



**SCC Storm  
teams take it  
to the next level**

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**1950 & 2009  
Featured Alumni Years**  
Stories, photos & more!

## **Upcoming Events & Information**

*Labor Day, College Closed* .....Sept. 6  
*Fall Break, No Classes* ..... Oct. 18-19  
*Thanksgiving Break, College Closed* ..... Nov. 24-26  
*Fall Semester Ends* .....Dec. 17  
*Winter Break, College Closed* .....Dec. 24-Jan. 2  
*Spring Semester Begins* ..... Jan. 10  
*Martin Luther King Jr. Day, College Closed* ..... Jan. 17

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### Breaking Barriers

Megan Lee is first-ever female John Deere Tech grad.



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# BEATRICE CAMPUS

## SCC Hires New Beatrice Campus Administrator to Start Sept. 1



After an extensive national search, Brett Bright of Hutchinson, Kansas, will be the new Vice President of Program Development/Beatrice

Campus Director/Athletic Administrator at Southeast Community College. Bright replaces Bob Morgan, who retired in May after 31 years at SCC.

Bright has served Hutchinson Community College as Vice President of Student Services for the past six years. He also worked at Texas State Technical College in Waco; Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma; and Neosho County Community College in Chanute, Kansas. He said he's learned several things over the years at these institutions that he can bring to his new position at SCC.

"I enjoy the community college atmosphere, and Beatrice provides a small-town feel with incredible new facilities," he said. "I can see the institution growing, and being able to help more students achieve their goals is very exciting!"

Originally from Velma, Oklahoma, Bright earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. He recently earned his Education Specialist degree in Leadership Administration from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. ❖



## SCC Now Enrolling for New Biotechnology Program

This fall, SCC began offering a complete Biotechnology program with Certificate, Diploma and Associate degree options. Core classes will be at Beatrice and Lincoln campuses as well as online. This is the only program of its kind in Nebraska.

"Biotechnology is a great career field for those who love learning about science and want to apply that knowledge to help create solutions to the challenges our society faces in important areas like healthcare, food and fuel," said Tracy Niday, program co-director.

Interested students can explore the three award options: A Certificate (two semesters), a Diploma (three semesters) or an Associate of Science degree (four semesters). All courses are transferable to a four-year institution as either a degree requirement or a science elective. Students should check with

their transfer institution to ensure transferability.

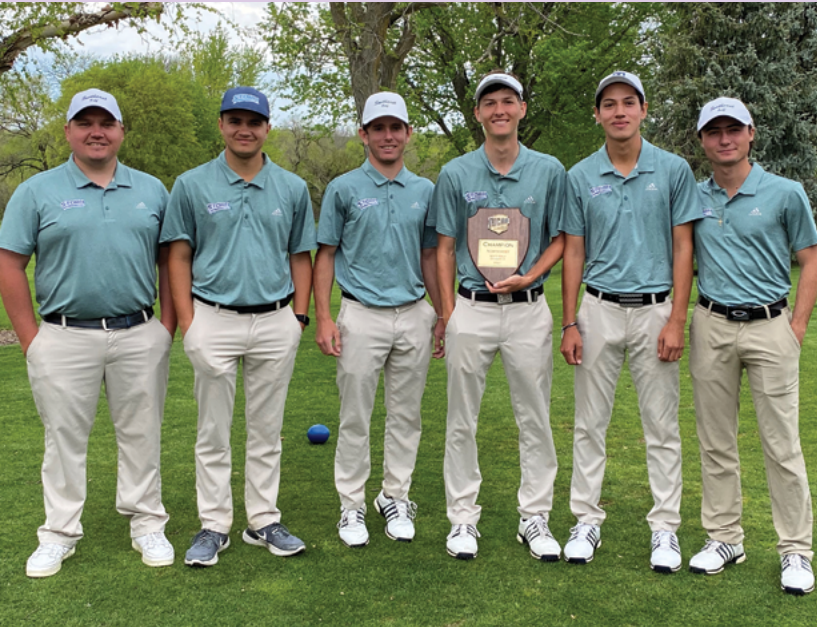
Co-Director Misty Wehling said there are many career options in this field, including lab and research assistants, cell culture technicians, animal lab technologists, quality control analysts, and more.

"Local industry is expanding and developing novel technologies and needs a highly trained workforce," Wehling said. "SCC's stackable credentials, certificate, diploma, and associate degrees, are specifically designed to meet industry needs and provide a seamless pathway from high school to a bachelor's degree."

"It's an exciting program with high potential of impact in helping the biotechnology workforce," said Niraj Patel, Director of Operations at NEOGEN. ❖

## STORM TEAMS ADVANCE TO POST-SEASON PLAY

This spring a number of SCC Storm athletic teams advanced to regional and national tournaments. Congratulations to all the Storm athletes who excelled both in the classroom and on the field.



### Men's Golf

After winning the Region IX Tournament in York, the Men's golf team made it to the NJCAA DII National Championship in Plymouth, Indiana, in May. This was the 16th time the Storm has qualified for the national tournament. SCC finished ninth out of 19 teams. Geronimo Narizzano, a sophomore from Argentina, earned First-Team All-America honors after finishing in a tie for fifth place.

"I'm pleased with how we finished the season, despite having some challenging weather throughout the spring," said head coach Calvin Freeman. "I'm especially proud of how the guys are always ready to compete. With almost all of our guys returning, this year's national tournament will be valuable experience in our effort to compete for a national championship in 2021." ❖

### Women's Soccer

This was the inaugural season for both men's and women's soccer at SCC. The women's team qualified for the postseason by making it to the first round of the conference tournament in Iola, Kansas, on May 16. The team lost to Allen Community College 5-1. The team's overall record was 3-8 and 3-4 in conference play.

"These ladies have trained hard

since August," said head coach John Hakari. "They have faced adversity every step of the way, including the complications of a global pandemic, the expected struggles of a first-year

program, and injuries. Despite all that, they have repeatedly demonstrated perseverance and grit, and it earned them a playoff spot."

The following players were named All-Region



for Region IX of Division II: Trinity Babcock (Lincoln Southeast High School), Alex Ebert (Lincoln East), Lexi Schroeder (Plattsmouth), Emma Suelter (Lincoln Pius X), and Nuvia Olivar (Omaha Bryan). Babcock started and played every minute of every game, Hakari added. ❖





## Men's Baseball

The Storm baseball team made it to the District Tournament in Colorado Springs last May. SCC lost a narrow 4-3 game to Western Nebraska Community College. The Storm capped off the season with a 38-15 record and for the first time had two All-American players.

