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On Friday, May 17, 2024, SDDOT and the City of Winner held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of two multi-year projects on U.S. Highway 18 and S.D. Highway 44.



"The SDDOT is blessed with an amazing planning & engineering and operations staff in the Winner Area and throughout the state. Our team is vital to achieving our mission to provide a safe and efficient public transportation system," said **SDDOT Secretary Joel Jundt.**





The Secretary's Corner

Prairie Hills Transit Ground Breaking

In late May, we will gather to celebrate a significant milestone in the journey of **Prairie Hills Transit** of Spearfish, a milestone that speaks volumes about our commitment to providing top-notch transportation services for communities. I am happy to highlight not only the construction of a propane fueling station, but also the remarkable transformation of the bus fleet, made possible through the competitive acquisition of discretionary grants.

Competing for grants is no small feat—it requires dedication, ingenuity, and a clear vision for the future. These grants are not just financial boosts; they are validations of our mission to enhance the quality of life for those who rely on public transportation for their daily needs.

The bus fleet enhancements represent a significant step forward in ongoing collaborative efforts to provide accessible, reliable, and high-quality transportation services. For individuals who are unable to transport themselves, these transit buses are lifelines, connecting them to essential services, employment opportunities, and social interactions. By modernizing the providers' fleet, we are ensuring that these vital connections remain strong and dependable for years to come.

The construction of the propane fueling station is a testament to our commitment to innovation and efficiency. Propane-powered buses offer numerous advantages, including lower operating costs, reduced maintenance requirements, and quieter operations. These benefits translate into a more comfortable and enjoyable experience for passengers and drivers alike, further enhancing the appeal of public transportation in South Dakota.

FY2023: Total - \$1,276,628 (vehicles)

People's Transit – \$487,752 Prairie Hills Transit – \$528,876 River Cities Public Transit – \$260,000

FY2022: Total - \$1,067,774 (vehicles)

Community Transit Watertown Sisseton – \$220,000

Prairie Hills Transit – \$250,400

River Cities Public Transit - \$312,374

Rural Office of Community Services Transit – \$220,000

One (1) Propane Fueling Station - \$65,000 Prairie Hills Transit

I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who played a role, our dedicated team at Prairie Hill Transit, our partners in the Federal Transit Administration, and all the citizens whose unwavering support drives us forward.

Don't forget to complete Cybersecurity Training

Most cybersecurity breaches start with human error, and we need your help to protect citizen data and the state's IT infrastructure. Employee awareness is one of the most important ways to combat attacks. We have partnered with BHRA to utilize the new, statewide **SDLearn Learning Management System** to streamline your experience.

You can access the training by following this link <https://sdlearn.csod.com/>, click **Employee Login**, and navigate to your **transcript**.

You have 30 days to take the training. Employees will receive reminder emails from SDLearn@csod.com. To receive credit for training, you must click **"Complete Lesson"** at the end of the module. For more information and instructions to access the platform visit: <https://bhr.sd.gov/sdlearn/>.

The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to your Transcript' page. It includes a header with the title and a sub-header: 'Here you can manage all your training – Assigned, In Progress and Completed.' Below this is a instruction: 'Change **Active** to **Completed** to view your completed transcript, and change **Completed** to **Active** to view training that needs to be completed.' A blue arrow points to the 'Active' dropdown menu. The main content area shows '0 HRS AGGREGATE TRAINING COMPLETED', 'FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/2024', and 'COST \$0.00'. There are filters for 'Filter by Training Status' (Active), 'Sort by' (Due Date), and 'Filter by Training Type' (All Types). A search bar is labeled 'Search by Keyword'. Below the filters, it shows 'Search Results (4)' with one result: 'Cybersecurity Awareness' with a due date of 6/5/2024, status of In Progress, and training type of Curriculum. An 'Open Curriculum' button is visible next to the result.

2024 Hall of Honor Nominations Due by 5 p.m. (CT) on Friday, May 24, 2024!



The South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor Committee is accepting nominations for review and consideration for induction into the 2024 South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor.

