



W
92nd
Commencement

Saturday, May 11, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Western Nebraska Community College
Cougar Palace
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

In Case of Emergency

Please take a moment to identify the emergency exits closest to you. In the event of an emergency, pay close attention to the announcer or WNCC personnel for important life safety information. If you or someone nearby has a medical emergency during the ceremony, security personnel, located throughout the facility and near the exits, are available to assist.

Please join us for a reception immediately following the ceremony. Reception areas are located in the Welcome Center, Pit, and Learning Commons.

Sogno di Volare *Lyrics*

Once you have taken flight,
You'll decide
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.

Once you have taken flight,
You'll decide
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.

The first great bird will take flight toward the sun,
Sweeping over the great Mt. Ceceri,
Filling the universe with wonder and glory.

Once you have taken flight,
You'll decide
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.

Mankind will be lifted by his own creation,
Just like the birds, towards the sky,
Filling the universe with wonder and glory.

Once you have taken flight,
You'll decide
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.

Gloria!
Gloria!

Una volta che avrai
Spiccato il volo, deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.

Una volta che avrai
Spiccato il volo, deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.

Prenderà il primo volo verso il sole il grande uccello
Sorvolando il grande Monte Ceceri
Riempendo l'universo di stupore e gloria.

Una volta che avrai spiccato il volo,
Allora deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.

L'uomo verrà portato dalla sua creazione
Come gli uccelli, verso il cielo...
Riempendo l'universo di stupore e gloria.

Una volta che avrai
Spiccato il volo, deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.

Gloria
Gloria

Program

Emcee

Greg Dart, President - Western Nebraska Community College

- WelcomeDr. Emily Norman
Dean of Students
- Land Acknowledgement Avaya Yellow Boy
- Prelude..... *Flourish for Wind Band*, by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Western Nebraska Winds
Conducted by Dr. Nathaniel Johnson, Instrumental Activities Director
- Processional *Burnished Gold and Army Blue*, by John Cacavas
Western Nebraska Winds
- National Anthem..... *The Star Spangled Banner*, by Francis Scott Key
Collegiate Chorale
Conducted by Shawn Bailey, Music Education Graduate
Tami Lippstreu, Accompanist
- President’s Address Greg Dart
- Student Commencement Address Val Saturno
- Special Music..... *Jet Stream*, by Gary D. Ziek
Western Nebraska Winds
Conducted by Dr. Nathaniel Johnson, Instrumental Activities Director
- Commencement AddressMorgan Baird
- Special Music..... *Sogno di Volare*
Words by Leonardo Da Vinci and Chiara Cortez, Music by Christopher Tin
Conducted by Rebecca Martin, Interim Choral Activities Director
Tami Lippstreu, Accompanist
- Certification & Presentation of Degree Candidates Dr. Grant Wilson
Executive Vice President of Educational & Student Services
- Reading of List of Graduates Dr. Grant Wilson
- Conferral of Degrees Greg Dart
- Recessional *Burnished Gold and Army Blue*, by John Cacavas
Western Nebraska Winds

