

SCC Graduate Success Stories & News

On a space available basis we will select alumni updates to publish in the Alumni News. Please include your written permission to publish with each submission. Suggested articles should include employment news, company happenings and personal notes to include successes, weddings, deaths and other personal notes.

1978 – John Duensing, a 1978 Architectural-Engineering graduate, accepted a position in Kuwait. John is the Senior Project Manager for a 10-million square foot hotel, mall and condominium complex being designed for a man-made island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. John works with people from nearly 50 countries.

John Duensing, Architectural-Engineering Technology - SCC Milford

2000 – In December 2002, I graduated from the University of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in communication studies. I entered the financial services industry with the firm, Benefit Management, working as a financial representative specializing in the employee benefit arena. I am a member of National Association of Health Underwriters, Association of Health Insurance Advisors and National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. I serve as president-elect of the NAIFA-Lincoln Association and will become president in August. Last year I won the Gene & Shirley Aabel "New Agent Recognition Award" from NAIFA-Nebraska. I also completed a Leadership in the Life Institute course in 2008 through NAIFA. In December 2007, a business partner and I created a property management company, Thieman & Kettelhut Enterprises, which handles rental property units. I married Kelly Bridget O'Brien, whom I met on a blind date set-up by a friend from SCC-Beatrice in 2007.

Ted Thieman, Academic Transfer - SCC Beatrice

2005 – Starting my education at SCC-Beatrice opened many doors. Programs like TRIO/Student Support Services and PTK helped me to obtain further educational opportunities. TRIO/SSS introduced me to the "Reaching Your Potential" scholarship available through EducationQuest. This gave me the means to go on and further my education with UNMC-CON Lincoln Campus. After obtaining my BSN in nursing in December 2008, I moved on to working at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln. I currently work in acute rehab serving the traumatic brain injury population. I enjoy my job as staff nurse and sharing the role of team leader with a great mentor. Madonna has offered opportunities for further certification within my field, and I look forward to taking advantage of such opportunities. I want to thank SCC-Beatrice for its encouragement and guidance in pursuing my educational goals.

Saundra Carney, Academic Transfer - SCC Beatrice

1980 – "The education that I received from SCC has led to my incredibly successful career. During my 20 years at Bell Telephone Laboratories, I designed telecom equipment that has been shipped all over the world, and I was awarded 12 patents for this work. At Ball Aerospace, I designed the imaging controller for the HiRISE instrument. My design is now orbiting Mars, taking images with a one-foot resolution. I am currently working on the James Webb Space Telescope, which will replace the Hubble Space Telescope."

Scott Farleigh, Electronic Engineering Technology - SCC Milford

1995 & 2002 – I graduated with a Diploma in Printing Technology in 1995 and an Associate of Applied Science in Computer Electronic Technology in 2002. In 2008, I acquired a Master of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha. At SCC, they gave me the skills to acquire my first full-time job and the knowledge to further my education. I owe much gratitude to the instructors and courses offered at SCC.

Matthew Bentz, Printing Technology & Electronic Technology - SCC Lincoln

2003 – Karen Hollis, MS, RD, LMNT, has been appointed as the Dietitian for the HyVee store at 50th & "O" in Lincoln. After receiving an Associate's degree in Food Service/Hospitality, Karen continued her education and obtained her Master's degree in Nutrition and Health Sciences with a minor in teaching at UNL and is a 2007 graduate of UNL's Dietetic Internship Program. Karen's specialties include counseling and instruction in the areas of heart disease, diabetes, weight management, sport nutrition and celiac disease, as well as healthy cooking and menu development.

Karen Hollis, Food Service/Hospitality - SCC Lincoln

2007 – Thank you SCC, and in particular Mick Hutcheson and Terry Kuebler, instructors in the Motorcycle, ATV & Personal Watercraft Technology program! I work as a technician on small engines, lawn mowers, four wheelers, gators and compact utilities and use the electrical, engine, machine tech, and welding skills I learned in the program every day. I continue to share my skills with co-workers, some who have been in the business for more than 13 years!

