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A PROPOSAL FOR



# Law Enforcement

beginning fall of 2014



**LAKE AREA**  
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

[www.lakeareatech.edu](http://www.lakeareatech.edu)

# **LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

## **Law Enforcement Technology**

### **Executive Summary**

Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) requests approval to begin a Law Enforcement Technology program. This program will be 18 months in length, resulting in an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. Students who successfully complete the program will be trained in legal, technical, and practical aspects of law enforcement.

Lake Area Technical Institute is an excellent fit for this program as we have solid partnerships with our local Police Department, county Sheriff's Office, and the Watertown Recreation Center. These entities will be instrumental when coordinating Gun Range/Taser activities, weapon storage, and workout facilities in addition to program development support and implementation. In addition, Lake Area Tech was named a Military Friendly School for steps implemented to ensure military service people succeed on campus. The proposed Law Enforcement program would directly target the veteran and military service member population as a viable career path option. Other target populations include individuals in the northeast South Dakota region and those who would benefit by completing their training and certification in South Dakota.

### **IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM**

The Law Enforcement Technology program is designed for students interested in a career in legal system procedures. This program will prepare individuals to apply legal, technical, and practical knowledge and skills in entry-level positions in the law enforcement field including positions as police/security officers, highway patrol officers, dispatch officers, and crime scene investigators. Students will be trained in the areas of Constitutional Law, Criminal Law/Procedures, Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene Evidence Collection, Juvenile Justice, First Responder Procedures, Communication, Technical/Report Writing, and Firearms. Students will also learn and understand how the legal and criminal justice systems work in tandem with local, state, and federal government agencies to promote a lawful

society. All students completing the program will receive an A.A.S. degree in Law Enforcement Technology.

## **OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM**

The primary purpose of the Law Enforcement program would be to graduate students with the necessary skills to be employed in the law enforcement field including positions as police/security officers, highway patrol officers, dispatch officers, and crime scene investigators.

The program will articulate appropriate high school credits, whenever possible, however high school articulation will be limited due to the specialized nature and detail of the Law Enforcement curriculum (Appendix A). LATI will explore possible articulation agreements with other post-secondary institutions once the program is started. Conversations with Mount Marty College about a 2 + 2 agreement have already begun.

Objectives will include the following. A graduate of this program should be able to:

- Use approved safety procedures in order to maintain safety and security of all citizens.
- Correctly and safely use all applicable weapons required for this program.
- Demonstrate critical communication and leadership skills.
- Demonstrate exemplary computer skills.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the legal system and current legislation.
- Practice safe, ethical, and legal field practice techniques.
- Demonstrate professionalism and related soft skills, including communicating with peers, supervisors, and community members.
- Utilize previous skill sets from prior military experience (where applicable) for a viable career option.
- Uphold the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics & Conduct.
- Understand how the legal and criminal justice systems work in tandem with local, state, and federal government agencies.
- Meet the requirements of drug testing, background checks, and agility fitness tests.

- Demonstrate excellent decision-making skills; particularly in emergency, high stress situations.
- Meet the tests of teamwork – coordination, communication and cooperation.
- Associate of Applied Science degree recipients will:
  1. Demonstrate critical thinking
  2. Develop professional competencies
  3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
  4. Apply mathematical concepts to solve quantitative problems
  5. Locate and effectively use information from various sources
  6. Demonstrate technological literacy
  7. Demonstrate an awareness of the organization and diversity of the human community
  8. Use theories and concepts to understand human behavior

## **METHODS OF OBTAINING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM**

The program will include classroom instruction and lab experiences, along with industry field trips, guest speakers, and capstone projects. The curriculum will incorporate a variety of instructional methods including use of Lake Area Tech's Innovation Center to enhance instructional materials with virtual instruction, streaming video, etc.

The program will partner with the Watertown Police Department and the Codington County Sheriff's Office to create and utilize training labs for weapons training and testing, as well as fitness facilities and evidence labs/storage.

