

CougarCORNERNews

Western Nebraska Community College Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2020

■
HOMECOMING
2019

■
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
JUSTIN HANSHEW

■
NEW
PRESIDENT



A NOTE FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR



The mission of Western Nebraska Community College Alumni Association is to provide opportunities for alumni and friends to build lifelong relationships with and support the college. We love hearing about your stories from the past, or new found friendships through the Alumni Association, like Jerry Bretthauer (pictured), class of '69, who graciously helped pass out alumni pins to new graduates during our graduation ceremony last year. There, he was able to renew a friendship with an old racquetball competitor, Rich Stickney, a current member of our Board of Governors.

As I meet with alumni, I enjoy learning their individual stories. In this issue, you will learn about Justin Hanshew, '14, who served nine years in the U.S. Navy before attending WNCC and going on to become country music recording artist Justin Kane. Or Harvey Tripple, who received a certification of agriculture in 1954 from Scottsbluff Junior College, which guided his career to help develop the herbicide Roundup.

Perhaps you have had an exceptional experience, or unusually meaningful coincidence to share. Maybe you have friends that took a class or two at WNCC and are not a part of our Association. Perhaps you will talk to someone new and learn they took classes here. I need your help in connecting with alumni and learning their stories and yours. Members of the Alumni Association help make our global community of alums stronger than ever. Please share this opportunity when you can.

Please know that your support and input truly matter. Thanks again for the warm welcome. Whenever your travels bring you near WNCC stop in and say hello. My door is always open.

Mary Sheffield
WNCC Foundation Alumni Relations & Stewardship Director

WELCOME, DR. CARMEN SIMONE



In November, the WCCA Board of Governors selected and approved Dr. Carmen Simone to become the sixth president of Western Nebraska Community College.

Simone was selected by the Board of Governors following an extensive, nation-wide search.

An 18-person search committee consisting of Board members, WNCC employees, community members, and a WNCC student

sifted through 43 applicants to find Simone.

“I felt like I was coming home when I landed on campus,” Simone said. “It was a fantastic visit and I know I’ve found the right place for myself and family to be.”

Dr. Simone came to WNCC from the University of South Dakota Community College for Sioux Falls, where she served as the founding vice president and dean. Before taking that position, Simone spent five years as the president of Trinidad State Junior College, a multi-campus, Hispanic-serving institution in rural southern Colorado. While in Colorado, Simone was trained as a peer reviewer with the Higher Learning Commission, one of six regional accreditation agencies for higher education. She has also served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho.

She began her career at Casper College in Wyoming, starting as a faculty member before advancing to faculty senate chair, division chair, and vice president for Academic Affairs. She has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Colorado State University, and a Bachelor's in Chemistry from the University of North Dakota.

Welcome to the Cougar family, Dr. Simone!

HOME SWEET HOMECOMING



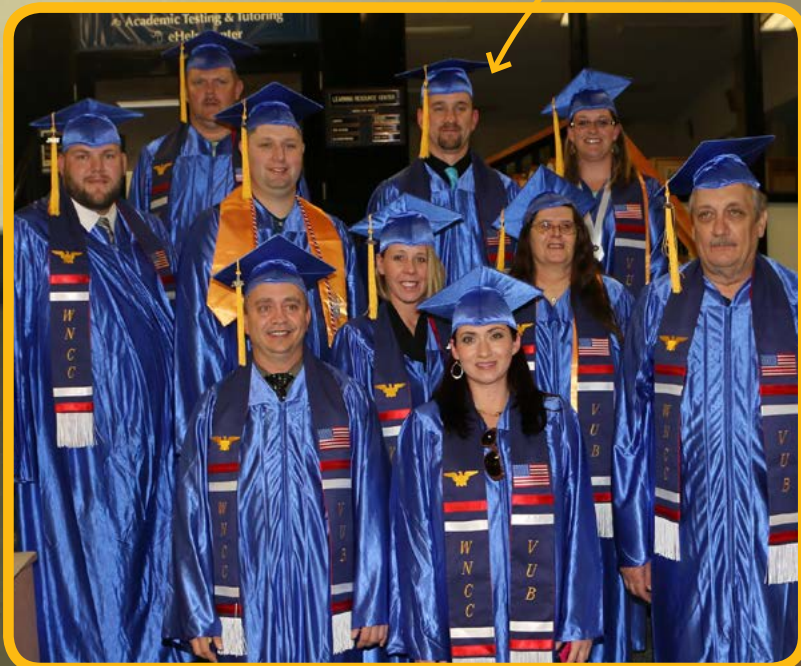
WNCC softball players help little Cougar fans play games at the White-Out event to kick off Homecoming week



WNCC Faculty Amy Winters, Jackie Cawiezel, and Jennifer Pedersen perform at the Lip Sync Battle, during the 2019 Homecoming festivities.



Congratulations to 2019 WNCC Homecoming King & Queen Billy Tidyman and Hermela Tamirat



Justin on graduation day with his fellow TRIO Veteran Upward Bound classmates.

“ Justin has a unique talent and sings from his heart. He truly believes in honoring all those that have served. ”

Chris Wolf,
WNCC Veterans Upward Bound Assistant Director

“ He was always willing to engage in our in-class discussions and provided a unique perspective (based on his life experience) that helped other students connect to the subject matter better. He was the type of student that most instructors wish their classes had more of. ”

Scott Winters,
Marketing Instructor



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Western Nebraska native Justin Kane Hanshew was active in sports in school, performed in musicals, and has always had a strong love of music. After high school, he spent nine years in the Navy, where he served two tours of duty.

After his time in the military and with a family to provide for, Justin worked full time but wanted to expand his opportunities even more. He signed up for classes at WNCC and with the help of the TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program, he was able to secure his degree in 2014.

