



## Grand Opening Held for New DCTC General Motors Training Center

DCTC officially opened its new General Motors (GM) Training Center during an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 12.

The college will be one of only 17 GM training centers in the United States offering continued training to GM auto service employees, and will serve dealerships in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and western Wisconsin.

The new center boasts a newly-remodeled shop and carpeted classroom, four network data line outlets, and a new roof-mounted vehicle exhaust handling system. State-of-the-art equipment and tools, including 11 GM vehicles, which will be available to the trainees for coursework.

"Dakota County Technical College is proud of its new state-of-the-art training center. Now our college will not only offer training for people seeking to start a profession in GM automotive service, but also provide continued training to GM's existing automotive service professionals," stated DCTC President Ronald E. Thomas.



President Ronald E. Thomas cuts the ribbon at the GM Training Center Grand Opening with the assistance of MnSCU Chancellor Morrie Anderson. From left to right are general contractor Jack Parkos, Wold Architects Representative Craig Anding, Anderson, Thomas, GM Representative Dick Logan, DCTC Instructor Ed Norton, Rosemount Mayor Cathy Buscho, and DCTC Dean Jessie Stumpf.

### *Inside this issue:*

<i>NCA Accreditation</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Capital Budget Request</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>DCTC Advisory Committee Night</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>DCTC Highlights</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Retiree Breakfast</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>PTK Nominations</i>	<i>4</i>

### *DATES TO REMEMBER:*

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| * November 23-24        | Thanksgiving Break     |
| * December 20           | Fall Semester Ends     |
| * December 21-January 5 | Winter Break           |
| * December 25           | Holiday/Closed         |
| * January 1             | Holiday/Closed         |
| * January 8             | Spring Semester Starts |

The DCTC Dispatch is a publication of the Dakota County Technical College President's Office. Please submit articles or suggestions to Kim Gelhar, Editor.

# North Central Association Visit by Jerry Johnson



Dakota County Technical College is seeking continued accreditation from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. On March 5-7, 2001, the college will host a team of North Central Association Consultant-Evaluators who will visit DCTC to discuss the findings that we have documented in a 200-page Self-Study.

The team, chaired by Dr. Carmen A. Notaro, Director of Resource Development at Seminole State College in Oklahoma, will review our Self-Study and solicit internal and external stakeholder comments on DCTC's documented strengths and areas for improvement.

The title of DCTC's Self-Study, *Building on Success*, grew out of the idea that institutional accreditation is a continuous journey of building one success upon another. In developing this theme, we acknowledged that DCTC was successful in its pursuit of initial accreditation in 1996, and that we wished to build on this success by focusing on continuous improvement and obtaining continued accreditation.

The North Central Association accreditation process is voluntary and has two fundamental purposes: quality assurance and institutional and program improvement. This process evaluates and accredits the college in its entirety. Besides evaluating the formal educational activities of DCTC, NCA Consultant-Evaluators will assess such characteristics as governance and administration, financial stability, admissions and student personnel services, institutional resources, student academic achievement, institutional effectiveness, and relationships with constituencies outside the institution.

During their visit, the Consultant-Evaluators will be particularly interested in meeting with students and representatives of business and industry. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact Jerry J. Johnson, NCA Self-Study Coordinator, at 651-423-8234.

## Capital Budget Request

DCTC has requested \$17.3 million to create an Information Technology and Telecommunications Center of Excellence. The major components include information technology, telecommunications, and applied science areas. Additional elements include an expansion of Library technology, support services, a corporate training center, and a workforce center. DCTC's request has received an excellent review from MnSCU.

Additional testimony will be presented to the MnSCU Board in December.

## DCTC Advisory Committee Night



Faculty Senate President Charlotte Kodner discusses future technology plans.

On October 17, more than 300 individuals attended DCTC's All-Program Advisory Committee meeting. The evening's activities started with a reception with refreshments served by DCTC's Culinary Arts program. The meeting began with Al Eiden, DCTC Foundation Chair, presenting the Foundation's future fund-raising plans, followed by several DCTC staff detailing college priorities and plans for the future of the college. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by President Thomas explaining DCTC's \$20 million main campus renovation plans. He has received enthusiastic support for obtaining legislative funding to make this project a reality and asked for the support of all advisory committee members.