The purpose of the Transportation Hall of Honor is to recognize individuals who have made a lasting, valuable, and/or unique contribution to South Dakota's air, highway, public transit, or rail transportation system.

Hall of Honor nomination forms are available online on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov> under the featured resources section on the home page. A list of all Hall of Honor inductees to date is also available on the SDDOT website.

[Click here](#) for a direct link to the 2024 nomination form, if you need further assistance, please contact Kari Kroll at 605-773-5105 or kari.kroll@state.sd.us.



Watch the 2024 SDDOT Graduation video by clicking on the graphic above.

Graduate photos and short bios are also found on the next few pages of this newsletter edition!

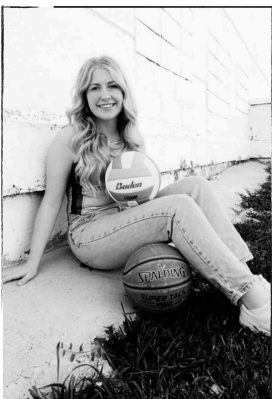
Alexis Lunstra graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from USD.

Future Plans: She is employed with Sanford Medical Center Sioux Falls in the NICU Department. She is the daughter of **Keith Lustra, Mitchell Region Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, and Heather Lunstra.



Whitney Payne graduated from Plankinton High School.

Future Plans: Attend SDSU and major in Family and Consumer Science Education. She is the daughter of Ken and Michelle Payne. **Ken Payne is the Highway Maintenance Supervisor for Unit 253 in the Mitchell Area.**



Jaxon Vermundson is graduating from Rapid City Central High School.

Future plans: He plans to attend Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls for construction management. He is the son of **Krystl Vermundson, Senior Secretary for the Rapid City Region/Area.**



Emalee M. Larson is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: She will be attending SDSU to major in architecture. She is the daughter of **Shelley M. Larson, Pierre Region Senior Design Engineer/Engineer Manager II.**



Slade Parmely is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: He plans to work. He is the son of **Stacy Parmely-Accountant II, Central Office, Pierre.**



Addison Coate is graduating from Douglas High School.

Future Plans: She aspires to open her own beauty salon and bookstore. She is the daughter of **Alora Coate, Internal Services/Transportation Analyst, Rapid City.**



Andrew Fergen is graduating from Mitchell High School.

Future Plans: He will be attending SDSU to major in psychology. He is the son of **Craig Fergen, Journey Technician in the Mitchell Area.**



Jarron Beck is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: He will be attending SDSU to major in biology with plans to pursue pre-dentistry. He is the son of **Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management, Central Office, Pierre.**



Natasha Winter is graduating from Hill City High School in Hill City.

Future Plans: She will be attending SDSM&T to pursue Bio-Medical Engineering. She is the daughter of **Keith Winter, PE, Quality Management Engineer, Custer.**



Jadon Anderson-Boardman is graduating from T. F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: He plans to work at this point. He is the son of **Brandy Cooper, Accountant, Central Office, Pierre.**



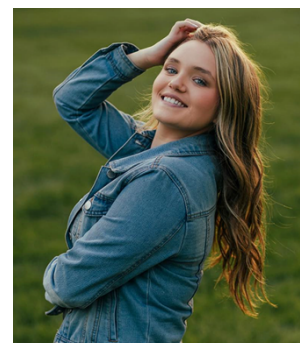
Luke Hodges is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: He will be attending SDSM&T in the fall and is enrolled in the Metallurgy program. He is the son of **Darin Hodges, Concrete Engineer, Pierre.**



Madison Prellwitz is graduating from Garretson High School.

