



# ANNUAL REPORT

## Cohort 10 2024-2025

Created for T. Denny Sanford and Governor Rhoden  
April 2025





# BUILD DAKOTA

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND



## Cohort 10 Annual Report

### Objectives:

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## 1. BUILD DAKOTA ADMINISTRATION BOARD AND STAFF

The Build Dakota administration board was appointed by Governor Noem and consists of community leaders with diverse backgrounds in targeted, high-need industries:

### **Build Dakota Scholarship Administration Board Members and Staff**



Dana Dykhouse, Chair  
CEO  
First Premier Bank  
Sioux Falls, SD



Jennifer Grennan  
Executive Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer  
Sanford Health  
Sioux Falls, SD



Scott Knuppe  
Facility Manager  
Caterpillar, Inc.  
Rapid City, SD



Greg Carmon  
Owner  
Midwest Railcar Repair, Inc.  
Brandon, SD

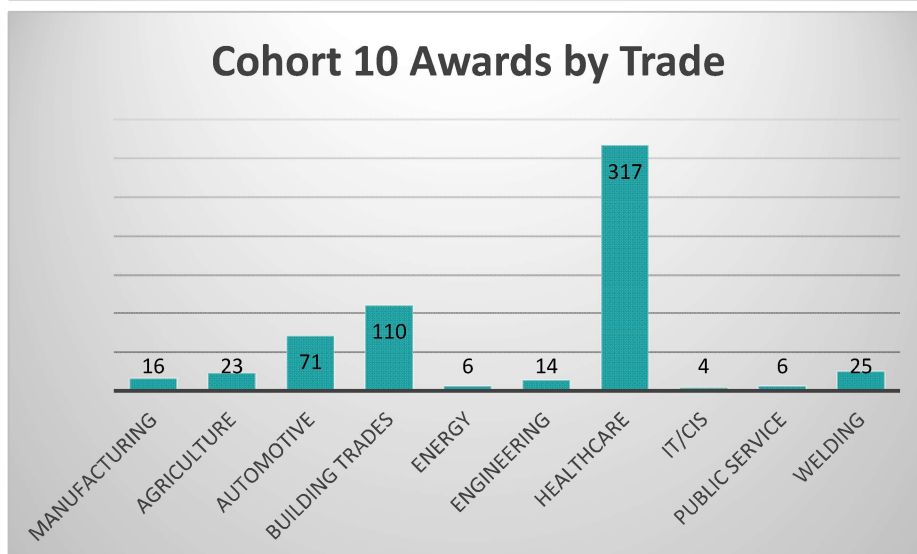
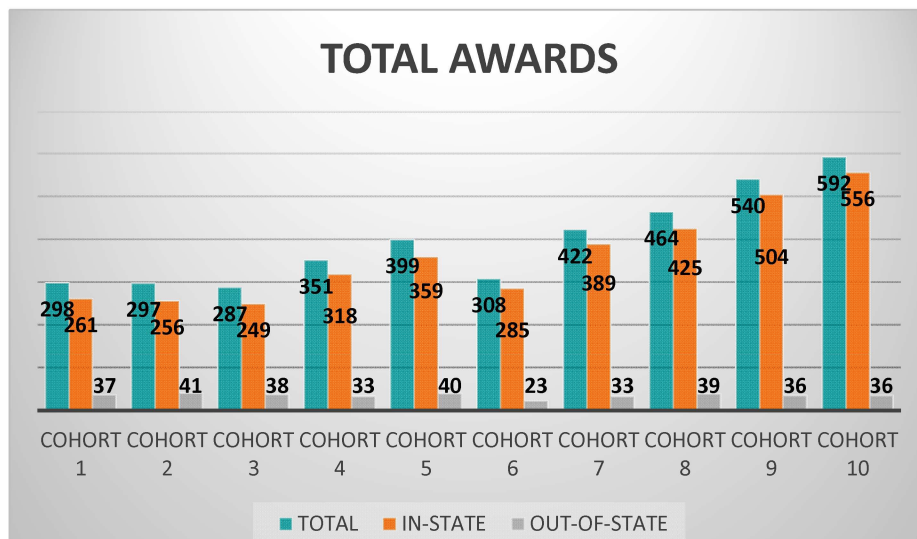
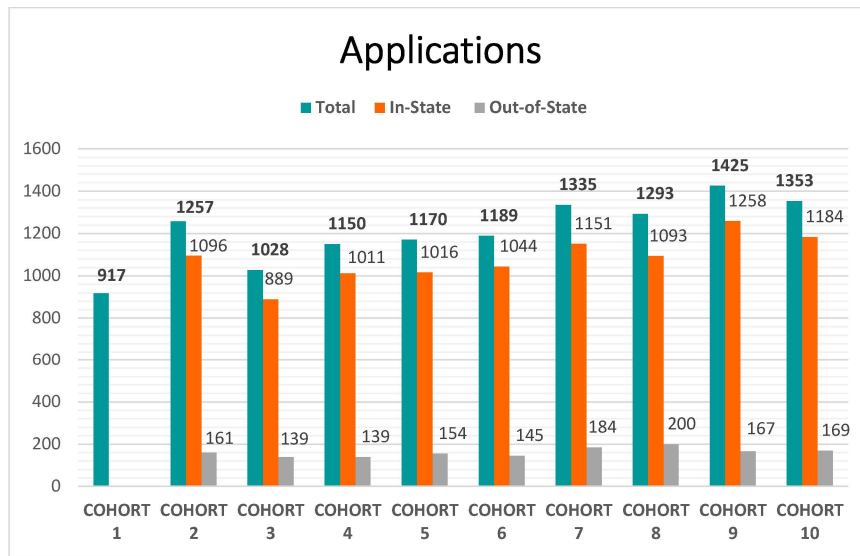


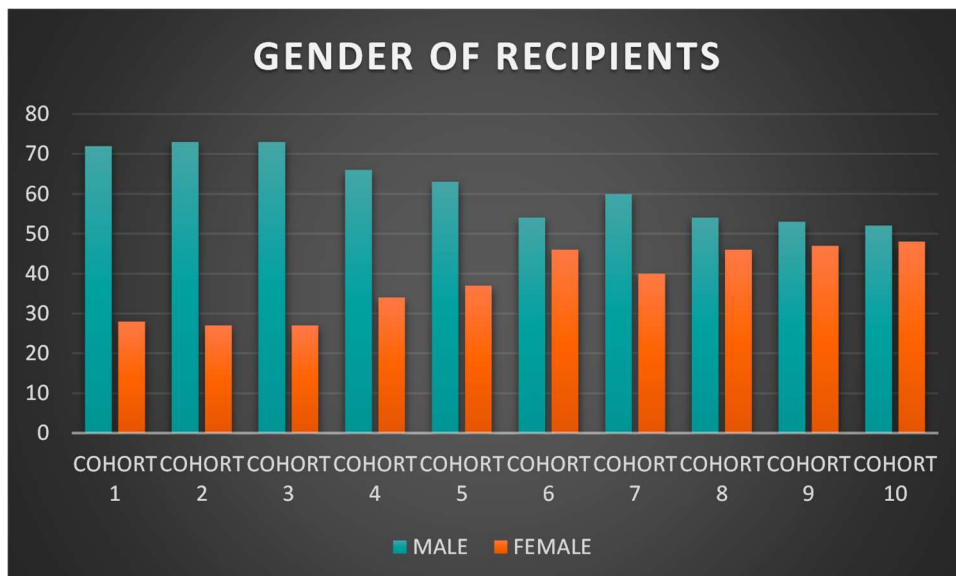
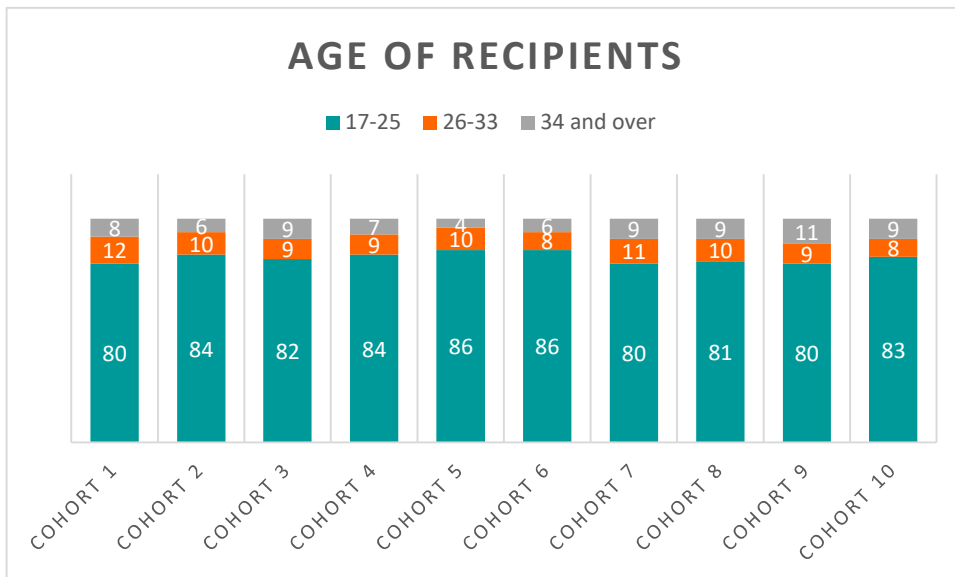
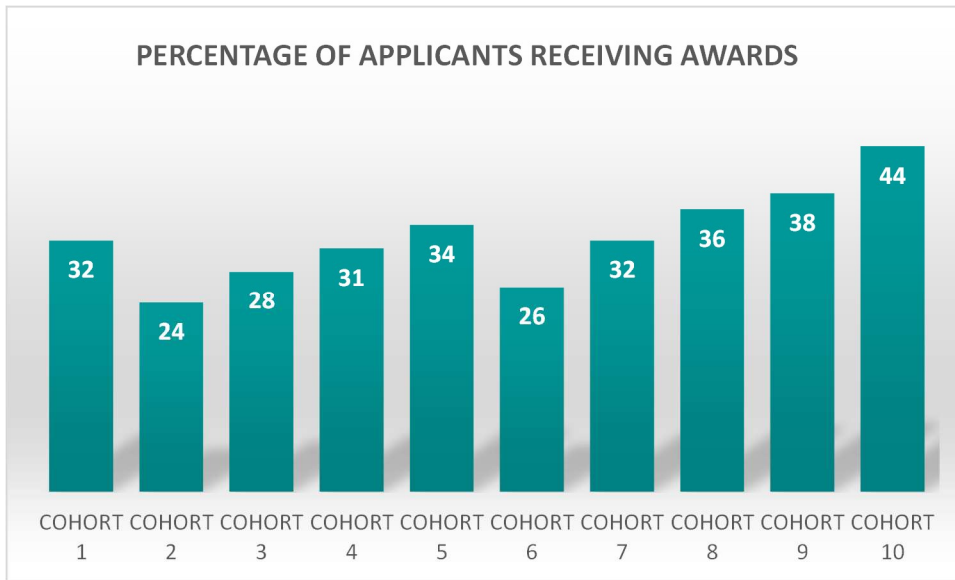
Derek DeGeest  
President  
DeGeest Corporation & LestaUSA  
Tea, SD