2023-2024 WNCC Graduates

Name	Award	Hometown
Adams, Kaeden <i>H, T</i>	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Alliance, NE
Adamson, Ashley <i>T</i>	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Sidney, NE
Ainsworth, Alexander <i>H, M, A</i>	Associate of Arts & Science‡	Conifer, CO
Ajayi, Oluwapelumi	Associate of Science‡	Lagos, Nigeria
Aldridge, Michael <i>A, HH, P</i>	Aviation Maintenance Certificate‡	Benkelman, NE
Allbaugh, Garret <i>VUB, MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Gering, NE
Allred, Augustus <i>H, P, MA</i>	Associate of Arts & Science‡	Mountain View, WY
Anaya, Angelica <i>H, P, L, T</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Andrews, Josiah	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Angelova, Maya <i>H, P, L</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Kyustendil, Bulgaria
Apodaca, Isaiah	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Arriaga-Mota, Vanessa	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Bailey, Shawn	Associate of Arts§	Julesburg, CO
Barber, Shalyn	Associate of Science‡	Alliance, NE
Bargmann, Kyrie <i>H, T</i>	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Lincoln, NE
Batt, Shelby <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Fine Arts†	Mitchell, NE
Beal, Preston <i>H, DC</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Beckner, Taneka	Associate of Applied Science‡	Indianapolis, IN
Bernt, Taylor	Executive Assistant I Certificate†	Kimball, NE
Bewley, Megan <i>HH, P, L</i>	Associate of Science‡	Gering, NE
Billey, Nathaniel <i>P, T</i>	Basic Welding Certificate†	Oshkosh, NE
Blackman, Charlotte <i>H</i>	Associate of Science‡	Auckland, N. Zealand
Blanco, Julius <i>DC</i>	Collision Repair & Refinish Certificate†	Scottsbluff, NE
Boston, Joshua	Automotive Technology Certificate‡	Harrisburg, NE
Brandt, Kristie	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Sidney, NE
Briggs, Brooklyn	Associate of Science†	Mitchell, NE
Brownlow, Emma <i>H, P, T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Bruckner, Andrea	Associate of Applied Science§	Mitchell, NE
Burdiles Villalobos, Hernan <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Science‡	Santiago, Chile
Burgess, Laura <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Greeley, CO
Camacho, Cassadi	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Gering, NE
Campos, Andrea	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Cardiff, Courtney <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Arts†	Scottsbluff, NE
Carlson, Carrie	Associate of Applied Science‡	Sidney, NE
Caron, Jamie <i>H</i>	Associate of Science‡	Rifle, CO
Carrillo, Valeria <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Alliance, NE
Cervantes, Keyla	Associate of Science‡	Tolleson, AZ
Chairez, Julissa <i>T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Minatare, NE

† Fall 2023 Graduate

‡ Spring 2024 Graduate

§ Expected Summer 2024 Graduate

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*MA = Multiple Awards P = Phi Theta Kappa T = TRiO VUB = Veterans Upward Bound
Highest Award Listed*

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Name	Award	Hometown
Charron, Ashleigh	Associate of Applied Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Charron, Matthew <i>DC, MA</i>	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Mitchell, NE
Charron, Stacey <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Chung, Minsuk	Aviation Maintenance Certificate‡	Seoul, South Korea
Clark, Halsey <i>H, P, L</i>	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Cochrane, Emily <i>T</i>	Associate of Arts§	Scottsbluff, NE
Comstock, Kade <i>H, P, T</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Fleming, CO
Conner, Rachel <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Science‡	Kennesaw, GA
Cotant, Allison <i>H</i>	Associate of Fine Arts§	Morrill, NE
Cottrell, Carson <i>H</i>	Associate of Science‡	Alliance, NE
Covel, Mariah <i>H, P, T, MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science§	Ogallala, NE
Cox, Tirah	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Alliance, NE
Craig, Mary	Associate of Applied Science‡	Alliance, NE
Czerniak, Hernizar	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Casper, WY
Czerpak, Katelynn <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Sciences	Aurora, CO
Danner, Desiree	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Darnall, Kaitlyn	Associate of Arts§	Sidney, NE
De Santiago, Norma	Associate of Arts§	Scottsbluff, NE
Diaz Rubio, Jesus <i>H</i>	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Dillard, Lee <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Fort Worth, TX
Dodd, Garrett <i>H</i>	Associate of Science‡	Laramie, WY
Dodge, Makayla <i>T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Doherty, Max <i>H, MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Ogallala, NE
Dominguez De Leon, Pablo	Associate of Science‡	Madrid, Spain
Donaldson, Amiyah <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Charleston, WV
Doolittle, Kathleen <i>T</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Dowse, Josie <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Sidney, NE
Dunston, Tyler <i>H, T</i>	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Stoneham, CO
Dye, Madelyn	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Sidney, NE
Easter, Tyler <i>H</i>	Associate of Science‡	Sandy, UT
Easterly Jr., Travis	Associate of Arts§	Youngstown, OH
Edens, Sunny <i>L</i>	Associate of Arts§	Scottsbluff, NE
Edwards, Diana	Associate of Arts§	Scottsbluff, NE
Edwards, Rebekah	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Hay Springs, NE
Ellis, Caden	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Ellis, Jared <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Ainsworth, NE
Elvehjem, Cora <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts§	Rice Lake, WI
Escamilla, Julianna <i>T</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Alliance, NE