Matt Goetzmann, a freshman outfielder from Omaha (Millard North), and Matt Keating, a freshman infielder/right-handed pitcher from Omaha (Creighton Prep) were named

NJCAA Third Team All-Americans. Keating is a University of Southern California recruit who hit 19 homers with 62 runs batted in during the season. Goetzmann hit 15 homers and drove in 59. He will play for the University of New Mexico this fall.

"Both players are so deserving of this honor, and we're proud of both of them," Associate Head Coach Tyson Parks said. "What a ride they both helped take us on." ❖

### Other Sports

Three other Storm teams also competed during the 2021 Spring Semester. The Storm volleyball team ended the season with a 6-15 record, the softball team ended a disappointing 3-24, and the men's soccer team was winless in 13 tries.



# BEATRICE CAMPUS

## SCC Storm Men's Basketball Team

Featured Year: 2009



**Front row, from left:** Andrew Miller, Goldeng Deng, Christian Salinas, Tywain Hill, Mark McFadden, Matt Woodcock.

**Back row, from left:** Aaron Russell, Matt Kampschneider, Steve Dentakos, Schuyler Pugh, David Schwartz, Bernard Brooks.

## Junior Statesmen

Featured Year: 1950



In 1950, a group of Fairbury Junior College students interested in world affairs and current events formed The Junior Statesmen and joined the American Association of International Relations Clubs. Front row, from left: Chester Henniger, Ida Klockner, Elizabeth Smith, Wilma Hirsch. Back row, from left: William Doleman, Loomis J. Abbott, Ben Huncovsky, Alfred J. Boettcher, Mr. Ny Johnson (sponsor).

## Phi Beta Lambda Leadership

Featured Year: 2009




Four SCC Beatrice PBL members attended the 2009 Fall Nebraska Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference at UNL's East Campus in Lincoln. Pictured, from left: Jo Vostrez, Jacey Shottenkirk, Justin Schultis, Jamie Theye.

## Retirement


### Lori Balke

19 years  
Accommodations/Admissions/  
Career Advising/Testing Center


## We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 “Enjoying retirement after 37 years in the classroom followed by several more years of substitute teaching and continuing to coach the high school golf team.”


*A. LeVern Jensen, Fairbury Junior College, Elementary Education, 1957*

 “I have recently retired, and I am catching up on home renovations, gardening and learning to enjoy a new aspect of life. I am working developing drafts for two books based on my professional experience, including 30 years in Theatrical Production Leadership before I started teaching.”


*Gary Kechely, Fairbury Junior College, Associate in Arts, 1973*

 “I am currently helping with a dog rescue I helped start called Happy Dogz Rescue.”


*Mari (Warkentin) Flanagan, Practical Nursing, 1988*

 “I accepted a promotion from market development manager to market development director in January 2021.”


*Andy Karl, Agribusiness, 1993*

 “My son turned 21 in July. He has DS (Down syndrome) but doesn’t slow him down. I coach Special Olympics.”


*SueAnn (Saathoff) Wanklyn, Business Administration/ Secondary Education, 1995*

 “Came back to my hometown in 2018 to create a business that connected me to my roots.”

*Chris Weber, Business Administration, 2001*

 “Currently working on a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.”

*Pamela (Lager) Truscott, Associate Degree Nursing, 2010*

 “Enjoying life in Florida where the sun doesn’t stop shining.”

*Jake Tenopir, Turfgrass Management, 2011*

## SCC Names Ag Student of the Year

SCC’s Beatrice Campus recognized **Connor Bartels** as the Ag Student of the Year for the 2020-2021 academic year. Bartels was previously Ag Student of the Month in December. To be selected, Ag instructors look at a number of factors, including grades, attitude and progress in the program. A native of Tecumseh, Bartels said he chose SCC because of the hands-on experience and the small class sizes. One of his favorite memories was being elected as president of the College’s Ag Club and taking a trip to the Cattlemen’s Classic last year. He plans to continue his education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to major in Agricultural Education.

“I want to be involved in the agricultural industry because I grew up on a farm, and I knew I would be part of the industry for the rest of my life,” he said.

“He is a very polite, well-rounded student who is willing to help out students in class when he sees them



struggling,” said Ag instructor Annie Erichsen.

Bartels received a special certificate, as well as a gift card to the Campus Store, and his picture is displayed in Ford Hall with past recipients. ❖

### Fall 2021 Career Fairs

Alumni are welcomed and invited to attend at the SCC Beatrice Campus!

#### Health Care Career Fair

Monday, Oct. 4

12:30-2 p.m.

Academic Excellence Center, Room 134

#### Agriculture Career Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 20

9-11 a.m.

Truman Center Gymnasium

# BEATRICE CAMPUS

## Fairbury Junior College



Buildings on the Fairbury Junior College campus in 1950 included (pictured top to bottom) the Gymnasium and Science Building, Girls' Dormitory (second floor of the campus YWCA building), and Parkside Apartments.

## In Memory of...

### Fairbury

Roger Huss  
(Pre-Secondary Education, 1955)  
Steven Menke  
(Pre-Secondary Education, 1977)

### Beatrice

William (Bill) Hall  
(Ag Business & Management, 1986)  
Brook (Malchow) Koch  
(Ag Business & Management, 2002;  
Practical Nursing, 2007)  
Linda Meyer  
(Medical Transcription, 2002)

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1950 Graduates?

**We want to stay in touch with our grads!** Email information to [alumni@southeast.edu](mailto:alumni@southeast.edu) or call **800-233-5027, ext. 1216.**

Kay Jones  
Lornelia Linemann

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2009 Graduates?

Ana Cortex-Flores  
Rick Kampschneider

## Classes



In one of the three-minute talks which characterized Speech class, R. Stanton, attempted to convince the group of his histrionic ability.



Timed writing was one of the daily activities of the Typewriting 26 class.



Focusing their attention on specimen, D. Smith, Mr. Frank Phelps and D. Brineager carefully examine its chemical properties.



# LINCOLN CAMPUS



## LINCOLN FIRE CHIEF STARTED HIS POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AT SCC

**Dave Engler** is the new fire chief for the city of Lincoln. He's been in the department for more than 20 years and still enjoys going to work every day.

"Every rank, or position, has its rewards," he explained. "Overall, making a difference has been the biggest reward. That can be something as simple as showing a child the fire engine to being part of a team that resuscitates someone's loved one. This career is filled with rewarding work."

