



Pictured are Tim Tracy, CEO, Jennifer Hansen, March PRIDE Employee of the Month, and Julie Rolfes, activities manager, Sanford Care Center Vermillion.

Hansen is Sanford Vermillion March PRIDE employee

Jennifer Hansen, Activities Aide, Sanford Care Center Vermillion was selected as the Sanford Vermillion March 2012 PRIDE Employee of the Month. She has been employed here since 2005.

The nomination form included these comments:

Personalized Service: Jennifer takes time to do little special things for the residents. She is so patient and kind with all of the residents.

Respect: She is always respectful and courteous to the residents. She always shows respect and a good attitude to residents and staff.

Innovation: She took time to organize all the neighborhood's special meal needs for the resident/family Christmas dinner party, making meal delivery very smooth that evening.

Dedication: Jennifer is always willing to stay late, work extra, come in early, etc. (even in another Department!) She has good work ethics; she is very helpful in all departments.

Excellence: She is a team player. She has helped CNA's pass out drinks when they are short staffed and often helps assist with residents needs at breakfast. Over-all she is a wonderful person to work with.

Additional Comments: She is always cheerful and friendly.

"Jennifer is a joy to have in our Activities Department. She puts the residents first and does her job willingly and with a smile," said Julie Rolfes, activities manager, Sanford Care Center Vermillion.

Jennifer (Jacobson) Hansen is a native of Vermillion. She resides in rural Vermillion with her husband Brook.

USD online M.B.A. students garner top scores in national ETS exam

Students graduating with their M.B.A. from the University of South Dakota are ready for the challenges of a dynamic business environment, according to results from a national test administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) of Princeton, NJ.

Fifty-two students enrolled in USD's online M.B.A. program scored in the top 3 percent (97th percentile) nationally with an average overall score of 265 points in the ETS' Major Field Test.

The Major Field Test, first administered by ETS in 2002, was developed by leading educators nationally to assess the skills of graduating M.B.A. students. In addition to factual knowledge, the test evaluates students' abilities to analyze and solve problems, understand relationships and interpret material.

In addition to scoring in the top 3

percent overall, USD students were just as impressive in tests that assessed core concepts in business disciplines scoring in the top 3 percent in Marketing, Management, and Strategic Integration; top 4 percent in tests that assessed Managerial Accounting; and top 7 percent in Finance.

The Major Field Test, explained Angeline Lavin, Ph.D., C.F.A., director of USD's M.B.A. and M.P.A. programs, provides the Beacom School of Business with an assessment of how well faculty are teaching basic skills across the specialty areas of business that prepare M.B.A. students for careers in business and commerce.

The test consists of 124 multiple-choice questions, half of which are based on short case-study scenarios, and several skill sets are measured, including buyer behavior (Marketing), human resource management (Management), investments (Finance), and

financial reporting and analysis (Accounting).

USD students have taken the ETS Major Field Test for Master of Business Administration since the fall of 2007.

More than 130 colleges and universities in the United States administer this exam to their graduate business students.

"The Major Field Test is an indicator of how Beacom M.B.A. graduates compare to students who graduate from other business schools across the country," Lavin said. "We are extremely proud of all of our students who achieved such an outstanding performance this spring."

For more information about the M.B.A. program at the Beacom School of Business, visit www.usd.edu/business/master-of-business-administration/index.cfm or contact Lavin at (605) 677-5232 or e-mail Angeline.Lavin@usd.edu.

KPI-JCI rep returns from trade mission trip

A Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI) representative recently returned from a one-week trade mission to China with South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard and other South Dakota manufacturers, designed to establish contacts and rapport with specific Chinese importers, as well as potentially land a multi-million dollar deal with a major Chinese contractor.

Bruce Viau, international sales coordinator for heavy equipment manufacturer Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI) and president of the Great Plains International Trade Association (GPITA), was invited by the South Dakota Office of Economic Development. As part of the mission, Viau spent time in Beijing, Shanghai, and Ulaanbaatar, the capitol of Mongolia.

While Viau was invited both to represent one of South Dakota's leading manufacturers and because of his role with GPITA, he also used the opportunity to help grow KPI-JCI's sales in Asia and conduct dealer training with the company's international dealerships.

"There are 1.4 billion consumers in China alone," Viau said. "All of those people want infrastructure. They want hospitals, schools, roads, telecommunications - everything we have. That's a huge market for us, as we manufacture equipment that helps build infrastructure."

KPI-JCI was selected as one of two companies vying for a



contract to build dozens of aggregate plants over the next five years in China, Viau said. The yet-to-be-named Chinese company purchased a 4500 VSI crushing plant as a test machine, and will make a purchasing decision in the next few months.

"This is a critical time for South Dakota to be active in exports because that is where our growth is going to come from at this point in time," Viau said. "Only a small percentage of the world's economy is in North America. If we are going to grow our economy and jobs in South Dakota, we have to be able to satisfy the rest of the world's consumers."

