a new you
AT SOUTHEAST TECH

first lady DAUGAARD’S thoughts

corporate PARTNERSHIPS
Exciting things are happening in the Sioux Falls area, and I believe that we are starting to round the corner to an exciting upswing in the local economy!

Not only have we turned out professionals ready and willing to meet the needs of the past, but we are also preparing the next wave of new recruits to sustain the workforce of the future.

In addition, we are pleased to once more have a very busy Spring Semester with many new students looking for a fresh start at Southeast Tech.

As we enter 2012, I am looking forward to a year filled with success for our students, area businesses and community.

Jeff Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute
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Sean Sosa transitions careers from food service to computer network technician expert.

At 28, Sean Sosa wasn’t a traditional student by any means. With a decade of experience working in the pizza business doing everything except owning a store, a career change was in the works. Sean remembers, “After getting married, I decided I needed a change. I was curious about computers but didn’t know anything about them. I grabbed the Southeast Tech computer degree information books and figured that the Network Administrator degree had the most cross over into the other degrees so I chose that one. Little did I know that I would enjoy networking so much!”

Emerging himself into a blend of classroom lecture and hands-on learning for two years was a blessing for Sean. A professed computer illiterate, Sean shares, “I feel that without the hands-on training and superior classroom instruction I wouldn’t have been as prepared to enter into a new career field as I was.”

He notes, “Not only did that make learning much easier, it also gave me experience with the equipment that I am now working with on a daily basis.”

Today, Sean works for the nation’s leading not-for-profit provider of senior care and services, The Evangelical Good Samaritan Society in Sioux Falls, SD. As a Network Support Technician, he coordinates and deploys networking equipment for a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone solution to over 250 Good Samaritan Society Centers across the nation. In addition, he also helps with daily troubleshooting support requests from the centers dealing with VPN, wireless and network outages as well as maintenance on network equipment across the entire GSS network.

Knowing he has found his niche, Sean has found great satisfaction working with the challenges of ever-changing computer technology. “The Network Administrator field is growing and diverse, but it’s not for the faint-of-heart because you never stop learning. Technology is always evolving so you must learn and adapt to those changes to keep you and your company competitive. That constant change helps keep it very exciting and fresh!”
First Lady Linda Daugaard welcomes high school students to Southeast Tech’s Scrubs Camp.

Over the past nine months I have been traveling this great state to promote reading. So far I have read to over 5,000 South Dakota children in third, fourth and fifth grades in fifty different elementary and middle schools. I chose those grades because enthusiasm for reading often drops off during that time. I want to encourage our young South Dakotans to continue reading. My message is reading exposes them to new adventures, it broadens their horizons, prepares them to succeed and most importantly it helps them have a better future.

When I look into the shining faces of our young South Dakotans I see much potential. I know each of the students I have met is capable of great accomplishments if they work hard and make an investment in their education now for a better tomorrow.

This is a similar message I would share with South Dakota’s high school students who ask me if they should attend one of South Dakota’s postsecondary education institutions, whether that is a technical school or a university after graduation.

Reading complements higher education, but in many ways they are also parallel to each other. Like reading, higher education is an adventure that exposes us to new ideas and introduces us to new characters. It expands our horizons. Students in higher education meet new and interesting professors and classmates. They learn from experts in their chosen field. And, when students graduate from an institution of higher learning they obtain higher paying jobs. Statistics show a person receiving a postsecondary degree will earn between $425,000 and $1 million more over the course of a lifetime than someone with a high school diploma.

Read all you can – yes! Obtain a technical school or college degree – absolutely! Doing both creates a better future for us and for South Dakota.

First Lady Linda Daugaard

www.southeasttech.edu  WINTER 2012  Living Blue | 5
southeast tech foundation president Jeff Nelson

A passionate proponent and advocate for workforce development.

Jeff Nelson has witnessed many changes living and working in Sioux Falls for the past 38 years. In that time the city has literally doubled in size, yet has remained a community with small town values, friendships and business relationships.

As co-owner of HJN Team Real Estate, Jeff has a deep appreciation for the economic growth and well-being of the region. In fact, he feels so strongly about the continued development and growth, he has committed his expertise to guiding the Southeast Tech Foundation as President.

Jeff shares, “Southeast Tech significantly affects every aspect of the area’s employment. It’s our responsibility to let present and future employers know that Southeast Tech will step up and develop programs that meet their employee needs to maintain and expand the vibrant market that we are renowned for.”