Originally from Seward, Engler

graduated from SCC's Fire Protection Technology program in 2002. He chose the program for its reputation in the industry.

"When I started the program, I was a firefighter/paramedic with Lincoln Fire & Rescue, and the program was highly regarded as being one of the best fire protection programs, and the classes were structured to accommodate our work shifts," he said.

He remembered one of the instructors, Bill Meehan, as being an excellent teacher. He loved the fire service and it showed through his instruction, he said.

"His passion and teaching style brought more to the program than just learning the content of the classes," Engler recalled.

Following graduation, Engler continued to work for LFR. In 2006 he was promoted to Fire Captain. He then earned his bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Doane University and his master's in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution from Creighton University. He also received a graduate certificate in Public Management from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

As the new fire chief, Engler said he wants Lincoln Fire & Rescue to continue to be a top-notch organization that the community can be proud to call its own.

"I want to continue to keep up with the changes and growth in our city by improving service and recruiting a diverse workforce and continue to focus on improving outcomes as the key factor in making organizational decisions," he added.

He is currently enrolled in the 2021 Fire Service Executive Development Institute, a one-year program providing new and aspiring chiefs with the tools they need to be successful. He also was accepted into the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, which starts in the fall.

When he's not working or studying, he and his wife Ashley, also a firefighter, spend time with their two teenagers and two golden retrievers. ❖

*Note: SCC discontinued the Fire Protection Technology program after the 2019-2020 catalog.*



# LINCOLN CAMPUS

## SCC's Culinary/Hospitality Program Receives Top-5 Rating

SCC's Culinary/Hospitality program received a top-five rating from an annual study of the best culinary schools in the nation, based on program options, cost of attendance and career outcomes by KaTom.com.

"We know how important it is for students in any field to be able to choose a program that fits their interests and sets them up for a successful career," said Angela Byrnes, Community Outreach Coordinator

for KaTom. "Our goal with this ranking was to identify which schools offer students program flexibility, job placement and career growth without putting them behind the eight ball with upfront costs."

The data comes from the latest College Scorecard by the Department of Education. SCC's program was ranked fifth out of 25 other colleges

with similar programs. KaTom is one of the nation's largest restaurant equipment suppliers.

In 2018, SCC unveiled a \$4.2 million renovation of its Culinary/Hospitality program. It included building "Course," a new student-run restaurant, renovating the kitchen labs and classrooms, and opening up a student-run coffee shop as well.

"I think this shows the drive of our faculty and staff to provide the best quality education for our students to be competitive and prepared to work in the culinary industry," said Rob Epps, program director. "This also shows the commitment from the College and program to offer the highest quality education at a reasonable cost to our students." ❖



### Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2009 Graduates?

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

Kimberly Abbott  
Jared Bethune  
LeAnna Betten  
Ashley Bogle  
Kevin Byrd  
Chester Calkins  
Rebeckah Caouette  
Jessie Cobian  
Marla Dunning  
Jason Erickson  
Julia Ernst  
Michelle Eske-Page  
Brooke Ethridge  
Jordan Foss

Kayla Franssen  
Ryan Fujan  
Katherine  
Gabriel-Woodard  
Lloyd Gary  
Danielle Graham  
Marcus Grant  
Taylor Harlow  
Stella Henne  
Krystal Hernandez  
Holly Hladik  
Brooke Jones  
James Kam  
Katrina Kaubisch

Meagan Keenan  
Jackie Kentfield  
Mathew Lehn  
Cody Leifeld  
Casey Long  
Steven McKnight  
Anthony McTaggart  
Sean Murrell  
Marne Nielsen  
Kathleen Nietenhoefer  
Christopher Novak  
Shannon Novotny  
Michelle O'Melia  
Mikenzie Osborne

Norman Otto  
LaKisha Overstreet  
Rebecca Papst  
Percy Pika  
Melissa Plybon  
Cari Pulec  
Lauren Redman  
John Reeve  
Rachel Rodriguez  
Valerie Rohde  
Neil Scrivens  
Richard Siebenmorgen  
Megan Smith  
Taylor Soundy

Opal Spicknall  
Stephanie Stoneking  
John-Michael Taffner  
Jack Toll  
Reginald Unanka  
Barbara Venzor  
Stephanie Walden  
Warren Wegman  
Adam Weir  
Sandra Wemhoff  
Lauren Wright  
Threasa Yonker  
Jamie Yrle  
Abdelkhalig Zeineldin

# It's All in the Family for the Harpsters

For the Harpster family, the culinary field is a family affair. **Brandon Harpster** is a chef instructor for SCC's Culinary/Hospitality program, and he received his associate degree from SCC in 2000. He also is the corporate chef/managing partner at the Single Barrel Restaurant in Lincoln. His son **Braeden** recently graduated from the same program, and daughter **Alexis** is a second-year student in it as well.

"My dad is the whole reason I started working in food," said Braeden. "He gave me a job at Single Barrel when I was 14, and I have been in the industry ever since."

"I also started working for my dad when I was 14," Alexis added. "At the time I was not interested at all in cooking, but over time as I slowly got to see more and more in the industry, I began to enjoy it."

Brandon said once his children started working at Single Barrel they realized why he loves the industry and how interesting and challenging it can be day after day.

"When they decided to pursue this as a career, the obvious choice was the Great Plains Culinary Institute, and not just because I work there, but because of the reputation of the program and the amazing facilities," he said.

"I decided to go into the Culinary program to start learning about different types of cooking techniques and methods," Alexis said. "I have also learned a lot from going into the program that I didn't think I'd learn."

Brandon said it was fun this past year having both Braeden and Alexis in the program. He told them while they were in the classroom they would be held to the same standards as all the other students.

"It was a little weird to hear them call me something other than dad at the beginning," he recalled. "Selfishly, I'll miss seeing him (Braeden) almost daily. I always enjoyed popping into the other labs they were in and seeing what they had going on."

Braeden works at Casa Bovina in Lincoln. He hopes one day to follow in his dad's footsteps.

"My goal is to continue developing my skills until I can be the executive chef at a restaurant," he said.

Alexis works at Cactus by Venue in Lincoln. She also hopes to one day work her way up as a chef. Dad said both of his children bring different skills and talents to the table.

"Alexis has a great ability to pick up techniques easily and then execute them exactly how they are supposed to be," he said. "Braeden's strength is his ability to see the whole picture, work efficiently, and he has great leadership qualities."

Brandon looks back and knows he's



lucky to have the experiences he had with this children at the Great Plains Culinary Institute, and he couldn't be more proud of them.

