



connections

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical

Southeast Tech – Today's Programming For Tomorrow's Work Force



Work is no longer the same. The hours may be the same; the pay is not. Bosses have changed. Life has changed. But the demand to sharpen skills, adapt quickly and improve skills and training remain essential. The competition to move ahead remains.

Southeast Tech, however, continues to provide superior education and training for the workforce. It's not just the "Vo-Tech" any longer. We still provide open access and occupational training and continue to grow. Southeast Tech has seen more than a 40 percent growth in the last four years and has evolved to focus on meeting and anticipating the needs of a changing workforce.

"A dynamic economy and technological advances have put significant pressure on business and industry. We need to both anticipate and respond," says James Johnson, president of Southeast Technical.

Southeast Tech remains successful by meeting the needs of its students and employers, adding advanced training and programs, and growing partnerships with business and industry. How?

In a traditional sense, Southeast Technical has modified its programming significantly in the past decade.

Electronics

This fall, the Mobile Electronics Installation program took advantage of the growing demand for technicians to install car electronics, such as GPS systems and video displays, to name a few.

Nursing

Southeast Tech continues to meet the nursing shortage by preparing students and providing state-of-the-art programs and facilities. It has expanded the nursing program and recently opened its new science labs and classrooms in Red Wing and Winona.

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fall/winter 05-06

There's No Better Time To Ride With Us

With the 2005 fall semester now underway, I look around at all that's happening and firmly believe Southeast Tech is on a roll.

Student enrollment has increased for the eighth time in the past nine years. Job placement statistics bear evidence that 94% of our graduating students find employment in their chosen field. And with the passage of a major capital bonding bill, we'll be renovating and expanding key campus facilities, including state-of-the-art nursing laboratories to help fulfill the growing need for allied health professionals.

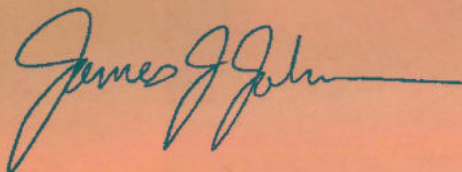
A vibrant technical college helps fuel a region's business community and the overall economy. Mutually beneficial partnerships with esteemed corporations such as Fastenal, Wenonah Canoe, Red Wing Shoe, DBI/Sala and Best Buy Company have led to dynamic new programs, often funded by grants. Regional business leaders serve on Southeast Tech advisory committees to help us keep pace with evolving technology specific to their industries. Time and again they hire Southeast Tech graduates who are trained to hit the ground running.

In turn, professionals from our Center for Custom Training & Education are out in the workplace every day, helping regional companies retain their competitive

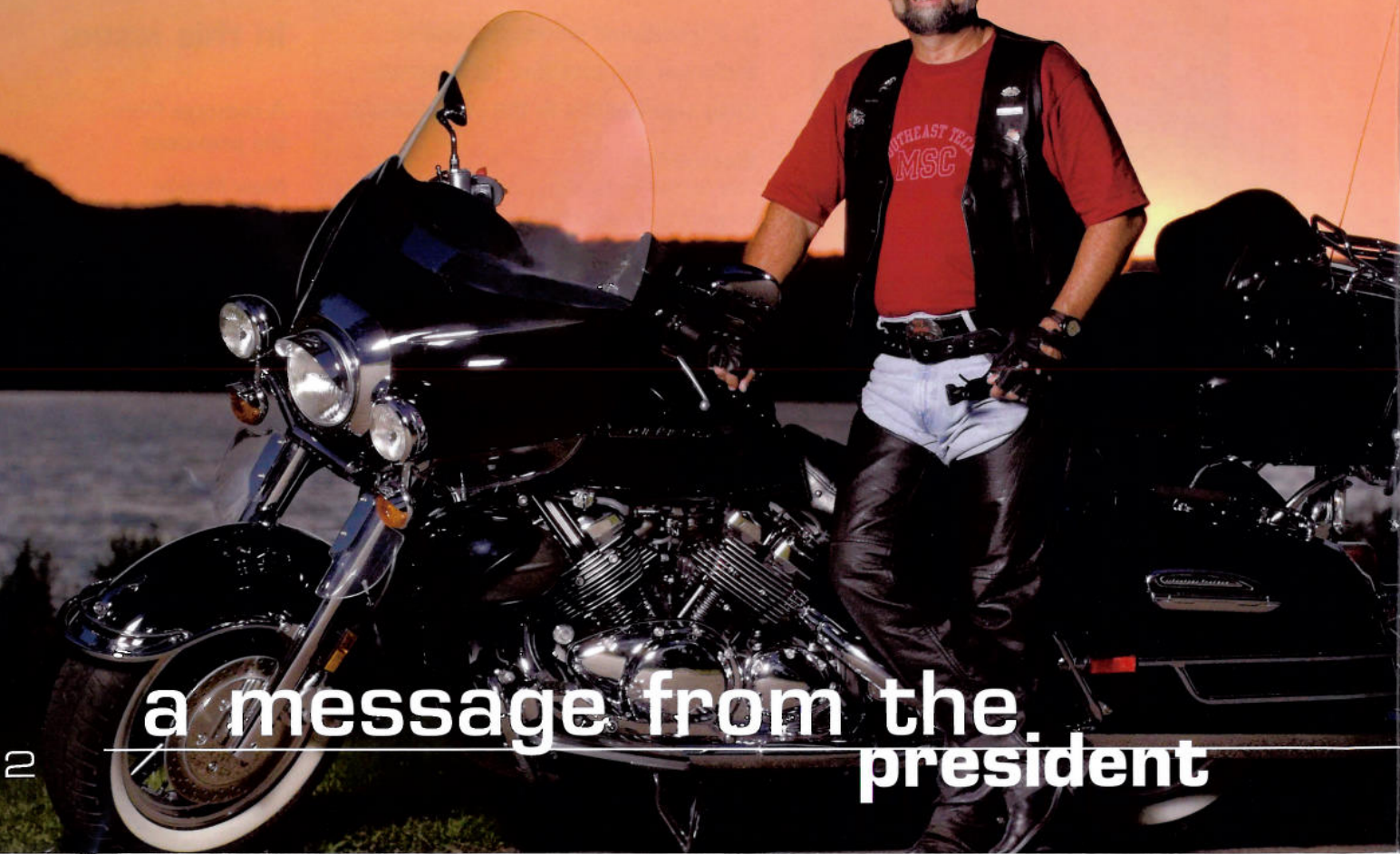
edge by recognizing root-cause challenges and providing a full array of training solutions, both hard-skill and soft-skill. Over the years, CCT&E has upgraded the skills of thousands of incumbent employees, enhancing their productivity in order to grow in tandem with their companies.

