

Culinary Alums open their dream business in Cortland

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Stories, photos & more!

Upcoming Events & Information

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Thanksgiving Break, College Closed Nov. 23-25
Fall Semester Ends Dec. 16
Winter Break, College Closed Dec. 26-Jan. 2
Spring Semester Begins Jan. 9
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, College Closed Jan. 16

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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(May 2022)

SCC Continues to Grow

This is an exciting time for SCC as it continues to pursue several transformative initiatives, including enrollment growth, a second phase of Facilities Master Plan projects, and preparation for its comprehensive accreditation review.

Although many community colleges had significant declines this past fall semester, SCC experienced a 1% increase in the Fall 2021 Semester, and is expecting this enrollment growth trend to continue for the Fall 2022 Semester. On its Milford Campus, enrollment has grown 23% the past three years following the completion of two new student housing projects. SCC has been modernizing its facilities, adding programs, and implementing advising, marketing, and recruiting strategies to position SCC for enrollment growth over the next several years.

This past year, SCC launched the planning phases of a second phase of Facilities Master Plan projects, including the Welding Technology Center, a Technology Center, and a Science Center on the Lincoln Campus, a Construction Technology Center on the Milford Campus, and an Agricultural Technology Center on the Beatrice Campus. The College also is pursuing other facilities projects, including a new 250-unit student housing project on its Lincoln Campus. SCC also is near completion of a 80,000 square-foot renovation and a 20,000 square-foot addition to house its student and academic support services on its Lincoln Campus.

Over the past several years, SCC has made tremendous progress in its accreditation efforts with the College meeting all Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation requirements in 2017. The College has been preparing for its comprehensive accreditation review that will include a site visit by an HLC Review Team in April 2023.

As a member of SCC Alumni, I thank you for choosing SCC and for your role in helping SCC pursue its mission of empowering and transforming the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities.



Follow me:

 [@IllichPaul](https://twitter.com/IllichPaul)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Illich". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Paul Illich
President



DIVERSIFIED AG GRAD HAS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE AFTER ACCIDENT

When **Kevan Hueftle** lost his foot in a 2005 hunting accident, he went through a lot of challenges, including depression, alcoholism and weight gain. But eventually, those challenges were what he needed to get to where he is today.

“It’s the best thing that ever happened to me,” he said.

Hueftle grew up in Eustis and attended Eustis-Farnam High School, where he ran track. He later attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney for one year and dropped out. One day in 2005 while hunting, he accidentally shot his foot. He spent 13 days in the hospital and underwent five surgeries. Doctors wanted to amputate his foot the night of the accident, but he wasn’t ready. Eventually, after doing his own research, he made the decision to

amputate and get a prosthetic for his left leg below the knee in 2006.

“I was dealing with a lot of pain, so for seven to 10 years I was basically a functioning alcoholic,” he said.

It wasn’t always easy finding a prosthetic foot that fit and was comfortable. But nevertheless, during that time he managed to earn a degree in Diversified Agriculture from SCC’s Beatrice Campus. Growing up on a ranch in Eustis, he wanted to make sure this was the right career path to take.

“I thought it was important to get away from the ranch and make sure I wanted to do that for a living,” he recalled on deciding to attend SCC.

He enjoyed his time at the campus with the hands-on classes. And since he was an older non-traditional student, he enjoyed being the one



Photo credit: Mark Reis

that others came to for advice and guidance. He recalls having close relationships with the instructors and still keeps in touch with many of his

fellow classmates.

“I was older than the other students, and since I was already doing a lot of those things we were learning about (on his family farm), a lot of it was kind of a leadership role for me,” he said.

Fast forward to 2015, where he attended a wedding and didn’t have any alcohol during the reception. That was the moment he decided to become sober, and he hasn’t looked back since.

“I decided I’m done,” he recalled. “It hasn’t been easy for sure.”

Next up would be his journey back to fitness and running. As a high school track athlete, he missed the competitive nature of the sport and decided that he could incorporate it back into his life as a para athlete.

“I looked at the running times in the Paralympics and I thought I could do that,” he said. “I don’t have any talent, but I’ll outwork anyone on any team.”

He started to train, and in 2017 he joined Team USA. In 2019 he made the 2019 Parapan American Games in Lima, Peru, and won gold in the men’s 100-meter race and the silver in the 200-meter race. Only a few months later he traveled to the World Para Athletics Championships in Dubai and won the silver in the 100 and placed fourth in the 200.

Hueftle has four prosthetic legs, one for everyday life and three for running. He finally found a prosthetist in Seattle, Washington, who changed the trajectory of his life. When others fit poorly, Greg Davidson’s prosthetic legs made all the difference.

“He changed my life; he makes the best prosthetic legs in the world,” said Hueftle, who learned about the legs from

the Never Say Never Foundation. “It’s the most fun to have a prosthetic leg, I’m not even kidding!”

Hueftle was hit with a couple more hurdles after this, including the cancellation of some of the Paralympic competitions because of COVID and blowing out his ankle, which required another surgery. His goal now is to start training for the 2024 Paralympics, which will be held in Paris, France. However,



Photo credit: Mark Reis

this time the 37-year-old plans to take things slower and listen to his body more.

While he continues to work on his family ranch with cattle and crops, he hopes he can inspire others by telling his story, which he doesn’t regret a single moment, pain and all.

“I’m so glad I went through this in my life, and now I want to be a motivational speaker. I want to change a few lives and help people through life,” he said.

Kevan and his wife Nicole have two children, ages 9 and 6. He is now seven years sober. ❖



Ag Grad is Enjoying the Country Life in Wyoming

When **D'Quinton Robertson** attended SCC's Beatrice Campus, he never imagined that someday he'd be living in Wyoming, tending to cattle and riding horses. But an internship helped him secure the job, and he now has the life he always dreamed of living.

"I get the thrill of running equipment as well as riding horses and being around livestock, which is a strong passion of mine," he said. "Just connecting with nature in different ways is what I love about it. I live in the mountains, so there is so much wildlife that I get to enjoy that really makes everyday a different adventure."

Robertson graduated in 2021 from the Livestock Management & Production program. Originally from Alabama, he moved to a suburb of Des Moines, Iowa, when he was in high school. He missed the small town where he grew up, and chose SCC for the small campus atmosphere.