# DCTC Highlights

- ◆ Two DCTC students, Sean Goettsche and Michelle Lloyd, were awarded scholarships from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. They are among 400 recipients nation-wide who are being recognized for their academic achievements and record of community service.
- ◆ College service awards were distributed during Staff Inservice in August. Ed Norton, Byron Bercier, Nancy White, Sandra Scherb, David Gillespie, Sue Raddatz, and Ken Husolo received plaques for ten years of service; Gene Adams, Jill Behnke, Laura Meyer, Richard Otteson, Diane Frandrup, and Linda Kirkey received Cross pens for 15 years of service; Orville Troxel, Kitty Fesender, Clancy Trenda, Mary Beth Lonnee, Sandy Thomsen, Greg Osland, and Jerry Johnson received Howard Miller mantel clocks for 20 years of service; and Gayla Ryan and Ken Schottler received Seiko watches for 25 years of service.
- ◆ DCTC's new logo won the regional Medallion Award from the National Council on Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) and will be entered in a national contest held in mid-March.
- ◆ On September 14, the first two DCTC "All Star" awards were presented to Paul DeMuth for all his work in getting the GM Training Center completed, his help in the completion of the Master Facilities Plan, and his assistance with many other projects and to the team of Jessie Stumpf, Mark Hickman, Tim McCluskey, and Ed Norton for all their hard work in bringing the GM Training Center to this college.
- ◆ Customized Training negotiated a partnership with AT&T Broadband to become a regional training center for their technicians.
- ◆ Customized Training's Information Technology (IT) Training group has formed a partnership with CCTI, a Cisco Training Partner, based out of Denver, Colorado. DCTC will be the first and only provider of Cisco-certified CCNP-level courses whose facility, trainers, and courses are managed locally.
- ◆ President Ronald Thomas visited China during the last week of September with a group from Dakota County to seek and identify specialized training opportunities for Chinese students, cities, and businesses that could be offered by DCTC faculty/staff.
- ◆ DCTC will be offering 17 Technical Achievement Scholarships to incoming area high school students and 12 Technical Merit Scholarships to current students. Rita Hays, Financial Aid Secretary, recently won a drawing for \$500 at the Financial Aid Administrators' Conference and donated the money to be used for the first Technical Merit scholarship.

## Retiree Breakfast Held

Retired employees of DCTC were invited back to campus on Tuesday, October 10 for an informal breakfast in DCTC's Rainbow Room. Thirteen former employees attended this event and enjoyed an opportunity to reconnect with their former co-workers. After breakfast, a short presentation followed regarding plans for the future of DCTC, after which a tour was given of the new General Motors Training Center. Due to the tremendous success of this event, plans are already in place for next year's Retiree Breakfast.



Ray Swedeen, Willis Bauer, and Sandy Thomsen enjoy their breakfast.

**Dakota County  
Technical College**

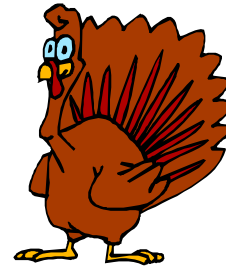
1300 145th Street East  
County Road 42  
Rosemount, MN 55068

Phone: 651-423-8000

Fax: 651-423-8775

E-mail: [admissions@dctc.mnscu.edu](mailto:admissions@dctc.mnscu.edu)

We're on the Web!  
[www.dctc.mnscu.edu](http://www.dctc.mnscu.edu)



Happy Thanksgiving!

## PTK Nominations for All-USA Academic Team

by Karen Halvorson

Two outstanding DCTC Phi Theta Kappa students are being considered for the All-USA Academic Team. This year's nominees are Johnnie Mallery, Applied Visual Arts and Graphic Design Technology, and Tim Lindbo, Retail Management. Both nominees have been active in Student Senate, Phi Theta Kappa, and several other college activities this past year.

The All-USA Academic Team is sponsored by USA TODAY, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The purpose of this program is to recognize scholarly achievements of students enrolled in community, technical, and junior colleges. The nominees are students who excel in the classroom; who pursue academic, career, and cultural enrichment outside the traditional classroom; who show evidence of development of talents in academic and technical education; and who have demonstrated an ability to share this development with others.

Independent judges from throughout the nation will review the nominations and select sixty winners to comprise the First, Second, and Third national teams of twenty members each. Nominees selected for the First Team will receive a \$2,500 stipend, a commemorative trophy, and a medallion from USA TODAY at the AACC Convention in Chicago, Illinois on April 5, 2001. Winners will also be featured in the April 5, 2001 issue of USA TODAY.



All-USA Academic Nominees Johnnie Mallery and Tim Lindbo, with Tim's assistant, Russ.