

# @Tech

VOLUME 4

A Mitchell Technical College Foundation Publication





# M MITCHELL TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Ally Henkel



Scholar

Agricultural  
Business



Heather Kulm

As I review the stories of growth and success featured in this Foundation publication, I am filled with pride for Mitchell Technical College and the meaningful ways this campus has impacted the lives of students and faculty over the years.

I am also excited for the future. As Director of Foundation Relations, I have the honor of helping MTC reach new milestones and goals with an amazing staff and Board of Directors dedicated to building scholarships and endowments, fostering relationships with alumni and donors, creating unique opportunities, and supporting students in every way possible.

Each day, I am reminded just how special MTC is through the generosity and support of a community that continues to help us “Be the Best.” Through alumni, industry partners, and unique programs like Build Dakota, we provide our students with a state-of-the-art, affordable education on a beautiful, modern campus. We are always seeking new ways to enhance the MTC experience, but we couldn’t do it without people like you who believe in us.

If you haven’t been on campus lately, we invite you to visit to view the progress and feel the positive energy for yourself. There’s a reason we are ranked among the nation’s best technical colleges!

Thank you for your trust, support, and contributions.

Sincerely,

Heather Kulm

Heather Kulm  
Director of Foundation Relations

*It is the mission  
of Mitchell Technical College  
to provide skills for success  
in technical careers.*

## Contents



4-5

Grads on the Go



6-7

Passion for Teaching



8-9

Father/Daughter  
Business Partners

If you are a graduate of Mitchell Technical College, we hope the education and experiences you received here are serving you well. If you are a friend of Mitchell Tech, we welcome you and look forward to great partnerships in Mitchell Tech’s future! The Mitchell Technical College Alumni Association and Foundation are working together to make Mitchell Tech graduates the best they can be!

The intent of the Mitchell Technical College Foundation is to assist the College in this endeavor through individual and corporate philanthropic measures. These gifts will assist in student scholarships and bring the latest equipment and expert faculty to the classroom.

We would appreciate your consideration in making a donation to the Mitchell Technical College Foundation today. You can donate in many ways, and we will work with you to meet your objectives.

This publication is published annually by the Mitchell Technical College Foundation, 1800 E. Spruce St., Mitchell, SD 57301 and distributed to alumni, parents, and friends of Mitchell Technical College.

**ON THE COVER:** Mitchell Tech students visiting in-between class in the Nordby Trades Center.



#### WAYS TO HELP

Scan with your phone’s camera app to support MTC students.

[mitchelltech.edu/donate](http://mitchelltech.edu/donate)

The Mitchell Tech Foundation was established in 1999 by board members Chris Paustian, Gopal Vyas, Pat Clark, Keith Bartels, Ed Olson, Bob Mueller, and Greg Kohlenberg. The Foundation serves as the fund-raising arm for Mitchell Tech and is dedicated to four key areas of support:

- Building Scholarships
- Building Programs
- Building Endowments
- Building Relationships

Foundation board members include MTC alumni and business leaders in various industries. Members meet four times per year to help advise Mitchell Tech on the four pillars. Current MTC Foundation board members include:

#### Mike Sprang

Chair  
TSTM Inc.

#### Trent Dowling

Vice-Chair  
Carrier Commercial Refrigeration

#### Terry Sabers

Treasurer  
Retired

#### Nicole Gerlach

Avera/Brady

#### Stacy Giblin

Northwestern Mutual

#### Josh Lawson

First Dakota National Bank

#### Jay Spaans

Douglas Electric Cooperative

#### Mike Pogany

Black Hills Energy

#### Tyler Klumb

Pioneer Seed

#### Devon Russell

Precision Ag Director  
Mitchell Technical College

#### Theresa Kriese

President  
Mitchell Technical College

#### Jared Hofer

Ex-Officio  
Chief Financial Officer  
Mitchell Technical College



# M Grads on the Go



**Drew Varriano** ▲

**Background:** Drew graduated from Stevens High School in 2016. He grew up in a medically oriented family in Rapid City and knew he wanted to pursue a career in the healthcare industry. He liked the fact that, as a radiologic technician, he could work closely with patients and medical professionals without years of medical school.

