

CONNECTIONS

A publication for friends and alumni of Southeast Technical

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE
**SOUTHEAST
TECHNICAL**
Winter 2014



Driven to succeed

For James Elvidge, life at Southeast Technical
is full speed ahead

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For James Elvidge, life at Southeast Technical is full speed ahead



James Elvidge balances college, DECA, and an automotive career at Dahl Toyota

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Beckie Taylor receives the Richard L. Resurreccion Public Safety Scholarship

Minnesota State College Southeast Technical

Red Wing Campus
308 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
651.385.6300

Winona Campus
1250 Homer Road
Winona, Minnesota 55987
507.453.2700

Winona Campus - Tandeski Center
1200 Storrs Pond Road
Winona, Minnesota 55987
507.453.2740

www.southeastmn.edu



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TTY - 507-453-2758 (Winona)
TTY - 651-385-6430 (Red Wing)

from the president

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am honored and delighted to have been selected as Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical's eighth president. I have the privilege of spending my days at both the Winona and Red Wing campuses. The college is a great place to work and I am grateful to be working with such a compassionate group of faculty and staff who are committed to the college's mission and share the same values as I do of changing lives through education. Southeast Technical's primary role is to provide affordable and relevant education which leads to employment or transfer — in essence, education to employment and a better life.



Students are our number one priority at Southeast Technical and when students speak, we listen. We are a college community focused on engaging our students. We strive to learn names and create connections so that students feel supported. In addition, the Southeast Technical Foundation is working hard to build a resource base to support students through scholarships and grant opportunities.

*When students speak,
we listen!*
—Dorothy Duran

There is a seamless connection between our classrooms, the labs and the workforce. Our partnerships with business and industry ensure we are providing the most up-to-date training possible. We are committed to doing our best to provide responsive, quality programming to meet workforce needs. We aspire to enhance our community through education and help our business and industry partners succeed in the marketplace.

Southeast Technical also offers an associate of science degree in Individualized Studies so that students have the opportunity to complete their liberal arts and sciences coursework to transfer to a four-year institution. We have developed articulation agreements to make this process as seamless as possible. The college is also committed to partnering with the local high schools so students can take coursework at the college through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program (PSEO) or through concurrent enrollment at the high school. It is a great opportunity for students to jump-start their higher education.

I believe education is the great equalizer in life. We have an open door to anyone seeking an education regardless of their socioeconomic standing and even if they never completed high school. Two-year colleges have been referred to as “second chance institutions” because we meet everyone who comes through our door and do our best to provide a quality education in a supportive environment. If you or anyone you know is looking to achieve their own personal success story, please remember that we are here to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dorothy Duran
President, Southeast Technical College

Southeast Technical named Military Friendly School; Beyond the Yellow Ribbon of Hiawatha Valley supports scholarships

Southeast Technical has been designated a 2015 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting the military and civilian worlds. Military Friendly provides service members transparent, data-driven ratings about post-military education and career opportunities.

The Military Friendly® Schools designation is awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country



"As a vet myself I honestly think any veteran would feel fully supported and at home at Southeast Technical."

*Mark Larson,
Veterans Assistance
Coordinator*

that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate

resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

Mark Larsen, Veterans Assistance Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, stated, "Southeast Technical

Radiography program attains JRCERT accreditation

JRCERT stands for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, the most prestigious national programmatic accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Radiography instructor Patty Hiddinga was thrilled when the JRCERT announced this fall that the college's radiography program has been awarded an eight-year term of accreditation, the highest award that a program can get.

"Getting the credential was quite a process. In order to become accredited we had to do a self-study by meeting six standards which include 53 separate objectives," she explains. "The standards range from 'Integrity' — making sure that we follow fair and equitable academic practices — to 'Resources' — ensuring that we have sufficient resources to support the quality and effectiveness of the educational process."

