ALUMNUS RYAN BENDA
AMAZING PLUMBING LAB
BACKYARD RESCUE REALITY TV
Accelerated Degree Completion Program

• Bachelor degrees in accounting, entrepreneurial studies, management and project management
• Flexible class schedule one night per week or online

RN-to-BSN
• Completely online

80+ Undergraduate Academic Programs

• You CAN afford a private, Christian education at USF.
  • As an STI student, you’re eligible to receive:
    ► $3,000 STI Scholarship (if you have an associate’s degree)
    ► Academic Scholarships
    ► Federal Aid

When defining technical education and the role Southeast Tech plays in our community, I am truly astounded by how it touches so many. Here are some facts that share why Southeast Tech is such an asset to our great state!

• Technical education is critical for industry success. 98% of area employers state that Southeast Tech meets their company’s needs. The shortage of a technical workforce nationwide is at an all-time high.

• Technical education is critical for our area workforce. 85% of our graduates work, live and raise families in South Dakota enriching not only our workforce but our neighborhoods as well.

• Technical education is a great investment for our students. 96% of Southeast Tech students are employed within 6 months, 91% in their field of study.

• Southeast Tech is great for our local economy. Our students spend an estimated $21 million annually.

Please take a minute to read about the incredible impact our students, employees, alumni and industry partners are making on our community every day!

Jeffrey R. Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute

“...The professors in the Degree Completion Program do more than teach; they encourage. They’re as invested in my academic success as I am.”

Carrie Soto  |  STI Graduate
USF Degree Completion Program, Business Management
ON THE COVER

10  new plumbing lab
Classroom teaches students hands-on skills.

11  ryan benda
Southeast Tech grads live, work, and raise families.

INSIDE

4  making a connection
Career exploration leads to easier choices.

5  foundation home
Architectural Engineering Technology students design for real.

6  tech ed works for me
Initiative aimed at solving workforce shortage.

12  training solutions institute
LEED Green certificates.

14  welcome back
Building a student community on campus.

FEATURE

7  backyard rescue
Students and faculty star in reality TV.
Knowing what you want to be when you grow up is a tall order, especially when you’re still in high school. That’s why Southeast Tech’s Career Education Coordinator Anna Fischer works diligently to offer opportunities for high school students to experience hands-on career exploration visits on campus and off.

According to Anna, “When you know what is specifically involved in a career, it can help you make a more informed decision about your future. The opportunities we offer at Southeast Tech will help you realize whether or not you can plug your strengths and interests into a career you will excel in.”

In addition, Anna works with area high schools to bring Southeast Tech into the classroom. This often entails a hands-on project directed by a Southeast Tech faculty member, which keeps students interested and dialed in to what they’re bringing into the classroom.

She notes, “The more opportunities students can take advantage of helps them save money and time in the long run. Plus it helps to take away the mystery of what is involved in specific professions. Make sure you do your homework before you enroll at a college or choose a degree!” Anna also recommends job shadowing to get an up close and personal look at any profession that may spark an interest for a student. “Any time you can get out of your box to explore other things you’re learning and growing which will really help you determine the path you should take for college.”

For more information or to schedule a classroom visit, contact Anna at anna.fischer@southeasttech.edu.
Last February, the Architectural Engineering Technology students at Southeast Tech were given a proposal to design home plans as well as produce architectural prints for an all-new fundraising venture led by the Sioux Empire Home Builders Care Foundation. Rising to the challenge, students competed in a contest to design plans for the Foundation.

The fundraiser is a massive undertaking. From groundwork to the shingles, area builders and supporting companies are donating materials and labor to construct a home that will be sold with proceeds benefiting the Foundation.

The money raised from the home’s sale will be used to support community outreach activities such as purchasing building equipment for high schools as well as supporting scholarships for both high school and technical institute students.

According to Architectural Engineering Technology instructor Jeff Schlepp, “We thought this would be an excellent learning experience for the students so we decided to take on the project. In addition, it’s really a great way for us to give back to the community.” The home is valued at approximately $350,000.

Jeff notes, “My students are also volunteering their time on the job site by cleaning up the site, installing windows, putting up house wrap and any miscellaneous items that need to be completed.”

Two Southeast Tech students were selected as designers of the Foundation Home. First place winner Grant Carruthers’ exceptional floor plan layout was selected while the second place winner Uriah Sequoiyah won for superior exterior aesthetics.

