

Thank you, Dr. Holcomb by Lynne Klemke, wcca board Chair

Dr. Todd Holcomb served his last day as president of our College this past June. His impact on WNCC, however, will linger for years to come.

Dr. Holcomb accepted the position of president at Hawkeye Community College in Iowa to be closer to family. This move comes after serving as WNCC's president since 2010. Todd accomplished much during that span. He helped lead the college through its first comprehensive fundraising campaign that raised more than \$9.6 million for

a number of initiatives, including the recently completed Scottsbluff Main Campus Building expansion and renovation. Additionally, the campaign helped fund the Powerline & Indoor Training Facility on the Alliance Campus. Todd was also instrumental with the addition of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center on the Sidney Campus.

For your dedication to WNCC and for your commitment to bettering the Nebraska Panhandle, we thank you, Dr. Holcomb.

s I settle into my office as the interim president, I'm reminded time and again of all the reasons I made Western Nebraska Community College my home for 30 years as its president from 1976 until 2006.

Reasons like the determination and drive of our students, including sisters Becky and Megan on page 8, who are created their futures as nontraditional students. Or the vital community partnerships we have with businesses such as Bytes Computer & Networking Services that you'll read about on page 14 that help shape our college and enrich our hometowns.

Just as prevalent, though, are the new reasons to believe in this college. Like our newly renovated Scottsbluff Main Campus Building that officially opened not long ago. Or the addition of an Associate of Fine Arts degree this fall that you'll learn about on page 10. And the newly created Career Pathways & Advising department, which will help students prepare and land jobs or internships in their field of study.

While I plan to only serve as interim president for a few months until a permanent replacement has been selected, I will rest assured knowing the college is positioned to grow and prosper for many years to come.

Since June, our Western Community College Area (WCCA) Board of Governors has been working closely with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to ensure our presidential search runs smoothly and successfully. Semi-finalists will be selected in October, and the community will be invited to attend public forums for final candidate interviews, scheduled for November. Ultimately, we are expecting the new president to be named in late November with a January 1, 2020 start date. You can follow along the progress at wncc.edu/about-wncc/ presidential-search.

Until then, I'll continue to serve WNCC proudly.

—Dr. John N. Harms, Interim President

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GET SOCIAL WITH WNCC!



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

WESTERN is published by Western Nebraska Community College to encourage residents in our 12½-county region to think seriously about the difference education can make in their lives and careers, to promote business and community education, and to inform the community about WNCC's programs of study.

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OUR MISSION

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

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BUILDING COMMUNITY: Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Ca

estern Nebraska Community College unveiled its newest renovation project in August with a ribbon cutting celebration for the highly-anticipated updates to the Main Building on the Scottsbluff Campus.

Nearly two years after the official groundbreaking of an \$18.5 million renovation to the building, the new space was introduced to the public.

Although final touches to the renovated area still needed finished, students, faculty, staff, and community members alike were able to tour our updated facility, including the Howard Olsen Student Success Center, Learning Commons, and the state-of-the-art Platte Valley Companies Performing Arts Center.

The Howard Olsen Student Success Center will do just that – help our students succeed by streamlining their everyday services into one spot where they can receive advising and career advice, check on their financial aid, or simply pay their bill.

The Learning Commons area includes plenty of space for students to study and learn outside of a

traditional classroom setting. With multiple study rooms, resources and an atmosphere that encourages more collaborative learning, the new Learning Commons is sure to elevate each student's experience at WNCC.

The Platte Valley Companies Performing Arts Center was completely updated with the addition zof the Judy Chaloupka Theater that provides state-of-the-art sound equipment, and comfortable seating. The space is rounded out with a beautiful entrance and the Kelley Bean Box Office. With the updated PAC, WNCC can continue to be a hub for

It's tremendous. I believe I was the first class to graduate from this facility when they moved from downtown Scottsbluff. That facility lasted 50 years and I think that the way this is constructed, it should do the same. This is a great improvement, a lot of space, and a great view from this (upper) level. It's a great learning environment."

-Nebraska Senator Steve Erdman, District 47



It's beyond words exciting. Having these new [Associate of Fine Arts] programs along with this brand new theater, puts us on the verge of something really special and really big. Two years ago, we went from eight auditions for performing arts to 52 this past year."