Future Plans: Attend the University of Nebraska Omaha in the dental program. She is the step-daughter of **Jacob Rosecky, Road Design Consultant Management Supervisor, Sioux Falls.**



Blake Weisgram is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future plans: Attend the University of South Dakota to major in Business Administration with a specialization in marketing. He is the son of **Sam Weisgram, Standard and Letting Squad Leader, Central Office, Pierre.**



Jazzlyn Rombough is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: She will be attending Augustana University to major in Biology with an emphasis in pre-optometry. She is the daughter of **Lisa Rombough, Surfacing Plans Project Engineer, Central Office, Pierre.**



Melinda Clements is a 2024 Graduate of North Dakota State University with a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design and a minor in Business.

Future Plans: Work in the commercial interior design field. She is the daughter of **Jennifer Boehm, a Transportation Specialist in Pierre,** and **Phil Clements, a Pavement Management Engineer in Pierre.**



Jack Darling is graduating from South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Future Plans: Career in agribusiness. He is the son of **Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel for SDDOT.**



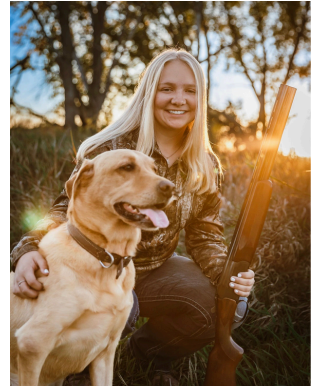
Laurel Darling is graduating from South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Future Plans: Career as a Librarian. She is the daughter of **Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel for SDDOT.**



Annie Henderson is graduating from Sturgis Brown High School in Sturgis.

Future Plans: She will be attending the University of Wyoming to major in Animal Science. She is the niece of **Steve Palmer, Engineering Supervisor in Rapid City.**



Jessalyn Holden is graduating from SDSU with a Bachelor of Science in Business Economics with a minor in Accounting.

Future Plans: She has already been hired by SDSU as a Budget Analyst. She is the daughter of **Darla Brandlee, Senior Secretary of the Watertown Area.**



Evan Becker graduated from Dakota State University.

Future Plans: Working in computer game design. He is the son of **Jon Becker, Aeronautics Engineer, Air, Rail and Transit.**



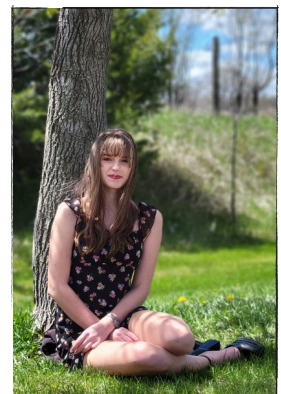
Allison Johnson graduated from South Dakota State University.

Future Plans: 7th Grade Science Teacher, Pierre. She is the daughter of **Ryan Johnson, Senior Specification Engineer.**



Jodey Olson is graduating high school. She was home-schooled in Aberdeen.

Future Plans: She will be attending Northern State University majoring in Biochemistry and Pre-Medicine. Jodey is the daughter of **Josh Olson, Aberdeen Region Bridge Engineer.**



Jamison Smith is graduating in the Summer of 2024 from LSU in Baton Rouge LA, B.S. in Microbiology.



Future Plans: Return home to Pierre and work within the microbiology field. He is the son of **Jason Smith, Pierre Region Materials Engineer.**



Jasie Smith is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Future Plans: Accepted into the Pharmacy Program at South Dakota State University. She is the Daughter of **Jason Smith, Pierre Region Materials Engineer.**



Mackenzie Magee will be graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.



Future Plans: She is looking into programs with the Navy as an Officer, or going into the Navy Nuclear Engineering Program. She is the daughter of **Mike Hauptman-Magee, a Transportation Planning Engineer, Pierre.**



Chace Humphrey graduates from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre and was sworn into the South Dakota National Guard on April 18.

Future Plans: Following Basic Training, he will attend South Dakota State University and pursue a degree in Aviation. Chace is the son of **Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer.**



Caitlin Ott is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.