“"It felt great to have my design chosen. It just goes to show that hard work pays off! I love doing this.” – Uriah Sequoiyah

The Sioux Empire Home Builders Care Foundation has been contributing to community service projects since 2007 focused on housing, as well as providing scholarships for students pursuing a career related to the building industry, and providing funding for other industry related educational programs. Typically, two Southeast Tech students are selected to receive a $500 scholarship annually.
Southeast Tech, Forward Sioux Falls and Area Industry Team Up to Address Workforce Shortages

A new workforce initiative for Fall 2013, Tech Ed Works For Me, was launched by Southeast Tech in collaboration with Forward Sioux Falls. In direct response to an increasing workforce shortage in critical industries for South Dakota, the initiative is aimed at creating awareness for technical education and its potential impact for a much-needed specialized workforce throughout the region.

A three-year initiative, the goal of Tech Ed Works For Me is to raise awareness and create excitement about technical education and the great careers that are available in industry. This strategic campaign includes these two main areas:

1. A comprehensive media campaign utilizing social media, radio, TV, print advertising, direct mail and online outlets.

2. Face-to-face informational sessions with high school students and their parents at schools throughout the area. Students and parents will learn about the great careers made possible through technical education. Area employers will be present to talk about the exploding array of outstanding career opportunities now available in industry. A $2,000 scholarship to Southeast Tech will be awarded at each session.

According to Jans Corporation President Dale A. Jans, “Through this initiative, we can find meaningful careers for people and we can address the severe shortage of employees in critical industries. It gives us the opportunity to attract new business into our area as well. I really see this as a win-win for both organizations and ultimately it is the community that will be benefited.”

Currently, 23 industry organizations and businesses have made investments to lend their support to this initiative and the list is still growing.

“Rarely do we have such a significant opportunity afforded to us.” – Tom Kelley, President Gage Brothers

For more information on Tech Ed Works for Me, visit www.techedworks.com
With nearly 60 Landscape Design, Horticulture and Sports Turf Management students, Southeast Tech took a drab and uninspired backyard space and created a beautiful retreat for five homeowners in Sioux Falls. Read on to discover why and how this happened.
In less than 48 hours and with the support of generous area donors Southeast Tech’s Landscape Design Technology instructor Kate Parkinson assisted by Lab Specialist Stacy Hotchkin headed up a momentous task to take a backyard from drab to fab.

According to Kate, “This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to actually build something that was permanent. Since we teach through hands-on instruction, we already create patios and other landscaping projects but they aren’t typically permanent structures. This really made the career field real for these students.”

Based loosely on the hit HGTV reality show Yard Crashers, Southeast Tech worked with Lynne Keller Forbes, Executive Director of the South Eastern Development Foundation to select a property that could benefit from outdoor improvements. With Lynne’s assistance, an affordable housing five-plex which was built in 2009 for the Pettigrew Heights revitalization effort was chosen.

Lynne shares, “I always thought when we purchased this property the backyard was a diamond in the rough. Outdoor quality of life space is really important but we didn't have the financial resources to put money into the backyard. With this project we'll be able to give the homeowners a really nice living space. It will give them an escape to go to.”

With the assistance of Vision Video Interactive (VVI), Southeast Tech documented every minute of the backyard

““Our students were really fired up about the project and I hope we can continue to do this every year!”
– Kate Parkinson, Landscape Design Instructor

DIGGING IN

Home & Garden Reality TV
Starring Southeast Tech
flip on film. That footage will be turned into a half hour reality show slated to air this spring on KSFY Television.

Southeast Tech’s President Jeff Holcomb shares, “This was a grand opportunity for us to give back to the community while giving our students an incredible real life experience to grow from. I am extremely impressed with the students and how hard working they are in addition to the industry partners who really stepped up to make this happen.”

More than $15,000 of hard goods and plant materials were donated by area companies which put the value of the project including labor at a whopping $26,000! “Our partners are incredibly generous and we value them as friends of Southeast Tech. The fact that we were able to provide this backyard living space for these five home owners at no cost was really a great achievement,” says Kate.

“Our students were really fired up about the project and I hope we can continue to do this every year!” Horticulture student Sydney

---

**DAY 1**

*Thursday, September 26*

7:30AM Students met faculty bright and early to load up equipment on campus for transport to the worksite.

