

Yankton Sears Wins Premier Dealer Honor

The Sears Hometown Store of Yankton has been named a 2012 Sears Hometown Store Premier Dealer. This award recognizes Sears Hometown Stores across the country that consistently offer the highest levels of customer service, outstanding store performance and standards. In June, the Yankton store was one of only 334 locations through the U.S. to receive this national recognition.

"To be honored as a Premier Dealer is a great achievement not only for our store, but also for the community we strive to serve everyday," said Toby and Kerry Woehl, owners and operators of the Sears Hometown Store in Yankton. "We could not have earned this without the support of our community, and we want to thank our customers for shopping with us throughout the year."

Only 33 percent of the Sears Hometown Stores receive this prestigious award, and this year, each store receiving Premier Dealer status will be given the opportunity to participate in special events along with other Premier Dealer stores.

"We are thrilled to designate Toby and Kerry Woehl and the Sears Hometown Store of Yankton a Premier Dealer, as a testament to the hard work and dedication shown each and every day to support the community," said Will Powell, President, Sears Hometown Stores. "We are committed to continually assisting Hometown Stores and their communities, so that customers everywhere can shop closer to home and enjoy the quality and value found at Sears."

Sears Hometown Stores are a unique retailing concept; they combine the value, selection and services associated with larger retail stores but are owned and operated by a member of the local community. Sears Hometown Stores provide exceptional customer service along with a wide assortment of appliances, tools, electronics, fitness equipment and lawn & garden merchandise. In addition, Sears Hometown Store associates can order anything from the entire selection of merchandise offered by Sears Holdings including apparel, footwear, jewelry and much more for the customer. This unique format allows customers in small communities to have access to the great products and brands usually found only in Sears stores.

To learn more about Sears Hometown Stores, visit the Sears Hometown Store of Yankton, at 2901 Broadway Ave., Yankton, or www.searshometownstores.com.

Awards Handed Out At Federal Prison Camp

Warden Jordan R. Hollingsworth announced the following awards on May 8, 2012, at the Federal Prison Camp, Yankton, South Dakota.

Jean Orton, Medical Secretary, was recognized as Employee of the Year. Ms. Orton's exemplary organization skills and attention to detail are an asset to the Health Services Department. She processes and schedules all medical services in the community and ensures proper payment is made. Ms. Orton is self-motivated and goes above and beyond to assist her co-workers.

Timothy Engle, Lieutenant, was recognized as Supervisor of the Year. Lieutenant Engle serves as a liaison between the institution and numerous local, state and federal agencies. He utilizes communication and correctional skills to enhance the safety of staff and inmates. His diligence and attention to duty are a vital contribution to the mission of the institution.

Gary Boelter, Senior Officer Specialist, was recognized as Correctional Officer of the Year. Officer Boelter performs his duties with a high standard and possesses a solid working knowledge of policy and procedure. He provides guidance to his co-workers and completes all assignments with the highest of quality and expertise.

All three staff are truly an asset to the institution. It is with great pleasure that we recognize these accomplishments.

Personnel Changes Made At Williams And Co.

The following personnel changes have been announced for Williams & Company, P.C., of Yankton:

- Danielle Ward earned her CPA certification in June 2012. Danielle is a 2009 graduate of the University of South Dakota with a Master of Professional Accountancy Degree. Danielle began working with Williams & Company, P.C. in the Yankton office in May 2009.

- Daniel Semmler joined the Yankton office of Williams & Company, P.C. in December 2011 as a Staff Accountant. Daniel is a 2011 graduate of the University of South Dakota with a Master of Professional Accountancy Degree.

- Abby Doorn joined the Yankton office in May 2012 as a Staff Accountant. Abby is a 2012 graduate of the University of South Dakota with a Master of Professional Accountancy Degree.

- Lisa Kalt joined the Yankton office in June 2012 as a Staff Accountant. Lisa is a 2012 graduate of the University of South Dakota with a Master of Professional Accountancy Degree.

Williams & Company, P.C. is a full service certified public accounting firm. It offers a wide range of services to assist their clients in achieving their individual and business goals. Services offered include audit, accounting & tax assistance, business advisory, estate and personal financial planning, business valuation, litigation support, and computer software and QuickBooks assistance. In addition to Yankton, they have offices in Sioux City, Le Mars, Sheldon, and Onawa, Iowa and Sioux Falls.

Local Chiropractors Honored In Sioux Falls

Several Doctors of Chiropractic were honored at the South Dakota Chiropractors Association Annual Awards Celebration in Sioux Falls.

Recipients of awards included:

- Walt Wolf Going the Distance Award — Dr. TJ Stotz from Yankton.
- SDCA Retiring Board Member — Dr. Jim Fitzgerald from Yankton.

Yankton Native Passes CLS Exam

ST. LOUIS — Mark Wenzlaff of Yankton, a sales representative with Schaeffer Manufacturing, recently passed the Certified Lubrication Specialist exam.

The CLS is a certification offered by the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers.

Certified Lubrication Specialist (CLS) is the only independent certification for the lubrication professional that verifies your broad lubrication engineering knowledge. Certification recognizes those individuals who possess current knowledge of lubrication fundamentals and best practices in lubrication maintenance in industrial settings. Certified individuals must have at least three years of experience in the field of lubrication.

The value of STLE certification has been proven in the market place with increased income and immediate respect and credibility with buyers and peers. STLE offers three certifications, which are valid for three years and then must be renewed. These certifications are designed to be consistent with the standards of The Institute for Credentialing Excellence, ISO 17024, and also distinguish between a credible real professional and a "self-proclaimed" expert.

