

WESTERN

NEW WRI GRANT SUPPORTS
LOCAL WORKFORCE
DURING PANDEMIC

HERMELA TAMIRAT HONORED
AS 2020 NEW CENTURY
PATHWAY SCHOLAR

WNCC'S PAULA ABBOTT
BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIPS
IN THE PANHANDLE

MLT AND PHLEBOTOMY
PROGRAMS RECEIVE NAACLS
ACCREDITATION



Campuses Experience a World of Change



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR. CARMEN M. SIMONE

It's been about ten months since I stepped in to my office as Western Nebraska Community College's sixth president. In that time, the world has changed in the most unexpected ways. From a complete shutdown of everything we knew, to the new masked look of "normal life," our lives have been forever altered by the events of 2020.

To say this has been a challenging year is an understatement. This past spring, our faculty shifted all instruction to an online format with just a week's notice. Our students were challenged with completing the spring semester without in-person help on our campuses. This fall, we had to adapt our rules and regulations to create safe campus environments to protect our students.

Despite the turmoil of the spring and summer semesters, we are now in a better position to propel our institution into the future. We launched new partnerships, like the Panhandle Advantage with Chadron State College. We also helped to repair our regional workforce with an innovative retraining initiative you can read about on page 6. Best of all, we achieved these goals while simultaneously adapting our classroom settings and graduating a new class of 296 students.

In times of crisis, we adapt and overcome, as a college, as a community, and as a society. The students in the WNCC Theatre Arts program are an inspirational example of how to face adversity, as you'll read on page 14.

As we finish this unpredictable year of 2020, we owe a thanks to our students, faculty, staff, and community members for doing their part in keeping us healthy, safe, and in the classrooms. It's impossible to know what the next big challenge will be, but I have no doubt that our institution will be well prepared and willing to serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmen M. Simone
President



- 2 President's Message
- 4 COVID-19 Brings a World of Change to WNCC Campuses
- 5 Ouderkirk Twins Surprise in Nebraska MOS Competition
- 6 New Grant Supports Local Workforce During Pandemic
- 8 Hermela Tamirat Named 2020 New Century Pathways Scholar
- 10 WNCC's Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society Builds Culture of Excellence
- 11 Cougar Athletics: New Training Facility is Worth the Weight
- 12 Grant Helps Former Railroaders Switch Career Tracks
- 14 Theatre Arts Program Proves "The Show Must Go On!"
- 15 Paula Abbott Builds New Bridges in Nebraska's Panhandle
- 16 Alumnus Aguirre Examines the Past to Build a Better Future
- 17 Calendar of Events
- 18 WNCC MLT and Phlebotomy Programs Receive NAACLS Accreditation
- 20 Register for Spring 2021 Classes – Apply Today!



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.

Publisher's Info

Editor: Preston Goehring, Marketing Specialist

Editorial/Creative Support: Allison Judy, Public Relations & Marketing Director; Brooke Samuelson, Graphic Artist

Photography: Mark Rein, Brooke Samuelson, Preston Goehring, SunnyFreckles Photography, Agency 39

Campus Locations

Alliance Campus • 308.763.2000
1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, NE 69301

Scottsbluff Campus • 308.635.3606
1601 E. 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Sidney Campus • 308.254.5450
371 College Drive, Sidney, NE 69162

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

District One

Ms. Kimberly A. Marcy
Dr. Margaret Crouse

District Two

Ms. F. Lynne Klemke, Chair
Mr. R.J. Savely, Jr.