8:00AM Work begins on site.

8:00PM Work wraps up on the first night.

---

**DAY 2**

*Friday, September 27*

7:30AM Students met faculty on campus and traveled to worksite.

8:00AM Work resumes on site.

3:00PM Backyard Rescue is a wrap and a success!

6:00PM Faculty members finish transporting and unloading equipment on campus
With an improving economy, construction is booming and with that, a shortage of skilled tradesmen. Southeast Tech has answered the demand for plumbing professionals after responding to an industry in need. It launched an all-new Plumbing diploma in Fall 2013 that will allow students to shave off a year toward their four-year’s training to become a Journeyman Plumber.

According to instructor and Journeyman Plumber Vince Berry, “Our lab is an incredible tool for teaching students the right ways to do things the first time. When students graduate, they should be competent in Blueprint reading, state and city plumbing codes, specifications, waste and vent, water piping, fixture installation, gas piping, along with other plumbing skills.”

Students Learn on Real Construction With a Customized Indoor Lab

Meyer shares, “It’s nice to have had this experience and it’s been a lot of fun getting to know the other students better. After the first day I went home, got in the shower and went to bed. I was exhausted but I enjoyed putting in a good day’s work!”

And was the client happy? Lynne smiles, “I saw the plan on paper but it was still hard to envision. It looks fantastic and I’m very impressed with the students. It was amazing to see so many people working in a small space but it was so organized it worked well. It reminded me of an anthill but everybody had a purpose and it was fun to watch. They really worked hard but they were always friendly and seemed to really want to make their community a better place. I really appreciate all they’ve done.”

Be watching for promotions to announce exactly when Backyard Rescue, Southeast Tech’d My Yard will run this coming March or April.

INSTRUCTOR VINCE BERRY

“I was employed in the plumbing industry for twenty-five years before coming to teach at Southeast Tech. I enjoy plumbing because you get to go from job to job, not go to the same place every day and work with the same people. Plumbing covers a lot of new construction in this area, not a lot of drain cleaning. The demand for qualified help seems to be at an all time high and I continue to get calls from several employers needing good help. At Southeast Tech we have all the latest technology, both in the classroom and lab area. It’s an exciting time to be in this career field.”

Continued on page 15
Growing up on a ranch in Kimball, SD Ryan Benda knew he wanted a career that allowed him to enjoy the beauty and freedom of the outdoors. From the tender age of six, he has loved golf thanks to his parents who introduced him to the game; and at 13, he took a job helping out on his local course doing odds and ends.

However according to Ryan, “It wasn’t until about my junior year in high school that I realized I loved working out on the course. Although I had other options and ideas on what to do after high school, this path was the one that seemed the most comfortable and fitting to me.” In 2011, Ryan enrolled at Southeast Tech in the Sports Turf Management program. “I originally started out just majoring in Sports Turf Management, but added Landscape Design and Horticulture Technology to my degrees not long after starting my first year.”

Today, Ryan has been promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent at Elmwood Park Golf Course, a public city course located in Sioux Falls. “We are currently undergoing a three-year, three-phase 27 hole renovation in which nine holes will be reconstructed each year. This is a very exciting time for not only me, but every other employee at Elmwood Golf Course. This is the biggest renovation ever done in the history of Dakota Golf Management, so for someone as young as myself, I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of such a huge project. Being able to see everything from the architecture plans, to the surveying, rough grading, irrigation install, and seeding/sodding has given me a better understanding of how important each and every little thing is in this industry.”

A proud alumnus of Southeast Tech, Ryan has some advice for individuals searching for a career direction. “If you are looking for great hands on learning experience, close interaction with your instructors, and a jump start into your career path, then you definitely need to see what Southeast Tech can offer you. Work hard, ask questions, listen, and most importantly, be patient. The journey to that “dream job” is half the fun.”
Training Solutions Institute offers real-world application of Green Building Design and Construction practices on LEED projects. Whether you are looking for fundamental concepts of green building or implementing a LEED project with an existing building, Training Solutions has a Green Building Certificate for you.

What is Green Building? Green building, or sustainable design, is the practice of increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use energy, water, and materials, and reducing building impacts on human health and the environment over the entire life cycle of the building. Green building concepts extend beyond the walls of buildings and can include site planning, community and land use planning issues as well.

