MARY MEDEMA
Collaborating for Progress

NEW ELECTRICIAN PROGRAM
Sparks $47,000 in Scholarships

DUAL CREDIT UPDATE
Don’t Miss Out!

HELP WANTED
SOUTH DAKOTA’S SKILLED TRADES DILEMMA; SHORTAGES CONTINUE
With an unemployment rate of 2.7% Sioux Falls is again showing that we have an incredible city to live in and that economic growth is everywhere! Because of that, the challenges of having a ready and capable workforce to fulfill industry’s needs are many. Southeast Tech’s agility in creating new degrees, fine-tune existing degrees or providing customized training is key for continued growth in this environment.

Having the privilege of partnering with industry to create a solution for South Dakota’s workforce is an amazing experience. In addition, providing education that allows our students to thrive in the local economy is incredibly rewarding, and being able to connect those students into industry hungry for their skilled talent is paramount to our mission. We are excited to move forward and have our graduates recognized for the important work they do in our community.

Take a moment to read Tech Times and discover how Southeast Tech is making a difference for Sioux Falls and South Dakota!

Jeffrey R. Holcomb
President, Southeast Tech
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POWERING UP

Industry professionals donate $47,000 for upcoming Electrician degree students.

After announcing that Southeast Tech was going to be offering an Electrician, AAS degree earlier this spring for Fall 2015, industry has been generously showing their support. In fact, it has been so generous that $47,000 has been donated to date.

The rationale behind the gifts is simple. Industry is hungry for electricians and that isn’t going to change anytime in the near future. According to Bob Jarding, Vice President of Electric Supply Company in Sioux Falls, “We employ 50 to 100 electricians depending on the project and volume. Right now the economy is strong and businesses are active so we need more help. We’re struggling to find them, and that need is nationwide.”

That shortage of these career professionals was what prompted Southeast Tech to create the Electrician degree with the goal of increasing available electricians for the Sioux Falls’ area as well as the state of South Dakota. The degree is a two-year associate’s degree that will grant students 2,000 hours toward the required 8,000-hour apprenticeship required to become a Journeyman Electrician.

Southeast Tech President Jeff Holcomb shares, “The development of this program was initiated by conversations with contractors who need qualified and well-trained professionals in the construction field, specifically electricians. We’re looking forward to continuing to partner with contractors and businesses that are in need of students with these technical skills.”

Jarding notes, “We want to hire Southeast Tech students because we know they’ll gain a higher density of training because it’s full time training versus part time training on the job. When I get a graduate who has gone through two years of full-time education, I get someone who has been introduced to the principals of our trade. It saves a lot of introductory training and we know they’re committed to this particular field.”

The donations will be used to fund scholarships for incoming students.

GIFTS TO DATE

These gifts will fund educational scholarships for Southeast Tech students enrolling in the Electrician program.

$25,000 – National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)

$15,000 – International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 426

$5,000 – Labor Management Cooperation Committee consisting of NECA and IBEW Local 426

$500 – Thompson Electric Company, Brion’s Electric LLC, Electric Supply Company and Electric Construction Company

According to Southeast Tech Institutional Advancement Officer Chellee Nemec, “The generosity from our business partners helps our students in multiple ways. The ability to offer scholarships to help take the burden of tuition from them can mean the difference from enrolling or not. Since the shortage of professionals in this industry is such an issue, any way we can support it and make it successful is key. Providing assistance for students is paramount for enrollment and the ultimate success of the program.”
NEW FOR 2015!
ELECTRICIAN, AAS DEGREE

The Electrician curriculum integrates electrical theory and practical application to give students not only the skills to wire electrical systems but also the practical knowledge to support, explain and troubleshoot each application. Computer programs are integrated into the coursework to create working models that simulate real circuit conditions and to support classroom lectures and demonstrations.

COURSEWORK
Class lectures offer technical knowledge and theory. In order to earn an associate degree, students must also complete general education courses.

• Analyzing Electrical Systems
• Circuits & Wiring
• Cost Estimations
• Electrical Theory
• National Electrical Code
• Installation Planning
• Motor & Power Controls
• Preventing Accidents
• Blueprint Reading
• Lighting
• Data Cabling

POPULAR CAREER OPTIONS
Once an electrician has completed training and required supervised work hours and obtained his or her license, there are many career paths that he or she may follow. Some careers may require additional training and licensure. They include:

• Electrical Contractor
• Construction Electrician
• Inspector (Code Compliance)
• Estimators (Electrical Projects or Electrical Construction)
• Project Managers
• Electrical Serviceperson
• Electrician
• Wiremen (Commercial or Residential)

Upon completion of the Electrician program, Southeast Tech graduates receive 2,000 hours toward certification and will be placed in the third year of the electrician’s apprenticeship program.