District Three

Mr. Allan D. Kreman
Mr. Richard G. Stickney, Vice Chair

District Four

Ms. Coral E. Richards
Ms. Karen Anderson

District Five

Dr. William M. Packard
Ms. Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales

At-Large

Dr. M. Thomas Perkins

Appointed

Ms. Lynne Koski, Treasurer
Ms. Susan Verbeck, Secretary

WNCC ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Carmen M. Simone, *President*

John Marrin, *Interim Executive Vice President*

William Knapper, *Vice President of Enrollment & Marketing*

Lynne Koski, *Vice President of Administrative Services*

Kathy Ault, *Human Resources Executive Director*

Paula Abbott, *Partnerships & Inclusion Executive Director*

OUR MISSION

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

WESTERN is published biannually by Western Nebraska Community College, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69631 in partnership with Propeller Communications LLC.

All rights reserved. No part of the material printed may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage retrieval system without the permission of the publisher.

Questions about Western Nebraska Community College programs and services described in this publication can be directed toll free to 800.348.4435. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the WNCC Public Relations & Marketing Office at 308.635.6081.

© 2020 Western Nebraska Community College

A World of Change Comes to Our Campuses



WNCC implemented its Safe Operating Protocols before the start of the fall semester to help keep students, faculty, and staff safe and healthy.

BY JOSHUA VESPER, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATOR

In the early lockdowns from the COVID-19 pandemic, all three WNCC campuses were forced to thoughtfully develop and swiftly implement dramatic operational changes.

In just one week, almost all instruction was moved online. Only a few classes with critical face-to-face instruction continued in person, under strict precautions to minimize the spread of the virus.

As the global response to the pandemic evolved over the summer, we developed an action plan to get our students back on campus safely. Before the start of the fall 2020 semester, we announced WNCC's Safe

Operating Protocols (SOP) to protect students, faculty, and staff as they transitioned back to the classroom.

Highlights of these protocols include:

- Modifying classrooms to adhere to social distancing guidelines
- Redefining overflow classrooms to address learning areas with limited capacity
- Using technology to livestream or record instructional material
- Implementing a campus-wide face covering mandate
- Updated leave procedures for staff and students
- Updated cleaning procedures

- Limiting residence halls to one student per room (through the fall semester)
- Redesigning common areas to ensure social distancing outside of classrooms

At WNCC, we understand the COVID-19 pandemic remains a fluid situation and our protocols and guidelines are subject to change at any time. We admire our students, employees, and community members for the resiliency they have shown during this crisis. Together, we're learning that we can overcome any of life's challenges when we all work together toward a common goal.



As Information Technology students, both Alan (front) and Adam Ouderkirk of Bayard decided to become certified Microsoft Office Specialists because it would help them find careers after college. Both were surprised to find out that Alan won the Nebraska State competition by posting the highest score on the certification test, and Adam placed third.

Ouderkirk Twins Place First, Third in Nebraska MOS Competition

BY SCOTT WINTERS, BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION CHAIR

During the fall of 2019, Alan and Adam Ouderkirk, then freshman Information Technology students at WNCC, heard about a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification from Information Technology (IT) Instructor William Spurgeon. He told the twins from Bayard, Nebraska, adding an MOS certification to a résumé would make it a little easier when looking for careers after college.

Following Dr. Spurgeon's advice, the brothers decided to get certifications in the MOS PowerPoint® category. Each Microsoft Office application has its own certification, but the Ouderkirk's were most interested in Microsoft PowerPoint®.

In December, Alan received a surprise email from the MOS United States National Championship. He received the highest score on the certification test and was named the Nebraska State Champion. He also qualified for the 2020 National Championship, an annual event that brings together the nation's top students in each MOS category for a skills competition.

"When I heard I won I was in total shock because I didn't realize I scored so high," Alan said. "To this day, I am still in shock how a small-town boy from Nebraska could win something like this."

Alan patiently waited for his certificate to come in the mail with his prize package and when it arrived, the whole family received another surprise. Not only did Alan win the state championship, but Adam finished third in the Microsoft PowerPoint® category, to earn a certificate of his own.

Now sophomores, Alan and Adam hope to pursue careers that relate to IT. Alan plans to attend the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture to study Turf Management, and secure a position where he can use both skill sets. Adam wants to enter the IT field right after completing his studies at WNCC.