**MTC Program:** Graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology in May 2021.

**Why MTC?** Drew wanted to stay in South Dakota as he pursued his education and knew through word-of-mouth that Mitchell Tech was the best school for the two-year Radiologic Technology degree.

**Highlights:** Building relationships with great instructors and classmates, plus the opportunity to do his clinical rotation in Watertown, where the radiology technologists and hospital staff provided him with a rewarding hands-on experience.

*Mitchell Technical College alumni are changing the world with relevant skills and the right training for careers that take them places. Not only do they find success in the classroom and in their chosen fields, but they also find success in life. One and two-year degrees, online convenience, and a beautiful, modern campus in Mitchell, South Dakota, allow students to “Be The Best” in a wide range of industrial, manufacturing, agricultural, and professional industries.*

**Career Path:** After graduating from Mitchell Tech, Drew returned to Rapid City to work for Monument Health Orthopedic & Specialty Hospital. He enjoyed his job but was lured by the idea of living and working in a new city. When he saw an opening for a position with Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush in Chicago, the ability to work with the Chicago White Sox appealed to him, and he applied. He was hired and moved to Chicago in the fall of 2022. In addition to his weekly job at the clinic, he has the opportunity to work home games for the Chicago White Sox on the weekends. This allows him to partner with trainers and doctors to perform imaging services for the team. He loves the city, his job, and the people. His goal is to be on the radiology team that offers imaging services for the Chicago Bulls.

**Grad Advice:** Keep grinding! The program can be intense, but two years go by fast. Mitchell Tech offers tutors, and the instructors are supportive, so be sure to use your resources if you need them. Also, invest in a study tool called RadTech Boot Camp. It saved me!

**Background:** Jenna graduated from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre in 2021 and was looking for a cost-effective, two-year business degree. She toured Lake Area Tech and Mitchell Tech and immediately felt at home at MTC.

**MTC Program:** Graduated with an Accounting degree from MTC in May 2023.

**Why MTC:** The people! Accounting program director Annika Russell-Manke is from the Pierre area and was a guide through college and afterwards. Sheryl Plagmann (former Foundation Project Support Specialist) helped coordinate the Terry Sabers Scholarship and helped Jenna secure a job while attending college.



**Jenna Keyser** ▲

**Highlights:** Mitchell Tech's involvement with the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program allowed Jenna to become certified by the IRS to help prepare taxes for people for free. This gave her a real-world vision for the career. She was also the recipient of the Terry Sabers Scholarship and was able to meet Sabers during a scholarship luncheon. He became a mentor to her and remains someone who continues to influence her life and career path today.

**Career Path:** Jenna is an Accounts Receivable Specialist at Muth Electric in Mitchell, where she is responsible for invoicing and collecting money for the company. Mitchell Tech provided her with the accounting fundamentals necessary to succeed in this position, including knowing accounting lingo, how to work with ledgers and balance sheets, and the value of Excel spreadsheets.

**Grad Advice:** Pursue a career you enjoy and one that gives you the ability to live a rewarding life outside of work! Two months after graduation, Jenna bought her first house, flipped it, and is now flipping a second house.

**Background:** Cody grew up in Bridgewater with a passion for snowmobiles and motorcycles and a knack for repairing engines. The Power Sports Technology program had just launched at Mitchell Tech when Cody decided to pursue the degree. The 2010 Bridgewater High School graduate lives in Bridgewater with his wife Angie.

**MTC Program:** Graduated with a Power Sports Technology degree from Mitchell Tech in May 2012.

**Why MTC:** Mitchell Tech is one of the few schools to offer a Power Sports Technology degree close to home. The ability to live at home while earning his degree was an advantage and helped keep costs affordable.

**Highlights:** Cody was a tech inspection volunteer at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah as part of the Mitchell Tech program. While at Mitchell Tech, he also completed an internship for a Suzuki and Victory dealership in Sioux Falls. This opportunity opened the door to his first job with the dealership after graduation.