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Escobar, Luis T, MA	Associate of Applied Science‡	Aurora, CO
Esparza, Diana	Associate of Science§	Gering, NE
Espino, Elizabeth H	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Felker, Jedidiah	Associate of Science‡	Lincoln, NE
Felkins, Arika	Associate of Fine Arts§	Gering, NE
Fedor, Samantha H, P, L, T	Associate of Science‡	Saratoga, WY
Flores, Dylan	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Torrington, WY
Font I Valls, Galla H, P	Associate of Science‡	Barcelona, Spain
Franklin, Emily H	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Fritzler, Jayden	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Mitchell, NE
Galindo, Yiselle T	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Gallegos, Shakira T	Associate of Science§	Aurora, CO
Garcia, Martin P, MA	Diesel Technology Diploma‡	Gering, NE
Getachew, Yonatan H, P, L	Associate of Science‡	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Gion, Ethan H, P	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Golden, Rand MA	Associate of Applied Science‡	Bridgeport, NE
Gomez, Danielle	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Gonzales-Hernandez, Juana DC	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Gonzales, Alyssa H	Associate of Science§	Scottsbluff, NE
Gonzalez, Ethen	Associate of Applied Science§	Ramah, CO
Gortsema, Shauna H, P, T	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Crawford, NE
Gurrola, Esperanza T	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Gurrola, Sabrina	Early Childhood Education Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Gurrola, Vanessa L	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Hageman, Bryttny T	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Hanson, Andrew H, P, T	Aviation Maintenance Certificate‡	Bridgeport, NE
Hardy, Shae H	Associate of Science‡	Windsor, CO
Harris, Dylan H	Associate of Science‡	Broomfield, CO
Harris, Jameon	Associate of Science‡	Tallahassee, FL
Harris, Holly HH	Associate of Arts†	Bayard, NE
Hasbargen, Dillan H, T	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Torrington, WY
Hayer, Gurnoor HH, DC	Associate of Science‡	Gering, NE
Hernandez, Angel	Associate of Arts‡	Sidney, NE
Hernandez, Elizabeth T	Associate of Arts§	Scottsbluff, NE
Hernandez, Ricardo MA	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Gering, NE
Hiemstra, Madison H, T	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Alliance, NE
Hill, Haylea H	Associate of Science‡	Angora, NE
Hintergardt, Dylan T, MA	Business Technology Diploma‡	Gering, NE

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Hoebet, Nathan <i>H, P, L</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Hohnstein, Jacob <i>DC</i>	Basic Welding Certificate†	Scottsbluff, NE
Hostetler, Heidi	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Torrington, WY
Hotz, Wyatt <i>H</i>	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Deer Park, WA
Huff, Jesse	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Lodgepole, NE
Hughson, Michelle <i>T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Mitchell, NE
Hunter, Matthew <i>DC, MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Morrill, NE
Inoue, Shintaro	Associate of Science‡	Yamaguchi, Japan
Jackson, Jacob <i>A, P</i>	Associate of Science‡	Delta, UT
Jacob, Tristin	Basic Welding Certificate†	Crawford, NE
Jimenez, Joshua	Associate of Applied Science†	Hugo, OK
Joseph, Mackenzie <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Vinton, LA
Kang, Dahee <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Arts†	Seoul, South Korea
Kang, Damin <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Applied Science†	Seoul, South Korea
Keenan, Loukisha	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Kendall, Cora	Associate of Arts‡	Sidney, NE
Kilthau, Mollie	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Gering, NE
Kirimi, Agnes <i>H, P</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Klingsporn, Shelbi <i>H, T</i>	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Knaub, Amber	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Alliance, NE
Krueger, Baylie <i>H, P, T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Swink, CO
Krug, Dalton	Associate of Science†	Alliance, NE
Krysl, Spencer	Basic Welding Certificate†	Gering, NE
Leach, Kellie	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Leach, Leanne <i>H</i>	Associate of Science§	Mitchell, NE
Leach, Thomas <i>VUB, T, MA</i>	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Lehmkuhl, Jill	Associate of Arts†	Scottsbluff, NE
Lenhart, Ryan <i>A, HP</i>	Associate of Arts†	Scottsbluff, NE
Liakos, Riley <i>P</i>	Business Technology Certificate‡	Gering, NE
Linberry, Kirk <i>T, MA</i>	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Lopez, Gabriella	Associate of Arts§	Gering, NE
Lopez, Paige	Associate of Applied Science‡	Gering, NE
Lucius, Noel <i>MA</i>	Collision Repair & Refinish Certificates†	Scottsbluff, NE
Marquez, Savian <i>H</i>	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Martinez, Danielle	Associate of Applied Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Martinez, Samuel <i>MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Gering, NE
Martinez, Shanelle	Associate of Science§	San Antonio, TX
Mayse, Zoe	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE

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Mazanec, Keeley	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Alliance, NE
McCollum, Hunter	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
McDonald, Hayden MA	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Alliance, NE
McDowall, Audrey	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Kimball, NE
McGowan, Breana HH, P	Associate of Fine Arts‡	Harrisburg, NE
McLaughlin, Megan H, VUB	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Gering, NE
Mendoza, Brandon H	Associate of Arts‡	Dix, NE
Menke, Jerzie	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Bridgeport, NE
Miller, Alesia T	Associate of Science§	Gering, NE
Miller, Arely H	Associate of Applied Science§	Torrington, WY
Mlupi, Buhlebenkosi	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
Moench, Brooke	Associate of Applied Science‡	Potter, NE
Montelongo, Juan MA	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Minatare, NE
Montelongo, Yvette H, T	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Montiel Rojas, Arturo H	Associate of Science‡	Miami, FL
Moody, Stephanie	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Alliance, NE
Moosai, Devin	Associate of Arts§	Fridley, MN
Morava, Talor P	Associate of Science‡	Crawford, NE
Morgan, Adrienne P	Associate of Applied Science‡	Gering, NE
Morgan, Jennifer H	Associate of Applied Science‡	Alliance, NE
Morgan, Tatum T	Associate of Applied Science‡	Gering, NE
Morrill, Brooklyn T	Associate of Applied Science‡	Hay Springs, NE
Morrison, Justin	Associate of Science‡	Powder Springs, GA
Morsett, Hollie	Associate of Fine Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Munoz, Juan H, P, VUB	Associate of Science§	Torrington, WY
Munoz, Mariha-Mae L, T	Drug & Alcohol Counseling Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Napier, Katie	Associate of Arts‡	Torrington, WY
Newberry, Aidan H	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Nguyen, Linh	Associate of Science‡	Houston, TX
Neideffer, Heather	Paramedicine Certificate§	Gering, NE
O'Bannon, Janeva H, P	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Orozco, Jaxson DC, MA	Associate of Applied Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Ovia, Stephen	Associate of Science§	Borehamwood, UK
Pacheco, Michaela T	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Cheyenne, WY
Palomo, Victor HH, P	Associate of Science‡	Mitchell, NE
Paul, Jacob	Associate of Applied Science‡	Lamar, CO
Perez, Kristal	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Perez Cardenas, Aileen H, P, T	Associate of Arts‡	Thornton, CO