The Ouderkirk brothers agree, WNCC was the best decision for both of them. "WNCC has always given me so many opportunities to be successful," Adam said. "All the staff push me to become a better student and person and also support all of my goals in life."

WNCC Receives Grant Funding to Support Local Workforce During Pandemic

BY DR. CHARLIE GREGORY, DEAN OF INSTRUCTION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the global economy, reducing employment throughout the entire country, including Nebraska and its Panhandle. To counteract the gap in the job market created by the pandemic, the state of Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development created the Workforce Retraining Initiative (WRI) grant.

This grant of \$16 million, funded as part of the Federal CARES Act, distributed financial support to Nebraska communities for local workforce retraining efforts. Individuals who lost their job or experienced reduced work hours due to COVID-19, were eligible to use these funds to complete training programs for new careers in high-demand fields. WNCC was awarded nearly \$185,000 for scholarships and administrative funds. Students receiving these scholarships were awarded an average of \$1,100 toward tuition and an additional \$350 for books.

“The WRI grant came on fast and furious,” WNCC Workforce Development Director Doug Mader said. “Based on grant guidelines, the college pulled together as many resources as possible to help people impacted by COVID-19 to find new employment. Well over 100 people took advantage of this opportunity and we’re excited to continue to work with them through this semester.”

WNCC identified 10 different credit and non-credit programs for their immediate impact on the Panhandle’s workforce:

- Automotive Technology
- Basic Nursing Assistant (BNA)

- Class A CDL
- Collision Repair & Refinish Technology
- Computer Support Specialist
- Electrician Apprenticeship
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Heavy Equipment Operator - Skid Steer
- Medication Aide
- Welding

WNCC student, Andrew Hanzes previously worked in construction and warehouses his entire life. Access to these WRI funds helped him to pursue additional training through WNCC’s Automotive Technology program.

“With this WRI scholarship, I was able to go back to school for a trade certificate,” Hanzes said. “With this experience I can get a maintenance or mechanic job in many areas. It’s given me a whole new perspective on my career.”

The deadline to apply for the CDL, BNA, and Medication Aide programs is October 31. For more information about the WRI grant, contact Tonya Hergenrader, Career Pathways & Advising Director, at gerhartt@wncc.edu or 308.635.6346.



WNCC partnered with the State of Nebraska to offer the Workforce Retraining Initiative (WRI) grant to help Panhandle residents like Andy Hanzes go back to school and re-enter the workforce. Hanzes joined WNCC’s Automotive Technology program this fall.



“The availability of different student success resources at WNCC has helped me succeed in my classes.”

—Hermela Tamirat,
Current WNCC Nursing Student

FACES *of* EXCELLENCE



WNCC'S TAMIRAT HONORED AS 2020 NEW CENTURY PATHWAY SCHOLAR

BY NORMAN COLEY JR., DEAN OF STUDENTS

When Hermela Tamirat decided to become a nurse practitioner, her sister Molly suggested joining her as a student at WNCC. So, in 2018, she moved from her home of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Scottsbluff, Nebraska, with her sights set on a bright future.

“WNCC has a lot of wonderful student resources like supplemental instructors, math and writing centers to help me succeed in my classes. And having access to so many student organizations really helped me adjust to college life,” she said. “The nursing program here is excellent. It has everything I need to support my education and future career,” Tamirat added.

In addition to her studies in the Associate Degree Nursing program, Tamirat also serves as a student ambassador and a resident assistant. She is a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), a national honor society.

As a member of PTK, she was named to the All-Nebraska Academic Team. In March, she was named a 2020 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar.

This prestigious program is sponsored by PTK, the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Only one scholar from each state is selected out of more than 2,000 nominees. The award came with a generous scholarship of \$2,250 and a recognition of her achievements at AACC’s and PTK’s national conventions.