"I realize I have had the unique and fortunate opportunity to work with both of my children and be a part of their education in the same field of work," he said.

Harpster also serves as a culinary consultant and owns a local knife-sharpening service called Sharpsters. He and his wife Amy have been married for 22 years. ❖

## SCC Instructor Shares Story of Growing Up in a Communist Regime

Gov. Pete Ricketts recently proclaimed the month of July as “Victims of Communism Remembrance Month” in Nebraska. He held a ceremony with Nebraskans who lived through communist oppression, including SCC instructor, **Dr. Elina Newman**.

Newman, originally from Baku, Azerbaijan, moved to the United States in 1993 as a refugee with her parents. Newman said she fled her country because of a territorial dispute that turned into religious persecution. She and her family came to Nebraska in search of a better life.

“We were forced out of our home, and the government stood on the side and watched it happen,” she remembered. “My mom, dad, brother, and I lived in a one-room hotel room, where we ate, bathed, did homework, slept, and went to the bathroom. My education journey would have been decided for me. How I was supposed to act as a woman, what I wore, how much schooling I had, how far I went in education, what jobs I was eligible for, and who I married would be determined by someone other than me.”

Newman and her family went through multiple interviews, background checks and health checks in order to finally be approved to leave Azerbaijan. After living in Moscow, she and her brother, parents and grandparents came to Nebraska with just \$100. They lived in a small apartment in downtown Lincoln.

“It was a mansion compared to what I was used to,” she said. “My dad worked three jobs and my mom worked one job. Eleven months after we got here, my father died in a car accident, and my mom was on her own caring for her in-laws and two young children.”

But the family and Elina persevered. Her mother bought a house, the children entered school and Elina eventually went to college and recently earned her doctorate. The 37-year-old teaches psychology at SCC’s Lincoln Campus. She doesn’t take for granted her life and what it took to get here.

“I learned to appreciate true freedom,” she said. “I have unique experiences that allow me to empathize with a variety of students. I learned to advocate for students who feel helpless. Nothing in my life was given to me. I am not a victim; I am a survivor. I am a proud citizen of the

U.S. and will continue to do what I can to defend the rights, freedoms and opportunities for myself and future generations that I otherwise would have never had. I am thankful my family was accepted into this country.”

Newman ran an unsuccessful bid for a seat on the Lincoln City Council earlier this year. In addition to teaching, she also works as a pharmacy technician. She and her husband Matthew live in Lincoln with their 13-year-old daughter, Annalise. ❖



## We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!



"Just glad those days of driving in snow are but a memory. Nice to be in by the fire on snowy days!"

*Kenneth Dittbrenner, Professional Truck Driver Training, 1998*



"The jobs I've had have allowed me to be a part of raising my grandchildren. My jobs give me flexibility."

*Nancy Elley, Business Administration, 2007*



"SCC helped give me skills and knowledge that has become valued in both of my jobs."

*Michelle Reuss, Business Administration, 2004*



"I graduated with my Bachelor's in Human Relations at Doane University in 2017 and have been working in my field of study ever since. I am still in contact with many of my classmates from SCC, and some of us even attended Doane together. No time compares to my time spent at SCC, as well as all the relationships I hold dear to this day!"

*Kelly Dubray, Human Services, 2014*



"I still drive a semi for a farmer at harvest time. Great pay for a 70-year-old."

*Roger Neemann, Professional Truck Driver Training, 2006*



"Experience different settings, especially ones you don't think you'd like, because you could love it in the long run."

*Andrea Thorne, Physical Therapist Assistant, 2018*

## In Memory of...

Holly Crook  
(Academic Transfer, 2009)  
John Gabelhouse  
(Machine Tool, 1971; Retired Instructor, Machine Tool)  
Mary Hill (Practical Nursing, 1986)  
Ryan Hughes  
(Radiologic Technology, 2019)  
Ruth Johnson  
(Former SCC Board of Governors)  
Todd Kechely  
(Visual Publications, 1984)  
Dianna Korell  
(Medical Assisting, 1991)  
John Krumland  
(Professional Truck Driving, 1999)  
Candice Leeds  
(Radiologic Technology, 2012)  
Renna Schoepf  
(Human Services, 1983)  
Colton Snook (Design & Drafting Technology, 2018)  
Marcia Stubbs  
(Surgical Technology, 1977)

## Retirements

### **Linda Bettinger**

38 years  
Computer Information Technology  
Instructor

### **Fran Hartwell**

11 years  
Long Term Care Administration  
Instructor

### **Gerriann Rada**

7 years  
Tutoring and Transitions Center  
Director

### **Steve Bors**

7 years  
Entrepreneurship Center Director/  
Business Instructor

### **Lynda Heiden**

42 years  
Executive Administrative Assistant to  
SCC Educational Foundation

### **John Spellman**

16 years  
Physical Plant

### **Don Bossung**

33 years  
Computer Information Technology  
Instructor

### **Rick Kohn**

30 years  
Business Instructor

### **Jayne Steffens**

20 years  
Associate Director of Financial Aid

### **Maybell Galusha**

6 years  
Culinary/Hospitality Instructor

### **Rose Kowalski**

24 years  
Business Instructor

# MILFORD CAMPUS

## Commercial Art Grad is a Successful Artist



**Henry Bosak** is an established artist living in Arizona, working on a variety of mediums. He and his wife have lived there for 20 years. Before that they called Colorado home. However, he will never forget where he first studied art, at SCC's Milford Campus when the Graphic Design program was called Commercial Art.

"I learned a lot about art and design and met some very talented and good people," Bosak said. "It also had a smaller size environment that gave the student a chance to get personal attention."

The Genoa native chose SCC for its affordable tuition, and he liked the format of classes five days a week. He has many fond memories of his time at the College.

"I learned to use an airbrush for the first time," he recalled. "I also remember lunch breaks in a large grassy area where we played a lot of frisbee."

After graduating in 1981, Bosak worked for several agencies and marketing companies. Since moving to Arizona, he's been able to work as a contract artist/designer, which gives him more flexibility.

"That has been wonderful because it has allowed me to work from home and work on diverse types of projects," he said.

He's also been able to expand his artwork to painting with acrylics. He sells a number of his pieces of work, and he hopes to be able to transition to it full-time.



"I love to create, specifically, I love to draw and paint, and I get to do that almost every day. I am my own boss. I work in acrylics, and my style is realism, verging on photorealism. I really want to be able to paint full-time and be able to make a living doing just that."

