate in to network and have the opportunity to learn additional skills out of the classroom. In the past, students have planned field trips to locations such as the Black Hills to acquire experience in surveying land that is considerably different than local terrain. For 16 students, membership this year led to an incredible experience out to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Not satisfied with status quo, Southeast Tech’s Civil Engineering Technology student Josh Viet from Marion landed the once in a lifetime experience for his Civil Engineering Technology student organization group. A second year student, Josh knew the previous class had experienced a surveying trip to the Black Hills, so he wanted to make it an even more incredible experience for his class.

He shares, “The fact that we initiated and planned this whole deal in just three or four weeks when the time to put together this type of trip together is usually six weeks was amazing. The administration at Southeast Tech wanted this to happen for us so they helped pushed it through.” He smiles, “The school trusted us to take over $400,000 worth of equipment to bring out there. It’s pretty clear to me that at Southeast Tech it’s all about the students.”

According to Jim Milne, “The people at Yellowstone didn’t have the funding or equipment to do this, or the knowledge or training. It was an awesome experience and I’m so glad I got to be part of it. It was fabulous to see how blown away they were by our work.”

Yellowstone National Park will use the survey data provided by Southeast Tech to determine new campground facilities.
The Smoothest Transfer from Associate’s to Bachelor’s Degree

Bellevue University accepts ALL the credit in Southeast Tech associate’s degrees – so you can earn your bachelor’s degree in as little as 12 months.

No other accredited university offers Southeast Tech grads a faster, more affordable, and convenient way to earn their bachelor’s degrees.

Bellevue University accepts ALL the credit earned with every Southeast Tech Associate of Applied Sciences degree. This means you don’t have to repeat courses you’ve already taken and paid for. And it means you 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, you attend class conveniently right here on the Southeast Tech campus, or from anywhere in Bellevue University’s award-winning online classroom. With both options you learn with other career-minded adults from professors with real-world experience in engaging, interactive classrooms. The class curriculum covers lessons and case studies applicable to the marketplace today, and you are encouraged – and expected – to add to the discussions and learning with perspectives from your 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, you’ll 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 you that the University maintains standards that qualify you for professional application of your learning in the world.

To learn more about how Southeast Tech associate’s degrees transfer smoothly into Bellevue University bachelor’s degrees, contact Jessica Bivens at 335-8010 or see bellevue.edu/siouxfalls.
Sara Mundt has always loved being outdoors, so she chose to pursue a career that would keep her there. A Canton, SD native, she knew she was interested in a horticulture degree... but she wasn't interested in spending four years to get it. According to Sara, “I decided to go to Southeast Tech because it provided the subject I wanted in the amount of time I wanted to achieve it.”

The horticulture program at Southeast Tech was a great fit for Sara because in just two years, she was able to gain her degree and move on with her career. “My education at Southeast gave me the backdrop for what I would be doing in the future. Granted, there are a lot of things you learn on the job but I really had a head start on some people. I still retain that knowledge on an every day basis and currently access the books I acquired while at Southeast.”

In addition, Sara also appreciated the benefit of small classes and personal attention she received from her instructors. She remembers, “I really enjoyed the relationships you gain with your instructors because they really take the time to get to know you personally. I feel it’s a lot easier learning in that type of environment.”

Today, Sara is doing what she does best, working outdoors and maintaining the beautiful parks of Sioux Falls as a Park Service Worker. “I do a variety of things during the day from trimming bushes to fixing irrigation leaks. My position gives me enough freedom to decide what I need to do in a day and also enough authority to supervise many part-time employees with the parks.”

As for whether she’s satisfied with her education? “Southeast is a great opportunity and if you’re looking for a one on one type experience with your instructors, then it’s a great option. Also I really gained quite a bit of knowledge in only two years and it didn’t feel like it was ‘crammed’ in there. The instructors really did a good job.”

Perhaps one of the best benefits of all is that Sara isn’t strapped down with student loans and gets to enjoy doing exactly what she wants to. She smiles, “I have my loans paid off already and I owe that to the wonderful job I acquired after graduating from Southeast. I wouldn’t have gotten my current job without the education I received from Southeast Tech.”
The Business and Industry Training (BIT) division of Southeast Tech offers a wide variety of training and career development opportunities to individuals and companies in the Sioux Falls' region.

In addition to regularly scheduled classes, Business and Industry Training offers an extensive array of courses and programs that can be customized to meet the needs of individual companies.

These customized courses differ from public-offerings in that they are tailored to meet a need existing within an individual organization. This allows companies to target specific skills to be developed within their employee group, and to maximize the impact and return on investment of their training dollars.

This type of training is normally very cost effective. BIT will work with HR and training departments to identify those areas where training is most needed. Content and delivery will then be customized to meet those needs, thus making the most of employee training time.

Customized training and/or certification can be delivered in many content areas including: computer applications, customer service, management and supervision, leadership, communication, welding, industrial safety and many technical areas. For additional information, visit www.trainsiouxfalls.com or call us at 605.367.7619.

Hone your staff’s skills with focused expertise.

Some of the Customized Classes We Have Developed:

- Adobe® Graphics Applications
- AutoCAD
- Communications
- CPR
- Customer Service
- Defensive Driving
- E-mail Etiquette
- Forklift Operations
- Leadership
- Management
- Microsoft Office Applications
- QuickBooks
- Supervision
- Welding (Multiple Processes)

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

Hone your staff’s skills with focused expertise.

