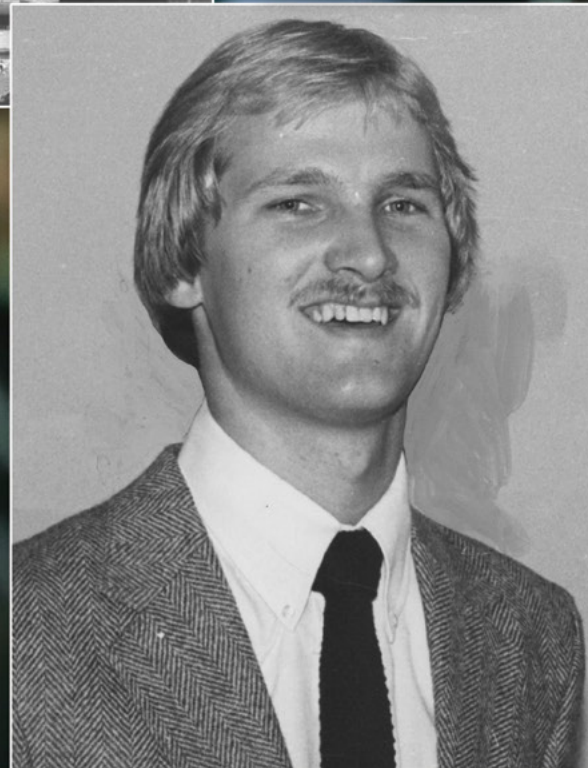


Coach Altman Looks Back on His Time at SCC

See pages 2 & 3



Featured Alumni Years: 1979 & 2016
Stories, photos & more!

Courtesy of University of Oregon

Upcoming Events & Information

Labor Day, College Closed Sept. 7
Fall Break, No Classes Oct. 19 & 20
Thanksgiving Break, College Closed Nov. 25-27

Fall Semester Ends Dec. 17
College Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1
Spring Semester Begins Jan. 11

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Traditionally we express appreciation and gratitude for what we have during the holidays. As we close out 2020, have you considered paying it forward as a way of expressing your appreciation and gratitude?

Many Southeast Community College alumni have benefited from scholarship assistance to help them prepare for their future. Maybe you received a scholarship which helped you along the way and now you are looking for a way you can pay it forward and help someone else. Donating to the SCC Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund is one way you can pay it forward to a future SCC alumnus.

Please consider a gift to a specific scholarship or the general scholarship fund. Every gift makes a difference and we thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

For more information about current scholarships, visit www.southeast.edu/educationalfoundation.

Start making a difference today! To make a gift online, visit www.southeast.edu/giving or complete the attached form and send it back to the SCC Educational Foundation.

Types of scholarships available for donations:

- **Annual Fund:** Donation made on annual basis by a person or organization. That donation is used each year to provide scholarships to students who meet the established eligibility criteria.
- **Endowed Fund:** Requires a minimum contribution of \$5,000 and can be added to at any time. The principal remains in place in perpetuity, and only the interest earned each year is used to fund student scholarships. Our interest rate being credited to endowed accounts is 5.0 percent. This rate is reviewed and set every six months by the SCC Educational Foundation Board.
- **Establish a new scholarship** based on your interests or intentions. A minimum contribution of \$200 is recommended. Our staff can assist you in determining criteria. **Call the office at 402-323-3411 or 402-323-3488, or send us an email: jhuck@southeast.edu or jvolker@southeast.edu.**

The SCC Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. All scholarship donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. SCC does not charge any overhead or management fees to our scholarship accounts so all of the funds donated go toward student scholarships.

On behalf of the entire Foundation Board, thank you for your support of the College and our students.

The SCC Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation responsible for encouraging, receiving, investing, stewarding, and disbursing private support on behalf of the donors of Southeast Community College for the benefit of the College, its programs, facilities, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The Foundation Board is comprised of community leaders representing a broad cross-section of businesses within the College's 15-county service area. Board members represent leadership and community service and share the Foundation's value of ensuring opportunities for success at SCC.

1. Enclosed is my one-time gift \$_____. (Make checks payable to SCC Educational Foundation.)

2. I pledge \$_____ per year for **1 2 3** years for a total gift of \$_____.
(please circle one) My employer has a matching-gifts program.

Print Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Daytime Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Signature of donor _____ Date _____

3. Please apply my gift to support:

- Student Scholarships
 Other _____

Apply my student scholarship donation to:

- Annual Scholarship **OR**
 Endowed Scholarship
 __ Beatrice Campus __ Lincoln Campus
 __ Milford Campus __ Area-wide Scholarship

Specific Program of Study _____

Specific Scholarship Fund _____

4. Please contact me regarding: Planned Giving/Estate Planning Creating a Scholarship Fund
(Minimum donation \$5,000)

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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COACH ALTMAN LOOKS BACK ON HIS TIME AT SCC

When **Dana Altman** attended Southeast Community College back in 1976, it set in motion a number of things: his education, his future career as a top collegiate basketball coach, and his future wife. For those things, he is thankful for his time at SCC.

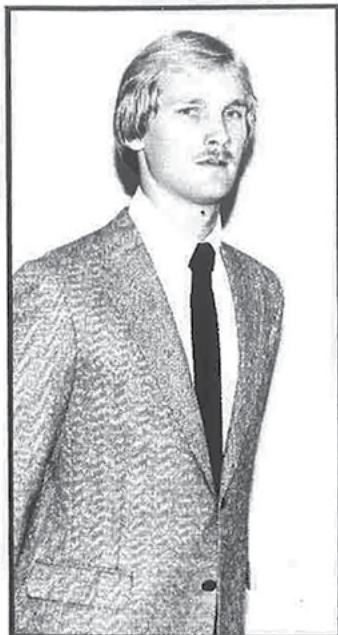
“I really enjoyed SCC a lot,” Altman said. “I met my wife there and I really enjoyed my time there. I met lifelong friends that I still stay in touch with.”

Altman is currently the head men’s basketball coach for the Oregon Ducks. Before the pandemic hit, his team had a 24-7 record going into March Madness. Oregon was at the top of the Pac-12 Conference and poised for whatever was coming next. Then, the whole world changed in what seemed like an instant.

“It’s been different, things have slowed down a lot,” Altman said from his house in Eugene. “Normally I would be traveling a lot. This is the first time in 30 years I haven’t been on a plane for a month.”

Altman said he’s been in communication with his players either by phone or via video chat. They’re still taking classes remotely, so he follows up with them on a regular basis. He said it’s hard for them not to be physically active. If they could use this idle time to shoot some hoops and let off some steam it would be more bearable.

“If they could just get into the



Altman Begins First Year

Dana Altman returns to Fairbury in his first year as head coach, hoping to build a good two-year basketball program that will be a springboard for his athletes to attract four-year college and university recruiters.

Altman was a starter for Coach Gary Borgen during the 1977-78 season and was a member of the 1976-77 Conference championship team. During his sophomore year, when the Bombers were ranked 12th nationally, Altman led his team in assists (156 assists in 31 games) and was honorary team captain.

Following his SCC stint, he played for Eastern New Mexico State, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and accounting. He earned his Master of Arts degree in business administration and management at Western State College of Colorado in 1981 and taught business administration there during the 1981-82 term.

Altman teaches a number of physical education courses at SCC, along with his coaching duties.

Dana Altman

gym, they would be much better off if they could do that,” he said.

Instead, they continue to wait it out like the rest of the world. Altman said he’s fortunate in two ways: there aren’t a lot of cases in the Eugene area yet, and his daughter is a nurse, so he and his wife are able to watch their grandchild when she is at work.

Dana and his wife Reva met at SCC when he played basketball there for two years. The Wilber native said he chose between playing football at Wayne State College or basketball at Southeast Community College when it had a campus in Fairbury.

“My high school coach at the time told me to do what you love, and I loved playing basketball,” he said.

