

CougarCORNERNews

Western Nebraska Community College Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2021



■
HOMECOMING
2021

■
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
PALOMA ÁLVAREZ

■
STUDENT
AMBASSADORS





A NOTE FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

The 2020-21 academic year was one like no other and I could not be prouder of what Western Nebraska Community College accomplished!

As we welcomed students back to campus in the Fall 2020 semester, masks and social distance couldn't hinder the student connection that WNCC is known for. Faculty and staff worked incredibly hard, as did our amazingly resilient students, to continue this legacy left by all WNCC alumni and former employees. Alumni who chose to work at WNCC were identified and celebrated. Classes were attended, events were held, connections were made, and degrees and certificates were awarded. Even when tragedy struck, our tight-knit community came even closer together in support.

Like the Bon Jovi song "Do What You Can" says, "Round here we bend but don't break. Down here we all understand. When you can't do what you do, you do what you can."

Alumni helped along the way. Seven served on the Alumni Committee. Four 1971 alumni handed out WNCC alumni pins to our newest graduates. Two hosted the annual "Fun As An Alum" after-graduation party that spilled out onto the front lawn.

Some WNCC alumni serve on the Foundation Board and others the WCCA Board of Governors. Many WNCC alumni help in various ways. You can help too.

- Wear It Out - Proudly wear your Cougar gear and display your alumni swag.
- Talk It Up - Share your Cougar experience with prospective students, parents, and fellow alums.
- Explore It All - Attend alumni and homecoming events.
- Socialize- Follow and share our WNCC Alumni Association Facebook page.

This is a year we will remember as a year of growth and coming together as WNCC family.

Mary Sheffield
WNCC Foundation Alumni Relations & Stewardship Director

ALUMNI AMBASSADORS



Raquel Ferreira

Raquel is a returning sophomore from Curitiba, Parana, Brazil. Raquel plays center back on the WNCC women's soccer team. She intends to graduate with double majors in physiotherapy and exercise science. "I believe for someone to feel a part of the WNCC community, it is necessary to know the place and values of the institution. WNCC is not just a community college, but a place to become better people and evolve."



Kate Fraser

Kate is an incoming freshman from Kimball, NE. Kate will study nursing. She plans on continuing her education after two years at WNCC to obtain her bachelor's degree. "I am honored to be able to help keep the legacy and hospitality of WNCC alive as an Alumni Ambassador. I have received an abundance of hospitality and welcoming arms. WNCC is a family-based organization where we support one another in succeeding."

CONGRATS GRADUATES

Congratulations to our 2021 graduates!
Welcome to the Alumni Association!





Western Nebraska Community College **FOUNDATION**

Jennifer Reisig, *Foundation Executive Director*

To assist Western Nebraska Community College students continuing their education beyond WNCC, the College works with other state and regional schools to create pathways for ease in transferring credits. Memorandums of understanding, articulation agreements, and 2+2 plans establish well-defined parameters for transfer and help students capitalize on the educational foundations received at WNCC.

The following agreements provide WNCC alumni with potential avenues to continue their education. The specific agreements can be viewed at wncc.edu/academics/transfer.

Nebraska Transfer Initiative

This agreement, which provides the foundation for transfer in Nebraska, was developed in 1995 and has been signed by the presidents of 27 Nebraska institutions of higher education. Together, Nebraska's two- and four-year institutions have developed a common course numbering system, and the two-year colleges collaborate annually on course descriptions, learning outcomes, and content for several introductory courses that are commonly transferred. This effort has led to increased cooperation in the transfer of courses between Nebraska's community colleges and its state four-year institutions. Students who complete an associate's degree at WNCC are guaranteed that the general education core curriculum will transfer to any other college or university in the state.

Panhandle Advantage with Chadron State College

Given the rural and remote geographic location of Chadron State College (CSC) and WNCC in the Panhandle, the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between these two schools is designed to foster the creation of undergraduate transfer initiatives. Faculty at both institutions are currently developing "2+2" plans which allow students to complete the first two years of a program at WNCC and seamlessly complete the final two years of requirements through CSC, either in Chadron or online. Pathways are currently in place in the areas of business administration, business information systems, criminal justice, elementary education, early childhood education, human services to family and consumer sciences, human services to social work, and psychology. Scholarship opportunities have also been created that transfer with the student to CSC.