"I chose SCC because of the hands-on programs and small class sizes," he explained. "The small classes



allowed for opportunity to actually connect with my instructors and have a relationship with them, instead of just being a number rolling in and out every day."

During his time at the College, Robertson made the most of his two years as a student ambassador and Ag Club president. He also participated in intramural sports. He especially enjoyed mentoring younger students.

"I would 100 percent recommend others to attend SCC," Robertson said. "It's a good place to start and grow whether you are already set in stone on your degree or have no clue. SCC has tools for everyone in all aspects

to utilize and succeed."

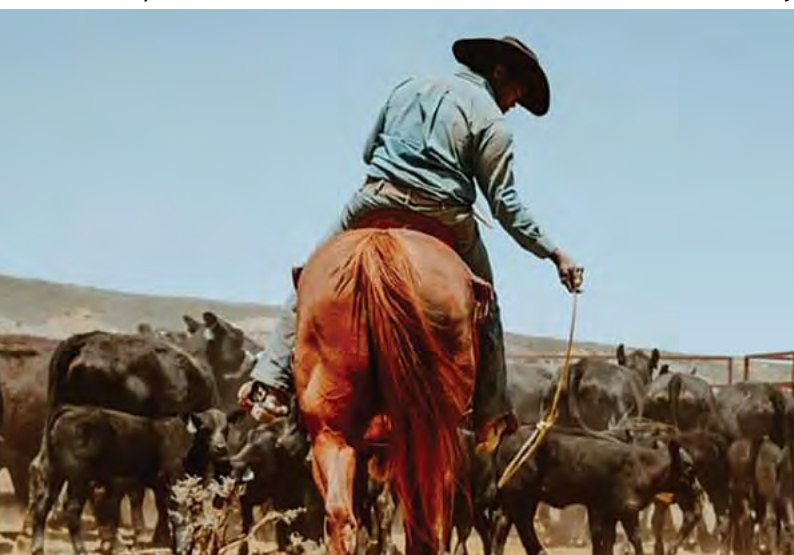
He now works as a heavy equipment operator/ ranch hand at Q Creek Land and Livestock Company in Mills, Wyoming, about 40 miles north of Medicine Bow. His weeks are divided between running

heavy equipment for pond/stream restoration for trout habitat, and on horseback fixing fences, attending cattle brandings and moving cattle.

Though he's already working a job he loves, he hopes to someday start his own livestock hauling business, combining his three passions.

"My passions are horses, livestock and semis, so I hope to bring them together," he said. "But until then I'm focusing on enjoying the different experiences gathering the pieces to the puzzle. Once I figure out where I want to plant roots and call home, I will begin to put the pieces together."

Until then, the 25-year-old is making the most of his spare time exploring hobbies such as hiking, fishing, leather-working, and horsemanship. ❖



In Memory of...

Fairbury / Beatrice

Mary E. (Hackler) Price
(Practical Nursing, 1993)

Robert Riddle
(Business Administration, 1961)

Dana Lynn (Colgrove) Bodtke
(Academic Transfer, 1989)

Susan Rosemary Paul Logan
(Practical Nursing, 1994)

Storm Golfer Finishes Second at Nationals, Narizzano Two-Time First-Team All-American

SCC golfer **Geronimo Narizzano** finished second at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Men's Golf Championship in Joplin, Missouri, this past spring, and in doing so earned his second consecutive First-Team All-American honors.

"It felt great," he said. "I accomplished one of the goals of the season that was to finish higher on the leaderboard than last year. There was a little part of me that was disappointed because of how close I was to winning the whole thing. But it was an amazing way to finish the season and my years at SCC."

Narizzano shot a 291, just three strokes behind first-place finisher Cecil Belisle of South Mountain Community College of Arizona, who finished at 288. Last year Narizzano was fifth. Head coach Calvin Freeman said Narizzano put in the work the past year, and it paid off.

"He put a lot of pressure on himself this year, trying to prove that his fifth-place finish last year wasn't a fluke," Freeman said. "I'm incredibly proud of his play, his improvement and his commitment to improving his game. Even with a storied history, he will go down as one of the best to ever play at SCC."

The sophomore from Argentina also maintained his standing on the academic Dean's List at SCC, Freeman added. As for what he will do next year, Narizzano is undecided but hopes to find out in the next few weeks where he'll be playing next. Until then, he's enjoyed his time at

SCC and as a member of the Storm golf team.

"I didn't know what to expect when I got here," he reflected. "But besides the fact that we went through a pandemic and some long winters, I can't say I had something to complain about. I have met some great people, and I have memories and friendships for the rest of my life."

"Wherever he decides to go next year, his next team will be getting a leader, a hard worker and a winner," Freeman added. "I know he'll continue to make those close to him and SCC proud."

Narizzano was the lone SCC representative as the Storm did not qualify as a team. He joins former Storm golfer Noah Hofman and his coach, Freeman, as the only two-time First-Team All-Americans at SCC. Hofman took second at nationals as a freshman in 2017 and followed it with a third-place finish as a sophomore in 2018. Freeman was sixth as a freshman and tied for second as a sophomore. ❖



We want to stay in touch with our Beatrice Campus grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-233-5027, ext. 1216.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1960 Graduates?

Duane Svoboda Lowell Van Cleef

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2013 Graduates?

Anastasia Baxa	Ivon Johnson
Kenneth Brown	Dominique Jones
Tanner Collins	Mariah Kenley
Nicholas Farleigh	Deborah McFerren
Jacob Harder	Seth Nienhueser
Malinda Havlat	Tessah Schumacher
Miranda Hernandez	Elizabeth Snider
Julian Herraghty	Stacy Stemper
Cody Houser	Alexa Swartz
Faith Huneke	Delquan Thomas
Cody Janitscheck	Amber Turnbull

SCC Board of Governors Fills Vacant Seat

The SCC Board of Governors selected **Dick LeBlanc** to fill a vacant District 4 seat during a special meeting. The vacancy was created when longtime Board member James Garver died on March 30.

LeBlanc, Kristi Chambers, J.P. (James) Caruso, and Penny McCord submitted applications for the vacancy and were interviewed by the Board. LeBlanc garnered the most votes and was sworn in June 21.

