## OUTSTANDING POST SECONDARY/ ADULT PROGRAM



## RANDY BARKA, JON BARKA AND ERIK HOFF

RIDGEWATER AG EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

## **OVERVIEW**

The Ridgewater Ag Equipment Mechanic Technician Program (AEMT) started in the fall of 2017 and is housed on the Willmar Campus. The program is a two year, 72 credit program including many different courses along the two required internships. Since its inception, the program has had an enrollment average of 12 students per year. This past year the AEMT program is accredited with AED. This offers students quality education that has been thoroughly assessed and adapted to meet AEDFs industry-recognized standards. Upon completion students receive the title of AEDF Certified Technician.

Through industry support, the program has multiple simulators that are used to teach systems and assist in the development of troubleshooting skills including a Hydraulic Simulator, Electrical CAN Bus (Electronic Communication System) and a Heavy Duty Wiring Harness. The AEMT program also focuses on experiential learning for the students within the program. Students are required to complete two internship experiences within their degree. Every student has the opportunity to take their Commercial Drivers License (CDL). AEMT students also gain hands on experience at the school farm by working with real agricultural machinery and equipment. They learn to diagnose, repair and maintain tractors, combines and precision ag technology.

The Agriculture Equipment Mechanic Program at Ridgewater College provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the agriculture equipment industry. Our instructors are deeply committed to the success of our students with a focus on ensuring each students receives a high-quality education and the support they need to thrive. Their dedication is evident in the strong relationships they build with students.

~Michael Kutzke, Vice President of Student Success

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