

RTEC

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our students are able to explore more with RTEC's help than we would be were they not here," said Andes Central High School principal Rocky Brinkman. "This partnership and the PLPs really lets our students explore and discover if this is something that they want to pursue and go forward with. We want to help our students find the careers that they want to go into once they get out of high school."

That dedication to personal exploration and discovery is something that Lammers said

might lead a student to find out that a traditional four-year college is not the right track for them.

"There are a certain percentage of kids that learn more from hands-on (education) than they do from a book; that is their way of learning," Lammers said. "It may be they are a better fit for a two-year or maybe just a technical course than a four-year college. Programs like this allow them to explore their opportunities."

Andes Central is the first high school to which RTEC has taken its program. Currently, students at Yankton High School and Bon Homme High School come to the RTEC building for class time. However, Svatos said he hopes

this is just the first of many such partnerships.

"It is all about educating everyone involved from the school board to the administration all the way down to the students," he said.

For students, the chance to tear apart and rebuild together computers, create robots, learn to etch glass and burn wood with a variety of different machines are opportunities that they look forward to each week.

"I thought this was going to be pointless at first, but then I found out this was pretty fun," said Andes Central junior Casanda Hazuk. "Then, I found how we were able to take stuff we had learned in other classes and use them here. So, I guess I

found that it isn't hard. I think this will help in the future. I plan to go into accounting and everything is done on computers. Knowing I can tear one apart and redo it if I need to is cool."

That confidence in their abilities is something that technology instructor William Jameson has seen develop and grow over the course of the year.

The opportunity to participate in the classes needs cooperation from both the students and the teachers. Because the class covers two school periods, students must rearrange their schedules, making up the classes they will miss, in order to participate.

"The teachers have been very good with letting the students switch times," Jameson said.

"Most of them will attend the same class first period instead of fifth so they can be here."

It isn't just the students in the class that are excited by the training. Students from other classes able to come in and watch the students as they were building robots Tuesday.

"Word is getting out, and they all want to be here," Jameson said. "Without the cooperation of the school making this a priority, these kids would be missing out."

Jameson also said he is proud of Andes Central's proactive approach to career and technical education.

"The administration has said that they have earmarked money for expanding the career and technical education program

next year," he said. "They are going to let RTEC take the lead as far as what we will buy and dovetail it with what we are doing. This has been an insurmountable advantage in what we are doing here. I think our administration took the lead with this idea and it has been snowballing since then."

That result is exactly what Svatos, Lammers and RTEC hope to inspire across all the schools in the region.

"I don't think the students realize the amount of hands on math and science that are getting," Lammers said. "The comments we hear are, 'Hey, this is pretty cool,' or, 'This is neat.' They don't even realize they are having fun while they learn."

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Kloucek of Scotland also attended the meeting, but mostly in a listening role.

Moser said he believes some reserve funds will be used to balance the budget.

"I would think they will be minimal, but at the end of the day, I think that's going to be the reality," he stated.

Rep. Hunhoff said he hopes work can begin to employ Democratic proposals to reduce the state's structural deficit in order to avoid future problems.

"I'm hopeful that right away we can start to work on zero-based budgeting and getting a 3-percent cap on state spending," he said. "Things like that would really get us on the road to some long-term solutions."

In other business Thursday, all three Yankton County legislators said they do not support a lawsuit filed by state Attorney General Marty Jackley arguing that health care reform just passed in Washington, D.C., is unconstitutional. It will cost the state \$25,000 initially to become involved in the lawsuit with 12 other states.

"I don't see what the positive end-game is going to be," Moser said. "With our budget situation, I don't think pouring money down that well is the right way to go."

Rep. Hunhoff said it is just one of several fights conservative members of state government have chosen to get into with the federal government during the last year.

"I can't imagine that we want to spend hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of dollars, on lawsuits with the federal government," he said.

"The other (12) states can go ahead and do it," Sen. Hunhoff added. "Ultimately, if the other states won, all the states would benefit."

On a much happier note that departed from the heavy political discussion of the night, Moser announced he will be getting married in August.

EXPERTS:

Many Breast Cancer Cases Could Be Avoided

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Up to a third of breast cancer cases in Western countries could be avoided if women ate less and exercised more, researchers at a conference said Thursday, renewing a sensitive debate about how lifestyle factors affect the disease.

Better treatments, early diagnosis and mammogram screenings have dramatically slowed breast cancer, but experts said the focus should now shift to changing behaviors like diet and physical activity.

"What can be achieved with screening has been achieved. We can't do much more," Carlo La Vecchia, head of epidemiology at the University of Milan, said in an interview. "It's time to move on to other things."

La Vecchia spoke Thursday at a European breast cancer conference in Barcelona. He cited figures from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which estimates that 25 to 30 percent of breast cancer cases could be avoided if women were thinner and exercised more. The agency is part of the World Health Organization.

His comments are in line with recent health advice that lifestyle changes in areas such as smoking, diet, exercise and sun exposure can play a significant role in risk for several cancers.

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