



**Western Nebraska
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Happy March!

A few weeks ago, several faculty members moved from probationary to continuing contract status. Congratulations to Jessica Brumbaugh (Nursing), Deb Carpenter-Nolting (English), Nicole Danielzuk (Health Information Technology), Karalea Fisher (Health Information Technology), Mwafaq Haji (Medical Laboratory Technology), Amber Jacobi (Nursing), Frank Riley (Automotive), Robynn Whittier (English) and Sherri Yorges (Nursing).

An exciting announcement from the national office of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society is coming soon. It seems that my name was forwarded to them for consideration to serve on the President Advisory Board and my selection has been finalized. It is humbling for me to join forty-three other college presidents in service to PTK as an advocate and advisor, which also includes a special role as the liaison to other college leaders throughout Nebraska. I owe a special thank you to our two local chapters for their support and encouragement.

This Friday, Dr. Pamila Fisher from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) will join us for an informal Board meeting. This Board retreat is special in that our goal is to explore ways to optimize our work together, from preferred communication styles to formal evaluation processes for both the President and the Board. The future success of Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) is deeply rooted in the leadership and vision we provide to the institution, so it is imperative that we establish and maintain strong, collegial working relationships with one another.

Our second College Council meeting of the semester happens this Monday afternoon. We will be reviewing material from the Curriculum Committee, including two new course proposals, thirty course updates and one course deactivation. The Career and Academic Advising Handbook will also be disseminated as an information item. It has been interesting for me to see this small facet of shared governance in operation at WNCC.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or insights to share, please let me know.

Hope you have a great week!

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.
President