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CONTACT: Nick Wendell, South Dakota Board of Technical Education, 605-280-4331, nick.wendell@state.sd.us

Fall 2020 Headcount at Technical Colleges Increases by 55 over Fall 2019

PIERRE, S.D. – Fall 2020 enrollment in South Dakota’s technical college system has increased by 55 students over last fall, to a total headcount of 7,177. This number includes all full-time and part-time students, as well as participants in the high school dual-credit program.

The system includes Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, Mitchell Technical College in Mitchell, Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls, and Western Dakota Technical College in Rapid City.

South Dakota’s technical colleges have experienced steady enrollment increases over the past five years, growing from a total headcount of 6,569 in the fall of 2016. The growth can be partially attributed to increased enrollment in programs related to construction, health sciences, and marketing.

“Given the impact of COVID-19 on post-secondary education, steady overall enrollment with some increases in high-demand areas is good news for the technical colleges in South Dakota,” said Nick Wendell, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Technical Education. “This promising start to the fall of 2020 is a credit to the diligence and innovation of our faculty, staff, and administrators. It is also points to the faith South Dakota students and their families have in the quality of our technical education system.”

Unduplicated enrollment is broken down by technical college and compared to the fall of 2019 in chart one below.

Chart 1 Unduplicated Enrollment (Fall 2020)

College	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Change
Lake Area Technical College	2,228	2,217	-11
Mitchell Technical College	1,191	1,184	-7
Southeast Technical College	2,456	2,426	-30
Western Dakota Technical College	1,247	1,350	103
Total	7,122	7,177	55

The Board of Technical Education will discuss the fall 2020 enrollment report and other topics when they convene on the campus of Lake Area Technical College in Watertown on Thursday, October 8, 2020.