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A new semester has started and we’re excited to welcome back our students once again. Having more than 1,500 new students on campus is an energizing experience and reminds me once more why we at Southeast Tech are privileged to serve these individuals looking to find a better life through education.

A busy summer has led to much-anticipated changes for the fall semester. Renovation on the Ed Wood Center has been completed and delivers new and improved office and classroom spaces for Training Solutions Institute. In addition, the Welding lab was enlarged to account for our new Welding Diploma that joins our previous certification program.

Another significant announcement is that our health students will be wearing collegiate scrubs for the first time in our history! We are proud to have them representing Southeast Tech on campus and in the wonderful medical facilities they perform their clinical training at.

Thank you for your continued support of Southeast Tech. Together, we will make life in South Dakota even better!

Jeff Holcomb
President, Southeast Technical Institute
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FEATURE

7 skilled worker shortage
Southeast Tech works hard to prepare career-focused degrees for a hungry economy.
Looking to earn some extra cash before starting college, Nickkie Hoekstra got a summer job at a local landscape center. According to plan, she began classes at Southeast Tech to attain her Business Administration degree. However, after just one year, she knew she wanted to work with the green industry full time. “I finished up my Business Administration degree and then switched over to the Horticulture Technology and Landscape Design Technology program.”

She shares, “Southeast Tech was a great school to go to. It was awesome since it was a two-year program, I didn’t have to invest so much time in school and since the instructors had so much real-life experience, it was legitimate not just from a text book.” And with a degree in Business Administration to back up her horticulture knowledge, Nickkie was much more valuable to her company.

“An education at Southeast Tech gave me a great start to my career. The plant knowledge I gained at school is something I use on a day-to-day basis. The information I learned during my business classes helps me manage the way we set up the nursery, run sales and merchandise our products.”

Nickkie is happy that she has attained the ability to conduct business as well as enjoy her creative side and the benefits that come from that. “The love of the outdoors and a creative spirit are the perfect tools for a great landscape designer or crew foreman. This career is very rewarding because you get to help people with their properties. A ‘Thank You, we absolutely love it!’ from a client after the project has been completed is a great feeling!”

“The many different areas that you can use a horticulture or landscape degree is a great benefit. You can work for a large corporation maintaining their grounds, you can design landscapes for a large firm or a small design/install company, you could be a sales representative for plants or hardscape and the list goes on and on. A degree from Southeast Tech is a quick way to get some knowledge about your career field so you can advance into your position soon after graduating.”

A landscape designer at Greenworld Inc., Nickkie helps her clientele by developing a plan and then bringing it to life at their business or residence. In addition, she takes care of the business side of things as well. “My education at Southeast Tech gave me a great start to my career. The plant knowledge
Southeast Tech health students are introduced to collegiate scrubs.

Southeast Tech's vision, Creating Workforce Excellence, is comprised of many different elements that are ingrained into every student attending class. The goal is to provide well-educated professionals that will move forward into the work place as an accomplished and valuable employee. For health students, a new policy has them wearing collegiate scrubs on campus and off.

In the past, health students were required to wear scrubs, but a standard uniform wasn't mandatory. The decision to make the change was based on implementing a policy that gave instructors an opportunity to help their students understand the importance of proper work attire.

Surgical Technology instructor Ruby Castardo notes, "Many times our students don't realize how important it is that scrubs fit appropriately. They must be able to crouch down, lift and move patients and equipment easily all while maintaining a professional appearance. The new scrubs along with fitting advice and guidelines are going to improve how our students appear while educating them on proper work etiquette. Many times we hear that our students have great technical knowledge. These scrubs will help our students communicate non-verbally in a positive fashion."

Health students are required to perform a full-time clinical internship at an affiliated local or out-of-town hospital or clinic, which allows them to build their skills to a level where they can work with a degree of independence. DMS instructor Janet Bortnem says, “Some of our past graduates have seen the scrubs and they want to know, ‘How come we didn't get to do that?’ This is a positive thing that we're doing here. The students will look professional and it shows that they’re proud of where they're receiving their education while off campus.”

According to Cardiac Ultrasound Technology instructor Pam Boyd, “Image is very important. You need to look professional as well as behave professionally. In addition to technical knowledge, we will start those soft skills here and show them what it takes to be hired. How they look, how they behave, their customer service skills and how they’re able to interact with people are stressed.”

All Southeast Tech health students will wear blue collegiate scrubs to clinical affiliations, off campus events and most labs.

All Southeast Tech health faculty and lab assistants will wear black collegiate scrubs to define themselves from students.

655 students will attend clinicals in 2012-2013.
Southeast Tech is honored to have the opportunity to display original artwork on loan from local artist Dennis Ellingsen. The pieces are on display in the Mickelson Education Center. Interested parties may find further information about Dennis at his website http://dennisellingsen.com/. All paintings are available for purchase.