-Debby Wagner, Admissions Counselor

BY LYNNE KLEMKE, WCCA BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIR

mpus Renovation

cultural enrichment in the Nebraska Panhandle, as well as continue to foster already flourishing Performing Arts programs.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, we thank all who supported this endeavor is any way. Without contributions from the entire Panhandle, this ambitious renovation could not have happened. This investment in the future of the entire area will help keep WNCC vibrant and healthy as we continue to serve our communities.

This open area in the learning commons feels like an area where students can go and get help or focus on their studies, or just hang out as well. I am primarily an online student, but with this new renovation, I want to come up here more. I feel like I can meet with classmates easier and be a part of the campus life as a non-traditional, online student. It pulls me here a little bit more because of the renovation. There's more of a community aspect; there is more space for people to meet."

> —Tory Bauer, 2014 Graduate of Mitchell High School **Currently Working on Her Associate Degree in Social Work at WNCC**







BY BILL KNAPPER, VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

hen we began planning the Platte Valley Companies Performing Arts Center, Howard Olsen Student Success Center, and Learning Commons, we dedicated ourselves to creating a space that would serve our students in their academic journey and enrich their overall college experience.

Now that the dust has settled—both literally and figuratively—I believe we did just that. But don't take my word for it, take a look and see for yourself.











THE JUDY CHALOUPKA THEATER - Named after a staple in the regional performing arts scene, the new theater is an ideal place for students and community members to perform, learn, and enjoy the fine arts. Audience members can immerse themselves in the performances with comfortable seating and convenient concessions, while the new lighting, sound system, and roundtable stage will bring productions to life.

HOWARD OLSEN STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER – This facility is sure to be one of the busier places on campus. Most student services will found here, including financial aid, cashier's office, counseling, and advising.

LEARNING COMMONS – This library isn't meant to be stale and boring. Instead, our students can study with views overlooking the Scotts Bluff National Monument. The wall-to-wall south-facing windows allow plenty of natural light inside to create a warm environment. The views inside our library are just as nice from the outside. We expect the 360-degree fireplace to be a favorite study spot for our students.

BUDDY'S BOOKS & BISTRO - We're proud to introduce our new bookstore that still houses WNCC apparel, grab n' go snacks, school supplies, and books. However, Buddy's Books & Bistro will also be equipped with a new coffee shop and bistro.

CORAL E. RICHARDS BOARDROOM – Along with the Howard Olsen Student Success Center and administrative offices, the lower level of the new space houses the Coral E. Richards Boardroom, named after WNCCs beloved and long-time board secretary.





Goldrick had also registered for classes at WNCC.

"We decided to surprise each other, I guess," Scheer said.

It didn't take long, however, for the sisters from Scottsbluff to realize they became part of a larger family when they enrolled at WNCC. During their time at WNCC, both Goldrick and Scheer became actively involved in TRIO Student Support Services on campus.

"They just offer so many resources from many different directions that so many people would benefit from," Goldrick said. "So TRIO was a very big factor to my success."

To learn more about TRIO Student Support Services, email trio@wncc.edu or call 308.635.6190."



Sisters Becky Goldrick and Megan Scheer both balanced work, motherhood, and the classroom to graduate in the spring of 2019.

ASSOCIATE OF FINE ARTS DEGREE READY TO TAKE CENTER STAGE

BY DR. HALLIE FEIL, **DEAN OF INSTRUCTION**

ecent Scottsbluff High School graduate Ty Corr loves being on stage. But he also aspires to teach at the high school level.

"I want to perform for as long as I can," said Corr, who earned a full-tuition vocal music scholarship at WNCC. "Then I want to teach music to high school students some day."

Students like Corr now have an option to do both with the addition of our Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degree. The AFA was introduced at WNCC this fall and allows students to gain a strong foundation of music knowledge with an emphasis in education.

Students entering WNCC have the option of majoring in Interdisciplinary, Music, Music Performance, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Musical Theatre. For Corr, the new AFA degree would provide him a more well-rounded education.

"The AFA degree was more beneficial to me over an education degree, which is what I was initially going to go for," he said. "This will give me more of a music background, so when I'm looking for teaching jobs it should help."

For more information regarding WNCC's new Associate of Fine Arts degree, please contact the Admissions Office at 308.635.6010 or admissions@wncc.edu.





