

Alumni NEWS

January 2024



HVAC-R graduate
named the 2023 SCC
Distinguished Alumni
Award recipient

Page 2

1964 & 2017
Featured Alumni Years
Stories, photos & more!

Upcoming Events & Information

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, College Closed..... Jan. 15
Spring Semester Begins Jan. 22
Spring Break, No Classes March 11-15
Spring Classes End May 10
Spring Semester Ends May 17

Featured Content



2

SCC Distinguished Alumni Award

Will Morris ('14 Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program) follows in his father's footsteps to SCC and the family business.



4-5

Flemings Pay It Forward

The Mervin K. and Sally Jo Fleming Memorial Diesel Technology Scholarship created to help diesel students in Milford.



7

Kawasaki Apprenticeship Partnership

SCC Apprenticeship program and Kawasaki celebrate partnership during National Apprenticeship Week.



8-9

A Special Campus Visit

100-year-old Myron Roker graduated in 1947 from the Nebraska Trade School in Milford. On Oct. 25, he visited the Milford Campus as the oldest known living SCC graduate.



18-19

Construction Updates

Learn the progress of construction projects on our Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford campuses.



Southeast
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Campus Representatives

Beatrice Campus:

402-228-8216
800-233-5027, ext. 1216
alumni@southeast.edu

Lincoln Campus: Heather Waite

402-437-2622
800-642-4075, ext. 2622
hwaite@southeast.edu

Milford Campus: Shelly Tolle

402-761-8242
800-933-7223, ext. 8242
stolle@southeast.edu

Alumni News Staff

Editorial: Jennifer Snyder

jsnyder@southeast.edu

Design: Erin Killman

ekillman@southeast.edu

Board of Governors

Chairman

Neal Stenberg, Lincoln

Vice Chairman

Arlyn E. Uhrmacher, Lincoln

Secretary

Jim Sherwood, Lincoln

Treasurer

Kristin Yates, Lincoln

Kathy Boellstorff, Johnson

Chuck Byers, McCool Junction

Brandon Gunther, Hickman

Vicki Haskell, Fairbury

Joann Herrington, Lincoln

Carina McCormick, Lincoln

Nancy A. Seim, Lincoln

Linda Hartman,
Faculty Representative, Lincoln

(April 2023)

SCC Celebrates 50 Transformative Years

SCC recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and the many transformative outcomes associated with the College over the past several decades. One of the most significant outcomes includes the projection of skilled workforce, affordable access to life-changing benefits of higher education, and strengthening our communities throughout the College's 15-county service area.

At the individual level, our 50th anniversary was an ideal opportunity to reflect on the many SCC alumni who have given back to their communities through career achievement, community engagement and leadership. SCC is committed to its vision of "being a national leader in developing high-contact technical and academic experiences through personal and sincere relationships with engaged and invested faculty, staff, and administrators." SCC has a long history of provided high-contact experiences by providing practical and engaged instruction, small class sizes, and highly invested faculty and staff.

Over the past decade, SCC has been modernizing its facilities and operations to ensure the College continues to meet the needs of its employers, communities, and students for the next 50 years. I encourage you to visit one of SCC's campuses or learning centers and to reconnect with former instructors and staff members. I encourage you to stay connected to SCC and to share your story in terms of the role the College has had in your life journey.

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



Paul Illich
President



Follow me:

 @IllichPaul

WILL MORRIS IS SCC'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT



Going into the family business was not the original plan for **Will Morris**, the 2023 Southeast Community College Distinguished Alumni Award recipient from the Nebraska Community College Association. His dad, Mark, is president of Mechanical Sales, Inc. – Nebraska, a company which delivers advanced HVAC solutions to meet the needs of the engineering community. While Will had several summer jobs at Mechanical Sales, he had a different career path in mind when he enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2008.

“I thought I was going to be a high school business and finance teacher and coach basketball,” Morris said. “During my time at UNL, I coached three seasons as an assistant high school basketball coach and completed a semester as a student teacher. These experiences, the business classes, countless presentations and research projects, prepared me in a unique way for

never a dull moment as they were doing something new every day, which peaked Will’s curiosity about the industry.

“Eventually, Andy and I were consistently putting together preventative maintenance contracts for old cooling towers, taking calls in our parts department and performing take-offs on plans for grilles, registers, diffusers, louvers, fire dampers and exhaust fans,” Morris explained. “These summer tasks showed me there was far more to this industry than what I had been exposed to. This exposure made me naturally curious about what mechanical sales was all about.”

After graduating from UNL in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and Human Sciences, Morris headed to the classroom, but not as the teacher. Instead, he enrolled in SCC’s Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology program on the Milford

my career.”

Morris spent four summers interning at Mechanical Sales with his twin brother Andy while attending UNL. Over the years, the two held several jobs at the company, from working in the warehouse to pulling weeds on the property to sorting old files. It was

Campus, completing his Associate of Applied Science degree in 2014.

“This program greatly prepared me for my career by teaching me the fundamentals of our trade,” he said. “A lot of things are changing in our industry and the world around us, but fundamentals of thermodynamics do not change. Consistency in a program and coursework is key to helping young men and women be successful, especially at this impressionable time in their lives.”

Morris joined the Mechanical Sales team in 2013 and is currently vice president and partner. Andy is also an SCC alumnus and partner for Mechanical Sales in its Kansas City office. While he didn’t envision working with his dad in high school, he wouldn’t have it any other way today.

“Dad was always there to support us,” Will said. “He said we could do anything we choose as long as we worked hard. Oftentimes it feels as though you have to work twice as hard for the same amount of respect because of that family tie to the business. Seeing his passion for the industry and our team at Mechanical Sales certainly influenced me to want to be part of this business and industry.”

Morris is following in his father’s footsteps in another way. Mark received the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from NCCA.

“It is an honor to be following in my dad’s footsteps,” Will said. “My dad has been so involved with the College, and SCC has been such an important part of his career and our business. Receiving this award and sharing that together is something special I am sure I haven’t fully grasped yet.” ❖

MARK MORRIS' SUCCESSFUL PATH TO POSSIBLE

Mark Morris graduated from Southeast Community College's Electrical Engineering Technology program in 1980. His original career trajectory was to become a commercial electrical contractor. Advice he received from his program chair to look at an opportunity with a heating, ventilation and air conditioning company changed all of that.

"My career goal was to become a commercial electrical contractor. I had worked summers in high school doing this work, and it was what I wanted to do," Morris said. "During our final quarter, employers were conducting on-campus interviews, and I was encouraged by Reid Curtis, SCC's electrical program chair, to interview as an HVAC controls contractor. I ended up having a 16-year career with a company providing HVAC controls. This led to the opportunity to return home and join Mechanical Sales. The education at SCC was my 'path to possible' and cornerstone of continuous technical learning."

He joined Johnson Controls, Inc., in Omaha as an application engineer after graduating from SCC. During his tenure with the company, he had several roles, including project

manager, senior sales engineer, branch manager, and area office sales manager at company plants in Nebraska, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In 1996, Morris became partner and co-owner of Mechanical Sales, Inc. – Nebraska in Omaha. He is currently president of the company, which employs several SCC graduates.

"Our business does not require a great number of people; we need a small number of great people," he said. "People of high character, combined with a Southeast Community College education, are extremely valuable. Southeast Community College has proven to be a true partner with SCC graduates making up more than 20% of our team."

