LEAVING BLUE | SOUTHEAST TECH TIMES
southeasttech.edu | spring 2012

career-focused EDUCATION
meet our alumnus OF THE YEAR
HOVLAND learning center

southeasttech.edu
Because you’re about to graduate, Colorado Technical University can offer special advantages to help you take your Associate degree to the next level in as little as 17 months* – on campus or online.

Exclusively for Southeast Technical Institute Graduates

• Streamlined transfer of credits from your school to ours**
• Dedicated enrollment team to ease you in to CTU
• Tuition grant***
• Waived application fee

* The 17-month Bachelor’s degree assumes that all Associate-level requirements have been met through an Associate degree or the equivalent. Master’s degree programs can be completed in as little as 18 months. Program length may vary.

** CTU has an articulation agreement which allows Southeast Technical Institute graduates to transfer their degree into a program offered by CTU. This articulation agreement includes transfer of specific credits from STI programs to specific CTU programs.

*** University grants are based on established criteria as published in the University’s catalog and are awarded after verification that the conditions of eligibility have been met.

With graduation just around the corner, it hits home to me what a wonderful opportunity Southeast Tech has given thousands of graduates who have chosen to further their education on our fine campus.

Our degrees are designed to allow our graduates to remain here and get a great job immediately. We train for what industry supports regionally and we focus on developing programming for individuals to stay here.

Take that opportunity and make the most of it! I’d like to share best wishes for great success to all of our graduating students. Hats off to a job well done!

Jeff Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute
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South Dakota jobs are available, but many aren’t qualified to fill them.
When most people think of medical facilities, doctors, nurses and other healthcare technicians come to mind. However, for the general public, life-saving medical equipment that makes many procedures possible is often taken for granted. For Kelly Meyer, maintaining and repairing these million dollar machines is an everyday occurrence.

Kelly graduated from Southeast Tech with both an Electronics and Biomedical Equipment Technology degree. The Biomedical Equipment degree allowed Kelly to specialize in working on medical equipment. “I, along with a colleague, am responsible for servicing and maintaining all of the medical equipment in the hospital. Most equipment is on an annual or semiannual preventative maintenance schedule, so every month there is a list of equipment that needs to be checked according to the manufacturer’s specifications.”

The importance of technicians like Kelly is becoming increasingly vital with the ongoing demand for healthcare procedures and the spiraling costs of new equipment. He notes, “Since the biomedical engineering department doesn’t generate revenue, we justify our jobs by saving as much money for the hospital as possible. We frequently enhance our skills on new equipment by attending the manufacturer’s equipment training, thus eliminating the need for expensive service contracts.”

Although ensuring that each medical device is working precisely for the staff at the Avera Heart Hospital of South Dakota, Kelly also works to maintain excellent relationships within the organization. “The hands-on experience that I was exposed to in the labs at Southeast Tech in addition to knowledgeable instructors was invaluable. However, the customer service and technical writing classes were also skills that have really helped me succeed in my career.”

“The career I’m in was definitely well worth the three years and fraction of the cost of a four-year college degree. If you like fixing things and diving into almost anything to try and repair it, this is the field for you.”
Office Assistant Diploma leads to rewarding and professional careers.

For Southeast Tech Office Assistant students, learning the art of business is priority number one. Preparing to represent the ‘face of the office’, curriculum focuses on specialized office skills, excelling under daily office pressures, business etiquette and the craft of helping others operate exceptionally to keep the business running smoothly.

A critical position in any business large or small, is the Office Assistant that many times lends the first impression of a company’s personality and professionalism. An exciting career field, this position is perfect for outgoing, naturally friendly and helpful individuals who like to support others.

The good news is that if you’re dedicated, organized, open to training and learning new methods of business through technology this may be an ideal move for you. An Office Assistant that portrays tact and motivation is priceless for many employers and oftentimes becomes the anchor for the office.

According to Keila Smith, an Executive Assistant at Sanford USD Medical Center, “I truly do enjoy my work as an Executive Assistant. The best part is that I have a close partnership with my bosses and also appreciate the team atmosphere that we have here in Sanford Administration. In this type of role, there are constantly new projects and challenges that come your way; no two days are really the same. I thrive on challenge and variety, and view each new project as a learning opportunity. I never want to be stagnant in a position. When I start to get bored, it’s time to seek new projects for continued growth and satisfaction.”