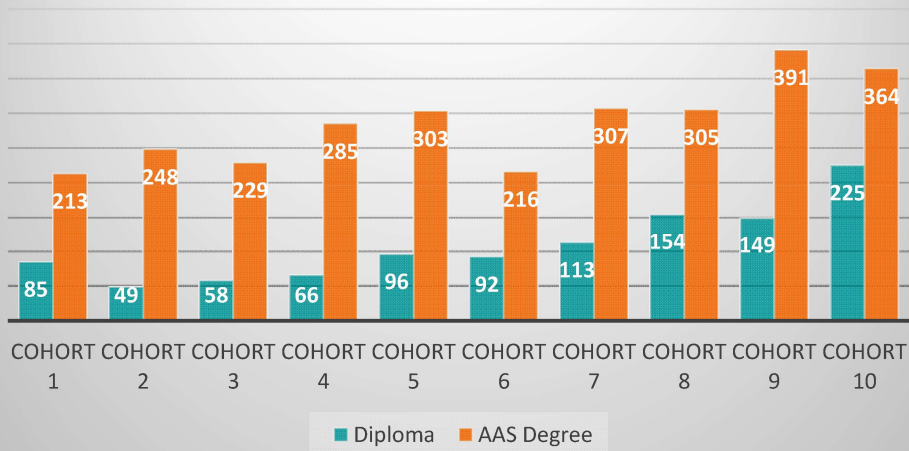
Deni Martin  
Program Manager  
Build Dakota Scholarship  
Piedmont, SD

## 2. TARGETED AREAS OF STUDY: APPLICATIONS & AWARDS

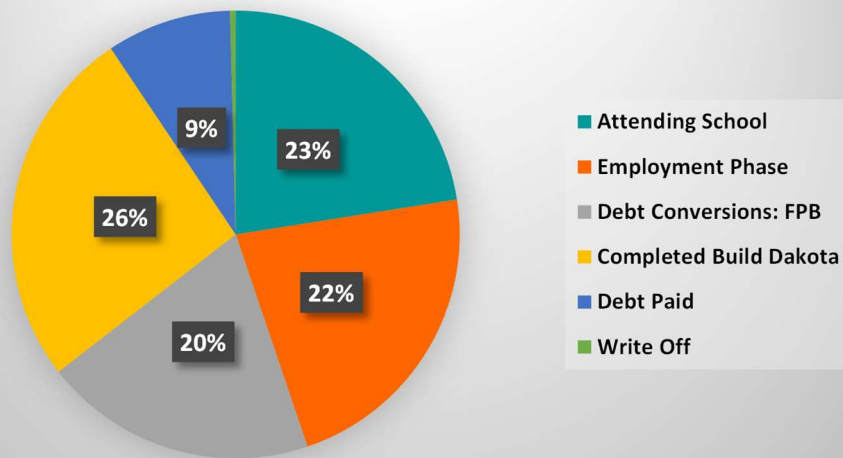




## DIPLOMA VS AAS DEGREE



## Where Are They Now? (3953 Total Scholars)



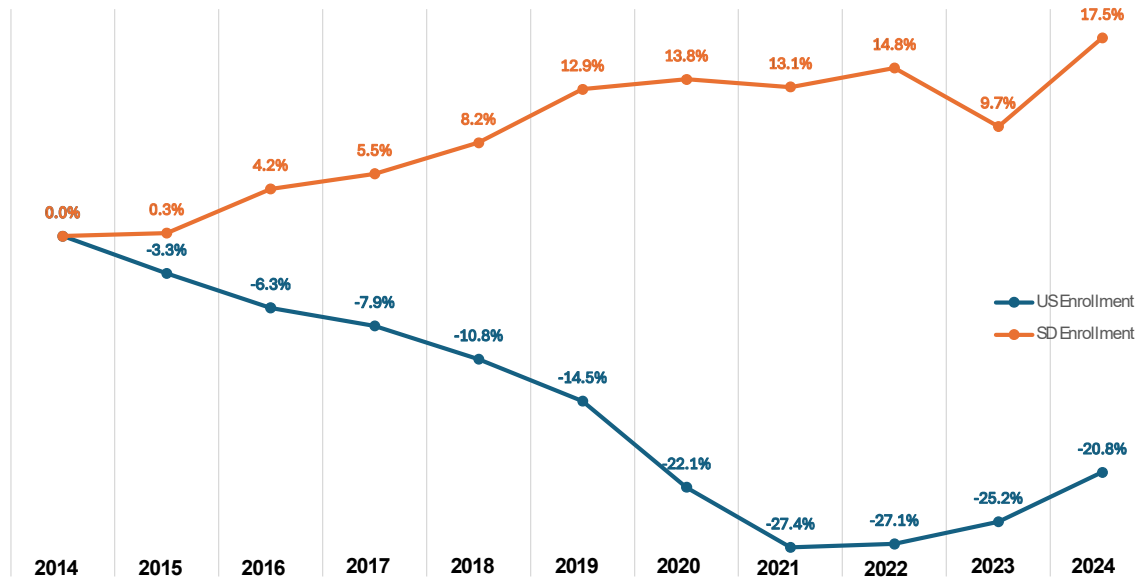
- **Looking Ahead- New Programs Approved for Cohort 11:**

- LATC Dental Hygiene- AAS Degree
- LATC Human Services Technician: Child Development Option- Diploma or AAS Degree
- LATC: Medical Assisting- Diploma
- MTC: Entrepreneurship- AAS Degree
- MTC: Medical Assistant- Diploma
- MTC: Power Sports & Marine Technology- AAS Degree
- STC: Early Childhood Specialist- AAS Degree
- STC: Medical Assistant- AAS Degree
- WDTTC: Radiologic Technology- AAS Degree