Two of those SCC graduates on the Mechanical Sales team are Morris' twin sons, Will and Andy. They both attended SCC after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Doane University, respectively. Having both interned in the summers with the company, the senior Morris advised them to enroll in the SCC Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology program if they wanted to join the family business.



"I am grateful for all Southeast Community College has done for my family and our business," Mark Morris explained. "Will is a vice president at our Omaha location, and Andy is a partner in our Kansas City office. I am extremely proud of all they have accomplished."

Will received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Nebraska Community College Association during its annual award ceremony in North Platte. He is following in his father's footsteps as Mark earned the honor in 2010.

"As a father, I am proud of all that Will has accomplished in life and within our industry, including the 2023 SCC Distinguished Alumni Award," Mark said. "I know what it meant to me a number of years back, and I am thrilled that Will has received this recognition. With the heart and mind of a teacher, combined with SCC technical expertise, Will has found success in the industry serving some of the largest institutional projects in our area." ❖



MERV AND SALLY FLEMING PAY IT FORWARD



Merv Fleming married **Sally Jo Taylor** on June 16, 1968, in Blair, Nebraska. Soon after, they loaded their car with wedding gifts and took off on a 48-year adventure which started and ended in Oregon. Sally had accepted a dietetic internship at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, and since neither of them had seen the ocean, they planned to spend a couple of years in the area and move on.

“They both grew up in Nebraska. After they married they moved to Oregon just kind of as a let’s go out and see,” said Sally’s cousin Bob Bosak. “They fell in love with Oregon and ended up staying. They started near Portland and eventually moved to the Bend, Oregon, area.”

Merv grew up on the family farm and was active in 4-H. After graduating from Herman High School in 1961, he enrolled in the Nebraska Vocational Technical School in Milford. He graduated in 1963 with

a Diesel Technology degree and joined the Army National Guard. In May 1965 he started six months active duty and was extremely proud of his military service. In Oregon, Merv worked for “Ma Bell” (AT&T) as a microwave technician specialist until he retired in 1999.

“His education from Milford gave him a start in something he enjoyed doing,” Bosak said. “Milford gave him the confidence to go forward. He was a farm kid, and something about Merv which sticks in my mind is his belief in rejuvenating the soil. Take a step back and he also believed in rejuvenating people.”

Merv and Sally were unable to have children, but they paid it forward whenever they could. They volunteered at the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo, with Merv serving on the fair board for several years. In 2005,

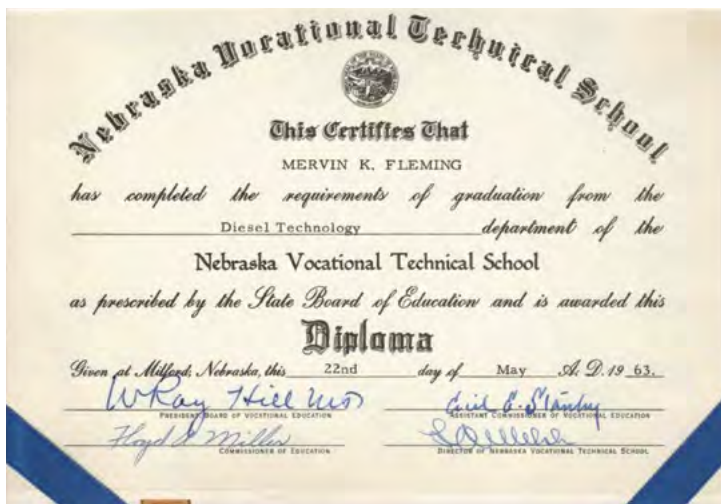


he was named the Grand Marshal of the Deschutes County Fair. For nearly 30 years, the Flemings awarded \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in 4-H raising non-market animals like rabbits and birds. All applicants had to do was submit a letter stating their goals and how the scholarship would help them achieve it. Sally and Merv would then interview each applicant and award scholarships.

“Everything they did was to build up and encourage others, but always behind the curtain,” said Chris Bosak, Bob’s wife. “They did not seek any acclaim or praise for anything they did.”

They were also frugal and organized. Sally loved garage sales and finding a deal. (Pro tip from Sally: a real garage sale has a box at the curb with free items.) She organized her closets with detailed notes on each item so she didn’t wear the same outfit twice in a year. Merv’s shop included every type of tool you could ever need, which made it easy for him to fix anything.

Their organization skills in life continued on after they died. They met with accountants, investment managers and lawyers to put an estate plan in motion





scholarship will do.”

The SCC Educational Foundation was able to award seven \$4,500 scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year to the following students: Gabriel Neeley, Dallas Donovan, Shawn Kuehn, Grant York, Spencer Laurance, Jared Griffin, and Elliott Robotham.

“That’s the generosity they did all their lives. If they saw somebody who needed something, they were there,” said Bob. “I’m sure Merv and Sally are sitting up there looking down and are gleeful as can be. Things are working out just as they had planned.” ❖



Diesel Technology-Truck or Diesel-Ag Equipment Service Technology programs with a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher.

“Merv did not want this scholarship to be about grades, because you never know when a shining star will reveal itself,” explained Chris. “You never know what is going to speak to their soul and inspires them. Merv and Sally believed in giving people those chances. That is what this

before Sally passed in 2016. Merv then worked with the Oregon Community Foundation to administer the estate with Bob Bosak as the executor.

“The whole process of giving back and paying it forward is what Merv and Sally did all their lives,” Bob said. “They were very giving, loving people. They were always thinking about other people and how they could help.”

Southeast Community College is one of nine long-term beneficiaries of the Fleming’s generosity. The Mervin K. and Sally Jo Fleming Memorial Diesel Technology Scholarship will annually award scholarships based on financial need to students enrolled in the



SALESTROM NAMED SCC'S OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER AT NCCA

Nicholas Salestrom was named the 2023 Nebraska Community College Association Outstanding Faculty Member for Southeast Community College. He received the award on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Annual Conference in North Platte, Nebraska.

"It's deeply, deeply humbling to receive this award," Salestrom said. "Every day I work with students who face more challenges than I could have ever imagined facing when I was in college, and yet, here they are, showing up and working hard. Every day I work with educators who teach courses and create programs to help students in ways I never would have thought of. I'm elated when I can point at our students and teachers and say, 'Look at what they're doing! Isn't that amazing?' I'm fortunate because I have reason to say that all the time."

As an undergraduate, Salestrom studied fine art and has a Master of Arts degree in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education as well as a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing and Media Arts. He began teaching at SCC as an adjunct instructor in 2013. In 2015, he applied for a full-time position on the Beatrice Campus and has been there ever since as an English instructor. He also serves as the program chair for the Beatrice English and Humanities programs.

"The best part about working at SCC is the students," he explained. "I grew up in the same region of Nebraska that SCC serves, so I share common experiences with many students with whom I work. Every time I meet a student from a background different from my own, my perspective of my community is enriched immeasurably."

Always wanting the best classroom

experience for his students, Salestrom was working on enhanced digital learning spaces before the COVID-19 pandemic, which proved beneficial when the College went remote with certain classes in March 2020.