The Law Enforcement program will work closely with an industry advisory board composed of representatives from potential employers. The Advisory Board will approve the curriculum, discuss and recommend equipment purchases and assist in forming partnerships to assist LATI with innovative curriculum and cost-sharing.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE NEEDS BASED ON LABOR MARKET DEMANDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH DAKOTA**

The 2010-2020 South Dakota Department of Labor employment projections for Law Enforcement occupations indicates an increase in the demand for workers in areas including police/sheriff's patrol officers and police/fire/ambulance dispatchers. Projected increases of 5.8 percent and 15.4 percent, respectively, are indicated in the report as are the average wages for these two occupations: \$20.10 and \$15.07, respectively. Please see Appendix B.

Nationally, employment projections in this area are also on the rise. The 2012-2018 data indicates an increase of 8.7 percent for police/sheriff's patrol officers and an increase of 14.2 percent for security guards. National wage averages for these occupations are \$26.74 and \$12.92, respectively.

## **POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY THE PROGRAM**

The program will be available to all interested individuals who successfully meet the established LATI admission criteria. The program will be full-time. All applicants must be high school graduates and must take an admission test to establish reading and math abilities. No restriction will be made regarding race, creed, gender, or age. The program will draw individuals from South Dakota primarily, and will be of particular interest to students who wish to complete their training and certification in the state of South Dakota. The opportunities for employment will be primarily in eastern South Dakota.

Because of the nature of the program, interested individuals will be subject to prescreening tests including, but not limited to, drug testing, a background check, and agility/fitness testing. Potential students will be advised that if they have been convicted, pled guilty or no contest to, or received a suspended imposition of sentence for a felony or other criminal offense (excluding minor traffic violations) they will be advised that it may not be possible to participate in the internship or clinical portion of this program. They may also be prevented from taking required certification examinations and be prevented from gaining employment in this field.

Any conviction for a crime of domestic violence will automatically prohibit entry into this program.

**PROJECTED THREE-YEAR BUDGET**

The program will be located on the campus of LATI and begin in the fall of 2014. In addition to on-campus classrooms and lab, LATI will partner with the City of Watertown and Codington County to share gun range facilities and on other training opportunities. The program will start 18 – 20 students the first year.

	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Instructor Salary/Benefits	\$53,000	106,000	110,000
Adjunct Instructors	\$5,000	5,000	5,100
Equipment	\$50,000	10,000	10,000
Supplies	\$5,000	5,000	5,500
Travel	\$2,500	2,500	2,750
Contracted Services	\$5,000	5,000	4,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$120,500</b>	<b>133,500</b>	<b>137,350</b>

**PROGRAM COMPETENCIES AND ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS OF SUBOCCUPATIONS**

Entry point: Fall 2014

Exit point: Graduation with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement Technology.

Job Titles: Police Officer; security officer, highway patrol officer; dispatch officer; crime scene investigator.

## **STATEMENT OF NONDUPLICATION**

Southeast Technical Institute and Western Dakota Technical institute have Law Enforcement programs. Both schools have indicated they are not opposed to LATI starting this program, because they have very few students from Northeast South Dakota enrolled at their campuses. As the letters of support indicate, the looming shortage of law enforcement professionals in the state justifies another program. In addition, creation of this program will encourage South Dakota residents to stay in South Dakota for their educations, as opposed to going to adjoining states.

## **SUGGESTED CIP CODE**

**43.0107 Criminal Justice/Police Science. (NEW)** A program that prepares individuals to perform the duties of police and public security officers, including patrol and investigative activities, traffic control, crowd control and public relations, witness interviewing, evidence collection and management, basic crime prevention methods, weapon and equipment operation and maintenance, report preparation, and other routine law enforcement responsibilities.