605.367.6040 | www.southeasttech.edu
Chellee Nemec’s pride and belief in Southeast Tech comes full circle.

Returning to Southeast Tech as a staff member was a sweet moment for alumnae Chellee Nemec. Having worked in sales and fundraising for non-profits since she graduated with a Business Administration degree in 2002, she couldn’t be more pleased with how her career has led her back to her alma mater.

Working as the Institutional Advancement Officer, Chellee has the opportunity to work internally with staff and students as well as externally with business partners to help realize the full potential of Southeast Tech and its impact on the local workforce. She shares, “I have enjoyed building relationships with the employees here at Southeast Tech. Some of the faculty that taught me in class are still here and it’s a great opportunity to work with them on this new level. They helped shape my career and I am happy that they get to see first hand how they have impacted my career.”

Having attended Southeast Tech as a traditional student, Chellee was very untraditional in the fact that she was working full-time while attending school. “The reason I chose Southeast Tech is because I had to work full-time and I needed a school that would work with my schedule. My parents had gotten divorced and I didn’t want to be a burden to my mother so I paid for my own school.” Although it was a difficult balance, that experience now gives Chellee the ability to understand how challenging it can be to attain a degree for many individuals. Today, Chellee continues to build on her Southeast Tech degree by working toward her Master’s in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota.

“As a student again after 12 years, I know how financially straining it can be to pay for college. What inspires me is that I’m helping students reach their higher education goals by raising money for scholarships. I’m proud to serve the college that started my career. I want to grow this college and be part of the addition for new programs, new buildings and amenities for employees and students.”

She is also excited to enhance existing and build new relationships with industry partners. “My goal is to continually improve programs by raising funds to get state-of-the-art equipment for students to learn from. If we can work together with donors to assist students in being successful we can improve workforce development!”

It’s exciting to serve in my position. I believe in the education I got and I wanted to come back and help other students like myself. You can be successful with a technical degree and I’m proud of that.”

-Chellee Nemec

Chellee meets with Mechanical Systems/Plumbing instructor Vince Berry to determine future needs.
Mary Medema, the Sioux Falls Development Foundation Director of Workforce Development has been rolling up her sleeves to solve ‘a great problem to have’. Sioux Falls’ economy is booming and the need for individuals with specialized professional skills is at an all-time high. Working with employers to determine employment needs and linking them to educators such as Southeast Tech is a top priority for her. One question is, are we doing a good enough job of sharing this need with the community? According to Mary, “Maybe we need to do a better job of helping parents and students understand the current and future workforce opportunities and perhaps they would make a different choice regarding what they are going to school for.”
When it comes to knowing a thing or two about workforce development, Mary Medema knows her stuff. Before serving the Sioux Falls Development Foundation as the Director of Workforce Development since January of 1998, she had already put in 20 years as a human resources professional.

In her current role, Mary develops and directs initiatives that promote the growth, diversity and quality of the area workforce in order to meet the present and future needs of the business community. “My position is funded by Forward Sioux Falls, the successful joint venture partnership between the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Sioux Falls Development Foundation. I’ve always been really passionate about making the whole community better, so this position has been a perfect fit for me.”

As Director of Workforce Development, Mary has seen the economy as well as the population of Sioux Falls diversify dramatically. “Business needs and wants are cyclical and the trends that take place in employment matter to everyone because that’s what keeps an economy and community thriving. Forward Sioux Falls is the kind of public-private partnership that most communities aren’t fortunate enough to have. It is a catalyst to accomplish important economic development goals, and the glue that helps us stay focused and moving in the right direction.”

President of Southeast Tech Jeff Holcomb shares, “Partnering with Workforce Development and industry professionals is integral to our mission. We work to identify what is needed in our community, and we work to deliver that. Our goal is to provide a workforce that works for Sioux Falls and the surrounding communities because we want

The Plumbing diploma was added in Fall 2013 to address the shortage of plumbers in the region.
our young people to have the opportunity to stay home and enrich our state's economy with their talents."