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Perez Nunez, Adriana H, T	Associate of Arts§	Gering, NE
Perucca, Alexey	Aviation Maintenance Certificate‡	Colorado Springs, CO
Peterson, Bryce H, MA	Associate of Science‡	Brighton, CO
Phu, Robin H, P	Associate of Applied Science§	Grand Island, NE
Plasencio, John	Associate of Fine Arts‡	Mitchell, NE
Platt, Ryan	Associate of Science‡	Longmont, CO
Plorin, Arianah	Associate of Applied Science‡	Casper, WY
Poirot Allard, Shayane H	Associate of Arts‡	Cavalaire, France
Polich, Jared H	Associate of Fine Arts‡	Fort Morgan, CO
Powell, Neo T	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Alliance, NE
Priselac, Devyn	Associate of Science‡	Fort Collins, CO
Ramirez, LaTashia T	Associate of Applied Science§	Gering, NE
Reber, Devin MA	Associate of Applied Science‡	Torrington, WY
Reinmuth, Aspen H, P	Associate of Science‡	Gering, NE
Rider, Braxton HH	Associate of Science‡	Gering, NE
Roach, Amber	Automotive Technology †	McGrew, NE
Roark, Micky P, L, T	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Des Moines, IA
Roberts, Samantha H	Associate of Arts†	Colton, MI
Roche Cruz, Pedro T	Associate of Science§	Ponce, Puerto Rico
Ross, Ashton	Associate of Arts§	Westminster, CO
Ruiz, Vanessa T	Phlebotomy Certificate‡	Torrington, WY
Rut, Madison	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Arthur, NE
Salazar, Linda	Phlebotomy Certificate†	Gering, NE
Sanchez, Alena DC, MA	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Sanchez, Julio H, T	Associate of Applied Science‡	Wakefield, NE
Sanchez, Kolbee	Associate of Applied Science‡	Alliance, NE
Sanchez, Michelle P	Associate of Applied Science‡	Gering, NE
Saturno, Valeria H, P	Associate of Science‡	Joinville, Brazil
Sayaloune, Jinlee MA	Collision Repair & Refinish Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Schekall, Rachel H, P, T	Associate of Science‡	Hemingford, NE
Schlothauer, Maxwell	Associate of Arts‡	Gering, NE
Schnell, Dylan MA	Associate of Applied Science‡	Bridgeport, NE
Schroeder, Lindsay H, P	Associate of Science‡	Gering, NE
Schuler, Kassadie	Associate of Science‡	Gering, NE
Schwanebeck, Justin T	Aviation Maintenance Certificate‡	Ellsworth, NE
Schwartz, Jenna H	Associate of Applied Science‡	Broadwater, NE
Schwartz, Victoria P	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Sell, Caitlyn	Automotive Technology Certificate†	Oshkosh, NE

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Shanks, Tyrone <i>MA</i>	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Sharp, Esaiah <i>DC, MA</i>	Collision Repair & Refinish Certificates‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Shaver, Riley <i>H</i>	Associate of Fine Arts‡	Weldona, CO
Shean, Joseph <i>H, T, MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science§	Stratton, CO
Shrewsbury, Trell <i>H, T</i>	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	Alliance, NE
Shy, John	Basic Welding Certificate†	Oshkosh, NE
Simbana Criollo, Camila <i>P</i>	Associate of Science‡	Quito, Ecuador
Smith, Anna	Associate of Science‡	Sheridan, WY
Smith, Connor <i>H</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Cheyenne, WY
Smith, Hailey <i>T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Morrill, NE
Soriano, Tatiana <i>T</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Spreier, Brittney <i>T</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Gering, NE
Spurgeon, Brianna <i>DC, MA</i>	Automotive Technology Certificates‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Staab, Bailie <i>T</i>	Associate of Arts†	Scottsbluff, NE
Stanton, Jessica <i>P, T</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Alliance, NE
Starkey, Ziphorah <i>T</i>	Associate of Arts†	Harrison, NE
Steinbrecher, Nathaniel	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Fort Worth, TX
Stone, Kaleb <i>T, MA</i>	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Alliance, NE
Stroh, Elijah	Advanced Welding Certificate‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Sutter, Kaitlyn <i>H</i>	Associate of Science§	Weldona, CO
Swartz, Austin <i>H</i>	Powerline Technology Certificate‡	McCook, NE
Sweetland, Amber	Associate of Arts‡	Kimball, NE
Swires, Druid <i>VUB, T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Alliance, NE
Tactacan, Steffi <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Science†	Manilla, Philippines
Taylor, Brianna <i>T</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Curtis, NE
Thomalla, Haley <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Science†	Scottsbluff, NE
Thompson, Alexis <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Thompson, Eli	Associate of Science§	Gering, NE
Torres, Edgar <i>DC</i>	Automotive Technology Certificate†	Scottsbluff, NE
Torres, Yesenia <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts†	Scottsbluff, NE
Trattler, Larry	Associate of Applied Science‡	Chappell, NE
Triolo, Jamie <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Arts§	Harrisburg, NE
True, Reagan	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Underwood, Braden <i>H, T, MA</i>	Associate of Applied Science§	Chadron, NE
Underwood, Jordon <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Arts§	Oshkosh, NE
Vahlenkamp, Isaac <i>H</i>	Associate of Science§	Loveland, CO
Van Valkenburg, Maci	Phlebotomy Professional Skills Award‡	Hay Springs, NE

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*MA = Multiple Awards P = Phi Theta Kappa T = TRiO VUB = Veterans Upward Bound
Highest Award Listed*