Not only is there a large demand for Office Assistants in South Dakota and beyond, it’s also a flexible field to be in. Not a niche profession, every industry has a need for these professionals in both large and small markets. Most companies offer professional office atmospheres as well as typical business hours, such as 8am – 5pm, as well as benefits.

Shannon Altermatt, Admission’s Assistant/Receptionist at Southeast Tech notes, “The Office Assistant diploma is a great program. It’s only a year-long, which makes it easy for students to double major and have two degrees in about 2 ½ years!”

Excellent Office Assistant Qualities
- Friendly & Helpful
- Detail Oriented
- Confidential
- Multitasking
- Team Oriented
- Professional Appearance and Attitude
Jennifer Stapleton finds fulfillment in Nuclear Medicine compliance.

Fresh out of high school, Jennifer Stapleton enrolled in college never envisioning it wasn’t going to work out. But after just one semester, she knew it wasn’t the right fit for her. She remembers, “I wanted to pursue a formal education; however, I also wanted to accomplish my goal sooner than four years.”

A Sioux Falls’ native, Jennifer was attracted to Southeast Tech because of its rapid growth and number of healthcare programs it offered. In 1991, she was accepted into the Nuclear Medicine Technology program, which had launched in 1990. “I knew that I definitely wanted to spend my life and develop my career in the medical field. After evaluating different programs, I found Nuclear Medicine to be interesting and challenging.”

In 1993, Jennifer graduated from Southeast Tech with a degree that was in high-demand and secured a position with Nuclear Imaging, Ltd., now DMS Imaging shortly after. In 2001, Jennifer accepted a position at Sanford USD Medical and has continued her career at Sanford over the past decade. She currently serves as the Compliance, Education and Training Specialist in Nuclear Medicine.

A demanding and critical position, Jennifer ensures that Sanford is compliant and meeting all national regulatory requirements set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as working with staff to ensure they have the resources to work safely around radiation. She shares, “Nuclear Medicine is a very fulfilling field that is constantly changing and evolving. I take great pride in being a Nuclear Medicine Technologist.”

“Southeast Tech provided me with the educational foundation I have built my entire career upon. Their partnership with other higher education institutions ensures students receive the best education and provides them the opportunities to continue their education if they wish to do so. Southeast Tech is fulfilling to those who want a formal education and start their career because it focuses on the needs of the students and providing the best academic atmosphere they can.”
South Dakota has thousands of jobs open, but many don’t qualify as the right fit.

Signs show an economic turn-around is gearing up for South Dakotans, but is the state’s workforce prepared to meet the demand for it? According to Governor Dennis Daugaard, the answer is a resounding ‘no’. More than 10,000 jobs exist in South Dakota that only a handful of individuals are qualified for. In response, Governor Daugaard’s administration has created South Dakota Wins to address the issue.

South Dakota Wins is a workforce development program that brings together government, education and business leaders to capitalize on South Dakota’s tremendous potential. The components of this program will help South Dakota develop and attract a stronger, more educated workforce, positioning us well to compete in an ever changing dynamic global economy.

South Dakota Wins will better prepare our young people for the future, all while providing immediate training to our citizens so they can fill the positions already in our state. It will also work to improve access to rural health care and aggressively market South Dakota to attract new citizens and encourage the return of those who’ve moved away from our state."

*Taken from www.southdakotawins.com
At Southeast Tech, the goal is to provide education that empowers its graduates to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation. A strong bond with local industry allows students to learn professional skills that are in demand in South Dakota, and the adjoining region. The ultimate benefit is that students are able to secure employment while local industry has a strong and steady supply of skilled employees to draw from. Read on to share in the following students’ stories who are preparing to graduate or who have recently graduated and are now valuable members of our local workforce.

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**Tom Baxter**

Degree: CAD Engineering Technology, AAS Degree
Graduation Date: May, 2013
Employer: Adams Thermal Systems; Canton, SD
Start Date: Working Currently; Started August, 2010
Title: Tool & Die Technician

Passion, excitement and dedication drive Tom Baxter to not only work toward his degree in CAD Engineering Technology, but to work full-time as well. A native of Sioux Falls but a graduate of WyoTech, Tom pursued an exciting career working on high performance sports cars such as Lamborghini and Ferraris in Dallas Ft. Worth, Texas.