Mary cites three main categories of people that have unique needs in the development of a quality workforce. These include the following:

- Potential Workforce: These individuals are currently attending high school. They are exploring options to help them determine what they want to pursue as a career. The Forward Sioux Falls ShadowEd program allows high school students the opportunity to shadow business professionals of their choice to see if that career is really what they are interested in doing. A TechEd Works initiative is a collaboration with Southeast Tech and is promoting the benefits of technical education to high potential workforce.

Looking further down the road to see what our workforce needs are going to be so that our community can offer the right kind of education and training support is critical. Providers of training will want to further engage industry in the elevation of skills in the workforce. Industry absolutely needs to participate in order to grow the quality and quantity of skilled workforce for the future.” –Mary Medema

The new Electrician degree launching in Fall 2015 will provide a new influx of skilled workers.

Continued on page 15.
Groundbreaking legislation last spring has allowed South Dakota high school students in their junior and senior years to take advantage of an incredible opportunity to double up on high school and college-level credits at the same time for just $40/credit hour.

West Central High School senior Amanda shares, “I’m taking Sociology online at Southeast Tech and it’s going great. There are things I wasn’t expecting to learn like how to read a syllabus and how to buy books. I think it’s going to make starting college easier for me next year when I’m on my own. I’m planning on taking six credits next semester.”

94 South Dakota high school students joined Southeast Tech’s campus in August thanks to this initiative. According to Dual Credit Counselor Anna Fischer, “This is a great chance for them to get a jump start on their college education. They’re getting a chance to see the difference between a high school course versus a college course. I think they’ll have an advantage on knowing how to navigate when they graduate from high school.”

Southeast Tech offers hundreds of traditional and online courses available for high school students to take advantage of from specialized tech classes to general education courses. For more information visit www.southeasttech.edu and look for the Dual Credit Tab under Future Students or contact our Dual Credit Counselor Anna Fischer at anna.fischer@southeasttech.edu today!

Dual credit students do NOT pay additional online course fees.

First of all the instructors at Southeast Tech are simply amazing, they teach as if they were leaders not wardens of a prison. They encourage collaboration which benefits the students to build team skills while being in a learning atmosphere. I have really enjoyed my time here so far, it’s a wonderful experience and privilege. The campus is amazing and so are the staff.” – Jurgen, Roosevelt High Senior
Steps for Dual Credit Registration for January 2015

New to Southeast Tech? Below are the simple steps you need to take to get enrolled for Dual Credit courses for the Spring Semester.

1. Review your schedule with your high school counselor as well as your future curriculum and decide what will work best. Use Southeast Tech’s dual credit course schedule to help with this. You can find it here: www.southeasttech.edu/futurestudents/dualcreditenrollment/

2. Complete a Dual Credit application for Southeast Tech, including the school approval portion. You can find this at the web address listed above (Step 1). Registration will begin November 10th, however applications can be turned in any time.

3. If you are taking a Math or English course you are required to have a placement test for registration (ACT, Accuplacer).

4. After you are registered in the course, you and your high school counselor will receive an email with your course schedule.

5. You will receive an orientation packet in the mail that includes instructions on how to log in to STInet, your student portal. Also included in this packet is information on books, tuition, add/drop periods etc. You must buy books and be ready as soon as possible so you can start coursework at the beginning of the semester, and the first class.

6. Anna Fischer is your Southeast Tech student success advisor. She will be doing grade and attendance checks and keeping you and your school posted on progress. If parents want information they will have to fill out the Southeast Tech waiver (information included in orientation packet) or they will have to get details from the high school.

7. Your final transcripts will be sent out to your high school at the end of the semester to record your grade.

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I am planning on taking courses next semester! I have found the dual credit program at Southeast Tech to be very beneficial and highly recommend other students do so. It is a great way to get ahead next year and my counselor did a great job helping me with any questions I had and made the whole process easy!” –Luisa, Roosevelt High Senior

“STInet is a student portal that allows students to manage their coursework online.

I absolutely love the dual credit classes, and the teachers are very understanding and great.” –Kendall, Aberdeen Central Senior
What can training do for you and your business?

The American Society for Training & Development (ASTD) has found that companies with fewer than 500 employees devote fewer training hours per employee than do larger companies—and they spend more per employee. “That’s because it’s hard for small companies to avail themselves of some of the large-scale training options, such as bringing outside trainers on-site,” says Pat Galagan, executive editor of the nonprofit membership association. However, smaller businesses should make training a priority.