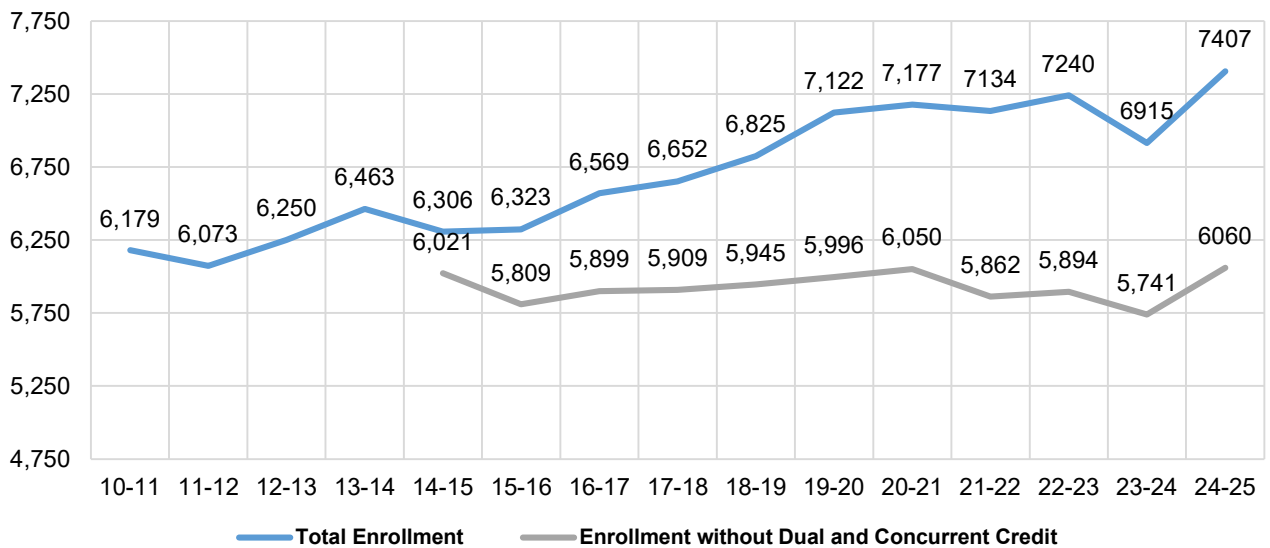


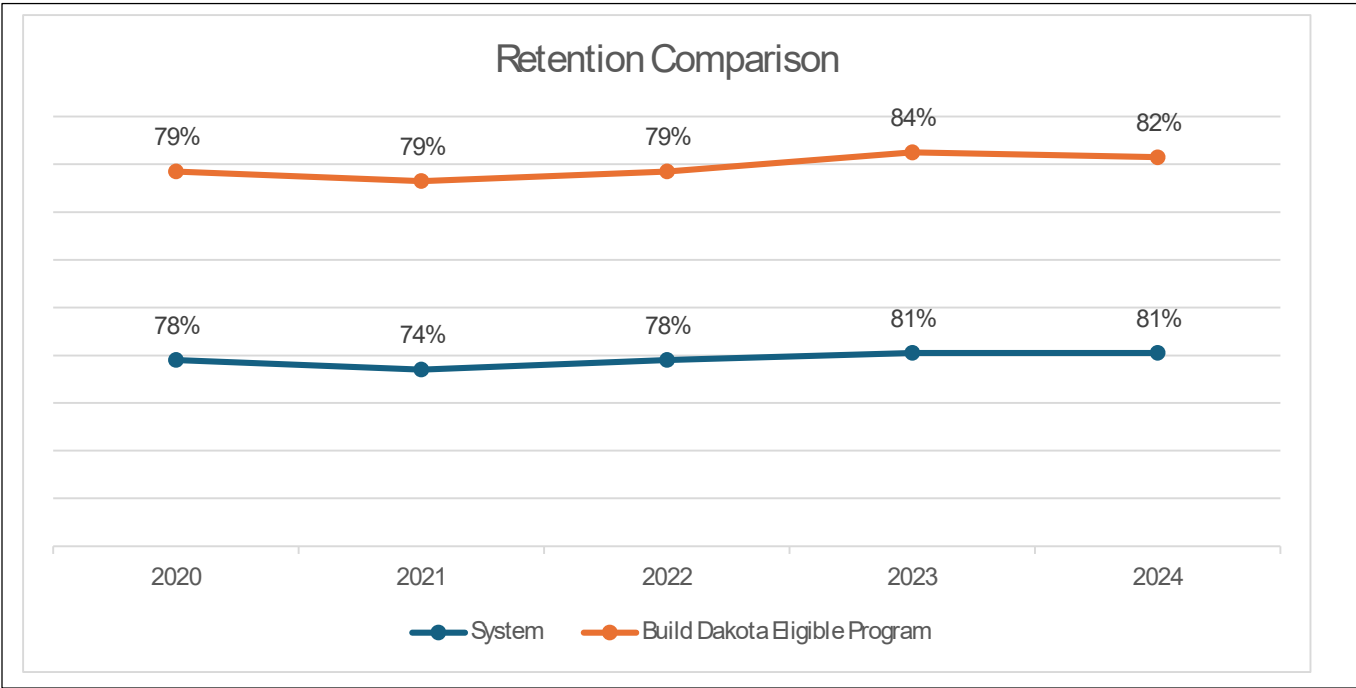
Comments from technical colleges regarding enrollment, programs and general school updates:

Comparison of Cumulative Changes in Fall Enrollment (2014-2024)  
Two-Year Public Institutions: National vs SD



Unduplicated Enrollment, 15 Year Board of Technical Education System Historical Totals





**Lake Area Technical College:**

Lake Area Technical College (LATC) is proudly preparing to celebrate its **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025**, a significant milestone since the institution first opened its doors in 1965 as the Lake Area Vocational Technical School. Over the past six decades, LATC has evolved into a dynamic college, continuously expanding its offerings and impact on workforce development in South Dakota.



This past year has been a historic one for LATC, with enrollment numbers **surpassing 2,700 students for the first time**. This achievement breaks the previous record of 2,655 students set in January 2023. As the college’s enrollment grows, so does its commitment to providing high-quality, hands-on education in high-demand fields. With 31 degree programs now available, LATC continues to prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow.

**2,700**  
ENROLLMENT  
**31** DEGREE  
PROGRAMS



A key highlight of the year was the opening of the new 57,900 sq. ft. Archway Facility, which houses the Dana J. Dykhous Business Center of Learning. This new space supports LATC's Business & Finance programs, General Education courses, and the Advanced Manufacturing Center, offering much-needed capacity for the growing student body. The facility enables students to move between classes without stepping outside and provides an enhanced learning environment.



In September 2024, the college celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the Archway Facility and marked a decade of the Build Dakota Scholarship program, with special guest Mike Rowe joining the festivities.



LATC has also made significant strides in expanding its healthcare offerings. The **addition of the upcoming Dental Hygiene program**, along with newly remodeled classroom and lab spaces, has generated excitement on campus. The Dental Assisting program, in particular, reached capacity for Fall 2025 enrollment well before the start of the year, highlighting the growing demand for skilled workers in this field. This expansion ensures LATC can continue to meet the needs of students and the dental industry.



The **Surgical Technology program** also experienced significant upgrades this year, with a major renovation of its classroom and lab spaces. The refurbishment includes three state-of-the-art operatories, a shared scrub station, an operatory view room, a simulation center, and a dedicated sterilization area, all designed to replicate real-world clinical settings. These improvements will allow the program to triple its capacity, ensuring that more students have access to top-tier training in surgical technology.



In a new direction for LATC, the 2024-25 school year marked the **launch of the eSports program**. In its inaugural season, the eSports team had impressive success, securing a spot in the National Junior College Athletic Association eSports national playoffs. The program, led by Coach LeBlanc, goes beyond gaming—it fosters the development of critical life skills, builds relationships, and creates a strong sense of community among students. As Coach LeBlanc puts it, “Esports is a pivotal way to develop important life skills and keep students engaged.”

In addition to these accomplishments, Lake Area Technical College is currently undergoing **comprehensive campus planning** for the 2025-2035 period, focusing on enhancing the current layout and functionality of the campus. The planning process has actively involved faculty, students, community members, alumni, and industry partners. The college is excited about the possibilities this planning presents to further advance technical education by enhancing the campus environment to better meet the needs of all stakeholders. This initiative reflects LATC’s commitment to continued growth and its forward-thinking approach to ensuring the college’s facilities remain aligned with industry demands and educational excellence.

LATC’s growth and innovations reflect the institution’s ongoing dedication to providing high-quality, hands-on education that prepares students for successful careers in South Dakota’s most in-demand industries. With the continued support of the Build Dakota Scholarship, LATC remains committed to expanding opportunities for students and shaping the future workforce.