Bellevue University

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Bellevue University and WNCC was developed to expand the educational opportunities for residents of the Panhandle. With an academic advisor on site at WNCC, Bellevue offers students who have completed or are in the process of completing an associate degree, ready access to several baccalaureate programs, most of which are available online. Students transferring with an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) will have fulfilled Bellevue's general education core curriculum, and all successfully completed credit hours, up to 84, will be accepted for entrance to Bellevue.

Clarkson College

The articulation agreement between WNCC and Clarkson expands educational opportunities for students in select areas of healthcare and healthcare management. Many of these opportunities are available online.

Regional West Medical Center Radiologic Technology Transfer Agreement

Students who have completed an AA or AS degree with a 2.5 GPA at WNCC and transfer to the Regional West Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology (RWNC SORT) in Scottsbluff will have met the program's general education requirements. In cooperation with RWMC SORT, WNCC has developed an academic pathway that specifically meets the requirements of the program.

University of Nebraska at Kearney Social Work Agreement

This articulation agreement provides a transfer opportunity for students wishing to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work at UNK.

University of Nebraska at Omaha Visual Arts Articulation Agreement

This agreement is designed to facilitate the transfer of students graduating from WNCC with an AFA to UNO's baccalaureate program in studio art.

University of Wyoming

WNCC is the only non-Wyoming school that has a seat at the University of Wyoming's College of Business' annual articulation summit. This is invaluable to continuing the strong relationship between the two institutions and assuring the smooth transfer for WNCC students.

To see if one of these can help you or someone you know, please contact the Career Pathways and Advising Department at 308-635-6139.

Did you transfer to another school before finishing your associate's degree at WNCC? There may be a way to still get the degree! Reverse transfer is the process of awarding an associate's degree to students who began their education at WNCC then transferred to a four-year institution before completing their associate's degree. While at the four-year institution, students work toward their bachelor's degree requirements and transfer pertinent coursework back to WNCC to complete their associate's degree at no additional cost!

To qualify for reverse transfer to WNCC, students must:

- Have completed 25 percent of the degree or certificate requirements at WNCC.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- Submit a transcript from another college or university to WNCC for evaluation.

WNCC's Registrar's Office at WNCC_registrar@wncc.edu for more information.



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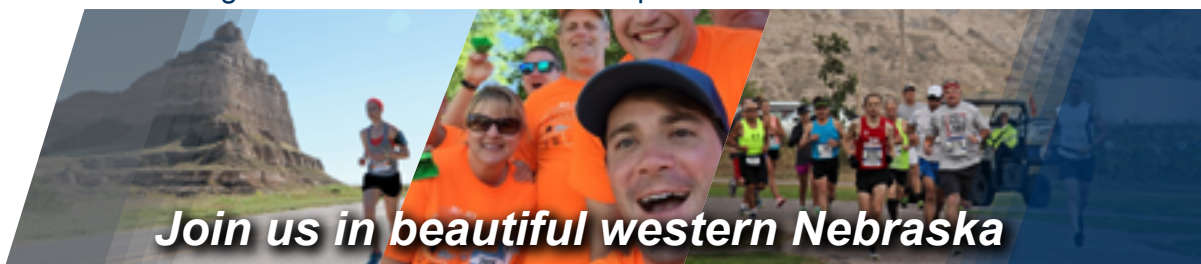
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26.2 | 13.1 | 5K | 13.1 Relay

Making strides for student scholarships

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Join us in beautiful western Nebraska

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PALOMA ÁLVAREZ

Even the best volleyball player would lose to an average team if they are left to fight on their own. If they want to win a match, they need to find the right match for themselves: the right teammates, coaches, and fans to cheer them on.

The sport of volleyball was the perfect match to help Paloma Álvarez reach her goals.