Tamirat is quick to recognize others as part of her success. “When I read the email announcement, I couldn’t believe it! But I could not have achieved this great accomplishment without the help of my instructors, classmates, family and friends at WNCC,” she said.

Hermela Tamirat, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, found the abundance of involvement opportunities at WNCC as a major attraction. After graduating with a Associate of Science degree this past spring, she now serves as a student ambassador, a resident assistant, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and is a student in the WNCC Nursing program.

WNCC Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society Builds a Culture of Excellence

BY JOHN MARRIN, INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

WNCC's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) National Honor Society chapter continues to receive national and international recognition for the hard work and achievements of its advisors, instructors and student members.

WNCC's Five-Star PTK Chapter

The Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society (PTK) recognizes student success and achievement at associate degree-granting institutions around the world.

WNCC's PTK Honor Society is recognized as a 5-Star Chapter, the highest level in the organization. Achieving this rating requires the inspirational dedication of WNCC's PTK chapter advisors (Amy Winters, Norman Coley, and Patsy Yeager), and the continued hard work of student members.

"It takes a lot of time and commitment from everyone to get to a five-star level," Winters said. "Our students work, go to school, and have families. They are involved in other activities on campus. They have overcome obstacles and for them to be recognized in this way says a lot."

Individual WNCC PTK Instructors Receive Certification and Recognition

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the following instructors and advisors have completed the required studies to become certified PTK Instructors:

- Amy Winters, math instructor
- Norman Coley, dean of students
- Patsy Yeager, early childhood education instructor

Winters was also selected to serve as a 2020 Faculty Scholar in addition to receiving PTK's

2020 Distinguished Advisor Award. She will be recognized at the 2021 Honors Institute at Hofstra University in New York.

WNCC PTK Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

At WNCC, PTK encourages students to step out of their comfort zones to grow into their roles as the leaders of tomorrow. Many achieve notable milestones along the way, including:


- Hermela Tamirat was named a 2020 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar.
- Oluchukwa (Theresa) Uduenna was named a PTK Distinguished Chapter Member.
- Jeremiah Marchington received a Regional Award for Excellence and was named an Associate Regional Coordinator.
- Tamirat, Tyler Christensen, Victoria Schwartz and Nancy Clinton were named to PTK All-Nebraska Academic Team.

Simone Named to PTK Presidential Advisory Board

WNCC President Dr. Carmen Simone accepted a position on the PTK Presidential Advisory Board in March. The board consists of 44 college presidents who provide input to the organization's strategic plan and guidance for the organization's priorities, and direction.

As an Advisory Board member, Simone will advocate for PTK, its members, and mission among her duties. She will also serve as a liaison to other college leaders throughout Nebraska.

"It is humbling for me to join other college presidents in service to PTK as an advocate and advisor," Simone said. "I owe a special thank you to our two local chapters for their support and encouragement."



Amy Winters, Math Instructor and PTK Advisor, received PTK's Distinguished Advisor Award in 2020, along with completing the certification to become a PTK instructor.



New Cougar Training Facility is Worth the Weight

BY RYAN BURGNER,
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Year in and year out, WNCC athletic programs are recognized as some of the best in Region IX and across the country. That success is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our Cougar athletes in the offseason and in the weight room.

In an effort to streamline operations, the Athletics Department moved to the Clark N. Williams Multicultural Learning Center. All coaches' offices, equipment and training facilities are now housed in the same location, along with a redesigned and expanded weight room.

"The upgrades to the workout machines and equipment has enhanced the training of our athletes," according to WNCC Athletic Trainer and Physical Education Instructor, Doug Jones. "Of course, the bigger weight room is a bonus and provides more space for our athletes to train. With COVID-19, their workouts are limited but we have more space to safely accommodate more people."

The new weight room upgrades include six squat racks and platforms, two new stationary bikes and treadmills, a stair-stepper, and an artificial turf area for footwork training. Plus, it's close to the training

room and coaches' offices, making it easier to rehab athletes while promoting greater communication among everyone in the department.