"We were awarded a program capacity increase and can now take 28 students; we have 15 excellent clinical sites in southeast Minnesota, southeast Wisconsin and in Iowa. Radiography is a rewarding field and an excellent career. For students, the return on investment is huge. Entry level wages start at more than \$20 an hour and the need for radiographers will increase 22% in the next four years," Patty concludes.

is exemplary in the level of effort they put forward to make veterans welcome. As a vet myself I honestly think any veteran would feel fully supported and at home at Southeast Technical."

"Southeast Technical aspires to be the 'safe landing' place when our veterans transition back to civilian life and come to school. We want our veterans to know that we are here to support them every step of the way on their educational journey," said President Dorothy Duran.

Also in 2014, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon of Hiawatha Valley made a presentation of \$2000 to Southeast Technical Foundation on September 25, to be used expressly for support of Red Wing campus student-veterans. A \$1000 scholarship was made available for Spring term 2015, and \$1000 will be awarded for Fall 2015. For more information about applying for a scholarship, see the Southeast Technical Foundation scholarships page at www.southeastmn.edu/scholarships.

Chinese Scholars Visit

Five scholars from Quzhou College of Technology in Zhejiang, China visited the Red Wing and Winona area through Southeast Technical's exchange program in Fall 2014. Four of the visitors — Lei Yuanjie (Vera), Chen Chunxia (Josie), Jing Li, and Huang Lei (Peter) — are English instructors at Quzhou College of Technology. The fifth scholar, Ma Wenlong (Malone), is an associate professor in computer science. The group took part in the exchange to learn more about the cultural differences between our countries and learn more about the English language.

Southeast Technical staff and students were also encouraged to take part in learning more about the scholars' culture. Pictured below, Chinese scholar Lei Yuanjie shared her calligraphy skills with students over the noon hour.



Red Wing Student Senate President Joe Henderson

Why did you run for Student Senate president?

When I joined Student Senate last year, I was able to go to the Minnesota State College Student Association conferences. I saw that other colleges were doing more activities and students were having more positive experiences. I thought, why can't we do that too?

I wanted to be more active and useful.



Why is serving in Student Senate worthwhile?

It's very satisfying to help a student who has an issue, by either giving them an answer or helping them find a pathway to solving it themselves. I want to make sure that every student who comes to this school can come to a fellow student and get their issues resolved.

What program are you in? What is your favorite class so far?

I'm in second year guitar, Guitar Development and Production. My favorite part is the build classes, doing all the detailed work that goes into a guitar that you don't see or know about just by playing the instrument. There's the immediate gratification of seeing your finished product.

When will you graduate, and what do you expect to do after Southeast Technical?

After graduating in Spring 2015 I want to move to Nashville or anywhere that will allow me to find work in repair or building in the guitar field. I just want to get experience working with guitars in any fashion.

What are the goals that you want to fulfill as president of Student Senate?

I want to make sure students get every penny they deserve from student fees. I want to make sure that when they leave, they feel it was worth it, that they were prepared for life and got everything they could from the college experience.

Winona Student Senate member Dakotah Schmidtknecht

Tell us about your involvement in Student Senate.

This will be my third semester in student senate. This past fall, I was elected to the media specialist position.

What brought you to Southeast Tech? What program are you in?

As I was graduating high school, I knew I wanted to get an education. Southeast Tech is close to home and affordable, and I have family who are enrolled here. I was originally in the Criminal Justice program, but just recently transferred into the Industrial Technology program. I was hired on as a work study in the maintenance department and I really liked it. I truly enjoy working in maintenance, which is the main reason I transferred to Industrial Technology.

What goals do you have set for yourself this year?

The media specialist position was created last year by former Student Senate president Cassie Hughes. Cassie has since graduated, and with it being new, I feel that I have the opportunity to take the position and run with it — creating new ways to communicate to students through Facebook and D2L as well as other media avenues that may come up.

What do you like about Southeast Technical?

Having the opportunity to be hired as a work study has opened doors for me. It helps me pay for college and I'm learning many things to help me in my new degree path. Because of the experience I have gained I have been asked to be head of maintenance at a church in Winona starting in May, but I will still be going to school as well.

Do you have any personal student senate accomplishments you would like to share?

