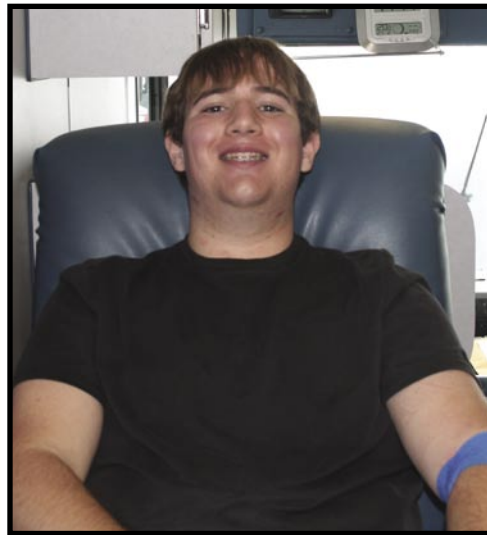


NVC Sponsors Local Blood Drive



Brandon Grismer was one of the people donating blood for the first time.

NVC hosted a "Give a Pint, Get a Foot" blood drive on February 27th from 1pm-5pm at their office in Aberdeen. All donors received a \$10 gift card to Subway. Among those participating were nine people donating for the first time.

"We are so thrilled to be partnering with NVC for this blood drive," said Sara Pillatzki-Warzeha, donor recruitment representative for United Blood Services. "Besides the great gift cards from Subway, they held this drive during a critical time for the blood supply, which often suffers during the winter months. Regardless of the time of year, the need for blood never goes away and we want to thank NVC for hosting this event."

To donate blood, volunteers must be 16 years old or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. To make an appointment, go to www.unitedbloodservices.org or call 225-7732.

Visit the NVC Booth at the Home Builder's Show

Aberdeen Ice Arena
Sat., April 4 - 10am-5pm
Sun., April 5 - 11am-4pm

Hosted by the Aberdeen Home Builders Association, you'll find the best in design, building, landscaping, decorating and furnishing ideas under one roof at the 7th Annual Home Builder's Show! A great show for anyone looking for home improvement ideas or new construction...you'll find ideas for all your projects, large or small! The show also features a wonderful childcare area, including a large bounce house and many other free activities for the kids.

Shoot For Loot / Popcorn Night

Austin Walz won \$25 at the Shoot For Loot contest held on Feb. 17 at the Aberdeen Central girls basketball game. Pictured with Austin is NVC customer service representative Stacy Weismantel. The company donated \$500 to the school for hosting the contest.



Also that night, NVC bought popcorn for the fans during the 2nd quarter of the game. The free popcorn resulted in a \$120 donation from NVC for the concession stand. Pictured below is NVC marketing coordinator Stacy Oliver with Sheryl Schoenfelder, concessions manager.



2211 8th Ave NE • Suite 1101
 Aberdeen, SD 57401 • www.nvc.net
 (605) 725-1000 • Toll Free 1-888-919-8945

OFFICE HOURS
 Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

DIAL TONES NEWSLETTER

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keeping you in touch

Telecom Jobs Stable In An Unstable Economy

While the economy is forcing many consumers to make sacrifices in order to save a few bucks, the demand for telecommunications-related services is expected to remain steady. According to a recent survey conducted by BIGresearch for STORES magazine, an overwhelming majority of Americans said that Internet (81%), cell phone (64%), and cable television (61%) are services they cannot do without.

Where there's demand for technology-based services, there's demand for technology-trained employees, and that makes pursuing a telecom technologies or data networking degree a smart choice for the upcoming crop of South Dakota high school graduates.

While the demand for telecommunications workers remains constant, the number of trained workers in the industry is expected to decrease due to the maturity of the current telecommunications workforce in South Dakota and across the nation.

A recent SDATC (South Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives) survey showed that 6.2% of outside plant, central office, IT, Internet, computer, and networking technicians and supervisors currently working for SDATC member companies plan to retire in 2009. By the end of 2014 another 16.2% of these workers expect to retire, with an additional 7.4% anticipating retirement by 2019.

All told, current technical workforce attrition due to

retirement will be nearly 30% over the next 10 years. This expected decline in the number of trained telecom employees working in South Dakota has spurred SDATC/SDTA to partner with Mitchell Technical Institute to inform and recruit students into telecom training programs.

Mitchell Tech has a 40-year history in educating skilled technicians, historically in electronics and then, as technology advanced, in Telecommunications and Computer Systems programs. Students entering a telecommunications or data networking program at Mitchell Tech will find a myriad of experiences that will help them prepare for a stable career with a good future.

A recent wage survey of 2003-and-later Mitchell Tech graduates shows that after three to five years of employment with a telecommunications company, 50% of Telecommunications and Computer Systems graduates are earning \$40,000-plus annually.

Telecommunications is vital in the 21st century. Graduates are in high demand and will find professional and personal success. For more information, contact Mitchell Tech at 1-800-684-1969 or visit their website at mitchelltech.com.