In addition, Southeast Tech executives and faculty collaborate with regional committees and task forces to recruit new business to the area. It's common knowledge that corporate prospects place a high priority on a trained workforce being in place.

I am proud that nearly 20,000 Southeast Tech alumni have achieved success in every state and beyond, impacting businesses and economies across the globe. That number will only grow as we maintain an innovative course and anticipate the road ahead.



James J. Johnson
President



a message from the president

cover story, continued

"We need to constantly look at what we do to make sure we are allocating resources in the best way. We have reached out to our business partners to develop training and education," says Jim Johnson, president of Southeast Tech.



Instructor Marc Kalis launched the new Mobile Electronics program this fall.

Business

The Center for Custom Training and Education is Southeast Technical's college-to-business division. Last year, the division met the education, training and retraining needs of over 100 businesses and 5,640 workers, while partnering on 130 training contracts with companies such as We-no-nah Canoe, Red Wing Shoe, Inc., Them, Inc. and DBI/Sala.

Fastenal

One of the College's most unique partnerships is an agreement with Fastenal, the nation's largest fastener distributor: Together, the two now offer a degree in industrial distribution designed for Fastenal employees. Fastenal will teach over half of the courses in its Fastenal School of Business; Southeast Tech offers the remaining courses.

"This unique program is the first of its kind in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system," says Dr. Sally Standiford, executive vice president.

Jim Johnson adds, "To compete, business, industry and the workforce have to be skilled, smart and agile. We can help by offering relevant programming and maintaining close connections with our partners. We've been living up to our mission." ■

Mobile Electronics Program Announced at Southeast Tech

By Peggy Whalen

A new program rolled out at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical in mobile electronics installation. The program opened fall 2005 on the Winona campus.

"They will learn all the basics we offer in our traditional electronics program, while learning the basics of mobile installation," electronics instructor Marc Kalis said. "They'll really understand the fundamentals."

Kalis attended training at the Installers Institute in Daytona, Fla., last summer and learned the fine art of installing the latest high-tech electronic devices in automobiles and sport utility vehicles. He was even recruited to participate in a 48-hour "celebrity automotive makeover" on the Speed Channel's "Car Crazy" special in August.

Students who complete the program successfully will earn a one-year certificate and become Mobile Electronics Certified Professionals, he said.

Students in the college's current electronics program have rolled up their sleeves and are working on their first prototype vehicle, a 1997 Acura Integra that will make its debut at Trade and Tech Day on the Red Wing campus March 31.

Some of the installations currently taking place on the first test vehicle include security system, remote starters,

special acoustics, a rear-mounted camera and a special pop-up display screen controller. In addition, the college is working with two major electronic retailers to incorporate materials and provide training for installers for their operations. Future installations will also include global positioning systems (GPS). "This will be a major employment source for our graduates," Kalis said.

"They will learn all the basics we offer in our traditional electronics program, while learning the basics of mobile installation."

The graduates will be certified if they meet the Mobile Electronics Certified Professional standards, recognized nationally and backed by the industry's leading manufacturers. The Consumer Electronics Association oversees certification and led development of the certification standards program, designed for mobile electronics retailers and designed by professional installers.

For information about the new mobile electronics installation program, contact Chris Humble at **877.853.8324**. ■

Fastenal and Southeast Tech Partner on First Collaborative Degree Program



Front row, left to right, Michelle Meyer, FSB Effective Store Institute; Karissa Wirt, FSB Coordination Team; Jill Halverson, faculty-Southeast Tech; LaVonne Bitu, faculty-Southeast Tech; Lorraine Keller, FSB Leadership Institute. Back row, left to right, Tim VanLoon, dean of academic affairs-Southeast Tech; Dr. Sally Standiford, executive vice president and chief academic officer-Southeast Tech; Dr. Peter Guidinger, FSB director; Mike Simons, FSB Product Education Institute; Mike Wadewitz, faculty-Southeast Tech; and T.J. Lettner, FSB Operations Institute.

Officials from Fastenal Company and Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical recently announced the approval of a new specialized degree program being offered by the two institutions. Through a collaborative effort, the college has responded to Fastenal's request to establish an A.A.S. (Associate in Applied Science) and A.S. (Associate in Science) degree in Industrial Distribution designed specifically for Fastenal employees. The company, through its training division the Fastenal School of Business (FSB), would provide 39 of 67 credit hours or approximately 58% of the degree, with the balance of the program being taught by Southeast Tech staff. Dr. Peter Guidinger, director of the Fastenal School of Business, and Dr. Sally Standiford, vice president and chief academic officer, at Southeast Tech spearheaded the project from concept through design.