Future Plans: To attend Minnesota State University, Mankato majoring in Psychology. She is the daughter of **Chris Ott, Internal Services/Audits program manager, Pierre.**

Welcome Jon Johanson - SDDOT's New Safety Manger



Jon Johanson attended middle and high school in Chamberlain, SD. After one year of college, at the North Dakota State College of Science, in Wahpeton, ND, Jon joined the Air Force and was stationed at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and Minot AFB, North Dakota. He was assigned the role of Aircraft Armament Systems Technician.

After being stationed at Minot, Jon joined the Air Force Reserve, chose to cross-train in the Paralegal career field, and returned to Alaska. His career in the Air Force ended after 11 years.

Jon received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Alaska Anchorage, a bachelor's degree in Occupational Safety from Columbia Southern University, and an MBA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In 2011, he volunteered to serve as a Safety Specialist while employed at a small telephone company in Anchorage.

In 2015, he joined the dominant telecommunications company in Alaska and served as their Sr. Manager, Safety and Risk Management. He was responsible for managing their workers' compensation program, fleet and general liability claims, ergonomics, OSHA recordkeeping, and many other programs.

In January 2024, he saw a job announcement on LinkedIn for the Safety Manager job with the SDDOT without high hopes of getting an interview or plans to return to South Dakota. However, he was wrong and was eventually offered the position.

After 23+ continuous years in Alaska, Jon drove his car south of the Alaska/Canada highway. He left Anchorage on April 18 and arrived in Sioux Falls on April 23, 2024. His wife and two daughters will arrive in Sioux Falls sometime in August.

After gaining an understanding of the existing SDDOT safety program and policies, Jon would like to focus on the following short-term goals:

- Meet SDDOT personnel in the different regions.
- Observe the work that SDDOT maintenance crews do across the state.
- Complete ride-alongs with the maintenance crews.
 - Get his hands dirty and help with getting the work done.
- Serve as a resource for all personnel regarding safety concerns/issues.
- Work with the Safety Committee to reduce the frequency of work-related injuries.
- Work on making the safety culture at the SDDOT even better.



Western States Coalition Leadership Academy

Cohort 3 in Sheridan, Wyoming

Front row left to right: **Les Winsell, Pierre Area Highway Maintenance Supervisor; Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Operations Engineer; Steven Weisz, Mitchell Region Operations Engineer; Arianna Griffey, Pierre Bridge Engineer.**

Back row left to right: **Bryce Kampa, Pierre Soils Engineer; Brandon Soulek, Pierre Region Access Management Engineer; Chris Bliss, Belle Fourche Construction Project Engineer; Jon Suomala, Rapid City Operations Engineer; Keith Winter, Custer Quality Management Engineer.**



Congratulations to Doug Kinniburgh!



Doug Kinniburgh, who works with our Local Government Assistance Office, recently received the 2024 South Dakota Association of County Officials (SDACO) Excellent Service to South Dakota County Officials Award.

The award was presented by Susan Lamb, Sully County Auditor and President of the SDACO Executive Board at the SDACO Spring Workshop. Doug was nominated by Doug DeBoer, Hand County Auditor, and selected as this year's recipient by the SDACO Executive Board.



SDDOT Job Shadowing Opportunities

Jonah Musser, a senior at Colome High School, recently completed a job shadow experience with the SDDOT.

Jonah shadowed **Jordan Nelson, Winner Area Project Engineer**, as they toured current projects.

After graduation, Jonah is considering going to college for civil engineering and wanted an in-depth look into a "day in the life" of a civil engineer. As they toured projects, Jordan provided insight on what goes into being a project engineer and how his role plays an important part in keeping South Dakota's transportation system operating smoothly.

AGC 4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Billboard Contest Winners

Each year the SDDOT collaborates with Associated General Contractors (AGC) of South Dakota and area contractors to build and maintain South Dakota's roads and bridges. Together we also work very hard to keep drivers and workers safe! For several years, we have partnered with AGC to sponsor a work zone awareness billboard design contest in elementary schools across the state.