Numerous scholarships are available to telecom technologies students, including the SDATC Memorial Scholarship. For scholarship information, contact SDATC by calling 605-224-7629.



Students at MTI get lots of hands-on experiences including work with a variety of equipment.



What's On This Month...

SPOTLIGHT ON...

What are NVC employees watching on TV? This month we asked Stacy Weismantel, customer service representative.



"The TV shows I watch on a regular basis include *One Tree Hill* and *90210* on CW (channel 59) and *Dancing with the Stars* on ABC (channel 13, HD channel 605). Every morning I tune in to *MSNBC* (channel 108) for daily stock updates. I also enjoy watching college basketball, especially when the games are broadcast in high definition. This time of year is great for NCAA basketball fans with *March Madness* concluding with *The Final Four* the first weekend of this month. Baseball is starting soon and I like watching games on TV, especially the Minnesota Twins. The Twins' last game in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome will be on Oct. 4 as next year the team moves to the new Target Field.

DVR is a great feature that I just recently added. *The Young and the Restless* on CBS (channel 4, HD channel 602) is set to record every day. I will be attending many Twins games and will be recording them and watching again when I have a chance."

NVC Upgrade Special

Add a service (phone, cable TV, Internet, cell phone) and take advantage of NVC's special upgrade rates:

Any 3 Services - \$79.95/month
All 4 Services - \$89.95/month
for the first two months!

Add HD and/or DVR and your first two months are free!

SDPB, SDN Communications Widen Basketball Broadcasts

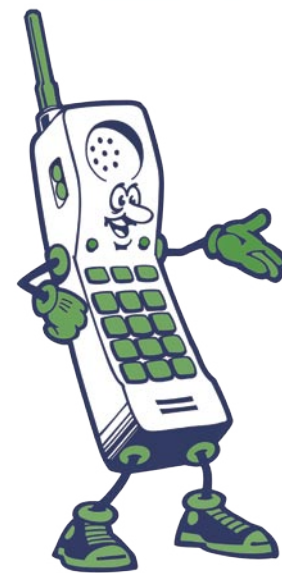
More than 130 South Dakota communities were able to tune in their televisions to catch the Web broadcasts of the South Dakota High School Girls A and AA tournaments March 12-14 and Boys B and A tournaments March 19-21. SDPB Television aired the other two tournaments – Girls B and Boys AA – statewide.

For several years, South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) has offered online broadcasts of many SDH-SAA (South Dakota High School Activities Association) championship events. For example, both girls and boys basketball includes three tournaments – B, A and AA – over three days. SDPB Television airs one of the three basketball tournaments statewide and the other two are offered on the Web. In this new experiment, SDPB and SDN Communications made use of a technology known as video-over-IP to test-broadcast the Web broadcasts as full-frame television. That gave viewers in selected communities a chance to choose which tournament to watch.

For over a decade, SDPB has used media production tools for webcasts in conjunction with partners in organizations, schools, and communities. The result is unprecedented access to the State Legislature; broadcasts of high school and university athletics; and a rich archive of stories about South Dakota available anywhere through webcasts. Now that a multi-channel digital broadcast environment has arrived, the network is exploring ways to use these services for more local, South Dakota-based programming.

For 20 years, SDN Communications' fiber optic network, which is now 22,000 miles, has been the region's leader in innovative broadband solutions. The partnership with SDPB is another example of how SDN and its owner companies – including NVC – work to connect South Dakotans through telephone, Internet and video solutions. NVC added two new temporary special events channels (62 and 63) to its line-up to accommodate the tournament broadcasts.

Courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting



Cell Tips & Tricks

How Cell Phones Can Help Save Your Memory!

Have you ever thought about all the passwords, phone numbers, PIN numbers, bank account numbers, and other number/letter combinations you are expected to remember? Its no wonder our brains are full and we become memory-challenged! One way to make your life easier is to use your camera phone to save your memory:

Forgot where you parked? When you are at the mall, airport, or stadium take a picture of the row number instead of trying to remember where your car is parked.

Lost suitcase? Before traveling, take a picture of the contents of your suitcase. Describing the contents will be a lot easier if your luggage is lost.

Make shopping a breeze. Instead of trying to remember your shade of make-up or kind of shampoo or even a new sauce you just tried, take a picture of it before you go.

Try a new wine? If you are dining out and find a wine you really like, take a picture of the wine label so you can pick up a bottle the next time you shop.

New to a city? Take a picture of the intersection where your car is parked to make it easier to find your way back.

FREE MEMORY!

Sign up for cell service or add a line in April and receive a free memory card on select models.

Offer expires 4/30/09. Some restrictions apply and subject to availability. See store for details.

FEATURED PHONES



Samsung R500

VGA camera
Bluetooth
Integrated music player
Changeable face plates

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE
FREE with 2 year contract



LG 830

Touch screen display
Bluetooth
Memory card slot
2 megapixel camera
Speakerphone

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE
Only \$129⁹⁵ with 2 year contract



keeping you in touch