Chris Wax, Motorcycle, ATV & Personal Watercraft Technology - SCC Lincoln

We Would Like to Hear from You! Are you interested in being placed in our database as an informational contact for your company? Would you be willing to answer questions regarding your career and/or company from a student beginning their full-time career search? If you are willing to be a contact for students, [here's how to contact us:](#)

BEATRICE Campus
balumni@southeast.edu

LINCOLN Campus
lalumni@southeast.edu

MILFORD Campus
malumni@southeast.edu

In Memory of ...

Tony Aksamit (Retired SCC Program Chair, Professional Truck Driver Training)
Arla (Essman) Berggren, (Academic Transfer, 1954)
Shirley Clobes, (Practical Nursing, 1984)

Douwe Rex Bleeker (Electronic Engineering, 1984)
Tobin "Toby" Jiskra (Machine Tool, 2007)
Robin Woltemath (Business Administration, 1997)

It is the policy of Southeast Community College to provide equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all admission, attendance, and employment matters to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, sexual orientation, disability, or other factors prohibited by law or College policy. Inquiries concerning the application of Southeast Community College's policies on equal opportunity and nondiscrimination should be directed to the Vice President for Access/Equity/Diversity, SCC Area Office, 301 South 68th St. Place, Lincoln, NE 68510, 402-323-3412, FAX 402-323-3420, or jsoto@southeast.edu.

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SPRING 2009

SCC Sees 7 Percent Enrollment Increase for Winter Quarter

Enrollment figures shared with the Board of Governors at its February meeting show a pattern of continued growth during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Full-time equivalency enrollment for the Winter Quarter, which ran Jan. 7 through March 19, was up 7.29 percent, according to a report prepared by Ted Suhr, vice president for administrative services. Combining the Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 quarters yielded a 4.56 percent increase in FTE, all positive news for the College.

"It's been a year of growth for us overall," said Dr. Jack Huck, SCC president. "This really provides a solid foundation for the future."

In October 2008, SCC's overall student enrollment of 10,557 represented the largest in school history. SCC's headcount, comprised of full- and part-time students, increased nearly 10 percent from fall 2007. The total enrollment was the largest at SCC since October 2004 when 10,079 total students were enrolled. Huck told Board members last fall that it was "one of the brightest enrollment reports you'll see from across the state."

"It's very positive and very exciting," Huck said. "It bodes very well for the College, particularly considering we are in the midst of a decline in the number of high school graduates across the state."

Huck cited the quality of SCC programs and the College's 90+ percent placement rate for graduates as the foundation for this growth.

Huck cited reasons for the increase. "This is very positive news after a couple of years of level enrollment or a slight decline," he said. "I think there is an increased recognition of our value and our cost. The other (reason) is a sad commentary in that tough economic times send people back to school. The economy has had an impact."

Last fall, Huck said a variety of initiatives helped increase enrollment at SCC, including:

- ▶ The Learn to Dream Scholarship, a partnership among Union Bank & Trust, Nelnet, SCC and public and private high schools in Lincoln, which pays tuition and fees for up to 45 quarter credit hours at SCC for eligible students attending Lincoln high schools. To date, 256 scholarships have been awarded. Of that amount, 150 students have enrolled at SCC.

SCC's recent headcount history:

2008	10,557
2007	9,603
2006	9,595
2005	10,059
2004	10,079
2003	9,672



- ▶ The addition of men's baseball and women's softball programs on the Beatrice Campus, bringing in 35-40 new students. Those squads began competitive play this spring.
- ▶ The addition of credit programs. Major Appliance Professional Technology, Pharmacy Technician, Renewable Energy Technology, and Polysomnographic Technology have been added to SCC's Programs of Study since fall 2007. Physical Therapist Assistant begins in 2009.

BEATRICE CAMPUS



Practical Nursing Part-time Program

Southeast Community College Practical Nursing Program is graduating 20 part-time students in December 2009. The next class at all locations will start in July 2009. A new part-time class begins every 18 months, with eight students accepted at each of the four part-time locations.

Part-time programs have existed in Geneva for 21 years and in Falls City for seven years. With new technology, SCC was able to start providing the theory portion of the program online. This allowed SCC to start part-time clinical groups in Beatrice and Lincoln, along with the Geneva and Falls City groups.