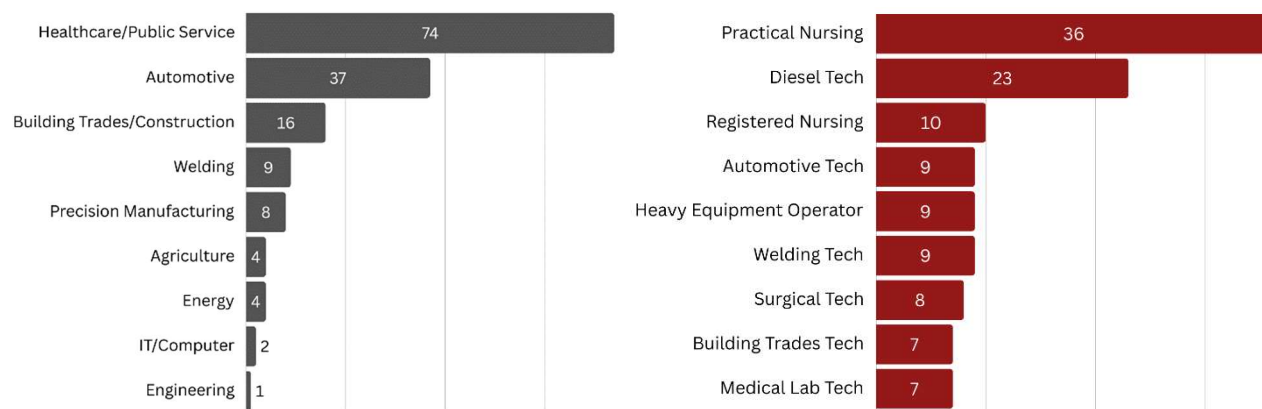
## COHORT 10 SUMMARY

Our record-breaking trends continued in Cohort 10 with **155 total awards**. Overall, 304 incoming LATC students applied for the full-ride scholarship, with just a hair under **51% selected**. It continues to be a competitive and fast-paced awarding process.

The LATC team launched a concerted effort to attend more high school awards events than previous years to shine a brighter light on Build Dakota Scholarship during these events.

In 2024, our team **traveled 782.5 miles in four weeks!** A special shoutout to Build Dakota's Brandy Drew for presenting on our behalf in Pierre! In all, we participated in twelve SD events and one MN event, presenting certificates for 45 new students. For those dates that did not align with our schedules, we provided a script and certificates for 38 scholars at ten different high schools in SD to utilize during their events. Many more were shared with parents, students and counselors throughout the summer.

**Healthcare/Public Service and Automotive held their title of top two areas** awarded. However, the number of Practical Nursing awards doubled from 18 in Cohort 9 to 36 in Cohort 10. One partner significantly expanded their sponsorship numbers in this program this year. The charts below show the distribution by Build Dakota category, then by LATC program:



Our Build Dakota/STM Partnership luncheon was held in September to celebrate all new, first year scholars and serve as a relationship-building opportunity for STM Partners and their future employees.



## Mitchell Technical College:



Mitchell Tech is finalizing funding for a new Indoor Underground Energy Lab. The growth of the Powerline Construction & Maintenance and Electrical Substation programs over the past 5 years led to a need for larger class and lab space. The Underground Training center will allow students to continue lab projects through the winter months. We are projected to break ground the Summer of 2025.

### **Enrollment Update Cohort 11:**

Build Dakota programs at capacity for Fall 2025:

Architecture Design & Building Construction

**Agronomy**

**Diesel Power Technology**

**Electrical**

Electrical Substation

Heating & Cooling

Medical Assistant (NEW)

Radiologic Technology

Automation Controls

**Highlighted programs have expanded enrollment to meet the demand of industry partners.**

## **Southeast Technical College:**

### **STRENGTHENING THE SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE MISSION**

Since its inception in 2015, the Build Dakota Scholarship Program has played a pivotal role in advancing Southeast Technical College's (STC) mission to strengthen the workforce in South Dakota. On behalf of STC's faculty, staff, Build Dakota alumni, and current students, President Cory Clasemann extends sincere appreciation to Governor Larry Rhoden and Mr. T. Denny Sanford for their unwavering commitment to supporting technical education across the state. Together, we are building a stronger, more skilled workforce for South Dakota.

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### **ENROLLMENT UPDATE FOR SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

For Cohort 10, Southeast Technical College received 450 Build Dakota Scholarship applications and awarded 159 scholarships, all sponsored through the generosity of 59 industry partners. Fall 2024 enrollment at STC reached a decade-high total of 2,659 students. This achievement follows a record-breaking 2023-2024 academic year, during which the college served 3,210 students and conferred 1,001 associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. The Build Dakota program continues to have a significant impact on STC's recruitment efforts, positively influencing enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

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### **NEW PROGRAMS AT SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

In response to the evolving workforce needs of the region, STC expanded its program offerings for Cohort 10. The following programs were added as Build Dakota-approved options:

1. Diesel Technology: Heavy Equipment Diploma\*
2. Diesel Technology: Trucking Diploma\*
3. Architectural Engineering, Associate of Applied Science (AAS)
4. Respiratory Therapy, Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

\*Although Diesel Technology has long been an offering at STC, the expansion allows students to combine both diploma tracks and, with the addition of general education courses, earn an associate degree in two years.

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### **NEW HEALTHCARE SIMULATION CENTER AT SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

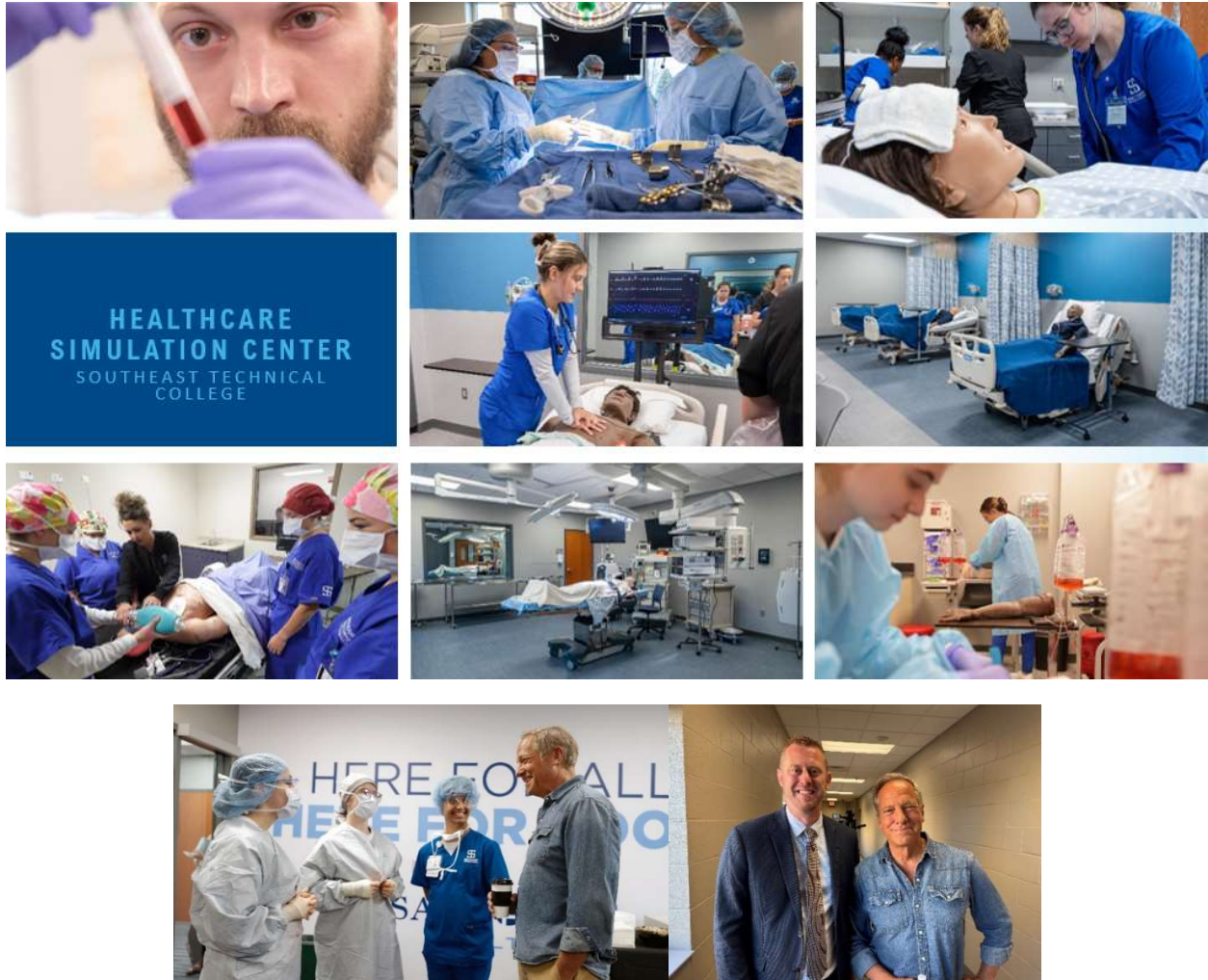
In 2022, the South Dakota legislature awarded STC \$4.5 million to renovate a facility previously occupied by Startup Sioux Falls. With vital support from key partners—including the City of Sioux Falls, the Sioux Falls Development Foundation, the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, Forward Sioux Falls, Sanford Health, Avera Health, and the State of South Dakota—the facility opened in January 2024. A ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, took place on April 11, 2024. It also provided an active emergency scenario, complete with Sanford Health's **medevac helicopter**

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transporting the “patients,” for Mike Rowe to observe firsthand during his visit to STC for the New Day in Tech Ed event on September 20, 2024.