Bosak and his wife have been married for 30 years and have two adult daughters. He likes to play golf and follow the Huskers. To see his artwork, click on his website [www.henrybosak.com](http://www.henrybosak.com). ❖





## MILFORD GRAD BREAKS BARRIERS

As the first female graduate of the John Deere Tech program at SCC's Milford Campus, **Megan Lee** is humble about this accomplishment. She knows that working hard is what she needs to do to succeed, and encourages other women to do the same.

"If another female wants to enter a male-dominated field such as John Deere Tech, I say go for it if you really want it," Lee said. "Not everyone is obviously cut out to be a mechanic/technician. You have to learn that being a female, you might have to try a little harder to do certain jobs because you just aren't built the same. You have to have a mindset of 'If I put my mind to it, I can do it, even if I have to work a little harder.'"

Originally from Tarkio, Missouri, 20-year-old Lee chose the John Deere Tech program at SCC because the dealership in Hamburg, Iowa, strongly recommended it. She is currently working at AgriVision Equipment in Hamburg as a service technician.

"Since I'm still learning, I get to be paired up with another technician for bigger jobs, but I do get to have my

own work orders," she said. "Another great thing about Hamburg is that the other technicians at the shop are always ready to help if I have any questions."

Lee graduated from SCC's program this past May. She enjoyed the hands-on learning and the individualized attention she received from the instructors. She enjoyed the extracurricular activities and new friends she made in Milford.

"My classmates and I had some great times out at Milford and the surrounding area just searching for something to do since Milford is a small town," she recalled.

Lee's future plans are to stay at her current dealership, perhaps working her way up to service manager one day. She hopes other women follow in her footsteps and enroll in the John Deere Tech program. She has some advice

when they do.

"You have to have an unbelievable amount of self-confidence," Lee said. "There will, at some point, be someone that doesn't exactly think you 'belong', but if you're sure of yourself, they throw that out the window pretty quickly. A good sense of humor is a good idea, too."

It also helped to work for a dealership that supported her along the way and offered her plenty of encouragement. ❖



# MILFORD CAMPUS

## June Diesel Truck Graduates

Featured Year: 2009



**Front row, from left:** Chris Lewis, Nick Monnier, Jeff Nathan, Justin Frey, Caleb Hayes.

**Back row, from left:** Dustin Burmood (December 2009 grad), Matt Marquardt, Phil Ostendorf, Max Snyder (December 2009 grad), Nick Scheel.

**Not Pictured:** Paul Henderson.

## June Diesel Farm Graduates

Featured Year: 2009

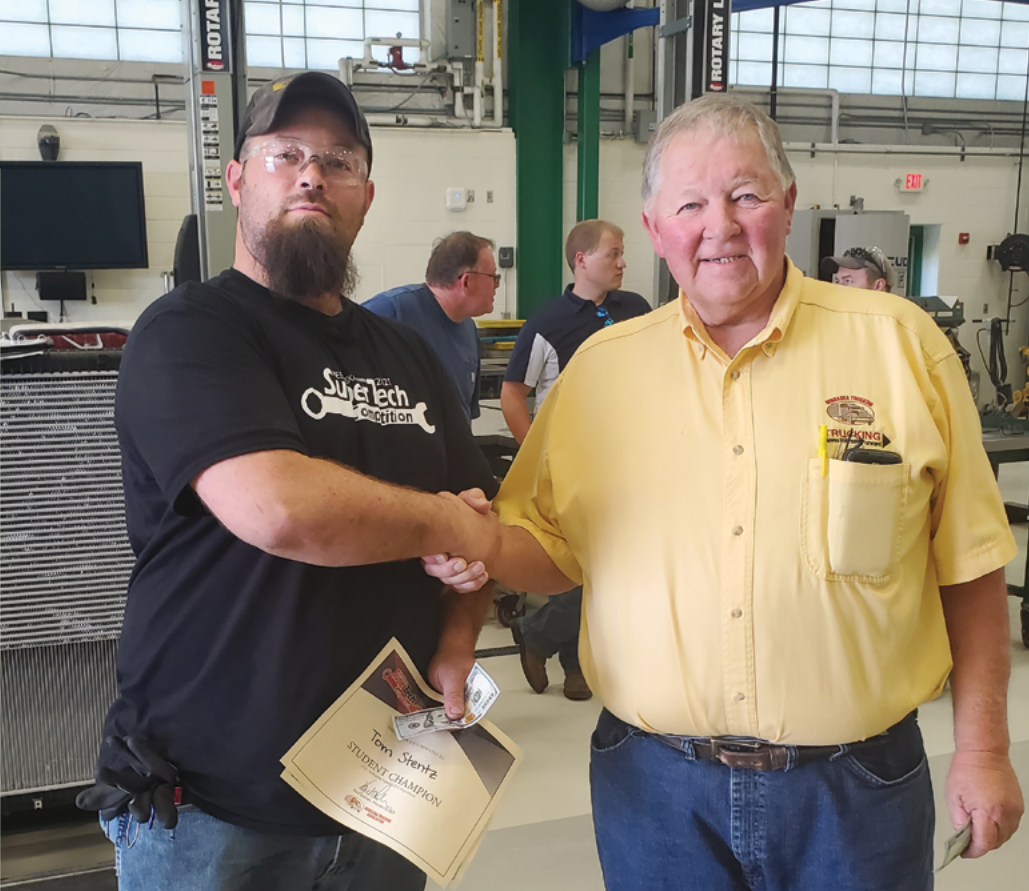


**Front row, from left:** Daniel Johnson, Phillip Stuchlik, Joel Rexroth.

**Middle row, from left:** Russal Foltz, Drew tenBensel, Tyler Slagle, Ryan Keller.

**Back row, from left:** Justin Valasek, Matt Panowicz, Marcus Noonan, James Shubert, Daniel Knabe (June 2010 grad).





## Diesel Truck Student Wins Two Awards

**Tom Stentz**, second-semester Diesel Technology-Truck student, won two awards at the 2021 Nebraska SuperTech competition held at Central Community College in Hastings in July. The annual competition is sponsored by the Nebraska Trucking Association and supported by a number of industry professionals and educators in the field. SCC has been a sponsor since 2014.

Stentz won an award for having the highest number of points in the Shop Skills station. He received a cash prize. He also received the overall high score in the student competition and was awarded a stipend for tools.

At the Nebraska SuperTech competition, each participating college selects one student to represent their school. The students compete alongside the professional technicians and are only scored

against other students. The students compete for separate prizes.