I created the Pool Club on campus. We meet once a week — all skill levels — to compete or shoot a friendly game. I'm looking forward to new members joining the club in the Spring semester.





DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

For James Elvidge, life at Southeast Technical is full speed ahead

James Elvidge is on the run. Between going to college, working as a service advisor at Dahl Toyota in Winona, and serving as state president of DECA Collegiate-Minnesota Chapter, he's always in high gear.

Hailing from Bloomington, Minnesota, James says he was always a “shade tree” mechanic. He attended Normandale College for a year before coming to Southeast Technical. “I intended to study nursing, because I had a background in providing direct care to disabled family members. But when I toured the Automotive Technology facilities at Southeast Technical, I immediately changed direction,” he says.

James started by earning his Undercar Certificate, then graduated with high honors in Automotive Technology, a two-year diploma program. Toward the end of his first year in the automotive program, he was hired by Dahl Toyota as an entry level service technician.

“At Dahl, they saw how I could work with guests and explain things to them. They really liked that customer service ability, so they moved me into a service advising position. Going

from a technician role to being a service advisor is definitely a promotion!” says James. “Dahl has been very supportive and flexible in allowing me to take time off for my education; they have let me work part time, which isn’t very common in this industry, so that I can go to college and participate in DECA events.”

After completing the Automotive Technology diploma, James decided to return to school and earn two more associate degrees, one in Retail Management and one in Sales Management. He sees these programs as helping him open the door to management level positions, but he anticipates continuing his education even further. “I never want to stop learning. My end goal is that someday I would love to come back to teach at Southeast Technical — maybe in automotive technology, maybe in retail and sales. My instructors have been such an inspiration to me.”

Instructor Terry Greene is James’s advisor in Sales and Retail Management. Terry says, “James has a terrific level of excitement and enthusiasm about everything he does. He’s

“James gives 110% — he learns and does everything he can.”

*Terry Greene, Instructor
Sales and Management*

open to new information, new ideas, new concepts. James gives 110% — he learns and does everything he can.”

Collegiate DECA is yet another aspect of James’s success. DECA is an organization that prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, sales, and management. “DECA helps us bridge the gap between in-class theory and real-world application,” James explains.

At DECA conferences, college students participate in competitive events to hone their sales and marketing skills. “For example, you may go into a conference room and meet with a group of CEOs, marketing managers, and other executives. They play the role of sales people, and your job is to teach them how to implement a sales plan and overcome challenges that may arise.”

In February, 2014, students from the Southeast Technical-Winona chapter of Collegiate DECA attended the State Career Development Conference (SCDC). James took home first place honors in two categories, Professional Sales and Sales Manager Meeting. He was

*“I love the college — it’s wonderful!
The staff are very supportive.
Southeast Technical is really giving
me the tools I need to succeed.”
—James Elvidge*

also elected Minnesota State President for 2014-2015.

In April, 2014, the Southeast Technical-Winona team attended the International Career Development Conference in Washington, DC along with 1,200 students from around the world. Again, James placed high in the competition, landing second in Sales Manager Meeting — a tremendous honor!

James attends Southeast Technical as a recipient of the Bob Olson Memorial Scholarship. Bob Olson taught sales and retail management at the college before Terry Greene and

established the DECA chapter. “I’m so grateful for the Bob Olson scholarship — it’s a high honor and it has been a huge support,” he says.

As for his experience at Southeast Technical, James concludes with enthusiasm, “I love the college — it’s wonderful! The staff are very supportive. Every time I have a question they are more than willing to help me and show me the way. I’ve seen how the college tries to have a personal perspective with each student. Southeast Technical is really giving me the tools I need to succeed.”



James has been a willing volunteer for many campus activities and events.

Above: Talking on the air with 93.7 The Rock's Phish.

Right: MC of the 2013 Southeast Technical Foundation Golf Tournament in Winona.