Why is Green Building important? The growth and development of our communities has a large impact on our natural environment. The manufacturing, design, construction, and operation of the buildings in which we live and work are responsible for the consumption of many of our natural resources.

In the United States, buildings account for:
- 39% of total energy use
- 68% of total electricity consumption
- 30% of landfill waste
- 38% of carbon dioxide emissions
- 12% of total water consumption

**Environmental Benefits**
- Enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve air and water quality
- Reduce waste streams
- Conserve and restore natural resources

**Economic Benefits**
- Reduce operating costs
- Improve occupant productivity
- Enhance asset value and profits
- Optimize life-cycle economic performance

**Social Benefits**
- Enhance occupant health and comfort
- Improve indoor air quality
- Minimize strain on local utility infrastructure
- Improve overall quality of life

Training Solutions Institute offers real-world application of Green Building Design and Construction practices on LEED projects. Whether you are looking for fundamental concepts of green building or implementing a LEED project with an existing building, Training Solutions has a Green Building Certificate for you.

What is Green Building? Green building, or sustainable design, is the practice of increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use energy, water, and materials, and reducing building impacts on human health and the environment over the entire life cycle of the building. Green building concepts extend beyond the walls of buildings and can include site planning, community and land use planning issues as well.

Why is Green Building important? The growth and development of our communities has a large impact on our natural environment. The manufacturing, design, construction, and operation of the buildings in which we live and work are responsible for the consumption of many of our natural resources.

In the United States, buildings account for:
- 39% of total energy use
- 68% of total electricity consumption
- 30% of landfill waste
- 38% of carbon dioxide emissions
- 12% of total water consumption

**Environmental Benefits**
- Enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve air and water quality
- Reduce waste streams
- Conserve and restore natural resources

**Economic Benefits**
- Reduce operating costs
- Improve occupant productivity
- Enhance asset value and profits
- Optimize life-cycle economic performance

**Social Benefits**
- Enhance occupant health and comfort
- Improve indoor air quality
- Minimize strain on local utility infrastructure
- Improve overall quality of life

Training Solutions offers three online certifications:
- LEED AP + Building Design & Construction
- LEED Green Associate Exam Preparation
- NEW! LEED Existing Buildings: Operations + Maintenance Exam Preparation

For more information, go to [www.trainingsolutionsinstitute.com](http://www.trainingsolutionsinstitute.com) or give us a call at 605.367.7619.

Taken from USGBC.org
There’s a skilled labor shortage in Sioux Falls and across the entire region. As we grow, the demand for an innovative, educated and well-trained workforce has never been greater. The region’s industrial employers rely on qualified workers to compete and thrive in today’s competitive global marketplace. Where will this strong technical workforce come from?

Technical education provides the workforce development needed to prepare workers with the necessary skills and to meet industry’s increasing need for a skilled technical workforce. But that’s not enough. We need you.

TechEd Works for Me is an initiative to elevate the image of technical education and position it as a fast-track solution to lucrative career opportunities in industry, while encouraging business and industry leaders to support tech ed grads with employment and advancement opportunities.

TechEd Works for Me will have a lasting impact on the community by helping to address urgent skilled labor shortages and creating a sustainable workforce to serve the entire region now and in the future, and will raise awareness that for students, parents and our economy, tech ed works.

GET INVOLVED. Become part of the solution by joining in the Workforce Initiative Partnership. Visit TechEdWorks.com or call the Southeast Tech Foundation at (605) 367-7464.

TechEd Works for Me is an initiative to elevate the image of technical education and position it as a fast-track solution to lucrative career opportunities in industry, while encouraging business and industry leaders to support tech ed grads with employment and advancement opportunities.

TechEd Works for Me will have a lasting impact on the community by helping to address urgent skilled labor shortages and creating a sustainable workforce to serve the entire region now and in the future, and will raise awareness that for students, parents and our economy, tech ed works.

WEED WORKS FOR ME
MODERN LEARNING. FUTURE SUCCESS.

A Workforce Initiative Partnership
Southeast Tech and Forward Sioux Falls, with the support of area businesses, are partnering to address critical workforce needs in the following targeted industries:
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Automotive/Transportation

TechEd Works for Me is an initiative to elevate the image of technical education and position it as a fast-track solution to lucrative career opportunities in industry, while encouraging business and industry leaders to support tech ed grads with employment and advancement opportunities.

