

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE Southeast Technical *Connections*

A publication for Friends and Alumni of Southeast Technical

Partnerships and Collaborations
Moving Southeast Technical forward
on the road to success



INSIDE:
Preparing for college as an adult
and at the high school level

Featured Alumni

Fall 2010



MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE
SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL

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About the cover, and this issue of *Connections*

Southeast Technical College has been engrained in the Winona and Red Wing communities for years. Throughout its history, whether people remember us as the Vo-Tech, Winona or Red Wing Technical, or Southeast Tech, relationships have been formed, bonds have been established, and lives have been changed for the better.

Every day, relationships with the college get renewed. Friends and alumni help move us forward and business partners and industry leaders collaborate with us. The goal for all of us is to give our students opportunities to learn, achieve, and succeed.

On the cover of this issue of *Connections* are three of Southeast Tech's valued partners - Pete Roehl (past foundation board member from 2004-2010), Ron Wenzel (past foundation board member 1998-2007 -profiled on page 14) and Norris Abts (college staff and administrator 1948-1988.)

We are proud of our partnerships and proud of the collaborations we have built. We hope you enjoy this issue of *Connections*.

Minnesota State College SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL

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Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
651.385.6300

Winona Campus
1250 Homer Road
Winona, Minnesota 55987
507.453.2700

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

Winona Airport Campus
110 Galewski Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987
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www.southeastmn.edu



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

message from the president

In this edition of Connections magazine, you will read about some of the exciting collaborative projects within our region. As we continue to grow and improve these connections, I encourage you to help us identify potential partnerships and to share those thoughts and ideas with us.



At Southeast Tech, we constantly review our operations to ensure we are as being as efficient as possible. During this difficult economic time, the challenges we face as a college are similar to the challenges faced by other service providers and businesses. Budgets continue to be reduced while faculty and staff are asked to do more.

Because of those challenges, we need to continue to work with our community partners in our region. Collaboration has become a vital part of what we do at the college. The partnerships we build and foster allow us to give our students more opportunities and hopefully help our partners in the community become more successful and more connected to the region. Our students are clearly benefitting from these collaborations and they are being given access to opportunities they might not otherwise be afforded or allowed.

Whether we are partnering to help our students inside or outside the classroom, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our service and improve our efficiency. Our economy today drives us to think smart and do more with less. We hear this message every day. Southeast Tech is listening to the message and we are continuing to develop allies in our region and we are capitalizing on our community in order to build relationships that support one another. Partnerships are and will be ever present.

As a friend of the college you know we continue to focus our strategic planning on becoming better known within the region. We want to be valued and thought of as being “of the community” and not just “in the community.” Partnerships are an important part of that process.

What partnerships do you regularly sponsor, foster, and grow? Can Southeast Technical play a role? The collaborations we have in place today help make our community vibrant and strong, and as always we will continue to do more for our students and for our region.

Thank you for your continued support of Southeast Technical.

Sincerely,

Jim Johnson
President, Southeast Technical College

Carpentry House

Red Wing program joins forces with Housing and Redevelopment Authority

The carpentry program and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) in Red Wing have joined forces to promote the new construction of homes for families meeting Area Median Income (AMI) qualifications. The carpentry program has built over 20 new homes and is pleased to participate in a rewarding program that provides affordable, safe, durable, and energy efficient housing to middle income families.

The new construction (still in early development) is a two-story, twin-home with both modern and classic features. It will fit gracefully into a beautiful, historic, Red Wing neighborhood within walking distance to downtown.



According to Renee Lorence of the HRA office, the design offers practical living space with an “aging in place” floor plan that will allow the homeowners to live comfortably on two floors now and one floor if necessary in later years. Energy conserving features are being incorporated to save the amount of energy the home will require which will reduce the homes carbon footprint – saving the homeowners money.

Drop by and watch this great new home take shape at 119 W. Fifth Street. For information about the home contact Renee Lorence (651) 301-7029 and for more information about the Carpentry program contact Bob Brion at (651) 385-6363.

Instructor Michael Larson Wins Poetry Award



The Loft Literary Center of Minneapolis, has named Southeast Tech instructor, Michael Larson, a winner of a 2010 McKnight Artist Fellowships in Poetry. Five \$25,000 fellowships are awarded annually to advance the careers of Minnesota writers. Prominent American authors and editors make the fellowship selections, and this year’s competition was judged by poet, Marilyn Nelson. Larson’s work has appeared in a wide variety of periodicals, and his former awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship as well as an Iowa State Arts Board Grant. His

full-length collection of poetry, *What We Wish We Knew*, was published in 2005 by Ex Machina Books.

HVAC Receives Geo-Thermal Update

Learning earth-friendly practices continues to take center stage at Southeast Technical. With the recent installation of a WaterFurnace, Geo-Thermal Energy System in the Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) lab, students in the program are able to learn about temperature control and innovation from one of the best in the business. Scott Freier of Freier’s Electric (Ellsworth and Hudson, Wis.,) led the installation. Not only is Scott a successful business owner, he is a graduate of



the program. The geo system is one of the latest technologies in the HVAC industry. It has been sought after for both homeowners and in commercial use as a new install or replacement option. The technology has a quick payback. Owners are pleased with the efficiency of the system and their decision to install. The installation of this technology is a wonderful and generous example of how business and industry and alumni contribute their time, treasure, and talent to make the college a great place to learn.

New and Improved Red Wing

Solar heating improves boiler efficiency and heats domestic water supply

New security cameras added to keep our campuses safe

Improvements to outdoor courtyard seating area which added ‘green’ space

New bank of computer stations installed in the LRC, along with computer upgrades across campus

Reconfigured simulation lab in nursing

New audio/visual system installed in commons for group presentations

Winona

Solar heating improves boiler efficiency and heats domestic water supply

Classrooms and offices remodeled in both the 100 and 300 wings

New bank of computer stations installed in the LRC, along with computer upgrades across campus

Increased number of parking spaces

New smart boards added

New monitors (provided by Student Senate)

Cosmetology Receives Face Lift

Since 1971, the Cosmetology program has had to modify and adjust to ever-changing technology. Procedures and products are constantly changing within the skin, nail and hair industry. Over the past few summers, the lab has been completely remodeled with the addition of six new pedicure spas, a micro-dermabrasion machine, 25 contemporary design work stations in the student clinic and twelve shampoo stations. Cosmetology instructor Jodi Heim remarks, "As education in the beauty industry continues to advance, we now have the look equivalent for the up-to-date material taught in the cosmetology department every day. As our industry always remains excited with changes, we are excited to have changed our surroundings, as well."

