

Dispatch

DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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The DCTC Dispatch is a publication of the Dakota County Technical College President's Office. DCTC is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System and an equal opportunity employer/educator.


DCTC Student Wins National Skills USA Photography Contest

John Peters, a Dakota County Technical College student from Lake City, Minnesota, recently placed first in the SkillsUSA (VICA) championships for photography.



Peters placed first in the entire nation for his photographic work, ability to use 35-mm., medium- and large-format cameras, digital imaging, professional studio light sources and equipment. In addition to this honor, Peters was recognized for "Best of Show" and "Best Photographic" entries at the DCTC Visual Communications department's portfolio show held this spring. In addition, he won a \$4,000 SkillsUSA-VICA scholarship for placing second in Minnesota state competitions.

For his photographic ability at nationals, Peters was awarded a SkillsUSA-VICA \$20,000 scholarship to the prestigious Hallmark Institute of Photography in Massachusetts. He will be in Boston in September to start a 10-month program at the school.

"I am honored to be recognized in this way," he said. "There was a lot of competition, but the training I received at DCTC really helped." 




Architecture graduate becomes a partner in firm

Glenn Hurd is a true DCTC success story. In fact, he experienced immediate success upon graduating DCTC's Architectural Technology program 20 years ago.

"I received two job offers on the same day when I graduated from DCTC," Hurd said recently. "The college did, and still has, an excellent reputation out there."

Following his time at the college, where he studied under faculty member Charles West, Hurd continued his education in a five-year program at the University of Minnesota and then went on to more school to obtain a master's degree. Asked how he chose architecture as a degree, he was straightforward. "It picks you. You don't pick it," Hurd said.

His career path has been meteoric, with a number of local firms competing fiercely over the years to land his services. Hurd is currently a partner in the acclaimed Minneapolis-based Leonard Parker Associates architecture firm.

His list of credits is as impressive as his climb to the top of his industry. Hurd's credits include being the senior architect on the \$150-million expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center, completing detail work on the LaSalle Plaza, and designing an IMAX theater for Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. 

Student Successes

DCTC is proud to enroll high-quality students of all ages, backgrounds and talents. This year has yielded some incredible successes from our student body, including:

- The **Dental Assistant** program achieved a 100-percent licensure exam pass rate.
- Fifteen students completed the college's **Leadership Academy** program.
- **Nursing** students enjoyed a 100% pass rate on the State Board of Nursing exam.
- DCTC's **Blue Knights women's soccer team** signed a full slate of over 20 members to play its inaugural season in August.
- Students from the **Photographic Technology** program developed a four-color calendar featuring photos taken on Minnesota's North Shore.
- Six DCTC **Blue Knights wrestlers** qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association championships in Rochester this spring. DCTC finished ninth overall in the competition.
- Seven students in DCTC's **VICA** program won first- and second-place honors in a recent competition. 

Faculty/Staff

DCTC is also proud to employ some incredible faculty and staff who exhibit a strong work ethic and commitment to service on a daily basis. Some who have been recognized recently include:

- **Paul DeMuth**, 2002 MnSCU Outstanding Employee Award.
- **DCTC Business Office**, 2002 MnSCU Outstanding Service Award.
- **Ken Klassen, Chris Haan, Mike Long, Connie Larson, Dianne Husby, Mitch Kohanek, and Mark Ramseth** earned DCTC "All-Star" awards.
- **Diane Frandrup, Caroline Harris, and Scott Gunderson** earned "FISH" outstanding customer service awards.
- **Gena Collins** was given a student support services grant award.
- **Todd Jagerson** received a \$10,000 Capella University Alliance program scholarship. 

Commencements mark end to successful academic year


To the familiar refrain of Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," DCTC graduates filed into the Roy Wilkins Arena on May 8 for the Class of 2003's formal graduation ceremony. In addition to recognizing hundreds with degrees, diplomas and certificates, the college honored two graduates with the Dave Schroeder Outstanding Student award for their accomplishments - **Kim Reinisch** (Graphic Design Technology) and **Duane Prather** (Machine Tool Careers).