No stranger to Southeast Tech, Jeff has had experience with graduates from Southeast Tech firsthand.

“I have had interns from Southeast Tech in the past and eventually hired them. They were all well-educated and ready to work which is an incredible benefit for an employer.”

As the leader for Southeast Tech’s Foundation, Jeff has made it his mission to share the powerful impact Southeast Tech has had on the Sioux Falls region. “Workforce development and training are the foundation of a growing community, and Southeast Tech has been and will continue to be a cornerstone for our community. It’s imperative that we continue to support the institution and the students that attend Southeast Tech. Scholarships for students empower them to become a part of the community.”

Southeast Tech Foundation Mission Statement

The Southeast Tech Foundation is committed to building a solid foundation for tomorrow’s workforce. Through community involvement, our workforce needs will be fulfilled by providing financial resources that allow our students to meet their potential.

SOUTHEAST TECH FOUNDATION
For many college students, the first semester can be challenging, overwhelming or a realization that it was the wrong choice for them. According to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, "fully one-third of the nation’s students who enter two or four-year colleges end up transferring to another institution." For many Southeast Tech students, the choice to transfer has been their saving grace to a fulfilling degree and career.
At Southeast Tech, nearly one-third of the student body consists of students who have transferred in from another college or university. Although Southeast Tech wasn’t the first choice for these students, it is frequently the choice that helps them refocus their efforts and get down to the all-important business of graduating.

For Graphic Communications/Marketing student Cady Henglefelt of Ethan, SD, it has been an excellent redirection. A transfer from a South Dakota state university, she notes, “I needed a change. I was failing class because I never went… school wasn’t my focus but having fun was. At Southeast Tech I make it to my classes because they interest me and I’m not taking extra classes that I don’t want to. I only have a few semesters to complete so I’m inspired to attend and to finish.”

A common theme for many students who have lost their way, but want to get serious about their future career aspirations.
Admissions Director Jim Rokusek notes, “Most of these students were doing quite well academically at their prior school. However they recognize that they gain not only relevant technical skills necessary to find a great job, but do so in a supportive environment. Our goal is to offer an alternative for them to find that success.” He shares, “It's really helpful for our Admissions staff to guide them through their options and to be honest about job outlook, the cost they will incur which is typically much less than other area colleges and how quickly and easily they can graduate by transferring in.”

Rokusek smiles, “Many of our transfer students are our best students. They are a little more serious about their goals and truly want to succeed at Southeast Tech. It makes me feel great to provide a viable, affordable option for them to turn to.”

Cady knows transferring to Southeast Tech has been an excellent decision. She shares, “It's a friendly atmosphere and I feel it's more focused on academics here, not the parties in the dorms or the next football game. The teachers really push me and help me to be on top of my work. They know my name and how I’m doing. That makes me feel great that they actually care and that they want me to be involved.” She also credits small class sizes to her success. “I had no idea how important class size would be for me. Coming from a small high school, it was really hard for me to focus in a class of 200. Having that connection really does make a difference.”

About.com states five important reasons to consider transferring:

• Financial Necessity
• Academic Upgrade
• Specialized Major
• Family Obligations
• Social Situation

Free College Credit Evaluation Open House

FRIDAY
APRIL 20
10am – 2pm
Mickelson Commons
Southeast Tech Campus

Check out your options at Southeast Tech’s Free College Credit Evaluation Open House. Visit with admissions representatives, transfer students, job placement specialist and financial aid. Make sure you bring your college transcript to have it evaluated by our registrar. For more information contact the Admissions Office at 605.367.6040.

Eric Dissing, RVT, RDGS, FASE a Cardiovascular Sonographer, Echocardiography Technical Director at Avera.
When you're ready to leverage your Southeast Tech associate's degree, the smoothest transfer of your credit is to Bellevue University because ALL of your associate's degree credit transfers. Bellevue University is dedicated to helping Southeast Tech students and grads earn their bachelor's degrees. The experienced faculty at Bellevue University believe education is the key to making a difference, and it's important for students to have the power to reach career and life goals.

Because Bellevue University understands the importance of convenience for adult learners, we have Enrollment Counselors located right in Sioux Falls on the Southeast Tech campus. Many hours of hard work go into the completion of an associate's degree, which is why Bellevue University gives students all the credit they deserve for such determination.