If you haven't visited Cosmetology at Southeast Technical lately, stop in and see our new look. While you're there, make an appointment to have one or more of the many very affordable nail, hair, or skin care services the clinic has to offer.

"I have spent my entire career as a cosmetologist and love it. Because I am passionate about the industry and what I do, I want to share the knowledge and skills I have acquired throughout my 32 year career with every student," says Cosmetology Instructor and School Manager, Terri Fritz.



Southeast Technical Joins Habitat for Humanity Women Build Project

Southeast Technical students, faculty and staff enjoy learning by doing and that is just what a group of ambitious women did this past summer building a Habitat for Humanity Home in Winona and Rushford.

The self named "Hard Hat Honeys" set a fundraising goal of \$5,000 to commit to the cause. Before long, baskets were assembled and placed in the student center for silent auction, pink planks were placed around campus and toted to social events, custom-made can coolies were printed and sold and the team coordinated a full scale pork chop dinner to help raise funds.

Throughout the summer months, the team participated in two workdays in both Rushford and Winona. Team members worked side-by-side with job site managers, AmeriCorps volunteers and the home's future owners to help make the new homeowners dreams become a reality.



Admission's Staff



Jackie Briggs
Director of Recruitment

Home Office: Winona

Manages student services staff, visits high schools in the Western Wisconsin and Northern Iowa area when she's not in the office.

Background: Masters in College Administration



Gale Lanning
Director of Admissions

Home Office: Winona

Serves the college at large, assists both new and current students with academic and social advising; career choices, student senate advisor, disability services. Manages Student Services staff.

Background: Middle and High School Counselor; Masters in School Counseling



Melissa Carrington - Irwin
Counselor

Home Office: Red Wing

Assists both new and current students with academic and social advising; career choices, student senate advisor, disability services.

Background: Masters in Guidance and Counseling



Mike Lewis
College Recruiter

Home Office: Red Wing

Takes appointments and walk-in office visits, as well as travels to high schools in Red Wing, Western Wisconsin and the Twin Cities.

Background: Military Police Officer and Active Duty Recruiter



Randy Blaser
Admissions Representative

Home Office: Winona

In addition to assisting current and new students, Randy travels to high schools throughout Southern Minnesota.

Background: Public School educator for 35 years.



Collaborative Partnerships to Benefit Students

New WSU Wellness Complex Available to Southeast Technical Students

In an education climate where many institutions are vying against each other for students, Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical and Winona State University have built a bond that strengthens both and in the end benefits students the most.

When WSU's new Integrated Wellness Complex opened this year, Southeast Technical students found themselves welcomed there as more than just visitors: they were welcomed as paying customers who are helping to make the center a reality.

Southeast Technical has long collaborated with WSU for student access to things like exercise facilities, intramural sports and the library said Director of Admissions Gale Lanning.

But talks between officials have brought the collaboration of the colleges to new heights, offering Southeast Technical students full access to the sweeping offerings of the new Wellness Complex in exchange for a portion of their student fees.

Inside the new facility, state of the art exercise equipment is rimmed by an elevated running track, a gymnasium and an expansive weightlifting center. But also integrated in the facility are wellness tools like a mini-clinic, a pharmacy and counseling services, all of which are available to Southeast Technical students. Soon, Southeast Technical's students will have an ID card identical to the ones swiped at the Wellness Complex by WSU students, another step in a student's ability to go back and forth between the institutions seamlessly.

Lanning said Southeast Tech officials pursued the partnership with WSU as part of a shifting focus that seeks to serve all of the needs of a student, not just their educational pursuits. "We are looking at the whole student and their wellness," she said. "It's the same focus Winona State has, and so it's a wonderful partnership with them."

President Jim Johnson credited the expanding partnership to the visionary thinking of WSU President Judith Ramaley, who met with Johnson to discuss the relationship the institutions already had indirectly through their students.

The reality is that the colleges share many students between them over time, both in students advancing from two to four year degrees and students who change their course from a four year program to one offered at a two-year school.

"We have a neat synergistic relationship in the community," Johnson said. "And Dr. Ramaley has a true understanding of the benefits of partnership between the two of us." Both agree that they can do more to benefit the community's students together than either can do alone," Johnson said.



Through its distinctly unique facility, WSU will provide integrated, holistic wellness programming and services that promote healthy, lifelong behaviors for students and area community partners.



The Integrated Wellness Complex at Winona State University supports students in achieving a more balanced and healthy lifestyle in seven key areas!

Collaborations in the Classroom Ease Generation Gap

The “Generation Gap” is positive! At Southeast Technical, students from different generations seek advice and direction from each other – and it works both ways. Generation X and Y interact with Boomers and Traditionalists who have stepped into the classroom with them.

Instructors at Southeast Technical are impressed by the relationships being built among students. A record number of individuals are back in school and the age span of students ranges from teenagers to those in their 60s - and beyond.

Jill Halverson, Accounting Instructor at Southeast Technical, sees the “mature non-traditional student” stepping up and giving role-modeling behaviors for their younger student counterparts, by instilling the values still held by the generation called the “Loyal Traditionalists” (1922-1945).

Generation X (1965-1980) and Generation Y or Millennials (1981 – 2001) play a role too. Both embrace being connected electronically. Some mature students don’t always have the experience or comfort level using technology and Halverson says many younger students will show their classmates how to use it and what it is capable of doing.

Halverson says technology is a plus, but it has its drawbacks. The younger students prefer to communicate electronically. The good news is in most cases, the technology is just a starting point that leads to in-person communication, which is ideal. The “Boomers” (1946 – 1964) and the “Traditionalists” get help with the technology from the younger students and in turn assist them in overcoming anxiety about using personal contact.