Some of the Customized Classes We Have Developed:

Adobe® Graphics Applications
AutoCAD
Communications
CPR
Customer Service
Defensive Driving
E-mail Etiquette
Forklift Operations
Leadership
Management
Microsoft Office Applications
QuickBooks
Supervision
Welding (Multiple Processes)
While still under construction, the Mickelson Center’s renovation is making excellent progress. Slated to be finalized by the Summer of 2011, the STI Bookstore’s new retail space was completed and relocated to the lower level adjacent to the commons over winter break. Admissions and Financial Aid will also be completed and relocated back to its original location on the upper level in late January.

new recruits

Southeast Tech is proud to welcome the following new staff and faculty members.

Foundation Advancement Officer Michelle Lounsbery
Health Core Instructor Stephanie Entringer
LPN Secretary Jerilyn Schad
Psychology Instructor Kristin Fick
Receptionist/Phone Operator Shannon Altermat
Looking for the best Sioux Falls has to offer in restaurants, coffee, shopping and more? We asked the students at Southeast Tech to share their favorites with us. Take a minute to read through their responses and to discover what their choices are, they may surprise you!

AUTO SERVICE top 3
1. All Tune & Lube  2. Tires Tires Tires  3. Friend or Family
“My dad does it.” – Melissa

WHERE TO SHOP top 3

BEST JAVA top 3
“Starbucks has great coffee and they’re fast... which is great for when I’m running behind in the morning.” – Heath

GET YOUR SWEAT ON top 3
1. Planet Fitness  2. Tryon  3. Sanford Wellness

WATCH THE BIG GAME top 3
“I like Buffalo Wild Wings. With TVs hanging from wall to wall it’s hard to miss a moment of the game.” – Cody

WHERE TO EAT top 3

SWEET TREATS top 3

GET INKED top 3
1. Electric Crayon  2. Alien & Co.  3. Outlaw

WHAT EVERYONE’S WATCHING top 2
1. Glee  2. The Office
“Every episode of The Office is hilarious.” – Lance

STATS
Total number of students who responded ..53
Female..............................................................35
Male.................................................................18

BUY & SELL ONLINE top 3
1. Keloland  2. Craigslist  3. Facebook Marketplace

GET THE NEWS ONLINE top 3
1. Keloland  2. CNN  3. MSNBC

“The popcorn is amazing at Century.”
– Chloe

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Staff members and students at Southeast Tech were busy in 2010 working to enrich our community with multiple fund drives and charitable events. A huge thank you goes out to all who helped with the following events!

An Adopt A Highway project near Hartford, SD was sponsored by Law Enforcement Technology students.

The Banquet breakfast was provided for 198 people and served by Southeast Tech staff who also generously donated more than $500.

Business & Industry Training sponsored a family for the Christmas holiday by supplying gifts and a holiday meal through the Holiday Clearinghouse.

A Children’s Miracle Network Bake Sale raised more than $300 sponsored by Surgical Technology students.

A Hoodies and Footies clothing drive from staff and students garnered 40 sets for The Food Banquet.

The Food Pantry received 16 barrels of food from Southeast Tech's staff and students during a holiday food drive.

The Habitat for Humanity received construction assistance sponsored by the Construction Management Student Organization.

The PLANET Student Organization supplied Christmas gifts, food and decorations to a Southeast Tech student and her family.

The SkillsUSA Student Organization supplied Christmas gifts, food and decorations for six families.

The Student Government Association had two teams participate in the Junior Achievement Bowl-athon and donated $650.

The Student Government Association representatives volunteer three hours a month to help at the OA Thrift Store.

The STI for the Cure campus walk to support Susan G. Koman for the Cure raised more than $3,000 and was sponsored by the Business student professional organization.

United Way received the largest fund drive from Southeast Tech staff in five years!

Yellowstone National Park campground surveying was sponsored by the Civil Engineering Technology Student Organization.

The Learning Center provided gifts for the Salvation Army Tree at the mall and donated to the charity of their choice as well.

USF won’t meet you halfway towards your bachelor’s degree. We’ll meet you THE WHOLE WAY.

Phil Amor graduated from STI in 2009. Now he’s pursuing his bachelor’s degree through the Degree Completion Program at the University of Sioux Falls. Go the whole way towards your bachelor’s degree with two options tailored to your goals.

USF’s Degree Completion Program:
- Acceptance of 64 STI transfer credits after receiving AAS degree
- Degrees in accounting, management and entrepreneurial studies
- Convenient class schedules for working adults one evening per week, online and hybrid
- Affordable costs per credit
- Hands-on learning and real-world experience

USF’s undergraduate programs:
- Thirty-three undergraduate degrees
- Seven pre-professional programs
- Guaranteed scholarship to every qualifying STI graduate
- Convenient transfer of credits
- Affordable costs per credit
- Hands-on learning and real-world experience

For more information: usiouxfalls.edu
(800) 888-1047
(605) 331-6600
admissions@usiouxfalls.edu

spread goodwill

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get started in 2011

Now’s your chance to jump in and get started on your degree at Southeast Tech. Choose from more than 40 programs that can be completed in 24 months or less! Plus, Southeast Tech still offers the area’s best tuition rates by a long shot – nearly $100 less per credit hour than any of our competitors in Sioux Falls. That adds up to $6,000 in savings! Call or stop in today to get your life on the Fast Track.

apply for SUMMER OR FALL 2011 today!

choose from more than 40 programs you can complete in 24-months or less!