He explored and piloted a number of courses taught via Zoom to facilitate collaboration opportunities between the Beatrice Campus and the six SCC Learning Centers. Through this process, he developed classroom etiquette norms for digital learning spaces which he presented to the SCC Board of Governors in 2018.

Salestrom believes he plays an important role in making the mission of SCC come to life. He empowers and transforms diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska by serving as a member of the Engaged Learning team, the Learning and Technology team and the Accreditation Steering Committee.

"A community college's role is to serve its community," Salestrom said. "When someone is there ready to further their education, we're there, ready to help them along the path."

Dr. Carolee Ritter, dean of SCC's Arts & Sciences Division, praised Salestrom for his passion and commitment to excellence.



Nicholas Salestrom, left, with Dr. Paul Illich, SCC President.

"I hired Nick as an adjunct English instructor nearly 10 years ago, and it became apparent very early on that he was someone I wanted to bring on board as a full-time permanent faculty member," Ritter said. "His demonstrated excellence and innovation in the classroom, on top of his initiative and service to the College, make him stand out as an extraordinary faculty member."

The NCCA is comprised of five member schools: Central, Mid-Plains, Northeast, Southeast, and Western Nebraska. Each year the NCCA holds its annual meeting at one of the member schools and awards Faculty, Governor, Administrator, and Friend of the Year awards, along with a Distinguished Alumni Award. ❖



Kawasaki apprenticeship students with SCC President Dr. Paul Illich from left: Gary Baxter, Khalid Ibrahim, Jonathan Lass, Dr. Paul Illich, Beni Buzi Mbo Nta, Aaron Rios, and Pio Tayphen. Not pictured: Humberto Ornelas.

SCC APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES KAWASAKI PARTNERSHIP

The Southeast Community College Apprenticeship program and Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation, U.S.A., celebrated their partnership on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the Eicher Technical Center on the SCC Milford Campus as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

“This is an historic day to celebrate. This type of partnership is very important to Southeast Community College as it fulfills one of our strategic goals,” said Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president. “We have this tagline at SCC to guide what we do at the College, and it’s called your path to possible. When we talk about path to possible, we focus on the student, which is extremely important. Today we are broadening that path to possible to include our industry partners. We want our partners to be thinking about what are the possible pathways for them to have a qualified workforce

and how we can help.”

“Today is all about the people at Kawasaki and their hard work,” said Jim Townsend, corporate manager of safety/training and development/wellness at Kawasaki. “I really do believe when they matriculate, it forces us to raise our game. We need to be the employer of choice and this partnership with SCC is going to help us. I’m a person that likes to blow the model up and be the first. That’s what we are doing here, and we are honored SCC chose us to be the first company in this program.”

SCC received \$4.8 million in American Rescue Plan funds in 2022 from the city of Lincoln to create an office of work-based learning which includes the Registered Apprenticeship Program. This program meets the needs of both employers and job seekers by allowing individuals to earn a salary while they learn, gaining skills and knowledge in the classroom and on the job. Additionally, an apprenticeship offers employers the chance to strengthen and build their workforce by providing a high-quality talent pipeline. ❖



Kawasaki is the first employer to utilize SCC’s apprenticeship program by signing on seven employees to upskill at SCC. The employees in the apprenticeship program are:

- Beni Buzi Mbo Nta – Electromechanical
- Gary Baxter – Electromechanical
- Khalid Ibrahim – Electromechanical
- Jonathan Lass – Electromechanical
- Humberto Ornelas – Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology
- Aaron Rios – Electromechanical
- Pio Tayphen – Professional Truck Driver Training

1947 GRADUATE VISITS MILFORD CAMPUS

PROMISES ARE MADE TO BE KEPT.



From left: Shelly Tolle, Myron Roker, Ed Koster, Michelle Birkel.

Myron Roker's son Bill kept a promise he made to his dad that if he celebrated his 100th birthday, he would take him to Milford to visit his old stomping grounds at the former Nebraska State Trade School. On Aug. 19, 2023, Myron turned 100, and on Wednesday, Oct. 25, the oldest known living graduate of SCC toured campus with Bill and his wife Pam.

"When he turned 90, he wanted to jump out of an airplane, but mom wouldn't let him, so we gave him a hot air balloon ride instead," said Bill Roker. "I told him, 'you know dad, you are going to make it to 100' and he said 'no, no!' When he got to 95, he took on the challenge to make it to 100. He has wanted to visit campus for a few years. I told him if he made the arrangements, I would take him to Milford, and here we are."

Myron grew up in Clatonia, Nebraska, and joined the U.S. Army in 1943 during World War II. In 1944, he was deployed to Europe with the 324th Infantry, 44th Division, to fight on the European front in France, southern Germany and Austria.

"I went into combat in October of 1944," Myron Roker said. "I spent 190 days in combat and 144 were without a break. It was the longest any unit had fought at that time without a break."

After World War II ended in 1945, Roker returned to Nebraska. In

January 1946, he enrolled in the Nebraska State Trade School in Milford as part of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill. This bill made a college education attainable for millions of veterans of World War II and later military conflicts.

Roker studied radio electronics while at Milford and lived on the third floor of Nebraska Hall. Classes started early in the morning and ended at 3 p.m. He became part-owner of a radio repair shop in Seward, which allowed him to practice what he was being taught in real-time.

"I would go there and work until 7 p.m. and come back to Milford for supper and go to bed," explained Roker. "If I had a radio I couldn't figure out what was wrong, I could bring it to school and work on it as a (class) project. I still had to figure out what was wrong with it so it worked out really good."

He graduated in July 1947 with a



degree in radio electronics, his wife Viola and a newborn son, William. They moved to Clatonia where Roker put in the second cable TV system in Nebraska. The first system was in Falls City.

“They put their cable underground, so I did the same thing,” he said. “That was not a good idea as they put the sewer lines in the same area. I about went bankrupt.”

Roker moved his family, which would eventually include four sons and two daughters, to Glenwood, Iowa, to work for the pipeline. One thing he took pride in was being a graduate of what is now Southeast Community College.

“I went to work for the pipeline on Feb. 12, 1951, on (Abraham) Lincoln’s birthday,” Roker said. “I worked there for 35 years, and 90% of the repair technicians and communications department came from Milford. I was proud of that.”

SCC Vice President for Research, Planning and Technology Ed Koster, Career Services Specialist Shelly Tolle, and SCC Educational Foundation Director Michelle Birkel took the Rokers to Nebraska Hall as well as the Precision Machining and Automation Technology, Building Construction, Electrical & Electromechanical Technology, and Electronic Systems Technology programs. Myron was impressed with all the changes happening at SCC. He is particularly interested in the Nebraska Hall project and wants to ride the elevator to see his third-floor room once the renovations are completed. He is penciled in to be at the ribbon cutting ceremony in 2025.

“It looks like dad has another challenge,” joked Bill Roker. “If he is able to make it, I will bring him.” ❖

Featured Year: 1964



On May 13, 1964, 271 students and several instructors boarded buses at 6 a.m. to assist in tornado cleanup in Wolbach, Nebraska. Building Construction students completed many repair jobs on business establishments and some residences. Electrical students completed electrical jobs in stores and helped restore electrical lines for the residential area. Other students representing all departments participated in other jobs, i.e. trimming and cutting down trees, cleaning the streets and property of debris and assisting in the repair of buildings.