“This event is an excellent example of the cooperative spirit in the Nebraska trucking industry and the competitive nature of technicians throughout the state,” said Lester Breidenstine, program director for the Diesel Technology-Truck program.

SuperTech is a state and national competition showcasing the professional skills of heavy-duty diesel truck technicians. The Technology and Maintenance Council of the American Trucking Association launched the program in 2006. Finalists at Nebraska SuperTech compete for cash prizes at 10 different skill stations, and the overall winner will represent Nebraska at the National SuperTech competition Sept. 12-16 in Cleveland, Ohio. ❖

## In Memory of...

Stanley Allgood (Diesel, 1971)  
 Bob D. Bartlett (Electronics, 1977)  
 Robert E. Batt (Automotive, 1967)  
 Kenneth Carlyle (Air Conditioning, 1963; Drafting 1966)  
 Garett Darnall  
 (Precision Machining, 2020)  
 James L. Dunn (Diesel, 1959)  
 Belvin A. Gillings (Electrical, 1957)  
 John L. Grant (Diesel, 1962)  
 Madge M. Heyen  
 (Computer Programming, 1991)  
 Morris Knake (Auto Body, 1962)  
 Richard Kroger (Auto Body, 1966)  
 Thomas Mook (Auto Body, 1971)  
 David Munsinger (Electronics, 1971)  
 Thomas “Chris” Navrkal  
 (Manufacturing Engineering, 1979)  
 Russell A. Roether  
 (Machine Tool, 1967)  
 Fred Rolfsmeier (Electronics, 1956)  
 Roger D. Royal (Diesel, 1970)  
 Charles Savidge  
 (Air Conditioning, 1949)  
 Michael W. Schafer (Diesel, 1960)  
 Paul A. Schmit (Automotive, 1962)  
 Dallace Schumacher  
 (Machine Tool, 1964)  
 Russel L. Swanson (Diesel, 1959)  
 Matthew G. Vollmar (Diesel, 1984)  
 Mark Wooten (Architectural, 1986)



**HUSKER HARVEST DAYS.**

### Attention Alumni!

If you're heading to Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island Sept. 14-16, stop by the SCC booth to claim your free gift! Hope to see you there!

# MILFORD CAMPUS

## Longtime Instructor/Program Chair Retires from Milford Campus

After spending 40 years working at SCC's Milford Campus, **Lester Breidenstine** is saying goodbye. The longtime instructor and program chair has no regrets.

"I feel great about leaving the diesel programs in a condition that is at least as strong as and perhaps stronger than when I started," he said. "I have decided that 40 years is enough, and it's time to enjoy life in other ways with my lovely wife Mary and our many critters. Feels good to be let out to pasture."

In 1972, Breidenstine earned his A.A.S. degree in Diesel Technology from the Milford Campus, and came back in 1981 as an instructor in the Diesel Farm program. In 2010, he became program chair (recently, the position name changed to Program Director) for the Diesel-Ag Equipment

Service Technology and Diesel Technology-Truck programs. He has good memories of his time at SCC.

"The most unexpected things that happened to me were the result of joining a great many teams," he recalled. "Having the chance to work with administration, faculty, staff, and students from all SCC campuses was always full of surprises. I hope these opportunities will continue for every employee."

Breidenstine said one of the most enjoyable parts of his job was working with students and helping them find jobs in diesel shops across the region. He's also proud of the progress of the program, and the brand-new facility he leaves behind. The 60,000 square-foot, \$13 million Crete Carrier Diesel Technology & Welding Center opened two years ago.



"Wow what a difference it makes to have a great place to work," he said. "The facility has already increased enrollment and lab production work at least two-fold. The faculty dedication to innovation is just getting started and will no doubt lead to many new learning opportunities."

As he looks forward to retirement, he is excited to challenge himself in new ways and wants to thank those who helped him along the way.

"I must thank the diesel faculty members I worked with through the years," he said. "Without them I would not have been worth much as a teacher or technician. The faculty I worked with were inspirational in many ways. The diesel program at SCC has trained thousands of technicians, and I have no doubt that this legacy will continue for thousands more." ❖



### Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1950 Graduates?

**We want to stay in touch with our grads!** Email information to [alumni@southeast.edu](mailto:alumni@southeast.edu) or call **800-933-7223, ext. 8242**.

|                  |                |                   |                 |                   |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sidney L. Abbott | Walter C. Carl | Harold W. Fielder | Lena K. Jackson | George W. Olson   | Weldon E. Weilage |
| Arthur Arnold    | Jack Dravo     | Anton M. Hansen   | Harold Larsen   | Joseph A. Roberts | Don L. Welsh      |
| R. Atkins        | Stephen R.     | Don L. Hoon       | Roy Mann        | Stanley E. Ross   | Irvin H. West     |
| William Babbitt  | Felthausen     | Frank Hubenke     | John Murphy     | David Sheets      |                   |

### Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2009 Graduates?

|                     |               |                |               |                |                |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Zachary J. Anderson | Joshua Coufal | Tyler Hanson   | Mitchell Koch | Brent Monnier  | Melissa Sparr  |
| Clayton Chase       | Eric Funk     | Paul Henderson | Nathan Lee    | Matt Palmerton | Rhiannon Wendt |



## New Residence Hall in Milford

Construction is complete on the newest on-campus housing unit, Meadow Hall, on SCC's Milford Campus. The 54,268-square-foot building will house nearly 150 students. Each room has a kitchenette area with a refrigerator, microwave oven and sink. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the site of the facility.

"It's exciting to open Meadow Hall,

our second new residence hall on the SCC Milford Campus," said Ed Koster, campus director. "It will mean all students who choose to attend SCC Milford will now have suite-style housing units which create better spaces for students to learn and be successful in their academic pursuits."

In 2018, SCC's Board of Governors approved issuing up to \$19.5 million

in revenue bonds to finance new residence halls at the Milford and Beatrice campuses, as well as a dining facility at Beatrice.

Prairie Hall, which is almost an identical dormitory, opened two years ago on the Milford Campus. Sampson Construction was the contractor, and The Clark Enersen Partners served as the architect. ❖

## Career Day



Featured Year: 1950

Representatives from each department and the tumbling team board the Tradesman bus for a trip to Newman Grove, Nebraska. The students provided a complete program for career day conferences to recruit high school students. Director Lowell Welsh, on the right, traveled with the group.