**Career Path:** Cody was working for at the dealership when he went to Vern Eide MotoPlex in Sioux Falls to buy a part. While he was there, an acquaintance told him about a job opening. He was able to interview for the position that day, got the job and has been working in the service department ever since. Today he is the company's shop foreman and lead technician, overseeing a crew of technicians that includes numerous Mitchell Tech graduates.

**Grad Advice:** This is a high-demand field, so you will have no problem finding a job. Mitchell Tech will give you the skills you need to be successful. We are always hiring Mitchell Tech grads so come find Cody at Vern Eide MotoPlex!



**Cody Golder** ▲



# MTC Instructors Share Family Bond and a Passion for Teaching

People often say Mitchell Tech feels like a family. This is especially true for three instructors who have worked on campus for a combined total of 53 years and happen to have the same last name.

It all started with Mark Munsen, who began instructing MTC's Architectural Design and Building Construction Program in 1997. As a 1984 graduate of MTC's ADBC program, Mark was offered a position with MTC after gaining years of experience in the lumberyard industry and as a high school building trades teacher.

"Teaching at the college level is so rewarding because the students are invested and they want to learn," he says. "If you had told me nearly thirty years ago that I would still be here, I would not have believed you. But Mitchell Tech is a great place to work, and even though I'm old enough to retire, I'm not ready to leave."

Mark's wife, Tammie Munsen, nods her head in agreement. After graduating with degrees in English Communications and Theatre from DWU, Tammie spent years as an educator and guidance counselor for secondary schools in Corsica, Mitchell, and White Lake before Mitchell Tech offered her a position as a Business Software Specialist instructor.

"Because of Mark, people at Mitchell Tech knew about my background in education. I was earning a master's degree in Educational Technology when they offered me a position in 2002. It was a busy time, but I took the job and I've been here ever since," she explains. Tammie has filled multiple roles at MTC, teaching a variety of general education, technology, and computer classes throughout the years.

Mark and Tammie's three children grew up with a great appreciation for Mitchell Tech, and all three attended the college. Their oldest son, Noah, graduated with a degree in Farm Power Technology (now known as Ag Power Technology) in 2016. His brother Devon followed in Dad's footsteps with an ADBC degree in 2019. Their sister Angela attended MTC for a semester before deciding to pursue a cosmetology degree.

In 2023, Noah left his position at a farm equipment dealership in Corsica to join the staff at Mitchell Tech as an instructor in the Diesel Power Technology program.

"The instructor I replaced was the person who called me about the job," Noah says. "I feel fortunate to be here. It's a joy to teach in the new Ag Power Diesel Lab, and I like being around the students. They are the future of this industry, and it's fun to be part of it."

Mark, Tammie, and Noah agree that keeping up with changing technology is the biggest challenge of their careers.

"Technology becomes improved and outdated at a constant rate," says Noah. "We rely on our industry partners and the industry advisory boards to keep us updated on the newest methods and equipment so we can teach the latest and greatest."

Even though all three Munsens work at MTC, they rarely see each other due to busy schedules and a widespread campus.

"We see each other at the staff meeting once a month, and Tammie and I see each other on the drive to and from work," says Mark. "We try not to talk too much about work during our free time, but the drive allows us to discuss things happening in our jobs."

Instead, their free time is filled with camping trips during the summer. It's a tradition all three kids grew up enjoying.

"While our kids were growing up, we took the camper and the boat to a different place every weekend during the summer. Now that the kids are grown, Tammie and I still take the camper and the boat out, but prefer a permanent location," says Mark. "We've always done this, and our kids grew up loving the outdoors, fishing, and hunting. We are a close family that works hard and plays hard. I'm grateful for that."

Mitchell Tech is grateful for that, too.



“Teaching at the college level is so rewarding...”  
Mark Munsen

(L to R) **Mark Munsen**, Architectural Design and Building Construction Program Instructor, **Tammie Munsen**, Computer Instructor, and **Noah Munsen**, Diesel Power Technology Program Instructor



# Father/Daughter Business Partners Complete MTC's Entrepreneurship Program Together



As a kid, Erica Ingerson liked to hang out in her dad's welding shop and watch him work. It wasn't until she took his shop class at Eureka High School that she found a passion for the trade.