"I'm currently retired," said LeBlanc, 78, "and I'm tired of being retired. I'm looking forward to being a part of a professional and progressive board."

Originally from Crook, Colorado, LeBlanc served as executive director of the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds (the state land office) before retiring after a 14-year career. Most recently he performed work for Lincoln Berean Church and North Pointe Community Church.

LeBlanc holds a master's degree in

Ag Business from Colorado State University, where he also served as student body president. He and his wife, Miriam, have served as proctors for those pursuing their GED®.

"I am excited about what's going on at SCC with the new 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, what's planned for coming years and the way the College goes about it," LeBlanc said. "They have specific goals and values and a specific plan to target progress on each of those items. I'm also excited about the new building projects."

A daughter and son-in-law both attended SCC "and it was a great help to them to move forward with a career path," LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc and his wife have two married daughters, seven

grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He said he's looking forward to being part of a board again.

LeBlanc will complete the remainder of Garver's term, which expires on Jan. 5, 2023. ❖



"The Man Who Came to Dinner" Cast, Fairbury Junior College



Featured Year: 1960

Spring Sports Wrap-up



Baseball

The Storm captured the Region IX Tournament title and advanced to the West District Tournament in Utah. SCC went 1-2 at Districts, defeating College of Southern Idaho and losing to Salt Lake Community College and eventual national champion Central Arizona College to finish the season with a 46-13 record.

Catcher Zach Johnson earned First-Team All-America honors as he led all of National Junior College Athletic Association with an eye-popping .474 batting average. His 21 home runs ranked seventh nationally, just four behind Storm teammate Matt Goetzmann. Johnson's .912 slugging percentage was second in the nation to Goetzmann (.925), and his 80 runs batted in ranked ninth. Goetzmann, an outfielder, earned Third-Team All-America honors and was presented with a Gold Glove Award by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Johnson, a Millard North graduate, signed with Nebraska. Goetzmann, also a Millard North graduate, will continue his career at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Storm pitcher Levi Gates finished second in the nation in saves with 11 in only 18 appearances. He finished the season with a 2-1 record and a 1.78 earned-run average, striking out 29 batters in 25.1 innings. ❖

NJCAA Academic Honors

In July, the National Junior College Athletic Association announced its 2021-2022 Academic All-America teams in each sport. First-Team selections have perfect 4.0 grade-point averages. Second-Team selections have GPAs between 3.80-3.99. Third-Team selections have GPAs between 3.60-3.79. Following are SCC student-athletes who were honored:

Baseball – *First Team:* Jhett Jacquot, Zach Johnson. *Second Team:* Brayden Curtis, Nolan Brown, Jackson Horn, Jackson Kraus, Tyler Preece, Tommy Roland. *Third Team:* Landon Goeser, Tanner Kobza, Jackson Meier.

Softball (3.34 GPA as a team) – *First Team:* Addison Dorn. *Second Team:* Leann Hawkins, Brittyn Wentz. *Third Team:* Stephanie Beiriger.

Golf (3.18 GPA as a team) – *Second Team:* Jesse Sacrison. *Third Team:* Brayden Cook, Geronimo Narizzano, Joshua Norris.

Men's Soccer – *First Team:* Vaclay Borovicka, Torren Penner. *Second Team:* Tiago Alfieri, Luigi De Piccoli, Matheus Gocalves, Fafael Maduureiria.

Women's Soccer – *First Team:* Hailey Dewitt. *Third Team:* Abigail Colgrove, Linda Humble, Kate Jones, Emma Suelter.

Men's Basketball (3.23 GPA as a team, 17th in the nation) – *Third Team:* Austin McKenzie, Leo Wenham, Maijhe Wiley.

Women's Basketball (3.46 GPA as a team, 21st in the nation) – *First Team:* Kaylee Klover, Hannah Macke. *Second Team:* Rosie Campbell, Hunter Hartshorn, Josie Sobatka. *Third Team:* Alexis Billeter.

Volleyball (3.66 GPA as a team, tied for 10th in the nation) – *First Team:* Daytan Vallinch. *Second Team:* Taylor Anderson, Emily Miller, Ashton Niles, Kayden Schumacher. *Third Team:* Baylie Codner, Morgan Gardner, Nadia Van Slyke, Hailey Schaaf. ❖



Softball

The Storm struggled to a 12-30 overall record, including a 4-4 mark in the conference. SCC went 2-2 in postseason play, splitting games against North Platte Community College and Central Community College. Freshman Macy Roever led SCC in batting with a .320 average (minimum 28 games) with a team-leading seven home runs, 23 runs batted in, and 14 stolen bases. ❖

CULINARY GRADS OPEN NEW BUSINESS IN CORTLAND

Devin and Jenny Schroeder met while working at a Lincoln restaurant. They discovered they had a mutual love of the restaurant industry and were both graduates of SCC's Culinary/Hospitality program more than a decade ago.

Fast forward to 2022 and they accomplished their dream of getting married, starting a family and opening their own business using their own recipes.

"We want people walking in with smiles and walking out with smiles," Devin said about the new business, the Homestead Convenience Store and Schro Bros Pizza in Cortland.

The couple opened their business in spring 2022 after thinking long and hard about it during the pandemic.

Devin's dad owns the land, so it was an easy choice to build on that location. In addition, his five brothers work there, so it really is a family business in every sense.

"It's very rewarding," Devin said. "I put in more hours than I thought I ever could, but it doesn't feel like I'm working."

While Devin is at the business full time, Jenny still works outside of the home. The work starts early as they begin making breakfast burritos, as well as their signature pizzas with recipes they developed from their time at the College. With flavors like Buffalo Chicken, Chicken Bacon Ranch and Jenny's favorite, the Homesteader (barbecue pork, green chile, mac 'n' cheese and barbecue drizzle), they

use the skills they learned from SCC every day.

"We make all the dough from scratch, and all our ingredients are fresh, nothing pre-packaged, with higher quality meats and fresh veggies," Jenny explained.

"SCC's Culinary program helped reinforce our love for food, and it really carried over to our careers," Devin added. "From understanding flavor, creating our recipes and coming up with the sauce and the dough. Gerrine (Schreck Kirby), Rob (Epps), Jo (Taylor), Brandon (Harpster) (culinary instructors) were all of our influencers."