Although he loved to work on cars, he wasn't satisfied with his position. “I was designing custom parts for automotive products. Because I was self-taught in auto cad and 3D modeling, I wanted to know more because I knew I could only go so far without a degree.”

Not wanting to incur more school loans, Tom decided to work full-time while attending classes. “I initially took a job at Adams Thermal to pay the bills, but it’s turned into a career. I’m currently working on an apprenticeship in tool and die design.”

And having the commitment to gain a degree has been a smart move. “My supervisor knows I’m taking classes so it shows initiative on my part and helps me out with the company as well.” Today, Tom is looking forward to graduating in the next year and staying on at Adams Thermal. “It’s exciting to work for a growing company like this. They’re expanding at an incredible rate and it’s great to be a part of that.”
Looking forward to graduation, Jaelene isn’t busy prepping her resumé or stressing out about finding a job. As an intern with the Sioux Falls School District, she made such a good impression that it got her hired on full-time. Jaelene notes, “I’m looking forward to working with a great company. I did my internship in the Human Resource department and fell in love with the people there. I am excited to use the knowledge I have gained from my program."

Not a traditional student, Jaelene already possessed two degrees and had been working as a massage therapist and chiropractic assistant before enrolling into the Office Assistant program. She notes, “The classes here are small and personal. In addition, the teachers here know you by name and are willing to assist you in any way to help you succeed and get you ready for your career. My main instructor Deb Nowak is an amazing teacher and person. She has so much knowledge and passion for the program. I know it’s because of her and my hard work and dedication that I have landed my new position."

Going back to school wasn’t what Greg was planning on, but after getting laid off and with a family to support he didn’t have a lot of options. Choosing to enroll at Southeast Tech in a healthcare program was top on his list. “I knew that healthcare was a great field to be in so that’s why I chose it. Honestly, I chose Invasive Cardiovascular Technology because it was one of the few health programs that didn’t have a waiting list.”

After two years of studying his diligence paid off. Greg spent seven months in a clinical position with Avera in Sioux Falls and was rewarded with a job offer shortly after. “I knew Avera was good about hiring students who completed their clinicals with them. I truly enjoy my position as a Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist.”

Now working in a stable medical career, Greg is happy with how things unfolded. “For me the most impressive thing I took from Southeast Tech was how accomplished I was. I feel I was thoroughly prepared for my board exam as well as my current job. I know that the dedication of the staff is one of the primary reasons for this. Their attention to detail and knowledge of the material was crucial to learning the information that is needed in the workforce. I felt it helped me ‘hit the ground running’. I feel very fortunate to have graduated from such a quality program.”

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Megan M. is a student with a story that may resonate with you. After graduating from high school, Megan enrolled in her local university. She plowed through her core education courses, looking forward to the courses that would help her understand more about her major – healthcare management.

But when she got to these courses, she got a lot of disappointment. You see, Megan was that typical student, working while going to school. She didn't pursue just any job. She worked hard to land a job as a receptionist in a doctor's office to learn the ropes and prepare for a management job once she earned her bachelor's degree. This is why those courses in her major were so disappointing. The course content didn't relate to anything she was experiencing on the job. The methods for learning and the examples used in class weren't current, and the professors didn't have much “real world” experience. Disheartened, Megan dropped out and joined the ranks of 38 million adults with some college credits, but no degree.

It took years of plugging away at doctor's office jobs to make her see that the job of her dreams was only going to be available once she earned her bachelor’s degree. That's when she found Bellevue University, the one with online bachelor's degrees ranked number one by U.S. News & World Report for student engagement. Megan discovered that Bellevue University would accept the credits she had already earned. She enrolled in the online program so she wouldn't miss a beat at work, and what she found was open and consistent – engaging – communication with her professor who had worked in healthcare management herself. The students in her class were as interested in earning their degrees as was Megan – and they had real-world experiences to share, too.