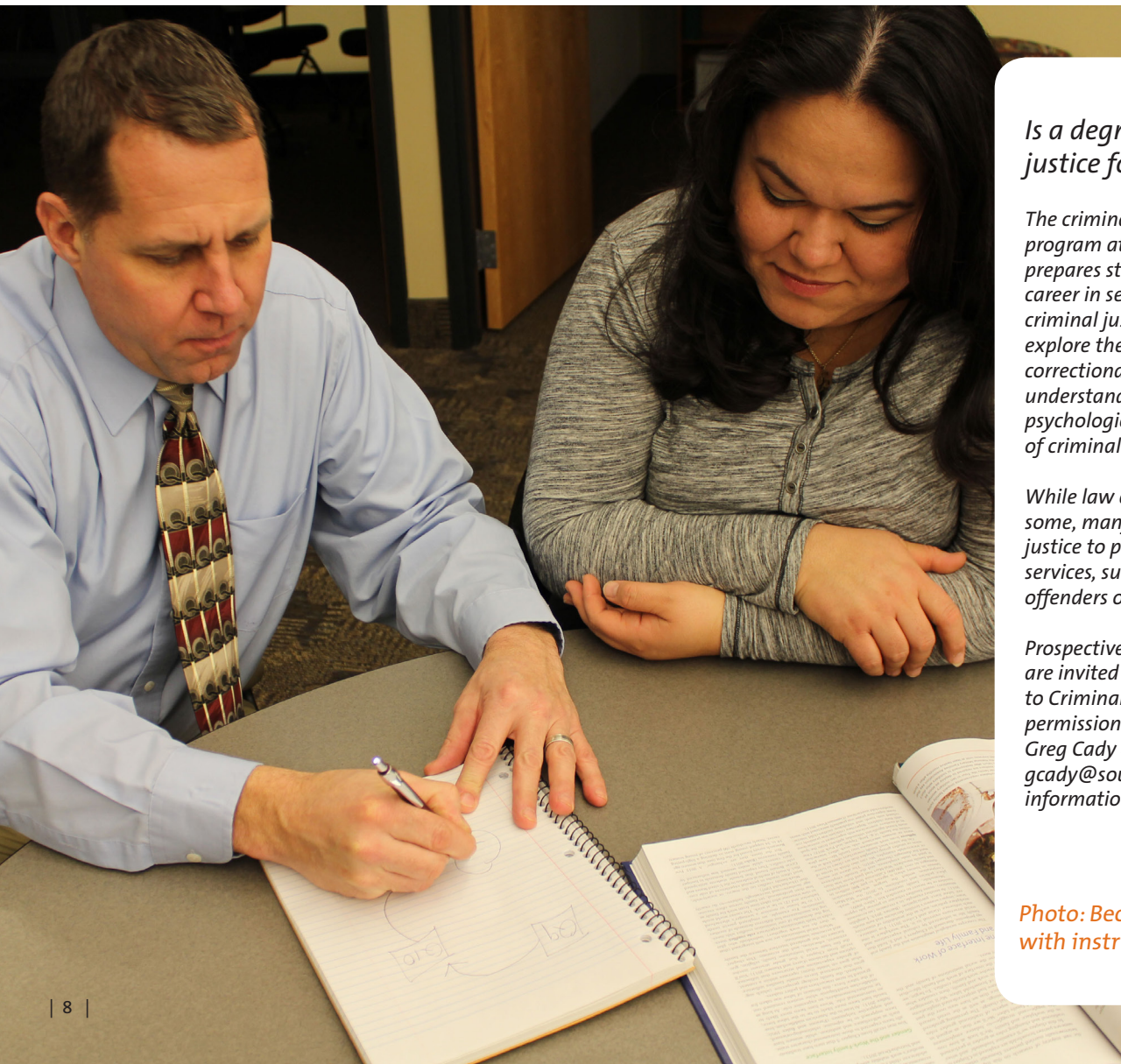
International scholarship awarded to Southeast Technical student Beckie Taylor

Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical is proud to announce that criminal justice student Beckie Taylor has been awarded the Richard L. Resurreccion Public Safety Scholarship, one of two \$1000 scholarships given by the International Public Safety Leadership and Ethics Institute in cooperation with the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.