Featured Year: 1964



Fairbury Junior College pep band members show enthusiasm as they play for the first basketball game of the season.



Three coeds clad in blue velvet led the Fairbury Junior College band as twirlers. They were Barbara Junker, Pat Quigley and Rhonda Chambers.

CLASS OF '73 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Several members from the class of 1973 gathered on the SCC Milford Campus on Friday, Sept. 8, to reconnect and reminisce. They toured campus, watched a video about the history of the Milford Campus by former instructor Ron Petsch, received updates on the College, and some took a tour of Nebraska Hall to see the renovation plans. For many, it was the first time they had been on campus since they graduated.

"I spent the best six quarters of my life in Milford at SCC," said Michael Durham, Information Technology graduate from Lenexa, Kansas. "I worked in IT for 48 years, and I learned the basics of everything I needed to be successful in Milford."

That proved to be a common theme with the alumni in attendance. Bruce Williamson enrolled in Milford after spending a summer working with his uncle on air conditioners. He graduated from the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program and worked in the industry for 47 years.

"I really didn't know how to do anything as far as repairing air conditioners," Williamson said. "I knew I had to get more training to do the job right. Milford was the ideal place to go. I learned so much here. If I had to go to college again, I would go back to Southeast Community College in a heartbeat."

Brothers Donald and Dean Beck both graduated from SCC and eventually went into business together. Donald graduated from the Building Construction program, while Dean graduated from the Diesel program. They went back to the family farm, and their dad built them a shop where they eventually sold and repaired machinery. They both felt SCC prepared them to be successful in their career.

"Because classes were from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., we were trained like we were already on the job," said Donald Beck. "We were taught the basics you needed to go out and be successful."

"It almost felt like you were graded more on your work ethic," added Dean

Beck. "If you had a strong work ethic, the instructors would bring you along so you could get a good job."

Bruce Williamson was apprehensive to come back to the reunion because he hadn't kept in touch with most of his classmates. The Beatrice native graduated from the Architectural program with a drafting focus (now Design & Drafting Technology). His dream was to design and draw up house plans. He took a little detour to Houston, Texas, to work for Stran Steel and returned to Fairbury doing drafting and sales for the Stran Steel dealer. Eventually, he got out of drafting, but every career move built on something he learned in Milford.

"Today was really well done, and it was a pleasure to be here," Williamson said. "When you are 18, you really don't know what you want to do. But, what I learned at Milford I was able to transform into something better at every career stage of my life. I have no regrets about coming here." ❖



Front row, from left: James Farrar, Lonnie Benson, Don Dostal, Donald Beck, William Whitney, Dwayne Paustian, Bill Kastanek, John Sundberg, Paul Fluke.

Second row, from left: Peter Luth, Ralph Sabatka, Dennis Schmidt, Randy Franks, Dale Clay, John Branson, John Evans, Tom Seeman, Lauren Schiltz.

Third row, from left: John Peters, James Valenta, Thomas Hornig, Troy Brand, Duane Burd, Marvin Coufal, John Eckels.

Fourth row, from left: Merle Van Dyke, Gerald Carlson, Michael Durham, David Hattan, Bruce Williamson, Robert Maury, Ryan Berggren, Tim Stutzman.

Back row, from left: Ernie Reiss, Clinton Schuler, Wayne Gudgel, Tim Morthole, Roy Best, Lon Best, Rodney Anderson.

SCC PART OF COUNTIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Lancaster County Board announced that Lancaster County and three local leaders have been selected for a national program on career readiness. Across the country, eight counties, including Lancaster County, were chosen for the National Association of Counties (NACo) for Career Success (C4CS) initiative. The program recognizes the important role counties play in streamlining pathways to higher education and employment.

Sara Hoyle, Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Services Director, Dylan Wren, American Job Center Workforce Administrator, and **Marguerite Himmelberg**, SCC Office of Work-Based Learning Executive Director, will participate in a year-long peer learning cohort, including discussions with national subject matter experts, visits to successful programs in peer communities, and development of an action plan to create lasting impacts on the local education and employment landscape.

Lancaster County Board Chair Christa Yoakum shared, “Participating in NACo’s C4CS initiative provides Lancaster County and its workforce partners with an opportunity to actively engage in discussions, planning, and collaboration to foster an inclusive workforce where all our residents are able to thrive.”

The C4CS initiative is designed to leverage the unique position of counties, which operate at the intersection of post-secondary education, workforce development and human services. By fostering cross-systems collaboration and strategic coordination, county governments can play a



pivotal role in connecting residents with family-sustaining jobs that meet local industry needs.

The culminating action plan will be the result of collaboration between Southeast Community College, American Job Center and Lincoln-Lancaster County Human Services, empowering residents by providing them with the necessary resources and support to access quality education and meaningful employment.

By leveraging the expertise and experiences of NACo’s C4CS initiative, Lancaster County stands to gain practical guidance on engaging partners, building infrastructure, and learning from successful models. This guidance will be invaluable in our efforts to align workforce activities, foster collaboration, and ultimately enhance job outcomes for our residents. ❖

S.E.A. Dance Royal Court



The royal court included attendants Tom Brubaker, Bonnie Duncan, Queen Nancy Check, King Dennis Carmichael, attendants Beverly Trapp, and Larry Lamberti.

Featured Year: 1964

TELL US YOUR STORY



Name: *Kimberly (Bayer) Wollenhaupt*

Program of Study: *Ag Business '05*

Campus Location: *Beatrice*

After graduating from SCC, Kimberly Wollenhaupt earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Northwest Missouri State University and interned with the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. She joined Kaplan University as an admissions advisor. After earning a master's degree in Human Resources from Kaplan, she became a graduate student coach at Bellevue University. In 2020, Wollenhaupt went to Iowa Western Community College, first as the Director of Career and Transfer Services, and now as the Associate Dean of Enrollment Support.

"The hands-on learning, outstanding professors, classmates, and my internship experience at SCC were amazing," Wollenhaupt said. "My experience truly led me to giving back and to my career in higher education. My advice to current students is to get involved and continue to learn all you can."

She is married to John Wollenhaupt, and they have three children she loves to spend time with: Noah (7), Ellie (4) and Trent (1). Wollenhaupt enjoys spending time on the farm, watching sports, traveling, and being active in her church and community.

Name: *Merlin Nitzsche*

Program of Study: *Diesel Technology '60*

Campus Location: *Milford*

Merlin Nitzsche enrolled in the Diesel Mechanic program in the 1960s, which helped him with his career in farming and manufacturing. Under the guidance of instructor George Anderson, he knew he was ready for his career.

"George Anderson made my experience at SCC memorable," Nitzsche said. "I recently had the chance to see the College for the first time since I graduated, and it's impressive!"

Nitzsche likes to golf in his spare time. His advice for students is to always give their challenges their best shot. That is how you will be successful.