There were plenty of smiling faces on May 8, as the class of 2003 graduated at Roy Wilkins Arena.

Graduates, families and friends also were treated to a stirring commencement address delivered by **Stevie Ray**, of Stevie Ray's Improv Company.

On May 28, graduates from the college's ASEP (Automotive Service Educational Program) and BSEP (Body Service Educational Program) groups also participated in a special ceremony and dinner to recognize their accomplishments.

Speakers included officials from General Motors, Dean of Transportation and Industry **Mike Opp**, and instructors **Mark Hickman, Tim McCluskey, Ed Norton, Larry Boser, and Scott Logan.** 

DCTC receives a major grant from Minnesota Job Skills Partnership


A recent \$331,154 grant to DCTC from the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) will enable 492 Lakeville-based ConAgra Foods employees to receive advanced shop-floor

training and gain access to e-learning courses. "This grant illustrates how private-public partnerships can work well in today's changing economy," said DCTC President **Dr. Ron Thomas**. "DCTC is looking forward to helping equip ConAgra Foods employees with the high-quality training they will need in Lakeville."



Joining Dakota County Technical College President Ron Thomas (left) for the signing of a \$331,154 grant at ConAgra Foods were State Representative Steve Strachan (R-Farmington), Rick Caligiuri of the Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership, Robert Morando of ConAgra Foods, and Michael Murphy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

DCTC's courses associated with the grant will include robotics, operator technician, machine operations, and e-learning courses on safety and production topics. Training will be offered on all shifts at the Lakeville facility, and e-learning courses will be available for distance learning.

ConAgra Store Brands Lakeville is one of three ConAgra production plants that manufactures private-label pie crusts, granola bars, cereal and fruit bars. 



Annual Report

2002
2003

DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

SUCCESSSES

The college celebrated a

96.5%

placement rate for its graduates!



USA Academic Nominations

Two DCTC students were nominated for the USA Academic All-Star Team, an honor sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges and USA Today. Nicolas Werner of Hastings and Susan Schuster of Owatonna were nominated by DCTC President Ron Thomas for their outstanding grade point averages, academic honors at the college, and service to DCTC and the surrounding community.

Upward Bound Grant Awarded

DCTC was awarded an Upward Bound Grant by the United States Department of Education. Upward Bound will serve a total of 50 first-generation, low-income students at South St. Paul and Henry Sibley high schools. Goals are to provide participants with skills necessary for pre-college academics and prepare them for college success.

Sessions Begin Sept. 1

Upward Bound will begin Sept. 1, 2003 and provide weekly in-school tutorials and advising sessions, Saturday academic sessions, intensive six-week academic summer programming, and work-study positions to expose participants to careers requiring a post-secondary degree.

New Athletic Programs

Blue Knight athletic programs continued to attract new students to the college. The wrestling team finished ninth in the nation in its second season, while the baseball team played its inaugural game at the Metrodome vs. Fergus Falls on March 9. Women's soccer gets underway in August 2003. DCTC also hosted the Minnesota State Weightlifting championships in March.

Woodfinishing Conference

DCTC hosted its second-annual national woodfinishing conference in May. Hundreds of woodfinishers from across the nation attended this two-day event, adding to the college's notoriety in this field.

Record Blood Drive

DCTC's Student Senate sponsored two American Red Cross blood drives and successfully collected 105 units of blood.

MnSCU Honors

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system honored the DCTC Finance Department with an Excellence in Financial Management award for its work in the past fiscal year. DCTC Facilities Manager Paul DeMuth also was honored by MnSCU with an outstanding service award.

New Student Life Center

DCTC opened a new Student Life Center including computers for student use, cable television, student organization offices, and a conference room. The college also opened a new Wellness Center in Fall 2002.

