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Retention high at state technical institutes, LATI adds swine management option

The South Dakota Board of Education heard a report on state technical institute retention rates at its meeting earlier today. System-wide, the rate is 76 percent, the highest it has ever been.

"Our technical institutes have strong systems in place to support students from enrollment to graduation," says Tiffany Sanderson, director of career and technical education for the South Dakota Department of Education. "Student success centers, dedicated advisors and skilled faculty help students thrive. The result is a stronger workforce for South Dakota."

The Board also approved the addition of a swine management option to the agriculture program at Lake Area Technical Institute. LATI's agriculture program is intended to prepare students for employment in the agriculture sector or to return to family farms and ranches. The swine management option will add the following objectives to the school's large animal option:

- Identify common swine breeds, characteristics and uses, husbandry practices and biosecurity standards.
- Develop skill in swine nutrition, digestive anatomy, and ration management.
- Knowledge of operational swine facility management, including development of business plans.
- Provide training in safety, swine handling and swine reproduction techniques.
- Develop knowledge of swine anatomy, physiology and disease management.

LATI students will also be able utilize the swine education and research facility at South Dakota State University after its completion in late 2015 or early 2016.