Retirements

John Bockoven

Precision Machining & Automation
Technology Instructor
(22 years of service)

Jim Hamilton

Custodian II, Physical Plant
(41 years of service)

Jamie Hosler

Instructor, Medical Assisting
(18+ years of service)

Jose Soto

Vice President Access/Equity/
Diversity (31+ years of service)

Name: Courtney Hasse

Program of Study: Practical Nursing, Associate Degree Nursing, '12 and '15

Campus Location: Beatrice/Lincoln

Courtney Hasse's career in the nursing field started when she earned her certified nursing assistant certificate at the age of 16 and worked at the Wilber Care Center and Beatrice Good Samaritan Society. As soon as she was able, Hasse obtained her medication aide certification so she could continue working while attending Southeast Community College in the Practical Nursing program, eventually earning her Associate Degree Nursing credential.

As an LPN she worked at Interim Healthcare, providing home health services to mentally and physically handicapped children, which was very rewarding. She also worked at the Nebraska State Penitentiary, which gave Hasse a unique health care experience. At the NSP, she worked in everything from a hospital setting to a clinic environment to diabetes management and the dialysis center. When she started the Registered Nurse program, she worked at the Beatrice State Developmental Center for mentally and physically challenged individuals. Now that she is an RN, Hasse works at the Beatrice Community Hospital in same-day surgery, helping patients prepare for the procedure and assisting in their recovery.

"My SCC experience was memorable because I graduated from the same school my mom and dad attended. I was also the first of my siblings to graduate college not only once but twice," Hasse said. "I felt prepared for my career because of the state-of-the-art technology and facilities at SCC, which is similar to those used in the field. The curriculum for both the LPN and RN courses helped pave the way for me to pass the board (exams) on my first try."

Hasse will forever be grateful for the guidance she received from Martha Howe on the Beatrice Campus and



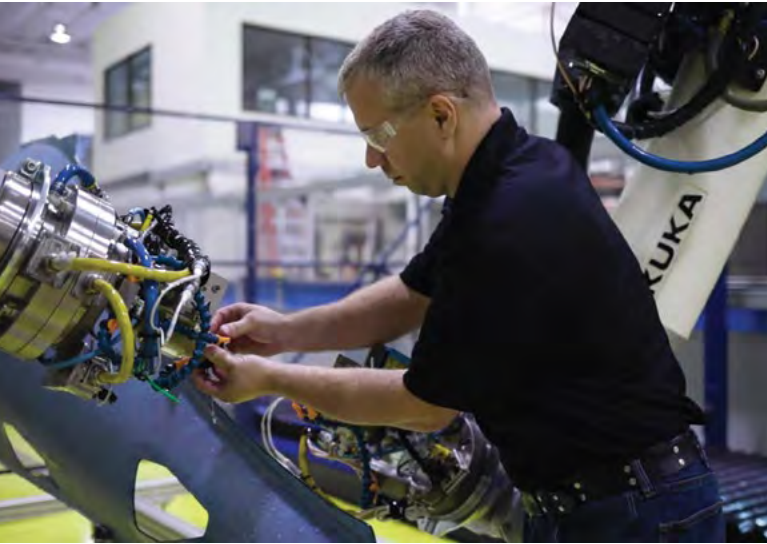
Lori Thompson in Lincoln. Both instructors pushed her to think critically to solve problems and prepare her for life as a nurse. She has occasionally worked with Howe at the Beatrice Community Hospital, which she considers an honor.

When Hasse is not working, her hobbies include extreme couponing, spending time at her children's sporting events and going to the casino. Her advice to current students is to study, have fun and don't take everything personally. ❖



If you have an SCC story you would like to share, we would love to hear from you! Please submit this form for our next Alumni News.

NDT GRADUATE THANKFUL FOR MILFORD MENTORS



Curt Utter was destined for a career in an industrial-related field. After all, he spent countless hours in his father's business, Butch's Welding & Repair Shop on Main Street in Milford.

After graduating from Milford High School, Curt took advice from a school counselor to check out Southeast Community College. He enrolled in the Non-Destructive Testing Technology program and has worked in the field ever since.

"My dad's welding repair shop did influence my career into NDT," Curt said. "He always said that yes, you do get to create solutions for customers in welding, but it's always a dirty business. Cleaning the shop from my elementary days up until graduating from SCC gave me an appreciation for a career in NDT. I also learned a work ethic in my dad's shop, which has definitely helped in the ability to survive layoffs in the aircraft business."

Curt also was influenced by cousins who took the program in the early 1980s "and enjoyed it." And his first impression of SCC? He "was in awe, to say the least."

"You grow up in the town, not really

realizing what you're walking into, and as you become familiar with the staff and your instructors, it becomes like home," Utter said.

While at SCC, Curt was taught by men like Erv Woodard, Bill Wiley and Randy Walbridge. Woodard, who died in 2011, was an

NDT instructor who later served as chairman of Doing Better Inspections, a Lincoln company. Walbridge recently retired as chair/instructor of the program, and Wiley is still a program instructor.

"These men will forever be my NDT mentors," Curt said. "They have my gratitude for molding me into the inspector I am today. Each one of them was unique in their method of instruction, and they truthfully taught us how it would be in the industry. They trained us to study and follow our instinct over what we learned. The theory and applications were programmed into our heads so we could make the right decision based on the circumstance."

Utter noted other Milford

Campus employees who impacted him, including Business Instructor Sheryl Piening Keller, Physical Plant employee John Stabenow "for his helpful advice," Placement Coordinator Gerald Eigsti ("a sage in disguise"), and "our beloved Larry Meyer, Dean of Students. He was the best!"

After graduating from SCC in 1996, Utter took a job in Bensenville, Illinois, a village located near O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. There he worked for Visual Inspection Technologies (which later became Everest VIT and then acquired by General Electric). He worked with remote industrial visual inspection technologies such as video crawlers, borescopes and retrieval tools.

"Our three-man field office covered 13 states, and at that time the company had only five offices throughout the United States," he said.



Curt Utter is shown cleaning the filters that control the water flow in the system squirters. On the end of the clear tubes (squirters) set ultrasonic 1Mhz transducers. The water acts as a coupling medium to provide contact to the part, allowing sound to transfer simultaneously through the part.



For the past 25 years, Utter has worked at Wichita's Textron Aviation, whose products include Beechcraft and Cessna. He's still in the NDT department, but after seven years in a lead position, he changed jobs.

"I decided I needed to be humbled and return to receiving job duties rather than handing them out," said Utter, who holds four company NDT Level III testing certifications in Liquid Penetrant, Magnetic Particle, Ultrasonic, and Eddy Current, with a Level II in Radiography.

For decades, SCC's program, and a handful of others around the country, has been called Non-Destructive Testing Technology, but most high school students don't know what it is. Utter said there are many opportunities for those who hold a degree in NDT.

"It is a challenging program that will test your perseverance in a field with endless possibilities for (job) placement," he said. "Our young people deserve to be told that the vocational trade jobs are perfect starters for future careers in other fields. Many folks will start in NDT and get a job with a company that will pay for tuition for a future career position that will benefit the company as well as the individual. I

was content to stay at the floor level, supporting my team with experience that was lost with others advancing themselves into engineer positions."

Utter said the last time he was on the Milford Campus was 1998.

"Since my father passed in 2014, it's hard to return to those memories," Curt said. "But maybe one day."

Utter and his wife, Celeste, have two children. "My daughter and my son are the joys of my life." Curt said. ❖



Nondestructive Testing Technology Graduates

Featured Year: 2017




Front row, from left:

Matthew Pisarek, Adam Pankoke, Kyle Ferris, Joe Collins, Tyler DeBoer.