GM Record Training

The college's General Motors Training Center trained more automotive technicians than any other GM satellite training center in the United States in 2002. DCTC's 483 center graduates surpassed longtime leader Sinclair Community College's (Dayton, OH) mark of 468. This was an impressive feat, considering DCTC's program is only in its third year of existence.



FUNDING

ConAgra Foods Grant

A \$331,154 grant to enable 492 ConAgra Foods employees to receive advanced shop-floor training and gain access to e-learning courses.

Health Care

A \$400,000 grant to provide preparation for public assistance recipients seeking employment in the health care industry.

3M Grant

A \$10,000 grant from 3M in support of the college's newly launched Electrical Construction program.

K-Mart Grant

A \$281,000 grant from K-Mart for supply change management and distribution services. This grant is a unique tie-in with distribution plant training and logistics through the college's transportation department.

Concrete & Masonry Grant

An \$8,000 Perkins grant in support of the new DCTC Concrete and Masonry program starting in August of 2003.



Nanotechnology Grant

An \$8,000 Perkins grant devoted to research and marketing of a possible new nanoscience program at the college. DCTC also was given approval to enter the second phase of a National Science Foundation grant application to support its nanotechnology initiative.



Generous Estate

St. Paul resident Carl Eastvold left his entire \$500,000 estate to the DCTC Foundation, ensuring his legacy will live on to benefit students for years to come.

Bonding Project

DCTC received \$500,000 to complete design for renovation of the college's library and IT/Telecommunications areas and as part of the state bonding legislation passed during the 2003 session.

ETC Grants

The Employment Training Center based at DCTC handled \$938,964 in grants during the past fiscal year in four areas: welfare-to-work; federal and state dislocated workers programs; incumbent worker training; and dislocated worker projects for individual companies.

Horticulture Grant

The college's Landscape Horticulture program was awarded a \$1,000 grant by the MNLA Research and Education Investment Committee for purchase of new equipment to be used by students in the landscape estimating and bidding classes. This is DCTC's second MNLA grant, making DCTC the only technical college to be so awarded.

Financial Aid

More than 1,063 students received financial aid to attend DCTC during the past year.

Business and Industry Partners

DCTC has a strong foundation of business and industry partners. This year DCTC received over \$1 million in grants to help today's workforce thrive:

ConAgra Foods
\$331,154

Health Careers
\$400,000

3M \$10,000



K-Mart \$281,000

ETC Grants
\$938,964

Concrete & Masonry
\$8,000

Dept. of Education
\$1,000,000



ENROLLMENT

DCTC ranks fifth in MnSCU for the number of online course offerings.

Enrollment at All-time High

Enrollment was at an all-time high, with 2,133 full-time equivalent students each semester. This was a 5-percent increase over FY2002.

College for Kids

The first "College for Kids," with courses on crafts and photography held its first sessions in Summer 2003.

Customized Training

More than 7,000 people participated in DCTC's Customized Training programs throughout the year. These customized courses cover many topics, including: IT, telecommunications, supervisory management, nursing assistant certification, public safety, corporate security, law enforcement, transportation, and manufacturing.

PROGRAMS



Fifteen-year-old future Olympic Weightlifter Corey Safe lifts at the new Apple Valley Training site.

New Programs Added!

In Fall 2002, we began Business Entrepreneur, Database Administration, Electrical Construction, Exercise and Sport Science, Marketing Design and Sales, Medical Coding Specialist and Web Developer. In Fall 2003, we will add Concrete and Masonry and Conference and Event Planning.

New Program Options

The college added certificates in Network Support Services and Routing and Switching Technology, in addition to A.A.S. degree options in Electrical Lineworker and Construction Electrician, and an A.S. degree in Exercise and Sport Science.

Hubbs Center Advisor

DCTC's multicultural advisor provided academic advising at the Hubbs Center in St. Paul.