With this crossover in communication styles, Halverson says she has tried to draw parallels between in-person manners and using manners in electronic venues. She says all generations need to learn the fine art of “Business Speak” - whether it’s in-person or via electronic communication, mastering both forms is imperative when competing for jobs and communicating in the working world.

Not only are communication styles different, but Halverson says learning styles among generations are different too. From her experience, more non-traditional students enjoy offering life experiences and take a more cautionary, common-sense approach to the classroom. Respect for rules, a job well done, and commitment to work ethics are treasured. The younger generations still hold these values, but they want everything at a faster pace. She says the older student is conscientious and offers good life examples about time-management and commitment to projects. “It’s



been inspiring to watch, they seem to work as extended family caregivers in the educational setting. We really become our own blended cross-generational community,” Halverson said.

Because of their willingness to learn, friendships have developed between generations at Southeast Technical. With their differences, they realize they can build working relationship with anyone, no matter what the age.

This trend isn’t just taking place in the classroom. As more workers continue employment beyond what was once considered retirement age, business owners are seeing generations meet in the work place as well. From classroom to break room, generations are blending in a way like never before. Southeast Technical is happy to be a part of helping bridge the gap between these generations.

Southeast Technical has Articulation Agreements set with the following Colleges and Universities. These agreements are for students to transfer with credits accepted towards a specific program.

Minnesota State College and Universities Articulations:

Alexandria Technical College

Metropolitan State University

Minnesota State University Moorhead

St Cloud State University

Bemidji State University

Minnesota State University Mankato

Southwest Minnesota State University

Winona State University

Non - Minnesota State College and Universities Articulations:

Cardinal Stritch University

Globe University/MN School of Business

New Additions to the Program Mix

Jewelry Manufacturing and Repair

Southeast Technical recently added Jewelry Manufacturing and Repair on the Red Wing campus with both certificate and diploma options. This is a classroom/lab program with plenty of hands on creativity awaiting the student who is looking for something new and different. The Red Wing arts community has grown over the last decade and career opportunities abound for those who are seeking to add a new skill for the job market, or may have considered self-employment. Southeast Technical's Red Wing campus continues to explore developments in the art's industry as well and sees this as a fitting compliment to their well-established and widely-renowned musical instrument repair and construction programs.



www.southeastmn.edu/sparklemore

Students entering the jewelry program will learn a number of techniques and processes used in jewelry design, diamond setting, repair, chain construction, wedding band fabrication and custom-made orders. Evening classes make this a convenient program for working adults, or for those who are already in the industry, but want to learn more about specialty areas that would enhance their own jewelry business.

Instructor Todd Hawkinson, an accomplished professional in the industry, and new to our teaching staff, has served as an instructor for Minneapolis Community and Technical College for over 20 years. He has been a designer and craftsman for almost 40 years and has extensive experience working in the industry in manufacturing and as a self-employed jeweler. To learn more about Jewelry manufacturing at Southeast Technical, visit our college website at www.southeastmn.edu/sparklemore.



Biomedical Equipment Technology

As is tradition here at Southeast Technical, the college continues to open new programs to meet industry needs. One such program is the unique offering available on the Winona campus, the Associate in Applied Sciences degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology.

According to Interim Vice President Ron Sellnau, "Biomed technicians are generally responsible for the overall maintenance, repairs, and calibration of medical equipment. The demand for skilled technicians is high with hospital facilities and healthcare clinics."

While the focus is on the service and maintenance of medical

equipment found in hospital and clinical settings, the degree is built on the foundation of the two-year electronics program - so a core education is provided.

Southeast Technical has a nationally recognized core electronics program with graduates around the world in a wide-range of technical fields, including many who are recruited by the FBI to work in field offices nation-wide. The Biomedical Equipment Technology degree offering will be built on the foundation of the two-year program and will be directed by instructors Mike Wadewitz and Marc Kalis. To learn more about Biomedical at Southeast Technical, visit our college website at www.southeastmn.edu/biomed.

www.southeastmn.edu/biomed

THE RIGHT PATH TOWARDS HIGHER EDUCATION

Making better choices at the high school level

Planning for the future is just as important in high school as it is for retirement. With the rising cost of education, a large student loan may offset a diploma. Southeast Technical is pleased to be affiliated with a strong and growing program known as “*Programs of Study*” (POS) that helps young students make better choices about the courses they take at the high school level. A POS is a sequence of courses, both required and elective, that helps students explore a particular career pathway. Students preparing for careers related to the pathway are encouraged to use it as a guide when selecting courses. The program also identifies enhanced learning activities which may be beneficial and ties them to colleges and universities offering programs related to the pathway. Specific occupations related to the pathway are also defined.

Through the Federal Perkins Grant, Southeast Technical is assisting high schools in the region with the design of POS pathways which are considered high wage, high skill or high demand. The programs are also specific to each school’s curriculum. After each school’s POS is reviewed and approved, it is uploaded to a public website (www.mnpos.com). Both parents, students and guidance counselors can log on and view their schools Pathways program.

Presently, there are programs designed for Animal Systems, Web and Digital Communications, Engineering and Technology, Therapeutic Services, Early Childhood Development & Services and Accounting pathways, with additional pathways being developed and added continuously.

Early planning with interest exams at the eighth and ninth grade level help establish and provide a guide or roadmap. It is hoped that students find the POS useful in their selection of high school classes and activities which best prepare them for the rigor of their chosen post-secondary program and eventual career choice. Good planning can start with an inquiry with your individual high school counseling office.



"TRY ON" COLLEGE AND EARN CREDITS ALONG THE WAY

Options exist that offer great taste of college and may reduce workload Later

ONLINE COLLEGE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

(OCHS) is a distance E-learning program offered by Southeast Technical that delivers College Courses to qualified high school students. Online delivery is contracted between the high school and the college. Tuition free.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

is a great option for students who want to stay in high school but are ready for the challenge and rigor of a college program. Courses are taught by credentialed high school faculty and allows students to gauge their readiness and ability to do freshman-level college study. Arrangements are made for cost-sharing through high school/college admissions office.