# MILFORD CAMPUS

## Glenn Pasho Retires After 39 Years at Milford Campus

When Glenn Pasho started teaching at the Milford Campus, he had no idea it would be his one and only job for the next 39 years. Looking back, he acknowledges it is a rare feat.

“I enjoyed my time there,” the 64-year-old said. “It was the only job I had when I graduated from college. Some people find that odd,” he laughed.

After graduating from Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Pennsylvania and the University of South Dakota-Springfield, he started teaching heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and plumbing classes at the Milford Campus in 1982. He taught for 30 years and was Dean of Construction, Manufacturing and Technology for nine years.

“I really missed the teaching when I got out of it,” he recalled. “But I also liked the policy part of it (the Dean position).”

Pasho saw many changes during his time at SCC, including the transition

from a quarter to a semester academic calendar two years ago.

“The quarter-to-semester change was big,” he said. “I liked the change. It was a good change for us, probably the biggest thing I was involved with at SCC.”

Over the years, one of Pasho’s favorite things was running into graduates in the community, or while they worked. He will miss those types of relationships, but is looking forward to doing what he wants when he wants in retirement.

“If I want to do something, I can. If I don’t, I don’t have to. I don’t have to make a lot of decisions,” he said.

Pasho’s wife, Marianne, recently retired from a 41-year teaching career, most recently at Arnold Elementary School in Lincoln. The couple has already spent many days camping across the region, and hopes to continue that in retirement. They have three children and one grandchild. ❖



## In Their Own Words


“Although retired, I still go to the shop every day. I don’t go out to the construction jobs anymore except for occasional service calls and motor repair. The family company has been operated by son Jeff, electrical engineer, and daughter Kim, accountant. My grandson is in his last semester studying Electrical Engineering at UNL and planning to join our family business upon graduation.

Andrews Electric Co. has been involved in industrial electrical and electronics since 1962, and many of our electricians are graduates from the electrical program at Southeast Community College. We are all proud of the quality of education we received.”


*Alfred Andrews  
Electrical, 1960*




## We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 “SCC’s electronics program was the best program for me and set me up for success in life. Here 22 years later, I am at the top of my field and way ahead of most people who spent the money and time to get a four-year degree at a university. It was the best and most important decision of my life to attend Milford’s Electronic Engineering program. I had several job offers before graduating. I still talk with some classmates who have been equally successful and are at the top of their field at major corporations. We were all set up for this success by what we learned and how we were taught at Milford. I recommend it to every high school student (including my own). Thanks for providing the tools for success to me and so many young adults.”

*Tim Lavington, Electronic Engineering, 1999*

 “My military service training as a ground radar technician, plus my Milford electronic technology training, launched a great career for me. After 37 years I retired in 2008.”

*Bob Knievel,  
Electronic Engineering, 1971*

 “After 53-and-a-half years with one company, I decided to retire. Thanks Milford for a great career.”

*Dennis Gormley,  
Air Conditioning, 1966*

## Precision Machining Receives Generous Donation



Southeast Community College’s Precision Machining and Automation Technology program received a generous donation from the Gene Haas Foundation. The \$15,000 check was presented to students and faculty on the Milford Campus. The money will go toward scholarships for students.

“The money will go a long way toward financial assistance of our students and help ensure their success,” said Kirby Taylor, program director. “Thanks

to Gene Haas for his continued generosity and vision by helping tomorrow’s manufacturing workforce.”

According to its website, the Gene Haas Foundation donates millions of dollars every year to manufacturing education and the community. In 2020, the Foundation provided more than \$17 million in grants, bringing the total donations since inception to more than \$100 million.

SCC’s Precision Machining and Automation Technology program provides hands-on training in one of the largest precision-machining facilities in the nation. In addition to machine-specific training, students receive a foundation in academic subjects useful in the manufacturing industry.

For more on the program, visit [www.southeast.edu/precisionmachining](http://www.southeast.edu/precisionmachining).



## In Their Own Words

“I truly enjoyed my time at SCC Milford in the Electronic Technology area. I had the opportunity to learn so much more than I ever could have while working on the job as my former supervisor wanted me to do. I started working right out of high school with an electrical contractor while I waited for my class to open that winter. He tried to get me to quit school and work but most everyone, even those who didn’t go to trade school, told me to get a degree first. I could always go back to electrical work if I wanted to.

I did come back and eventually started my own company. Later, I formed another business with some former co-workers. I was self-employed for about 21 years. It was a great experience but now I have what I call a ‘retirement job’. I do a little of this and a little of that. Its different, occasionally challenging, and also rewarding. I am now putting to use some of the knowledge I gained in school but had little use for until now. I work on PLC’s, control cabinets, logic circuits, etc. that I rarely saw in the contracting world. Its funny how all that ‘book learning’ comes right back so many years later! Thanks again for the education.”

*Matthew Shafers, Electrical &  
Electromechanical Technology, 1990*

## Graduates in the News!

**John Kasperek** was recently elected second vice president, facilities, at Ameritas in Lincoln, Nebraska. Kasperek, a 1989 graduate from the Parts Marketing & Management program, has been with Ameritas for 30 years.

# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EARN VALUABLE SKILLS THROUGH SENCAP

## Eliza Hunzeker



The Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership (SENCAP) is a partnership between

Southeast Community College and 47 school districts in the College's 15-county service area. High school juniors and seniors are able to take college-level courses in a variety of different pathways and earn dual credits.

Pawnee City Public Schools is one of those participating districts. Eliza Hunzeker took part in the program and said it provided her with a basis of knowledge for how to prepare for college-level courses later on. She will graduate from Northwest Missouri State University in December 2021.

"Students should utilize SENCAP because of the amazing opportunities it will provide you," Hunzeker said. "I will be finishing my degree early and starting a career I love. I believe that SENCAP greatly contributed to these accomplishments because of the support system I had throughout my time in the program."

Hunzeker is majoring in Agronomy with a minor in Agricultural Communication. She hopes to land a job working in seed sales when she graduates. She owes a lot to SENCAP for helping her narrow her field of study.

Among SENCAP's 16 pathways are Agriculture, Business, Construction, Criminal Justice, Education, Health Sciences, Information Technology, Energy, and Welding.

## Trevor Kuhlmann



If it wasn't for the Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership (SENCAP), Trevor Kuhlmann would not have been able to graduate from Northwest Missouri State University in three years instead of four, allowing him to save time and money.

"I was able to get a whole year (or 30 credit hours) knocked out in high school, and that allowed me to get a head start on my collegiate career and fast-track me in my higher education institution," he said.