"I took Dad's welding class in high school and loved it. When COVID hit, school closed, and I began helping my dad in his shop," she explains. "I wasn't thinking it could be my career. I had this mentality that welding wasn't for girls."

Instead, she toured Mitchell Tech's business program and considered a future as a CPA.

"My sister was attending Mitchell Tech and urged me to go back and check out the school's welding program," she explained. "I took a second tour, met instructor Gregg Thibodeau, and he introduced me to machining. That was it. I was hooked."

## A Model Student

Erica excelled in the program as a Build Dakota scholar sponsored by her dad's business. She earned the MTC Spirit Award, the respect of her classmates, and a degree in Machining and Manufacturing.

"The first year is welding and the second year is machining," she says. "I love machining! It's fascinating. Designing parts is my favorite thing to do." She admits that being a female in the predominantly male program had its advantages.

"Gregg took me under his wing and was so supportive. He became like a second father to me," she says.

Which brings us back to her actual dad.

## An Unexpected Career Path

Brian Ingerson grew up working on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania and earned an associate degree in math and science from Jamestown Community College in 1993 and a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Northern State University in 1996. He wasn't able to use those degrees until 2017.

"My wife Francie's father passed away in 1997, so we moved to Eureka to help her mother," he explains. "There weren't many good-paying local jobs at the time, so after a few years, I taught myself how to weld and opened my own shop."

Brian continued to hone his welding skills, and his business grew. In 2005, the family moved to an acreage and Brian built their house and a large shop for Ingerson Custom Welding. By 2009, he was "so busy I never caught up."

But, as Brian explains it, life has a funny way of working itself out.

In 2017, Brian joined the Eureka school district as the high school industrial arts teacher, and he embarked on a new career.

"I ended up using that teaching degree after all! I taught welding, woodworking, small engine repair, and some math classes," he says. "I enjoyed teaching, and I was still able to work nights and weekends in my shop."

All that changed when Erica told him she wanted to learn the welding and machining trade and join the business.

## A New Partnership

"Erica didn't just want to work in the same old business. She had skills and ideas of her own she wanted to try!" he says.

One of those ideas involved enrolling both of them in Mitchell Tech's Entrepreneurship Program in 2024. Brian agreed to enroll in the year-long program with Erica, and he resigned from his teaching job to fully focus on Ingerson Custom Welding.

"We traveled to Mitchell for a few days each month and completed online work together throughout the program," he says. "We learned from some really smart business professionals and had fun doing it."

So far, the Entrepreneurship Program has done amazing things for the business. Even before graduating from the program in 2025, the pair created a business plan, a website, a commercial video, and built a social media platform for the business. They bought a CNC lathe machine, and Erica established Red Fox CNC, a subsidiary of Ingerson Custom Welding.

"The Entrepreneurship Program was good for us," says Brian. "I made a lot of mistakes running a business on my own all those years. I feel like I got a second chance to do it right. Now that Erica is involved, it's even more important that we are a success. And we will be. She's really good at what she does."



# Power Line Degree Offers MTC Grad Freedom and Adventure

*After graduating from Chamberlain High School in 1992 and serving four years in the Navy, Tony Harmon wanted a career that would allow him to work outdoors with people who share his spirit of adventure.*

He found it through Mitchell Tech's Power Line program.

Harmon graduated from the Power Line program in 1998 and moved to California to complete a lineman apprenticeship. The apprenticeship allowed him to hone the skills he learned at Mitchell Tech.

"Mitchell Tech gave me an amazing starting point," he says. "I felt I had a competitive advantage over people from other programs."

In 2001, he began his career as a journeyman lineman doing contracting work for a company in Washington. He traveled up and down the West Coast as a contractor before taking a position at Black Hills Power in 2003. He moved his family to an acreage in Piedmont and loves living in the Black Hills, but he missed traveling and the excitement of seeing new places.