Bellevue University also gives students credit for their military and corporate training, because what you learn is more important than how or where you learned it. After training is verified from reliable sources such as the American Council on Education (A.C.E.), or military SMART and AARTS transcripts, it's clear that the learning meets Bellevue University's accreditation standards.

When students enroll in Bellevue University with their associate's degree credit, they can earn their bachelor's degrees in just 15 months. It's a real advantage to the smoothest transfer of the credit already earned, and accelerated bachelor's degree completion.

Students can take class on the Southeast Tech campus or 100% online. Either way, students are in class with other driven adult students who appreciate education as a competitive advantage.

Now's the time to meet your career and life goals, and we're here to support you every step of the way!

To learn more about Bellevue University and transferring your Southeast Tech credits, contact a knowledgeable and friendly Enrollment Counselor today by calling 605.335.8010.
For Rachel Buse-Flaskey, Southeast Tech was a wonderful new starting point. Having attended a four-year university pursuing a healthcare major, she knew the field and the atmosphere just weren’t for her.

With a new philosophy on her career direction, Rachel enrolled at Southeast Tech in Accounting.

“I knew I had enjoyed business classes in high school so that’s why I chose to look into accounting. I chose Southeast Tech because it offered me the degree I was interested in, it was affordable, my class schedule was flexible and I knew I could further my degree if I wanted to.”

In addition to her Associate’s degree in Accounting from Southeast Tech, Rachel has earned her Bachelor’s degree in Public Accounting and Business Administration from the University of Sioux Falls and her Master’s in Business Administration from the University of South Dakota. “What I really appreciated about Southeast Tech was the opportunity I got to really learn the technical skills about my field and gained the practical knowledge to begin my career immediately, or have the choice and knowledge to continue my education. It has served me very well and was a great choice for me.”

Today, Rachel holds an elite position with Eide Bailly LLP as Manager of Forensic and Valuation Services. Hardly a stuffy desk job, she performs a variety of specialized tasks that keep her constantly challenged including testifying in court, performing valuations and forensic accounting, including litigation, mergers and acquisitions, and tax compliance as well as various networking responsibilities.

“...the accounting profession that the field can be as boring or exciting as you make it! The foundation that Southeast Tech provided for me was instrumental in getting me to where I am today.”
partnerships: 
John Morrell + Training Solutions Institute

A critical link to keeping staff viable, productive and satisfied.

At Training Solutions Institute, partnerships are one of the most important components of our business. We work with many companies in the region to develop and provide training for employees at every level.

One relationship that we are particularly proud of is our partnership with John Morrell, Inc. Training Solutions Institute has worked with John Morrell for many years to provide training for several critical operational areas.

The Operational Maintenance group at John Morrell has worked with Training Solutions Institute over the years to develop courses such as Basic Pneumatics, Industrial Motor Controls and Blueprint Reading. These courses, along with many others, help keep this valuable group of individuals current and well-qualified to maintain and repair the wide variety of equipment and machinery required to keep the John Morrell plant operating in a consistent and reliable state.

Training Solutions Institute has also worked with the office support staff at John Morrell to provide training in MS Word, Excel and Access to ensure that the office operations work as smoothly as the rest of the plant.

Training Solutions Institute adds a new Industry Relations Specialist.

Training Solutions Institute is pleased to welcome a new Industry Relations Specialist to support the community’s growing need for skilled training. Jim Brunz comes to Training Solutions Institute after 25 years as a faculty member at Southeast Tech.

Jim’s primary responsibility is to establish and maintain positive and productive relationships with industry partners across southeast South Dakota. Welcome Jim!

For more information or to register for classes, visit [www.trainingsolutionsinstitute.com](http://www.trainingsolutionsinstitute.com) or call us at 605.367.7619.
Take a peek at what life is really like for three Southeast Tech students! Filmed completely documentary-style by students, this video gives you a glimpse into what real college life is like. Join Andrea, Cody and Kayla as they experience a typical day taking classes at Southeast Tech and their life outside of the classroom as well!

A Day in the Life is available to view at www.southeasttech.edu under the Future Students tab.

Meet the Students
Andrea: A Marketing student reinventing her career goals.

Cody: A Horticulture/Landscape Design Technology student pursuing a career in his family business.