The course content was dynamic which made the learning and class interactions meaningful and relevant. The experience gave Megan knowledge and skills that she shared on the job real-time, which got her noticed – and promoted – upon graduation. In short, Bellevue University made it possible for Megan to love learning again… and that's why she's now enrolled in the Master of Healthcare Administration degree program.

To learn more about all the online and in-class bachelor's and master's degrees at Bellevue University, see Bellevue.edu/SiouxFalls, or call 605-335-8010.
For Preston Crissey, the lure of law enforcement has appealed to him on many different levels. His desire to serve and protect foremost on his list, he also chose his career from a practical standpoint as well. “When I first started looking into law enforcement, I considered a few different things including job security, getting the opportunity to help people, the excitement of it, getting a chance to meet new people and working with great people within the field.”

And his career choice has paid off. Shortly following graduation from the Law Enforcement Science program at Southeast Tech, Preston accepted a position as Deputy Sheriff in the Aurora County Sheriff’s Office in Plankinton, SD. Originally from Beresford, SD he enjoys small town living and the relationships that are essential in a small community. He notes, “With my degree I was up and running and in my career in just two years. Southeast Tech was a great choice for me financially.”

The diversity of his position as a deputy sheriff has also been a benefit to Preston. “I’m proud to serve and protect the people and property of Aurora County. As a county deputy you do a little bit of everything. It varies from acting as a customer service representative to working with issues the general public has no knowledge about.”

A leader on and off duty, Preston is proud to be an everyday hero. Recently certified to instruct D.A.R.E. for the schools in Aurora County including White Lake, Plankinton and Stickney, he takes great pride in impacting his community. “When you become a law enforcement officer, you’re always in the public’s eye even when you’re off duty. Building a healthy foundation with the public not only benefits me as an officer, but also the people I protect as well. Law enforcement is a very rewarding career.”

“When you work hard in school and you have reliable and credible resources, it will reflect the type of person you are down the line in your career. Hard work pays off.”

Deputy Preston Crissey serves and protects with respect and honor.
Heading into the spring of 2012, Training Solutions Institute is very pleased to announce the opening of our new storefront. A beautiful new addition on the Southeast Tech campus, a sparkling glass enclosure adds an additional 15,000 square feet including: classroom space, a new Southeast Tech testing center, and an expanded welding lab as well as a welcoming and relaxing reception area to the Ed Wood Trade & Industry Center.

This renovation will allow Training Solutions Institute to serve our clientele better through more flexibility in scheduling and more capacity to accommodate multiple requests for training, classroom space or computer lab use. In addition, this makes Training Solutions Institute more accessible and easier to find on campus.

Along with the new physical space addition, Training Solutions Institute has also created a new virtual space in the form of a new website and Facebook page presence. Check out all the classes, certifications and training we have to offer which includes traditional classroom and online opportunities as well.

For more information or to register for classes, visit www.trainingsolutionsinstitute.com or call us at 605.367.7619. You can also check us out on Facebook!
Jennifer Keyes clearly understands the importance of basic skills and literacy for every adult. As the Hovland Learning Center Program Coordinator, she sees the impact this service has had on its clients for a number of years.

Jennifer shares, “I believe we provide our students the first step toward completing their goals. Many of our students continue their education through enrollment in a post-secondary institution and others enter the workforce after completing our program.”

The Hovland Learning Center offers an independent learning lab and structured classes to help meet the individual needs of students. Staffed with qualified, friendly teachers who are always willing to help, the center offers free educational assistance for the community.

The center, formerly known as the Adult Learning Center, adopted its new name Hovland Learning Center in January of 2012 in honor of Southeast Tech benefactors Howard and Eunice Hovland. Southeast Tech President Jeff Holcomb says, “It’s through the generosity of patrons like the Hovlands that allow us to continue to raise the bar for our students and the community. They are wonderful people who have done amazing work at Southeast Tech through their continued and committed support.”

The Adult Learning Center Offers:
• Free Classes
• Self-Paced or Group Classes
• GED Preparation & Official Testing
• Basic Skill Development
• ESL Classes

Eligibility Requirements:
• 18 years of age or beyond compulsory attendance age
• Valid Social Security Card or comparable documentation to prove eligibility to work in the U.S.