## **APPENDIX**

- A. Curriculum outlines
- B. Wage/labor statistics
- C. Letters of Support

18 Months ■ Credits Required for Graduation: 74.5 ■ Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree

**First Year – Fall Semester**

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
LET 100	Fitness for Life I	28	1
LET 105	First Responder	56	2
LET 110	Intro to Law Enforcement	84	3
LET 115	Diversity Training	28	1
LET 120	Mechanics of Arrest	128	1
LET 125	Criminal Law Procedures	84	3
LET 130	Law Enforcement Spanish	28	1
CIS 105	Computer Software Applications	48	3
SPCM 101	Fundamentals of Speech	48	3
Total		532	18

**First Year – Spring Semester**

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
LET 135	Fitness for Life II	28	1
LET 140	Criminal Investigations	84	3
LET 145	Constitutional law	84	3
LET 150	Interrogation and Documentation	84	3
LET 155	Juvenile Methods	56	2
ENGL 101	Composition	48	3
PSYC 101	General Psychology	48	3
Total		432	18

**Second Year – Fall Semester**

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
LET 200	Fitness for Life III	28	1
LET 205	Law Enforcement Survival	84	3
LET 210	Accident Investigations	56	2
LET 215	Firearms Training	56	2
LET 220	Patrol Procedures I	84	3
LET 225	Evidence	56	2
CSS 100	Career Search Strategies	14	.5
MATH 100	Basic Math	48	3
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology	48	3
Total		474	19.5

**Second Year – Spring Semester**

Course Number	Course Title	Clock Hours	Credits
LET 230	Fitness for Life IV	28	1
LET 235	Patrol Procedures II	84	3
LET 240	Advanced Firearms Training	56	2
LET 245	Emergency Vehicle Operations	84	3
LET 250	Corrections	84	3
LET 255	Law Enforcement Practicum	84	3
LET 260	Certification	28	1
LET 265	Technology in Law Enforcement	28	1
LET 270	Issues in Policing	56	2
Total		532	19

## Appendix B

South Dakota Employment Projections 2010 - 2020 and Wage Data for Select Law Enforcement Occupations												
SOC* Code	Occupational Title	2010 Base Number of Jobs	2020 Projected Number of Jobs	Actual Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Average Wage	Percentile Wages				
								10th	25th	50th	75th	90th
33-3051	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,730	1,830	100	5.80%	55	\$20.10	\$13.74	\$16.06	\$18.78	\$23.06	\$28.78
33-3012	Correctional Officers and Jailers	1,385	1,450	65	4.7%	38	\$16.40	\$12.21	\$13.52	\$15.78	\$18.45	\$22.25
33-9021	Private Detectives and Investigators	165	190	25	15.2%	5	\$18.59	\$10.45	\$11.79	\$15.19	\$26.22	\$30.81
33-3021	Detectives and Criminal Investigators	250	280	30	12.0%	8	\$31.70	\$19.14	\$21.50	\$26.10	\$43.15	\$56.51
19-4092	Forensic Science Technicians	25	30	5	20.0%	1	\$21.66	\$14.61	\$17.74	\$21.93	\$25.82	\$28.46
43-5031	Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	390	450	60	15.4%	14	\$15.07	\$12.13	\$13.04	\$14.51	\$17.00	\$19.24
33-9032	Security Guards	1,355	1,450	95	7.0%	37	\$12.91	\$9.25	\$10.34	\$11.86	\$14.46	\$19.71

\*SOC - Standard Occupational Classification, 2000  
[Click here for descriptions of SOC occupations by code \(2000 version\).](#)

### Projected Employment Notes:

Data is preliminary and subject to revision. Data for occupations with less than 20 jobs in 2010 not included. Number of jobs data for 2010 and 2020 rounded to nearest five.

Demand data is the summation of job openings estimated due to projected employment growth and job openings projected to be created due to replacement need of current workers. Replacement need is estimated by multiplying occupational employment estimates by national replacement rates supplied by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These rates estimate the number of job openings, by occupation, which will be attributed to a worker permanently leaving an occupation (e.g. retirement, death, exits the workforce, etc.). Average annual demand data are calculated by dividing by ten, the number of years in the projection period. For more information, see [http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/projections\\_methodology.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/projections_methodology.aspx).

### Wages Notes:

Wages do not include the value of benefits paid to workers.