The convenience store is stocked with many products made in Nebraska such as honey, beef jerky, wine, baked



goods, coffee, lavender, and more. It's a way to immerse themselves into the local community, as well as showcasing what Nebraska entrepreneurs have to offer.

"We're a part of the community, and we want to support local businesses," Devin added.

As for the future, they want to keep expanding on their pizza recipes and perhaps an opportunity for growth, whether it be another location or something bigger. In the short term, they want to be involved in the community of Cortland and give back whenever they can. They're putting in bike racks for local cyclists and plan to have live music on the weekends.

"We're part of the community, and we want the store to be part of the community, too," Devin said.

The couple has a toddler, and are expecting another baby soon. Jenny graduated in 2009 with a degree in Food Service/Hospitality, and Devin graduated in 2012. ❖

If you're interested in keeping up with Homestead Convenience, visit: facebook.com/HomesteadConvenience



SCC to Start Esports as a Club, Later as a College Sport

SCC is the latest to add Esports to its student clubs and organizations repertoire at each of its three campuses in Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford. Esports is multiplayer video game competitions played individually or as teams.

"Students will have an opportunity to compete in a new emerging athletic culture, redefining the term athlete," said Chris Cummins, sponsor of the Lincoln Campus Esports club. "Club members can also learn about the culture surrounding Esports."

Play was scheduled to begin during the Fall Semester, which started Aug. 22. Each campus will have 10 gaming PCs and a console area with dedicated rooms. Each team can have up to six players with one captain. According to Cummins, there are no coaches, but the highest-ranking team member will be the captain. He added that Esports is becoming more and more popular and comes with many benefits.

"Working with others, improving social skills, strategic thinking and planning, managing success and

failure, time management, and pro-social values are some of the opportunities our students will have while participating in Esports at the College," he explained.

Initially the SCC teams will compete against each other. Eventually, competition will expand to other colleges and eventually to national and global tournaments. After one year as a student club, SCC's Esports team will compete at the National Junior College Athletic Association level. ❖



Groundbreaking for New Residence Hall on SCC's Lincoln Campus

SCC will soon have student housing on the Lincoln Campus, for the first time ever. A celebratory groundbreaking was held this past spring on the future site.

"The first residence hall on the Lincoln Campus will not only provide safe and secure housing for our students, it also provides an

affordable pathway to a career or transfer to a four-year institution," said Bev Cummins, Lincoln Campus director.

Cummins, along with SCC President Dr. Paul Illich and Board of Governor Chairman Neal Stenberg, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The initial residence hall will accommodate around 250 students and be ready for occupants in January 2024. It will include learning spaces, a communal kitchen, game room, convenience store and a workout area.

On-campus housing will increase

From left: Dale Kruse, Jim Sherwood, Nancy Seim, Bev Cummins, Paul Illich, Neal Stenberg, Chuck Byers, Arlyn Uhrmacher, Keith Hammons, Kathy Boellstorff.

student engagement, Cummins said, and also add to the overall college experience.

"Incorporating living-learning communities within residence halls creates supportive spaces for students to connect with classmates, faculty and expanded access to academic support services as a foundation for success," Cummins added.

BVH Architecture in Lincoln designed the project, and Sampson Construction is building it. ❖

In Memory of...

Lincoln

Ronald Erickson

(Fire Protection Technology, 1996)

Marlis Grubaugh (Professional Truck Driver Training, 1992)

Patricia Keleman (Laboratory Science Technology, 1980)

Adam Kuhn

(Fire Protection Technology, 2010)

Rick McCloskey (Automotive Technology, 1983; Professional Truck Driver Training, 1992)

Suzanne Moormeier

(Business Administration, 1983)

Christy Olson

(Business Administration, 1990)

Roger Petersen (Professional Truck Driver Training, 1994)

Linda Scholl

(Business Administration, 1991)

Stuart Sell

(Business Administration, 1979)

We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!



"Loved my experience and small class sizes. Now I have a great job as a credit analyst with Farm Credit Services of America and happy with my job role!"

*Paige Peregrine,
Academic Transfer, 2011*



"Southeast was a great start to my professional career!"

*Joel Dorfmeier,
Business Administration, 1995*



"I'm now working on getting my bachelor's in psychology from Bellevue University!"

*Julie Fras-Alcares,
Early Childhood Education, 2002*



"Planning on retirement following 30 years of employment."

*Cory Neth,
Laboratory Science Technology, 1992*

Respiratory Therapist Grad Offers Glimpse into Rewarding Career

When the Grand Island College of Business closed in 1999, Bassett native **Holly Krieger** took it as an opportunity to make a fresh start and move to Lincoln. Since she wasn't interested in attending a big university, she decided to enroll at SCC's Lincoln Campus.

"I wasn't completely sure in what direction I was headed concerning my career," she explained. "I figured SCC would give me a smaller, more affordable way to explore my interests."

She enrolled in the Respiratory Care program after working at Bryan Health as a phlebotomist and was able to get a good idea of some of the medical career options. After watching some of the respiratory therapists in action, she decided that was the career for her.

"What I enjoy most about my job is that there is always an opportunity to see/learn something new," Krieger said. "Whether it's a health/medical situation a patient is experiencing or the science and technology available to help us help that patient. I like that we are on our feet working the majority of the day, as well as the fact that an RT is all over the hospital."

As if her job wasn't busy enough, when COVID-19 hit, it became even busier. The need for respiratory therapists was in demand like never before. Even though it pushed her to a new level of exhaustion each day, she knew she was making a difference and helping people during a worldwide health crisis.

"Our respiratory machines such as ventilators, BiPAPs, and Airvos™ became a vital part of caring for COVID patients," she said. "The functionality of these machines and

the ability to work with them is truly understood by none other than respiratory therapists and some providers. For many of us, SCC gave us the education and the edge to care for and help patients with this new and challenging respiratory virus."

She advises incoming students to explore different programs and note their interests. But she also says they should be willing to try something new and to listen to their heart. After all, that's what she did, and she has never looked back.

"Healthcare is a busy, demanding and sometimes an exhausting place to work," Krieger said. "However, it can also be extremely gratifying. To know you've helped someone feel better, to know your care has helped someone heal, to watch a patient come back from a near-death experience and to know you were part of the recovery process, there are no words. It's a truly wonderful process."