Class Structure:
• Individualized, Group Instruction
• Teacher Directed Instruction
• Peer Study Groups

For more information or to set up an orientation appointment, call 605.367.7997. The Hovland Learning Center is funded through the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.
summer jobs

From clinician to manager, Southeast Tech students stay busy honing their trade over the hot summer months

For many Southeast Tech students, the thought of lazy summer days is a far cry from reality. These ambitious, hard-working students have made plans to stay as busy out of school as they are when attending classes! Read below to find out what a few of them have planned for the summer.

“I am working for the City of Sioux Falls for the parks and recreation department as Park Maintenance crew where we get baseball and softball fields ready for games and tournaments. I plan on doing this every summer until I graduate and hopefully this will open up some doors for me as far as job opportunities.” –Allie

“I’m very much looking forward to working on my photography business and getting a good solid foundation while being with my kids this summer.” –Kisha

“I’m intending on continuing my employment at Sam’s Club of Sioux Falls in the Tire Battery Center. I will be using this employment to save up to pay off my new truck and buy the perfect ring for my wonderful fiancé and hopefully buy a house soon.” –Connor

“I am currently working as an Assistant Manager at the Pizza Ranch on 41st & Kiwanis. I am in the Business Administration and Accounting Program and love how my position at my job is helping me learn more about both of my programs.” –Erin

“My plans for the summer include spending time with my wife and three girls, while still working my full time job at Lift Solutions Inc. I will also be finishing up my six-year enlistment in June for the Army National Guard.” –Josh

“I will be working for Wells Fargo Bank in Sioux Falls in my brand new promoted position as a Banker Coach training new hires as they come out on the floor in the phone bank. I’m really looking forward to learning more as I teach new hires and gain more experience with Wells Fargo so I may keep working my way up to my desired position as a New Hire Trainer there.” –Jade

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“My work plans for the summer are to continue working at Security National Bank in Sioux Falls. I did my Financial Services Internship at this bank and I will continue being a vault teller throughout the summer. I’m looking forward to continue learning the basics about what goes on in a bank. Financial Services is a very broad business degree, where there are a lot of careers opportunities to choose from, but I want to feel passionate and love what I do before picking a certain position!” –Danielle

“I work at Wilson Trailer in Lennox, SD full time as a welder and also work at Lawrence & Schiller telemarketing nights and weekends. I will be taking three summer classes at Southeast Tech and try to pick up some extra hours at Lawrence and Schiller.” –Scott

“I am a Target Protection Specialist (TPS) and I work at the Target on the west side of Sioux Falls. I am looking forward to gaining much needed experience.” –Dennis

“I’ll be working full-time at Lewis West Gate in Sioux Falls. Currently I work as a cashier and customer service.” –Jordan

“I’m completing my clinical at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines in the vascular lab, but only until July 27th. Then I’ll be done here and hopefully by then I will have a real job lined up.” –Kayla

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Southeast Tech is proud to welcome our newest employees.

Affiliate Coordinator Clorinda Beitelspacher
Applications Support Specialist Thomas Jaskulka
Institutional Advancement Officer Nancee Sturdevant
Network Administrator Keith Wagner

"I graduated from STI with an associate's degree in business administration, took a year off and then decided to complete my bachelor's degree at USF. The class schedule worked perfectly with my work and personal schedule."

Degree Completion Program
Abby Thiry  bachelor's degree in management

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

Next cohort begins June 2012

University of Sioux Falls
For more information: usiouxfalls.edu/dcp
1-800-888-1047  1-605-331-6735  dcp@usiouxfalls.edu

join in!

seattle tech
alumni association

KEEP IN TOUCH!
We don't want you to lose your connections! Like us on Facebook to stay 'in the know' at Southeast Tech. (Search Southeast Technical Institute Alumni Association)

GET ON BOARD
It's easy! Just register for free online at southeasttech.edu/alumni

LIKE US!

SOEAST TECH
FOUNDATION
alumni association

congratulations!
to southeast tech’s graduating class of 2012
IT’S TIME TO MAKE YOUR MOVE!

Sioux Falls’ best choice for a career-building education!

jump start! ENROLL TODAY for Summer or Fall Semester!