Beckie Taylor, an enrolled member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe, now lives on the Prairie Island Indian Community reservation with her husband and sons. Instructor Greg Cady says, “Not only is she active within her Native American community, she’s a leader at Southeast Technical. Her work ethic and dynamic personality is contagious, creating a positive culture in the classroom and on campus.”

Describing herself as someone who has succeeded despite obstacles such as drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, and racial profiling, Beckie says she was overwhelmed when she received a phone call from Dr. Resurreccion himself notifying her of the award. “He personally called me from California to tell me about the scholarship. To me it was like a culmination of everything that I had worked for and everything I’ve overcome.”

Beckie is now finishing transfer classes at Southeast Technical and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in drug and alcohol counseling next fall. “I already have colleges competing for me, so I will wait and see which offers the best scholarship package. I want to help my community and those who are still suffering from drug and alcohol abuse. And I want to have a meaningful job, one that can give a real income and provide good health benefits for my family,” she says.



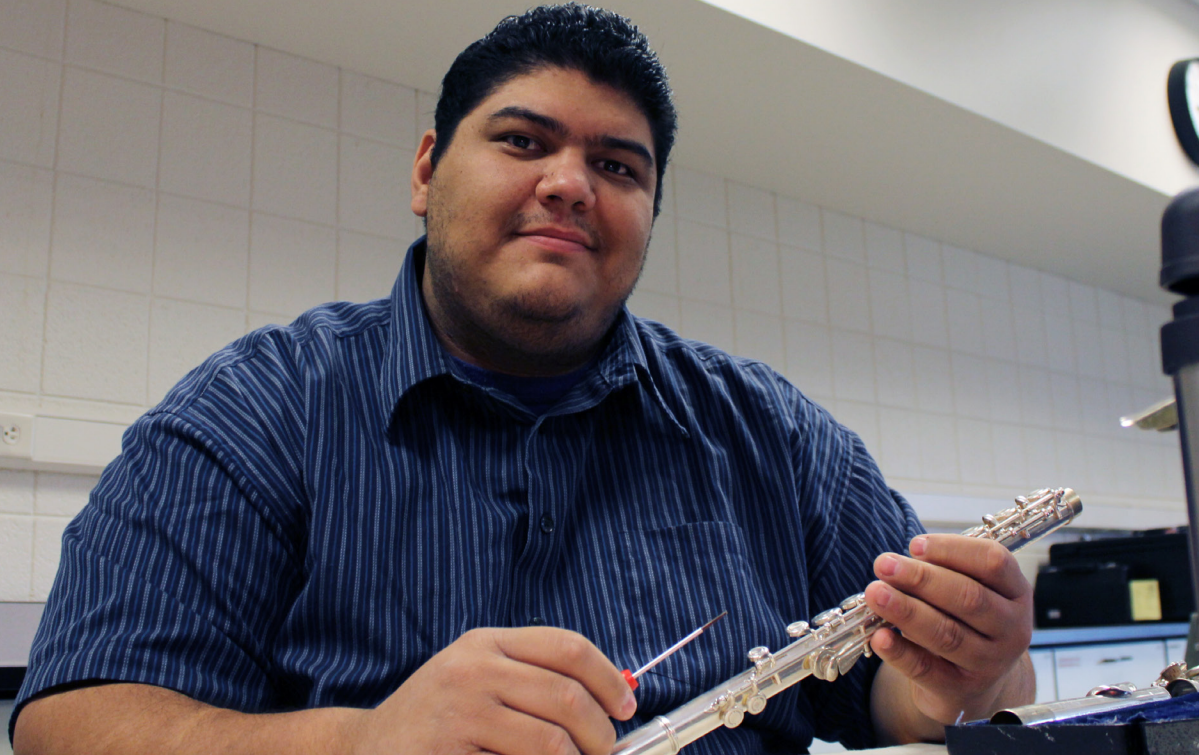
Is a degree in criminal justice for you?

The criminal justice associate degree program at Southeast Technical prepares students for a rewarding career in several areas within the criminal justice system. Students explore the history of the current correctional system and gain an understanding of the sociological, psychological, and biological causes of criminal behavior.