"The primary focus is to anticipate and meet the education and training needs of students and employers."

A formal approval process, sought by the college with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) was completed in the spring of 2005 and officially accepted by HLC on August 1, 2005. The partnership with Fastenal aligns

with Southeast Tech's mission," said Dr. Sally Standiford. "The primary focus is to anticipate and meet the education and training needs of students and employers. This relationship provides the college with improved community relations and supports the advancement of economic development," Standiford added. The degree offerings will provide an accredited award offered jointly between the two entities. The program will be open to full-time Fastenal employees, and will assist in recruiting new hires. As an educational ladder, it will offer workforce and professional development that will be accepted by other institutions of higher education.

"This specialized degree in industrial distribution will be a great benefit for our employees because the program is designed to meet the specific needs of business challenges within our industry," notes Dr. Peter Guidinger. "The combination of online and classroom curricular offerings via our North American distribution center training facilities will make degree completion convenient for the Fastenal team and is a wonderful enhancement to our educational offerings."

Implementation of the collaborative program is expected to take place in spring semester of 2006. ■

Ron Wenzel Named Outstanding Alumnus Winona Campus

By Peggy Whalen



Alumnus, foundation board member and friend of the college, Ron Wenzel, addresses the Southeast Tech, Winona, class of 2005.

At graduation in May, Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical recognized Ron Wenzel, class of 1967. Ron is an alumnus, foundation board member and friend of the college. He received the college's first Outstanding Alumni award --Winona campus. The college could not have honored a more deserving graduate. Leaving his mark for years to come, Ron has never sought credit for his contributions to Southeast Tech, Winona, and the surrounding community.

Ron graduated from the electronics program in 1967 and put his skills to the test at Peerless Chain working on inventory control systems. Ron's experiences with a new plant layout, production flow and computerized inventory motivated him to learn more about manufacturing.

After Peerless Chain, Ron worked in electronics at Lake Center Industries in of Winona. Ten years as a production manager, plant manager and sales engineer led him to establish business relationships with IBM, Whirlpool, 3-M, Amana and Norelco, to name a few.

His entrepreneurial spirit picked up speed. He joined the founders of another Winona original -- EMD Associates (now Benchmark Electronics) as director of sales and marketing.

Ron's interest in electronics, his personality, and his love for people made him a natural salesman. He continued in manufacturing and the marketing of proprietary products. As he learned more of the electronics manufacturing industry, Ron took up a new challenge. In 1984, he and two others formed Riverside Electronics. His strengths and instincts built the framework of the company employing over 340.

Ron has successfully created, co-owned, bought and sold a number of businesses. But Ron believes success comes in many packages -- all evident in Ron's commitment as a community leader and active volunteer. He inspires others with his enthusiasm. Since graduating, he has supported the college. Among his many honors, Ron has served as a Southeast Tech employee, is founding member of the Foundation Board and an advisory committee member. In the community, he volunteers time, money, and service to numerous organizations.

When asked to comment on being named outstanding alumnus, Ron replied, "I feel so honored -- I don't think that I'm special. I like to think everyone can do what I do." Ron and wife Karroll have two sons and five grandchildren. ■

Bob's Bike Ride

Bob Erickson, former board of trustee and chair of the finance and facilities committee of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, recently visited the three Southeast Tech College campuses on his state-wide bicycle tour of all 53 of the system's campuses. Erickson made appearances in Winona on September 20 and on the Red Wing campus on September 26. On his fourth annual visit, funded at his own expense, Erickson, 59, spent 30 days riding over 2,200 miles to raise funds and scholarship support for part-time students.

A musical ensemble in Red Wing and greetings by scholarship recipient Jenna Peterson in Winona awaited the bicycling phenomenon as he arrived. President Jim Johnson departed from the Winona Airport campus on his motorcycle as the two made the last leg of the journey together to Red Wing. ■



MnSCU Trustee Bob Erickson pictured with recipient Jenna Peterson.

Southeast Tech Adopts Tegrity Notes Software to Boost Student Achievement

Exciting things are happening for students at Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical. An innovative new technology designed to reinforce learning by giving students time-saving, flexible ways to learn and study is being deployed throughout the institution. Tegrity software automatically captures classes on campus and delivers them online, fully in-sync with students' handwritten notes. At any time, Tegrity enables students to replay entire classes online – or click on their digital notes to recall key moments. Southeast Tech is the first school in the Minnesota higher education system to employ the innovative Tegrity Notes technology for the benefit of its students.