Bruce Schroder, Aberdeen Engineer, and **Mike Johnson Webster Lead Highway Maintenance Worker** present the Webster Elementary contest winner, **Penny** with her award. Penny's contractor sponsor was Foothills Contracting and her billboard was placed on U.S. Highway 12.

Bridgewater-Emery Elementary contest winner, **Jonathan**, with his award. Jonathan's contractor sponsor was SFC Civil Constructors.

His billboard was up on Interstate 90, near the Salem exit.



Kirk Henderson, Sioux Falls Project Engineer, presents the Legacy Elementary winner, **Starla**, with her award. Starla's contractor sponsor was Blank BX Civil & Construction.

Her billboard was placed on Interstate 29 near the Tea exit.



Bridgewater-Emery Elementary winner, **Rhyder**, with his award. Rhyder's contractor sponsor was ASCO - Asphalt Surfacing Company.

His billboard was placed on Interstate 29 in Sioux Falls near mile marker 77.



SDDOT Engages with Youth at STEAM Night in Pierre

Shelley Larson, Pierre Region Senior Design Engineer; Joanne Hight, Administration Program Manager; and Danny Doorn, Transportation Research Engineer (pictured below), represented the SDDOT during Jefferson School's STEAM night on Thursday, April 25, 2024. The event focused on activities involving science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

The SDDOT challenged students to use a "design thinking" mindset and problem-solving as they constructed towers with spaghetti noodles and mini marshmallows. Students focused on two and three-dimensional shapes (generally squares, triangles, cubes, and pyramids) to build their towers. Students learned that with iteration through failure, we can improve and achieve success!

As the students finished their towers, Joanne and Danny measured how tall they were for the board.



The Tallest tower was 35 ¼" tall and was constructed by Logan (5th Grade).



Aliya -17" (4th Grade)



Henry 15 1/4" (2nd Grade).

AUDITORS ANONYMOUS

MEET THE TEAM YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD!



Back row left to right: Cely Johnson, Danae Dean, and Rip Ray.

Front row left to right: Jana Uhrig and Rochelle Grambihler.

The Audits team consists of five people who specialize in external audits. Though mistakenly being named Internal Audits for years, we do NOT do internal audits at this time.

Meet Your Auditors:

- **Danae Dean, Auditor I** – sings in her church worship team, and lives by Lilo & Stitch’s “Ohana means family.”
- **Rochelle Grambihler, Auditor II** – Asian enthusiast including anime, ramen, and sushi.
- **Cely Johnson, Auditor I** – If she has money, she buys books. If only her love of Harry Potter would allow her to conjure pesky things like food and clothing.
- **Rip Ray, Auditor III** – loves everything Harley Davidson, riding his bike for BACA, and won’t turn down a taco.
- **Jana Uhrig, Auditor III** – Loves Nightmare Before Christmas, Metallica, kittens, and poetry.

The purpose of our office is to ensure tax dollars are paid in compliance with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. We also help our agency stay compliant by confirming money is spent on allowable and eligible expenses. Without these safeguards against findings, the government has the right to reduce or stop funding.

In short, the team reviews single audits, contracts, overhead rates (aka indirect cost rates), work orders, and vouchers that are federally funded, and some select state-funded projects. We perform risk assessments on subrecipients of federal grants and ensure subrecipients, consultants, and vendors are following the guidelines of their contracts.

Please stay tuned in upcoming “Connecting the DOTs” to read about common errors in work orders or voucher submissions and helpful tips to avoid getting calls or emails from us. Remember that when we all work together toward a common goal, our processes are more efficient.

Finance Corner

FY2024 YEAR-END

FY2024 year-end is right around the corner. Please try to get any outstanding invoices/statements paid:

- CMP Payments
- Direct Vouchers
- Employee Travel Vouchers
- Negotiated Contract Payments
- Pcard Statements
- Purchase Orders
- Etc.

NOTE: Please do not process any credit invoices unless you have other invoices to offset the credit. Any outstanding credit invoices remaining in the accounting system at year-end will have to be deleted and re-entered at the start of FY2025. Another option is to have a refund requested from the vendor.