2023-2024 WNCC Graduates

Name	Award	Hometown
VanRiper, Madilynn <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Farmington, NM
Vasquez Malpica, Lesley <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Denver, CO
Vath, Hannah <i>H, T</i>	Associate of Fine Arts‡	Dalton, NE
Velazquez-Mier, Adan <i>H, P, T</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Broadwater, NE
Vesper, Joshua	Associate of Arts‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Vicente Cercal, Rodrigo	Associate of Science‡	Joinville, Brazil
Wagner, Jalyn <i>H, P, L, T</i>	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Walker II, Maurice <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Science‡	Denver, CO
Whartman, Whitney	Associate of Arts§	Potter, NE
Whaley, Tina	Associate of Arts§	Grifton, NC
Whitten, Shannon <i>H</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Walden, CO
Wicker, Avery <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Science‡	Scottsbluff, NE
Wiens, Justin <i>H</i>	Aviation Maintenance Certificate‡	Mullen, NE
Williams, Blake	Associate of Applied Science‡	Sidney, NE
Williams, Kylie <i>H, T</i>	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Alliance, NE
Wilson, Susana <i>T</i>	Associate Degree in Nursing‡	Gering, NE
Wolfe, Candace <i>H, P, T</i>	Associate of Arts§	Bayard, NE
Wood, Brient <i>H, P</i>	Associate of Applied Science‡	Grant, NE
Woodral, Eleesha <i>T</i>	Practical Nursing Diploma‡	Bridgeport, NE
Wright, Marissa <i>T, MA</i>	Associate of Arts‡	Kearney, NE
Yellow Boy, Avaya <i>L</i>	Associate of Science§	Scottsbluff, NE
Yetter, Noah <i>T</i>	Basic Welding Certificate†	Scottsbluff, NE

† Fall 2023 Graduate

‡ Spring 2024 Graduate

§ Expected Summer 2024 Graduate

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Highest Award Listed*

Commencement Speaker

Morgan Baird

Morgan Baird graduated from WNCC in 2021 where she studied Social Science before transferring to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She graduated from UNL in May of 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Morgan was then crowned Miss Nebraska on June 10, 2023. Over the past year, she has shared her service initiative, “Rock the Vote: Engaging the Political Power of Young People,” while encouraging young people to get involved in the political process.

Morgan has also acted as a state ambassador for the American Heart Association advocating for heart health.



Morgan will pass on her title in June of this year, but she will continue pushing for civic engagement and involvement.

Western Community College Area Board of Governors

Western Nebraska Community College’s Board of Governors is comprised of eleven elected members, representing the five districts of the Panhandle, with one member serving at large.

District One

Ms. Marjorie Schmidt

District Two

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

District Three

Ms. Misty Curtis
Mr. Allan D. Kreman

District Four

Ms. Karen Anderson, *Chair*
Ms. Coral E. Richards

District Five

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

At-Large

Mr. John Stinner, *Vice Chair*

Administrative Officers

Greg Dart, *President*

Lynne Koski, *Vice President of Administrative Services*

Grant Wilson, *Executive Vice President of Educational & Student Services*

Faculty Marshals

Jennifer Pedersen

President, Western Nebraska College Education Association

Carrie Howton

Faculty Board of Governors Representative

Amy Winters

Past President, Western Nebraska College Education Association

Lorin King

Faculty Board of Governors Representative

Emeritus Awards

Each year the Western Community College Area Board of Governors recognizes retiring faculty and staff who have provided outstanding service to the College. Faculty and staff are recognized for having more than 10 years of service or a record of dedicated and exemplary service. This commitment is recognized with the honorary status of Professor Emeritus and Administrator Emeritus.

Administrator Emeritus

Sheila Johns

Financial Aid Director

2006-2023

David Koehler

Accounting Services Director

2011-2023

Professor Emeritus

William Hanson

Science Instructor

2011-2023

2023 WNCC Friend of the College Award

The Friend of the College Award is the highest honor given by Western Nebraska Community College and is presented to a person, couple, business, or community organization for ongoing commitment to education and fulfilling the College's mission "To provide learning opportunities – **enriching** lives, **invigorating** communities, and **changing** futures."