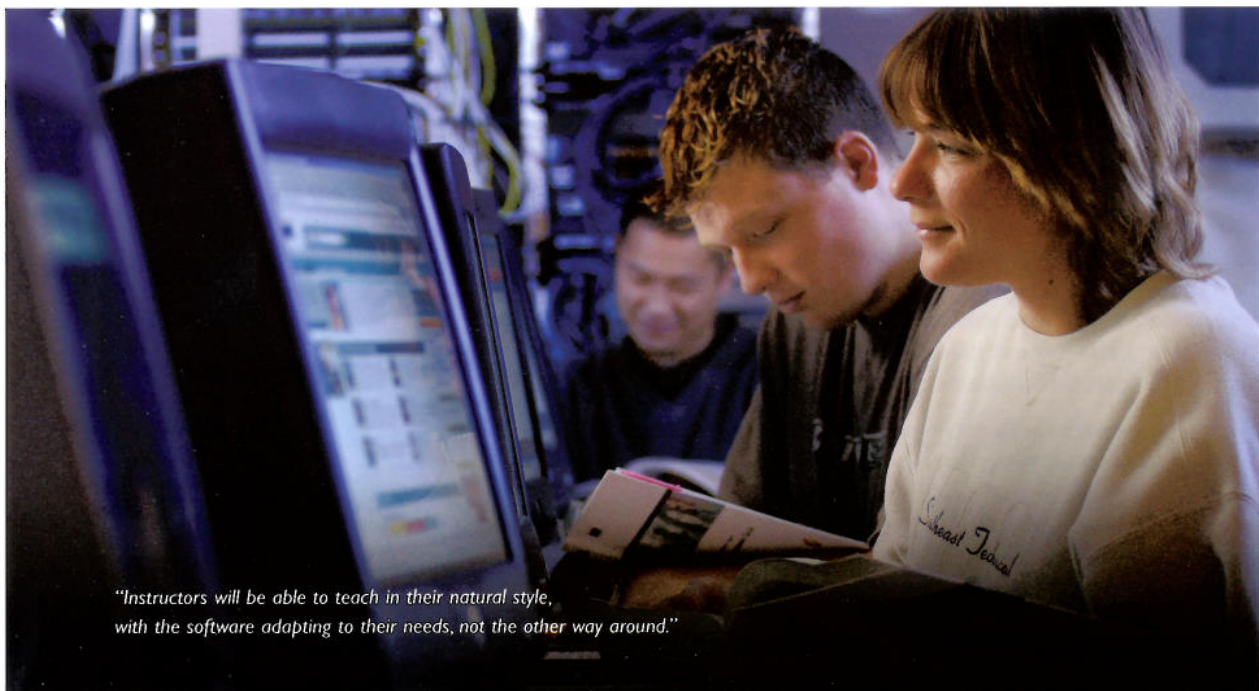
"Our mission is to serve the surrounding community through lifelong learning and skill improvement," said CIO Mohamed Elhindi. "Many of our students are working professionals with non-traditional needs, making learning quality, accessibility and convenience critical components to their academic success. Tegrity Notes defines a visionary new category of student achievement systems and is clearly aligned with our mission."

Through Tegrity Notes, Southeast Tech students can use a Tegrity Pen or Tablet PC to digitally capture their handwritten notes during class and later upload them to their PC. During study, students use Tegrity Notes software to quickly and easily access the class recording through their notes – maximizing available study time and making class time available on-demand, around the clock. With Tegrity, students can benefit from an enriched study experience at their homes

or in the computer lab on-campus. This fall, Southeast Tech rolled out 400 Tegrity Pens for student-use and leveraged their existing investment in presentation hardware and software, including PCs, Tablet PCs and projectors, to deploy Tegrity software in classrooms across campus. The plan includes installation in eight rooms for seventeen instructors and requires minimal training and virtually no support once the instructor begins recording every class. Tegrity has automated the process, including automatic processing and uploading after class, to eliminate any additional work for system administrators.

Southeast Tech is the first school in the Minnesota higher education system to employ Tegrity Notes – technology that allows students to replay their classes online in sync with their class notes.

Elhindi adds, "Instructors will be able to teach in their natural style, with the software adapting to their needs, not the other way around. It is critical for an enterprise solution to be adopted by our entire faculty and their enthusiasm is off the chart. We can expect full deployment this semester for faculty and students in our nursing program. Many in our general education program will be able to enjoy the technology as well. Tegrity is supporting our rollout with professional services and is really taking a partner approach to ensuring our success." ■



"Instructors will be able to teach in their natural style, with the software adapting to their needs, not the other way around."

John Riester Chosen as Southeast Tech Outstanding Alumnus in Red Wing

By Peggy Whalen

On May 12, the Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical Alumni Association presented John Riester with its first Outstanding Alumni award. Riester, a graduate of the Heating, Ventilating, Cooling & Refrigeration program, founded Riester Refrigeration in 1975. John and wife Vicki own and operate the business. They have two sons, Ryan and Kevin, and daughter Katie.

The committee chose John for his contributions to the community and for his support of students seeking the "hands-on" experience; nine of ten Riester employees are graduates of the Red Wing program. John is a program advisory committee member and supports the Foundation's scholarship program.

"I learned all of the skills I needed to get started through my technical education in Red Wing."

He encourages students to recognize the value of technical education. "I learned all of the skills I needed in my technical education in Red Wing," he says. "My instructors, Terry Jesness and Tom Lawton, helped me get started. They prepared me for what I've done over the last 30 years."

The committee noted his entrepreneurial talent, leadership and commitment to the 24-hour-a-day, customer-oriented business. He says that his success is due to his customers, employees and family. All were instrumental in forming his business. "They trusted me...and have

been there ever since - I enjoy my work and thank Southeast Tech, our customers, friends, family and community; it has been a pleasure to serve them."

Riester, an involved community member and strong supporter of the college, is also a member of the Environmental Learning Center (ELC), YMCA, Conservation Management and Pheasants Forever. He's also a member of the American Legion and VFW. ■



John Riester – the founder of Riester Refrigeration and the first recipient of the outstanding Alumnus award from Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical, Red Wing.

Southeast Tech Is On-Target With Online Courses

In 1999, a computer-programming professor at Southeast Technical created a compact disc of exercises for students to study via distance. It worked.

In 2005, eLearning is indispensable, growing over 400% in three years. At Southeast Tech, enrollment in e-courses increased 500% since 1999. Students choose from over 85 e-courses each year and complete one of 14 degrees in four programs online: microcomputers, programming and Web development, medical secretary, and childcare.

The attraction is "anywhere, anytime learning," without automobile expenses. Learning attracts students who otherwise couldn't be students.