"To me, one of the biggest things about this upgrade is the ability to have all athletics in one place," Jones said. "We now have the training room and coaches' offices in the same location, so, if I need to talk to a coach or rehab with an athlete, we can do that right here. This gives me more time to supervise rehabs and provide treatments with minimal disruptions. To our coaches and athletes, that makes a world of difference."

Grant Helps Former Railroad Workers Switch Career Tracks

BY JENNIFER REISIG, WNCC FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“The FNBO Community Development Grant is just one of many ways that the WNCC Foundation gives back to students and members of our local community.”

—Jennifer Reisig,
WNCC Foundation
Executive Director

At the WNCC Foundation, we are only as strong as our surrounding communities. That’s why our goal is to improve the future of not only our WNCC students, but the entire Panhandle by creating more educational opportunities for the people who call this area home.

By giving more of our neighbors access to education, we elevate their lives. In turn, this creates a positive impact on the economies of our communities. It’s a commitment you’ll find in programs of study like WNCC’s Powerline Maintenance & Construction program in Alliance.

In 2016, First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO) awarded the WNCC Foundation \$25,000 for a Community Development grant. At that time, the local railroad industry was expecting extensive layoffs. This grant was created to help displaced railroad employees enter an H3 occupation (high wage, high skill, high demand) with a straightforward path to joining the Powerline program. In as little as 12 months, a student can graduate with the knowledge, skills, and diploma to land on their feet in a growing industry.

This grant has funds readily available for former railroad employees who want to switch career tracks. Applications are now being accepted. For information about the Community Development grant or to learn how to apply, contact the WNCC Foundation at foundation@wncc.edu or 308.630.6550.





PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: WNCC Theatre Arts Proves “The Show Must Go On!”

BY JENNIFER PEDERSEN, ACADEMIC
ENRICHMENT, LANGUAGE, & ARTS
DIVISION CHAIR



WNCC Theatre Arts Instructor Francesca Mintowt-Czyz brainstorms set ideas for the Fall 2020 musical “Riptides” with students in the Technical Production II class. “Riptides” will be delivered virtually, along with other performances from all the WNCC Performing Arts groups.

Every spring, the WNCC Theatre Arts department comes alive with new productions in rehearsals. If you visited the department last spring, you would have found the cast and crew of “Macbeth” hard at work preparing for their upcoming performance. Then came COVID-19 and almost overnight, everything changed.

The global pandemic caused mass shutdowns and cancellations of events, including everything in the Platte Valley Companies Performing Arts Center. However, WNCC Theatre Arts Instructor Francesca Mintowt-Czyz wasn’t ready to give up on all the spring productions so easily. As the saying goes, “the show must go on!”

“I think we were all a bit stunned,” she said. “I had heard rumors of schools not returning to campus due to COVID-19, so before WNCC transitioned to virtual learning, I decided to take action.”

Costumes for “Macbeth” were mailed to student-actors along with instructions to film themselves reading their lines. This simple idea became the first virtual production in WNCC history. It wasn’t the way the actors or Mintowt-Czyz wanted to present their show, but it received rave reviews

from fellow students, community members, and even industry professionals.

“We did it because theatre is never something someone can do alone,” she said. “It is only because of the dedication of the cast, and the support of WNCC and the community that we were able to offer a performance to share.”

Under the guidance of Mintowt-Czyz, the department took a deeper dive into the world of virtual performing. Students began to learn about adapting productions for different modes of delivery, while building new skills in areas, like voiceovers and recording.

“Artists adapt, we always have,” Mintowt-Czyz said. “I believe it is key for the arts to survive and thrive. Fortunately, we live in a world of technology, making virtual performances possible.”

The Theatre Arts department will continue to produce virtual work throughout the year along with other WNCC Performing Arts groups. For more information on the Performing Arts schedule and how to view these performances, visit www.wncc.edu/community/performing-arts.