Kayla: A transfer Vascular Ultrasound Technology student who has had to redirect her major and her focus. ≥LB
like mother
like daughter

Southeast Tech is a family affair for Jeanne and JoAnn Arbach.

Many students have chosen to follow a family tradition of where to attend college. At Southeast Tech, that phenomenon is becoming more and more common. For Jeanne and JoAnn Arbach, the parallels between their experiences at Southeast Tech are interesting. Both enrolled at Southeast Tech directly out of Hoven High School. But while Jeanne attained her diploma as a Medical Secretary, JoAnn is currently pursuing a degree in Graphic Communications. In addition, Jeanne worked on campus in a workstudy position. Nearly 30 years later, JoAnn is following in her footsteps also working on campus in a workstudy position.

STI: Why did you choose Southeast Tech to pursue your education?
JoAnn: I really wanted to be able to get into school and then get back out into the workforce quickly. I felt that Southeast Tech offered a very good graphics program and the school in general really showed me that they care about their students’ success. I felt it was the best fit for me as well.

STI: Did you follow your mother’s lead in choosing Southeast Tech?
JoAnn: I didn’t right away but as she talked about her experience at Southeast and how much the school had advanced, it really helped with my decision to go through with choosing Southeast Tech.

STI: Did you feel good about JoAnn’s decision to enroll at Southeast Tech?
Jeanne: Yes, I felt after visiting the campus that they were keeping up with the changes in our current economy and that they were concerned about the students’ employment when they had completed their chosen degree.

STI: Has the campus changed much?
Jeanne: Oh, has the campus changed! I went to Southeast when it was on Western Avenue, and some of the buildings were over on Cliff Avenue. Ed Wood was the Director at that time, and I believe the only teacher left from that era is Jeff Schlepp.

STI: Do you believe that JoAnn will receive a good education at Southeast Tech?
Jeanne: I think that you get out of an education what you put your effort forth to do. Southeast Tech is still a small enough school that you have teachers who care about their students, and watch out and help them if they just ask.

STI: You recently visited JoAnn on campus, was it a fun homecoming?
Jeanne: I loved my visit at Southeast Tech and I would like to come back.

STI: Was it fun to have your mom come back to visit?
JoAnn: Yes! It was a lot of fun! I really enjoyed showing her around the school, my classrooms, and my workstudy position. My mother also took me down and showed me where Southeast Tech was located when she was attending. It was really cool to hear her experience while she was visiting. The best part of her visit would have to be all of the great cooking she did while she was at my apartment. What can I say, college kids love home cooked meals. :) v-LB
Southeast Tech is proud to welcome our newest employees.

Horticulture Technology Instructor  **Rick Abrahamson**
Operational Services–Custodian  **Almir Cehajic**
LPN Program Instructor  **Terri Clark**
LPN Program Instructor  **Kelli Ebbesen**
Operational Services–Custodian  **Danae Lerew**
Operational Services–Groundskeeper  **Troy Johnson**
LPN Program Instructor  **Lori Suhr**

Southeast Tech is pleased to announce that they are once more sponsoring the national VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) with faculty and student volunteer assistance. For more information, visit the Features tab under Future Students at southeasttech.edu.

Start with a two-year degree from STI, and finish your bachelor’s degree in accounting, management or entrepreneurial studies through USF’s Degree Completion Program.

- Affordable costs-per-credit
- Flexible class schedule just one night per week
- Classes start in spring, summer and fall

"I work full time at a bank and also have a part-time business. I'm really glad USF offers such a program to help people of all ages finish a degree.”

Degree Completion Program
Alex Pugach  »  bachelor’s degree in management

Join in!  southeast tech alumni association

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PERKS**
Show Your Southeast Tech Pride!
The first 50 students to donate at least $10.00 to the Alumni Association will receive an awesome cell phone grip.

**Keep in Touch!** Like us on Facebook to stay ‘in the know.’

**GET ON BOARD**
It’s easy! Just register for free online at http://bit.ly/stialumni

Like us on Facebook to stay ‘in the know.’
GET A FRESH START!

Check out your options at Southeast Tech’s Free College Credit Evaluation Open House. Visit with admissions representatives, transfer students, job placement specialist and financial aid. Make sure you bring your college transcript to have it evaluated by our registrar.

visit campus!

TRANSFER DAY

Friday, April 20
10am–2pm
Mickelson Commons

over 50
of today’s hottest programs!
start your career in 2 years or less