While law enforcement is a focus for some, many students choose criminal justice to prepare for a career in social services, such as working with young offenders or in addiction counseling.

Prospective criminal justice students are invited to attend an Introduction to Criminal Justice class with the permission of the instructor. Contact Greg Cady at 651-385-6411 or gcady@southeastmn.edu for more information.

Photo: Beckie Taylor works with instructor Greg Cady



An educational journey for band instrument repair student Ulysses Izaola

Ulysses Izaola — or “Uly” (you-lee) as he is called on campus — is a true college success story. He has a bachelor of arts from Winona State University, a master’s degree from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, and is now enrolled in Band Instrument Repair at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical, where he also serves as a work study in Student Services.

Born in Miami to a family of Honduran, Puerto Rican, African, and Spanish origins, Uly moved to Minnesota at the age of seven and attended public schools in St. Paul. With English as a second language, he says that he didn’t learn to read very well until he was in the seventh grade. Music came into Uly’s life when he was in ninth grade and he played clarinet at Humboldt High School.

After graduation Uly enrolled at Winona State University, planning to study pre-med and business, but becoming a music major at the end of his sophomore year. By then his musical interests had changed to voice and tuba, and he wrote his senior capstone paper on musical instrument repair. He graduated in four years and is the first member of his family to earn a college degree.

Next up, Uly worked in residence life at Riverland Community College for a year, then went back to school to earn a master of arts in instruction at Saint Mary’s University in Winona (where he became a proud member

of Phi Mu Alpha fraternity). He has since worked for Interlochen Arts Academy, Hennepin County Library System, and McNally Smith College of Music and taught at Cotter Schools in Winona.

Uly first remembers hearing about the Musical Instrument Repair programs at Southeast Technical when he participated in Upward Bound at St. Olaf as a high school student. Later, as a band teacher, he often had to work with student instruments to maintain playability. Returning to college to earn a diploma in this fascinating craft is a natural fit for him. He plans to start an instrument repair business or work for a company in the field; he may continue his education in the future with an ultimate goal of earning a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology.

While here at Southeast Technical, Uly is a work study in Student Services, where he helps in many areas. His enthusiasm, talent, and attention to detail make him a genuine asset to the team.

“The Band Instrument Repair program is a great fit for me,” Uly says. “I like the students and the teachers, and I appreciate the way the program progresses from an educational standpoint. I naturally knew a lot about fixing things before, but now I’m learning why certain methods are more effective. The instructors are always expanding upon what they teach so we gain a deeper understanding of how band instruments work.”

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Accounting
- Administrative Support Careers
- Auto Body Collision Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Band Instrument Repair
- Biomedical Equipment Technology
- Carpentry
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) Drafting Technologies
- Computer Majors
- Computerized (CNC) Precision Machining Technology
- Cosmetology
- Criminal Justice
- Diesel Maintenance Technician
- Early Childhood Education
- Electronics Technology
- Guitar Repair & Building
- Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration
- Individualized Studies
- Industrial Technology
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Medical Support Careers
- Nanotechnology
- Network Administration & Technology
- Nursing
- Radiography
- Retail & Sales Management
- Supervisory Management
- Truck Driving
- Violin Repair Program
- Welding Technology

Education to Employment

Southeast Technical offers training in top jobs with above-average wages

If you're looking for an education that can lead to a high-paying job, and you want to be sure that job will still be there for you in 10 years, Southeast Technical is here to help.

New long-range employment projections by state agencies in Minnesota and Wisconsin demonstrate that colleges like Southeast Technical are preparing the workforce of the future for most of the top 10 high-growth, high-paying occupations.

As baby boomers retire and the work environment shifts, occupations like construction, truck driving, accounting, and health care will see the opportunity for strong growth in the next decade. "It's no coincidence that Southeast Technical, with its focus on Education to Employment, offers training in these fields," says Dr. Dorothy Duran, president of Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical.