BY DR. JOHN N. HARMS INTERIM PRESIDENT

The higher education field has brought Jackie Smith all over the country. She's worked in education in some fashion in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and North Carolina.

But ultimately, her heart lies here in the Nebraska Panhandle.

"We're very fortunate to live and work where we do," Smith said. "Not a lot of people get to experience it. It's a good life; a good place."

Smith, a Hay Springs High School alum, has returned home to serve as the WNCC Alliance Campus Director.

"It's a dream to live and work where your family is. I'm glad that opportunity is there for me," she said. "What appealed to me about this position is the opportunity to make sure education is available and affordable in the Panhandle."

As Smith settles into her role, she's taken time to get to know the students, faculty, and staff on the Alliance Campus, and has also made a point to spend time listening to residents throughout northern Panhandle communities.

"For me, it's about trying to figure out what we can do to be helpful and identifying our community's needs," she said.

Welcome Smith to the position by emailing smithj55@wncc.edu or by calling 308.763.2000.

Welcome Center



Career Pathways PAVES THE ROAD TO

BY TONYA HERGENRADER, CAREER PATHWAYS & ADVISING DIRECTOR

"Career Pathways really helped me get on the right track in my education. I will be forever grateful for the time and energy they put into helping me achieve my goals."

-Connor Moore, Anticipated 2020 Graduate



The new Career Pathways & Advising department helps WNCC students discover their path to the future.

e're fortunate here at WNCC to serve a vastly diverse population of students during various stages of their lives. Some register for classes immediately following high school graduation, and others join us years later.

Each student at WNCC, however, shares one common goal—the desire to discover a rewarding career.

Now, with the support of generous donors, we're excited to provide another service in making those dreams a reality with our Career Pathways & Advising department. Our new department was implemented at WNCC in the fall of 2018 with the mission of helping students make informed decisions about career pathways, and to support them along their journeys to achieving their career goals.

SUCCESS

We can help students discover their strengths and interests so they can confidently choose a program of study. Then, we help students prepare for internships or jobs through resume and cover letter critiques, and mock interviews. We also hold monthly workshops on each campus and encourage students to meet with us regularly.

And we're just getting our feet wet. We have plenty of new, exciting ideas in store for this year, and want to stay connected with our community businesses. If you have ideas for us, or questions regarding Career Pathways & Advising, please don't hesitate to contact us at pathways@wncc.edu or call me at 308.635.6346.



BY JENNIFER REISIG, WNCC FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

bout 20 years ago, Darrell Lewis could see the writing on the wall: technology was only getting bigger. As a longtime aviator, he decided to attend WNCC to study information technology. "Outstanding instruction found me ready to open a business," Darrell Lewis said.

In an effort to give students that same vision, Bytes has donated \$25,000 toward a new SMART classroom at WNCC. The new technology allows students to be more interactive in their field of study. Bytes

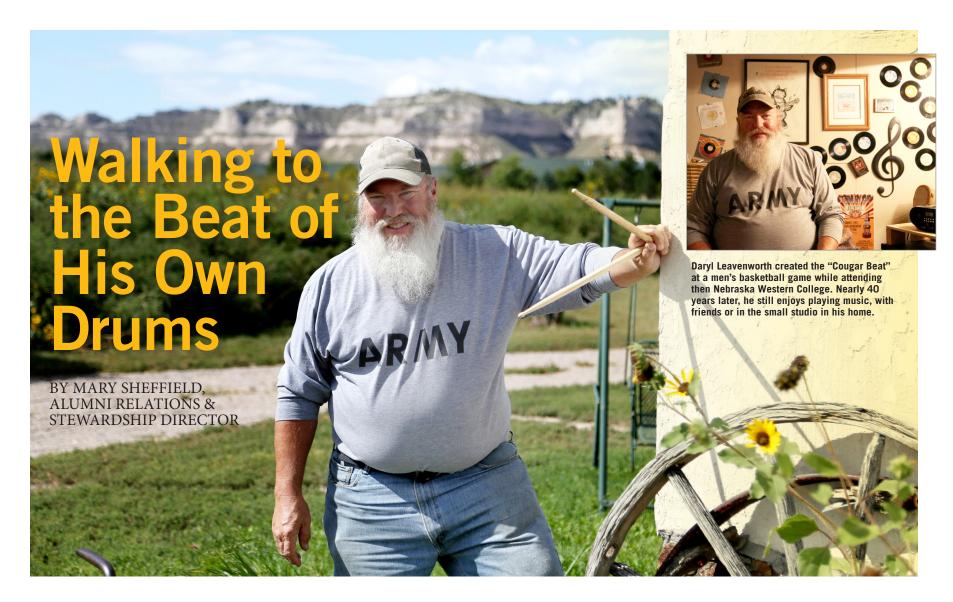
Computer CEO Todd Lewis hopes the donation not only encourages local students stay local, but also prepare them for careers such as Information Technology or Cyber Security.