This renovated facility now houses STC’s Healthcare Simulation Center, a state-of-the-art learning environment that supports the expansion of Build Dakota healthcare programs. These programs include Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN), Surgical Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician, and Invasive Cardiovascular Technology.





### Western Dakota Technical College:

Western Dakota Technical College's enrollment saw increases for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 compared to the previous year. The Radiologic Technology Program has seen high interest with 61 students enrolling in the program's general education courses in 2024-2025. Western Dakota Technical College is also starting up a Dental Hygienist Program that is expected to have its first students in Fall 2026.

Western Dakota Technical College is also undergoing leadership changes. There is currently a search for a new president after the unexpected passing of Dr. Ann Bolman in September. The College's Board of Trustees is expecting to hire a new president to be in place by the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year.

## 4. RECRUITMENT OF INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The technical colleges have developed industry partner programs to maximize the Build Dakota Scholarship funds and offer more scholarships than are otherwise available through Build Dakota specific funds. The industry partner programs assist students by working with businesses willing to pay a portion of the full-ride scholarship and again an employee who will fulfill their scholarship work commitment following graduation.

### Comments from technical colleges regarding success and challenges of recruitment and retention of industry partners:

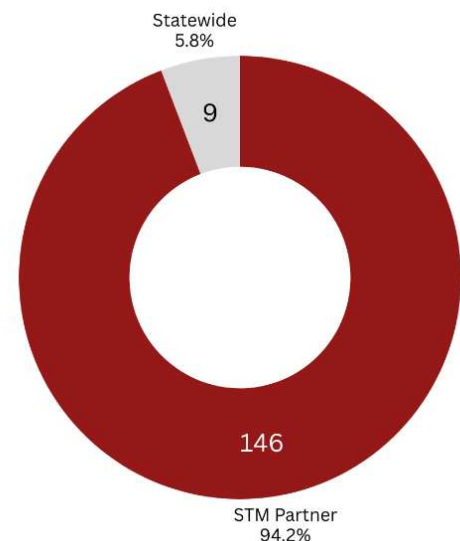
### Lake Area Technical College (Stretch-the-Million):

#### INDUSTRY SUPPORT: STRETCH-THE-MILLION

Of the 155 awards, over **94% earned the scholarship with their commitment** to a STM industry partner.

In 2024, 100 companies signed up for the interview phase in hopes of a partnership. Of them, **78 sponsored one or more students**.

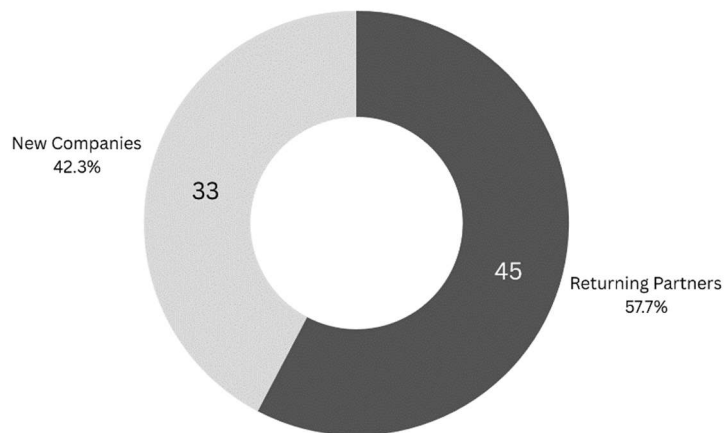
While most sponsored one student, more than a dozen sponsored 2-5, and one industry partner sponsored 31 students across four programs!



After we award all STM scholars, our team reviews our fund balance to consider awarding some full-ride scholarships without a partner. Our team focuses on **strong applications from students enrolled in programs that had few/no partnership opportunities** in the current cohort. Often times, those programs are public-service related.

In Cohort 10, **nine statewide scholars were awarded**. One student won it as a prize through the LATC High School Weld-Off Competition held annually in December; any senior that places in the top 3 has the option to receive the full-ride scholarship.

Additional awards were made in Natural Resources Management (1), Med/Fire Rescue (2), Law Enforcement (2), Electronic Systems Technology (1) and Computer Information Systems (2).



### Build Dakota Day

The inaugural Ready, Set, GO! event was held in January 2024 to kick off the Build Dakota application window and serve as an opportunity for applicants and STM Partners to meet face-to-face.

Students started the day with a brief informational session about the details of the scholarship, application process, and networking opportunities of the day.

In all, **22% of Cohort 10 partnerships were students and STM Partners that attended this event.**



### **Mitchell Technical College (Double Edge):**

Mitchell Tech continues to see many new employers partnering with the Build Dakota Scholarship. The continued success of the Double Edge partnership has led new businesses to Mitchell Tech.

#### **Cohort 10 Double Edge student Impact:**

141 Double Edge scholarships awarded.

\$1,167,000 in industry partner funds committed to MTC students.

\$3.2 million in Build Dakota/Double Edge funds awarded to cohort 10.

16 Full Build Dakota scholarships awarded.

#### **(all stats are record levels for Mitchell Technical College)**

Mitchell Technical College hosted high school students and thirty-six companies at our first Industry Partner Connection Event. Companies, representing all Build Dakota programs, had an opportunity to meet and interview incoming students.



Mitchell Tech continues to retain all of its major industry partnerships. We remain committed to assisting in filling high-need areas in small communities throughout South Dakota. Many of our industry partners continue to seek even a single student to meet their workforce needs.

### **Southeast Technical College (Sponsor-a-Scholar):**

Over the past decade, interest in the Build Dakota program has grown significantly, especially within healthcare and trades-related fields. Companies from South Dakota and neighboring states such as Minnesota and Iowa have shown increased engagement in sponsoring STC students outside of Build Dakota as well.

For Cohort 10 and in preparation for Cohort 11, STC had to cap the number of students each industry partner could sponsor due to funding limitations. With a larger Build Dakota budget, STC could support over 200 additional students. The high demand for sponsorship underscores the program's success but also highlights the need for expanded funding to prevent turning away eager industry partners. For instance, in Cohort 11, two industry partners requested sponsorship for 120 students each—requests that had to be denied due to financial constraints. Additionally, 71 students have already secured sponsorships on their own, and 10 new businesses will sponsor Cohort 11 students because of student outreach.

Awareness of the Build Dakota program has been further enhanced by initiatives such as the Build Dakota Roadshow, the 10 Year Anniversary Build Dakota Mike Rowe event, and a targeted marketing campaign supported by funding from the Governor's office, administered by Lawrence & Schiller.

STC also faces internal capacity challenges. The expansion of health and trades programs requires additional funding for facilities, labs, instructors, and student support staff. These limitations impact Build Dakota eligibility, as students on waitlists cannot apply for the scholarship until they are formally accepted into their programs, sometimes causing delays of a year or more.

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### **ONGOING COLLABORATION WITH BUSINESSES AT SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Since taking office in July 2024, President Cory Clasemann has prioritized fostering relationships with business and civic leaders. His efforts include conducting numerous personal visits, joining the Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary, and hosting a sector breakfast event focused on leaders in the trade sector. These events facilitate open dialogue about industry needs and have led to the creation of several Build Dakota-eligible programs.

STC's Career Services office hosts nine industry-specific career fairs annually, as well as a part-time career fair, focusing on the following sectors:

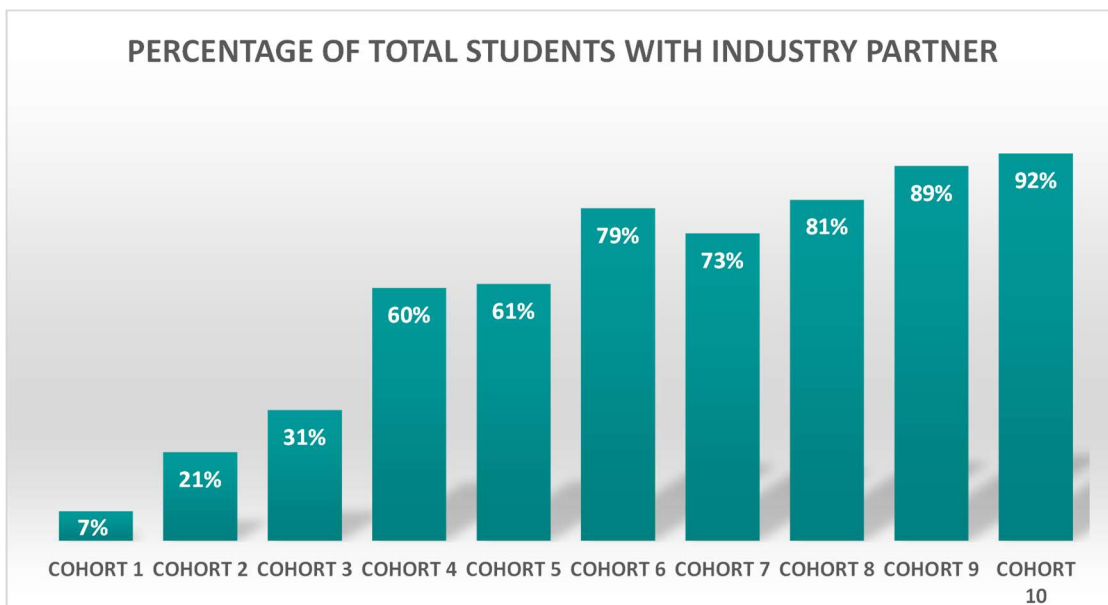
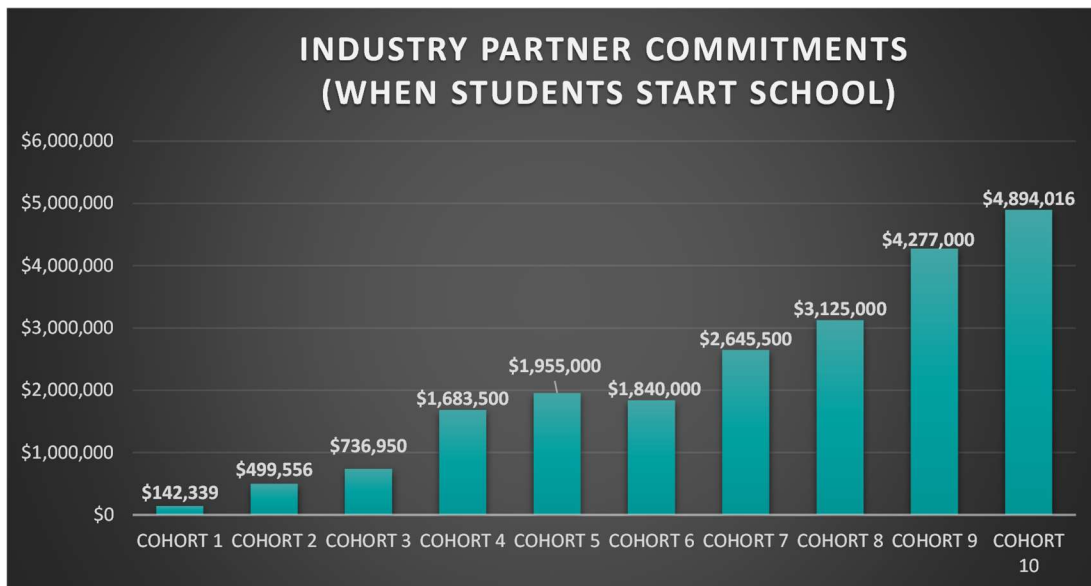
1. Industrial Technology (Construction, Plumbing, Welding, HVAC, and Electrician)
2. Transportation Technology (Auto, Collision, and Diesel)
3. Health (Fall Career Fair)
4. Horticulture Technology and Sports Turf Management
5. Engineering and Mechatronics
6. Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
7. Veterinary Technician
8. Information Technology
9. Health (Spring Career Fair)

### Western Dakota Technical College (Have Your Pick):

There are currently 32 employers exploring sponsorship for Western Dakota Technical College Applicants for the 11<sup>th</sup> cohort of the Build Dakota Scholarship. 10 of those employers have already sponsored at least one individual for Cohort 11. Cohorts 9 and 10 had over 20 sponsors each Cohort with 14 in each being returning industry sponsors. So far in Cohort 11, 9 of the 10 employers sponsoring are returning sponsors.

Western Dakota Technical College's 2<sup>nd</sup> BDS Sponsorship Networking Mixer is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This event was successful it's first year for Cohort 10 and has been brought back for Cohort 11.

### COMBINED TECHNICAL COLLEGE EFFORTS!



## 5. MARKET BUILD DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL CAREERS

- Lawrence & Schiller leads the overall marketing campaign, collaborating with state partners to promote the program with less expense.
  - **South Dakota Department of Education:** All of the Division of Career and Technical Education career development specialists and directors share the Build Dakota message and promotional materials with high school administrators, counselors and teachers. They also regularly invite the Build Dakota program manager to conventions, workshops and webinars to make sure Build Dakota remains on the forefront of discussion.
  - **South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation:** Each of the Department of Labor offices across the state have provided education on Build Dakota as well as promotional flyers to distribute to job-seekers. Dual website cross promotion has also been very effective.
  - **South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development:** Representatives from this office and local communities have been instrumental in promoting the program.
  - **Build Dakota Staff:** Our staff continued high school roadshows and community outreach as well as training presentations for the SD Department of Labor staff. We also started reaching out to all newspapers, radio and television outlets to inquire if they would like to feature Build Dakota in any of their outlets. We've received great response from these efforts.
  - **South Dakota Technical Colleges:** Each technical college promotes Build Dakota in many capacities. Their admissions representatives deliver flyers and talk to interested parties as they travel across South Dakota and the surrounding states. Campus visitors are also provided an overview of the scholarship. The technical colleges have added Build Dakota to their own marketing campaigns, flyers, websites, commercials and billboards. Large marketing pieces were designed by Lawrence & Schiller and delivered to each campus to increase awareness for visitors.



## **2024 BUILD DAKOTA LAWRENCE & SCHILLER MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

2024 was a year of change & vast growth in marketing for Build Dakota and South Dakota's technical education scene. From the Strategic Planning Initiatives identified in January 2024, Lawrence & Schiller hit the ground running on building a marketing strategy spread over the course of the next three years.

In September 2024, Mike Rowe returned to South Dakota to complete a widely successful press tour of the four technical colleges. At each college, Rowe held fireside chats connecting with students, staff, and industry partners across the state, toured each of the facilities, and was even able to assist in Lake Area Technical College's ribbon cutting. The press tour was **recapped on 15+ news outlets and publications**, including being uplifted on Mike Rowe's own personal outlets and channels spreading reach further than we could have imagined. The buzz from the event continues to this day and was the perfect kickoff to celebrate Build Dakota Scholarship's 10-year anniversary and the success of the state's approach to Technical Education as a whole.



Last year also saw the creation and execution of the first year of a three-year statewide Technical Education Awareness paid media campaign, which launched a variety of digital & traditional ads in November of 2024. L&S conducted a statewide video shoot capturing the stories of 4 successful technical college graduates and past Build Dakota Scholars, showcasing how they were able to “Work Smart” to grow quickly in their careers and personal lives. The 2024 Build Dakota Technical Education Awareness campaign targeted all residents of South Dakota, with a focus on certain channels targeting high school students, parents and high school staff. This campaign was focused on reach, awareness and impressions. A majority of the impressions came from static and digital billboards and broadcast TV spots placed across the state. Digital channels included were streaming and digital video, display banners and social ads. These efforts ended with a grand total of **18,015,638 impressions** throughout the campaign.

Our annual Build Dakota Scholarship paid media campaign continued in 2024 to drive applications during Build Dakota’s application period January 1 – March 31 and targeted audiences geared towards both traditional students (Adults 16-24) and non-traditional students (Adults 25-34). Media and creative channels included digital display banners, social ads, direct mail (consisting of postcards sent to South Dakota High School Juniors and Seniors), and sponsored content articles. These efforts ended with a grand total of **3,874,776 impressions** throughout 2024. With media conversions being more of a focus in the strategy, the campaign saw **12,514 conversions** with a majority of those conversions being click to program page interactions (6,996) and clicks over to the technical college websites (4,977).

Compared to the previous year, in 2024 [builddakotascholarships.com](https://builddakotascholarships.com) saw a **63% increase** in pageviews, a **2.50% increase** of total events on the site (clicks and any actions taken on the site by our audiences) and an **increase of 130.49%** for total key events on the site compared to 2023. Key events include actions such as click to the program page, clicks to all four technical college websites, clicks to apply for the scholarship, and clicks to email for more information.

Build Dakota’s Facebook page saw a total of 1,408,600 views, with 220,800 people seeing our content on that platform. Build Dakota’s Facebook page saw an **increase of 23.60%** in followers last year, **reaching a total of 1,812 followers** compared to 1,466 in 2023. Our Instagram account saw 1,025,082 views and 31 new followers in 2024, coming to a total of 158 total followers. Build Dakota’s LinkedIn saw an increase of followers as well, rising from 8 total followers in 2023 to 22 total followers in 2024 (14 new followers).

The Brand Ambassador Program began its fourth year in 2024 working with ambassadors from the four technical colleges to create authentic content that resonates with our audience through the Build Dakota social channels, thus contributing to some of this growth as well.