How does it work? Instructors and students interact through Desire2Learn (D2L). D2L stores course materials and allows students and the instructor to

communicate. After registering, students receive a user name and password to "enter" D2L, their "classroom," and "attend" their "class." Students only need a computer, modem, and Internet Service Provider (ISP).

The attraction is "anywhere, anytime learning," without automobile expenses. eLearning attracts students who otherwise couldn't be students."

"The growth is phenomenal," said Provost Amy Nelson. "Part of the attraction is the value of an associate degree. You need a 2-year degree for ¼ of U.S. jobs. Liberal arts courses are required for our 2-year degrees and transfer into 4-year program. Teachers. I need more teachers," she adds. ■

Winona's All-in-the-Family Nursing Legacy

In the '40s, Jane and twin Jeanne thought of becoming nuns. After some thought, they chose a different path - nursing.

Generations of Winonans are thankful. Jane Kohner, Jeanne Burke, and Jane's daughter, Laurie Kohner Becker, established a legacy of care-giving and nursing instruction that has touched countless lives.

The infancy of a nursing program

In 1962, Jane, a nurse at Winona General Hospital was approached by a faculty member of the Technical Institute (now Southeast Tech) to teach part-time in its fledgling Practical Nursing program. Jane thought, why not? Nurses are teachers, instructing patients daily about health.



Jane Kohner, and her daughter Laurie Becker, have a history of preparing future nurses.

She was the only instructor under the director until enrollment rose from 15 to 30 and a second teacher was hired. They taught at Community Memorial Hospital. Jane taught full-time and in 1981, became director of the nursing program — then daughter Laurie came aboard as an instructor.

New director, new degrees

Laurie Kohner Becker earned her B.S. in nursing at the College of St. Teresa and master's at WSU. Following several years as a hospital nurse and education coordinator at Community Memorial, Laurie joined Jane at Southeast Tech in 1990 as an instructor.

In 1992, Jane retired. Laurie became head of the nursing program. Today, as director of Nursing and Allied Health on the Winona and Red Wing campuses, she combines her love of nursing with her passion for teaching. Southeast Tech nursing students now number 400-plus a year, taught by a nursing faculty of seven full-time instructors, six part-time teachers and several adjunct faculty.

The job placement rate for program graduates is a remarkable 100%.

Laurie credits her mom for laying the groundwork for its success: "There is no way we'd be where we are today without Jane's leadership. Our success started with her."

Jane and Laurie wanted to add a 2-Year RN degree to the program. As of 2002, a tailored career ladder program allows Practical Nursing (PN) graduates to receive credit for what they've already learned and transfer seamlessly into the 2-Yr RN program.

"When I'm out in the community and meet people, they invariably ask, 'Are you related to Jane Kohner?' I look back and realize there is no way we'd be where we are today and where we'll be heading without the foundation that Jane set in place."

The future is now

Jane believes computers created the single biggest advancement. Laurie echoes that, adding, "digital technology is the catalyst of change. Tomorrow's nurses will be educated today in simulation labs utilizing virtual clinical software that brings patients directly into the classroom and places students in virtual hospital settings — without leaving the campus."

She boasts of the expansion of the Nursing, Massage Therapy and Cosmetology programs, the clinical site at Franciscan Skemp's Arcadia branch and at the Trempealeau County Mental Health Center in Whitehall. New allied health programs are on the horizon.

It's improvements such as these that allow the nursing faculty to pursue accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). Nursing students now can more easily transfer to major universities. The 2-Yr RN program transfers seamlessly into the 4-Yr RN program at Winona State University.

The next generation of family nurses has arrived. Katie Maschka, Jane's granddaughter and Laurie's niece, is an RN and instructor at Southeast Tech.

In 2002, Jane received a Presidential Citation - one of only three awarded by Southeast Tech - for outstanding contributions to the college. Her twin, Jeanne, serves on the board of the Southeast Technical Foundation. The college, community and countless students are thankful the two embarked on a path that led to a legacy. ■

Red Wing's Beckwiths Compose A Legacy Of Success

The apple never falls far from the tree. The "Beckwith apple" fell and rolled into a Southeast Tech classroom.

Since 1976, Gene and son Greg have helped direct the renowned Band Instrument Repair Program at Southeast Tech. With their colleagues, they put Red Wing and Southeast Tech on the international music map. Gene, retired, left the program in Greg's hands.

Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Gene received a B.S. and M.S. in music; he honed his talent on single and double reed instruments through graduate work. An offer to teach band in North Dakota led him to the Upper Midwest. A part-time stint as a repair technician in Fargo set the stage for his legacy.

International overtones

In 1976, Southeast Tech (then Red Wing Technical College) sought an instrument repair specialist for its new Instrument Repair Program — one of only three in America. "I drove down, looked and said, 'I'm your guy.'"

The next 17 years, he developed the Band Instrument Repair Program into what it is today: a nationally known program promoting a level of expertise and producing a 100% job placement. Beckwith's protégés have come from Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Canada and the Caribbean.

National accolades followed, including his being named Red Wing Teacher of the Year in 1989.

"Now that we're known," he says, "they approach us. Red Wing, in international music circles, is synonymous with the instrument repair program. That's what I'm most proud of."

In international music circles, Red Wing is associated with the instrument repair program.

The baton passes to son Greg

As a youngster, Greg would wander into his father's classroom, take instruments apart and try to reassemble them. "Mostly, I just broke them," he laughs. One day he picked up a French horn and started to play. The result was music to his father's ears.

Soon, Greg was playing in youth orchestras while studying under symphony musicians. He completed high school at Michigan's Interlachen School of Music, followed father's footsteps to Eastman in New York, enlisted in the Air Force and joined its band. Later, Greg joined the Mexico City Philharmonic.