In 2007, he was hired as a foreman for Mountain Power Construction, a full-service contractor working on all aspects of the power line utility industry. In 2010, he was promoted to General Foreman. The company is based in Idaho, but Harmon continues to live in Piedmont, traveling to work on the West Coast.

"I love my job," he says. "We are often faced with challenging projects in mountainous terrain. My team sometimes uses helicopters to get to those remote locations. It's so rewarding to serve people and get their power back up."

Harmon says in addition to the adrenaline rush, he enjoys working alongside outdoorsy people who enjoy physical work.

"People in this industry are just made different," he explains. "It's a rugged lifestyle in all kinds of weather, but the people I work with are always positive and love to joke around."

When Harmon isn't on the job, he likes to hunt, fish, re-purpose old power line poles, and hang out on his ranch near Piedmont with his wife Kimberly. The couple has four children, Paytn, Keyera, Trapper, and Sawyer. They own a drive-thru coffee hut called Tin Cup Coffee Company and enjoy welcoming people out to the country.

# 1979 Graduate Creates Family Legacies through MTC Scholarships

Mitchell Tech holds a special place in the hearts of many graduates. Alumni talk fondly about classmates, instructors, and quality learning experiences.

But for some alumni, Mitchell Tech means even more.

Roxi Kasten's love of agriculture, family, and a deep connection to Mitchell Tech prompted the 1979 Agricultural Marketing graduate to sponsor four different annual scholarships.

Three of the scholarships honor the memories of special people in Kasten's life: her husband, her father-in-law, and her father. All three men were advocates of agriculture and built valuable relationships with Mitchell Tech.

The **David (Dave) L Kasten Class of 2011 Memorial Scholarship** is dedicated to her late husband, Dave, who passed away in 2019. Because of Dave's love of tractors, the \$500 scholarship is earmarked for a student pursuing a career in Ag Power Technology.

The **Loren G Kasten Emeritus in Agronomy Scholarship** commemorates former MTC ag instructor Loren Kasten (also her father-in-law). He established the ag program in 1968 and loved teaching crops and agronomy. The \$500 scholarship is awarded to a first-year student in the agronomy program.

The **IJ Carey Memorial Scholarship in Livestock Evaluation** was created out of love for Kasten's father, who raised paint horses and inspired Kasten's interest in horses. He often invited Mitchell Tech students to his ranch to practice equine evaluation. This \$500 scholarship is awarded to students interested in livestock and equine evaluation.

Finally, Kasten sponsors an annual \$500 scholarship called the **Roxene G (Carey) Kasten Class of 1979 Scholarship**, awarded to a student in the animal science program.



(L to R) **Katelynn (Katie) Scherff**, IJ Carey Memorial Scholarship in Livestock Evaluation, **Roxi Kasten**, 1979 Agricultural Marketing Graduate, **Brooklyn Bossly**, Roxene G (Carey) Kasten Scholarship (Class of 1979), and **Braden Fink**, Loren G Kasten, Emeritus Scholarship in Agronomy

"I was raised around animals and was very involved in FFA in high school," she explains. "I share my father's passion for horses and agriculture."

Kasten was one of the first women to graduate with an Agricultural Marketing degree.

"There were three females, including myself, who graduated from the ag program in 1979. The curriculum included classes like welding and mechanics," she says.

Kasten used her degree to help operate a ranch near Belvidere with her first husband. She also provided expertise working at a grain elevator and hardware store in Kadoka before moving to Mitchell with her second husband, David Kasten, whom she married in 2003. She worked at Tractor Supply in Mitchell until 2006 and then at Campbell's Supply until her retirement in 2014.

Through the years, Kasten remained a proud supporter of Mitchell Tech. She served on the ag department's Board of Directors during the 1990s and remains in contact with former instructor Myron Sonne. She has two sons, Travis and Christopher. Christopher graduated from MTC's Ag Management program.

Today, Kasten is enjoying retirement and her role as a volunteer at Reclamation Ranch near Mitchell.





