

# WESTERN

POWERLINE PROGRAM  
SPARKS 10 YEARS  
OF SUCCESS

WNCC ALUMNI:  
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

GIVING BACK  
TO THE COMMUNITY

COUGAR VOLLEYBALL  
SPIKES THE SEASON

FACES OF  
EXCELLENCE

NEW CAREER  
PROGRAMS IN  
THE WORKS

**JUNIOR ALVAREZ** Creating a  
Successful Formula  
for Math Learning





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## DR. TODD HOLCOMB

**F**or nearly 90 years, Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) has been educating residents of Nebraska's Panhandle. In many cases, we have students attending WNCC that are the fourth generation in their family.

Our roots in the panhandle run deep.

WNCC is one of the largest employers in the region with a payroll of almost \$16 million, and a total budget of \$45 million. What this means is that our net impact of payroll, student spending, and expenses contributes significantly to the panhandle's economy. WNCC generates more in revenue benefits to the community than it collects in local taxpayer dollars.

WNCC faculty and staff are leaders in their field. They can often be found going the extra mile to assist our students. But more than that, they are community members so they are committed to the success of the panhandle both in academics

and economics. We take this social responsibility seriously and are driven by the understanding that an educated populace stimulates a healthy community and economy. Social savings related to WNCC include: reduced crime rates, lower unemployment, increased health and well-being across our region, as well as an expanded tax base.

WNCC's doors are open to anyone looking to change their life. WNCC trains the workforce and prepares students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities like Chadron State College, University of Nebraska, and University of Wyoming.

Thousands of people in our region have come to appreciate the value of a certificate, diploma, or associate degree from WNCC. We fulfill our open door mission by meeting current and future student and employer demand with career-focused higher education. Students from all backgrounds arrive and thrive at our college, creating great educational opportunities.

Without WNCC in the panhandle, our region would look dramatically different. Our local economy would suffer from a lack of skilled workers; we would miss the high-quality cultural activities provided by our arts programs and the enthusiasm from athletic events. Also, many of our current community leaders would not be in their present positions.

I have spent the last few years speaking with community and business leaders across the panhandle, and they continuously highlight the increasing value of a WNCC education for our region.

As we approach our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will look to continuing our partnership with you to bring a valuable education—and opportunities—to our region's residents for the next 90 years and beyond. We will look toward not only access, but student, workforce, and community success. We thank and appreciate your continued support!

*—Dr. Todd Holcomb, President*

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## GET SOCIAL WITH WNCC!

FIND THE ONLINE EDITION OF THE WESTERN MAGAZINE AT WNCC.EDU



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 Editorial/Creative Support . . . . . Allison Judy  
 Brooke Blomenkamp  
 Courtney Fletcher  
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 Photography. . . . . Kelly Sudduth, Mark Rein,  
 Sara Knutson

**Campus Locations**  
 Alliance Campus • 308.763.2000  
 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, NE 69301  
 Scottsbluff Campus • 308.635.3606  
 1601 E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
 Sidney Campus • 308.254.5450  
 371 College Drive, Sidney, NE 69162

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 WNCC assures learning opportunities  
 for all — **enriching** lives,  
**invigorating** communities,  
**creating** futures

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# WORKFORCE EDUCATION IS ON THE JOB

BY JASON STRATMAN, DEAN OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



**W**estern Nebraska Community College offers a variety of career technology tracks, meeting our region's workforce needs with highly skilled professionals, such as utility linemen, nurses, welders, accountants, and mechanics. This year, we also launched a new Surgical Technology program for traditional degree-seeking students who want more options to serve the medical community.

Mobile resources in workforce training are evolving, as well. We've added a new mobile computer lab, a 3D printing and scanning lab, and a mobile 4-booth welding lab to add new dimensions to our current array of mobile rescue simulators, public safety simulators, and medical simulators.



At WNCC, the development of new programs is underway. Our industry partners have assisted in developing proposals for a one-year Applied Agriculture certificate program, a two-year Medical Laboratory Technician degree program, and a non-traditional Pharmacy Technician credential. We hope to have all approvals for these programs in place by the end of 2016.