If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Central Finance office.

Contact information can be found on the DOT intranet at:
<https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/fin/FinanceContacts.pdf>



Finance Corner

New Out of State Travel Request Form

DOT-109						<p>Instructions</p> <p>This form must be filled out to request approval to travel out of state.</p> <p>Each traveler must submit an individual travel request.</p> <p>Out-of-state travel must be approved by your Supervisor, your Program Manager, Division Director, and the Secretary of Transportation.</p> <p>Provide a copy of this request to Secretary of Transportation's Executive Assistant.</p> <p>After the trip, attach the signed form to your travel voucher.</p> <p>Enter the origin and destination(s).</p> <p>Show dates and times of each departure.</p> <p>Enter return date and time</p> <p>Estimate trip costs. The spreadsheet will total the final cost.</p> <p>Lodging per Night includes hotel fees only, excluding taxes. The Secretary of Transportation must specifically approve lodging costs exceeding \$175/night, up to a maximum of \$275 per night.</p> <p>If an external organization is funding any of the travel, identify the organization and enter the funding amount.</p> <p>All signatures must be in ink, <u>in a color other than black</u>.</p> <p>Out-of-state travel must be approved by your Supervisor, your Program Manager, Division Director, and the Secretary of Transportation.</p> <p>The Executive Assistant to the Secretary must get a copy of all Out of State request forms, which are scanned into File Director.</p>
Rev. 05/24	OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST FORM					
Traveler's Name (Last, First)			Program/Office:			
			Office Phone:			
			Home Phone:			
Purpose of Travel						
METHOD OF TRAVEL						
Check all that apply		<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Air	<input type="checkbox"/> State Air	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Vehicle Low Mileage Rate	High Mileage Rate allowed only if no BOA or DOT vehicle is available. Written verification is required with your expense reimbursement claim.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Air	<input type="checkbox"/> State Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Vehicle High Mileage Rate		
TRAVEL INFORMATION						
ORIGIN					Departure Date	Departure Time
Segment	Destination				AM	PM
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
RETURN TO ORIGIN			Return Date and Time			
COST ESTIMATE						
Transportation	Meals	Lodging	Lodging per Night	Registration	Other	Total Costs
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUNDING						
Federal	State (Highway, Railroad, etc.)	Non-State	Non-State Funding Source (Entity providing the funds)	Non-State Share	Total Funding	
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		None	\$0.00	
APPROVAL						
Traveler's Signature		Date	Approving Officer		Date	
Approving Officer		Date	Cabinet Secretary		Date	
Approving Officer		Date	Travel Approved / Denied			
			<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied			
Approving Officer		Date	Excess Lodging Approved / Denied			
			<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied			

***Please replace all old versions of this document.**



TRAINING UPDATE
Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
May 2024



Distracted Driving

Take just three minutes to watch this video designing for the health and safety of all SDDOT employees.

Today I will... make safety my priority.

<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/b085a0f7-c0eb-4c29-aa1b-5de1b7865e57>

SDSU Drone Day

Drone Day was held on the SDSU Brookings campus at the Student Union in the Volstorff Ballroom on Thursday, April 25, 2024. **Josh Olson, Region Bridge Engineer; Jon Nelson, Chief Land Surveyor; and Larry Dean, Planning Data Manager**, gave an SDDOT drone development and drone application presentation to the attendees. **Kimberly Zerr, GIS Coordinator**, participated by answering GIS questions and flying a drone for the first time.

This year's event was invite-only, comprising an audience of college students, high school upperclassmen, and industry professionals with varying levels of experience with drone technology. The day was designed to foster networking among college students, researchers, faculty, and industry experts.

The main goals were:

- Increasing awareness of different fields utilizing drone/UAS operations.
- Offering hands-on experiences for those new to piloting aerial systems.
- Facilitating information exchange and networking opportunities with drone/UAS experts and enthusiasts.