Krieger graduated from the Respiratory Care program in 2006 and has worked at Bryan Health in Lincoln ever since. ❖



All SCC Lincoln Campus Retirees Invited

Thursday, Oct. 13
10:30 a.m.

Harbor Coffeehouse
1265 S. Cotner Blvd., Lincoln

This will be an opportunity for retirees to visit and catch up with friends.



Julie Vasey Retires

After 35 years of service to SCC, **Julie Vasey** decided to bid the College farewell and head off to a warmer climate. She and her husband Mark, who worked at SCC for 25 years, are heading to Texas, where they can enjoy warmer temperatures and be close to extended family.

"I love Lincoln, but do not love the cold and snow that winter brings," she said.

Originally from Nebraska City, Julie attended Peru State College and received her associate degree in Secretarial Science Technology.

Since 1987 she's worked at SCC's Lincoln Campus in various roles, including a position at the Physical Plant, where she spent the bulk of

her career. She began in the Campus Office, assisting with room scheduling.

"It was all done on paper as there were no computer programs," she recalled. "We still typed on electronic typewriters at that time! I also assisted Human Resources as each campus still had that role in their respective campus offices."

Over the years, Julie has enjoyed the many acquaintances and friends she has made, as well as the progress and growth at the College. Those that stand out include the building of The Career Academy, the Café/Commons remodel, Culinary and Course Restaurant additions, and the new Health Sciences Facility.

"The biggest change for me over the

years is the change from typewriters to computers," she said. "I still took shorthand and used Dictaphones in college! I owe SCC and the many IT staff for the computer knowledge and skills I obtained over the years."

Julie's last day at SCC was May 13, 2022. It also was Mark's last day as a custodian. Though they will be leaving Nebraska, they plan to return often.

"The hardest part about moving is leaving my two grandsons, ages 10 and 3, and my oldest son and daughter-in-law here in Lincoln," Julie said. "But it gives me a reason to come back to visit. When I do, I will see all the great changes here at SCC!" ❖

We want to stay in touch with our Lincoln Campus grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-642-4075, ext. 2622.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2013 Graduates?

Rawa Al-Helfi
Cassandra Bialas
Chelsie Blanke
Amber Block
Jessica Butcher
Halee Butt
Melissa Butts
Cameron Cash

Emily Coffin
Alyssa DiPaolo
Kimberly Gross
McKinsey Hoops
Brittany Juhnke
Jami Kaup
Sarah Kettelhut
My La

Mike Leon
Matthew Lien
Clarissa Martinez
Matthew McArdle
Keli McCluskey
Patrick Melia
Patrick O'Connor
Lindsay Oelschlager

Stephanie Padilla
Jonathan Pawlowski
Pavel Razamazov
Stephanie Rockenbach
Jesse Salmon
Morgan Shuck
Timaree Slack
Ryan Slaughter

Thor Thompson
Seth Thompson
Hannah Tipton
Tracee Tipton
Jamie Triplett
Lynsey Yost
Robert Zelinski



Ibarra Welcomes Visitors to SCC

When guests and visitors enter SCC's Lincoln Campus, they are often greeted by the friendly face of **Shannon Ibarra**, who works in Student Affairs at the Information Desk. Since there is a lot of construction going on, Ibarra isn't as front and center as he usually is, but he's still a continuing presence on the campus.

"It has been mildly challenging

navigating the construction projects on campus, but anytime there is change at SCC it is a sign of growth and positive change," Ibarra said. "I look forward to future projects that will provide students with an enriching educational experience."

Originally from Northern California, Ibarra earned a degree in Culinary Management from the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute in 2005. He then

moved to Nebraska to be closer to his brother who was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue. His brother's fiancé worked at SCC's cafeteria and told him about a bakery position at the College. He was in the bakery for 15 years until he moved to his current position as the Campus/Student Affairs Administrative Assistant. He operates the switchboard and assists the public, students and staff from his post at the Information Desk.

"The thing I enjoy most about my job is connecting

with students and staff," he said. "It's fulfilling being able to assist people in little ways on their path through the college experience."

Ibarra went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Marketing Management from Bellevue University in 2011. In his spare time he enjoys listening to all kinds of music, running, hiking and biking and spending time with this wife, Brianne, and three children, Kellen, Gabriella and Sebastien.

"My future goals are to possibly go back to college for a master's degree and to see my children attend Southeast Community College to realize their passions and future careers," he explained. "I would also like to travel abroad in the future with my wife."

While he does miss the Pacific Northwest, he enjoys raising his children in Lincoln and working at SCC.

"I never imagined I would call Nebraska home, let alone have more to do out here than where I am from," he said. "This truly is a wondrous corner of the Earth." ❖



Milford Distinguished Alumni for 2022

Eric Stieb, owner of Zermätt Tool, received the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award for the Milford Campus. Stieb graduated in 1992 with a degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and earned another degree from the Machine Tool Technology program in 1993. Stieb was nominated by instructor Mike Berg.

“Zermätt has been instrumental in supporting SCC programs whenever they can,” Berg said in his nomination. “Several of our top students have gone to work for Zermätt. I consider

Eric one of the best students either program has had since I’ve been here.”

Stieb started Zermätt Tool in 1999 in Bennet, a small community southeast of Lincoln. The business employs around 24 people with more than 34 Computer Numerical Control machines on the floor. He also owns a small firearms company called Zermätt Arms, Inc.

A number of staff and faculty from the Milford Campus

surprised Stieb at work on July 20, 2022, to present him with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He was very surprised to receive the award from SCC.

“It’s very humbling as I know there are a lot of great former SCC students that have made successful careers for themselves,”

Stieb said. “I do feel very fortunate to have had the success that we’ve had. Receiving the award in some way affirms all of the hard work, grit, sacrifice, and effort that I have put in for the last 29 years.”

As for future goals, Stieb said he hopes to increase the market for the products he makes, implement more automation and expand their manufacturing capacity. He has been married for 12 years and has three children. ❖



From left: Ed Koster, Milford Campus Director, and Stieb.

Milford Welding Technology Graduates • Spring



Front row, from left: Jamison Nejezchleb, Chris Moran, Dylan Volker, Ethan Kopcho, Mike Ohrt.