For more information on the aforementioned programs and new workforce education programs coming to WNCC, please call me at 308.635.6740 or email [stratman@wncc.edu](mailto:stratman@wncc.edu).





# FACES *of* EXCELLENCE

BY PAULA J. ABBOTT, SIDNEY CAMPUS DIRECTOR



## ROSE NELSON: FROM HOME SCHOOLED TO COLLEGE GRAD AT THE DROP OF A HAT

**S**ome people think being homeschooled limits opportunities for future success. Rose Nelson may be the biggest argument against that perception.

While being homeschooled on her family's farm near Potter, Rose took college credits at Western Nebraska Community College that applied to her high school graduation requirements. She was able to earn her diploma at age 17. And because she also earned the college credits, she'll graduate with her Associate of Arts degree at 18 years old.

**“WNCC’s staff and faculty are amazing ... WNCC opened up a doorway that I never dreamed possible.”**

*—Rose Nelson*

Rose is currently president of WNCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, president of the Student Senate, student representative for the Board of Governors, a college ambassador, and is an algebra and science tutor. Not only is she an outstanding student and student campus leader, she excels in piano and is president of her local 4-H group.

Rose says, “WNCC’s staff and faculty are amazing. I acquired a love of science here—something I never thought I’d be interested in—when I took a microbiology class from Dr. Hanson. It was so interesting that I kept taking science classes, and now I’m looking to do a double major in music and biochemistry or pre-med. WNCC opened up a doorway that I never dreamed possible.”

## JUNIOR ALVAREZ: CREATING A SUCCESSFUL FORMULA FOR MATH LEARNING

BY LAURIE ALKIRE, DIVISION CHAIR AND MATH INSTRUCTOR

In the fall, WNCC's Mathematics Department will be a fraction of what it used to be. That's because one of its most highly valued members—legendary instructor Junior Alvarez—is retiring.

Since 2007, Mr. Alvarez has been a fixture at the Math Center, spending countless hours helping students master mathematical concepts. And the proof is in the test: students he's worked with see their success on the Math Common Final, as well as other courses in the math sequence.

"I hate leaving the job because I really enjoy it," Alvarez explains. "WNCC gives me the academic freedom to teach the way I think best. I have fun in my classroom and I like getting concepts across to kids."

Over the course of his career, Alvarez was in administration and the athletic director of Gering High School. He also was invited to be part of the Race to the Top committee for Governor Heineman

**"WNCC gives me the academic freedom to teach the way I think best."**

*—Junior Alvarez*

and won the 2015 Nebraska Community College Association's Faculty Member of the Year award.

After 44 years of teaching, Alvarez is looking forward to some well-deserved time off doing other things he loves—hunting and fishing, golfing, biking, gardening, attending athletic events, playing cards, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Alvarez says he and his wife also have a bucket list they want to complete. And just like a good math teacher, he wants to check off the items on it!

### Student Lauren Oxford says Mr. Alvarez summed up her math education

WNCC softball scholarship recipient and freshman Lauren Oxford just changed her major to pre-med, a program that many shy away from because of the rigorous math requirements. But the change was because Junior Alvarez was her first college algebra instructor and she had a "wonderful experience" in his class.

"Mr. Alvarez has a loud voice, which I find very refreshing. He expects a lot, but he is always willing

to do whatever it takes to help us succeed," says Lauren. "He gives us lots of examples and always encourages us to do better."

A Las Vegas native, Lauren was recruited to be a catcher and first baseman by WNCC Coach Maria Winn-Ratliff. She says she loves attending the school because "the campus is small and I get a lot of one-on-one time with my teachers."







# Helping People Move Forward by Giving Back

BY DR. TODD HOLCOMB, PRESIDENT



A Sidney Campus cosmetology student helps out with PAWzitively PINK™ Night at a volleyball game in October.



Softball player Brittany Bigge watches a student stack Oreos at the Geil Elementary Back-to-School Bash.



Every year, WNCC - Sidney Campus gives back to its surrounding communities by donating blankets to panhandle long term care facilities, including living centers and nursing homes.

Giving back is something that's woven into the fabric of any meaningful and successful organization's culture. At Western Nebraska Community College, our charitable activities foster a culture of caring, and bring people together to work jointly for a greater impact to drive change. We're honored to be embedded in the communities we serve, and proud of the contributions made by our faculty and staff.