As Greg says, "The competition to become a member of an orchestra is fierce; you go wherever there's an audition."

Upon his return to the states, Greg free-lanced with the Minnesota Orchestra when a fellow musician suggested he take his father's course in Red Wing.



The father and son team of Greg and Gene Beckwith have helped orchestrate the reputation of Instrument Repair Program at Southeast Tech to international music circles.

Gregg says, "I took the course in '92 and returned to the Cities where I repaired and performed. I did customizations and modifications around America. I became successful, built a clientele, and gave clinics to my dad's classes. In 2004, John Huth, the director, took another position. I replaced him as director."

Turning passion into profession

The Band Instrument Repair program provides options for musicians who want to make music their vocation. And musicians they are — each student must learn every wind instrument. The Beckwiths believe you can't fix an instrument you can't play.

But it's not just the students who benefit; it's the instrument repair industry, musicians, bands and orchestras, plus Southeast Tech and Red Wing.

When Gregg travels in music circles, he's often asked if he's related to Gene.

Gene recalls former students calling for technical advice. Several have said the Beckwiths and the program have changed their lives.

That defines their legacy. ■

A gift that lasts a lifetime

Dear Alumni and Friends of Southeast Tech,

The traditional season of giving is approaching, and as you plan your gifts, we hope that you will include the life-changing gift of education among them. If you are a Southeast Tech alum, you know the value of the education you received. If you are friend, you are probably aware of Southeast Tech's contributions to the workforce of this region and its economic impact on our communities. Your gift to the College's 2005 Annual Scholarship Campaign will ensure that future students can pursue a Southeast Tech education and make their own contributions to our workplaces and communities.

The beneficiaries of scholarship gifts are students. Many could not afford an education without your support. Some are recent high school graduates without the money for college. Many are nontraditional students with families who are juggling work, parenting, school, and finances to create a better life. Some are displaced

workers; some are single parents. They are people going to school to develop the skills we all depend on. Southeast Tech graduates build our homes, fix our cars, do our taxes, network our computers, manage offices and retail facilities, and manufacture the things we use everyday. They repair airplane engines and build violins. They have careers in nursing and nanotechnology and child care and truck driving. They start their own companies or take their skills to area businesses that depend on a highly trained workforce. Their contributions benefit all of us.

There is also another benefit of investing in these students. A scholarship gift provides the personal satisfaction of knowing you have touched a particular student's life and helped someone start a career. It's a gift to celebrate for a lifetime. Will you use the envelope in this newsletter and make that gift today? Thank you.

Sincerely,



James J. Johnson
Jim Johnson, President



Eric Lawrence
Eric Lawrence, Foundation President

Southeast Technical Foundation Board

Nicole Broderick

Attorney
 Gorman Law Offices, Red Wing

Jeanne Burke

Director Home Care & Hospice
 Winona Health (Retired), Winona

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Candi Kohner

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Susan Miller

Community Volunteer, Winona

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 (Retired), Red Wing

Don Peterson

Owner & Chairman
 Mississippi Welders Supply,
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 Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, Arcadia

Pete Roehl

President
 Merchants Bank, Winona
 (Retired), Winona

Tom Thompson

President
 Sylvander Heating, Inc., Red Wing

Fran Filzen

President
 Fortress Bank, Winona

Stan Slessor

Superintendent
 Red Wing Public Schools, Red Wing

Ron Wenzel

Entrepreneur and Business Owner
 (Retired), Winona

Precious Gifts

Like a one-word poem, the word "endowment" resonates with meaning. Giving. Caring. Values. Legacy. Ultimate. Forever. When a donor says "endowment," it almost takes my breath away because I know I am in the presence of generosity so embracing that it will last forever, benefiting generations of people the donor will never even meet. To know such giving and caring people is a privilege I give thanks for every day.

To make an endowment gift is to give voice to your values and ensure that they endure into the future. It is to make a statement about what your life on earth has been about and to leave a lasting legacy. The world will be better because you were here. An endowment gift is also a way to honor the life of a loved one. To place his or her name on a charitable fund benefiting future generations is the ultimate tribute.

The Southeast Tech Foundation has recently received new endowment gifts from donors that care about students, about education, and about the communities that well-educated students will build. Rebecca Fulhbruegge left Southeast Tech a generous bequest to create a scholarship fund in memory of her husband, John Fuhlbruegge, the first director of the Winona Area Vocational Institute. Treasures Galore, a Winona non-profit organization, created a scholarship fund specifically to help nontraditional students. Merchant's Bank has started an endowed fund because education benefits the whole community. The children of Webster and Marcella Fischer made an endowment gift through the Fischer Family Foundation, to create a scholarship honoring their parents. Southeast Tech's president,

Jim Johnson, has made a planned gift that will create an endowed fund honoring his family.

Other donors continue to give to existing endowment funds, to honor and remember people, to acknowledge anniversaries, and ultimately to make a lasting investment in education. For these endowment donors, named and unnamed, and for these gifts, we are thankful. The Southeast Technical Foundation Board of Directors understands that what you have placed in their hands is no less than your values, the cherished names of your loved ones, and all your hopes for the future. Your gifts will be cared for as the treasures they are. Endowment funds are invested by professional advisors and stewarded by the Foundation Board to ensure that investment earnings will benefit students for generations to come. And we have no doubt that those students, in turn, will share their own gifts with their communities.

Please make your tax deductible gift by December 31, 2005. Thank you for changing the world.