Bytes Computer & Networking Solutions has enjoyed 18 years of serving the Valley, starting as a PC sales and repair business and evolving into a full-service provider of service management, networking solutions, and technical support to companies and individuals. Keeping an eye on the future keeps

the company thriving, even as technology trends continue to change.

"The tech industry is very fast-paced," Todd Lewis added. "One of the big things my dad brought to the table was the vision for always staying in front of that."

For more information on WNCC's SMART classrooms please contact the WNCC Foundation at foundation@wncc.edu or 308.630.6550.





Beat with a twist

The familiar "Cougar beat" echoed through the NWC gymnasium during the final minutes of Sunday's basketball game against Casper but the drummer was not Darrell Levenworth (left), the originator of the catchy cadence, but Doug Hinrichs, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hinrichs of 1600 N St., Gering. The young drummer has been "routinely" practicing the cadence at home, according to his father, and got his big chance before a packed house. — Star-Herald photo by Rick Myers

t's been nearly 40 years since the creation of the "Cougar Beat." But even as time has passed, Daryl Leavenworth still gets recognized for his famous combination of bass drum and cow bell.

As a student, at then Nebraska Western College, in the late 1970s, Leavenworth was in the Pep Band at a Cougar basketball game. There wasn't any warm-up music, so one of the photography instructors at the time asked Leavenworth to start playing something.

A tradition was born and it didn't take long for the packed crowds to join in.

"By the end of the first season, it wasn't quite a big deal yet. But when the second season started, it had grown in popularity, and the entire gym was on their feet, stomping and clapping their hands and the Cougar Beat was a hit and everyone was going nuts,"

Leavenworth said. "The games were really thrilling and the gym was wall-to-wall packed, and all hopping to the Cougar Beat."

The quickly-growing popularity of the beat even shocked Leavenworth.

"It just came out, it wasn't something that I sat down and studied and tried to make a big deal out of. It was just the rhythm that came out of me."

After graduating with a music education degree, Leavenworth's path led him from the Panhandle to Colorado and back more than once, but his legacy lived on for years to come. Although the Cougar Beat has faded at WNCC, he still gets asked occasionally to play it if someone spots him near a drum set.

Now recently retired, Leavenworth lives with his wife of 38 years, Nancy, in Gering.



or more than 30 years, only one player had amassed 1,000 points in WNCC women's basketball history. Merle Wiehl joined that exclusive

club last season.

The Germany native, who signed to play at Division I Santa Clara University, poured in 756 points this past season to become the program's all-time scorer with 1,313 points.

Wiehl's accomplishment helped her become only the third Cougar (men or women) named a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) First Team All-American. She broke Penny (Mallett) Dressor's 36-year-old record of 1,026 points, which was set in 1983.

"I am just happy with the support from the community, so it is great to say I have the school record here for now," Wiehl said.

Behind Wiehl's record-breaking season, the Cougar women's basketball team earned its 14th Region IX title in program history. The Region IX championship victory ¬— a 65-60 win over Casper College — allowed the Cougars to appear in the national tournament for the second straight season.

Cougar Athletics Spring Sports Rewind BY RYAN BURGNER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



BASEBALL

The Cougar baseball team came within one out of capturing just its second Region IX tournament title in program history. Instead, WNCC settled for a second-place finish and a 26-29 record on the season. Pitcher Zach Berg, first baseman Brevin Owen, outfielder Ethan Miller, and designated hitter Dermot Fritsch were named to the All-Nebraska JUCO First Team by the Omaha World-Herald. Owen also earned All-Region First Team honors.