TECH PREP CERTIFICATES

are designed around curriculum approved through “Articulation Agreements” developed between High School and College administration. The certificates are generally for entry-level college courses. Students who successfully complete these requirements in high school, would not need to repeat them in college.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION OPTION

(PSEO) is a Minnesota state program that allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to take college-level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit for courses that are completed with a passing grade at Southeast Technical.

Admissions to the college is available to juniors and seniors enrolled through any Minnesota secondary public or non-public high school and home school. Learn more about general requirements at www.southeastmn.edu/academic_programs.

College Preparation Services Now Located on Campus

Some students who hope to enter college might need more preparation in order to be ready for basic college level courses. In some instances, students may need more literacy skills, assistance with study skills, or help overcoming a language barrier if English is their second language. With that in mind, the Adult Literacy Program is designed for people who may test low on the Accuplacer (tests administered to assess academic skills in math, English, and reading) or simply show a need for more assistance in preparation for college classes.



Many Adult Literacy Program and related educational services are now available on-site on both the Red Wing and Winona campuses. Assistance with GED preparation and testing along with basic computer, math, reading and listening skills are available through programs that help bridge the gap between high school and college. Those returning to the job market or dislocated from their workplace can also benefit from getting a new start on learning with tutoring assistance and study skills.

Another service direction available through the Adult Literacy Program is for ESL (English as a Second Language) students. This includes parenting and English classes for adults (and their preschool aged children when appropriate) as well as preparation for citizenship test and review.

For all of these services, experienced teachers and staff work one-on-one with students to develop a plan for success. All classes are free and offered throughout the day and evening in order to fit a variety of busy schedules.

Southeast Technical is pleased to offer direction to these great transition programs available on and off campus. For more information on hours and office locations on campus contact: Red Wing, Director Theresa Luther-Dolan (651) 385-6348; Winona, Director Judy Root (507) 494-0900.



Southeast Technical Customized Training Drives Southeast Minnesota Vitality

Here at Southeast Technical Customized Education and Workforce Training, partnerships are all around us. We work closely with industry partners providing tailored, flexible, relevant training for many organizations and employees throughout or region.

Our offerings are based on customer and market demands for general and targeted learners seeking career development, retraining, and lifelong learning. We pride ourselves on helping clients build expertise in critical technologies, hard and soft skills, and having the flexibility and expertise to tailor our training to large groups or individuals who desire coaching.

We're proud to deliver training and education solutions that help your organization succeed in a changing world. As one of 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, we can tap into an unparalleled network of experienced instructors, advanced technology and cutting edge equipment. Let us put our collaborative power to work for you.

SE Minnesota's vitality is driven by competent workers with the talent to help their organizations grow and profit. Customized Training gets right to the heart of helping you attract and maintain a competent workforce. Whether it's in the classroom (yours or ours) or online, you'll maximize ROI for your training budget.

Our high-quality, flexible programs are tailored to your specific objectives. Alone or in partnership with other institutions, we'll help you:

- Improve operational quality, efficiency and productivity
- Build workforce capacity in evolving technologies
- Develop talent in hard and soft skills necessary to compete in a new economy
- Prepare your organization for the challenges of the future

CONTACT US

We know how important it is to listen first...then respond quickly to your demands.

Visit the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities website:

www.mnscu.edu/business/customizedtraining/index.html

or the Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical website:

www.southeastmn.edu/training

to learn more or arrange a personal meeting to assess your organizational needs!

Minnesota State College
Southeast Technical
FOUNDATION

*2010 Southeast Technical College
Foundation Board*

Officers

Dan Matejka, President

City Administrator, City of Goodview

Tedd Morgan, Treasurer

VP of Operations/COO, Thern, Inc.

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Fairview Red Wing Health Services

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Jack Richter

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Owner, Riester Refrigeration

Tom Schooley

Community Volunteer, Travelers Insurance Co.
(Retired)

Stan Slessor, (Past President)

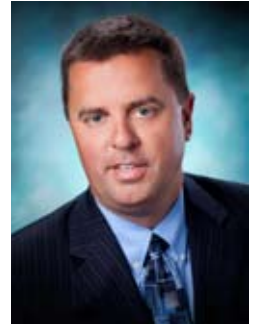
Superintendent, Red Wing Public Schools

Terri Sim

Owner, Sim Sound and Video

message from the foundation

As you have read throughout *Connections* magazine, you have seen some of the wonderful partnerships being explored and developed here at Southeast Technical and throughout our entire region. As the new President of the Southeast Technical College Foundation Board, I am excited about the collaborations and I believe we are just starting to see our potential as we connect with our communities.



Many of the partnerships you see highlighted at the college would not be possible without the strong connections we have to our alumni. I would like to thank all of those who serve on committees, attend our events, and provide philanthropic support to the college. Without you, the collaborations we enjoy wouldn't be possible and the students we serve wouldn't be as well prepared when they leave the college.

I am an alumnus of Southeast Technical and I am proud of the college. Part of my role as an alumnus is to help other alumni and friends get connected to our campus and help our students in ways that are meaningful to them. The Foundation Board works closely with college staff to help develop alumni events, raise money for scholarships and academic programs, and to help build stronger relationships within our communities. There are many ways for us to partner. As alumni, many of us choose to give back to our alma mater. Whether it is giving back of our time, our talents, or our treasures – I truly believe Southeast Technical is a wise investment in the future of our region.

We have had much success as a foundation over the last year. Three of the largest individual gifts in the history of the college were received in 2009-2010. We added six talented and hard-working individuals to our foundation board and we are building relationships with our alumni and friends like never before.