Pam Solberg
Pam Solberg, Foundation Director

Endowments – Gifts That Keep Giving

An endowment gift is invested, and the principle is never touched. As the fund earns interest, part of the earnings are annually spent to benefit Southeast Tech students, and part are reinvested for growth and future income.

For a donor, an endowment gift provides the satisfaction of knowing that a gift made today will keep providing benefits forever.

Anyone can make a gift of any size to one of Southeast Tech's existing endowment funds. Your gift, combined with others, will make a difference to generations of students. A new, named endowment fund can be created with a minimum gift of \$10,000. To discuss an endowment gift, or other ways to support Southeast Tech, contact Pam Solberg, Southeast Tech Foundation, at **507.453.2409**. ■

Number of students enrolled

Graduates per year

Job placement rate

Annual economic
impact to region

facts

Many Thanks to Our Major Benefactors and Donors

Visionaries

Ist National Bank of Cannon Falls
and Red Wing
Chris Arnold and Stacy Mounce
Muriel and Dave Arnold
Family Fund
DCM Tech, Inc.
Webster and Marcella Fischer
Family Foundation
Fortress Bank of Minnesota
Estate of Rebecca Fuhlbruegge
Gayle Goetzman / Big Valley Ranch
Marlene Hemsey
Jim and Mary Johnson
Anne and Scott Jones
Jerry and Pat Papenfuss
Lawrence Transportation Company
Merchants Bank - Winona
Frank G. Mertes, Sr.
Red Wing Rotary
Michelle Richards
John Riester; Riester Refrigeration
Pat and Dan Rukavina Family Fund
Treasures Galore, Inc.
United Building Centers
Wells Fargo - Red Wing
Xcel Energy

Innovators

Altra Federal Credit Union
Jane and Michael Bourscheidt
Ann Dahlen
DBI Industries
D.L. Ricci Corporation
Ernest Gorman, Midtown Foods
and Country Market
Goodson Shop Supplies
Eric and Jamie Lawrence
Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Elizabeth Olson
Frank and Joyce Rocco
Sally Standiford
TRW Automotive Electronics
Ron and Karrol Wenzel
We-No-Nah Canoe

Winona Clinic, LTD
Winona Rotary
Betsey Woodward and family
of Fred C. Woodward

Investors

Associated Bank - Red Wing
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Robert Clay
Diane Dingfelder
Kari Everson
DTI
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Ellen Zemple

The Minnesota State College-South-east Technical Foundation thanks the following donors who have made gifts between July, 2004 and October 2005

Holly Thorpe, online student, 2005 graduate, Medical Secretary program

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Instructor: Patty Watson

"A lot of my classes were challenging, but Patty was always very helpful. I figured out how to submit my assignments and how to talk easily to other classmates. The online course gave me the flexibility of doing my schoolwork when I could fit it into my day. I was surprised how convenient it was. I ended up doing a whole year of online classes and found them very helpful for me. The online classes were great. I organized my own schedule without the noise of a classroom and in the comfort of my own home.

Larry Nelson, graduate of Winona Technical and former Sales and Management instructor at Southeast Tech

Current Residence: Corpus Christi, Texas

Current: I have been in Corpus Christi for a number of years. I presently work at a middle school for CC-ISD as an assistant principal, instructional technology chair and Technology Applications instructor.

Missy (Adler) Barnholtz, 1994 Graduate, Medical Secretary Program

Current Residence: Stockton, Minnesota

After Graduation: Medical/Administrative Secretary at Mayo Clinic, Rochester 1994 – 2001

Current: Administrative Assistant at Community Memorial Hospital 2001 – present

Family: She and her husband Matt have a "full house," they have two daughters, Kristina (4) and Olivia (1). They are also family to their niece Genie (15) and foster daughter Paige (14)

Other: When she isn't working, she enjoys bike riding, gardening and playing in a dart league.

Advice to prospective students: I would do it all over again if I had the chance. To me it wasn't worth the extra time and money to attend a 4-year college.

I am very satisfied with my job and salary, and it only took me one year to do it.

Shane's Ride

September 1, 2005, Jill Tutewohl, friend of the late Shane Elson, organized an annual motorcycle ride to raise funds for the Shane Elsen Scholarship fund. The fund provides scholarships for students in the Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning program.



All in the Family – Mother and Daughter Alum, Jerri Peterson and Casie Johnson.

Casie (Peterson) Johnson, 1994 graduate, Medical Secretary program

Current Residence: Winona, Minnesota

Current: She is employed at Southeast Tech as administrative support to the president, Foundation and Custom Training Division of the college

Family: She and her husband Brad have two children, Ethan (4) and Alexis (1)

Other: She has held administrative support positions with Mayo Clinic and in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, over the past six years.

Jerri Peterson, 2003 graduate, Drafting program

Current Residence: Winona, Minnesota

Current: She is employed as a garment designer working for Great River Apparel, a cheerleading uniform manufacturer.

Family: Husband, Charles, adult children, Casie, Mark, Kelly and Erin

Other: She enjoys sewing and crafts

Advice to share with other students: "It's a great way to go, work hard for a couple of years and get on with your life. I'm really glad I went back and got a degree." "You're never too old."

2005 Scholarship banquets

Scholarship banquets to honor scholarship donors and recipients were held on both campuses on October 5 and 12. Nearly \$100,000 was awarded to 87 scholarship recipients.

offer updates and share fond memories

Nominate an Outstanding Alum!

This year, the Southeast Tech Alumni committee began the tradition of conferring an annual Outstanding Alumnus award. Ron Wenzel, a graduate of the Winona Campus, and John Reister, a graduate of the Red Wing Campus, were honored in 2005. Nominations for the 2006 awards will be accepted until April 1, 2006. The winners will be honored at the spring graduation ceremony with a plaque and will also be invited to attend the college's annual scholarship banquet in October.