Through all these marketing efforts, spreading awareness of the Build Dakota Scholarship and South Dakota’s technical education system have been the driving force behind our campaigns. We are excited to see how our strategic planning efforts over the next few years continue to have an impact on our state, prospective scholars, industry partners, and beyond.

## 6. INCOME/EXPENSES

Information submitted by: Cassie Stoesser, Controller, South Dakota Community Foundation

	Year Ended 12/31/2014					Year Ended 12/31/2015			
	Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total		Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total
Beg. Bal	-	-		-		9,750,000	4,994,365	-	14,744,365
+ Contributions	9,750,000	5,000,000		14,750,000		-	5,000,000	159,030	5,159,030
+ Inv. Earnings		(5,364)		(5,364)		42,062	(587,999)	-	(545,936)
- Expenses		(272)		(272)		(4,106,487)	(59,613)	(59,590)	(4,225,691)
Ending Balance	9,750,000	4,994,365	-	14,744,365		5,685,575	9,346,753	99,439	15,131,767
	Year Ended 12/31/2016					Year Ended 12/31/2017			
	Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total		Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total
Beginning Balance	5,685,575	9,346,753	99,439	15,131,767		6,081,514	20,708,113	144,343	26,933,971
+ Contributions	5,025,695	10,000,000	132,664	15,158,359		10,032,202	5,000,000	-	15,032,202
+ Inv. Earnings	20,932	1,458,246	1,173	1,480,351		27,389	3,667,909	1,602	3,696,900
- Expenses	(4,650,688)	(96,886)	(88,933)	(4,836,507)		(4,234,601)	(177,695)	(86,687)	(4,498,984)
Ending Balance	6,081,514	20,708,113	144,343	26,933,971		11,906,505	29,198,327	59,258	41,164,089
	Year Ended 12/31/2018					Year Ended 12/31/2019			
	Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total		Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total
Beginning Balance	11,906,505	29,198,327	59,258	41,164,089		7,405,287	27,301,506	111,497	34,818,290
+ Contributions	87,238	9,000	93,540	189,778		130,104	-	100,000	230,104
+ Inv. Earnings	53,280	(1,717,884)	1,044	(1,663,560)		29,362	3,561,312	1,264	3,591,939
- Expenses	(4,641,736)	(187,937)	(42,345)	(4,872,018)		(5,576,757)	(188,603)	(105,092)	(5,870,453)
Ending Balance	7,405,287	27,301,506	111,497	34,818,290		1,987,996	30,674,215	107,669	32,769,880
	Year Ended 12/31/2020					Year Ended 12/31/2021			
	Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total		Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total
Beginning Balance	1,987,996	30,674,215		32,662,211		9,987,521	34,813,445		44,800,966
+ Contributions	10,245,397	2,100,000		12,345,397		392,099	-		392,099
+ Inv. Earnings	5,704	4,409,018		4,414,722		-	2,730,432		2,730,432
- Expenses	(4,467,680)	(153,685)		(4,621,364)		(4,756,404)	(181,466)		(4,937,870)
Inter-Fund Transfers	2,216,104	(2,216,104)		-					
Ending Balance	9,987,521	34,813,445	-	44,800,966		5,623,216	37,362,411	-	42,985,627

	Year Ended					Year Ended			
	12/31/2022					12/31/2023			
	Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total		Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total
Beginning Balance	5,623,216	37,362,411		42,985,627		673,239	35,280,974		35,954,213
+ Contributions	428,839	2,100,000		2,528,839		676,357	14,200,000		14,876,357
+ Inv. Earnings	-	(4,000,105)		(4,000,105)		-	5,172,746		5,172,746
- Expenses	(5,378,816)	(181,333)		(5,560,148)		(5,117,479)	(198,087)		(5,315,567)
Inter-Fund Transfers				-		3,900,000	(3,900,000)		-
Ending Balance	673,239	35,280,974	-	35,954,213		132,117	50,555,633	-	50,687,750
	Year Ended								
	12/31/2024								
	Sanford	Endowment	SDDOE	Total					
Beginning Balance	132,117	50,555,633		50,687,750					
+ Contributions	675,495	2,100,097		2,775,592					
+ Inv. Earnings	-	4,353,083		4,353,083					
- Expenses	(6,763,171)	(262,997)		(7,026,168)					
Inter-Fund Transfers	6,055,560	(6,055,560)		-					
Ending Balance	100,000	50,690,257	-	50,790,257					
*Note: Expenses include expenses paid out of the fund and grant distributions.									

## 7. FUTURE FOCUS

- The Build Dakota administration board, program manager and technical colleges will continue to promote and expand technical college industry partner programs.
- Continue to work with technical colleges to increase the quality of applicants and maintain a low default rate.

### 10-Year Strategic Planning:

Thanks to the generosity of First Premier Bank, they funded an extensive strategic planning session with RVM Consulting. Several stakeholder focus groups were conducted under the guidance of the Build Dakota administration board. As a result, several future goals have been established for us to complete over the next three years.

### Completed in 2024:

- 10-Year Celebration and Technical College Promotion Campaign
- Bill Board Advertising
- Collaborate with Technical Colleges to Review Forms, Procedures and Develop Unified Application Process
- Created Industry Partner Code of Ethics
- Review Programs



**Planned for Completion in 2025:**

- ROI Statement and Values Story
- Increase Engagement with Existing Organizations Across the State
- Develop Individual Toolkits or Best Practices for Participating in Build Dakota for Different Audiences:
  - Traditional Students
  - Non-Traditional Students/Adult Learners
  - High School Staff
  - Parents
  - Industry Partners
  - State Agency
  - Economic Development Groups
- Offer Online Sessions for Targeted Audiences
- Upgrade Database to Increase Efficiencies for Tracking Scholars and Relationship Building Outreach
- Contract Additional Staff: Build Dakota Workforce Relations Coordinator

**Comments from technical colleges regarding future focus/goals for Build Dakota on each campus:****Lake Area Technical College:**

LATC's Foundation continues to manage all aspects of the Build Dakota Scholarship. The Foundation works very close with Admissions, Marketing, Outreach, Financial Aid, Student Services, Bookstore, Data Team, and program staff.

We look forward to the new eligibility to Lake Area Tech programs in Cohort 11:

- Medical Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Child Development

Our team is excited about the launching of Build Dakota's toolkits geared for students, parents, high school counselors, economic developers, and other key audiences. We will continue to look for ways to collaborate with the Build Dakota staff and other SD technical colleges to further the strategic planning efforts over the past year.

**Mitchell Technical College:**

Mitchell Tech is working to promote the Build Dakota program on all levels. MTC will put additional efforts in non-traditional marketing and recruitment.

We continue to educate students, parents, educators, counselors, workforce development professionals and industry partners about the benefits of Build Dakota and the Double Edge program. MTC travels to support the Build Dakota Road Show event arranged by Deni Martin.

The Mitchell Tech enrollment team continues to support and promote the Build Dakota scholarship program at career and educational events not only in South Dakota but throughout the Great Plains region.

The dedication to the Build Dakota program does not stop after a student is awarded the scholarship. Each Build Dakota Scholar is assigned a student success coach who will work with them as they progress in their program.

### **Southeast Technical College:**

STC's ongoing objectives for the Build Dakota program include:

1. Ensuring that 100% of Build Dakota students receive industry sponsorship, thereby maximizing the distribution of scholarships.
2. Increasing the number of businesses participating in student sponsorships.
3. Providing a holistic advising approach by assigning each Build Dakota scholar a dedicated Student Success Advisor.
4. Annually reviewing the tiered sponsorship model for industry partners to ensure they contribute approximately 50% of the cost for each program.
5. Celebrating Build Dakota scholars and industry partners at the annual Build Dakota Signing Day event in June.





## Western Dakota Technical College:

Over the next couple of years, Western Dakota Technical College's advancement focuses for Build Dakota are:

- 1) Work with Lake Area, Mitchell, and Southeast Technical Colleges to refine strategies and extend success of standardization goals from the Build Dakota Strategic Plan execution.
- 2) Sustain industry relationships that have been built over the participation increases in Western Dakota Technical College's Have Your Pick Program.

## 8. SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

### Lake Area Technical College:

#### **Gage Ratigan Cohort 9**

#### **WELDING TECHNOLOGY**

The fact that my schooling is paid for when I am done with school is a huge relief. **The 3 years of service that is required is nothing compared to the benefits I received from this scholarship.**

I really like the group of guys I work with. **They all have helped me grow and are always willing to help out.**

I also like the type of work done here. It's a laid back atmosphere, not extremely hard, but challenging and it can change from day to day.



Gage (center) at work in February 2025 with ESCO Plant Manager, Don Barse (left), and ESCO Weld Supervisor, Dave Barthel (right).



Gage (center left) pictured with ESCO Manufacturing's Stuart Stein (far left), Laurie Gates (center right) and Don Barse (far right) during LATC's Build Dakota/STM Partnership Luncheon held on campus in August 2022.