I look forward to serving as President of the Foundation Board and helping the college move forward with even more partnerships and collaborations.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dan Matejka". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dan Matejka
President, Southeast Technical Foundation

Fiscal Year 2010 Giving

(Cash gifts given between July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

Visionaries

(\$5,000 and above)

Anonymous
Eastwood Bank
Fastenal Company
Motor Parts and Equipment
Jerry and Pat Papenfuss

Steak Shop Catering
Jessica Stumpf
James Sweazey
Walz Buick-Pontiac-GMC
Owen Warneke and Associates
Winona Senior Friendship Center
Activity Council
Xcel Energy Foundation

Ramona and David Coron
Crown/Auto Service Center
Mike and Mary Donlin
Arnold Dufseth
Jean Egbert
Mohamed Elhindi
Betty Elsen
Rita Evans
Karen Fettig
Joseph Goggin
Sherry & Jerry Haines
Eileen Halls
Michael and Jill Halverson
Marlene Hemsey
Hoff Funeral Homes
Roger Holland
Kathy Holthe
Diane Jameson
Casie and Bradford Johnson
Jeanette Karjala
Robert Kierlin and Mary Burrichter
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Edward Kvestad
Lawrence Leasing, Inc.
Lewiston Auto Co., Inc.
Mahn Family Funeral Home
Dean and Bev Massett
Dan and Natalie Matejka
Ronald & Jeanette Matuska
JoAnne McNamara
Elizabeth Miller
Miller Felpax Corp.
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Dan and Bev Mjolsness
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Musty-Barnhart Agency, Inc.
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Kristi Ouverson
Jo and Joe Poncelet
Potter Construction
Katie Przybylski
Rose Riesgraf
Rocco's Pub and Pizza
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Julie Schladweiler
Ron Sellnau
Slaggie Family Foundation
Paul Sorenson
Kent Spaulding and Naznin Nelson
Strobel & Hanson, P.A.
Treasure Island Resort

Innovators

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Norris and Rhoda Abts
Dave and Muriel Arnold
Gordon and June Ballard
Paul Bringgold
Family & Friends of the late Shane Elsen
Fairview Red Wing Health Services
Harvest Moon Advertising
Elizabeth and Carl Helmholz
Hiawatha HomeCare
Family & Friends of the late Lisa Laing
Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical
John and Vicki Riester
Peter and Susan Roehl
Rotary Club of Winona
RTP Company
Sylvander Heating, Inc.
Winona Lighting
Wm. Miller Scrap Iron & Metal Company
C. Nick Zeller

Investors

(\$250 - \$499)

Laurie and Bill Becker
Randy and Ann Blaser
Robert Brion
Cars-n-Credit
Nate and Sherry Emerson
Buck and Joan Foot
John and Margaret Hale
Marlene Hemsey
Thomas and Cecilia Hoffman
Marty Knauer
Harland and Pauline Knight
Helene Olson-Reed and John Reed
Jeffrey and Denise Meyer
Mississippi Welders Supply Co.
Robert Raasch
Leah Schnaith
Roger Skugrud
Stan and Ellen Slessor
Thern, Inc.
Tim and Rita VanLoon
Patty and Ed Watson
Watson & Speight, P.A.
Ron and Karrol Wenzel
Win-Air
Alice Zimmer

Pacesetters

(\$500 - \$999)

Altra Federal Credit Union
Andy's Sports Bar
Associated Bank
Baird Foundation
Maura and Stephan Boesch
Anne and David Dahlen
Dawnbreakers Kiwanis Club
Hiawatha Broadband Communications, Inc.
Hydratight
James and Mary Johnson
Erik Sigurd Lee and Tessy Neves Dias
McDonalds of Winona
Merchants National Bank
Modern Ready Mix
Robert and Nola Nilsson
Dan and Pat Rukavina
Terri and Dean Sim
Sally Standiford

Sustainers

(\$100- \$249)

Brad and Becky Alsop
Robert and Donna Andraschko
Greg Beckwith
Laura Benedict
Bernatz Law Firm
Barb and Jeffrey Breza
Bob Brink Trucking
Neva and Chesnia Burdick
John Campfield-Huth
Muriel Copp
Lisa Corcoran
Corner Medical

Jill and Keith Tutewohl
Vendi Advertising
Sandra VerBout
David Vincent
Deanna and Larry Voth
Richard and Yvonne Wantock
Evelyn and Pete Wedde
Peggy and Richard Whalen
Wincraft, Inc.
Winona Health Services
Winona Lighting
Stephen Zmyewski

Allan and Debbie Greenwood
Patrick Gregory
Vanessa and Steve Harstad
Clayton Hemsey
Richard Hemsey
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Scott Jensen
Torry Jeranek
Kathy Johnson
Bradley Karow
Barb Kelm
Lynda Kern
Tascha Kinney
Tracy Kirchner
Jeffrey and Stephanie Kirkey
Kish and Sons Electric, Inc.
Kelly Kluver
Teresa Kohlnhofer
Candi and Steve Kohner
Michael & Judith Kolstad
Cindy Kottke
Gale Lanning
Katherine Lansing
Michael Larson
Erin Latten
Ledebuhr Meat Processing
Keith Mann
James and Katherine McCrosson
Don Mikitta
Eric Mills
MN District III Quarter Horse Assn.
Mary Moon
Napco & Associates, Inc.
Lisbeth Nelson-Butler
Bunny Novak
Nita O'Connell
Sue Palmquist
Tao Peng
Dane Petersen
Lisa Pozanc
Lynne Rabuse
Susan Reed
Sam's Club
Becky Schafer
Garry Schlinder

Dennis and Joanne Schlicht
Kerri Schmidt
Mary Schoeder
Schott Distributing
Robert Schultz
Loretta Simonet
Deborah Sobeck
Russell Sobotta
Pam Solberg
Larry Sonnek
Paul and Su Spafford
Lyle Stelter
Chris Stout
Mark Swanson
Joanne and Jamie Thompson
Tires Plus of Winona
Roger & Marilyn Tomfohrde
Bonnie Tracy
Mary Turner
Michael Vanderford
Volkman Appliance, Inc.
Wells Fargo
Diane Wergland
Terrance Wilcox
James Ziegler

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(\$25 - \$99)

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Bay State Milling Co.
Peter Beurskens
Tom Brandt
Jackie Briggs
Patricia Buxengard
Rita Cada
Greg Cady
Christine Cameron
Melissa Carrington-Irwin
Pamela Ciszak
Concept Tool, Inc.
Cone Chiropractic, LTD
Cytec Fiberite, Inc.
Holly Daley
Diversified Link
Thomas Doyle
Dianne Drake
Alan DuCett
Carolyn Dunham
Marsha Edbolm Zich
Brenda Edwards
Karen Fandrey
Susan Flipp
Fred's Body Shop
Marjorie Frost
Sarah Gatzlaff
Scott Gillmer
Terry Greene

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(Cumulative Giving over \$10,000)

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James and Mary Johnson
Robert Kierlin and Mary
Burrichter
Nick and Maria Lundquist
Jerry and Pat Papenfuss
Thern, Inc.
Xcel Energy Foundation

Gifts in Kind

The Southeast Technical Foundation thanks the individuals and corporations for their in-kind contributions. In-kind gifts are used to directly train students or to leverage additional resources for the Foundation's scholarship program. In FY 2009, our in-kind contributions were valued at \$18,733.