# Legacy Scholarship Funds Raised During MTC Cornhole Tournament



The thudding sound of bean bags hitting boards mixed with conversation and laughter during the second annual Alumni Gathering & Cornhole Tournament, held Friday, April 4th, at the Mitchell Corn Palace. The event was even better in its second year, featuring a combined forty-two teams competing in competitive and recreational brackets. The evening also featured food, a silent auction, and six different side games where contestants could earn a chance at prizes donated by area sponsors. The side games allowed people not participating in the tournament to join the fun.

“This event was designed to bring the community out to support the next generation of Mitchell Tech students,” explained Heather Kulm, Director of Foundation Relations. “Money raised during the tournament goes towards legacy scholarships for children, grandchildren, and siblings of Mitchell Tech alumni. We grew the event significantly from the first year to the second year, and we hope to continue this spring tradition for years to come.”

Over \$31,000 was raised during the 2025 event, which will help make an affordable Mitchell Tech education even more affordable for scholarship students. An impressive list of area sponsors helped make the event a success.

## Tournament Winners:

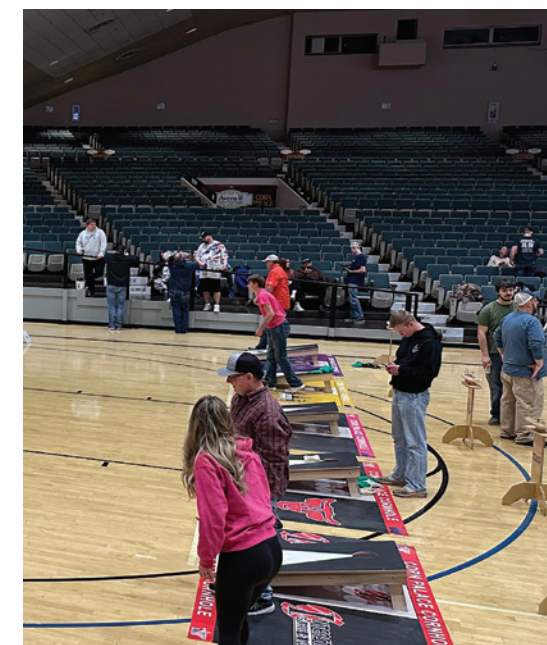
### COMPETITIVE DIVISION

- 1st Place:** Corn Palace Cornhole - Tyler Earls and Ty Fagerland  
**2nd Place:** Dylon & Lindsey - Dylon Bollock and Lindsey Bollock  
**3rd Place:** Bobby & Allen - Bobby Kuiper and Allen Flaskey

### SOCIAL DIVISION

- 1st Place:** Jayden & Robin - Jayden Aungie and Robin Weddel  
**2nd Place:** The Bag Daddies - Nick Cundy and Brandon Thompson  
**3rd Place:** Team Royston - Jesse Royston and Ben Pierson

If you would like to sponsor the 2026 event or enter a team in the tournament, contact Heather Kulm, Director of Foundation Relations at 605.995.7342 or [heather.kulm@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:heather.kulm@mitchelltech.edu).





# Heating and Cooling Technology Degree: Hot Jobs in Cool Places.

As a young boy, Clint Peterson remembers his dad calling a furnace repair technician any time the heat went out in the house.

“My dad was really handy and could fix almost anything, but he couldn’t fix the furnace,” he says. “I figured if my dad can’t fix it, it must be a good career.”

That boyhood experience eventually led Peterson to earn a diploma in Heating and Cooling Technology from Mitchell Tech. He graduated from the program in 1998 after serving four years in the United States Marine Corps.

“The GI Bill was going to pay for my college, so I researched HVAC and discovered Mitchell Tech offered a two-year degree. The school was just an hour away from my home near Chamberlain, and I liked the small class sizes,” he explains.

Peterson says the hands-on training and professional Mitchell Tech instructors kept him motivated throughout the program. He earned a \$500 merit scholarship in his second year and graduated with honors.

After graduation, Peterson worked for Coast-to-Coast Hardware in Presho for five years, where he handled HVAC services around the area.