Following are just some of the activities WNCC participates in that allow us to give back to our communities:

- **Adopt-A-School Partner** – WNCC partners with an elementary or middle school each year.
- **Alumni Office Tax Project** - The Alumni Office partners with Accounting II students and CAPWN to provide free tax preparation to community members.
- **Arbor Day Tree Planting** – Sidney Campus staff and students plant trees annually.
- **Art Gallery** – The John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center showcases panhandle artists every year, recognizing the breadth of artistic talent in our communities and to support local artists.
- **A Very Valley Christmas** – Our Instrumental and Vocal Music programs provide a free performance around the holidays.

- **Band on the Bricks** – Alliance Campus sponsors bands in Downtown Alliance every summer.
- **Blanket Donation to Long-Term Care Facilities** – Sidney Campus staff and students create blankets and donate them to area long term care facilities, including living centers and nursing homes.
- **Box Butte County Fair** – Alliance Campus provides drinks for the buyer's BBQ and livestock auction.
- **Buckboard Riding Academy** – Athletic teams assist special needs children through equine-assisted activities.
- **Celebrate WNCC Alumni & Friends Homecoming** – WNCC sponsors various activities for alumni and friends every fall, including drawing contests, art exhibits, root beer floats, BBQs, community BINGO, banquets, and more.
- **Cosmetology Spa Day** - Every October, WNCC Cosmetology offers a free spa day to all cancer survivors, including a spa pedicure, manicure, or facial and scalp treatment.
- **Dancing with the Stars** – WNCC sponsored this Soroptimists fundraiser in January. Soroptimists is a local women's group, which helps provides scholarships to students and grants to local nonprofit organizations.
- **Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day** – WNCC athletes participate in this national event annually

- by reading Dr. Seuss books to Scottsbluff and Gering elementary school students.
- **DOVES** – WNCC has sponsored our local DOVES program's annual "Celebrating Healthy Relationships" event the past two years.
- **Earth Day** – Alliance Campus participates in this event each year by doing an annual clean up.
- **Financial Aid 101** – WNCC's Financial Aid Department hosts several student and parent nights throughout the panhandle every winter to share important information and answer any questions pertaining to financial aid.
- **Free "Family Nights" at Cougar Palace** – WNCC Athletics offers free "Family Nights" at Cougar Palace annually, providing free entertainment for all.
- **Free Veterans' Haircuts** – The Military & Veterans Affairs and Cosmetology programs provide free haircuts to all veterans in Scottsbluff and Sidney every November, in honor of Veterans Day.
- **Geil Elementary Back-to-School Bash** – WNCC athletes volunteer at this event annually, playing various sports and games with students.
- **Great Trash Race** – WNCC donated to Keep Sidney Beautiful, who coordinates this event, in 2014 and 2015 and students and staff from the Sidney Campus won first place in 2015 after collecting 39 bags of trash.



Scottsbluff native Blake Wills packs a present for Operation Christmas Child. The soccer teams have been packing and wrapping presents each holiday season.

- **Heritage Days** – The Alliance Campus provides bottled water at “Sunday in the Park” each year.
- **Hoops for Heroes** – WNCC donates annually to this Leadership Scottsbluff event, which benefited local and state Special Olympics and Unified Sports teams in 2015.
- **Kimball Chamber Banquet** – Workforce Development donated 50 percent of the cost of the 2016 keynote speaker.
- **National Night Out** – WNCC’s soccer program volunteers at this event each year, supporting our local public safety agencies by providing fun to Downtown Scottsbluff.
- **Operation Christmas Child** – Our soccer teams help the First Baptist Church in Scottsbluff fill



WNCC men’s basketball players Bo McVay (leading the horse) along with Julio Guity and Jalen Griffiths help a rider at Buckboard Riding Academy.