Please Support the education of our communities' workforce to ensure our region will remain economically healthy and vibrant.

Please consider making a donation this year.

Donations can be made in many ways, such as a direct dollar donation or by participating in Foundation supported events throughout the year, such as our annual golf tournament and dinner, and fundraising raffles!

www.southeastmn.edu/donate alumni@southeastmn.edu 877.853.8324

Value of Education Can't Be Thrown Away

Ron Wenzel's passion for collecting, mirrors his passion for the opportunity of education

Written by and photos courtesy of: Cynthia Porter

“Ron Wenzel sees the value in things that other people discard.” Jim Johnson’s words hung in the air for a moment as he realized the profundity of what he had said. Indeed, from Wenzel’s passion for collecting to his passion for helping students in need pay for school, the statement seemed to embody Wenzel at the most fundamental level.

As president of Minnesota State College Southeast Technical, Johnson has a long relationship with Wenzel, the undisputed cornerstone of the Southeast Tech Foundation and a man hard to sum up in a few words.

Wenzel, a Southeast Tech graduate himself, was a key figure in the ground floor of the foundation’s development, and his leadership has built the fund from a \$3,000 scholarship program to a \$1.5 million endowment.

But pedestals aren’t for Wenzel, who prefers to spread credit among the teams of people he worked with and talk instead about his admiration for students who fight the odds to get an education.

Wenzel, it turns out, was one of those students. Today he is a retired owner of Riverside Electronics and an avid collector of

things large and small, but half a century or so ago he was a boy who talked his way into his first dock boy job by offering to work for free, and a young man who juggled school and work to make ends meet and get himself ahead in the world.

His first run at higher education, however, didn’t quite go as planned. He tried college for a quarter and promptly flunked out. “I wasn’t ready,” he said. “School wasn’t my bag at the time.” Instead,

Wenzel spent the next two years maturing on a Navy ship that traveled around the globe, and while there learning the trade of electronics.

A degree from the technical college followed, and a bachelor’s degree from Winona State University eventually came years down the road. Life was good working for some of the area’s biggest manufacturers, but Wenzel

is an optimist and a dreamer, and he knew there could be more.

Hunkered over a note pad with Floyd Mullen on a skiing trip, Riverside Electronics was born. The pair woke friend Steve Craney up at 4 a.m. to ask him if he was in. The rest, as they say, is history.

Though he is now retired, there is really no such thing for Ron Wenzel. His days are full of entrepreneurial zeal, though now he

“Money should not stand in the way of a good person getting an education.”

-Ron Wenzel



Below: Ron with one of the first carousel horses carved for Lark Toys. Top Right: Wenzel’s miniature boat motors collection.

has come full circle and turned his attention to his first love: boats.

Since his days working on the docks at Whittaker Marina, Wenzel has loved them. Miniature boats and motors of every shape, size and color are enshrined in his collector's space, some so rare they are virtually the only ones in existence. What he couldn't collect Wenzel started to make, from tiny replicas of working outboard motors to fully operational toy racing boats.

But Wenzel's love for collecting doesn't stop there. Between warehouses and his basement are thousands of square feet of things Wenzel finds interesting, or unique, or meaningful in some personal way. Impossibly rare carnival giveaways, hundreds of Disneyana pieces, antique oil cans, even one of the first carousel horses carved for Lark Toys, a walk through Wenzel's belongings could fascinate for hours.

Wenzel, however, is a man without pretense and for whom value means little. An original Norman Rockwell painting sits stacked accordion-style with dozens of other paintings, some even more valuable. But a tattered little stuffed rabbit his aunt used to own gets to ride shotgun in a large-scale speedboat replica in his office.

When it comes to people, Wenzel has the same philosophy.

His work to help Southeast Tech is a way of giving back, he said, but also a way to ensure that the workforce has good people for area employers to choose from. "Money should not stand in the way of a good person getting an education," he said, adding that the best workers are often those who know what it's like to struggle. "I would sooner hire someone who's been through hell or high water."

Just as Wenzel admires character in others, someone out there admires his character a great deal. According to Johnson, a \$25,000 scholarship was anonymously donated in Wenzel's honor. That, Wenzel said, was hard to believe and brought tears to his eyes.

But people who know Wenzel say it is not so hard to believe.

Mike Cichanowski, founder of We-no-nah Canoe, has known Wenzel for more than 30 years and praised him as an entrepreneur,



a free thinker and a generous soul. "He's a great guy," Cichanowski said.

Johnson agrees. "He's one of the most caring people I've ever worked with," he said. "Ron comes into a conversation and he is the most positive person I've ever seen. Some people's cups are half empty or half full, Ron's cup is overflowing." That effervescence, Johnson said, soaks into the people around him and makes every situation he touches better.

Wenzel, while he might shrug off the praise, does agree that his cup is overflowing. "I've had a privileged life, a charmed life," he said. Indeed. How many men can say that they sang with Michael Jackson (really), talked their way into the inaugural American Bandstand show, and lived a life so filled with blessings that they are in a position to give some of that goodness back? "I give my life a lot of thought," Wenzel said. "And I give a lot of thanks to God. You have to start somewhere, and education is a cornerstone. That's why I'm opening doors for people coming up behind me."



Standing above thousands of square feet of collectables is this pirate, one of Wenzel's over 100 Disney pieces.