**Artist's Statement/Biography**

For me, painting is a journey, a process. It is challenging and sometimes a delightful experience. At this time in my growth as an artist I find that I am playing with paint, line, shape, color and texture. I am experimenting with what can be done with a brush and paint. What I enjoy most is working with a bold colorful palette, colors I feel within. And with the paint I am creating overlaying colors, in order to create surprising color combinations. I am not making a social or political statement, but my goal is to create work that is energetic, spontaneous and colorful. In the process of painting I find I am having a conversation with the painting and hopefully you will be drawn into the painting’s color, line and shape and that you too will have a conversation with the work.

Dennis is a graduate of the University of Washington with a BA and MA in Art Education. He enjoyed teaching art to children with special needs, and after that serving as a Lutheran pastor for 28 years in churches throughout the upper Midwest.

After retirement Dennis attended the University of Sioux Falls and learned and relearned from Professors Nancy Olive and Ceca Cooper things he had forgotten after years of inactivity. He has been inspired by the works of Wayne Thiebaud, Richard Diebenkorn and Chinese landscape painters. Now the Artist in Residence at the University of Sioux Falls, he is teaching Design and Art Appreciation at Killian Community College. He is also creating drawings and paintings in his studio at the 8th & Railroad Building in Sioux Falls, SD. For Dennis, painting and creating art has become a full time occupation and calling.
As the demand for skilled workers remains at an all-time high, policy makers are looking to South Dakota’s technical institutes for help. For the past two years, administration and staff at Southeast Tech have been on high alert introducing new degrees and diplomas that will help meet that need.
Technology has changed the face of the workforce dramatically, and because of that, employers are scrambling to find highly-trained, proficient employees to fill positions that continue to evolve on a daily basis. And the demand isn’t just a South Dakota need. Leading global news source Reuters states that the United States and other large economies cannot find enough skilled workers, engineers and other in-demand employees, according to an annual study on talent shortages.

This trend has been significant enough to capture South Dakota Governor Daugaard’s attention, and he has stated that workforce development has become a key focus for his administration. The fact that South Dakota companies are having trouble finding skilled workers in occupations ranging from welding to healthcare professionals, has placed technical institutes like Southeast Tech in a position to become a valid solution for these industries.

According to Southeast Tech President Jeff Holcomb, “We train for what industry supports in South Dakota because our purpose is to develop the workforce in South Dakota. Every aspect of industry regardless of which sector they’re in, need individuals that have skills tailored for them.” He notes, “It’s critical for us to partner with industry so that we teach the skills they need using the technology they prefer. When students graduate from Southeast Tech they’re job-ready.”

“As the demand for a skilled workforce persists, I feel confident that Southeast Tech is providing a powerful solution for the state of South Dakota. Every year, more than 800 skilled professionals earn their degree from Southeast Tech to move on and enrich our community with skills that are necessary for our continued economic growth.”

–President Jeff Holcomb
Because the need for skilled workers in select industries is in such high-demand, the staff at Southeast Tech have been burning the midnight oil to address it as quickly as possible. Ten new programs have been identified, created and presented to the state board of education in the past two years. An additional five programs are on target to be presented to the state for approval in the fall of 2012.

Once these programs have been approved, students can earn a degree or diploma as quickly as two years or less. President Holcomb states, “The degrees we offer focus the credits and the time an individual has with us on the career they are entering. We recognize that a student has a certain amount of time that they want to spend learning. They don’t want to spend extra time studying something they may or may not need, and industry isn’t looking for that either. Our goal is to help them enter the workforce quickly to help keep our economy robust and flourishing.”

Critical Needs Workforce Scholarship
As the demand for skilled workers remains at an all-time high, policy makers are looking to South Dakota’s technical institutes for help. For the past two years, administration and staff at Southeast Tech have been on high alert introducing new degrees and diplomas that will help meet that need.

The South Dakota Legislature has identified numerous industries that have a ‘critical need’ in South Dakota. $125,000 in scholarship money has been awarded to Southeast Tech. Programs have been identified and potential recipients have been contacted.
Has working outdoors always intrigued you? Begin your journey to a career in the green industry in as little as two years or less with three great Horticulture degrees to choose from at Southeast Tech.

You’ll gain a core knowledge of horticulture with all degrees, while having the freedom to select a focus that gets you into the marketplace with specialized skills and certifications that set you apart from the competition.

3 GREAT DEGREES

Horticulture Technology
As plant scientists, Horticulture Technologists cultivate plants for nurseries or garden centers; control plant pests and diseases; develop new plants or plant foods; and design and install residential and commercial landscaping.

Landscape Design Technology
Make an impact with your green creativity! Landscape Designers utilize skills in design, plant information and installation, as well as construction techniques. This is a great field for entrepreneurs!