Since she was eight years old, filling out her Dr. Seuss “My Book About Me,” Álvarez knew that she wanted to be a doctor. Playing volleyball at a young age was a huge benefit to helping her reach that goal. High school volleyball helped her match up with the coach that eventually led Álvarez to first Colby Community College and then WNCC. It was here she found amazing instructors in her science classes. Álvarez kept competing in volleyball and kept succeeding in the classroom, graduating from WNCC in biology and ecology. Following WNCC, she continued her education and volleyball career at Western Carolina University (WCU).

After completing her bachelor’s degree at WCU in 2011 Álvarez returned to Toa Baja, Puerto Rico and had the summer to make a big decision. Paloma could continue to explore the possibilities that lie ahead with volleyball by committing to compete in Europe, or she could put away the sneakers and knee pads for her childhood dream of becoming a doctor. Thanks to the guidance and support of her mother, Álvarez decided to take the latter path, completing her master’s degree at the Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine followed by three years of medical school in Saint Kitts and finishing with her clinical rotations at University Hospital in Augusta, Georgia and Emory Decatur Hospital in Decatur, Georgia.

Now, having completed medical school, the long path to fulfilling that childhood dream continues with another important match. The Match is the process for a medical school graduate getting paired up with a medical residency. For Álvarez, that could be one out of 124 different residencies that she’s applied for across the United States. She will find out this summer who her new teammates will be.

This time as a doctor.





2021 EVENT SCHEDULE

Homecoming 2021 | October 18 - 23 October 19

Cougar Volleyball | 6:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

October 21

Business After Hours | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

October 22

Alumni & Friends Banquet | 5:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

- Please contact alumni@wncc.edu or call **308.630.6571** to RSVP

Cougar Volleyball | 6:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

Fall Play | 7:30 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

October 23

Cougar Volleyball | 2:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

Fall Play | 7:30 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

October 24

Fall Play | 2:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

October 29

Fall Ball | 6:00 p.m. | Gering Civic Center

November 5

Vocal Music Showcase | 7:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

December 4

Very Valley Christmas | 7:30 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

December 5

Very Valley Christmas | 2:00 p.m. | Scottsbluff Campus

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Paula Abbott, *Community & Business Partnerships*
Executive Director

On Thursday, April 1, WNCC Aviation students Yemin An, age 21 of Seoul, South Korea, and Zhaoxin Chen, age 24 of Xi'an, China were fatally injured at the Aviation Maintenance facility in Sidney. This tragedy deeply affected the WNCC family, the Aviation community, and the residents of the Sidney Campus.

Our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Yemin and Zhaoxin. These two young men will be forever in our hearts.

In response to community requests to help during this time, the WNCC Foundation set up a fund to support our Aviation students with unexpected needs such as counseling services, living expenses, and other needs while instruction was paused following the tragedy that occurred.

Any remaining funds will be used to establish a memorial scholarship for future Aviation students to honor Yemin and Zhaoxin. For more information on the memorial fund or to donate, please visit wnccfoundation.org or call 308.630.6550.



Yemin An



Zhaoxin Chen

NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 ALUMNI AWARDS

Nominate your friends, family, or local organizations that have made a positive impact at WNCC for the 2021 Alumni Awards. Winners will be recognized on October 22, 2021 during the Alumni & Friends Banquet.

Cara Perkins Meritorious Service: A person (need not be an alumnus) or organization that has served WNCC and students in a special or extraordinary way. If this person is not an alumnus he/she is granted "honorary" alumni member status for life.

Family Pride: A family with multiple generations of family members that have attended or graduated from WNCC. Include a list of all family members, years of attendance, areas of study, and a description of how each are related.

Friend of the College: A person, organization, or business that has demonstrated a commitment to the educational advancement of people in the Nebraska Panhandle.

Lifetime Achievement: A WNCC staff or faculty member (current or former) who has shown a lifetime commitment to the mission of the College.

Outstanding Alumnus: A graduate of WNCC that has displayed great personal achievement in their career field or shown outstanding community service.

Outstanding Young Alumnus: A graduate of WNCC that is 40 years of age or less who has proven to be a "rising star" professionally or has shown outstanding community service.

Please submit nominations by **August 28, 2021** by emailing alumni@wncc.edu or visiting the alumni webpage at wncc.edu/alumni-friends.

Visit wncc.edu/alumni-friends to update your email to receive a gift and our winter alumni e-newsletter.

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