So Altman chose the campus that was only 35 miles from his hometown. That was the best decision for him because he was able to play right away, and his family was close by.

“The two years I spent there was a good transition for me coming from Wilber,” he recalled. “I wanted to play, and it gave me an opportunity. I wasn’t ready to end my basketball career. Coach (Gary) Borgen gave me a great opportunity.”

His soon-to-be wife, Reva, came to SCC from Stanton. The two stayed together after their time at SCC when she went to Kearney State College to get her degree in teaching, and he transferred to Eastern New Mexico University to continue his basketball career and earn a bachelor’s degree.

Altman then went to Western Colorado University where he was a graduate assistant. He was working on his MBA and wasn’t sure he wanted to coach as a future career. Then Fairbury, Nebraska, came calling once again, this time to coach.

“I went back there and had a really good year, we had a really good team,” he said, which



Courtesy of University of Oregon

explains why he didn't stay long. His team finished third in the nation with a 29-6 season. Next, he went to Moberly Community College in Moberly, Missouri, where he spent three successful years as head coach with an overall record of 94-18. However, he was destined for greater things.

"When I started coaching, I was hoping to get a Doane job or something like that," he remembered. His hometown is only 13 miles from the Doane campus in Crete.

After three years as an assistant coach at Kansas State University, he started on the fast track to be a successful Division I head coach, first at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, then back at Kansas State, and then Creighton University in Omaha, where he spent 16 years. At Creighton, he took over a team with a 7-19 record and eventually made an impact. He compiled a 327-176 record in 16 seasons, the most wins in school history.

"Good players make me a good coach, and I was also really

fortunate with my coaching staff at Creighton," he said.

In 2010, Altman accepted a head coaching position at the University of Oregon. Under his leadership, the Ducks have been one of the most successful basketball teams in the Pac-12. In nine years at Oregon, Altman has an impressive 230-95 record.

Between Creighton and Oregon he's guided teams to 23 consecutive winning seasons. He credits his players and coaching staff, many of whom stayed with him from Creighton. He talks about the differences from coaching community college to a big Division I university.

"As you move up the talent level, it's a different pack of athletes, but coaching is still the same," he said. "There's the press and the media and boosters. You lose a game and everyone tells me how to coach. Every game is on national television, everyone knows it. Players mess up on and off the court. It's a very public job. But coaching is coaching."

Altman recently signed a

contract extension at Oregon that takes him through the 2025-2026 season. Beyond that? He said there are many different variables at play.

"It probably depends on how many grandchildren we have," he said. "It's hard to walk away (from coaching). If I slowed down, I'd miss it."

Meanwhile, Altman and his wife return to Nebraska on a regular basis since most of their family is there. Altman's dad and brother are still in Wilber. They also have family in Fremont, Lincoln, Omaha, and Stanton.

When asked why he's such a great coach, Altman doesn't like to take all the credit, which is one of many reasons why he's such a successful coach.

"I had opportunities, and I was really fortunate to get a lot of good players," he said.

Dana and Reva have four children: Jordan, Chase, Spencer, and Audra. Jordan takes after his father and coaches basketball for Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas." ❖

BEATRICE CAMPUS

Practical Nursing Graduates

Featured Year: 1979



Front row, from left: Donna Johnson, Rosann Steffensmeier, Ella Burger, Viola Howe, Susan DeVorss.

Middle row, from left: Sondra King, Jean Jones, Velda McNitt, Robin Hoover, Nancy Rowland, Laura Reynolds, Kathy Priefert.

Back row, from left: Sherri Andrews, Marlys Henry, Denise Roloff, Gayle LaBass, Kathy Hofacre, Elizabeth Smith.

SCC Lady Storm Basketball

Featured Year: 2016



Front row, from left: Shanae Collins, Dajah Washington, Shelby Lineberry, Bree' Nielson-Matthews, Sierra Friedly, Dasia Watson, Grace Green.

Back row, from left: Amber Joe, Veshae Wilkinson, Ja'yla Brown, Ashlee Mack, Dana Deloney, Emily Toman, Erin Saathoff, Ahlia Tai.

Not pictured: Kaatia Watene.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1979 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-233-5027, ext. 1216.

Mark Bartels
Sina Bavari
Kamran Behnam
Jennifer Birdsley
Randall Bures
Ella Burger
Jon Chapman

Marian Claassen
James Collier
Jeffery Engels
Nancy Evans
Fatemeh Ghasri
Nancy Gogela
Scott Haskell

Kathy Houseman
Jack Hughes
Hossein Ilbeig
Mark Janssen
Linda Lewis
Viola Michal

Marilyn Rempel
Laura Reynolds
Mary Sawyer
Byron Schmidt
Richard Scholz
Ronald Schultz

Mansour Sedaghatzadeh
Dein Skipton
Michelle Stewart
Lori Stickelman
Marion Watson

Joyce Weishahn
Dorothy White
James Wolfe
David Woods
Robert Woods
Karla Zito

Dennis Headrick Retires



After working at SCC for 30 years, it almost seemed surreal that **Dr. Dennis Headrick**, vice president for instruction, was spending his last days while working from home during a pandemic and the College would be closed.

"It seems weird that my last few days were working from home and I had limited impact with others and students," Headrick reflected. "I do think this situation will have an impact on the future of education and how it is delivered."

Headrick started working at SCC's Beatrice Campus in 1990 as assistant campus director. His titles evolved and changed over the years from interim campus director to campus president to chief academic officer to vice president for instruction. When he started, each campus had its own independence, even though each operated under the Southeast Community College umbrella. That focus changed so they were all "one college" instead of three.

"Then we added (Academic) Transfer to the Lincoln Campus, and more focus was spent in that area and growth in full-time equivalency," he said. "But it seems in the last few years there is more focus in terms of jobs and training needs for employers that there is more focus back on

career and technical programs." Headrick said one of the biggest changes he's seen is the way courses are being taught, especially now.

"With the COVID-19 situation, I think we will see a continued surge in online delivery and also see the areas that weren't offering education online will be in the future," he said.

Originally from the small town of Shickley, Headrick was told by his high school counselor that he should skip college since he wasn't a strong student. Instead, he enrolled at Fairbury Junior College and was a member of one of the first classes to graduate from the newly-named Southeast Community College in Beatrice. He then received a B.A. in Business Education from Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska at Kearney) and worked as a teacher and coach in Wolbach, Palmer and Grand Island.

"I learned how to drive a school bus, and also coached volleyball, football, girls' basketball and junior high track and field in addition to teaching," he added.

He and his wife Lorie moved back to southeast Nebraska in 1980, and he worked at the Beatrice State Developmental Center for 10 years. He missed the field of education and went to work at SCC. He never looked back. Some of the things he's most proud of include converting the College from a quarter academic calendar to one on semesters, the creation of the college's first website, the Nebraska Transfer Initiative, the growth of online courses, dual-credit courses and the Career Academy.

He's also had his share of challenges, including tornado damage, bomb threats, flooding, arson, a cross burning, facility issues, budgeting, and faculty opposition. But it's the relationships with students and employees that will leave a lasting impression on Headrick.

"I had the opportunity to work with some excellent instructors and other employees at the College, but also statewide and nationally. I've been blessed to meet and work with people at levels outside of SCC that I would never guessed I would have," he said.

Headrick isn't sure about his

legacy, but hopes they will get across to students who don't think they have what it takes to go to college. Headrick went on to earn his M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha and his Ph.D., with an emphasis in Higher Education, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I always hoped that we were making the College a better college," he said. "We were trying to provide opportunities to other students who were like me, not perceived as being college material, and have the opportunity to be successful."

Headrick and his wife will spend their retirement years traveling and hanging out with their daughters and grandchildren.

"I'll keep busy, but SCC will always be in my heart as I bleed SCC blue," he said. "It's been a great career." ❖



Sept. 13, 2019, Headrick signed the final beam for the Lincoln Campus Health Sciences building.