"I never would have been able to start, let alone finish my degree if it were not for Chris Wolf, and the Veterans Upward Bound program," he said. "I will forever be thankful to her and her crew for all that they do for our veterans."

However, after graduating Justin could no longer ignore his love of music. He now produces and performs country music under the name Justin Kane, where he is able to share his love for the United States. He wants his music to positively impact those who listen to it and hopes that his music will remind people of the sacrifices of others.

In October, WNCC's TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program celebrated 20 years on campus. As part of the celebration, Justin graciously performed.

"I served for eight years in the U.S. Air Force. Justin's performance really resonated with me. He is able to communicate musically what many of us feel and understand but can't always articulate," WNCC Career Pathways & Advising Director Tonya Hergenrader said.

Justin continues to perform shows locally, regionally, and nationally. Don't miss the opportunity to see Justin live as he performs on February 22, 2020 at the High Plains Arts Council in Sidney, Nebraska. Justin's other upcoming shows can be found on his website, justinkane.us.

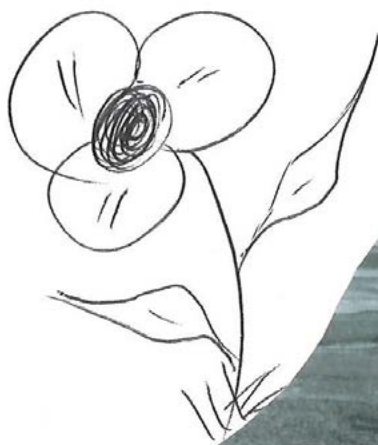
We are so proud of what Justin has accomplished and to call him one of our own.

Follow Justin on Facebook at [JustinKaneMusic](https://www.facebook.com/JustinKaneMusic).

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND

Check it out!

Larry Calfee, '66, sent this picture in a notecard with the encouragement to continue the important work of engaging with WNCC alumni 'newest to oldest'.



THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN
IN 1964 FROM THE TOP OF
THE "BLUFF" LOOKING TOWARD
SCOTTSLUFF ←



WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Harvey D. Tripple

Scottsbluff Junior College Alum
Agriculture Certificate 1954

"My two years at Scottsbluff College influenced me to continue my education at the University of Nebraska where I obtained a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science. Without these advanced degrees I would not have been able to obtain employment with Monsanto Company and accomplish what I did in my employment. Scottsbluff College was the starting point."

Harvey credits his former Scottsbluff Junior College agriculture and chemistry

teachers for influencing him to pursue further educational experiences. Being a member of the basketball team was an amazing experience for him. "I made great friends that I have remained in contact with all my life."

Currently living in Montana, Harvey donated his letterman's jacket to the Alumni office. He is glad that his letterman's jacket has found a new home. "It always meant a lot to me."

To see Harvey's jacket, visit the display cabinet between A, B, & C pods in the Main Building on the Scottsbluff Campus during spring and summer 2020.



Western Nebraska Community College
FOUNDATION

One of the Western Nebraska Community College Foundation's services is providing money to the Student Emergency Fund. The fund is designated for students who encounter an emergency situation which could potentially affect the student's ability to complete their program of study.

WNCC's vision statement states that we strive to positively impact the education and well-being of every student. The Student Emergency Fund directly helps fulfill this mission. The fund allows the Foundation to give up to \$20,000 a year. Most applicants are referred by WNCC faculty and staff and the Foundation is able to meet student emergency needs – usually within 24-48 hours.

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, Student Emergency Fund money was given to 19 students. Their individual stories are as varied as our student body. One such instance was a single mom working during the day to provide for herself and her family, and attending night classes. She found that the cost of childcare while she was in class was more than her income could cover. The Student Emergency Fund paid for her childcare while she attended class at night.

It is inspirational to see the courage the student shows as they ask for help, their gratitude for the help, and the resolve to complete their education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28

Alliance Job & Internship Fair | 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

February 25

Sidney Job & Internship Fair | 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

March 3

Scottsbluff Job & Internship Fair | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

April 9

Scottsbluff Student Awards Ceremony | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

April 16

Alliance Student Awards Ceremony | 4:00 p.m.

April 23

Sidney Student Awards Ceremony | 2:00 4:00 p.m.

May 9

Graduation | 4:00 p.m.

Another way WNCC helps students in need is through the Cougar Cupboard, a food pantry that opened in December 2018. In the first 12 months, 56 individuals used the pantry on 100 different occasions. Recently, a generous donor donated a much needed refrigerator to help further the important work of the food pantry. At a recent basketball game, almost 200 items were donated.

If you wa<https://www.nebraskamed.com/e> contact the Foundation at **308.635.6550**.



“To my Foundation donor, I would like to thank you so very much. I am not one who likes to ask for help, but your donation made it possible for me to finish my medical assistant program. I know I will succeed, and now realize there are people kind enough to help.”

– Kimberly Scott

2019 ALUMNI AWARDS WINNERS

Cara Perkins Meritorious Service

Co-recipients Jennifer Sibal & Kristin Wiebe



Lifetime Achievement

Dave Nash, 1978



Family Pride

Virgil King family. Award accredited by Emma, Tyler (2020), & Laura (2000) Leggott, 3rd and 4th generation Kings



Outstanding Alumnus



Russell E. Lovell, 1933 (awarded posthumously). Award accepted by Rusty Lovell & Karen Huber, children of Russell.

Friend of the College

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association (PREMA). Ryan Rieber, 1981, General Manager at PREMA and Class of 1981 accepts the award from Cyndi & Jim Neuwirth, 2018 Friend of the College award winners.



Carmen Trevino, 1991. Also received Nebraska Community College Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award for the Western Community College Area.

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Leodegario Sierra, 2011