- shoeboxes every Christmas with toys, hygiene items, clothing items, and school supplies for children in need.
- **PAWzitivly PINK™** – WNCC raises breast cancer awareness through this annual fundraiser, which benefits the Festival of Hope, by selling T-shirts and offering free admission to a volleyball game for all breast cancer survivors.
- **Pumpkin Carving** – WNCC athletes help local elementary students carve pumpkins every October.
- **Panhandle Co-Op Recycling Drive By Stations** – The Cougar men’s basketball team helped set up free recycling stations throughout the Scottsbluff/Gering area.

- **SHS CHOICES** – WNCC donated money to Scottsbluff High School to help towards the cost of purchasing shirts for this program. We also tutored CHOICES students and provided a shadow program and career fair.
- **S.W.A.P. (Service Women Attaining Power)** – The Military & Veterans Affairs Office hosts a free conference annually exclusive to women who have served or are currently serving in our nation’s military, designed to inform and educate female veterans of important health services available to them.
- **Table of Grace (Ministry of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church)** – Sidney Campus volunteers at the Chappell mobile food pantry, setting up and tearing down tables used to distribute donated food to the community.
- **Team Ashtyn Foundation** – WNCC athletes help with the Team Ashtyn Foundation in various ways from helping at the Divas and Dudes Day, halftime hoops shoot, and other activities.
- **TEAMS Grant Program** – TEAMS is a program involving high-risk students and their families. The Education Professions Club at WNCC provides curriculum and teaches the siblings of students in the TEAMS program during regular monthly family meetings.
- **Week of the Young Child** – Each year, the Education Professions Club celebrates Week of the Young Child by telling flannel board stories and reading story books to young children at Monument Mall in Scottsbluff.

If you’re seeking volunteers for an upcoming event or activity, we’ll do our best to help. Please call us at 308.635.6080, or email [communications@wncc.edu](mailto:communications@wncc.edu).



For nearly 90 years, Western Nebraska Community College has been educating residents of Nebraska’s Panhandle. Below is just a sampling of the various events we have planned throughout the year. Stay tuned and join us for these events and more!

- **APR 4** Historic WNCC Display at Legacy of the Plains Museum  
2930 Old Oregon Trail, Gering
- **MAY 4** Launch of WNCC’s 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/BBQ  
Scottsbluff Campus
- **JUL 9** WNCC 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Celebration  
Gardner Park, Gering (following Oregon Trail Days Parade)
- **OCT 8** Autumn on the Bricks, Downtown Alliance  
Powerline Maintenance & Technology Program Reunion  
Powerline Lab, 1621 Kansas Street, Alliance
- **OCT 19-22** Celebrate WNCC, Alliance, Scottsbluff, and Sidney

# Success Lies Within a Foundation of GIVING

BY JENNIFER ROGERS, WNCC FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Recently, the Western Nebraska Community College Foundation Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff had the opportunity to hear from Jolene Martin, the current student body president at WNCC.

Jolene is a single mom, nontraditional student who has struggled in her life and has found hope at WNCC. Jolene would not have been able to complete her educational goals without the nursing program scholarships she received from the Foundation. These scholarships and additional programmatic and facilities support are made possible in part through generous donations from local families, alumni, and our regional business partners.

An example of one such partnership exists to support our Powerline Construction & Maintenance Technology program, which is approaching its 10-year anniversary. Local donors and industry partners have contributed more than \$200,000 in scholarships and program support throughout the years.

These power districts and organizations recognize the need within their respective industries to fill jobs with skilled and technically trained workers for them to be successful and know that the WNCC program helps them to do just that.

The Foundation provides the outlet with which local business partners can invest in the future of WNCC and its students. During the past year, the number of individual donors—businesses, families, and foundations—that have supported students at WNCC increased from 411 to 612. We have received gifts from the healthcare industry, our partners in agriculture, construction and the trades, our banking sector partners, law firms, and hundreds of additional businesses, organizations, and families that recognize the value of their investment in WNCC.

We would not be able to assist WNCC in carrying out its important mission without help from residents just like you. Perhaps you attended WNCC or another community college. You may already understand the impact our programs, faculty, and staff provide to our students and our region. Perhaps you are a local business owner in desperate need of training or finding skilled and technically qualified workers to fill your open positions. The Foundation allows you the opportunity to support the student, scholarship program, or facility of your choice to help make the impact most meaningful to you.