In Memory of...

Fairbury

Michael Backer
(General Education, 1967)
Regina Gray (Practical Nursing, 1977)
Daniel Swett
(Academic Transfer, 1977)

Beatrice

Cheri Ann Dragoo (Retired Practical Nursing Instructor)
Merle Marie Melcher
(Practical Nursing, 1980)
Troy Minge (Agriculture, 2008)
Kenneth Pinkerton
(SCC Board of Governors, 1983-1991)



BEATRICE CAMPUS



Widow Establishes Scholarship for SCC Beatrice Ag, Nursing Students

When **Kent Esau** died four years ago, his wife Patricia wanted to honor him in some way through SCC's Beatrice Campus. Since he got his degree in agriculture, and she got hers in nursing, it only made sense to put the money toward students enrolled in those programs.

"He was a big believer in people getting an education or a trade of some sort; he believed in hard work," Patricia said. "I want him recognized because he was a good man."

Patricia established two scholarships, each in the amount of \$5,000. The Kent Esau Memorial Scholarship is for Gage County residents enrolled in the Agriculture

Management & Production program. The Kent & Patricia Esau Scholarship is for Gage County residents enrolled in the Practical Nursing or Associate Degree Nursing programs.

Both scholarships have the following criteria:

- Applicants must have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 or higher.
- First preference is to Gage County residents.
- Applicant must be a full-time or part-time student.
- Each award will be \$250.

Patricia said her husband farmed his whole life, and she was a nurse in Beatrice. He graduated in 1968 from the Ag program when it was in Fairbury. She graduated in 1978 from the Practical Nursing program in Beatrice.

SCC's Scholarship Committee will select the recipients. For more information on this scholarship, contact the financial aid office at financialaid@southeast.edu. ❖

We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!



"Thank you for the acknowledgement area in your Alumni News. It is great to see thoughts expressed from former graduates of Fairbury Junior College.

During this "Lock Down of 2020," there was ample time to clean and visit memory boxes of the past. According to a "Little Blue Yearbook," FJC began in 1941 with 81 students and in the mid-60s, it had reached an enrollment of 350. At that time, a record number of students began with unlimited opportunities for their future under the direction of Mr. Freddy Drexler and the guidance of exceptional instructors: Bakewell, Bausch, Gausman, Gobel, Grovert, Hatley, Hayden, Henney, Johnson, Phelps and Rouse. A quote from Henry B. Adams expresses this best. "A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops." Hopefully, these names will bring a smile from the many students who remember.

*Patricia (Quigley) Elder,
Fairbury Junior College, 1965*

Fairbury Campus Drama Club: "Celebration" Cast Members

Featured Year: 1979



Front row, from left: Lisa Vandegriff, Dave Stepp, Larry Knippelmeyer, Todd Uhrmacher, Mike Nespov, and Gary Braun.



Back row, from left: Director Terri Harris, Marian Claassen, Denise Lytle, Leah Priefert, Chris Barton, Susan Shultz, Doug Mitchem, Lori Compton, Barb Spotts, Torry Richardson.

Retirements

Beth Jungbluth, Environmental Services (10 years)
Sharon Kipf, Administrative Assistant, Nursing (21 years)
Audrey Priefert, Account Clerk, Business Office (29 years)

Rob Williams, Science Instructor (32 years)
Vicki Williams, Administrative Assistant, Student Affairs (6 years)

LINCOLN CAMPUS

TIM RONK, FROM STUDENT TO BUSINESS OWNER

Tim Ronk moved to Lincoln from Norfolk, Nebraska, in 2006 and immediately decided SCC would be a good fit for him. He really loved the campus and the programs SCC had to offer. “Best college in Lincoln, in my opinion. The staff was very helpful and polite,” Ronk said.

After graduating in 2010 with his diploma in Motorcycle, ATV and Personal Watercraft Technology, Ronk got a job at HVC Cycle in Lincoln. While working, Ronk went back to SCC to complete his Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Administration with an Entrepreneurship focus. He truly loved working at HVC Cycle, but he soon had the chance to get into a professional moving company a year-and-a-half later.

Ronk has since become owner of Black Belt Movers and has worked hard to grow the business over the last six years. The company now has locations in Lincoln and Omaha. Black Belt Movers has become one of the largest moving companies in Nebraska, receiving the “Best of Omaha” recognition last year, and has been in the running for “Best of Lincoln” with a second-place finish last year.

SCC gave Ronk the tools to succeed! “The teachers were the best part about my days at SCC,” he said. “They made learning enjoyable, and they were awesome at teaching the skills needed to get further in life.” Ronk believes SCC provided him with the tools to succeed in business. He was able to take classes he needed in finance, management and core values which have contributed to his business success.

Ronk sees great things in his future. His plans include continuing to grow Black Belt Movers into one of the largest professional moving companies in Nebraska. He also is looking toward starting another business soon, this time in the painting industry, called Five Star Painting.

“The future is very bright if you are willing to put in the work to make it shine! Southeast Community College was one of the best decisions I made in my young adult life. Thank you for everything you taught me!” ❖



Retirements

Steven Fischbein, Science Instructor (4 years)
Myron Ham, Physical Plant Custodian (15 years)
Susan Holland, Business Administration Instructor (34 years)

Veronica Jones, Human Services Instructor (20 years)
Gay Mason, TRIO SSS Retention and Support (17 years)
Randy Nelson, SENCAP Senior Administrative Director (9 years)

LINCOLN CAMPUS

In Their Own Words...

My name is **Linda Svoboda**, and I am a 1995 graduate from the Child Development program. I am also a wife to a wonderful husband, and we have two precious children. After graduating from SCC, I taught at two different preschools, and I really enjoyed teaching those sweet children. My education from SCC helped immensely! When my husband and I became parents, we decided that I would be a stay-at-home mom. I can't tell you how valuable my SCC education became. I made sure that my son had story times, arts and crafts time, outdoor time, Lego and blocks time, computer time, playdough time, music time, and free play time. While I was cooking, doing laundry, or cleaning, I was constantly talking and singing to

our precious son. He knew all his letters, numbers, shapes, and colors at age 3 and could write his name. He was reading at age 4, and when I sent him to preschool at age 4, he absolutely loved it! Our daughter was born when he was 5, and he was and still is an amazing big brother. I loved staying at home with our daughter, too, and enjoyed teaching her at home as well. Seeing her face filled with joy when she learned something new was incredible! When she went to preschool at age 4, she had an amazing time, too.

When my daughter went to kindergarten, I pursued my dream of becoming a children's book author. I have written four children's books that have been published. It has been so fulfilling to see my books in libraries,



schools, bookstores, churches, and homes. Knowing that children are reading them makes my heart smile. My new novel, "A Gift for Alia," will be coming out in the summer of 2020.

I am so incredibly thankful for my child development education from SCC. Our son graduated Magna Cum Laude from high school last year, and he was part of the National Honor Society as well. I am so grateful that as a mom, I knew how to encourage him in his learning and realized the importance of a child's playtime.

I just wanted to share with you that dreams really do come true and that my education from SCC was truly enlightening. Thanks to all the child development teachers for inspiring students to treasure young children. Children are not only very special, but they are our tremendous future as well. ❖



Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2016 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call **800-642-4075, ext. 2622**.