Southeast Technical offers certificates, diplomas and degrees in accounting, carpentry, computerized (CNC) precision machining technology, HVAC/R, industrial technology, medical laboratory technician, medical support careers, nursing, radiography, retail & sales management, truck driving, and welding — all programs which can lead directly to almost all of the top 10 high growth, high paying occupations in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Approximately 94% of Southeast Technical graduates find work in their chosen field, and 82% of graduates remain in the region. The return on investment in a two-year college is high. A 2013 study released by the Federal Reserve Bank reported that over the course of their lifetimes, students with associate degrees made \$325,000 more than those with only a high school diploma.

"Our objective is to provide programs that are integral to state and regional economic needs," says Dr. Duran. "We're here to help the economy grow, and to help our students become part of a strong economy."

Top 10 high growth, high pay occupations in Minnesota through 2022; median annual salary 2014

1. Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers: \$42,400.09
2. *Medical Secretaries: \$38,781.56
3. *Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians: \$44,303.02
4. *Carpenters: \$45,881.14
5. Physical Therapists: \$78,215.72
6. *Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists: \$62,931.20
7. *Radiologic Technologists: \$61,330.19
8. *Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters: \$66,565.10
9. Cost Estimators: \$59,787.66
10. *Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses: \$41,551.15

**Southeast Technical offers programs in these areas that can lead directly to employment or to further education in the field.*



Statistics source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Employment Projections



Maxine Pruitt: Crossing the decades — and crossing the street — to a college education

Many of us can describe the changes that have taken place since we were young. When today's eighteen year-olds start college, they remember growing up in a time before smart phones and tablet computers. Maxine Pruitt can tell you about growing up in a house without running water!

When she was a young child growing up in rural Arkansas in the 1960s, her family of five lived in a three-room house. "We had to pump water by hand. We cut wood and brought it in every night for the wood stove. We had cane bottom chairs — we didn't even have a couch."

Segregation of blacks and whites was still the order of the day. Maxine remembers, "I was lucky to have had a very good education. From third grade on, I was allowed to go to a white school. My mother wanted us to have access to better books and better classrooms. But we couldn't ride the same bus; I had to ride a bus with the black children to school."

After graduating from high school, she earned a certificate in medical records, but had difficulty getting a job in the field. She says, "A black woman would have a hard time getting a job in an office in those days. Instead, I did in-home health care service for most of my career."

A few years ago, Maxine moved north to Minnesota, planning to stay with a friend in St. Paul. "When I arrived it turned out we couldn't live with her after all. Someone suggested we move to Red Wing instead. Honestly, a sense of peace came over me when I stepped on Red Wing soil."

Maxine and her daughter found an apartment across the street from Southeast Technical, and that got her thinking about going back to school. She wanted to study medical coding again, even though she realized that everything she had learned years ago was now obsolete.

One day inspiration struck. "I just got up and walked across the street from my apartment to the college. It was the first week of August and I didn't even think I would get in that fall. Marilyn (at the Red Wing campus reception desk) was so helpful; all I had to do after that was come back for registration. It was an easy process because she walked me through step by step," Maxine recounts.

It was easy to get into college, but she found it was much more challenging to actually go to college! "I was afraid that I would be the oldest person in class, maybe even older than my instructors. But there are many adults here. What with the economy, a lot of people have come back to be retrained."

Even more frightening was getting used to working on computers. "I knew I could do classes like writing, math, and job skills — but the computer intimidated me. I was terrified I would click on something the wrong way and everything would disappear. Making a Word document — never heard of it. When I did my first PowerPoint, I felt like I had reached the top!"

Today Maxine is on campus almost every day. She has finished her medical coding specialist diploma and is completing an associate degree in medical coding and a certificate in health unit coordinator. As a work study, she is often found at the reception desk in the Red Wing Learning Resource Center.

When she's not working at the desk, she is usually stationed at one of the computers. You would never guess there was a time when becoming a college student intimidated her.

"I come over every day and work on my online classes in the LRC and stay four or five hours. And I really don't feel out of place — if I am having trouble with something, the kids come right over and help me. And just as often, I am able to help other students figure things out," she concludes with a smile.



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