I-CAR Certified

DCTC was only one of two Minnesota colleges to be certified by the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR), a distinction that means the college's graduates can gain much-needed training points and move up in their profession to higher-paying jobs more quickly.

The Next Big Thing

DCTC illustrated how it is on the cutting-edge of technological trends, when nationally recognized nanotechnology expert, Jack Uldrich, came to campus to keynote a well-attended conference on this emerging science. Attendees included local CEOs, business executives, research and development directors, elected officials, engineers, scientists, and educators. Vice President Karen Halvorson is providing the leadership for the initiative.

New Apple Valley Location

DCTC's Apple Valley site opened in June 2003. The site is a public-private higher educational partnership among DCTC, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and Inver Hills Community College. In April, the site was visited by United States Olympic Committee CEO Jim Scherr to endorse the location for its Olympic-caliber strength training courses.





PEOPLE



Michelle Snesrud, President of Beta Theta Tau

Beta Theta Tau inducted 110 new students and received five-star chapter status from Phi Theta Kappa.

Winning Designs

Dawn LeClair, a DCTC student enrolled in the college's Applied Visual Arts program, designed the winning entry in a contest to find a new design for the Hastings Community Education organization.

Acts of Goodwill

The Beta Theta Tau Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Dakota County Technical College participated in "Project Graduation - Feed a Body, Feed a Mind," an initiative designed to help alleviate hunger and illiteracy in our community. Graduating students and guests brought non-perishable food items or books to the college's graduation ceremony.

Horticultural Honors

Students and recent graduates of DCTC's Landscape Horticulture program collected a variety of honors at the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) convention. Two DCTC graduates won Awards of Honor in the annual MNLA design competition - Wendy Loomis and Karen Jurewicz were awarded in the Residential Design category. Three DCTC students were awarded \$1,000 MNLA scholarships, including Laura Osberghaus, Janna Gilbertson, and Sandra Proshek.

High Scorers

Six current students took the test for becoming a Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional. DCTC students had the second-highest (Mary Richardson) and third-highest (Sandy Proshek) scores. This is the highest participation and success rate of any Minnesota college program.



Guatemala Trip

DCTC faculty and staff showed their commitment to those less fortunate during a January 2003 trip to Guatemala. A group of 12 from the college assisted the San Lucas Toliman Mission with a number of construction and community service projects, including a major reforestation effort.

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

- *DCTC helped nearly 200 organizations develop their workforce and improve their company's outcomes.*
- *More than 7,000 employees participated in Customized Training programs*
- *DCTC received over \$1 million in business and industry grants.*

Transportation

Last year the Corporate Truck Driver Training program produced 115 Class A truck drivers, and enjoyed a 99.14% success rate. Two additional start dates have been added. DCTC has also partnered with the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center (MMSC), Driver and Vehicle Service (a division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety), and other sponsors to provide one of the most comprehensive motorcycle safety programs.

Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement department continues to work closely with local agencies to keep Minnesota communities safe. Advanced courses have been added in Pursuit Immobilization Technique (PIT) and Tactical Vehicle Intercept (TVI). New courses in corrections have also been developed.

Supervisory Management

The Business and Professional Development program opened at the Higher Education Partnership in Apple Valley to better serve the business community and has continued working with clients such as Malt-O-Meal and Donaldson's. Coaching, mentoring, and pre-insurance licensing programs were added.

IT Training

The IT Training Center and Ascolta are bringing their partnership to a new level: The IT Training Center is the only college in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system that is able to deliver Fast-Track courses on location. Ascolta staff will also be on site, ensuring that students are getting Cisco training as only Ascolta can deliver.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing department is partnering with Allina, District One Hospital, Fairview, HealthEast, Hennepin County Medical Center, North Memorial Medical Center, Universal Hospital Services and the VA Hospital to offer a Biomedical Equipment Technology program. A corrosion field for locating buried wires, and other objects, is also being developed for new training programs.