Shafiq Abdullah	Kyla Brummett	Scott Guderjan	Jared Kirkendall	Frances Nguyen	Jacqueline St. Pierre
Zachariah Achen	Rachel Buck	Nigel Hayes	Katie Krause	Riley Noecker	Jaimie Supencheck
Majdi Alzamzamy	Linh Bui	Hallie Henrickson	Katlin Lawver	Daisha Novotny	Stacey Swensen
Maria Arias	Carissa Craft	Katlyn Horras	Elizabeth Luff	Brandon Nyberg	Leighton Thomas
James Baker	Courtney Cuddeford	Tempest Howard	Adriana Magill	Casey Pelster	Mackenzie Tikalsky
Jordan Barg	Jessica DeBoer	Augustus Husen	Schylar Martin	Katrina Phillips	Katie Van Pelt
Haley Barry	Tanya Descombaz	Margarita Iarova	Oslay Molina	Rigoberto Saldivar	Jordon White
Jessie Beckler	Jesica Dunn	Mindy Jackson	Ashley Morten	Missy Shaner	Aaron Wilder
Charles Biskeborn	Connor Fox	Ryan Juszyk	Skylar Mosby	Erica Smith	Jesse Wilson
Teri Bowman	Adrian Franks	Allison Kay	Talia Murphy	Jeremy Spain-Carrion	Shelby Woods
Sarah Brogan	Rebecca Galyas	Herbert Kinchen	Callie Newman		
Jason Brooks					



Katelin Friesen/Lincoln Alumna

there since she first graduated in 2011. Friesen said she enjoyed both times she was at SCC, and highly recommends it.

"I really enjoyed school, my teachers and all of the people I went to school with," she said. "I knew from the first day of class I was meant to be there. I felt the staff really prepared us for the outside world and what to really expect and what the doctors and other assistants would expect of us. They hold a very high standard."

The second time around she took her classes online while she worked full-time at the dental office. She said everything fell together perfectly, and she was able to balance it all.

"My experience coming back the second time was exciting and I would say easy," she said. "I was able to take my class online, and Canvas (SCC's online learning management system) was very easy to use. It was exciting because I felt like I was part of something again and also because I was finally getting my degree, which has been a long time coming!"

Friesen said she hopes to take another class or two at SCC in the future, to keep on expanding her dental repertoire. Someday she'd even be interested in teaching dental assisting.

"The instructors at SCC, on the Dental Assisting side and regular classrooms, really cared for the students," she added. "I believe that if you graduate from SCC, no matter the program, you will be confident in your job skills and be more than prepared." ❖

Katelin Friesen first came to SCC to get her Dental Assisting diploma, which she earned in 2011. Years later she returned to pursue her associate degree in the program, which is a new option at SCC. Students can now earn an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Assisting. Friesen became the first student to graduate with her A.A.S. degree in the program, having done so this past May.

"I wanted to have a degree more for personal reasons and wanted to achieve the highest amount of education within my profession," Friesen said. "Getting a degree was just a basic goal that I had. I just wanted to continue to better myself as an assistant."


The 30-year-old York native works at Nebraska Family Dentistry in Lincoln. She's been a dental assistant

In Memory of...


Linda Butcher (Financial Aid)
Michael Disney
(Fire Protection Technology, 1988)
Swan Harkness
(Radiologic Technology, 1989)
Teresa Lemon
(Business Administration, 2006)
James Manley
(Business Administration, 1994)
Bill Meehan (Retired Fire Protection
Program Chair)

Kevin Lehl (Electronic Systems
Technology, 1983)
Danielle Olsen
(Associate Degree Nursing, 2005)
Wesley E. Springer (Computer
Aided Design and Drafting, 1995)
James "Jim" Wenzl
(Automotive Technology, 1987)
Wesley Wilson
(Human Services, 2007)


We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 "Built and moved into 'Forever Home', still see some friends I made at SCC!"


*Jerry Fricke,
Electronic Systems Technology, 1988*

 "I am taking a break from teaching pre-K while we are stationed in South Korea. Prior to now, I taught pre-K at a private school in Colorado. Before Colorado, I co-taught pre-K and then taught part-day preschool in South Korea."


*Justine Shively,
Human Services, 2009
Early Childhood Education, 2015*

 "Still using the skills and knowledge I obtained from SCC Lincoln."


*Austin Gerdes,
Welding Technology, 2008*

 "2020-2021 will be my last year in the Independence School District because I am going to be a full-time nursing student at Research Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. I am so excited for my new journey!"

*Kala Smalley,
Respiratory Care, 2010*

 "I am pursuing my B.S. degree from Bellevue University and will graduate February 2021. Thank you for the great start!"

*Jonathan Burlison,
Business Administration, 2011*

 "This is my fourth position within DHHS, being promoted each time, in four-and-a-half years. My accounting degree from SCC started me on this new career path, and I'm so glad it did. Thank you!"

*Amy Keller,
Business Administration, 2015*

DAN RUDOLPH'S CAREER BRINGS HIM BACK TO MILFORD

Dan Rudolph's career came full circle last year when he was in charge of bringing a Runza Restaurant to Milford, the same town as his alma mater, Southeast Community College. Rudolph is the project manager at Runza® National, the franchisor for Runza Restaurants. He's also a 1981 graduate of the Building Construction Technology program.

"The city is great," Rudolph said about Milford. "It was the first time we moved an entire structure in one piece. The city helped re-route traffic for a few hours when the building was set in place. I reviewed the construction of the building at the factory, and I was in Milford during the site preparation. A one-piece structure is a game changer for the on-site construction timeline."

Though the site work took longer than anticipated, he said his company is pleased to be part of the Milford community. SCC students also have another meal option.

"Every day I have the opportunity to work with SCC graduates employed in our office and with all the vendors we work with," Rudolph added.

After graduating from Syracuse High School in 1979, Rudolph figured a four-year college education was beyond his resources. After touring SCC's Milford Campus, he knew it would be a good fit, and it wasn't hard for him to find a program to explore.

"The programs I toured were fascinating," he remembered. "All of the programs created, built or repaired something. I liked that. Construction seemed like a solid career path. I'd always need a home."

In addition to Building Construction classes, Rudolph took a night class in residential wiring. He said it helped him when dealing with electricians and engineers later on. He also attributes relationship-building to another important skill he learned at SCC and has served him in his work. He's been project manager at Runza® National for 25 years.

"With the collaborative structure at Runza® National, I work on-site selection, construction specifications, on-site construction, building maintenance, property management, and working shifts in some of the restaurants," he said. "Working store shifts is the best way to have firsthand knowledge of what works or what's challenging for




store operations."

It's that experience that brought him back to Milford, to give back to the community where he got his start in the construction field.


"You could say SCC has helped build the Runza® brand, literally," Rudolph said.

Dan and his wife Cindy live in Lincoln. Their daughter Megan lives in Denver, and their son Alex lives in Omaha. ❖


We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 “While at school I worked for Bill Bender, cafeteria manager, for 75 cents an hour, peeling potatoes, washing pots, pans and trays. I also worked many Saturdays for Dainton and Barker Grain, fished the Blue River and Coon Creek. I retired from Western Electric and also farmed and worked for Mountain View Fabricating (Coinco) in Mountain View, Missouri, during my working career. Beautiful tool rooms to work in, and I endured only one 30-day labor strike while working for a tractor mechanic during the strike.”


*Roger Crosbie,
Machine Tool, 1957*

 “I was promoted into senior management at Wheat Belt Public Power District, Sidney, Nebraska. Thanks SCC for kick-starting an amazing career path!”


*James Weeda,
Architectural-Engineering
Technology, 1996*


 “After 11 years of service I have been promoted to service manager in a company that is growing and has a terrific history and reputation for quality. I could not have done it without the training I received at SCC!”

*Eric Fierstein,
Electronic Engineering
Technology, 1997*


 “A lot has changed, including jobs, family and children. I’m very happy that SCC prepared me for the future with a fantastic education and an excellent foundation to build my career skills.”

*Joseph Stricklin,
Nondestructive Testing
Technology, 2013*


 John Fuchs, Electromechanical Technology 1982 graduate, was recently promoted to Design & Implementation Manager at Rinzler Group in Omaha, Nebraska. Congratulations, John!

 “After graduating, I relocated to Los Angeles, California. I worked in the motion picture industry, working on vehicles made for motion pictures. In 2013, I moved to Houston, Texas, and worked at various body shops as an advisor. Now I have been building and managing a police vehicle up-fitter for the last four years.”