Pictured above: Josh Olson (left), Larry Dean (middle), and Jon Nelson (right).





May Mentoring Minute

By: Matt Dorfschmidt and Tim Wicks

As another program year closes, we as the Mentoring Committee wanted to take a second and thank each and every employee who helped make this program a major success. Thank you to all the mentors, situational mentors, mentees, supervisors, and Secretary Jundt as our Program Champion. This program works because of everyone's dedication and commitment to the continual improvement and professional development of all SDDOT employees.

On May 1, 2024, the current mentoring program officially ended. As part of the celebration, the mentoring pairs received certificates from Secretary Jundt.



May Mentoring Minute Continued...

Prior to the mentoring event on May 1, 2024, six participants were selected by random draw to have lunch with Secretary Jundt. This lunch was provided by members of the mentoring committee.



Lunch participants: Misty Berg, Gene Ericson, Josh Timmerman, Secretary Joel Jundt, Doug Sherman, Brent Valandra, and Jason Baker.

As one session ends, we are always moving forward to the next one. We are hopeful experienced mentors continue to share their knowledge in the future and mentees who have completed the program participate as mentors.

The mentoring committee also wants to welcome **Tanya Liska from the Yankton Area** to the mentoring committee. We know Tanya will bring the energy and enthusiasm she did as a mentor to the committee.

The committee will be hard at work planning the 2024-2025 mentoring program which will kick off in September 2024.

Make Time for Mentoring!



In May, Director of Operations, Craig Smith, joined AGC members at the Transportation Coalition Fly-In in DC that included meetings with Senator John Thune, Representative Dusty Johnson, and Senator Mike Round's staff.





WORKFORCE

Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club

- Cheri Bartlett (ROW Specialist) from Pierre chose the book and will moderate the discussion.
- The book club is limited to **35 people**.
- If you or someone you know would like to participate in the book club, please visit with your supervisor to make sure that your participation won't impact your work schedule.
- Participation is on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Books will be provided to all participants.

The book club will be held in person at:
Becker-Hansen Building Commission Room
700 E Broadway Ave Pierre SD 57501
Or via Microsoft Teams

FOREWORD BY
New York Times Bestselling Author
JOHN C. MAXWELL

**BE THE
UNICORN**

12

**Data-Driven Habits that
Separate the Best Leaders
From the Rest**

**WILLIAM
VANDERBLOEMEN**

**Tuesday
August 6, 2024**

11am – 2pm

***This is a working lunch.
Please bring your lunch**

**Contact Scott to sign up:
scott.eisenbeisz@state.sd.us**

605-626-7874

***Registration Ends: Friday, May 31, 2024**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

May 2024 Longevity:

- Doug Lassel, Traffic Data Technician – 20 years (Central Office – TIM)
- Levi Briggs, STIP Coordinator – 20 years (Central Office – Project Development)
- Bryan Parks, Transportation Project Manager/Traffic Control – 25 years (Rapid City Area)
- Brad Horstman, Transportation Project Manager – 35 years (Winner Area)
- Todd Seaman, Region Engineer – 40 years (Rapid City)
- Todd Thompson, Bridge Maintenance Engineer Manager – 40 years (Central Office – Bridge)



Todd Seaman, Rapid City Region Engineer, receives his 40-year pin of service to the citizens of South Dakota from **SDDOT Secretary Joel Jundt** and **Craig Smith, SDDOT Operations Director.**

Steve Johnson, Chief Bridge Engineer Manager, presented **Todd Thompson, Bridge Maintenance Engineer,** with a pin recognizing his 40 years of service to the citizens of South Dakota.



Gary Olivier, Pierre Region Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, received his 30-year pin from **Hannah Covey, Pierre Region Traffic Engineer.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Rafe Jacobsen, Aberdeen Area Transportation Project Manager, received his 25-year pin from **Robert Ward, Aberdeen Area Engineer Supervisor**.