Number of Workers: represents an estimate of the total wage and salary workers in an occupation across all industries. For certain occupations, the number of workers

Average Wage: represents the arithmetic mean of the wage data collected, calculated by dividing the estimated total wages for an occupation by the number of workers

Median Wage: represents the positional central tendency of a dataset where 50 percent of the wages fall below this wage and 50 percent of the wages fall above this

Percentile Wage: represents the percentage of an occupation's workers that earn less than or equal to that wage:

10th Percentile: 10% earn less than or equal to this amount; 90% earn more

25th Percentile: 25% earn less than or equal to this amount; 75% earn more

50th Percentile: 50% earn less than or equal to this amount; 50% earn more (median wage)

75th Percentile: 75% earn less than or equal to this amount; 25% earn more

90th Percentile: 90% earn less than or equal to this amount; 10% earn more

For more technical notes on wage data, please visit [http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/technicalnotes\\_wages.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/technicalnotes_wages.aspx).

Source: Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, October 2012.

Appendix C



**WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

128 North Maple Street  
Watertown, SD 57201  
Website: [www.watertownpd.com](http://www.watertownpd.com)

*Joanna "Jo" Vitek*  
Chief of Police

November 19, 2012

Ms. Colleen O'Neill  
South Dakota Department of Education, OCCTE  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Ms. O'Neill,

On behalf of the members of the Watertown Police Department (WPD), I am writing this letter to express our support of Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) as they seek to establish a 2-year Law Enforcement Degree Program. The WPD and LATI have enjoyed a long and lasting partnership for many years. We are excited about the possibilities a local law enforcement degree brings not only to Watertown but to all of East River and afar. Furthermore, we are confident in LATI's abilities to deliver a premiere law enforcement program.

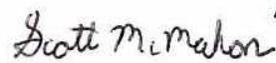
A Core Value of the WPD is KNOWLEDGE as we are committed to lifelong learning! WE value a college education. Also, we value life and military experiences too. The WPD has a higher education reimbursement program. We know that education and training are key to a professional, progressive and proactive law enforcement agency. While most of our sworn members have an Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degree, some do not. The LATI law enforcement program would afford those officers another opportunity to acquire an Associate's degree. Furthermore, we have just as many civilian personnel as sworn personnel. I am confident that some of our civilian staff will take the opportunity to enhance their criminal justice careers at LATI as well.

We totally and wholeheartedly support LATI's endeavor to establish and deliver a quality 2-year Law Enforcement Degree Program. Furthermore, we pledge our support and stand ready to support LATI as they move forward. The WPD staff consists of ethical, civic-minded, and hard-working individuals who embrace self-less service and partnerships. A 2-year law enforcement program at LATI is a good fit for the WPD and for all of Watertown. It is our privilege to stand with LATI as they move forward to deliver the best law enforcement program in all of South Dakota!

Sincerely,

  
Jo Vitek  
Chief of Police

  
Lee McPeck  
Assistant Chief of Police

  
Scott McMahon  
Captain of Support Services

  
Tracy Schaefer  
Captain of Special Operations

  
Ryan Remmers  
Captain of Professional Standards

**ADMINISTRATION**  
(605) 882-5237  
FAX: (605) 882-6216

**DETECTIVES**  
(605) 882-5238  
FAX: (605) 882-5257

**DISPATCH**  
(605) 882-6210  
FAX: (605) 882-5246

**RECORDS**  
(605) 882-6214  
FAX: (605) 882-6216



# SOUTH DAKOTA POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

*An Affiliation of the South Dakota Municipal League*

November 6, 2012

Colleen O'Neill  
SD Department of Education, OCCTE  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Ms. O'Neill,

As President of the South Dakota Police Chiefs' Association (SDPCA), I am honored to support Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) as they seek to establish a Law Enforcement degree program. LATI has an outstanding reputation throughout South Dakota and nationally. The SDPCA is confident in their abilities to deliver a premiere law enforcement training program.

Over a year ago, I had the privilege of hearing a presentation conducted by LATI Vice President Mike Cartney and Tech Prep Coordinator Dodie Bemis on the challenges and opportunities created by the generational differences in today's workforce. I was impressed with their research and the obvious investment made to stay progressive and proactive in education. LATI is extremely capable of equipping the next generation of law enforcement officers with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to have successful law enforcement careers in South Dakota and abroad.