*Evan Reinert,
Auto Collision Repair
Technology, 2005*


 “I graduated from SCC in December 1996 with a degree in Electromechanical Technology. I worked in a field using that degree for almost seven years before the Lord called me to discern the Catholic priesthood. In 2003, I resigned from my position at 3M in Valley and entered seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. I graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities. Needless to say, it was quite a change going from hands-on mechanical work to philosophy and humanities. Next, I went to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis where I earned Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees in Theology. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha in 2011 and am currently an associate pastor covering western Holt and Boyd counties in Nebraska. Although my primary task is not maintenance any more, you can still find me looking for projects to fix around the parishes.”

*James Weeder,
Electromechanical Technology, 1996*

 “Graduated from SCC on June 10, 1981; married on June 20, 1981, and have been happily married for 39 years with two children and five grandchildren. I have been blessed with a loving family and a fantastic career in the HVAC engineering field.”

*Nevin Suddarth,
HVAC/R Technology, 1981*



 “I am still driving the 1951 Studebaker Champion, the same one I had at Milford. My wife, Sherry, and I first dated in this car. Still cruising after 54 years.”

*Mark Ferguson,
Electronic Engineering
Technology, 1963*



MILFORD CAMPUS

In Their Own Words...

Lanny Beam, Electronics, 1971

"I graduated in January 1971 with an A.A. in Electronics. I got a job at KSTF-TV in Scottsbluff. I worked in studio electronic maintenance and production.

I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in August 1971. Because of my training at Milford I was able to specify that I wanted to go into electronics. I spent my enlistment working in "tech control," troubleshooting communication circuits, mainly for data communication. Upon discharge I went back to KSTF, but this time spent most of my time doing electronic maintenance work in the studio.

A few years later I left KSTF and started working at Honeywell in Omaha. The division I worked in installed and maintained temperature-control equipment in larger commercial buildings. At that time building automation systems were becoming more common and were migrating to computer-based systems.

I was promoted to Regional Systems Engineer. We moved to the Twin Cities and lived in Savage, Minnesota. I provided technical support to our branches in 12 states. After the division reorganized, I became Installation Supervisor,

and then Project Manager. In 1997, I moved to Sioux Falls to supervise the installation in South Dakota. Eventually that expanded to North and South Dakota. I retired from Honeywell in 2004.

I started driving a truck on a part-time basis. This led to full-time work, including driving a truck, removing snow and maintaining equipment. In 2006 I started driving for Prairie States Trucking, a regional aggregate trucking company. I continued to do this until 2017.

Since then I've been almost fully retired, but drive a semi for an Iowa farmer during harvest.

My wife and I have two sons. The oldest is in the Twin Cities working in the computer world for Dell doing support work. The youngest is in Gering and works in accounting for the Scottsbluff School District.

Square dancing has been part of our lives for more than 40 years. We travel to Texas and square dance many times a week during the winter months. We've traveled to 20 national square dance competitions in 18 states." ❖

Randy Capek, Building Construction, 1966

"I graduated from Nebraska Vocational Technical School (now SCC) on Dec. 14, 1966, from the Building Construction program. I started my own construction company, Arcee Construction, but six months later I was drafted into the U.S. Army training as a medic.

I was in Vietnam from November 1967 to November 1968. While in Vietnam, I was attached to an Armored Cavalry Unit. I got out of the Army in March 1969 and continued my construction business."

Shortly after, I got married and had three children and later on, four grandchildren. My Daughter, LaDawn,

is a realtor in Denver; my son, Patrick, graduated from the Architectural-Engineering Technology program at SCC and works for Clark-Enersen Partners in Lincoln; and my youngest daughter, Tamara, is the Associate Athletic Director for Wichita State University in Kansas.

In November 1973, I became a substitute rural mail carrier, and in January 1985 I became the full-time carrier, still doing some construction work after the mail route. I retired from the USPS on my 55th birthday in 2002 with 31 years of government service, and I am still doing construction work part-time." ❖

Joe Kurtenbach, Machine Tool, 1959

"I was born on a farm near Spalding, Nebraska. After graduating from Holy Family High School in Lindsay in 1951, I volunteered for the draft two years later. I served 19 months during the Korean War.

After military service I returned to Lindsay and started farming with my dad for one year. The following year I went on my own and went broke from grasshoppers, hail and drought!

It turned out to be a blessing because I decided to continue my education at the Milford Trade School. It was a small school and close to Lincoln and Omaha. The community colleges in Lincoln and Beatrice were not yet open.

I liked the town of Milford, and the school also had access to the GI Bill. It provided me with \$72 a month to live on, so I washed dishes and cleaned the school cafeteria. On Saturdays I also worked at Henke Machine in Columbus.

I always liked to work with my hands so the Tool and Die program was just right for me. I had wonderful instructors, Jim Powers and Ed Garner. I owe my success to these two men. After I graduated in 1959, I worked a short time at Behlen Manufacturing in Columbus. I then went to Aurora, Colorado, to work for Stanley Aviation making low-altitude ejection seats for aircraft.

In April 1961, I married the love of my life, Marge Drag from St. Edward, Nebraska. After 12 years, I left Stanley Aviation and was accepted by the University of California. I spent the next 30 years in nuclear weaponry and geothermal energy. I retired in 1989, and we moved to Missouri where we built a home. Sadly my wife died six years later.

After some time, I entered the Diaconate Formation Program in Jefferson City. Four years later I was ordained and began my ministry. I minister to the people in five parishes in southern Missouri. The confidence and teaching I received at Milford guided me every day." ❖

In Memory of...

Erwin Beck (Diesel, 1957)
Matthew Cameron (Electrical/
Electromechanical, 1991)
Douglas A. Carter (Diesel, 1981)
Gordon Chrisman
(Electronics, 1986)
Donald Cotner (Diesel, 1962)
Scott Dalzell (Automotive, 1994)
Joseph Deermer (Automotive, 1953)
Bobbie D. "Bob" Eckhoff
(Automotive, 1957)
Todd W. Erdman
(Architecture, 1977)
Gary Gerdes
(Building Construction, 1967)
Joshua Gipfert (JD Tech, 2007)
Arcey Graham (Auto Body, 1986)
Howard Herrington (Diesel, 1959)
David L. Hruby (Machine Tool, 1967)
Michael Kapustka
(Auto Collision Repair, 1993)
Daniel Kehler
(Auto Collision Repair, 1979)
Mel Kempke
(Building Construction, 1968)
Edward J. Krenk III
(Auto Body, 1965)
Jay G. Lombard (Diesel, 1973)
Mike McConnell (Automotive, 1970)
David Millet
(Building Construction, 1984)
Ronald C. Nickel
(Automotive, 1964)
Douglas L. Norquest (Diesel, 1978)
Dennis Parrott (Drafting, 1966)
Howard Riedl
(Diesel, 1966; Electrical, 1971;
Retired Electrical Instructor)
Lynn E. Russell (HVAC, 1961)
Bernard "Tiny" Schmitz
(Electrical, 1958)
Norman E. Schulz
(Building Construction, 1950)
Gaylord Sealing (Automotive, 1963)
Robert E. Skaggs Jr.
(Machine Tool, 1994)
Daren L. Sutton (Diesel, 1988)
Cody "Badger" Svatos
(Diesel Farm, 2011)
Roger Titus (Diesel, 1958)
Randall VanderWal (HVAC, 1984)
Floyd Wait (Welding, 1962)
Donald Walth (Diesel, 1958)
Carl E. Wills (Electronics, 1959;
Retired Electronics Instructor)
Debra A. Yoder
(Computer Programming, 1987)

Manufacturing Engineering Alum Writes Children's Books

Jim Ketcham

graduated from the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program on SCC's Milford Campus in 1977. He first became interested in drafting classes at Plattsmouth High School. He toured the Milford Campus after his guidance counselor spoke highly of Southeast Community College.