Selection Criteria for Outstanding Alumnus

- Earned a diploma or degree from Southeast Tech more than 5 years ago
- Achieved professional and/or personal achievement
- Service to others
- Supported Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical
- Able to attend the graduation ceremony and scholarship banquet

If you define a friend, former student, or business acquaintance as "Outstanding" for these or other reasons, please nominate the individual for this award by submitting your nomination to the Alumni Committee by April 1, 2006. You can download a nomination form from <http://www.southeastmn.edu/alumni/outstandingalumnus.html>. Email cjohnson@southeastmn.edu to request a form, or call 507.453.2663 to get one.

Where Are You Now?

We love hearing from our alums! We enjoy hearing about your employment, changes and promotions, advanced education and training, awards or recognitions, and travel or hobbies. Send your alumni news to: pwhalen@southeastmn.edu



*The class of '71. 1st Row - Dan Mjolsness, Muriel Copp, Jerry Borgen, Judy Christianson
2nd Row - Ben Stephani, Gene Beckwith, Dean Massett, Harris Waller, Byron Pearson, Milt Olson.*

The Class of '71. The original staff of the Red Wing Area Vocational Technical Institute met this spring for a reunion. Referring to themselves as the "class of '71," the group met at a "friendraising" breakfast to reminisce and share their favorite memories of the

college. Muriel Copp recalls working without electricity for quite some time as Southeast Tech (then known as the technical school) moved from the Red Wing High School up to the hill.

Top of the ladder

Sara (Johnson) Ludtke, a 1995 graduate of the two-year Legal Assistant program at Southeast Tech, left Winona and began a journey that took her to the Wisconsin State Capitol. Little did she know her legal assistant training would take her to the Wisconsin State legislature to mingle with top men and women of state government.

She began her climb up the ladder as a receptionist in Oshkosh for a small law firm and took the Wisconsin legal secretary exam. She moved up—one-rung-at-a-time. The next 15 months, she served as a legal assistant with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, serving the public sector. With an enhanced résumé, Sara began working for Madison's largest law firm, Dewitt, Ross and Stevens. After three years and a new baby, she took a position with Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI). As an administrative assistant, she continued her climb to the top with the municipally owned electric utility.

Her superiors recognized her knowledge and ability and her career continued with WPPI. Sara was promoted and became a legislative regulatory coordinator, (a lobbyist). That's her current position. She is at the door of the state capitol where public policy decisions are made.

As a legal assistant, Sara never dreamed she would assume such a visible and critical role representing a major Wisconsin utility. She enjoys her responsibilities and her role working with the legislature, lobbying for the maintenance of state and federal regulatory issues,

representing WPPI and its 40 municipalities. She interacts with legislators and a non-profit board of directors which governs the decisions of WPPI.

She has fond memories of her years at Southeast Tech. She recalls her work-study job and supporting Terry Greene and her instructor Shirley Temple. At Southeast Tech's first alumni partnership breakfast this past spring, Sara shared her successes with future legal students.

When she's not lobbying in Madison, you can find her in Mazomanie, Wisconsin, with her husband Rick of five years and their daughter Megan. They all anxiously await the arrival of their second child in February 2006. ■



Alumnus and Wisconsin State Lobbyist Sarah Johnson Ludtke

Connect with Southeast Tech!

Because of the generosity of many donors and fundraising volunteers, the Southeast Tech Foundation has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships for the 2005-2006 school year. But the need is increasing, as state funding for education declines and enrollments and tuition rise. Foundation Board members are conducting strategic planning this fall to set future fundraising goals and make a Southeast Tech education possible for more students. The Board is also identifying additional strategies to support the College in carrying out its mission. Continuing to build community connections is central to the Foundation's plans. Alumni and friends play a big part in the College's mission. They serve on advisory

committees for each program, ensuring that programs are responsive to the current needs of business. They hire graduates and help recruit future students. They foster connections between the college and its communities, share their expertise in classrooms, serve on Foundation committees, help plan events, and assist with fundraising efforts. There are many ways to connect with Southeast Tech. If you would like to get more involved, contact Pam Solberg, Foundation director at **507.453.2409** or email **psolberg@southeastmn.edu**.

& friends

Save These 2006 Dates!

Saturday, April 22, 2006, Hangar Dance at the Winona Airport Campus, 7-11 p.m.

Dance to a big band orchestra amid twinkling lights and airplanes. This vintage WWII Hangar Dance will include great music, swing dance lessons, a silent auction, and refreshments. Wear your military uniforms, vintage clothes, and your dancing shoes. This event raises money for Southeast Tech scholarships.

Friday, September 15, 2006, Southeast Tech Alums and Friends Golf Tournament. Mississippi National Golf Links, Red Wing, Noon – 7:30 p.m.

Plans are being made now for Southeast Tech's first golf tournament. The 4-person scramble will include dinner and entertainment. This event raises funds for Southeast Tech Scholarships.

More details about these events will be included in future issues of Southeast Tech's electronic newsletter. Send us your email address and we will keep you posted!



Stan and Jenny Breitlow, swing dance instructors, sweep across the dance floor at the first annual Hangar Dance held at the Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical Winona Airport Campus. (Photo courtesy of the Winona Daily News.)

Would you like to receive Southeast Tech's electronic newsletter?

Southeast Tech's electronic newsletter is published monthly. Send an email to cjohnson@southeastmn.edu to sign up to get all the news from Southeast Tech!

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Winona Airport Campus
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Tandeski Center
1200 Storr's Pond Road
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