Back row, from left:

Zach Kisby (now Program Director for the NDT program), Ryan Winkler, Jesse Hippen, Joel Philippi.


We Love to Hear from Our Graduates!

 “The skills I learned at SCC have been put to use for over 50 years successfully on my farming operation.”


Curtis Carlson, Building Construction Technology, 1967

 “SCC Milford always got my foot in the door and helped me be one step ahead.”


Stephen Pace, Diesel Technology, 1967

 “Fairbury Junior College was great! I live in the country near Lake Whitney between Waco and Fort Worth, Texas, and would love to hear from FJC Grads.”


Robert Krakow, Academic Transfer, 1970

 “I had a great career thanks to a great education at SCC.”


Peter Luth, Machine Tool Technology, 1973

 “I retired June 2023 after 45 years with the same company!”


Ray Schmitt, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, 1975

 “I have been enjoying taking some upholstery continuing education classes through SCC.”


Jerry Cole, Academic Transfer, 1977

 “My education led to two great careers and an excellent retirement!”


Randy Meyers, Electronic Service/Engineering, 1985

 “Loved my education at the Fairbury Campus; we had great instructors.”


Barb Chelewski, Academic Transfer, 1986

 “Earned my master’s degree from Peru State College in 2020.”


Nettie Grant-Sikyta, Business Administration, 1987

 “I love what I do! Even though I may not be in a career directly related to my degree at SCC, the classes I took, instructors I had, and friends I made have all benefited me throughout my adulthood and helped develop me into the person I am today.”


Danelle (Markham) Klute, Human Services, 1989

 “I was a non-traditional student, and the computer training I received at SCC has been invaluable.”


William Hoffman, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, 1989

 “It is good to see SCC doing so well.”


Larry Stolz, Agriculture Business & Management, 1990

 “I have just added another company to my portfolio.”


Douglas Stengel, Agriculture Business & Management, 1992

 “Awesome place to learn so much!”


Kim (Snyder) Arnold, Surgical Technology, 1995

 “Still absolutely love my job! I have talked five people into the Associate Degree Nursing program at SCC. Four of those five have graduated! Love your program!”


JoAnna Fenicle, Associate Degree Nursing, 1997

 “My education has allowed me to buy a home with five acres of land, start a family, buy my dream car (ZLI Camaro 1LE) and a six-figure job where I like to work. Thanks SCC!”


Craig Stankoski, Electromechanical Technology, 2006

 “My son is starting the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology program at Milford! I am also continuing my education this fall at Nebraska Wesleyan for a second master’s degree in Business Administration.”


Shannon (Baker/Schneider) George, Medical Assisting, 1999, and Associate Degree Nursing, 2007

 “I would like to say thank you for this training. I love my job and making new friends and new customers.”


Terry Pratt, Professional Truck Driver Training, 2008

 “Enjoying life. Love being a CMA-AAMA. What a rewarding career this has been for me. Thanks SCC!”


Debra Stickney-Rezac, Medical Assisting, 2015

 “I prefer LTC work over clinic and home health. I am doing what I love!”

Gail Cattoor, Practical Nursing, 2015

 “I always love getting the alumni newsletter from you guys! I will always use and value the things I learned during my time at SCC. I hope my advisor is still molding young minds and helping kids find their future careers! I wish everyone the best.”

Daniel Kinley, Agriculture Management & Production, 2017

 “Working on my third book, ‘Legends and Warriors,’ and continuing my degree in psychology.”

Mandy Bates, Academic Transfer, 2022

We want to stay in touch with our grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or

call Beatrice, 800-233-5027, ext. 1216; Lincoln, 800-642-4075, ext. 2622; or Milford, 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2017 Graduates?

Beatrice Campus

Beau R. Backstrom
Trent J. Beckler
Tawnya J.
Bornemeier
Jayla D. Brown
Katlin E. Brown
Gavin M. Caldwell
Trinity V. Call
Tina M. Cramer
Kelsee R. Dittmer
Dylan H. Haun
Helaina M. Helms
Nicholas L.
Johnson
Corinne M. Jonak
Douglas M. Larsen
Jessica D. McCann
Ireland S. Olson
Brian D. Pedersen
Amber L. Pond
Amber R. Scherer
Nathaniel P.
Schrum
Jonathan A. Snider
Amber K. Tonniges
Samantha M. West
Brielle L. White
Ashley A.
Zimmerman

Zachary
Brandenburgh
Damien Dishmond
Marcus Eickmann
Zachary Freese
Troy Gibson
Joseph Harwick
Cody Heller
Lee Huettner
Bradley Jedlicka

Milford Campus

Seth Keller
Nicholas Koso
Jacob Ledgerwood
Christopher Loy
Dustin Luethke
Manuel Mercado
Isaac Okeng
Dylan Olson
Cody Proskocil
Kolton Russell
Andrew Sack
Daniel Simmerman
Zachary Simonds
Ryan Stegemann
Caleb Tobin
Josh Tudor
Bryce Werts
William Wessels
Austen Wingler
Armando Zamora

Lincoln Campus

Haley J. Adkisson
Sheena E. Aesoph
Enrique R. Aldana
Chris J. Almquist
Tanner G. Anderson
Dakota N. Anstey
Brendan L. Arena
Kelsey J. Arner
Wendy A. Arp
Meredith J. Baker
Jenna D. Becker
Adam J. Beckman
Kailee R. Benda
Taylor A. Borer
Brianna A.
Bouwens
Adam C. Brazee
Alison C. Brodahl
Mackenzie N.
Brokman
Talya N. Burris
Kaylee M. Burrows
Ashley E. Carlson
Silvia G. Castillo
Ourouba A.
Chanyour
Ashley K. Chinana
Curtis R. Clark
Joseph M. Clifton
Samantha L. Cobb
Kali V. Cuendet
Isac C. Cure
Jacob I. Daffer
Brynn N. Dailey
Cassandra M. Drake
Kesi D. Dreeszen
Treva K. Dulaney
Jayme J. Evans
Tori T. Evans
Crystal L. Feagins
Teague S. Fitzgerald
Brittany A. Fortune
Suzelene Fortune
Cameron A. Frank
Michelle M. Fuller
Fachone C. Gaines
Alyona A. Garbuzov
Joseph J. Garcia
Santiago Garcia
Devan D. Gartner
Maria J. Gibbons
Zachery J. Gill
Kirsten E. Goff
James D. Grieco
Brandi R. Guinard
Dayna L. Gulliksen
Walter R. Hardin
Melissa M. Hewitt
Meaghan N. Hill
Kaleigh M. Hinze
Tanner B. Hladik
Lacey A. Itzen
Thomas A. Jones
Corey D. Jordan
Jocelyn N. Junker
Jordan C. Keller
Bryson J. Kelley
Christina M. Kelly
Casandra J.
Kerkman
Stetson A. King
Karlee D. Koch
Mariah F. Koch
Courtney R. Kolb
Rawda K. Komi
Haylee L. Kremer
Scout M. Kutschara
Sarah D. Langley
Megan A. Laughlin
Catelyn R. Lee
Saul Llamas-Lopez
Carly J. Lobeda
Jerry K. Long
Amanda S. Lorence
Sophie C. Lorenz