The recent report on the Workforce Summits held by Governor Daugaard highlighted the need for skill and competency development in three key areas.

1. Having enough people with the right skills and competencies is the key to success: South Dakota’s economic success is tied to having enough people with the right skills and capabilities for South Dakota jobs. This is an urgent issue requiring continued concentrated attention and effort.

2. Employers need more ways to access and support a workforce with needed skills and competencies: Businesses cannot find enough of the right skills at the right time, and need support from educational institutions, communities and government to attract and retain workers.

3. Educators are key to developing workforce skills and competencies: Education is critical to providing the workforce South Dakota needs, and must be focused on the skills and competencies needed to grow and sustain South Dakota’s economy.

Training Solutions Institute division of Southeast Tech provides flexible workforce and career development opportunities for individuals and organizations. These opportunities are presented in the form of on-going programs, public offerings for the purpose of individual skills development, and customized/contract training provided to develop skills within an organization. Training Solutions has a large catalog of training and developmental classes and programs geared toward the business community that can be found at www.trainingsolutionsinstitute.com.

We have abundant career opportunities and great employers to tout in South Dakota. The biggest constraint on our economic growth is available labor supply. We must continuously review our current efforts to develop and expand our workforce.” – Governor Dennis Daugaard
At Bellevue University, you can:

• Transfer **ALL** your hard-earned credits. This means no repeating courses, saving you time and money.
• **Finish quickly** with an accelerated degree.
• Choose from **50+ bachelor’s degrees**.
• **Take classes online** or **right here in Sioux Falls** on the Southeast Tech campus!

Take your next step today!

Contact **Stacey Halverson** on the Southeast Tech Campus at **605-335-8010** to get started now!

**BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY’S CREDIT TRANSFER SAVES STUDENTS TIME AND MONEY**

Maximizing previously-earned credits is a primary goal for virtually every community college student who wants to earn a bachelor’s degree. Bellevue University prides itself on providing a smooth path for students to transfer credits into the degree of their choice.

Bellevue University is a fully accredited, private non-profit institution founded nearly 50 years ago. Its expert faculty have helped over 40,000 graduates – people with hectic schedules and many daily commitments – earn a high quality degree so they can move up in their careers. Students choose from over 70 bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. degrees designed for the real world. Classes are offered online and on Bellevue University’s beautiful campus located near Omaha, Nebraska, as well as in many regional locations including Southeast Tech.

Bellevue University believes that what you know is more important than where you learned it. That’s why they strive to award credit for the college credits already earned from accredited colleges and universities, and for military and corporate training.

With a reputation as one of the most affordable private, non-profit schools in the country, Bellevue University’s financial aid staff is knowledgeable about loans, grants, employer tuition reimbursement and other payment options to help students meet their goals.

Bellevue University offers a broad selection of career-relevant majors in business, healthcare, public safety, security management, IT, and more. U.S. News 2014 Top Online Education Program Rankings place the school in the top 20. In addition, the University is ranked in the top ten for military Veteran students according to the inaugural U. S. News Best Online Programs for Veterans Rankings. Bellevue University also has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Students can start their someday at Bellevue University by contacting Stacey Halverson on the Southeast Tech campus at 605-335-8010 or visiting SmoothestTransfer.com.
Three years ago Southeast Tech’s Student Engagement committee launched their first ever Blue Boo, a family-friendly trick or treating event for Southeast Tech students, employees and their families to enjoy on Halloween. The initial concept was to provide games, costume contests and of course lots of candy. However, the group decided to add something special the second year around.

According to committee member and Registrar Kristie Vortherms, “Last fall I asked Mechatronics instructor Bryan Cox and Electronics Instructor Curt Olson if they would be interested in doing something ‘little’ for Blue Boo. They presented it to their students and the project went from little to “The Monster Lab”. Since they did such a great job last year and now had many of the materials that they needed they pretty much volunteered to do it again this year with very little prodding from the committee. We checked on their progress last week and it’s just incredible what these students are doing that applies directly to real-life. The students as well as the instructors seem to be having a great time putting it all together.”

For the third annual Blue Boo, Southeast Tech’s Electronics and Mechatronics students are creating another jaw-dropping display to share with the community. According to first-year Electronics student Shane Hetland, “I’ve always tinkered and taken apart things but didn’t understand them and now I want to know how to do that. I was expecting lectures but there’s so much student interaction here. I didn’t expect we’d be doing this project and it’s awesome to participate. I hope it all works solid and looks cool. I want it to make kids happy, or scared.”