"I visited the campus, where I saw the great facilities and learned of the high employment rate of graduates," he said. "All of that left me with a positive impression."

Ketcham decided to attend SCC and said he really enjoyed his experiences, especially the small class sizes. He said this made it easier to interact with instructors and other classmates, something he may not have had at a bigger school. When he graduated, he had no problem getting a job.

"I interviewed with Cessna Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas, when they visited campus and was hired by them as a Tool Designer for their Wallace Division," Ketcham said. "I began working there immediately after graduating."

Ketcham now lives in Olympia, Washington, and works as a manufacturers' representative in the dry bulk material handling and food industry. Recently he has taken up a new hobby, writing children's books. He's written and published three books about his characters, Humphrey and Daffodil. It all started when he was putting his now-adult children to bed.

"I would tell them bedtime stories and somewhere along the way, Humphrey and Daffodil came to be,"



he explained. "The thing I enjoy most about my Humphrey and Daffodil stories is watching a child as I read to them. I especially love it when an 'aha' moment in a story occurs and they react to it the way I'd hoped they would."

A few years ago, Ketcham's family encouraged him to put those stories in writing for posterity. That ultimately led to him publishing one story, then another and another. The first two books were illustrated by his daughter Rebekah. His fourth book is awaiting illustration by his daughter Bridget.

"I've also begun writing my fifth story, 'Two Tales of Two Tails,' which will be released sometime this year," he said.

Ketcham reflected on his time at SCC and said he still applies things he learned from his past instructors.

"SCC is still focused on teaching students the information they need to begin their career in a field of their choosing," he said. "That's a solid model for students that are serious about investing the time and effort to make that happen." ❖

MILFORD CAMPUS

Featured Year: 1979
Learning Resource Center

March 2016 Automotive Graduates

Featured Year: 2016

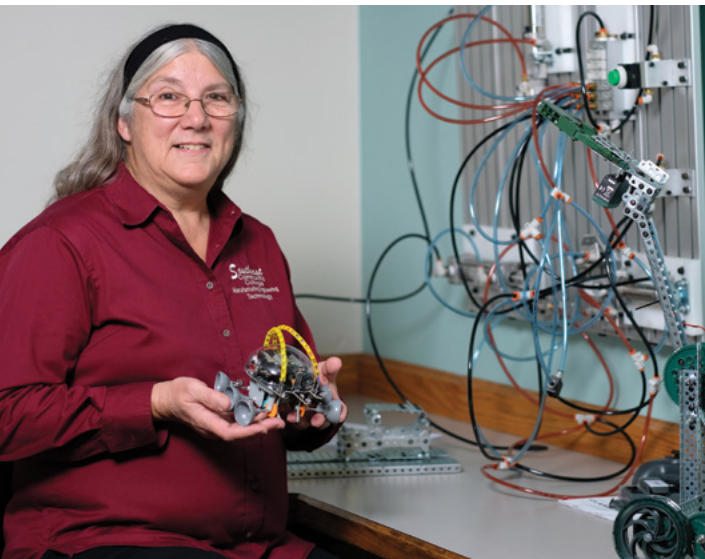


Front row, from left: Jose Escher, Trevor Dorn (June 2016 grad)

Back row, from left: Cole Macklem, Oscar Lara, Jose Ortiz, Kevin Phillips.



Construction of a new Learning Resource Center (Library and Media Center) addition to the Eicher Technical Center was completed in April 1979 and dedicated at the May 1979 Open House.



Elaine Vavra Retires from SCC Milford

2014. She also served as the Society for Student Engineers Student Chapter faculty advisor, and a SkillsUSA faculty advisor. She continues to stay in touch with many of those students.

“Every field trip that I take students on always feels like a reunion with graduates,” she said. “There are not many places that I can go on a field trip and not know several of the employees

because they were previous students of mine. Several of them have used me for references and have the jobs they are in because of that.”

Not only did she spend most of her career teaching at SCC, Vavra also earned her degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from the College in 1993. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management from Concordia University in 1997. Her husband Joel graduated from SCC as well as five of her six children attended SCC.

After teaching at SCC’s Milford Campus for 23 years, Elaine Vavra is ready to call it quits. But not without first reflecting on that time in the Manufacturing Engineering program and what her career at SCC has meant.

Vavra said her greatest legacy to the College is her contributions to the Society for Student Engineers (SME). They raised funds for student scholarships, and the foundation in Michigan awarded even more to SCC students in her program.

“Manufacturing is my passion,” Vavra added. “I became a student at SCC because of Women in Technology Day, and I became an instructor when other instructors called me and said there was a position open and I should apply. I’ve taught for almost 23 years and had 457 students come through my classroom.”

Vavra said she’ll spend her retirement with her six grandchildren, travel, start some new hobbies, and possibly find new opportunities to teach. ❖

Additional Retirements

Kenton Baughman, John Deere Pro Tech Trainer 1991-2016, Associate Dean 2016-2020 (29½ years of service)

Gerald (Jerry) Norris Automotive Instructor (33 years of service)

John Pierce Retires from SCC Milford



First Graduates of the Energy Generation Operations Program

John Pierce helped SCC launch the Energy Generation Operations program at its Milford Campus in 2011. Now he's ready to pass the baton to someone else.

"My hope for the Energy Generation Operations program is that it continues to thrive and grow," Pierce said. "Someday I hope the SCC administration and our industry partners will collaborate to launch the program expansion project which we created over two years ago but was not funded. This initiative could attract students nationwide into the program as an online/hybrid option."

Pierce spent 24 years at SCC's Milford Campus, starting as an electronics instructor and ending as the director of the Energy Generation program. He's proud of all the students who have come through the program and their successes afterwards.

"Starting with the first graduating group from Energy Generation Operations in June 2012, our graduates have been in the top three highest-paid graduates of all programs at SCC," he said. "The wide range of employers who seek our graduates, plus the essential nature of the careers we feed, speak to the high demand and steady, nearly

recession-proof nature of these careers."

A native of Stratton, he attended Mid-Plains Vocational Technical School and Central Community College, where he received his A.A.S. and two-year diploma in electronics.

He later earned his B.S. in business management of technical services at Bellevue University. Prior to SCC, Pierce spent 21 years working as an electronics technician, engineer and manager at various employers throughout Nebraska. He said he's been interested in renewable energy for a long time.

"I first became interested in renewable energy in the 1970s when OPEC embargoed the U.S. for political reasons and we all sat in lines at gas stations as gasoline was being rationed," he said. "I never forgot that and have always been interested in ways to prevent such a reliance on foreign politics."

In 2008, when Nebraska Public Power District asked SCC to start a program to train their nuclear plant operators, Pierce jumped at the chance to be part of it.

"It seemed like a natural fit for my qualifications and with my passion and interest in energy topics," he said. "So I jumped at the opportunity to do something different and to make a difference in the energy sector, as well as to help the College prepare students on a new career path."

As he looks back on his career at SCC, Pierce said he will always remember

the impact his students had on him, and hopefully vice-versa. Community colleges are always a good option for many of today's students, he said, especially now.

"Community colleges in general have always been flexible and responsive to their community's needs, that hasn't changed," he said. "Traditional-aged students 24 years ago were better prepared for college than students we see today. I believe this is a societal result which I hope will swing back to requiring young people to become more responsible at a younger age."

During retirement, John and his wife Janice hope to travel and spend time with children and grandchildren. He's also a musician and hopes to perform with his band, Burnt Biskits. All in all, he is proud of his time at Southeast Community College.

"SCC has been good to me," Pierce said. "I hope I have been good to SCC and the students and co-workers I have interacted with over the years. I have enjoyed wonderful relationships with quality people inside and outside SCC. Many of those relationships continue to flourish and evolve. My advice to anyone who will listen is: Do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do!" ❖



Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1979 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.