Viau, who has traveled extensively around the world, said when he first traveled to China years ago, it was an

extremely closed society not open to trade.

"No one would speak to you and you were ushered around by government officials," he recalled. "Today, it's like any open society. I can walk on the streets in China by myself, whereas 10 years ago I couldn't have done that. Trade is done now like it's done in the rest of the world. China has come forward 200 years in the last 15 years."

While in the region, Viau also met with a newly-authorized KPI-JCI dealership, Beijing Huaqiangruiye Trade Co., conducted training with KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens authorized dealer United Machinery, Inc., and met with five customers in Mongolia.

Viau said the vast market

potential in China makes it important to continue a presence, noting that sales have grown every year in the past decade as construction booms in Chinese cities. There are more than 1.3 billion people in China, and it grows annually by 9 million people.

"Since becoming a part of the Astec Aggregate & Mining Group, our sales have gone from nothing in China to one of the countries where we can depend on sales each year," Viau said. "The market is growing, and we must actively participate if we want to grow as a company and to grow as South Dakota manufacturers."

For more information about KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens, visit www.kpijci.com.

USD fraternity helps various causes with Week of Service

The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Pi Chapter at the University of South Dakota, raised \$4,000 for leukemia and lymphoma research, and domestic violence awareness thanks to the PIKE Week of Service at USD last week. The chapter also totaled 1,100 hours of community service and donated over 700 clothing and toiletry items to domestic violence shelters in Sioux City, Iowa, Sioux Falls and Vermillion.

The various community service projects included serving meals at the Vermillion Welcome Table and assembling more than 150 bags for local children in the Vermillion Backpack Program.

The events that raised money for charity were PIKES in the Park, Change for Change and Cycle for Life, a national philanthropy event held by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Another highlight during the PIKE Week of Service was the "Fundie" Run, which raised awareness for domestic violence as participants, dressed in many layers of clothing, ran through campus shedding donated clothing at checkpoints. PIKE collected more than 700 articles of clothing as a result of the run.

For more information regarding PIKE Week of Service, contact Seth Lopour at (605) 295-0842 or Sean McCann at (605) 391-0826.

It's National Severe Weather Week: Be ready for severe weather

As the nation marks the first anniversary of one of the largest tornado outbreaks in U.S. history, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are teaming up this week to prepare the public and help save lives during the first ever National Severe Weather Week, April 22-29.

FEMA and NOAA are encouraging people to know their risk, take action, and "be a force of nature" by taking proactive preparedness measures and inspiring others to do the same. While the type and severity of threats vary across the country, the need to be prepared applies regardless of where you live.

Last April, tornadoes raked the central and southern United States, with a total of more than 300 tornadoes claiming hundreds of lives. The historic outbreak was only one of many weather-related tragedies in 2011, which now holds the record for the greatest number

of multi-billion dollar weather disasters in the nation's history.

"Severe weather can strike anywhere, at any time," said FEMA Regional Administrator Robin Finegan. "While we can't control the forces of nature, we can prepare now to be more resilient in the face of natural disasters."

To "be a force of nature," FEMA and NOAA encourage citizens to prepare for extreme weather by following these guidelines:

- Know your risk: The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Check the weather forecast regularly and sign up for alerts from your local emergency management officials.

- Take action: Develop an emergency plan based on your local weather hazards and practice how and where to take shelter. Create or refresh an emergency kit for needed food,

supplies and medication. Post your plan where visitors can see it. Learn what you can do to strengthen your home or business against severe weather. Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio. Download FEMA's mobile app so you can access important safety tips on what to do before and during severe weather. Understand the weather warning system and become a

certified storm spotter through the National Weather Service.

- Be a force of nature: Once you have taken action, tell your family, friends, school staff and co-workers about how they can prepare. Share the resources and alert systems you discovered with your social media network.

For more information on how you can participate, visit www.ready.gov/severeweather.

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The S.D. Unified Judicial System in Pierre, SD is inviting applications for a PROGRAMMER ANALYST (\$17.02 - \$19.57/hour) or SENIOR PROGRAMMER ANALYST POSITION (\$21.18 - \$24.36/hour)

Either position requires a degree in computer science, information systems technology, or a related field (degree level listed below) along with:

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Equivalent combination of education/experience will also be considered for either position. Please give details of experience in any of the following areas: VB 6.0, VB.net, ASP.net, Crystal reports, SQL, SSRS, Java CAPS, and XML. *Position is Open Until Filled. Completion of a criminal background investigation is required.*

To apply: Submit a letter of interest & resume or state employment application (available at a S.D. DOL Offices or online at <http://bop.sd.gov>) to: **PMB 2713-000, Director of HR, Unified Judicial System, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501.**

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