Back row, from left: Shawn Yates (September 2013 Graduate), Bret Springer, Nathan Steele, Alex Cooney, Colby Stauffer, Alex Potter.

Milford Welding Technology Graduates • Fall



Front row, from left: Travis Kaslon, Chad Rezac, Cody Lindamood, Garrett Holscher.

Back row, from left: Jacob Mann, Bryce Wichmann, Colton Luettel, Devyn Schake.

Featured Year: 2013



WHEELS FOR WARRIORS DONATION

A number of students from SCC's Powersports Technology and Auto Collision Repair Technology programs helped fix up a motorcycle that will be donated to a wounded veteran.

"It's been a great experience, I've learned a lot from it and the bike is going to a good cause," said Aaron Spier, Powersports student.

"We stripped the bike down so we could clean it and make sure nothing was bent on the frame," added Leis Jackson, another student. "This was a great opportunity for a good

organization."

The bike was picked up by Craig Tourpin, president of Wheels 4 Warriors USA, a non-profit organization based in Lincoln. The group helps veterans with mentorships, support and a sense of service that is lost after leaving the military, Tourpin said.

"I believe the best gift we give them is a mentor to be part of their life for at least a year," he said. "Whether they need to talk at night, integration into the group or learn riding techniques,

that person is there for them."

"It's impressive how far the bike came from what it was," said student Jeremy Nissen. "It was pretty rough when it came in, now it's a new bike."

This is the third motorcycle SCC has donated to Wheels 4 Warriors USA. The recipients get insurance, gear and fuel for a whole year. The donated bike is a 2006 Yamaha V Star. ❖

For more on this organization, go to: w4wusa.org



HUSKER HARVEST DAYS®

Attention Alumni!

If you are heading to Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island Sept. 13-15, stop by the SCC booth (#249) to pick up an alumni gift! Hope to see you there!

Milford Alum Receives Workplace Award

Dan Coufal graduated from SCC's Milford Campus in 1992 with a degree in Parts Distribution & Management. He is currently the Territory Manager for Medart Engines, which is based near St. Louis, Missouri. He was recently presented with the President's Award, which is an annual award at Medart that is given to recognize an employee who has demonstrated an impressive increase in sales and being an industry example by helping customers.

"My experience at SCC helped me with my successful career as a parts person, store manager and Territory Manager," Coufal said. "I enjoyed my classmates and teacher (Dennis

Medinger) along with everyone I met while there. I have seen four classmates since I graduated and do business with one of them."

Originally from St. Paul, Nebraska, Coufal now lives in Ashland. ❖



From left: Mike Medart, CEO/President, Dan Coufal and Scott Rutledge, Sales Manager

Auto Collision Grad Recalls Time in Milford

Originally from Holdrege, **Paul Spanel** decided to attend SCC's Milford Campus because of the reputation the Auto Collision Repair Technology program had at the time and still has today.

"I heard great things about the program, and once I arrived I quickly built great bonds with the staff," he recalled.

"My son struggled in high school, but once he found his niche in auto collision, Milford helped him accomplish his goals, and he was off and running!" said his mother, Lori Onstad.

During his time in Milford, Spanel immersed himself in the culture at SCC and the hands-on training, since using his hands was the best way for him to learn. He graduated in 2006 and easily found jobs as an Auto Collision Tech at various auto shops in Lincoln, but wanted to move into the

office part of the business.

"I started as an estimator, managed a shop for a few years, and am now the Berkshire Hathaway Automotive Body Shop Director for the Husker Auto Group in Lincoln," he said.

Spanel enjoys this side of the business as he is able to work with customers and try to determine the best scenario when making the car look like it did before the accident.

"Being in a collision is never fun," he said. "What is most rewarding to me is helping someone navigate through the process and getting things in order to get them back in pre-accident condition."

He hopes to continue to grow and expand his career at Husker Auto Group. When he's not working, he enjoys fishing, hunting and camping



with his family, which includes his wife Nikki and two daughters, Darian and Channing.

In April 2022 Spanel was named an Admiral in The Great Navy of the State of Nebraska by Gov. Pete Ricketts. ❖

Milford Retirement

Eric Landkamer

Maintenance Worker II, Physical Plant (25 years of service)

Manufacturing Engineering Technology Student Earns Bronze at SkillsUSA Competition



Noah Russell, a Manufacturing Engineering Technology student at SCC, won the bronze medal in the Technical Drafting category at the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23.

Russell qualified for the SkillsUSA Championships by placing first in the same category at the Nebraska SkillsUSA conference in April in Grand Island.

“We take a written test that covers standards and stuff like that, different callouts, symbols and elements

of drawing that you should know,” Russell said. “Then you have the actual competition where they gave us a problem and a packet, and we create drawings from the packet. You try to make it as close to the master drawings. You 3-D model the parts and create 2-D drawings. Whoever gets most of it correct wins. It’s a very long, draining day.”

Manufacturing engineering wasn’t Russell’s first choice when he graduated in 2020 from Nebraska City High School. His heart was set on mechanical engineering at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“After a year at UMKC, I decided it wasn’t for me,” Russell said. “My brother went into the Land Surveying program at SCC and said I should go to SCC-Milford. I eventually settled on Manufacturing Engineering. I wanted to be more hands-on. It’s one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. Going to Milford, I felt like I fit there. It felt right.”

Other SCC students competed at nationals in diesel technology and commercial baking but did not place. Students from The Career Academy also competed in baking and engineering categories but did not place. ❖

In Memory of...

Milford

- Gary Baber (Architecture, 1970)
- John Brosh (Architecture, 1972)
- Terrance Chapin (Air Conditioning, 1977)
- Randall “Randy” Conard (Land Surveying, 1971)
- Terry Dunlap (Welding, 1968)
- Frances L. Erb (Commercial Art, 1976)
- D. Marie Garber (Data Processing, 1966)
- Steve Goracke (Building Construction, 2001)
- Phillip A. Heidemann (Welding, 1972)
- Dennis F. “Denny” Hejtmanek (Diesel, 1955)
- Jerome W. Hollister (Land Surveying, 1974)
- Anthony Johannsen (Parts Marketing & Management, 2004)
- Rex D. Lewis (Diesel, 1977)
- Patrick “Pat” Mahoney (Diesel, 1969)
- David Rathje (Automotive, 1983)
- Craig A. Roberts (Manufacturing Engineering, 1983)
- Thomas Sawyer (Land Surveying, 1982)
- Eldon Schall (Automotive, 1959)
- James D. Schildt (Building Construction, 1998; Diesel Farm, 1999)
- Milton J. Slama (Diesel, 1960)
- Gary Treptow (Automotive, 1971)
- David L. Waltke (Manufacturing Engineering, 1975)
- Douglas L. Warrings (Drafting, 1965)
- Donald A. Wilson (Manufacturing Engineering, 1973)

We want to stay in touch with our Milford Campus grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1960 Graduates?