To learn more, donate, or volunteer, call 308.630.6551. You can also email [foundation@wncc.edu](mailto:foundation@wncc.edu) or visit [wnccfoundation.org](http://wnccfoundation.org).



## FAST FACTS



in scholarships  
awarded

Donors increased from  
**411 to 612** in one year

Average gift increased  
from **\$175 to \$555** per gift

**94%** of all WNCC  
faculty and staff donate  
to the Foundation





# Powerline Program Charged by Local Businesses

BY ED SALAZAR, POWERLINE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND INSTRUCTOR

Entering its 10-year anniversary, WNCC's Powerline Construction & Maintenance Technology program is still booming. And it's no surprise, considering the strong local and regional business and municipality support we've received over the years.

Thanks to our donors and advisory board members, the powerline program has done an excellent job of responding to the needs of the community and staying up-to-date, which just goes to show what can happen when all the stars (and players) align.

Powerline students gain the training to apply technical knowledge and learned skills to install, operate, maintain, and repair electric transmission and distribution lines, as well as electric underground cable design and installation. Students can earn a program certificate or a diploma (which requires a few more general education credits) in just over a year, or an Associate of Occupational Studies (AOS) in 15 months. Upon program completion, students possess the necessary skills to work as a powerline worker for utility providers—a career that offers competitive wages and a great deal of flexibility.

For more information on our powerline program at WNCC, please call 888.559.9622 or email [powerline@wncc.edu](mailto:powerline@wncc.edu).

## HONORING OUR "POWERBROKERS"

The members of the first Powerline Advisory Committee were central to the process of bringing WNCC's powerline program into being. This founding committee's uncommon foresight and dedication brought the powerline program from the point of being but an idea in the minds of two of these members, to the point of becoming a premier training center for tomorrow's powerline professionals.

**Ms. Pamela Caskie**  
Former City Manager  
*Alliance, Nebraska*

**Mr. David Churchwell**  
Highline Electric  
*Holyoke, Colorado*

**Mr. David Frick**  
Morgan County Rural  
Electric Association  
*Ft. Morgan, Colorado*

**Mr. Rod Fries**  
City of Sidney  
Electric Department  
*Sidney, Nebraska*

**Mr. Bill Hinton**  
City of Kimball  
Electric Department  
*Kimball, Nebraska*

**Mr. Dusty Peterson**  
Panhandle Electric  
Member Association  
*Alliance, Nebraska*

**Mr. Ryan Reiber**  
Panhandle Electric  
Member Association  
*Alliance, Nebraska*

**Mr. Earl Reilly**  
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**Mr. Jacob Stromer**  
High West Energy  
*Pine Bluffs, Wyoming*

**Mr. Aavo Taaler**  
Wheat Belt Public  
Power District  
*Sidney, Nebraska*

**Mr. Larry Wisecup**  
Tri-State Generation &  
Transmission Association  
*Westminister, Colorado*

### APPLAUDING OUR DONORS

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Western Area Power  
Administration  
Utility Solutions,  
McCaskey Company  
Nebraska Public  
Power District  
Burndy Tools  
Boldt Company

# WNCC Alumni Where are they now?

BY JENNIFER SIBAL, ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

One of the most important measures of a college's reputation is the strength and achievement of its graduates. WNCC's most enduring legacy is its growing alumni network—now 6,200 strong. This talented group of people exemplifies the quality of education WNCC provides and the opportunities we present in the panhandle region. They're meeting the demands of global citizenship with skills and habits developed in classrooms and on campus, and sharing the sense of community and care they experienced at WNCC.

For more information about WNCC's Alumni Association, please call me at 308.630.6571 or email [alumni@wncc.edu](mailto:alumni@wncc.edu).

## HEALING MINDS AND HEARTS

Rebecca Lattin-Ott was drawn to psychology as a Western Nebraska Community College student. She wanted to blend her love of psychology with science to make a difference in the lives of others. Rebecca went on to become a nursing student at WNCC, eventually earning her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from UNMC. Today, our alumna is one of three professionals on the psychiatric team at Hazelden Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, California. While her view has changed from the Scotts Bluff National Monument to palm trees and mountains, Rebecca says she's grateful for her time at WNCC, where she was able to explore her education without facing a mountain of debt.