In 2003, he moved to Rapid City to work for DGR Associates, providing HVAC service and maintenance for

residential housing at Ellsworth Air Force Base. He served in this role for two years and then took a job at the base HVAC Shop as one of a handful of civilian HVAC technicians.

In 2014, Peterson was promoted to Industrial Controls Automation Supervisor at Ellsworth Air Force Base. His department is in charge of monitoring the temperatures of 140 buildings on base and making sure rooms full of valuable equipment, servers, and technology don’t get too hot or too cold. Because the department uses modern automation technology, the ability to utilize programmable logic controllers is critical to the job.

“The HVAC and controls field has grown so much as far as automation. You have to learn daily to keep up with technology,” he says. “Today, people need to have backgrounds in HVAC as well as Information Technology and even cybersecurity to do what we do. The people we hire need to be motivated and ready to learn.”

Peterson says there is one other Mitchell Tech graduate on staff, and his department would always like to hire more.

“The problem is, any time a position opens, all the MTC students already have jobs lined up!”

Peterson lives on a hobby farm in Box Elder with his wife Christina, son Andrew (15) and daughter Grace (13).

“...discovered Mitchell Tech offered a two-year degree.”

# MTC Grad Finds Happiness in High-Voltage Experiences

“I have an amazing life. It doesn’t get any better than this.”

Jeremy Engles sums up his occupation as an Electrical Technician II working for Ottertail Power with genuine joy and gratitude. He can’t say enough about the role Mitchell Tech had in shaping his career.

Though he’s been working at Ottertail for the past ten years, Engles took a non-traditional route towards his current position. The 1994 Mitchell High School graduate earned a power line degree from Mitchell Tech in 1995. He graduated and worked in multiple industries, including electrical, manufacturing, geothermal, and production. Through it all, his fascination with high-voltage electricity remained.

“Finally, my wife asked me what I really wanted to do with my life,” he explains. “I told her I always wanted to work with high-voltage electricity. She encouraged me to go for it.”

That conversation was the catalyst for his return to the classroom. Engles initially thought he would pursue an electrical engineering degree.

“Then I saw Mitchell Tech had the Electrical Utilities and Substation Technology program,” he said. “I could not believe it. All the classes I wanted were packed into one

year. I could get a relevant degree and still work a full-time job. I was shocked to learn about this option because it didn’t exist when I was at Mitchell Tech the first time around.”

Engles made juggling classes and a job more manageable by earning a handful of credits from MTC the summer before he started the program. As a student, Engles was blown away by the hands-on experience.

“The courses were absolutely amazing!” he explains. “Program director Jerry Ehke is a wizard of an instructor. The Energy Training Center is big and comprehensive, filled with equipment I use every day. It’s just incredible.”

After graduating with an Electrical Utilities and Substation Technology degree in 2015, Engles saw a job posting with Ottertail Power in his Mitchell Tech student portal. He applied for the job and was hired as a level five apprentice with benefits and pay that exceeded his expectations. He went through the apprenticeship program and eventually earned his way to Electrical Technician II.

“The MTC Electrical Utilities and Substation Technology degree was a short-cut to my position,” he explains. “It’s like I found a cheat code to my dream job.”







1800 East Spruce Street | Mitchell, South Dakota 57301

If you have a story idea that would be great for this publication, please send it to [heather.kulm@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:heather.kulm@mitchelltech.edu).

---

# Building a Legacy of Success, One Scholarship at a Time

Establishing a scholarship is a powerful way to make a difference in the lives of Mitchell Tech students and surrounding communities. Scholarships open doors to opportunities that can shape the trajectory of a student's future, offering the chance to pursue their passions and achieve their goals.

The support and collaborative efforts of alumni, donors, and industry partners amplify the impact of scholarships, ensuring that even more students have the resources they need.

Join us in our mission and together we can make a difference in the lives of students and continue *building a legacy of success*.



[www.mitchelltech.edu/foundation/make-a-donation](http://www.mitchelltech.edu/foundation/make-a-donation)



Contact Heather Kulm at 605.995.7342  
or [heather.kulm@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:heather.kulm@mitchelltech.edu)