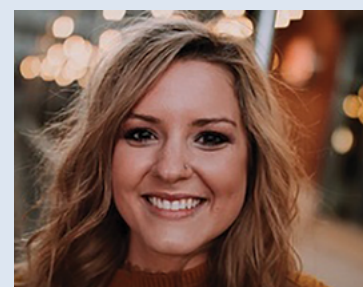
Kuhlmann attended Pawnee City High School and decided to enroll in SENCAP to help him transition into college. It's a decision he does not regret and encourages others to do the same.

"I gained a stronger work ethic by taking these classes as I had to learn how to manage my time with my assignments and make sure I met deadlines and study more efficiently to keep up with my course load," he said.

He said being in SENCAP allowed him to get involved in classes that interested him, and eventually he found out what he wanted to study in college. He graduated in May from Northwest with a bachelor's in Agronomy with a minor in Precision Agriculture.

For more on SCC's SENCAP program, log on to our website at [www.southeast.edu/sencap](http://www.southeast.edu/sencap)

## Melaina Kroft



Melaina Kroft is a student at Nebraska Methodist College in Omaha pursuing a bachelor's

degree in nursing. She's known since she was very young that she wanted to work in the health care industry. When she took classes in the SENCAP program, nursing caught her attention.

"SENCAP helped me weed through all of the different aspects of health care until I knew I wanted to work with patients, either as a doctor or a nurse," she said.

While most high school students are focused on friends and extracurricular activities, she was able to focus on "big-kid" issues she hadn't thought of before.

"It prepared me for things such as making a resume, perfecting job interviews, finding out what my strengths and weaknesses were, and how I could apply this to not only my college career, but to my career after college as well," she added.

She also learned about time-management skills since she was taking both high school and college classes at the same time. Kroft said this proved to be especially useful while in college. While most students were struggling with the demands of higher education, she was used to it.

Kroft knew that participating in SENCAP would pay off in the long run, and her future is headed in the right direction as she heads into her junior year at NMC. ❖

# Birkel named new executive director of SCC's Educational Foundation

**Michelle Birkel** of Lincoln has been named the new executive director of SCC's Educational Foundation. Birkel replaces Dr. Jack Huck, who spent seven years in the same role and is now serving as president and CEO of the Foundation.

"My goal is to become familiar with the great history of SCC and to meet current staff and faculty," she said. "Evaluating and implementing a comprehensive advancement program that includes planned and deferred giving, major gifts, annual campaigns, corporate, and foundation gifts is something I am looking forward to as well."

Birkel has extensive fundraising experience at the Pius X Foundation, Catholic Social Services and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lincoln/Lancaster County. She is eager to bring in more scholarship dollars and to advance

the mission of the Foundation.

"At Pius X, one of the most gratifying parts of my job was implementing and administrating their scholarship program so families and students could afford the tuition and be able to attend Pius X," she said. "I am looking forward to doing this at the SCC Educational Foundation as well, to help students lighten their financial burden and to allow them to focus on learning and their career."

Originally from Bellwood, Birkel graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a business degree. She and her



husband Paul have four children and two grandchildren. ❖

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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  
\_\_\_\_\_

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you may have missed!**  
[www.southeast.edu/alumni](http://www.southeast.edu/alumni)

## This fall, sign up for a cooking class and expand your culinary skills!

### **Charcuterie: What Did You Say?**

**Tues., Oct. 12 • 6:30-8:30 p.m. • \$29**

**Whispering Pines B&B,  
2018 Sixth Ave., Nebraska City**  
Course Number: AREA-4453-NCFA

Keyword: Charcuterie

It's all the rage! The "char-cu-te-rie board can be a starter course or a light meal for a casual gathering. Discuss foods that complement each other and learn how to balance your board because it's not only what you eat, it's also what people see and how the components are arranged. This is a hands-on demonstration. Supply fee of \$15 payable to instructor in class. Cash or check only for supplies.

### **NEW! Oktoberfest**

**Sat., Oct. 9 • 10 a.m.-Noon • \$49**

**Southeast Community College,  
8800 O St., Room D-4, Lincoln**

Course Number: LLLX-0548-LNFA

Keyword: Oktoberfest

It doesn't have to be Oktoberfest to enjoy German food. However, it can't hurt! Experience some of the classic German dishes such as pork schnitzel, warm German potato salad and, of course, German apple cake. Bring to class your apron and chef's knife and remember long pants (no shorts) and closed-toe shoes.

### **Air Fryer 101**

**Tues., Oct. 12 • 6-7:30 p.m. • \$19**

**Learning Center at Hebron,  
610 Jefferson Ave., Room 101, Hebron**  
Course Number: AREA-4396-HNFA

Keyword: Fryer

Did you know the air fryer is one of the most versatile kitchen appliances? Join us to discover what works well in an air fryer, helpful accessories, cleaning practices, and yummy recipes that you can make in your air fryer.

### **Macarons**

**Sat., Oct. 30 • 9 a.m.-Noon • \$39**

**Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center,  
301 S. 68th St. Place, Room 104, Lincoln**

Course Number: LLLX-0159-CEFA

Keyword: Macarons

French and fussy, macarons have a reputation for being challenging to make. Discover techniques to make beautiful and delicious macarons. We will make and share chocolate ganache, butter cream and pastry cream fillings. Bring to class: two heavy/sturdy cookie sheets, spatula and 1 cup liquid measuring cup. Optional: mixer powerful enough to whip egg whites into meringue. Wear hair restraint and closed-toe shoes.

### **Grilled Pizza: Classic**

**Mon., Oct. 4 • 6-8:30 p.m. • \$39**

**Whispering Pines B&B,  
2018 Sixth Ave., Nebraska City**  
Course Number: AREA-4594-NCFA

Keyword: Pizza

Make a basic pizza crust from scratch and learn the technique of rolling the crust thin and sliding it on the grill to get that perfect crisp crust. We'll make a variety of pizza sauces and toppings and a dessert pizza, too! You'll take home pizza dough and recipes. You'll never call for take-out pizza again! This is a hands-on demonstration. Supply fee of \$25 payable to instructor in class. Cash or check only for supplies.



The Great Plains Culinary Institute at SCC's Lincoln Campus has a student-run restaurant, COURSE, which is open to the public for lunches and special-event meals.

Visit [www.southeast.edu/course](http://www.southeast.edu/course) for hours of operation, event information and menus. If you have further questions, contact us at 402-437-2727 or [course@southeast.edu](mailto:course@southeast.edu).

**Register today at  
<https://bit.ly/RegisterCE>**