SOFTBALL

WNCC's softball team captured its seventh Region IX title and third in the past five years with a 14-5 victory over McCook Community College in the championship at Volunteer Field. The Cougars fell in the District E Playoff to Butler Community College, but Mickie Mills, Bri George, Michaela Kelly, Emma Glawson, and Emma McMillan were named to the All-Nebraska JUCO First Team by the Omaha World-Herald. Kelley was named the honorary captain of the squad. The same five also earned All-Region First Team honors.





MEN'S BASKETBALL

Though WNCC was unable to grab back-to-back Region IX Championships, the Cougar men's basketball team did surpass 20 wins for the third time in Head Coach Corv Fehringer's three-vear tenure. WNCC's 24-8 season was recognized when Jervay Green was named to the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Second Team All-American list. Green was named the co-Region IX Player of the Year, South Player of the Year, and earned a spot on the All-Region First Team.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WNCC









CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

16 Powerline Construction & Maintenance Day, Alliance 19 Voc Air Fly-In, Sidney

22 PTK Lip Sync, Scottsbluff

24 26 Casino Night, Scottsbluff

Veterans Upward Bound 20th Anniversary 30 Human Services/Psychology Day,

Scottsbluff 31 Trunk or Treat, Sidney

NOVEMBER

18 & 20 Performing Arts Auditions, Scottsbluff

Thanksgiving Break, College Closed

DECEMBER

Late Night Breakfast, Scottsbluff

25-31 Winter Break, College Closed

JANUARY

13 Spring Classes Begin

24 Back to School BBQ, Sidney

FEBRUARY

10 Discover WNCC, Scottsbluff

Student Organization Lunch, Sidney

24 & 26 Performing Arts Auditions, Scottsbluff

MARCH:

Criminal Justice Day, Scottsbluff

9-13 Spring Break, No Classes

25 Education Day, Scottsbluff

26 PTK Induction Ceremony, Sidney

Health Sciences Look & Learn,

Scottsbluff

COUGAR ATHLETICS—FOR NEWS, SCHEDULES, AND MORE—WNCCATHLETICS.COM



Friday, October 18

- **Pre-game Celebration** 6:15 p.m. | Cougar Palace
- Volleyball vs. Trinidad Junior College 7:00 p.m. | Cougar Palace
- King & Queen Crowning Following Volleyball game

Saturday, October 19

WNCC Fly-In and Breakfast 7:00 a.m. | Sidney Campus

Monday, October 21

Willy Wonka Movie Showing | The Pit

Tuesday, October 22

Lip Sync Contest | Sponsored by PTK | 7:00 p.m. | Conestoga Hall Lobby

Wednesday, October 23

Buddy's Birthday Party 10:50 a.m. | The Pit

Thursday, October 24

- Bingo at Senior Center 1:00 p.m. | Alliance Campus
- **Business After Hours** 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Learning Commons
- Casino Night 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Bishop Dining Hall

Friday, October 25

- 6th Annual Alumni & Friends Banquet 5:30 p.m. | Learning Commons
- **Performing Arts Reunion Concert** 7:00 p.m. | Judy Chaloupka Theater

Saturday, October 26

WNCC Veterans Upward Bound 20th Reunion Celebration 11:30 a.m. | John N. Harms Center Plex



"The small class settings enable students to build a strong engineering foundation, which translates to academic success at the university level."

> -Brandon S. Harris-Miller. WNCC Pre-Engineering Graduate

ost people know of the many local and regional companies that have hired Western Nebraska Community College students to fill jobs or internships. But did you know WNCC has been helping students land fellowships with NASA, too?

In fact, NASA fellowships have been an annual opportunity for more than a decade for students within the WNCC Pre-Engineering or Information Technology programs through the NASA Nebraska Space Grant. Students selected to take part in these fellowships are tasked with completing complex projects using skills they honed at WNCC.

Through WNCC's Pre-Engineering program, students receive a foundational base of knowledge in science and mathematics in preparation for a career in engineering. These students at WNCC are also assured a smooth transition into their next step in education through Strengthening Transitions into Engineering Programs (STEP).

WNCC's involvement in STEP allows our students to directly transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Along with STEP, pre-engineering students now have the possibility of financial aid awaiting them if they decide to pursue a four-year degree. WNCC was recently allocated more than \$400,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math scholarships from the National Science Foundation. The allocation is part of a five-year, \$3.56 million grant, STEM Career Opportunities in Nebraska: Networks, Experiential-learning and Computation Thinking (STEM CONNECT) that also includes the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Southeast Community College. The scholarships are good for two years at WNCC and an additional two years at UNL if a student wishes to continue their education.