WNCC's Abbott Building New Connections Across Nebraska's Panhandle

BY DR. CARMEN M. SIMONE, PRESIDENT



Paula Abbott accepted a position as the new Partnerships & Inclusion Executive Director over this past summer.

WNCC's commitment to Panhandle communities is stronger than ever thanks to the efforts of Paula Abbott. With her key role in the development and oversight of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center on the Sidney Campus, many surrounding communities know her work very well.

Over the summer, Abbott was asked to expand on her role as the Sidney Campus Director to become the new Partnerships & Inclusion Executive Director. In this position, she will expand her liaison duties to include both the Sidney and Alliance campuses. She will also seek out and support partnerships throughout the Panhandle with key organizations, businesses, and individuals.

"I'm thrilled for the opportunity to serve the entire Panhandle," Abbott said. "With this expanded role, we can take ideas that found success in the southern tier and bring them to new communities. Similar needs exist in these areas and making zvital connections to local, state, and federal resources is critical to nurturing business and entrepreneurial growth."

Abbott's new role also includes the promotion of a welcoming, inclusive environment for students, faculty, staff, and members of communities. Working together with Inclusion Coordinator Maricia Guzman, WNCC will make a positive impact for more communities and individuals across the Panhandle.

"I am a first-generation student and I am aware of the obstacles to obtaining a certificate or degree," Abbott said. "Along with Maricia, we can help members of our community to become WNCC students, whether that be a traditional, dual-credit, or GED student. Together, we will help them discover and seize those opportunities."

Aguirre Learns from the Past to Design the Future

BY MARY SHEFFIELD, FOUNDATION ALUMNI RELATIONS/STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR



After graduating from WNCC in 2009, Trevor Aguirre went on to earn his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University.

“Failure is an important learning tool.”
—Trevor Aguirre

Trevor Aguirre has always been a ‘maker’ who also enjoyed learning how things work. So, when he was named one of the first recipients of WNCC’s SITE (Science Information Technology, Engineering) grant in 2007, he decided to enroll at WNCC as a pre-engineering student. His scholarship paid for tuition, room, board and fees but he quickly learned landing a scholarship is one thing but keeping it is another.

As Aguirre puts it, “WNCC not only gave me the opportunity to learn, they also gave me the chance to fail.” And that helped him to where he is today.

“I lost my scholarship after my first semester because I didn’t take college seriously. However, I worked diligently during my second semester at WNCC and was able to earn the scholarship back. Without that opportunity, I think I would have dropped out of college. Failure is a powerful learning tool.”

After graduating from WNCC in December 2009, Aguirre returned to his home state of Colorado to earn a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University in 2014. He went on to earn his master’s degree in 2017 and in May 2020, he successfully defended his dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

Aguirre was the lead author of a research study on the structure of trabecula - the spongy interior of dinosaur bones. He and a team of paleontologists, biomedical engineers, and fellow mechanical engineers studied the density of this material and its function in helping large dinosaurs move. The study was published this past August in *PLOS One*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

“By studying trabecular bone and understanding how it accommodates large body mass—mechanical engineers can learn to design stiff and lightweight structures for things like transport vehicles and space shuttles,” Aguirre said.

As a WNCC alumnus, Aguirre isn’t afraid to look closely at the past. Because he knows it often points the best way forward.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WNCC



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 14 Powerline Construction & Maintenance Day, Virtual
- 21 PTK Virtual Lip Sync
- 28 Behavioral Health Professions Conference, Virtual
- 28 Expressions: Open Mic Night, Scottsbluff

NOVEMBER

- 4 Aviation Maintenance Day, Virtual
- 16-18 Performing Arts Auditions
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday, College Closed

