



# career & education

## Black Hills State University Offers Courses At RTEC

Black Hills State University (BHSU) offers a unique Associate of Science in Engineering Technology Degree at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) campus in Yankton, SD. Through a joint effort and input from local industrial leaders, the Engineering Technology degree develops the skills and knowledge needed in today's growing high-tech manufacturing industries.

Engineering technologists specialize in the development and implementation of existing technology within the field of engineering, as well as leadership and management personnel in areas such as safety management, lean management, production management to name a few. Engineering Technology is a discipline that bridges the gap between technicians and engineering and requires students to learn basic engineering design principles and hands-on technician skills. Graduates can expect to work with both engineers and technicians to provide the leadership and manage-

ment skills required to make the company work as a unified system.

According to Rick Duimstra, Finance and Human Resource Manager at Applied Engineering, "The BHSU Engineering Tech program offers an opportunity for our employees to advance their technical and management skill sets in various areas that otherwise may not be available in Yankton – Leadership and Management, CAD, Lean and other disciplines. We have had a number of employees participate in the courses offered by BHSU. We are pleased that BHSU has made these offerings available locally and encourage other individuals and companies to consider the educational opportunities that BHSU has made available to us locally with their curriculum."

BHSU also offers a non-credit certificate in Leadership created to enhance the management skills of leaders within industries and communities. Effective leaders recognize the necessity of

ongoing training and skills development required to meet the demands and challenges of today's workplace. Session topics include workplace communication and professionalism, team building and leadership, conflict resolution and negotiation, and management skill building. The topics and training can also be tailored to meet the specific needs of the audience participating in the training.

Additional Certificates in Industrial Leadership and Management, Mechanical Computer Aided Drafting, Advanced Computer Aided Manufacturing, and Lean Concepts and Management are also offered on the Yankton RTEC campus.

Classes are held in the evening, so whether you are just entering the workforce or want to advance your current skills, BHSU can help you! To learn more about what BHSU has to offer, contact Chaunte Wright Admissions Representative at 605.668.5700 or [Chaunte.Wright@BHSU.edu](mailto:Chaunte.Wright@BHSU.edu).

## Exploring Careers In Philanthropy

The growing number of nonprofit organizations and other philanthropic groups has made opportunities for careers in philanthropy more plentiful. Those with professional business experience or even students right out of college often find opportunities within organizations geared to giving back.



According to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, there are more than 1.4 million nonprofit organizations in the United States alone. These organizations need dedicated staff to run their operations, and employees of such nonprofits often find there are several advantages to working for charitable organizations.

\* Happier work environments: Working in philanthropy means improving other people's lives. Employees may be happy in their positions because they realize their work is part of a larger effort to help the less fortunate. The nonprofit sector will attract other like-minded people, and working alongside people with similar interests can make for a more enjoyable

workplace environment. \* Diverse responsibilities: Nonprofit operations are generally smaller than many other companies, and employees often find themselves with diverse responsibilities and more direct access to management and other decision makers. People interested in dabbling in various parts of a business may find the often intimate nature of the nonprofit sector an ideal fit.

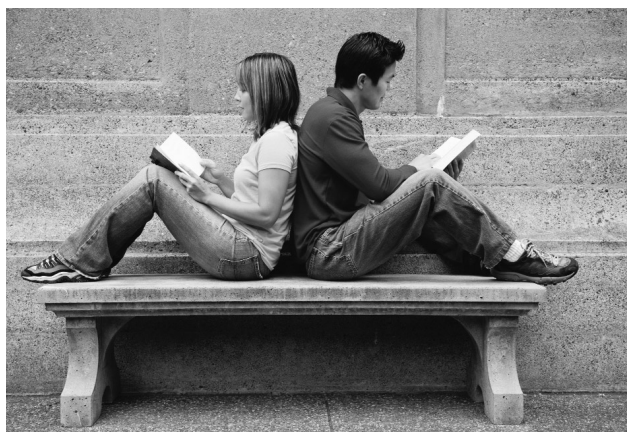
\* Opportunities for travel: Some nonprofits offer the chance to work outside of the country. Nonprofit organizations who work across the globe may help build homes or schools in less developed countries or establish arts and education programs in countries where such opportunities are lacking. A job in the nonprofit sec-

tor may allow people to experience new cultures and opportunities that may never present themselves in the private sector.

\* Growth opportunities: Wearing a variety of hats, as many nonprofit employees do on a regular basis, allows those working at nonprofit organizations to build their resumes in ways not available to men and women working at more structured companies. People who work in the nonprofit sector often find that their careers are rewarding for a variety of reasons.

