



Western Nebraska  
Community College

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Happy Spring Break!

Our 88<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony is *exactly* two months from today and we plan to start a new tradition this year. Rather than listening to a typical graduation speaker, my preference is to replace that speech with Student Spotlights. The stories of our students are often compelling and sharing a sample (with student permission, of course) is a deeply personal way to celebrate together. If you know a graduating student who would be great to highlight, please consider submitting a nomination when the call comes out.

One of our Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) buses took a group of *nineteen* faculty, staff and administrators to Chadron State College last Thursday. Vice President John Marrin led the effort, which was focused on the growing relationship between our two institutions. Thank you, travelers, for investing time and energy into this important partnership. From this work, focused joint pathways dubbed the Panhandle Advantage will become available for students.

The Deans within Educational Services have been tasked with developing and prioritizing a list of future faculty positions we might consider adding. They have been working with VP Marrin on this project for the past few weeks. Several voices have forwarded Information Technology as an area that warrants special consideration. To respect our current complexities and to better meet student expectations, we have decided to try to hire a guest instructor for the 2020-2021 academic year. This one-year position would be full-time and fully-benefitted, allowing us to support our program, honor our commitments, and have the flexibility to determine next steps once the future becomes clearer.

This week on Tuesday evening, Dr. Andrew Dick, who serves as the Executive Director of the local Educational Services Unit (ESU-13), will join me at the City Council meeting in Sidney. We plan to discuss our joint construction project on the Sidney WNCC campus with council members. We are very excited to be moving forward with this project, especially given the tough economic times Sidney has faced over the last few years.

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