Terry L. Bowie	John H. Johnson	Richard A. Nelson	Robert E. Smith	Larry Thomas
Donald Clymer	Owen R. Johnson	Raymond Newman	John Stevens	Bob E. Wilson
Larry D. Fisher	Garold Morten	David C. Smith		

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2013 Graduates?

Seth Dixon	Zachary L. Little	Justin Packett	Nathan Stork	Kyle Watson
Brian P. Johnson	Virginia Moeller	George P. Rose	Logan Taylor	Brandon Wolfe
Dylan Kostner	Sara Norman	Steven J. Schmeits	Briar Templin	

SCC Receives Three New Cars for Ford ASSET Program

SCC's Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training program received three new Ford vehicles earlier this summer. Students will use a 2022 Ford Bronco, 2022 Ford Ranger and a 2022 Ford Mustang Mach-E in which to train.

"This fantastic opportunity will allow our students to train and work on the latest technology that Ford Motor Company has to offer," said Mark Berggren, Ford ASSET program director. "This helps our students to see and use the most advanced diagnostics and tools and will give them the skills they need to be the most successful Ford technicians in the dealership."

With the addition of the electric Ford Mustang Mach-E, SCC is one of only six ASSET programs in




the country to train with the new technology, Berggren said.

"This will greatly benefit our students, training them with the newest emerging technology out there and preparing them for the future of


what's to come in the industry," he added. "We are excited to have these new vehicles to train our students."

The Mustang Mach-E is a fully electric car and retails for around \$44,000. ❖


We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 "After graduating, I was employed by the United States Department of Defense from 1962-1997. A career highlight was working as a lab leader in the Metrology Lab at the Naval Base in Point Mugu, California. I retired back to Nebraska in 1997 and now live in Oregon. My hobbies are fishing, ham radio (K7LM) and watching Husker football! I remember well the comradery and adventures of the weekly carpool from Guide Rock, Bill Bamer's math class and Harvey E. White's physics movies. Yes, even Drafting Intro class!"


John L. Cummings, Electronics, 1962

 "I am 75 years old and still use the great education I received at Milford 56 years ago!"


Larry Bauer, Diesel, 1966

 "You gave me tools for a great long career."


Robert Geisler, Electronics, 1976

 "I worked at Mutual of Omaha for three years and NPPD for 37 years. Had a great 40-year career all starting with SCC Milford! Thanks."


John Price, Data Processing, 1978

 "What SCC skills I received have been a lifetime of value and income for me. I cannot thank the staff enough!"

Michael Manzitto, Building Construction, 1979

 "I have great memories of SCC Milford. It is the best school I have attended. I learned more in 18 months than a four-year university."

Tim Kleymann, Electromechanical, 1982

 "I am proud to be an SCC alumnus. I do hope the institution continues to grow and prosper. My experience was one that changed my life for the positive."

Jonny Clark, Energy Generation Operations, 2014

Garet Darnall Memorial Scholarship



instructors recalled. Upon graduation, he came out of his shell and performed well in school. He graduated from SCC's Milford Campus in 2020 with a degree in Precision Machining & Automation Technology.

Not long afterward, he died as a result of a motorcycle accident. His parents, Roxanne Darnall and Jason Andrews, have established a scholarship in his name for students enrolled in the Precision Machining & Automation Technology

of than being able to call himself a toolmaker with a degree from SCC," said Kirby Taylor, program director. "As a fellow motorcycle enthusiast, we also had a special bond. Upon Garet's passing, his father reached out to our program with a request if we would make his urn machined from solid metal. What a great young man who is missed."

In order to qualify for the scholarship, students must be in college full-time, have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade-point average, and demonstrate financial need. For more information on this scholarship or for questions on how to establish a new scholarship fund, contact Michelle Birkel at mbirkel@southeast.edu or 402-323-3411. ❖

When **Garet Darnall** first started at The Career Academy in Lincoln, he was a shy student, and not very confident,

program in Milford. "Garet always said that there were few things in life he was prouder

Faculty Members, Nebraska Vocational Technical School



Featured Year: 1960

Front row, from left: Lewis Osborn, Mike Sherbeck, Roland Covert, Lindell Churchill, Jim Power, Harry Vohl, Keith Stephens, Carl Almquist, Earl Fosler, David Morningstar, Lynn Lee, Leland Taggart, William Bamer.

Second row, from left: David Eberspacher, Clifford Fieselman, Jerry Wiersma, Wayne Henrichs, Jack Armstrong, Willard Biner, Walter Bennett, Ralph Hibbert, Leland Williams, Virgil Canning, Ewald Paul, Charles Glover, Lowell Welsh, Lawrence Knauber.

Third row, from left: George Anderson, Gerald Eigsti, Elton Havener, Ollie Hagemeyer, John Treu, Richard Hauner, Carol Bengston, Gerald Oakeson, Howard Gatliff, Bernard Kinley, Robert Bowen, Robert Eicher.

Back row, from left: Bill White, Al Winseman, Orvis Wall, Stanley Matzke Jr., Wilfred DeVries, Rodney Hiebenthal, Jack Dadrick, Harold Bastron, Eugene Harder, Darold Shafer, Larry Shaw.

SCC's ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

SCC's Entrepreneurship Center is celebrating its 15-year anniversary. Since opening in 2007, the center has helped nearly 70 local businesses get their start by serving as a resource hub for entrepreneurs at varying stages of development.

Fiscal Dad Coaching

- Owner: Philip Andrew
- Website: fiscaldad.com
- Focus Suites Member:
April 2022 to present



Fiscal Dad was created by Philip Andrew, a father of three, with 23 years of experience as an independent contractor. His

mission is to help families living paycheck-to-paycheck, which amounts to nearly 80 percent of all Americans. Andrew wants to change the narrative surrounding money from negative to positive.