Joel C. Lorenzo
Andrea R. Lovato
Matthew S. Lubben
Lakol M. Mabok
Lydia A. Madlock
Nathan T. Marra
Shelby A. Martinez
Tiffany L. McClure
Sierra J. McCrystal
Daniel J. McGerr
Morgan P.
McMahon
Ellie N. Meier
Juan P. Mendez
Keith E. Miller
Kelsey M. Morrissey
Silvia Y. Munoz
Maria F. Murillo
Richard Nava
Taylor B. Nelson
LaParris L. Newell
Hiep Q. Nguyen
Logan W. Niesz
Daisha J. Novotny
Josef M. Oliva
Clarissa Olmos
Brittany L. Parker
Yash J. Patel

Takema S. Pence
Annastasia E.
Primmer
Zachary A.
Puncochar
Carter B. Quinby
Caitlin E. Reikofski
Coreyona D.
Reynolds
Andrew J. Rezac
Dylan A. Riecken
Ashley E. Rinke
Eric M. Rosewicz
Ashley M. Russell
Gretta A. Salerno
Evelyn Salgado
Emma J. Scaturro
Trevor K. Schlake
Cali A. Shelburne
Tessa Jo L.
Shepherd
Nicole R. Sittner
Rachael N. Spillers
Kanen P. Stamm
Alexis L. Stangl
Tyler D. Stanley
Elliott G. Sterns
Amber J. Strick
Olivia G. Stubbs

Andrew J. Svatora
Trevor J. Sweet
Whitney E.
Thompson
Christopher M.
Torske
Kramer Traynowicz
Vincent J. Triche
Rebeca A. Umana
Dezaree R.
Underwood
Joseph R.
Velasquez
Jasmine C.
Vogelpohl
Kalen C. Waddell
Michele N. Walker
Sierra L. Walling
Mark E.
Warnemunde
Rebecca R. Waters
Cassandra L.
Wells
Mary E. Williams
April B. Wilson
Caitlin C. Wuebbels
Jabe J. Wurtz
Renell J. Yonkedeh
Justin D. Yosten
James J. Zak

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Lincoln Campus

Woodhaven Hall, a 250-bed residence hall, is set to open in January 2024. The first residence hall on the Lincoln Campus, Woodhaven Hall will fulfill an on-campus living need and is anticipated to be in high demand.



Elsewhere on the Lincoln Campus, construction began in March 2023 on the \$32.4 million **Sandhills Global Technology Center**. The Center will include specialized lab spaces and room for program growth for SCC's Biotechnology, Computer Information Technology, Design & Drafting, and Electronic Systems Technology programs. It is scheduled to open in time for the 2024 Fall Semester. Sandhills Global made a \$5 million gift, the largest in SCC history, toward the construction of the facility. SCC also received nearly \$4.5 million in federal ARPA funds distributed by the city of Lincoln to address workforce development needs.

A new **Welding Technology Center** is being constructed on the north side of campus. The facility, with an estimated construction cost of \$33 million, will allow safe, efficient training opportunities and serve as a hub to different stakeholders in Lincoln and the surrounding communities for years to come. This new facility will include more than 23,000 square feet of modern learning and training spaces, including:

- Two modern and innovative labs with 180 welding bays for both students and workforce hands-on learning and training
- Seven dynamic and interactive classrooms dedicated to both student instruction and workforce training and instruction
- An 1,800-square-foot testing lab and 3,900-square-foot fabrication lab
- Common and community building space for students and faculty

The facility is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.



Beatrice Campus

Work is currently underway on the **Beatrice Welding Facility**, a state-of-the-art welding training facility. Set to open in April 2024, this 4,000 square-foot facility will house 20 welding booths, iron-working equipment, lockers, storage, and learning spaces.

Funded through American Rescue Plan Act funds, SCC budgeted dollars and the generous support of industry and local partners, this facility will provide a new home for SCC students in related welding classes for programs like Precision Agriculture. It will be a valuable asset to the Beatrice community by teaching welding classes and providing our industry partners with dedicated space for upskilling current and potential workers while addressing workforce shortages.

Milford Campus

Nebraska Hall has played a significant role in the history of Nebraska, Seward County, Milford, and the College. Built in 1921, SCC plans to make Nebraska Hall the “front door” to campus by extending the building to the north by consolidating student support services into one central location to help our students achieve their academic goals for years to come.

The College has reached 75% of its private fundraising goal, enabling construction to begin while we work to secure the remaining \$500,000 to complete the project. ❖



We want to stay in touch with our grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call **Beatrice, 800-233-5027, ext. 1216; Lincoln, 800-642-4075, ext. 2622; or Milford, 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.**

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1964 Graduates?

Beatrice Campus

Thomas L. Allison	Charles F. Gordon	Leslie V. Raine
Alicia A. Andrews	Marjorie L. Graham	Sharon K. Rundus
Kenneth D. Bailey	Marshall M. Haskin	Brenda K. Singleton
Gene E. Baker	Carol A. Helzer	Irene F. Smith
Judy R. Bence	Sheryl L. Itzen	Thomas W. Stanosheck
Lynn A. Canning	Bonnie D. Jantzen	Daniel L. Strecker
Nancy K. Check	Douglas R. Joerg	Sharon J. Sundet
Marvin C. Cossaart	Evelyn R. Jones	Margaret L. Tietjen
Leslie L. Dean	Mabel A. Jones	Douglas C. Voegele
Douglas A. Dejmal	Jimmy D. Kirk	Gloria J. Walker
Robert F. Doyle	Larry H. McDonald	Vernon L. Wranosky
Steven L. Elliott	Herman W. Naylor	Ronald D. Yost
Cheryl Gillilan	Ruth A. Rahe	

Milford Campus

William Aho	Steven Kjar
Richard Anderson	Norman McConnell
James Beebe	James McHenry
Ronald Bittermann	Wayne Miller
William Bottcher	Terry Moore
Robert Briggs	Larry Nelson
Lynn Brown	Melvin Paul
James Calkins	Jerry Ray
James Carter	William Rodgers
Donald Cordes	Darrel Scott
Daniel Crume	Gerald Shannon
Paul Hansen	Larry Wendell
Stephen Hayes	Charles Woll
Michael Henning	John Wrigley

In Memory of...