Kolberg Hosts SDSM&T Students

Eight students from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T) traveled to the Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI) manufacturing facility May 9 to learn more about future career options for engineering students and recruit South Dakota high school students to the university.

The students, who are members of the American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter, visited with SDSM&T alumnus and company president Joe Vig, who gave them a tour of the factory. Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. currently employs 12 SDSM&T alums.

Tony Kulesa, president of the ASCE Student Chapter and a senior civil engineering student, said it was inspiring to visit with Vig and get a personal tour of the facilities.

"We were very impressed with Kolberg-Pioneer - it was obviously a very efficient and optimized place," Kulesa said. "Joe [Vig] is a wonderful role model for students to look up to. It's always inspiring to see a real-life success story. For us students, it is great motivation and broadens our perspective on engineering and where we can go from here."

Vig, who graduated from SDSM&T in 1971 with a degree in civil engineering, said it's important for the company to continually reach out to engineering students within the state to remind them of the opportunities that exist in South Dakota for engineers.



Submitted Photo
Joe Vig, president of Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI), speaks to civil engineering students from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology at the Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. factory.

"Regardless of the focus of their education, it is important for South Dakota engineering students to know about manufacturers like Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. and what we produce," Vig said. "Not only is there a wealth of opportunities for engineers to work for the company, but the equipment we produce is directly tied to our country's infrastructure, and it's good for the civil engineers who plan our roads and bridges to

know what our equipment is capable of doing."

Vig also toured the Gavins Point Dam in Yankton with the students, where the spillway flow had been stopped by the Army Corps of Engineers to allow crews to inspect the structure for possible damage from 2011's flooding.

"It was fun to visit the dam with Joe because you could really see his passion for

engineering shine," Kulesa said. "We all appreciated the time Joe spent with us throughout the day."

In addition to stopping at Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI), the students also visited three high schools in Sioux Falls, including Lincoln High School, Washington High School, Roosevelt High School, as well as the Career and Technical Education Academy.

Persistence And Teamwork Bring RTEC Technical Training To Gregory

BY COLLEEN FLYNN

Gregory is at the forefront of a training initiative launched by Gov. Dennis Daugaard earlier this year. The Gregory BID group teamed with Ranchers Livestock Equipment and Welding on Highway 18 and RTEC to bring a welding course here. On Saturday, June 2, seven area residents completed the training. An advanced course is scheduled to begin June 22, 2012.

The welding endeavor began several years ago when members of the Gregory Business and Industrial Development (BID) group approached Josh Svatos, the general manager of the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) in Yankton. The BID group wanted to set up local welding training to meet the needs of the area and also develop a pool of skilled workers to attract additional businesses to the area.

Ranchers Livestock participation was key to bringing training here. They donated the space and welding equipment. Ranchers isn't getting any reimbursement, but they will draw benefit from it. They can draw from the pool of experienced welders that receive training and become AWS certified welders.

Svatos was at Ranchers Livestock with BID group member Ron Kyburz and Chamber of Commerce director Adam Houdeshell last Friday. Svatos said, "This is economic development right here. We have business, economic development and education teaming up."

Dr. J. D. Fogel has been involved with business development in Gregory for 30 years. Fogel said, "There's a huge need for welders in the state and nationally. RTEC had the facilities and the experience to get us into education," said Fogel. He sees this as a springboard to more training courses here.

"These students are now going to get certified. They'll be capable of making some very good money, and they don't have to go off to

some school. This training and certification helps them get jobs. If they don't find work locally, they can within the state," said Fogel.

Dr. Fogel emphasized that BID's focus was not just on young high school graduates. Bringing education and training opportunities to residents currently working here is also important. "A lot of our older residents have the capability of going on and having a more rewarding life, and that's been one of our goals."

"With the BID group, we've had some successful, and some not. I think this is turning out very successful, and in a few years we can offer more ongoing education opportunities in the community," said Fogel.

The Gregory-RTEC welding project was already underway, when Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced the South Dakota Workforce Initiatives (SD WINS) in January 2012. It's intended to train South Dakota workers to fill vacant high-tech jobs in the state.

Through SD WINS, RTEC took plans for the Gregory welding course a step further. Earlier this year, RTEC received a \$107,500 Community Development Block Grant through the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

The grant was used to purchase a trailer equipped as a mobile training unit carrying industrial-grade equipment. Gregory joined with Yankton, Winner, Lake Andes and Freeman to submit the block grant application. Also, each of the smaller communities contributed \$5,000, and Yankton contributed \$26,000 toward scholarships.

Another key player in the effort was the The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation. Lynn Koonrod of the Winner office assisted in identifying potential students and financial aid. Koonrod complimented the community as a whole, saying, "I think Gregory can take the credit for the success of this, and a lot of the support came from Josh, too." Koonrod also credited

Gregory Chamber of Commerce director Adam Houdeshell with moving the project ahead.

Svatos is open to pursuing training opportunities in Gregory beyond the welding course. He said, "We always explore all avenues," he said. "First, can we provide a quality product with the resources we have, and second, is it feasible from a cost benefit perspective? In other words, can we wrap our arms around it?" If the answer is yes, there's a good chance that

Gregory will host training for other skills through RTEC.

Coonrod said, "I have already had calls asking when the next welding class begins in Gregory."

In the meantime, the members of the first welding class will be returning for the advanced course that begins later this month at Ranchers Livestock.

The ADVOCATE will continue to provide updates on the program.

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