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## Deciding If Graduate School Is Right For You



Graduate school has long been a place professionals turn to when looking to give their careers a boost. But the recent recession left many professionals wondering if graduate school would help or hurt their chances of finding a more challenging or fulfilling job.

As is typically the case during an economic downturn, graduate school applications increased during the recent recession, when job opportunities for new graduates were scarce, forcing many to seek shelter in graduate programs. But such shelter isn't always available, nor is a graduate degree for everyone. According to the Council of Graduate Schools, graduate schools received 4.3 percent more applications for entry into master's and Ph.D. programs in 2012 than in 2011. Despite the apparent growing interest in graduate programs, the number of students who began graduate studies decreased between 2011 and 2012, suggesting that perhaps graduate school is not for everyone, even those who go through the arduous application process.

Much of the reason for that decline in enrollment can likely be traced to the cost of graduate school; costs have grown larger during the recession, when even colleges and universities felt the sting of a sagging economy. During the recession, many schools were unable to devote as

much funds to incentives such as assistantships and merit-based scholarships as they were during those periods when the economy was thriving. As a result, even those applicants who were accepted to graduate school may have found their respite from the recession was likely to be anything but, forcing them to accept large amounts of debt in order to earn their advanced degrees.

Determining if taking on such debt was ultimately worth pursuing an advanced degree was a decision each individual had to make on his or her own. But more than just finances come into consideration when professionals are deciding if graduate school is the right way to further their careers.

\* *Career ambition:* Many people pursue an advanced degree out of intellectual curiosity, while many others do so in an effort to resuscitate their careers or facilitate a transition to a new career. Ask yourself if your career has reached a plateau and the next logical step is an advanced degree. If a graduate degree aligns with your career goals, then you likely won't regret pursuing such a degree regardless of the cost. On a similar note, if a graduate degree is required in another field you want to transition into, then the cost of that degree likely won't be too much of a hindrance. But if a graduate degree isn't necessary for your career but more of a shortcut to

furthering that career, then the cost of pursuing the degree might not be worth it, and it could be something you grow to regret when loan payments come due.

\* *Family:* Family also comes into play for many professionals who are weighing if an advanced degree is right for them. Graduate degrees are not easy to come by, and the work required to earn such a degree is considerable. Professionals with families must consider the impact their pursuits of advanced degrees may have on their families. Many professionals pursue advanced degrees part-time, which means they may not earn their degree in two years like full-time students will. Professionals with families must decide if the graduate degree is worth a three- or four-year investment and the sacrifices that will need to be made during those three or four years.

\* *Location:* The right graduate program for you will not necessarily be close to home. Unlike younger students or recent college graduates, professionals often have established ties within a community. This includes a network of friends and fellow professionals. Leaving that life behind to pursue an advanced degree likely won't be easy, so professionals considering such a pursuit should weigh the impact such a move may have on their quality of life and if that sacrifice is worth pursuing the degree.

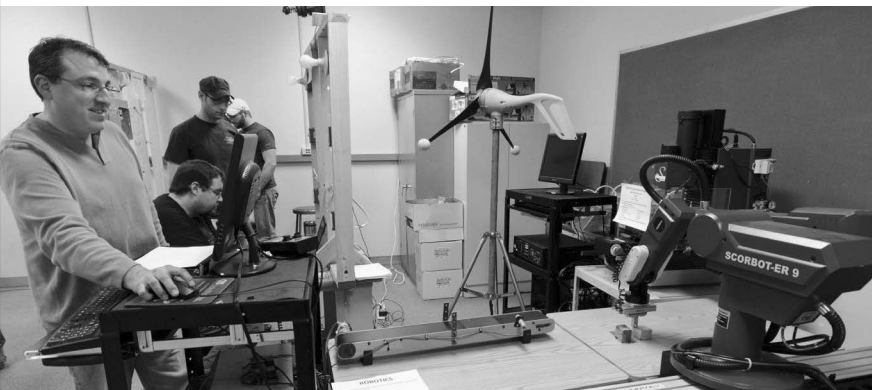
An advanced degree can be a great way for professionals to advance their careers while satisfying their intellectual curiosity. But such pursuits come at a cost, and those costs should be considered before the application process even begins.

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## Experience

what Black Hills State University has to offer students on the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) campus in Yankton, SD.

BHSU offers an Associate of Science in Engineering Technology Degree specifically designed to develop the skills and knowledge needed in today's growing high-tech manufacturing industries



Spring 2014 courses include:  
TECH 364 Quality Management  
TECH 241 Management and Leadership

In addition, Certificates are available in:

- Industrial Leadership and Management (ILAM)
- Mechanical Computer Aided Drafting (MCAD)
- Advanced Computer Aided Manufacturing (ACAM)
- Lean Concepts and Management



**Black Hills State University**  
~Transforming Lives~

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