

November 2023 - January 2024

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC)



## Upcoming Events

12.05 – College Visit Night

12.06 – 12.07 – Holiday Bazaar

01.01 – 03.31 – Build Dakota Scholarship & Fall

2024 WDT Foundation Scholarships

Applications Open

01.08 – Spring classes begin

02.12 – Free Financial Aid & Scholarship  
Information Session

[WDTC Calendar for more events](#)

## Sixth Annual WDT Foundation Gala - A "Game of Life" Raises \$17,000 to Benefit Students



The WDT Foundation held its sixth annual gala in the event center, on Oct. 26. Thank you to all who sponsored and attended the WDT Foundation event. More than \$17,000 was raised to benefit students. The theme was the "Game of Life" and attendees were able to "play the game" learning about careers. They could also dress in trade uniforms and wear a commencement cap and gown at a selfie photo station.

**Meet 2023 Western Dakota**



## **Tech Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient: Jeff Larus**

Jeff Larus graduated from Western Dakota Tech in the Industrial Electrician program in 1983 and from the Electronic Technician program in 1985. He went on to earn his Rapid City master's License and his South Dakota Inspector's License. He is also nationally certified as an

electrical and mechanical plans examiner and combination inspector in electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and building by the International Code Council. Since 1990, he has been an Electrical Inspector for the City of Rapid City. In 2002, he became the lead inspector for mechanical inspections. As an inspector, he never hesitates to teach electricians. When he finds a code violation at an inspection, he is willing to show where in the code book the rule is and his interpretation.

Jeff has continued his relationship with Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) by serving as a member of the Industrial Electronics Advisory Board Committee during the past 20 years and as a trainer in WDTC's Corporate Education Center. Annually, he speaks to the WDTC Electric Code class and answer questions.

Jeff and his wife, Kae, are active community members. They are involved in a variety of activities that benefit the youth of our community including Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Black Hills, Foster Parents for the Casey Family Program, Lutheran Social Services, and Pennington County Search and Rescue. Jeff truly exemplifies the spirit of WDTC through his commitment to his trade and his commitment to making his community a better place.

## **Alumni Story - Tom Hovet, Welding & Fabrication Class of 2019**



### **WDTC Named 2023 Great College to Work For**

WDTC has once again been named a "2023 Great College to Work For" by the Great Colleges to Work For® program. Additionally, the college earned the Great Colleges Honor Roll designation - a status



granted to only 42 colleges each year that are highlighted most across the recognition categories. These honors put WDTC in elite company.

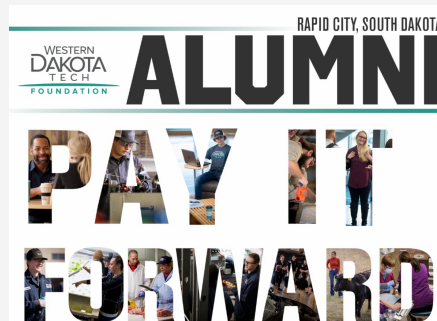
This is the sixth year WDTC has been deemed a Great College to Work For. It is the fourth time the college has received the Honor Roll designation.



## Consider Supporting WDTC During the Holiday Season

### **SD Day Of Giving - WDT Foundation Scholarship Donation Opportunity**

The WDT Foundation is proud to be a part of the South Dakota Day of Giving this Nov. 28, 2023. Throughout the month of November, alumni have the opportunity to join other alumni in donating (<https://givebutter.com/WDTCalumni>) to the WDTC Alumni Paying It Forward Scholarship. Multiple \$250 scholarships will be available for all students to apply for each Fall and Spring semester.



### **Seeking Holiday Bazaar Donations**

WDTC Student Success Center will host a Holiday Bazaar from Dec 6-7, 2023. This event will allow our students and their families to shop new and gently used items (no shoes or clothing) for free to gift to friends and family. If you would like to donate any items, please contact [StudentSuccessCenter@wdt.edu](mailto:StudentSuccessCenter@wdt.edu) or (605) 718-2955.

### **Equipment & Program Needs**

Western Dakota Technical College strives to use the most up-to-

date technology to educate our students, ensuring that our graduates are trained to the most current industry standard. To ensure that we are keeping pace with changing technology, we rely on our community and industry sponsors to help us get the right tools in our students' hands.



Make a direct impact by [donating](#) equipment and tools to our students and programs today. Together we are building the workforce of tomorrow.

All equipment donations are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt from the donation for you records. For more information on equipment needs and how to donate please contact Nora Leinen, Foundation Director at [Nora.Leinen@wdt.edu](mailto:Nora.Leinen@wdt.edu) or call (605) 718-2436.

## WDTC in the News

[Western Dakota Tech is giving scholarships to talented anglers](#)

[Western Dakota Tech new geothermal greenhouse brings new opportunities for students and agriculture producers](#)

[Western Dakota Technical College hosts 5th annual Scrubs Camp](#)

**Share your story!**  
**Contact: Chutima Supboon**  
**(605) 718-3064**  
**[Chutima.Supboon@wdt.edu](mailto:Chutima.Supboon@wdt.edu)**

**STAY CONNECTED!**  
**BE INFORMED!**  
**GET INVOLVED!**

Visit:  
<https://www.wdt.edu/alumni/>

## Additional WDTC Highlights



Kyle Beard, from Dakota Supply Group (DSG), and Scott Hall, from Muth Electric Inc., each donated 3,500 feet of half-inch EMT to WDTC's Electrical Trades program. This donation will help students learn to bend EMT in the classroom through labs and real work scenarios. Both first-year and second-year students will directly benefit from this donation. Thanks so much, DSG and Muth, for investing in our students and program.

HVAC Elements: O'Connor Company, G & R Controls, Balancing Professionals in Rapid City hosted their second Annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 14 at the Hart Ranch Golf Club. The WDTC HVAC Club was the recipient of the money raised at the golf tournament in the amount of \$2,070.





Technology grad and Build Dakota scholarship recipient, is featured in the September *South Dakota Pipe Chatter* newsletter for placing second at the National HVACR SkillsUSA Championship in June. Thank you South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors for the great article. We are extremely proud of Raulie!

<https://sdphcc.org/news-1/>

## In Memory

Ty Diamond, Electrical Trades, Class of 2011 <https://trib-news.com/obituaries/2846-ty-diamond>

Heather Plaisted, Phlebotomy/Laboratory Assistant, Class of 2007  
<https://chadronradio.com/heather-plaisted/>

Jeremy Schad, CJ – Law Enforcement, Class of 1998  
<https://www.keslingfuneralhome.net/obituary/jeremy-schad>



## We Want To Hear From You!

New job? New business? Children? Newly married? Let us celebrate with you!

Email: [Chutima.Supboon@wdt.edu](mailto:Chutima.Supboon@wdt.edu)

## FOLLOW WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



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