## ALUMNI

### A TEAM PLAYER FOR LIFE

In the early '80s, Grant Hinze played basketball at Scottsbluff High School. He was offered a scholarship to play at Western Nebraska Community College, becoming a member of the '85-'87 basketball team. His coach, Mark Nixon, challenged him to move from center to guard position, a change he says helped him develop a stronger game. In Hinze's sophomore year, he led the team in assists and connected on 60 percent of his shots from the three-point line. Transferring to Division I University of Texas at Arlington, he continued his basketball career and education, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting. Hinze returned to Scottsbluff with his wife Angie and works in sales at Kelley Bean Company. He's come full circle as a team player, now mentoring youth in the local TeamMates program.

*For more information about WNCC's Alumni Association or to update your contact information, visit [wncc.edu/alumni-friends](http://wncc.edu/alumni-friends).*

*WNCC Alumni & Friends membership is free and open to everyone who has taken a class at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Junior College, Scottsbluff College, Nebraska Western College, the Alliance School of Practical Nursing, Western Nebraska Vocational Technical School, or Western Nebraska Technical College, or considers themselves a friend of the College.*



# Cougars Excel at Nationals Once Again, End Season at 42-5, National Runner-ups

BY MARK REIN, SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT



Nebraska may be known for football, but it's certainly putting volleyball in a better state. Recently, the University of Nebraska volleyball team captured the NCAA championship with a sweep over Texas. Not to be outdone, our Western Nebraska Community College Cougar volleyball team also achieved success, finishing second in the nation at the NJCAA tournament in November, and ending the season with an outstanding 42-5 mark.

The Cougars were ranked No. 1 in the nation for the entire month of October, and claimed their 17<sup>th</sup> straight Region IX title and trip to the national tournament.

For more information on all Cougar Athletics including live broadcasts, rosters, schedules, and statistics, visit [wnccathletics.com](http://wnccathletics.com).





# Year after Year, WNCC Athletes are Top Performers

BY RYAN BURGNER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

**S**ports continue to play an integral role in lives of our Western Nebraska Community College students. Over the past four decades, more than 175 WNCC student athletes have transferred to Division I schools, and approximately 200 have transferred to Division II schools. What's more, about 70 student athletes have competed at Division III or NAIA schools.

WNCC Cougar athletes who were drafted to play professionally include:

- NFL: Dick "Night Train" Lane (played for Scottsbluff Junior College and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame)
- NBA: Bobby Jackson and Sedric Toney
- MLB: Lyall Foran, Francisco Leando, Scott Fogelson, and Philips Orta

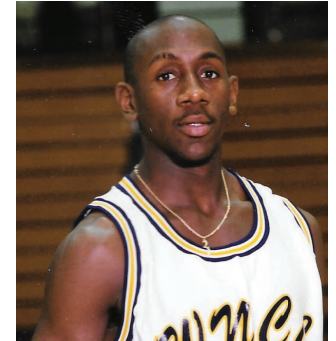
Another five players went on to compete in Canada or overseas.



Former Cougars Ty Reuter and Bernard Garner, who were teammates on the 1995 team came back for the Celebration of Life of former Cougar coach Dave "Soupy" Campbell's wife, Nancy Campbell, in January. Ty Reuter, who graduated from Mitchell High School, went on to play for the Trojans at the University of Southern California, while Bernard Garner, who was named the NJCAA Player of the Year, went on to play at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Garner now lives in Lincoln, while Reuter lives in Colorado Springs.



Morgan Broussard, a Gering High graduate, spent two seasons with the WNCC volleyball program from 2012-14 before signing to play at NCAA Division I University of Texas-San Antonio.