#### **Don Barse Plant Manager** **STRETCH-THE-MILLION INDUSTRY PARTNER**

Gage has been a great addition to the ESCO team. **His ability to apply what he has been learning in school has really set him up to be successful at his job.**

He has been with us since the start of his Build Dakota Scholarship. He quickly showed us that he was going to be great student and a great employee.

**He has the right attitude and mindset that every employer is looking for.**



Learn more at [BuildDakotaScholarships.com](https://BuildDakotaScholarships.com)

**Kara Koedam  
Cohort 8 and 9**

PRACTICAL NURSING  
REGISTERED NURSING

**I heard about Build Dakota through my school.** Someone said the best way to get the scholarship was to have a partner, so I talked to Heath about it. I really liked working there.

**The impact of Build Dakota is financial freedom, career opportunity, professional growth, and personal development.**

There was an immediate job for me at home after graduation, and **I was also able to get additional certifications** to help my patients.



Learn more at [BuildDakotaScholarships.com](http://BuildDakotaScholarships.com)

**Heath Brouwer  
Administrator**

STRETCH-THE-MILLION  
INDUSTRY PARTNER

**We were fortunate to hire Kara as a Certified Nursing Assistant.** She had a great attitude and was motivated. Kara is the first student we sponsored. She is a quick learner, definitely one of our top RNs.

**Build Dakota Scholarship allowed us to plan for the future.** RNs are ultimately what we need at Douglas County Memorial Hospital.

**Build Dakota is a huge advantage to attract young people from our community to stay.**

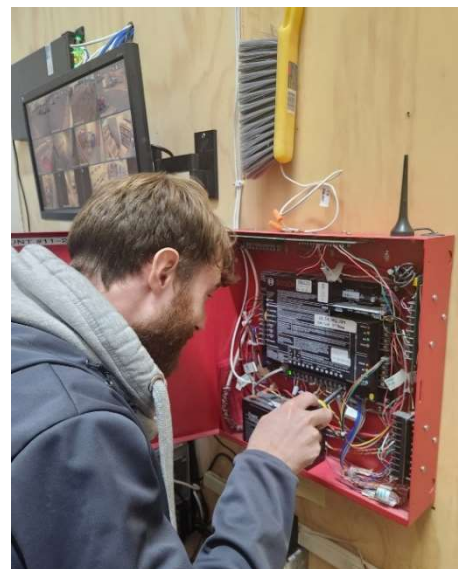
**Mitchell Technical College:**

**Success: Christopher Dvorak, WiFi/Broadband (Telecommunications) Technology, 2015**

After high school, I spent the summer as an intern for a Telecommunications company and spent the summer in Las Vegas and Pheonix. However, I thought my passion was still in computer programming, so I attended the Fall semester at DSU. I quickly learned that computer science was not for me. I heard about the Build Dakota Scholarship from MTC from my legacy family (sister, and father), and knew I had to check into this.

It only took me a few hours to realize Telecommunications was where I was truly meant to be. I graduated from MTC with a degree in Telecommunication and already had my first job lined up with Midco in Sioux Falls. While there I learned so many important things and was allowed to advance through the ranks. I eventually changed jobs and worked for VantagePoint drawing up staking sheets for other telecommunication companies. But I longed for the outdoors again. Currently, I am working at Electro Watchman and am not only traveling but loving the work I do.

With a beautiful wife and soon to be 2-year-old daughter, I'm kept very busy, but I wouldn't have gotten any of the opportunities I've received over the years if not for the great start with the Build Dakota Scholarship. I do not know if I ever really thanked the sponsors or even MTC, so let me do that in a very heartfelt way right now! Thank you all so much for the opportunity you gave me.



## Success: Taylor Henkel, Radiologic Technology, 2022

Industry Partner: Monument Health

The Build Dakota Scholarship really made my time at Mitchell Tech less stressful and more enjoyable. It enabled me to put more focus on my studies and spend more time in the lab outside of class. A big stress for most college students is navigating how to pay for tuition, books, and supplies that are required for the courses. But with the Build Dakota Scholarship covering those costs, it alleviated all that stress.

This scholarship also allowed me to connect with my classmates and branch out to meet other students in different programs. Not having to worry so much about working to pay for student loans or tuition allowed me to have more free time outside of classes, studying, and lab time. I met some of my best friends through my time at Mitchell Tech and that would not have been possible without this scholarship.



## Southeast Technical College:

### DRIVEN BY PASSION: WILLIAM KNIPPLING'S JOURNEY INTO THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY



William Knippling's passion for cars was nurtured by his grandfather, a seasoned "body man" with over 40 years of experience. This shared love for automobiles inspired William to pursue a career in auto technology at STC.

**A Passion Fueled by Family** – William and his grandfather enjoyed attending car shows, watching Formula 1 races, and visiting Huset's Speedway to watch Sprint Cars and USAC Midgets together.

**Choosing Southeast Technical College** – William was attracted to STC's Auto Program because of its top-tier facilities and hands-on learning environment, which he saw as the perfect setting to hone his skills and pursue his career.

**Securing His Build Dakota Sponsorship** – William's sponsor, Olympic Motors of Huron, had no prior experience with Build Dakota.

However, after several visits to the shop and persistent communication over six months, they agreed to sponsor him, paving the way for William's success with the support of Build Dakota.



## TAYLOR HANSEN: INSPIRED TO CARE, DRIVEN TO SUCCEED



Taylor Hansen's dream of becoming a nurse was inspired by a life-changing experience during her childhood, when her mother was hospitalized, and her grandfather underwent a heart transplant.

**The Nurse Who Made a Lasting Impact** – A compassionate nurse played a pivotal role in

supporting Taylor and her family during a difficult time, inspiring her to pursue nursing and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

**Turning Obstacles into Opportunities** – As a single mother, Taylor faced financial challenges but found hope in the Build Dakota Scholarship. Her determination and perseverance led her to begin the application process in December 2021. Now, as a student at STC, Taylor is on her way to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), ready to provide the same compassionate care that once changed her life.

## NOAH KIECKHEFER: CHARTING HIS FUTURE IN LAND SURVEYING



Noah Kieckhefer's interest in land surveying grew from a desire to work outdoors, combining technology, history, and hands-on fieldwork.

**Discovering His Passion for Land Surveying** – Noah was drawn to land surveying for its blend of fieldwork and technology, and its connection to both modern innovation and historical practices.

**Gaining Real-World Experience** – Through a high school internship and subsequent summer internship with Banner Associates, Noah's dedication and skills earned him a Build Dakota Scholarship, supporting his future in land surveying.

**Why Southeast Technical College?** – STC offers the only land surveying program in the region, and Noah's visit to the campus confirmed that the supportive staff and cutting-edge facilities were the ideal environment for his growth.

With the backing of Banner Associates and Build Dakota, Noah is on track to build a rewarding career in land surveying and contribute to the industry's future.

### **Western Dakota Technical College:**

Two student success stories we are sharing Haley Erickson (Computer Science) and Adam Amiotte (Diesel Technology). To best understand the impact the Build Dakota Scholarship has made for them, we asked them to share their experiences:

#### **Haley Erickson**

Receiving the Build Dakota Scholarship has allowed me to put more focus on my studies and participate actively in school. I have been able to actively compete in Skills USA and Cyber-Security competition through my two years here. Additionally, I had the opportunity to sit on a panel to represent the Build Dakota Scholarship with Mike Rowe. I am very fortunate to have received this scholarship and graduate from a school that has allowed me more opportunities than just getting my Associate in Computer Science. I would not have been able to do as many things without the Build Dakota Scholarship.



#### **Adam Amiotte**

When I first heard of the Build Dakota Scholarship, I thought of it as something very hard to attain and something that very few people will receive. However, this is not so, many students in my diesel technology class, for example, are Build Dakota recipients. Whether you can get it through a sponsorship program or just by applying directly, it's something every student going into trades should be looking into. The benefits of having this scholarship are huge, not only do you get free tuition but in programs such as diesel technology you will also receive free tools. This scholarship has helped me immensely not just from a financial standpoint but also by taking a lot of stress out of college. For me personally, it is a huge motivator and allows me to focus more on learning.



#### **Industry Partner Success Story**

Monument Health has been supporter of the multiple healthcare programs at Western Dakota Technical College. In addition to being a consistent industry sponsor since Cohort 4, they have numerous employees that serve on program advisory boards such as Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technician/Phlebotomy, Health Information Management, and Surgical Technology in addition to having a volunteer serve our the WDT Foundation Board. Starting in Cohort 9, they made strategic decisions to start funding Build Dakota applicants at an organization wide level rather than department by department funding. They continually promote the program, including agreeing to be interviewed at our Build Dakota Signing Day in 2024 by local media during event coverage. Monument Health is an Industry Partner that seeks not only success for Build Dakota, but the healthcare profession in western South Dakota.