Legacy Society

Dan and Natalie Matejka's 28 Year Bond with the College

As with many of our alumni, Dan and Natalie Matejka's connections to Southeast Technical College run deep. In 1982, they entered Winona Area Technical Institute as high school sweethearts. And while they had separate career tracks (Dan in Accounting and Natalie in the General Secretarial program) they both knew what they wanted to do with their respective careers. They also believed Winona Technical was the right path for them.

The school was the right fit because it provided the core competencies they would need to have a successful career in one or two years, as opposed to enrolling in a four-year program. As Dan reflects upon his career and his education, he believes enrolling here was a good fit for him. "It was the best decision I could have made and I wouldn't change it for anything," Dan says.



The education Dan and Natalie received at Winona Technical provided the backbone for career success. Natalie entered Lake Center Industries (now TRW automotive) as a part-time receptionist and her skills led to many promotions through her 27 years at the company. She is now a Master Scheduler for the TRW facility.

Dan began his career as a staff accountant for Independent School District #861 in Winona. He remained there for 15 years and left that position to become the Business Manager for the LaCrescent-Hokah School District, where he stayed for seven years. For the last four years, Dan has been the City Administrator for the City of Goodview, MN.

As Dan and Natalie reflect on their lives together, which includes 26 years of marriage, they believe they have developed a greater appreciation for their academic roots. With that, they have decided to leave Southeast Technical College as a beneficiary of their estate plan. Dan and Natalie's decision to leave the college in their estate plan is deeply rooted in their appreciation for the education that has allowed them to grow both professionally and personally over the years.

While Dan and Natalie's relationship with the College began in 1982, it is still very strong. Throughout those 28 years, they have both volunteered for the College's Foundation to help plan events designed to raise awareness about the importance of technical education and the need for scholarship support for our students. Dan is currently Southeast Technical College's Foundation Board President.

The Members of our Legacy Society include:

Mike and Jane Bourscheidt
John and Rebecca Fuhlbruegge
Allan & Debbie Greenwood
William L. and Marlene Hemsey
James and Mary Johnson
Dan and Natalie Matejka
Dr. Thomas E. and Leone J. Mauszycki
Jeff and Denise Meyer
Don and Donna Peterson
R. Peter and Susan B. Roehl
George L. Tandeski
Deanna and Larry Voth

Southeast Technical College would like to thank Dan and Natalie for their commitment to our college and our students. Our alumni and friends play a vital role in the progress we are making as an institution and the Matejka's story serves as a great message to our alumni. Many relationships started here and many relationships develop with us over time.

Dan and Natalie's legacy gift will help future students like scholarship recipient Abbie Dille accomplish their dreams of graduating from college. You too can make an impact on future generations of students by naming Southeast Technical College Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, or retirement plan.

For more information about our Legacy Society or to discuss other ways you can make a difference, contact Jeff Meyer at 507-453-2409 or jmeyer@southeastmn.edu.



Outstanding Alumni | 2010 Award Recipients |

Scott Freier 2010 Outstanding Alum, Red Wing HVAC, 1991



Scott Freier built his heating and ventilating business, Freier's Electric and Heating, from the ground up in Ellsworth Wisconsin, a community near where he grew up on the family farm in Bay City. Scott graduated from the Technical College in 1991 with an education in HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Cooling) and understood the importance of exploring efficient energy uses early in his career. Alternative

heating concepts that employed sustainable resources was of high interest to Scott and offering those services to a niche in the market became the hallmark of his operation.

In pursuit of building things "better" Scott combined his natural interests as a problem solver with the skills he learned on the Red Wing campus. His interest in exploring geothermal heating and cooling concepts later led to a collaboration with a well-known international manufacturer, WaterFurnace, a leading international manufacturer of geothermal heat pump systems. No challenge was too big and educating home and business owners on the benefits of using what nature gives us, while minimizing our carbon footprint with renewable resources has become his mantra.

Today, Scott works with his brother Chuck who is the head of service, his wife Betty as their office manager and has about twenty-six employees. Eventually his business took off and grew a second even larger location in Hudson, Wisconsin. He feels confident hiring graduates from the Southeast Technical program for his team because he knows they are well-prepared and ready to come on board and contribute right from the start.

Rich Wantock 2010 Outstanding Alum, Winona Electronics, 1965

Rich Wantock is a visionary who built a number of successful career avenues upon graduating from our Electronics program in 1965. As a student, his interest in data and systems management was right on target with the dawn of the computer age, positioning him in the right place at the right time. Blending his education as a business major at WSU and technical skills from Winona Vo-Tech proved to be a very successful combination as evidenced by his tremendous work experiences after leaving Southeast Technical.



Rich worked for many successful corporations throughout his career, including Control Data, Watkins, Sarah Coventry (C.H. Stuart), Coppercraft Guild (Dart Industries) and Royal Crest Jewelry. He served these companies in a variety of capacities including President, Vice President, Sales Manager and Design Manager.

As a Southeast Technical graduate he understands the value of education and the doors it can open. He also believes in leading by example and the value of being first a mentee and then a mentor in life. In addition to bringing leadership into his professional life, Rich also sets an example through his generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure to a variety of organizations in the Winona Community. Early on he served as a Winona Jaycee and was active in the Winona community in a variety of different roles at St. Stanislaus Church, Cotter High School, he also raised awareness for community organizations like the Buddy Club, American Cancer Society, YMCA, Special Olympics and more. He served the City as a Board of Adjustments member and National Direct Selling Trade Association as a Board member.

Nominate an Outstanding Alum for 2011

Each year the Southeast Tech Foundation and Alumni Society honor an outstanding alumnus from the Red Wing and Winona campuses. The outstanding alumni are selected for personal or professional achievement and service to the community and the college.

The Southeast Technical Alumni Society invites you to submit nominations for the 2011 Outstanding Alumni by calling the Foundation at 507-453-2663.

Schneider, Papenfuss Families Make Large Gift Commitments

Over the last 12 months, Southeast Technical College has received three of the largest single gift commitments in its history.