TechEd Works for Me will have a lasting impact on the community by helping to address urgent skilled labor shortages and creating a sustainable workforce to serve the entire region now and in the future, and will raise awareness that for students, parents and our economy, tech ed works.

GET INVOLVED. Become part of the solution by joining in the Workforce Initiative Partnership. Visit TechEdWorks.com or call the Southeast Tech Foundation at (605) 367-7464.

Join this growing list of industry partners:
- AGC Building Chapter
- AGC Highway Chapter
- Amesbury
- Architecture Incorporated
- Component Manufacturing Company
- Dakota Digital
- DocuTap
- Egger Steel Company
- Graham Tire Company
- Home Builders Association of the Sioux Empire
- Jay Egge
- Automatic Service
- Koch Hazard
- Lloyd Companies
- Luverne Truck Equipment
- Marmen Energy
- Midwestern Mechanical
- P & M Steel Company
- POET
- SDN Communications
- Sheehan Mack
- Sales & Equipment
- Showplace Wood Products
- Van Buskirk Companies
- Wilson Trailers
Returning to college or making the transition to college life is always a mixed bag. For some it’s fun to get back and see their friends, for others it can be nerve wracking if they don’t know anyone, and for most they’re resolved to the fact that it’s time to buckle down for the semester!

Southeast Tech kicked off the Fall semester with a mixer that encouraged students to touch base with old friends and meet new ones through a Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored Fall Back 2 School Bash.

According to SGA advisor Chelsea Reisch, “The purpose of this event was to welcome new students on to our campus and welcome returning students back to school. We wanted to create a fun outside event where they could take part in activities, meet new people and be able to get involved right away at Southeast Tech. The event was located at the Southeast Tech apartment complex in hopes that we would attract students living on campus to meet their neighbors and be able to have a night out right in their backyard.”
Southeast Tech is proud to welcome our newest employees.

Vincent Berry ............... Plumbing Instructor
Rebecca Cornell ............ Housing & Retention Coordinator
Sherry Curtis-Cramer .... Sociology Instructor
Elise Derry ................. LPN Instructor
Micah Giebler .............. Collision Repair & Refinish Specialist
Sara Gillis ................. English Instructor
Cindy Hagle ................. Medical Coding Instructor
Jaclyn Heide ............... LPN Instructor
Christine Kaiser ........... LPN Instructor
Elizabeth Kassing .......... Civil Engineering/Land Surveying Instructor
Amanda Larson .............. Online Support Specialist
Jason Merritt ............... Automotive Technology Instructor
Brandilyn Olson .......... Admissions Assistant/Receptionist
Emily Olson ............... Student Success Advisor/Librarian
Xavier Pastrano ............ English Instructor
Casey Vis ..................... Mechatronics Coordinator
Laurie Weber .............. Nursing Programs Secretary

64 students attended the event getting in on the fun with lawn games, card games, pool and an outdoor movie. Chelsea notes, “Student life is valuable for students for several reasons. First of all, it’s fun! While a student’s first priority must be their academic work, we recognize that a large part of the educational process that happens on a college campus involves students’ lives outside of the classroom. Our students work very hard and need time to relax and enjoy the social side of campus life, and that is where Student Life programming comes in. In addition, participation in Student Life on campus allows students to learn skills that will be valuable to them throughout their lifetime, both in their career and personal lives. Students involved in activities on campus, Student Government and/or Student Organizations have an opportunity to develop communications skills and improve their problem-solving and decision making skills. It allows students to become connected to our school and to build community. Being involved helps them seek out all of the valuable resources we have to offer as well as discover new friendships and relationships.”

PLUMBING

What Does a Plumber Do?
The plumbing trades are an integral component of the construction and housing industries. Plumbers support the infrastructure necessary for economic development. In addition, plumbers support residential and commercial users for remodeling, emergencies and service calls. Plumbers may work on residential and commercial projects. They may do new installations as well as service calls to repair existing systems.
Looking for a career-driven education that won’t bust the bank or hang you out to dry for four plus years? Southeast Tech has more than 40 high-tech degrees that take 2 years or less to complete at a fraction of the cost of a traditional college degree! Stop by one of our Friday FYI Visitation Days to scope it out and score some free pizza. Register at http://visit.southeasttech.edu or just give us a call at 605.367.6040.

More than a degree, we deliver careers.