Regional and national trends show a significant increase over the next ten years in career opportunities in the Law Enforcement profession. Nationally, there are 78 million Baby Boomers who are retiring through 2024. In fact, every 13 minutes of every hour of every day, 100 Baby Boomers are retiring. This pace will remain consistent through 2024. Simultaneously, there are 73 million Millennials who are already flooding the workforce and who will need training to successfully compete in the workforce. A significant percentage of Millennials will become law enforcement officers. We must stand ready to meet this challenge! Given LATI's progressive track record, we are confident in their abilities to meet the challenge and deliver a state of the art law enforcement program for South Dakota.

The SDPCA wholeheartedly supports the efforts of LATI. Let's keep and train our talent in South Dakota by creating a state of the art law enforcement training program at LATI.

Sincerely,

Jo Vitek  
President of the South Dakota Police Chiefs' Association



# *South Dakota Sheriffs' Association*

*Post Office Box 130, Howard, SD 57349-0130*

*Staci Eggert, Executive Director*

*Email: [admin@southdakotasheriffs.org](mailto:admin@southdakotasheriffs.org)*

*[www.southdakotasheriffs.org](http://www.southdakotasheriffs.org)*

December 6, 2012

To: South Dakota Board of Education

The South Dakota Sheriffs' Association supports Lake Area Technical Institute in a law enforcement program. We have seen the benefits in similar programs to our Sheriffs Offices. Through these programs students and law enforcement agencies recognize the importance of higher education. Sheriffs also see a graduate who is more "job ready" because many of the instructors often times have law enforcement experience. Ultimately the public benefits by having law enforcement officers who are better prepared and have realistic expectations of the what the occupation entails.

The South Dakota Sheriffs' Association has a proud history of supporting efforts to cultivate a work force in South Dakota for our Sheriffs Offices. For many years we have offered scholarships across the state to South Dakota high school graduates attending South Dakota Universities or Technical Schools in the area of Criminal Justice.

The South Dakota Sheriffs' Association feels the quality of education Lake Area Technical Institute provides in its current programs would benefit Sheriffs Offices, Police Departments, and other agencies by providing the same quality education in a law enforcement program.

We ask for your support of Lake Area Technical Institute in their pursuit of a law enforcement program.

Sincerely,

Staci Eggert  
Executive Director

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF HURON

P.O. Box 1369 • Huron, South Dakota 57350



November 5, 2012

GARY D. WILL, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Colleen O'Neill

DENNIS MEYER  
DEPUTY CHIEF  
SD Department of Education, OCCTE  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Colleen,

It is my pleasure to support the Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) as they move forward in applying for a Law Enforcement degree program. I have devoted the past 34 years as a law enforcement professional in several states including South Dakota. One of my primary focuses was to help train, coordinate and develop new Law Enforcement Officers in the State with our limited resources and funding and now, tighter budgets constraints, on the horizon.

The state of South Dakota is in a very critical situation with emergency service needs for Law Enforcement in both suburban and rural areas and this program is a great opportunity to start to fill the gap. This issue is being magnified by the impending retirement of many senior officers within my own agency as well as across the state.

One of our primary goals at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota is to have a premiere training facility to help keep up with the demand for Law Enforcement in Eastern South Dakota. The goal is important to us for several reasons. Regional and national trends show a significant increase over the next ten years in career opportunities in the Law Enforcement profession. Many small sheriffs and police departments here in South Dakota need personnel. Because of recent changes in the profession, requirements for these candidates have increased and it makes it more difficult to hire trained and qualified individuals.

There has not been a criminal justice program in Huron for over 10 years since Huron University closed its doors. When it was operating, Criminal Justice, was the largest degree program they offered. Every attempt to have Criminal Justice courses taught here have been rejected. The need is here but there are no programs close to us to obtain the training.

I fully support the efforts of (LATI) as they seek this program. If we train them here we have a better chance at keeping them here in the geographical areas in which they grew up - which would be a huge benefit for law enforcement in South Dakota.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary D. Will Jr.".