The Julius Schneider Family (Motor Parts & Equipment) created an endowed \$25,000 scholarship in memory of Julius Schneider. Jerry and Pat Papenfuss pledged \$50,000 to the college for endowed scholarship support. An anonymous donor created an endowed scholarship at the \$25,000 level in honor of Ron Wenzel (see Wenzel story on page 14.)

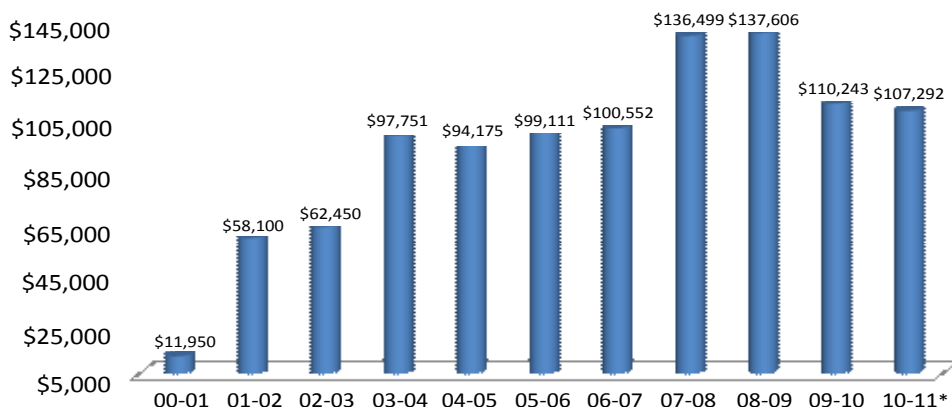
Southeast Technical President Jim Johnson is thankful for the support from benefactors. "Our business leaders and alumni are stepping up like never before on behalf of our students. We are pleased and honored these wonderful donors have shown their faith in Southeast Tech. They have chosen to invest in us and our students and for that we are very grateful," said Johnson.

The Southeast Technical Foundation's scholarship program is designed to increase access and affordability to higher education. Through the program over the last ten years, more than \$1 million in scholarships has been awarded to more than 1,000 students. Scholarship applications are reviewed by members of the Foundation's scholarship committee, which is comprised of community volunteers dedicated to reviewing more than 200 applications annually.



Jerry and Pat Papenfuss

Total Scholarship Dollars Given



798% INCREASE
in scholarship dollars
given from 2000 to 2010

\$1,015,708
10 year total (2000 - 2010)

*denotes only Fall semester 2010 total

Foundation Board | Member Update

Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of six new board members. The board seats are filled by eleven dedicated community volunteers who represent both the Red Wing and Winona communities.

The newly appointed members are:

Richard Bodensteiner,

Vice President and General Manager of Hearth and Home Technologies

Philip McNairy, Community Volunteer and Episcopal Priest (Retired)

Charles Richardson, Attorney, Richardson and Richardson

Jack Richter, President, Winona National Bank

Tom Schooley, Community Volunteer, Travelers Insurance Co. (Retired)

Terri Sim, Owner Sim Sound and Video

Returning members are:

Pam Horlitz,

Community Health Outreach, Fairview Red Wing Health Services

John Riester, Owner Riester Refrigeration

Stan Slessor, (Past Foundation Board President) Superintendent Red Wing Public Schools

Dan Matejka, Goodview City Administrator now serving as Foundation Board President

Tedd Morgan, Vice President of Operations/COO, Thern, Inc., now serving as Foundation Treasurer

EVENTS

Summer/Fall 2010

GOLF OUTINGS



Pictured: Qualifiers for the Big Boat Shootout

The 2nd Annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament was held at Cedar Valley Golf Course in Winona, MN on August 2, 2010. Seventy-six Golfers rounded out the tournament which raised over \$6,000 in scholarship dollars. Save the date for next year's tournament being held on Monday, August 1, 2011.



Pictured (left to right): Nicole Daniels, Sarah Gatzloff, Marcie Buom and Jeremy Miller

100 golfers participated in the Foundation's 5th Annual Community Connections Golf Tournament on May 27, 2010 at Mississippi National Golf Links in Red Wing, MN. A community dinner was held after the tournament in which 92 attendees enjoyed a great dinner as well as silent and live auctions. Between both events, over \$14,000 was raised in scholarship dollars for Southeast Tech students. Mark your calendars for the 2011 event being held on May 26.

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUETS



Pictured: Winona campus scholarship recipients



Pictured: Red Wing campus scholarship recipients

In the Spring of 2010, the 6th Annual Scholarship Banquets were held in Red Wing and Winona. The banquets celebrate the accomplishments of Southeast Tech scholarship recipients as well as the generosity of our donors. For the 2009-2010 academic year, 123 scholarships were awarded totalling over \$110,000.

WELCOME BACK PICNICS



In September 2010, students, faculty and staff of Southeast Tech gathered in both Red Wing and Winona for the 7th Annual Welcome Back Picnics. The events, to welcome all into the school year, are hosted by Southeast Technical's Alumni Society and sponsored by Steak Shop Catering. Between the two campuses, almost 1000 plates of food were served. Twenty-six local vendors also participated offering various services to students.

Programs Offered

Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical is committed to providing essential education to its students no matter where they live and no matter where they are in life. Following is a list of some of the educational options available to you. For a complete listing of our 90+ programs, go to www.southeastmn.edu

- Accounting
- Administrative Support Careers
- Auto Body Collision Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Band Instrument Repair
- Biomedical Equipment Technology
- Carpentry
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Drafting Technologies
- Computer Careers
- Cosmetology
- Criminal Justice
- Electronics Technology
- Guitar Repair and Building
- Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Individualized Studies
- Industrial Technology
- Jewelry Manufacturing and Repair
- Legal Assistant Careers
- Machine Tool & Die
- Massage Therapist
- Medical Support Careers
- Musical Instrument Repair Careers
- Nanoscience Technician Assistant
- Network Administration & Technology
- Nursing Mobility
- Practical Nursing
- Professional Nanny/Family Child Care
- Radiography
- Retail & Sales Management
- Supervisory Management
- Truck Driving
- Violin Repair
- Web Design and Development
- Welding Technology

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Also on YouTube

YouTube

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