Dr. M. Thomas Perkins

Dr. M. Thomas Perkins, a dedicated individual, served on the Western Area Community College Board of Governors for 32 years, advocating for equal access to education. His unwavering leadership and proactive engagement with the Board set a high standard for fellow members, Western Nebraska Community College administration, and the entire College community.

Throughout this tenure on the Board, he played pivotal roles, serving as the Board's vice chair for three years and as its chair for six years.

In 2003, Dr. Perkins assumed the chairmanship of the Nebraska Community College Association and was subsequently elected as the regional director to the Association of Community College Trustees during a national conference later that year. His resolute, respected voice reverberated through state and national legislative proceedings, where he ardently championed the cause of two-year colleges. Through his active involvement with NCCA and ACCT, Dr. Perkins regularly visited Lincoln and Washington, D.C. to engage with lawmakers.

Dr. Perkins' professional journey, which encompassed expertise in counseling, conflict resolution, and a calling to the clergy, steered him onto a deeply meaningful path of service and altruism. Along his path, he has showcased remarkable dedication to several critical domains, including mental health, education spanning all levels, and the compassionate support of patients in their most vulnerable moments at the end of life.

A substantial part of Dr. Perkins' professional efforts has been dedicated to creating support systems for the groups and individuals who are called upon to respond to local emergencies. Acknowledging the physical and psychological challenges encountered by first responders, nurses, physicians, and law enforcement personnel, Dr. Perkins has played a pivotal role in establishing Critical Incident Stress Management programs in multiple communities across the state.

Dr. Perkins possesses unique expertise in dealing with end-of-life decisions and is a staunch advocate of the hospice movement. He has played a key role in the formation of a statewide hospice organization, as well as the establishment of two hospice programs in our community.

Notably, in the 1990s, he founded 'Camp Hope,' a weekend retreat for cancer patients. Three decades later, the camp remains a cornerstone of the oncology program at Regional West Medical Center.

In retirement, he cherishes time with his family, including two sons, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



The Academic Regalia

The colorful attire worn by faculty, administrators, and students during commencement dates to the 12th and 13th centuries when universities were first taking form in Europe. Academic regalia was standardized across all colleges and universities in America in the late 19th century with few traditions changing since then.

THE GOWN: The academic gown is often black, though many colleges select gowns representing institutional colors. The gown's sleeve type distinguishes the type of degree earned: the gown for associate and bachelor's degrees, diplomas, and certificates has pointed, open sleeves that are untrimmed; the untrimmed, open sleeves of the master's gown are oblong, with the rear part square cut and the front with an arc cut; and the closed sleeves of doctoral gowns are bell-shaped with three bars of velvet trim.

THE HOOD: Students earning associate and bachelor's degrees, diplomas, and certificates wear traditional mortar boards. Those holding an advanced degree also wear a special hood which varies in length and, in the case of the doctorate, also in pattern. The master's hood is three feet long with a three-inch trim; the doctor's hood is four feet long, rectangular, and has a five-inch velvet trim. The colored velvet binding of the hood represents the major field in which the degree was earned. The color of the hood's lining symbolizes the official colors of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree.

THE ACCESSORIES: Accessories – in the form of medallions, stole, and cords – are representative of individual student academic achievements or membership in certain organizations.

The Medallions:

- Red, white, and blue-ribboned gold medallions – recipients of the Nebraska Academic All-American Award
- Red-ribboned gold medallions – recipients of the Phi Theta Kappa Coca-Cola Community College New Century Scholar Award

The Stoles:

- Red and white stoles – participants of TRIO Student Support Services programs
- Gold stoles – members of Phi Theta Kappa
- Silver stoles – members of National Society for Leadership and Success
- Red, white, and blue stoles – participants of Veterans Upward Bound

The Cords:

- Blue and gold cords – members of the Cougar Leadership Program
- Red, white, and blue cords – members of Veterans Upward Bound, the military, or veterans
- Silver cords – dual-credit high school students graduating with a WNCC degree, diploma, certificate, or professional skills award



Alliance Campus

1750 Sweetwater Avenue
Alliance, NE 69301

Scottsbluff Campus

1601 E. 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Sidney Campus

371 College Drive
Sidney, NE 69162

WNCC Mission

*To provide learning opportunities – **enriching** lives,
invigorating communities, and **changing** futures.*



#WNCCGrad24