Scott Adams	Lori Boyd	Richard Forst	Galen Heitshusen	Brian Meyer	Cynthia Rudolph
Antonio Alvaro	Jim Cooper	James Fowler	Rodney Hergenrader	Jeffery Newmann	Duane Ruh
Andre' Azariah	John Cunningham	Stephan Gall	Richard Horrocks	Marianne Paul	David Schmidt
Joseph Balasch	Chester Dieberger	Kathleen Gile	Thomas Krick	Charles Peterson	Alan Schuster Jr.
Thomas Bonta	Gene Ficke	Steve Hansen		Timothy Peterson	Monica Shields

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2016 Graduates?

Logan Beckstrom	Michael Cheloha	Jacob Henjes	Nicholas McGowan	Nathan Moran	August Wagner
Devon Brahm	Colton Doyle	Dalton Hopson	Logan Michaud	Jose Ortiz	Chase Willers
Kyle Chapo	Andrew Fotopulos				



SCC Makes Face Shields for the Health Community

Thousands of face shields were assembled by the College for local health facilities. Faculty from SCC's Manufacturing Engineering Technology program helped develop the design once they received the materials.

"SCC as a whole makes the world a better place in the everyday things we do," said Kirby Taylor, director of the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program. "It seemed natural for us to go forward with this, especially with our expertise in manufacturing."

Employee volunteers assembled the shields at the Milford Campus. They had enough materials to make up to 2,500, with potential for more. Taylor said the shields are lightweight, which helps when they're worn all day long. They also have a flexible frame and can be rolled up and stored.

"We feel these shields are much more user-friendly and will ultimately make the long days in the field for healthcare workers better," Taylor added. "Lighter weight is less fatigue."



The masks were distributed to medical facilities in the College's 15-county area, including Bryan Health and CHI St. Elizabeth's Hospital, as well as long-term care facilities and medical offices.

The face shields were one of many projects SCC's Community Action Team took on since COVID-19 to help the community during the pandemic. ❖



Milford Graduate Responds During Pandemic

Ryan Meints, a 2010 Architectural Engineering Technology graduate, is giving back during the pandemic. Meints is a design associate for Olsson's Traffic/Technology team. Olsson is an engineering and design firm in Lincoln. He's printing 3D face shields for hundreds of medical professionals in southeast Nebraska.

"In light of COVID-19 and the lack of PPE (personal protective equipment) available to healthcare facilities, I decided to fire up my 3D printer and make simple face shields," Meints said. "The main part of the face shield is 3D printed, and then a clear plastic sheet is three-hole punched and attached to the 3D printed part. I've had more than 300 requests with a dozen more facilities getting back to me."

Meints donated the face shields to local healthcare facilities around the southeast Nebraska area. Eventually he'll have two additional printers and should be in full production mode, and hoping to make 30-40 masks per day.

"My hope is that this small gesture can help keep our healthcare staff safe, so they can go home at night with the reassurance that they have enough supplies to get through the next day." ❖



SCC Employees Create Face Masks for Local Health Agencies

A number of volunteer seamstresses at Southeast Community College played their part during COVID-19 by sewing and donating cloth face masks. Close to a dozen members of the SCC community created more than 100 masks and hats at the beginning of the outbreak.

"My grandma, who was a beautiful seamstress, taught me to sew when I was 7," said Vicki Coffin, nursing assistant instructor at SCC. "Being considered high risk prevents me from helping on those front lines, so sewing the masks is a way to help the cause with respect to the social distancing directives."

The target audience for the face masks is long-term care facilities, critical access hospitals and first responders. SCC delivered the masks to Sumner Place Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation and the Lincoln Police Department, with many other

requests to other health facilities. The CDC recommends wearing face masks in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult.

"Materials are donated by the seamstresses," said Jill Sand, dean of SCC's Health Sciences Division who helped to coordinate the effort. "They have been using their fabric stashes and supplies to make the masks. Currently, elastic is difficult to find for purchase so they are getting creative and using ponytail holders and making fabric tie masks."

This is all part of SCC's Community Action Team, which found various ways to help the community during the pandemic.

"I have great appreciation and pride that our SCC family and community have come together on this and other community action projects," Coffin added. ❖



SCC Donates Medical Supplies to Local Hospitals and Medical Centers

SCC's Health Sciences programs donated hundreds of medical supplies to local hospitals. Among the supplies were gloves, masks, thermometers, and lab coats. SCC faculty and staff helped load trucks of the supplies to go to Bryan Health and CHI St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Lincoln. Others were delivered to medical facilities in Beatrice.

SCC is always seeking ways to help and support the communities within its 15-county area. Dean of Health Sciences, Jill Sand, said there is work that can be done to help ease the impact on those working in the medical field during this time.

"This donation allowed for more patients to be safely cared for and allowed our colleagues and past graduates working in healthcare to protect themselves as they work in our fight against COVID-19," said Sand. "We appreciate our community partnerships, and it is the least we can do to donate and support them." ❖

Following is a breakdown of the supplies SCC donated:

Bryan Health

- 110 boxes of gloves (XS to XL)
- 700 pairs of sterile gloves (various sizes)
- 150 gowns/disposable lab coats
- 20 boxes of masks (at least 50 in each)

CHI St. Elizabeth

- 119 boxes of gloves (XS to XL)
- 800 pairs of sterile gloves (various sizes)
- 200 gowns/disposable lab coats
- 25 boxes of masks (at least 50 in each)

Beatrice Community Medical Center

- Around 35 boxes of gloves and masks

Good Samaritan-Beatrice

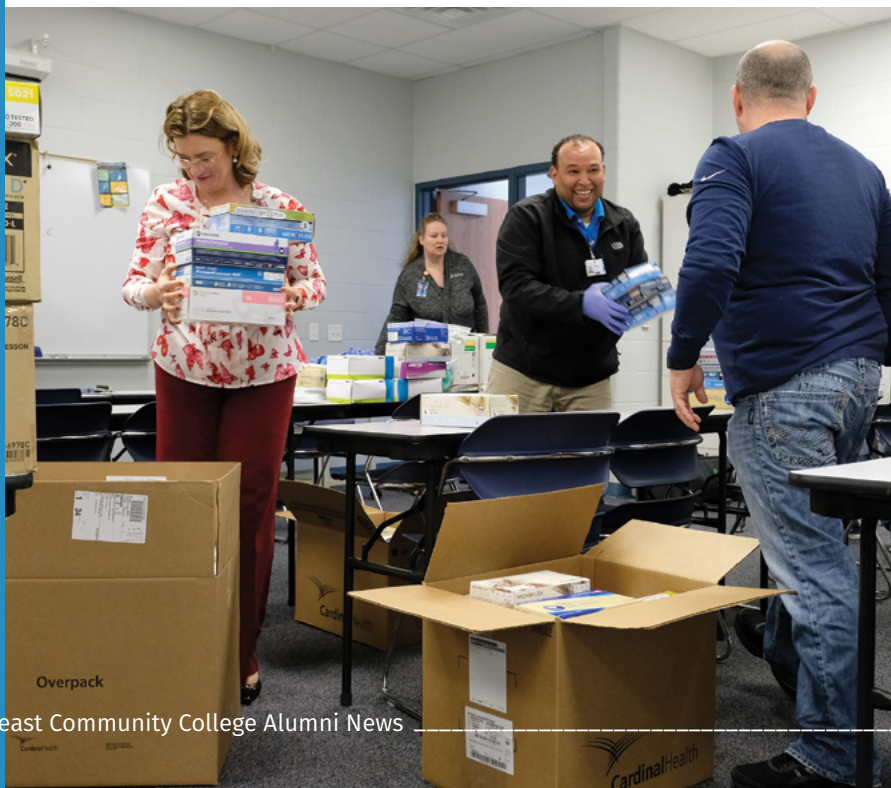
- 100 thermometers

Beatrice Health & Rehab

- 100 thermometers

Beatrice Rural Emergency Management Team

- 40 thermometers





SCC Cooks, Delivers Meals for Shut-ins During the Pandemic

Faculty in SCC's Culinary/Hospitality program and other employees rallied together and came up with ways to help community members during COVID-19.