Bobby Jackson, who played for the Cougars from 1993-95, went on to play at the University of Minnesota and then was drafted as the 23<sup>rd</sup> pick in the 1997 NBA draft. Jackson went on to play for the Denver Nuggets, Minnesota Timberwolves, and Sacramento Kings. He was known as "Action Jackson" and won the Sixth Man Award.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WNCC

### APRIL

- 4 Historic WNCC Display at Legacy of the Plains Museum, Gering
- 7-10 Instrumental Music Tour, Colorado Springs
- 8 Senior Spring Wellness Festival, Harms Center
- 11 Begin Registering for Summer and Fall Classes
- 18 Spring Band Concert with Collegiate Chorale, featuring Premiere Performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem Mass
- 21 High School District Music Contest; No Classes on Scottsbluff Campus; Student Awards Ceremony, Sidney Campus
- 22 Earth Day – Clean Up Around Alliance Campus
- 22 Student Awards Ceremony, Alliance Campus
- 28 Student Awards Ceremony, Scottsbluff Campus
- 29 Lineman Rodeo, Alepna, Michigan
- 29 The Shape of Things (Theatre production)
- 30 The Shape of Things

### MAY

- 1 The Shape of Things
- 1 Jump, Jive & Swing (Instrumental Music performance and community dance)
- 1-2 Region IX Softball First Round (Site of No. 1 and 2 Seeds)
- 4 Launch of 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/BBQ, Scottsbluff Campus

- 6 Study Day, No Classes
- 7-8 Region IX Softball Championship Series (Site of higher seed)
- 9-13 FINALS WEEK
- 11-13 NJCAA Softball District Series (Kansas regional winner)
- 12-15 NJCAA Region IX Baseball Tournament
- 14 Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony; Graduation
- 18-21 NJCAA Softball Nationals, St. George, Utah
- 19-22 NJCAA Baseball Western District

### JUNE

- 1 Summer Classes Begin
- 10 1<sup>st</sup> Financial Aid Disbursement for Summer Semester

### JULY

- 4 Independence Day, College Closed
- 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Disbursement of Summer Semester Loans; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Disbursement of Summer Semester Loans for First-Time Borrowers
- 9 WNCC 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/BBQ, Gardner Park, Gering (following OT Days Parade)
- 16-17 Heritage Days, Alliance
- 26-27 FINALS
- 29 Band on the Bricks/Alumni Reception, Downtown Alliance

### AUGUST

- 10 New Student Orientation, Alliance Campus
- 12 Last Day for New Students to Register for Fall Term & 1<sup>st</sup> 8-Week Classes; New Student Orientation, Scottsbluff and Sidney Campuses
- 13 New Student Orientation, Scottsbluff Campus
- 14 Last Day for Returning Students to Register Online for Fall Term & 1<sup>st</sup> 8-Week Classes
- 15 Fall Term & 1<sup>st</sup> 8-Week Classes Begin
- 15-19 Week of Welcome

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Labor Day: College Closed
- 9 1<sup>st</sup> Financial Aid Disbursement for Fall Semester
- 16 1<sup>st</sup> Loan Disbursement for First-Time Borrowers for Fall Semester
- 18-24 National Surgical Technologists Week
- 24 Monument Marathon
- 30 Men's & Women's Soccer vs. Otero Junior College, Allen Landers Soccer Field

# Ensuring WNCC is Programmed for Success

BY DR. KIM DALE,  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



**S**taying current with workforce demands. Enhancing transferability among all our state's colleges and universities. These are two of the most important commitments we've made at Western Nebraska Community College.

We're proud to take an active role in the many positive curricular changes that are underway, including the Nebraska Initiative—a collaborative effort sponsored by the Nebraska Community College System to develop a common course framework to enhance student transferability within Nebraska community colleges and to our state universities.

Courses will now share common outcomes, while allowing faculty discretion on how to teach them. For example, ENGL-1010, English Composition, will have a common syllabus throughout the state, which includes course description, objectives, student learning outcomes, content outline, and suggested instructional materials. This approach ensures that if and

when students transfer to another Nebraska institution, standardized outcomes have been met.