Beatrice / Fairbury

Renee Bartlett
(Academic Transfer, 2004)
Verneal J. (Fasse) Dodge
(Academic Transfer, 1951)
Janie Fralin (Practical Nursing, 1976)
Donald Heidemann
(Academic Transfer, 1969)
Tami Helmick (Practical Nursing, 2005)
Adolf L. Jensen
(Academic Transfer, 1951)
Donald D. Loetterle
(Academic Transfer, 1953)
Librado Leroy Lopez III
(Broadcasting, 2007)
James P. Seachord
(Academic Transfer, 1956)
Larry Wohlbrandt
(Academic Transfer, 1959)

Lincoln

Cheryl Barkhurst
(Business Administration, 2008)
James Bottger (Professional Truck
Driver Training, 2001)
Lonnie D. Brown (CADD, 2003)
Ronald D. Brown (Professional Truck
Driver Training, 1990)
Patricia Buckmaster
(Practical Nursing, 1981)
John Essay (Respiratory Care, 1990)
Helen Horner (Practical Nursing, 1983)
Rhonda Hupka
(Surgical Technology, 2001)
Charles A. Jones (Professional Truck
Driver Training, 1994)
Cassandra Kuker (Early Childhood
Education, 2002)
Tom McAllister
(Visual Publications, 1998)
Josie Moore (Human Services, 2018)
Richard Rathbun (Professional Truck
Driver Training, 1998)
Sharon Russell
(Radiologic Technology, 1986)
Mark Samuels
(Radiologic Technology, 1986)
Wesley Schiermann
(Fire Protection Technology, 1988)

Karen A. Smith
(Practical Nursing, 1994)
Larry I. Spaugh (Food Service, 2010)
Brian Sullivan (Computer Information
Technology, 2014)
Pamela Tejral
(Surgical Technology, 1977)
Suzanne Tesina
(Office Technology, 1994)
Linda Uhrich
(Medical Assisting, 1979)
Charles J. Vogt (Electronics, 1992)
Mark F. Wells
(Welding Technology, 1990)
Jay L. Winter
(Associate Degree Nursing, 2002)

Milford

William August (Diesel, 1966; Retired
Diesel Instructor/Program Chair)
James Bartels
(Manufacturing Engineering, 1975)
Daniel Belohlavy (Automotive, 1989)
Edwin Berryman (Electronics, 1968)
Joann Boshart
(Computer Programming, 1983)
Robert Boshart
(Auto Collision Repair, 1980)
Forrest Brown (Electronics, 1970)
Charles Brunke (Electronics, 1967)
Wilford "Buzz" Cole (Electrical, 1948)
M. Dale Curtis (Electronics, 1967)
Vance Dake (Electronics, 1965)
Wilfred D. Devries (Electrical, 1959)
Dale Farabee (Welding, 1966)
Cory P. Farrall (Machine Tool, 2007)
Jackson Fimple
(Deere Construction, 2022)
David Finney (Electronics, 1987)
Timothy Foss (Machine Tool, 1978)
Todd A. Garcia (HVAC, 2013)
Steven Gossard (Architectural, 1971)
Ronald Graham (Automotive, 1975)
Wesley Graham (Architectural, 1972)
Dennis Green (Machine Tool, 1963)
Colby Greiner
(Building Construction, 2005)
Eugene R. Gross (Diesel, 1966)

Joyce Haas
(Manufacturing Engineering, 1979)
Norman D. Hanson (HVAC, 1958)
Raymond Higgins (Electronics, 1986)
Richard H. Himmelberg
(Electrical, 1958)
Roy Holmes (Electronics, 1959)
William J. Huff (Diesel, 1957)
Gary Karnatz (Diesel, 1967)
David Keim (Diesel, 1960)
Darryl "Rick" Konecky (Electrical, 1975)
Kenneth Krauter
(Air Conditioning, 1963)
Mike Laaker (Air Conditioning, 1989)
Dennis Lada (Electronics, 1978)
Paul Larsen (Electronics, 1985)
Darwin Lee
(Building Construction, 1965)
Troy R. Martin (HVAC, 1993)
David Mason (Machine Tool, 1988)
Kenneth I. Mc Clain (Automotive, 1954)
Charles H. Mc Kenzie (Electrical, 1958)
Leon McCreight
(Building Construction, 1970)
James Modrell (Auto Body, 1957)
Dennis Nicholson
(Electromechanical, 1983)
Kane Nordmeyer
(Nondestructive Testing, 1998)
Frederick Nunns (Welding, 1962)
Julie Pedersen (Electronics, 1983)
Russell Rains (Diesel Farm, 1984)
Jeff Ransen (Automotive, 2002)
Adam Schoenbeck
(Auto Collision Repair, 1998)
Joseph A. Schuster (Diesel, 1958)
Richard C. Sole (HVAC, 1957)
Daniel E. Spelts (Electronics, 1954)
Gerald Spriek (Automotive, 1956)
Ronald Stempel
(Machine Tool, 1964)
Dennis Stewart (Diesel, 1962)
Daniel Thielen (Electrical/
Electromechanical, 1995)
Greg Tunink (Machine Tool, 1994)
David Veburg (Diesel, 1981)
Harold W. Witulski (Electronics, 1956)



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.

HONORING TWO FAMILY LEGACIES – CHARLIE & BILL HERMANN / STANLEY SR. & PAULINE MATZKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND



“Oh Paulie, you better put another potato in the soup because the Hermann kids are here,” said Stanley Matzke to his wife, Pauline. The Matzkes had four children while Dora and William H. Hermann had five girls and three boys they were raising on their farm near Staplehurst, Nebraska. Following William’s death in June

1930, the family shared many meals together as Stanley took on the role of father figure for the Hermann kids.

Vernon “Charlie” Hermann was only 7 when his father died, and he looked up to Stanley. Always looking for ways to help people in his community, becoming a father figure to Charlie, his brother Bill and the other Hermann children was a role Stanley took on without hesitation. He knew his support would play a vital role in the success of the Hermann family. Charlie (Navy) and Bill (Army) would both serve our country during World War II. Following their service, Charlie worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 33 years and Bill had a robust career in business and education. Charlie and Bill would often reminisce about how their lives could have gone in a different direction if the Matzke family did not lend a helping hand.

The Hermann and Matzke families wanted to commemorate their relationship in a lasting way. In October 2012, the Charlie & Bill Hermann / Stanley Sr. &

Pauline Matzke Scholarship Fund was established at SCC. The scholarship benefits full-time students from Seward County attending the SCC Milford Campus.

Charlie died on Dec. 26, 2022 at the age of 99. As part of his legacy at SCC, he left a planned gift of more than \$140,000 to support the Charlie & Bill Hermann / Stanley Sr. & Pauline Matzke Scholarship Fund. This generous gift allows the connection between the Hermann and Matzke families to live on for years to come and helps students’ dreams become a reality.

If you are interested in establishing an endowed fund or exploring planned giving opportunities, please contact Michelle Birkel at the SCC Educational Foundation at 402-323-3411.

We have a new face in the SCC Educational Foundation Office. In November we welcomed Emily Yokel to our staff. Emily previously worked in the SCC Admissions Office, and we are thrilled to have her on our team! Emily graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from Doane University in May 2023. In her spare time, she likes to spoil her Chiweenie dog named Colonel Mustard!



“I am a higher education professional with an intention to cultivate connections within our high-pace world,” said Emily. “I am excited to join SCC’s Educational Foundation.”



Two Easy Ways to Give

1

Donate online at:
southeast.edu/sccdonate



Under “I Want to Support,” select your designation

2

Mail check to:
Southeast Community College
Educational Foundation
301 S. 68th St. Pl. #204
Lincoln, NE 68510

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2024

Southeast Community College annually honors a graduate from each of our campuses in Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award was created to recognize outstanding graduates who have or have had successful careers and are upstanding members of their community and profession.

Selection for SCC Distinguished Alumnus is based on the following criteria:

- Degree/Diploma from SCC Beatrice, Lincoln or Milford
- Graduated 5+ years ago
- Career responsibilities, community service/involvement, continued education, and professional accomplishments
- Cannot be a current SCC faculty or staff member

Please scan the QR code below to complete the nomination.
Submit no later than March 1, 2024.

The nominee will receive a form to complete and return to SCC for consideration.

