

21 Students Complete MFG Academy

A Recognition Ceremony celebrating the achievements of the students involved in the RTEC-First Dakota National Bank Manufacturing Academy as well as those who participated in the CNA Institute was held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2009, at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) at 1200 W. 21st St. in Yankton.

Featured speakers included South Dakota Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Dennis Everson of First Dakota National Bank. Representatives from the manufacturing academy and CNA institute also addressed the students and their families.

The ceremony recognized the 21 area high school students for their accomplishments during the two-week experience that was sponsored by RTEC and First Dakota National Bank. It recognized local manufacturers and other businesses that have supported the academy by donating funds, by hosting group tours or by providing internship opportunities.

Manufacturing academy students who were honored represented the Wagner, Vermillion, Avon and Yankton school districts. For successfully completing the academy, students received a stipend and may be eligible to receive high school credit, if their local school board has granted approval.

As part of the academy, students spent their first week touring local manufacturers and completing lecture and lab activities at RTEC under the direction of instructors Bob Evans, Dave Koupal and Eric Kotalik. Students have spent their second week completing internships throughout the community.

The eight students who completed the two-week CNA Institute were also recognized at the ceremony. The students, who represented the communities of Hurley, Volin, Tyndall, Freeman, Corsica, Emery and Yankton, spent their first week in the classroom setting and have spent their second week in a long-term care setting completing the clinical portion of their training.

Those who successfully completed the institute and passed the certification exams left with CNA certification and the opportunity to earn one-half credit towards their high school graduation requirements if their school boards approve.

For more information, please contact Josh Svatos, RTEC's General Manager, at (605) 668-5700.