## **General Education Also Getting Special Attention**

Our general education outcomes have also been updated to align and enhance student transferability. WNCC faculty have been working to align general education outcomes with those at the University of Nebraska. We believe that consistent and ongoing exposure to the following general education outcomes create well-rounded graduates who are prepared for the workforce. New outcomes include:

- Communications
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Humanities and/or Fine Arts Awareness
- Cultural and Civic Awareness
- Personal Development

## **Making Career and Technical Education Work Harder**

WNCC's career and technical education faculty have been working with advisory committees to

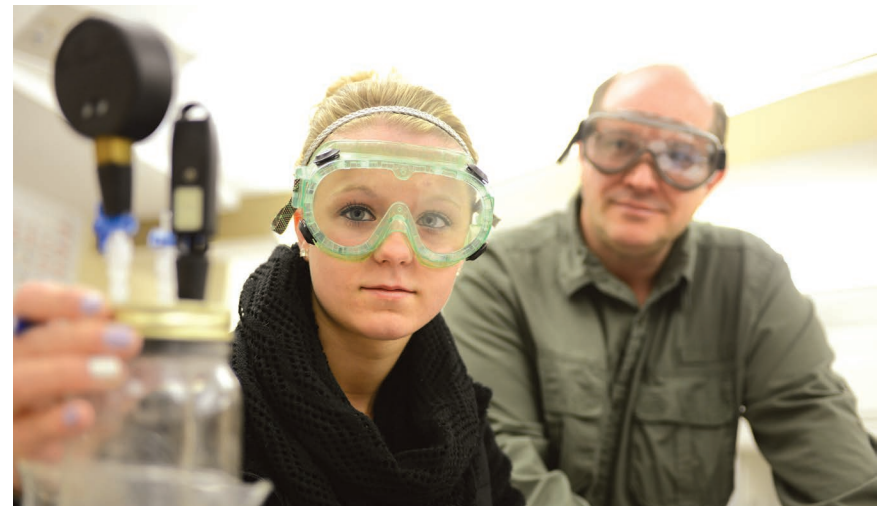
streamline our degree and certificate offerings. Over the years, a plethora of focus areas had been developed and offered, creating difficulty for students in identifying a streamlined academic plan.

Now, students have more degrees and certificates that provide broader options within a career cluster. This unified focus, accompanied by intentional advising, helps keep them on track toward graduation.

Our commitment to providing students with rigorous and relevant instructional preparation is central to our mission, and enhancing curriculum helps ensure our students are prepared to transfer and are workforce ready.

For more information about our programs of study and the changes we're undergoing, please contact me at 308.635.6003 or email [kim.dale@wncc.edu](mailto:kim.dale@wncc.edu).

# WHAT COURSE WILL YOUR LIFE TAKE?



Western Nebraska Community College  
1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CATALYST EDUCATION  
PARTNERS  
48304

**APPLY NOW!**

Summer classes begin June 1. Last date to register is Tuesday, May 31.

Fall and first 8-week classes begin Monday, August 15. Last date to register is August 12.

# Enrollment Steps

GET STARTED TOWARD SUCCESS

**1**

Apply for Admission to WNCC Online [wncc.edu/admissions/apply](http://wncc.edu/admissions/apply)

- Submit your ACT scores and high school transcript or official GED scores for possible scholarship consideration
- Once you are accepted, you are assigned a Student Success Coach and a Faculty Advisor who are your partners in your educational journey

**2**

Apply for Financial Assistance to Pay for College [wncc.edu/scholarships](http://wncc.edu/scholarships)

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) (WNCC Code: 002560)
- Comply with requests for any additional forms or documents as required
- Complete Housing Application online, if applicable [wncc.edu/student-life/residence-life](http://wncc.edu/student-life/residence-life)  
(Housing is available on the Scottsbluff and Sidney Campuses)
- Pay housing deposit of \$180 (\$150 refundable upon leaving housing)

**3**

Meet with Your Student Success Coach

- Determine whether you need to prepare for and take a placement test for classes
- Discuss career and educational goals
- Create an initial educational plan and register for your first term courses
- Register for New Student Orientation (see August calendar on page 17 for dates and locations)

**4**

Make Payment Arrangements [wncc.edu/cost-aid/make-payment](http://wncc.edu/cost-aid/make-payment)

- Pay tuition and fees by the first day of classes or sign up for NELNET e-Cashier Payment Plan

**5**

Begin Classes at WNCC

- Summer classes begin Wednesday, June 1, 2016
- Full fall classes and first eight-week classes begin Monday, August 15, 2016

WNCC assures learning opportunities for all — **enriching lives, invigorating communities, creating futures**