Robert Ward, Aberdeen Area Engineering Supervisor, received his 25-year pin from **Bruce Schroeder, former Aberdeen Area Engineer**.

Brian Parks, Rapid City Traffic Control Project Manager, received his 25-year pin from **Steve Palmer, Rapid City Area Engineering Supervisor**.



Levi Briggs, STIP Coordinator, Central Office, Pierre received his 20-year pin from **Steve Gramm, Planning Squad Engineering Manager**.

David Hempel, Sr. Right of Way Specialist, worked for the ROW office for 21 years as a Title Examiner, and in state government for a total of 43 years.

David retired on April 23, 2024. He will continue to work part-time in the ROW office. Pictured are David and his wife Mary.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

May New Hires:

- Benjamin Alberts, Journey Transportation Tech - Aberdeen
- Monte Herren, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls
- Jordan Jehn, Road Design Engineer - Pierre
- Jonathan Wenisch, Journey Transportation Technician - Yankton
- Angela Protexter, Structural Engineer - Pierre
- Carter Jondahl, Journey Transportation Technician - Aberdeen
- Michael Crocker, Highway Maintenance Worker - Rapid City
- Sean Burns, Right-of-Way CAD Technician - Sioux Falls
- Matthew Weed, Parts Room Specialist - Rapid City
- Carter Dahl, Road Design Engineer - Pierre
- Kevin Lesoski, Journey Transportation Tech - Aberdeen
- Michael Crocker, Highway Maintenance Worker - Rapid City
- Jason Stefanyuk, Highway Construction Project Engineer - Mitchell
- William Pistulka, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell
- Cory Holwell, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls

May Promotions & Lateral Changes:

- Matt Dunn, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Hot Springs
- Jessica Duval, Financial Program Specialist - Pierre
- Ty Scofield, Project Technician - Sioux Falls
- Tucker Pankowski, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Custer



Rick Walton, Belle Fourche Highway Maintenance Supervisor, and his wife Kelly's newest grandbaby, **Maven Avery Walton,** was born at 10:54 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. She weighed 8 pounds; 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.



SDDOT KUDOS BOARD

[View and Post Here](#)

Quickly recognize a co-worker or co-workers who do an excellent job?!

Did they go above and beyond on a project or to assist someone?

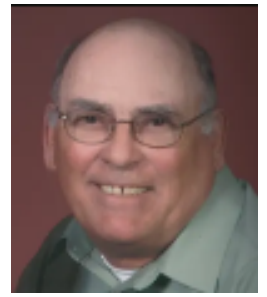
Click the link above and tag a co-worker in your post, place the “@” symbol before typing their name(s).

Reminder: Don't forget to nominate co-workers for the [Team Impact Awards!](#)

In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Ryan Johnson, Engineer, Operations Support, Pierre** on the passing of his father. Daryl Johnson, Pierre, passed away on April 12, 2024.

A Memorial open house with family and friends was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Feigum Funeral Home in Pierre. Daryl will be buried at Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis.



Spencer Jerry Dean Cope, passed away on Friday, April 26, 2024. **Jerry served as a member of the South Dakota Rail Board.**

His funeral was held on May 3, 2024, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City, and a reception at the Central States Fairgrounds.



Sympathy is extended to **Tom Grannes, Materials Engineer Manager, Pierre** on the passing of his mother.

Lavon Evelyn Grannes, passed away on May 8, 2024. Her funeral was held on May 20, 2024, at Ballard Sunder Funeral and Cremation in Shakopee. A celebration of life was held at Cross Peace Lutheran Church.



Russell 'Russ' Rook, passed away on April 25, 2024. Russell worked for the SDDOT for 35 years. He served as the Aberdeen Region Operations Coordinator before his retirement in 2004.

His funeral was held on April 29, 2024, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Burial was at Warner Township Cemetery.



Sympathy is extended to friends, co-workers, and family of **Don Kraus** who passed away on May 20, 2024. Don served as the Custer Area Engineer for the SDDOT.