Lab Specialist Julie Sackett smiles, “The work these students are doing is amazing and they’re actually learning from the knowledge of our second year students. It’s a great way to share a collaborative mentoring experience between them.”

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The cemetery used optical sensors to trigger a programmable logic controller (PLC) that activated the ghosts hidden behind the tombstones.

“Steven” is a headless clown child riding a remote controlled tricycle. The students installed two motors: one for the drive wheel and one to make the front wheel turn left/right connected to a standard remote control transmitter/receiver. Almost the entire body of Steven was printed using a 3D printer, including movable knee, hip and shoulder joints. The parts were designed using AutoDesk Inventor Software.

A magnetic switch activated a sequence of events for the monster. Warning lights began to flash as the table shook with the use of pneumatic actuators. Once the table stopped, a linear actuator pushed the monster into an upright position. A servo motor turned the head left and right as the monster “looked around.” The linear actuator then lowered the body of the monster and the sequence ended. The sequence was programmed on a PIC microcontroller.
Southeast Tech welcomes our newest employees.

Sonja Braucht, Early Childhood Specialist Instructor; Chris Davis, Accounting/Business Instructor; Melanie Fuller, Scarbrough Childcare Center Program Assistant; Sarah Lang, TAACCCT Grant LPN Instructor; Clinton Mack, Welding Lab Specialist; Britney Mower, LPN Instructor; Joseph Nelson, Custodian; Chellee Nemec, Institutional Advancement Officer; Ashley Rathsachack, Admissions Assistant; Joan Schneider, Academic Affairs Secretary; Breanna Stewart, Scarbrough Childcare Center Program Assistant; Afton Zediker, TAACCCT Grant LPN Instructor

NEW RECRUITS
Southeast Tech welcomes our newest employees.

Southeast Tech revamps visitation days and awards two $1,000 scholarships.

Tailgate Time

Visitation days at Southeast Tech have undergone a makeover with a tailgate theme and an all-new Team Southeast Tech student ambassador group. According to Marketing student and ambassador Jill Olsen, “I had a great time greeting students and their parents. It’s nice to share my experience with them and give them a chance to ask what Southeast Tech is really all about from a student’s perspective.”

While visitation days have always been an incredibly important way to determine if Southeast Tech is the right fit, it’s now also a great opportunity to win one of two $1,000 scholarships. The scholarships were made available through the Southeast Tech Foundation TechEd Works initiative.

According to Director of Students Jim Rokusek, “This scholarship program is a great incentive for high school students to have another reason to check us out in person. The best way to determine if Southeast Tech is the right fit for you is to visit. Now students have a really great reason not to miss out!”

Jordan is one winner of a $1,000 Tech It Forward scholarship.

School students, parents and industry professionals.

• Emerging Workforce: These individuals are currently pursuing some form of higher education whether that’s technical school or college. They have made a choice on their career goals and are working to obtain the training necessary for them to become a viable candidate.

• Current Workforce: These individuals are currently employed but may need additional training to meet changing needs of their current position or take on new positions that evolve within their company.

The key, she believes to creating a cohesive workforce is blending the needs of the current economy with offering the right type of education and producing graduates that are prepared to meet these needs. “We have always tried to collaborate with the K-12 system, Southeast Tech and other universities in the area. And although we are starting at a really good place, we need to look at the workforce more strategically. We’re committed to getting better. We’re going to want to look in-depth at our current and future opportunities because the need for specifically skilled workers will remain real and we need to address it.”

And because Sioux Falls is growing, it’s still experiencing a tight labor market in many areas including manufacturing. Mary shares, “In part it’s due to the fact that there’s been a significant increase in jobs while the population of job seekers responding to that increase just isn’t in sync. We need to address this issue together.”
A GREAT PLACE TO START WITH DUAL CREDIT!

DID YOU KNOW? South Dakota high school juniors and seniors have an incredible opportunity to double up on high school and college-level credits at the same time for just $40/credit hour! That saves you up to $471.00 for a three-credit course! For more information, contact our Dual Credit Counselor Anna Fischer at anna.fischer@southeasttech.edu.

DUAL CREDIT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

2014–2015 VISITATION DAYS: NOVEMBER 21, JANUARY 30, MARCH 6