Gary D. Will Jr.  
Chief of Police



## ABERDEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Don Lanpher, Jr., Chief of Police*

Admin. Phone: (605) 626-7000  
Emergency Phone: 911  
Fax: (605) 626-3505  
Web://[www.aberdeen.sd.us/police/police.html](http://www.aberdeen.sd.us/police/police.html)  
114 S.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave..  
P.O. BOX 53  
ABERDEEN, SD 57402-0053

November 1, 2012

Colleen O'Neill  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Ms. O'Neill,

It is my pleasure to support the Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) as they move forward in applying for a Law Enforcement degree program.

I have worked thirty five (35) years in Law Enforcement; the past eight (8) have been in South Dakota. Throughout my career and during the past eight years one of my primary focuses has been to help train, coordinate and develop new Law Enforcement Officers in the State of South Dakota within our limited resources and funding and now, tighter budget constraints.

The state of South Dakota is in a very critical situation with emergency service needs for Law Enforcement in both suburban and rural areas and this program is a great opportunity to start to fill the gap. This issue is being magnified by the impending retirement of many senior officers.

As I understand the primary goal at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota is to have a premiere training facility to help keep up with the demand for Law Enforcement Officers in Eastern South Dakota. The goal is important for several reasons. Regional and national trends show a significant increase over the next ten years in career opportunities in the Law Enforcement profession. Many small Sheriffs and police departments here in South Dakota need personnel. Because of recent changes in the profession, requirements for these candidates have increased and it makes it more difficult to hire trained and qualified individuals.

I fully support the efforts of LATI as they seek this program. If we train them at LATI we have a better chance at keeping them here in the geographical areas in which they grew up – which would be a huge benefit for Law Enforcement in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

D.E. Lanpher, Jr.  
Chief of Police

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*



307 Third Avenue • Brookings, SD 57006-1908 • 605.692.2113 • Fax 605.697.8351

November 21, 2012

Colleen O'Neill  
SD Department of Education, OCCTE  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Ms. O'Neill,

I would also like to offer my support for Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) in obtaining a Law Enforcement degree program.

For many years as an executive in our department I have wondered why our area in South Dakota does not offer such a program at one of our technical schools. When I look at the number of officers that I have hired that have come from the technical schools in Minnesota, it demonstrates the need for such a program in our state. Although SDSU here in Brookings does offer a Criminal Justice Minor, very few candidates come to us from the college program. I believe many officer candidates recognize that a two year intensive program is just as efficient and economical for them to obtain for the type of work they are seeking. And I do believe technical schools offer more practical experience and education needed for today's new officers.

A new training facility would also aid financially strapped law enforcement agencies in an alternative to qualifying new officers, thereby placing the financial burden more on the student and not on the agency.

I support the efforts of LATI as they seek this program. And I agree as well that if we train them here, we stand a better chance of keeping them right here in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller  
Chief of Police

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# City of Mitchell

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY • 201 WEST FIRST • MITCHELL, SOUTH DAKOTA 57301

November 5, 2012

Colleen O'Neill  
SD Department of Education, OCCTE  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Colleen,

The Mitchell Department of Public Safety would like to express support to Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown as they apply for the Law Enforcement degree program.

I believe that Lake Area Technical Institute's pursuit in offering this degree program will benefit law enforcement agencies across the State of South Dakota. Many departments have limited resources and budget constraints that can limit their training budgets for new law enforcement officers.

It has become more difficult to fill department vacancies with qualified applicants as many do not have law enforcement backgrounds or degrees. In addition, departments are in competition with other agencies while trying to fill positions with trained applicants at the same time. Typically there is a waiting list for departments to get their officers into the Law Enforcement Training Academy.

It is my hope that the South Dakota Department of Education will grant the Law Enforcement degree program to Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown as it would offer students from around the area the opportunity to have an education in a premiere training facility while staying close to home and giving South Dakota Law Enforcement Agencies the opportunity to hire trained and qualified individuals.

Sincerely,



Lyndon Overweg  
Chief of Public Safety  
Mitchell Dept. of Public Safety

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(605) 995-8400  
Fax 995-8486

Fire Division  
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Fax 995-8486

EMS Division  
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Fax 995-8486

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