Andrew has only been with the Focus Suites for about three months, but has maintained his cleaning business for nearly a decade and has worked as an independent contractor for nearly 23 years.

Andrew suggested three pieces of advice to new business owners, including understanding why you do what you do, having a plan so you know how much time you can devote to your business, and to be a lifelong learner.

"If you stand still, your competition will pass you by," he said.

Today, Philip has completed his Financial Coach Master Training and continues to build his business with the aim of helping others reach financial freedom. Fiscal Dad offers a free, 30-minute consultation. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, visit Philip's website. ❖

Bridge to Better Living

- Owner: Mary Ann Stallings
- Website: bridgetobetterliving.com
- Focus Suites Member: 2014-2019



Mary Ann Stallings founded her business, Bridge to Better Living, in 2010, with the mission of helping clients make a smooth

and successful transition to senior living communities. By ensuring that clients' social, medical, physical, and financial needs are met, the business offers "placement with passion."

Four years after starting her business, Stallings decided to become a member of the Entrepreneurship Center.

"I felt like the coaching I would receive would be very beneficial," Stallings said. "I think finding a mentor or coach is very important for an aspiring entrepreneur."

The Entrepreneurship Center offers resources such as business coaching and learning opportunities, networking events and member socials, access to meeting rooms, as well as permanent and drop-in office space within the center's Focus Suites.

Stallings' advice to future business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs is to be patient and to invest in the community. ❖

True North Technologies

- Owner: Renee Sobotka
- Website: go-tnt.com
- Focus Suites Member:
2019 to present



Sobotka first heard about the Entrepreneurship Center through Perk Up Thursday, a coffee and networking event

held at 10 a.m. in the center. Guest speakers are invited to share their story at Perk Up and answer questions about being a local business owner. These events are always free and open to the public.

Since joining the Entrepreneurship Center in 2019, Sobotka said she has had to face a lot of challenges and changes.

"Challenges are meant to show how much you want something," she said, "but the highs are way higher and the lows are way lower. It will not go how you think it will. We've changed in every potential way," Sobotka said, "but we surpassed where we thought we would be 5-10 years in."

Like her father before her, Sobotka strives to instill that same entrepreneurial spirit in her own kids.

"I'm living the life I was meant to live," she said. "My children will have stories to tell at my funeral." ❖

To learn more about SCC's Entrepreneurship Center, go to:
southeast.edu/entrepreneurship/focus-suites



Annual Report

The SCC Educational Foundation's Annual Report is available online. If you would like a copy mailed to you, contact the SCC Educational Foundation office at 402-323-3411 or mbirkel@southeast.edu.

A Powerful Partnership



Give to Lincoln Day 2022 Update – THANK YOU!

“The scholarship I received from the SCC Foundation will make graduating and paying for college much easier. It is difficult for a first-generation student, going through obstacles I didn't even know existed. This scholarship is helping me achieve my dreams of being the first in my family to graduate from college. It has been nothing less than amazing at SCC.”

– Ernesto, Current SCC student

One of my favorite times of the year is Give to Lincoln Day, which is held in May and coordinated by the Lincoln Community Foundation. Thanks to the support of more than 50 donors, nearly \$26,000 was raised to support scholarships, helping students and their families with financial need. There is a special excitement when we all come together as a community to support our favorite causes and see the tremendous impact of our collective generosity.

–Michelle Birkel, Executive Director, SCC Educational Foundation

SCC continues to address the deficit of skilled workers in the state, and we are committed to making investments to meet the needs of our local community and employers. By supporting scholarships, facilities and operations, your investment in the Path to Possible Annual Fund will continue to enhance the educational experience of more than 9,500 students each year. Be on the lookout for an email or letter coming soon!

Two Easy Ways to Give

Donate online at southeast.edu/sccdonate

Under Gift Designation, select **Path to Possible Fund**.



Mail check to:

**Southeast Community College
Educational Foundation
301 S. 68th St. Place, #204
Lincoln, NE 68510**

On Memo line, put **“Path to Possible” Fund**.



Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

I/we wish to provide support with a:

One-time gift of
 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____

(Make checks payable to the SCC Educational Foundation.)

Monthly gift of \$ _____ per month
 Visit southeast.edu/sccdonate to donate via credit card or make a recurring donation.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Checks should be made payable to the SCC Educational Foundation. Receipt of your gift by June 30 ensures your listing in the SCC Educational Foundation Annual Report.

Donate securely online at southeast.edu/sccdonate

I/we wish to support:

General Foundation Support \$ _____

Existing Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Name: _____

Facility Support \$ _____

Establish New Scholarship Fund (contact us at 402-323-3411) (Minimum of \$500 for annual and \$5,000 for endowed scholarship fund.)

Other or Gift of Stock (contact us at 402-323-3411)

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**Check out our other issues
you may have missed!**
southeast.edu/alumni

SCC's Learning Center at York Changes Location



The College's Learning Center at York now calls downtown York its home after moving into the new location at 401 N. Lincoln Ave., on July 1, 2022. For the past six years it's been at the Holthus Convention Center. The new location will provide more space for classes, computer labs and meeting rooms.

"The new location will provide opportunity to serve more students to access lifelong educational course offerings," said Cinda Konken, Dean of Extended Learning. "SCC's new location will better serve the city of York and surrounding communities by having a presence to be able to meet local business

and industry needs."

Diane Houdek of Dorchester is the new coordinator of the Learning Center in York. She brings with her a vast background in education, most recently as the school counselor at Dorchester Public School. She has a bachelor's degree in Education and a master's degree in School Counseling, both from the University of Nebraska Kearney.

"Southeast Community College has a lot to offer to students and businesses," Houdek said. "I want to increase our outreach to let people know that whatever stage in life they are at, Southeast Community College can provide opportunities for them to learn, whether it be for a degree, certificate or just for fun."

The Learning Center will continue to renovate and unpack. Houdek can be reached at dhoudek@southeast.edu or 402-323-3634.



The Learning Center at York opened six years ago as part of a strategic plan to better serve the educational needs of the communities in southeast Nebraska. The other learning centers are in Falls City, Hebron, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, and Wahoo.