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Board of Technical Education approves two-year RN programs for LATI, MTI and WDT

WATERTOWN, S.D. – The State Board of Technical Education has approved a joint proposal from Lake Area Technical Institute, Mitchell Technical Institute and Western Dakota Technical Institute to create two-year registered nursing programs at each technical institute.

The joint nursing programs will create a bridge for students finishing the LPN program to obtain an RN degree, and respond to employer demands to meet healthcare workforce challenges. Southeast Technical Institute has offered this program since 2011.

The programs were authorized during the board’s two-day meeting at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown.

“Our technical institutes are key contributors to South Dakota’s workforce development efforts,” said Dana Dykhouse, the board’s chairman. “As a board, we can help them grow to even greater heights, and this meeting we approved a two-year registered nursing program.”

The board also heard from the state Department of Education on their career and college readiness aspiration and from each technical institute about their key performance indicators. Lastly, the board examined fall enrollment numbers and trends over recent years. With the success of dual credit opportunities for high school juniors and seniors, enrollments at the technical institutes have increased three years in a row.

The State Board of Technical Education was established on July 1, following the passage last fall of Amendment R and of Senate Bill 65 this legislative session. The board is charged with addressing the state’s skilled workforce pipeline and education through its oversight of the four technical institutes in Watertown, Sioux Falls, Mitchell and Rapid City.

Find more information about the board on the [Board of Technical Education webpage](#).