DECEMBER

- 7-11 Finals Week
- 25-31 Winter Break, College Closed

JANUARY

- 1 Winter Break, College Closed
- 11 Spring Classes Begin

FEBRUARY

- 8 Discover WNCC, Scottsbluff
- 21 Our Lady of Guadalupe Center Open House
- 22-24 Performing Arts Auditions

MARCH

- 2 Job & Internship Fair, Virtual
- 3 Criminal Justice Day, TBD
- 8-12 Spring Break, No Classes
- 24 Education Day, TBD



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

MLT and Phlebotomy Programs Receive NAACLS Accreditation

BY DR. CHARLIE GREGORY,
DEAN OF INSTRUCTION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In May, the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) granted initial accreditation to WNCC's MLT and Phlebotomy programs.

As one of WNCC's newest programs of study, the MLT program previously only offered an associate degree and the Phlebotomy was considered a non-degree seeking program and only offered a certificate. With the new recognition from the NAACLS, both are now classified as accredited, degree-seeking programs. This means students in the program may be eligible for financial aid.

According to Dr. Mwafaq Haji, WNCC's Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program director, accreditation is valuable to students because many laboratories prefer graduates of NAACLS accredited programs.

"One of the goals of accreditation and approval is the protection of students, in addition to the assurance of program quality," Haji said. "Graduates will be able to provide the best patient safety and care, while filling job vacancies in medical facilities in the Panhandle and across Nebraska."

The NAACLS site visit team identified many strengths in the program in its award letter, recognizing the program's strong support, curriculum base, student laboratory facilities, and equipment. It also identified WNCC's student access to state-of-the-art technology and outstanding educational environment.

The initial accreditation will last through 2025. For more information about WNCC's MLT & Phlebotomy programs, contact Dr. Haji at **308.635.6124** or **hajim5@wncc.edu**.



"I enjoy the hands-on learning in the lab and how the lessons of every week help break down how each test works. Without being too simple, it's just so cool!"

—Monica Torres,
Current MLT Student



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.

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
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	
• 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
• Staff Accountant Option	AAS, D, C

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Your passion is making human connections. Your tools might be a canvas, stage, or computer but it's your creativity that brings people closer together.

Computer Sciences (Pre)	AS
Fine Arts	
• Interdisciplinary Option	AFA
• Music Option	AFA
• Music Performance Option	AFA
• Musical Theatre Performance Option	AFA
• Theatre Arts 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	C
Exercise Science	
• Health & Fitness Studies	AS
• Physical Education Option	AS
Health Information Technology	AAS
Health Information Technology – Coding Technician	D

HEALTH SCIENCES continued

Medical Laboratory Technician	AAS
Medical Laboratory Technician – Phlebotomy	C
Medical Technology (Pre)	AS
Medicine (Pre)	AS
Nursing	
• Associate Degree	ADN
• Practical	D
• Pre-Professional	AS
Pharmacy (Pre)	AS
Phlebotomy	C
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
Human Services – Drug & Alcohol Counseling	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	C
Chemistry	AS
Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology	AAS, D, C
Engineering (Pre)	AS
General Studies – Math & Science	AS
Physics	AS
Powerline Construction & Maintenance Technology	AAS, D, C
Welding Technology	AAS, D, C

DEGREES

AA.....Associate of Arts	AFA.....Associate of Fine Arts
AAS.....Associate of Applied Science	D.....Diploma
AS.....Associate of Science	C.....Certificate
ADN.....Associate Degree Nursing	

WNCC is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission

Western Nebraska Community College
1601 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1854
PEWAUKEE WI



STEP 1

Apply for Admission
wncc.edu/admissions-aid



STEP 2

Apply for Financial Assistance
wncc.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid



STEP 3

Complete the Housing Application



STEP 4

Meet with an Advisor



STEP 5

Register for Classes



STEP 6

Attend a New Student Orientation



**Spring Classes
Begin January 11**

For more information, please contact:

ADMISSIONS OFFICE
admissions@wncc.edu
308.635.6010

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