Sports Turf Management
Get in the game as a Sports Turf specialist. An exciting field that blends the freedom of the outdoors and the dynamics of creating and maintaining golf courses, sports facilities and landscapes on a residential and commercial level.

It’s easy to complete more than one of these degrees in two years. Ask our Admissions staff how!
Josh Ketcham wasn't looking to become a Civil Engineer Technician… he was interested in learning the trade of CAD (computer-aided design). However, when he was ready to enroll at Southeast Tech a CAD degree wasn't offered. “When I first signed up all they offered was the Civil Engineering Technology program so I decided to go with it. Once I enrolled I really enjoyed it.”

The decision to be flexible about his career focus ended up working out exceptionally well for Josh. Not only did he enjoy civil engineering, but he also became proficient in working with CAD software, a fact that made him a very marketable professional. He notes, “With my degree I could survey, work in the office, design with CAD, help engineers estimate or conduct soil testing. I felt prepared that I could accomplish any of the goals I wanted.”

Josh landed a job with Stockwell Engineers, a Sioux Falls' firm shortly after graduating and has been there since. “I didn't have a whole lot of trouble finding a job. I had applied at a number of places right after I graduated and I had a few interviews and ended up being offered the job soon after.”

Happy with the turn of events, Josh takes great pride in using his talents to make a difference for many. “The civil engineering field offers a rewarding career with many opportunities. It aims at bettering parts of the community that we all use such as streets and utilities. Knowing that the projects you are working on are improving the quality of life for the community is very gratifying.”

Josh Ketcham works behind the scenes to help improve community facilities.

“The civil engineering field offers a strong job market and I found a job shortly after graduation. The technical side of engineering continues to grow with advancements in software capabilities. Southeast Tech’s Civil Engineering Technology program provided me with a comprehensive set of skills that allow me to efficiently do my job.”

Josh Ketcham
Civil Engineering Technician, Stockwell Engineers; Sioux Falls, SD
Southeast Tech Class of 2006
Degree: Civil Engineering Technology
The nation is heading towards a truck driver shortage. With fewer drivers willing to hit the road, a new grant program is aimed at changing that.

Three South Dakota communities and two South Dakota counties have been awarded workforce development dollars through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The grants are expected to train 220 individuals in high-demand career fields. Officials say there are approximately 800 such job openings in South Dakota.

Minnehaha County is working with Training Solutions Institute to expand its Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) program. The $120,000 grant will be used to purchase a new semi and provide training for 20 individuals.

“The driving profession is a graying industry. We have more people who are leaving the industry, because of retirement, redirection and things like that, than coming into the industry,” Lon Hird said.

Hird is the Director of Training Solutions Institute at Southeast Tech. He says the industry, which hauls more than 90 percent of all products, needs more drivers. He’s hoping new grant money will put the brakes on the decline.

“It’s a tremendous opportunity; it’s really a quick step into a rewarding career,” Hird said.

A Class A license costs approximately $3,500. Depending on your income level, the grant could pay your entire tuition. It’s a perk to keep an important industry driving forward.

“The state of South Dakota is being very proactive in this; we see it as an issue. We want to help this in terms of economic development and workforce development,” Hird said.
Construction on the Ed Wood Center was completed in August of 2012. A renovation gave a dramatic new face to the existing building and added new office space and classrooms for Training Solutions Institute, a new testing center and more than doubled the welding lab space.

The Ed Wood Center is Home To:
- Training Solutions Institute
- Automotive Technology
- Collision Repair and Refinish Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Horticulture Technology
- HVAC
- Landscape Design Technology
- Residential Heating and Air Conditioning Technology
- Sports Turf Management
- Welding
skipping doesn’t pay!

Everyone knows skipping class isn’t a great idea. Not only is it a recipe for disaster academically, but financially it adds up too. For every hour of class that is skipped, it costs the student $10.69! Take a look at what students miss out on by skipping just one hour of class:

- **20 WINGS @ BUFFALO WILD WINGS**
- **TWO BK VALUE MEALS**
- **1 MOVIE TICKET**
- **9 HOLES OF GOLF**
- **THREE GALLONS OF GAS**

**every skipped class can lower your class GPA by .2 or more!**
new recruits

Southeast Tech is proud to welcome our newest employees.

Custodian Darko Avdic
Housing & Retention Coordinator Andre Barnaud
Custodial Engineer Joel Bork
Welding Lab Specialist Shaina Cramlet
LPN Program Instructor Jenny Hayashi
Student Recruiter Kimberly Muller
Student Success Advisor Chelsea Reisch
Mechatronics Grant Support Technician Johnie Schroeder

showing up for class helps you get the most value out of your education.

Every full-time student at Southeast Tech is paired with a Student Success Advisor to help guide them successfully toward their diploma or degree. These advisors will help you navigate through challenges, including finding strategies to avoid skipping class! For more information, contact the Student Success Center at 605.367.7466.

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southeast tech alumni association

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