For more information on WNCC's Pre-Engineering program, contact Bill Spurgeon at spurgeon@wncc.edu or 308.635.6177.

WHAT COLOR IS YOUR FUTURE?

You have plenty of decisions to make at college. One of the most important is choosing a program of study. The Nebraska Career Education's career clusters are meant to make that decision easier. Our programs of study have been sorted by industry so you can more easily identify a program that fits within your interests.

AAS, D, C

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The seed that turns into food fuels your interest in creating a sustainable ecosystem that provides for future generations.

Agriculture Science (Pre)	AS
Applied Agriculture Technology	D, C
Biology/Ecology	AS
Food Science (Pre)	AS
Forestry/Wildlife Management (Pre)	AS
Rangeland Management	AS

BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND MANAGEMENT

Your dream is to create the next big app, have a team of producers make it better, and watch it being used by millions throughout the world.

Business Administration

• Staff Accountant Option

 Accounting Option 	AA, AS
 Business Administration Option 	AA, AS
 Management Information Systems Option 	AA, AS
Business Technology – Executive Assistant Option	
 Executive Assistant Option 	D, C
 Information Technology Technical Support Option 	AAS, D
 Medical Office Management Option 	AAS

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

You understand the world is just a click away. You desire for it to b

oe closer, faster.	
Computer Sciences (Pre)	AS
Fine Arts	
 Interdisciplinary Option 	AFA
Music Option	AFA
Music Performance Option	AFA
 Musical Theatre Performance Option 	AFA
Theatre Option	AFA
 Visual Arts Option 	AFA
Information Technology	AA
Information Technology – CyberSecurity Option	AA

HEALTH SCIENCES

The ability of the body to repair itself, and science to repair what the body can't, attracts you to this field. Your satisfaction in this area comes from helping others with their health.

Biomedical Research (Pre)	AS
Chiropractic Medicine (Pre)	AS
Dental Hygiene (Pre)	AS
Dentistry (Pre)	AS
Dietetics	AS
Emergency Medical Services	AAS
Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic	С
Exercise Science	AS
Health Information Technology	AAS
Health Information Technology – Coding Technician	D

HEALTH SCIENCES continued	
Medical Laboratory Technician	AAS
Medical Laboratory Technician – Phleb	otomy C
Medical Technology (Pre)	AS
Medicine (Pre)	AS
Nursing	
 Associate Degree 	ADN
 Practical 	D
 Pre-Professional 	AS
Pharmacy (Pre)	AS
Physical Therapy (Pre)	AS
Physics	AS
Radiologic Technology (Pre)	AS
Surgical Technology	AAS
Veterinary/Comparative Medicine (Pre)	AS

HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

You are active everyday and you love working with others. You are fascinated at the way the human body and mind can grow and absorb information like a sponge. Better yet, you want to pass this fascination on to others.

Criminal Justice Studies	AA, AAS
Education	
 Early Childhood 	AA, AAS
 Elementary 	AA
Music	AA
 Secondary 	AA, AS
Foreign Language (Spanish)	AA
General Studies – Social Sciences	AA
Human Services	AA, AAS, C
Psychology	AA
Social Work	AA

SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES

You're the creator. Raw materials and a challenge present you with an opportunity to construct the things people use everyday.

Automotive Technology	AAS, D, C
Aviation Maintenance	С
Chemistry	AS
Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology AAS, D, C	
Engineering (Pre)	AS
General Studies – Math & Science	AS
Physics	AS
Powerline Construction & Maintenance Technology	D, C
Welding Technology	AAS. D. C

DEGREES

AAAssociate of Arts	AFAAssociate of Fine Arts
AASAssociate of Applied Science	AOSAssociate of Occupational Studies
ASAssociate of Science	DDiploma
AD-NAssociate Degree Nursing	CCertificate

WNCC is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (August 22, 2017)







———— Complete the Housing Application





STEP 4

STEP 3

Meet with an Advisor



Register for Classes



STEP 6

Attend a New Student Orientation

For more information, please contact:

ADMISSIONS OFFICE admissions@wncc.edu 308.635.6010