"The goal is to come up with ideas and plans for each department to provide services for our communities during the pandemic," said Mike Vandenberg, executive chef of SCC's Course Restaurant. "Being the Culinary/Hospitality program, we decided to cook meals and package them to be delivered to people in Lincoln who are greatly impacted by COVID-19."

The effort was part of SCC's Community Action Team. Vandenberg, another instructor and a student prepared and packaged the meals daily at the College. Part of the process in providing health-safe meals was to conduct daily health screens with everyone involved.

Many people in the community requested the service, which was limited to those who were either in

quarantine because of COVID-19 or unable to leave home because they were high-risk.

"We limited it to 100 meals a day, so each day we delivered four meals to 25 people, so we provided meals for 100 people each week," said Vandenberg.

Meals were chosen that are easily microwavable and appeal to a large audience such as lasagna, chili, beef stroganoff, stir fry, and goulash, among others. SCC employees signed up each day to deliver food to the recipients. Randall Loos was surprised to get a knock on his door when he applied for the free service.

"A guy said the four meals were for me, and that every week going forward I would get a delivery of four meals provided by staff there," Loos said. "I said thank you for all you do. I about fainted, I've never asked for

socialization.

"I was so happy SCC came up with this idea because I think it's important people know we are here for them and are doing what we can," Hoke said. "My first delivery was a person who is wheelchair bound, and she



was so happy. My second was for a daughter helping her mom who had fallen, and they were caring for her at their house. The daughter cried when I was leaving. Another couple told me they didn't know what they were going to do because they couldn't get to the store."

"It's also a good way to show the students that working in the culinary field doesn't always mean fancy plated banquets and placing garnishes on with tweezers," Vandenberg said. "At the end of the day, we are in the service industry. And when times are tough, the service industry always steps up to do what we do best: serve people."

The College was able to provide this service with a \$25,000 grant. ❖



anything." Maggie Hoke is an administrative assistant at SCC. As soon as she heard about the venture, she knew she wanted to be involved. She delivered meals and said most people wanted to talk since they were missing out on

SCC's Information Services Team Goes the Extra Mile During COVID-19

Like many other employers, SCC had to work fast to get employees ready to work from home. Most employees did not have laptops, and many have never worked from home. This was a unique challenge unlike any other the College had faced.

An Incident Response Team was quickly assembled, with administrators and other key staff who met often to decide what needed to be done. Things changed rapidly, and a decision made one day might have to be adjusted for the next day.

"We put together this team to address this ongoing issue and how to address this situation," said Al Brunkow, SCC Information Services Manager. "As soon as we heard about it (COVID-19), we started planning and started to think about how we were going to be able to move people off site."

The 30-person Information Services team started working immediately, finding enough laptops to accommodate close to 1,000 employees. Stress levels were high, but employees worked hard to get everything done.

Brunkow said around 95% of SCC's employees were working from home when the pandemic hit hard in March, while essential employees such as safety and security and janitorial staff continue to work on each Campus.

"The biggest challenge was finding enough devices," Brunkow said. "Right from the start we started finding laptop carts around the College that we could use. If everyone had laptops (instead of desktops in their offices), it would've been easier."

From that point, people then needed to be taught how to use the remote software, as well as how to use the Zoom video conferencing platform.

"Many people were not familiar with using the software from home, so we had to show them the tools to sign on," he explained. "Zoom has been huge. Even though we've had it at the College, many people have never used it. We worked at getting people connected, and set them up for it and showed them how to connect at home."

Employees in the Transitions Lab on the Lincoln Campus worked with the computer technicians to get set up at home, and they even went the extra mile and helped them set up printers.

"They had a mini training session with all of us



to make sure we were comfortable," said Shannon Brinkman, Transitions Advisor/Tutor Coordinator. "They helped me get One Drive set up and showed me how to do a few important things on it before leaving campus. They also helped me get my printer hooked up at home, and they are just so eager to help. They are constantly saying 'If you have any more questions, just let me know!'"

In addition to getting the College employees set up, next the IT staff had to help instructors prepare to teach in an online format starting March 30. SCC had around 9,000 students who are learning remotely to finish the Spring Semester.

"We didn't know what was going to happen on the 30th with classes online, but so far they are good," Brunkow said, adding there were some calls to the IT Help Desk, but not as many as expected. Their next challenge was getting students access to some of the technical software programs, such as those in the Design & Drafting program. Those require special lab software that has only previously been used in the College labs.

"I'm proud of our team," Brunkow said. "It's pretty amazing to see how it all came together."

Brunkow said he sent each member of his staff a personal email, thanking them for their hard work. "It was an eye-opening challenge. I knew we could do it; the staff really worked together great."

Brunkow added that one positive from this experience is now more College employees will be able to work from home if the need arises. In the meantime, there will be one or two computer technicians available at each campus from this point forward if employees experience any problems while working remotely. ❖



SCC Establishes Emergency Fund for Students

The Southeast Community College Educational Foundation created the SCC COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund to support SCC students and their families who were in need of emergency funds as a result of the global COVID-19 health crisis.

Donations supported students struggling with hunger, lack of childcare, inability to pay for medical costs, housing, and other necessary bills such as electricity and heat. Donations allowed SCC to act quickly to student needs as they arose.

“SCC students, like all other community members, are experiencing significant barriers in their lives at this moment,” said Jack J. Huck, Foundation Director. “In addition to basic living needs these students are completing their coursework for the semester in a remote setting, many times without the necessary support, technology, space and expertise. Short term emergency financial assistance can be of assistance in completing their coursework successfully for this semester.”

For more information on the emergency fund, contact Jack J. Huck at jhuck@southeast.edu or Rick Blessen at rblessen@southeast.edu. ❖

Students struggling often face the following challenges that could negatively impact their education:

FOOD INSECURITY: Nationally, 50% of community college students report food insecurity. That’s likely to get worse as unemployment rises.

LOSS OF INCOME: 83% of SCC students work at least part time. Those with customer-facing jobs, such as our students who work in food service, are the likeliest to lose those jobs, and with it their ability to afford rent and utilities.

CHILD CARE EXPENSES: 15% of SCC students have children who live with them and/or depend on them for care. Those who lose their jobs also lose their income for childcare. This forces students to choose between leaving their children unsupervised while they attend classes, or abandoning college altogether.

MEDICAL EXPENSES: Students who contract COVID-19 or have other health problems may choose not to seek treatment because they can’t afford it. Others who do receive health care may have medical bills they can’t afford.

TECHNOLOGY: Students who lack updated technology may not be able to access SCC’s online delivery model. They may be unable to stay enrolled.





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Thank You, Veterans!

Southeast Community College's Student Veterans Organization (SVO) is for veterans and dependents to network and discover information about veterans' benefits and opportunities. The main objective is to help veterans and their families overcome challenges and barriers as they transfer out of service, into the classroom and onto a career. The goal is to provide support to all veterans, active duty members, retirees, reservist, guard, spouses and dependents attending SCC with the tools to further their educational needs.

The SVO participates in a variety of activities to support veterans and their families. SVO activities include social gatherings, peer support, tutoring, fundraising and workshops. The executive body is made up of a president, vice-president, secretary and advisors and is currently located on the Lincoln Campus. Each term, there are four to five students that SCC supports through the V.A. Work Study Program.

James Harris is the certifying official for SCC. He works with students to ensure their education benefits can be used while attending the college. He's also there to answer any questions students have about their benefits and who to contact at the Veterans Administration.

Student Veterans Organization:
www.southeast.edu/student-veterans-organization

Veterans Connect Center:
www.southeast.edu/veterans-connect-center