Telecom

Thanks to the help of partners, Frontier, Nortel, and ADC, DCTC telecom department installed a switch worth over \$1 million dollars. The switch will be an integral part of hands-on telecom training.




DCTC Instructors of the Year, college staff members honored

DCTC's **Mitch Kohanek** and **Diana Sullivan** were recently recognized by the college as the outstanding instructors of the 2002-03 school year. Both individuals were chosen following a student-driven nomination process, a written essay and an oral interview with students, staff, and faculty members.

As a result of this honor, Kohanek and Sullivan traveled to Austin, Texas in May to attend the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) conference and award ceremony for outstanding technical and community college faculty.

Outside the classroom, four DCTC staff members also were lauded recently. College employees **Todd Jagerson** (MIS), **Bradd Strelow** (Customized Training), **Kristine**

Voth (Student Services), and **Steve Helmueller** (Finance), were named for their commitment to quality work and customer service. Congratulations to all! 



DCTC's Mitch Kohanek (at left center) and Diana Sullivan (above, far left) were named outstanding instructors of the 2002-03 school year and nominated for national honors.

DCTC Apple Valley visited by CEO of U.S. Olympic Committee



USOC CEO Jim Scherr (center) and USA Weightlifting's Wes Barnett (left) accept a DCTC commemorative coin from DCTC President Dr. Ron Thomas.

For more information about DCTC Apple Valley site, call 952.997.9574.


To endorse Dakota County Technical College's new initiative in athlete and coaching training, the United States Olympic Committee's Chief Executive Officer paid a visit to DCTC's new Apple Valley location on April 23.

During a press conference, **Jim Scherr** endorsed the DCTC Sports Education Academy concept for coaches' education, giving it the full support of the USOC. The SEA is housed in the former Apple Valley City Hall, 14200 Cedar Ave.

Following Scherr's comments, **Wes Barnett**, Executive Director of USA Weightlifting, announced the creation of a regional training site for USA Weightlifting at the facility.

"We believe the creation of such a site in Apple Valley is a valuable addition to not only our college, but the entire region," said DCTC President **Dr. Ron Thomas**. "We are honored that Mr. Scherr and Mr. Barnett came to show their strong support."

In addition to the site's relationship with the U.S. Olympic Committee, the college's Apple Valley site also is home to a higher education partnership anchored by DCTC, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and Inver Hills Community College.

The location is home to undergraduate and graduate degree courses, bringing a valuable educational resource to the southern metropolitan area. 


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DCTC hosts Guard training



With the nation at war in the Middle East, Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) did its part earlier this year to help show support for the troops.

For example, when the Minnesota National Guard requested use of the campus grounds to conduct fueling training for its powerful Blackhawk helicopters, college officials quickly agreed.


"We are proud to help out the National Guard in any way we can," said Customized Training Coordinator **Mark LaMere**, who helped arrange the training at the Rosemount campus. 

Minnesota Virtual Academy at DCTC's Eagan site

When the Minnesota Virtual Academy, an online U-7 home-based learning organization needed a location to hold in-person classroom courses, Kevin Uelleher, Director of Development, called upon DCTC's IT Training Center in Eagan for a solution.

While the Virtual Academy is a leader in the field of online learning for home-schooled children, the company provides a more "traditional" classroom setting every two weeks so students can interact with a licensed instructor and other kids. DCTC's Eagan IT training facility, with available classroom space and high-quality computers, provided the solution MVA needed.

According to DCTC Customized Training Representative **Bradd Strelow**, MVA started using the college's Eagan facility last fall and already has signed up again starting in August. "We provided just what they needed in one convenient location," he said.

Other companies also use the IT Training Center for a wide variety of training needs, including Cisco, Microsoft, Java, and Citrix, just to name a few. For more information, call (651) 406-4754 or go to www.dctc.edu/it-trainingcenter. 



MINNESOTA
VIRTUAL ACADEMY