The program is completed in two years, allowing the student to continue working and reach their goal of becoming an LPN. Beatrice and Lincoln part-time program students do come to campus for labs; clinicals are held at sites set up for the PN program. Geneva and Falls City have locations in their towns for classroom labs and clinical experiences. SCC does not offer Practical Nursing as a distance program outside of Nebraska, so students have to be able to come to one of the four sites to be a part of this program.

Online Learning at SCC Takes Wing



In October 1998, online learning at Southeast Community College was a small step in a new instructional direction with eight students taking an Internet course on Lotus Notes. After a few years, Web CT became the new online system for the College and served SCC well until a merger decreased functionality.

The distance learning staff recommended Angel Learning Management Suite to the SCC Technology Advisory Board and with its approval Angel Learning was purchased in July 2008. All SCC online courses will be moved to Angel Learning by July 2009. From the student perspective, it should be actually easier and will not require any upgrades. The online program continues to grow. In any given quarter, SCC offers 245 courses online with 2,500 to 3,000 students taking one or more courses in a quarter. **For more questions, feel free to contact Bob Morgan, Assistant Campus Director/Director of Distance Learning, at 800-233-5027 ext. 1272 or 402-228-3468 ext. 1272.**

Jay Stalder, The Student Becomes the Teacher

Southeast Community College graduate Jay Stalder joined the faculty of the Beatrice Campus in July 2008 as the mass media instructor. Stalder was a communication student at SCC from 1989-1991 when Maureen Gobel and Bill Blackburn were teaching journalism and broadcasting. When his program called for an internship, Jay chose a split internship between KWBE and the Beatrice Daily Sun. His full-time employment with KWBE began in March 1992. During his 16 years with the radio station Jay was weekend and weeknight announcer, the midday air shift, and seven years as the afternoon host. He served as program director for seven years before being named station manager of KWBE in 2003.



For short-term goals Jay would like to make KQIQ relevant to the community. "People don't understand what we have." He wants to raise the awareness of the station and the College. Long-term goals would include news every day, increasing program enrollment, and getting more community involvement. What is his biggest challenge? "We need to promote the program to potential students." Jay mentioned that sometimes the most surprising student is someone who never intended to get into broadcasting but decided to check it out by taking a class and got hooked.

Homecoming Congratulations!



Both the men's and women's basketball teams won their games against Hesston College as part of the Homecoming events. Coronation of the King and Queen occurred during the dance in the evening at Truman Center. King **Cory Voss** is an Agriculture Business & Management Technology student from Bruning, Nebraska. Queen **Katlyn Donovan** is an Academic Transfer student from Greeley, Nebraska.

Check out SCC's spring baseball and softball schedules at http://www.southeast.edu/studentlife/sl_athletics.asp

Career Academy

SCC's Business Administration program is partnering with ESU 5 and area high schools for a Career Academy in the field of business. High school juniors and seniors will be able to enroll in college courses to explore various business career fields starting in the fall of 2009. Interested students were invited to the Beatrice campus on Jan. 27 to listen to presentations by various business representatives. Approximately 75 high school students attended this event for the business field. Students who enroll in the Business Career Academy will begin by taking Introduction to Business. In their second semester, students would have the choice of Personal Finance or Microsoft Applications II (provided they have completed a computer applications course at their local high school). In the following year, students would enroll in Principles of Accounting I during the first semester (after having taken one year of accounting in high school) and have a choice of Principles of Management or Introduction to Entrepreneurship during the second semester. Classes will be taught in a variety of locations, depending on enrollment, and may utilize multiple delivery methods (face-to-face and online). The courses will include a career exploration component that allows the students to earn high school credit as well as college credit for the courses. Interested sophomores and juniors should contact their high school guidance counselor for more information on enrollment options for this fall. ESU 5 also has a similar career academy in the health field, and ESU 6 is offering career academies in health, education, and adding business in Fall 2009.

LINCOLN CAMPUS



Retirement Congrats!



Georgean McReynolds retired from her full-time faculty position with the Business Information Technology program (formerly Office Technology) after a 40-year career with SCC. Her career began in 1968 as an adjunct instructor with Adult & Continuing Education, and in 1985 began full-time teaching with the Word Processing program. Georgean taught hundreds of students over those years and many different classes as the program grew and evolved. After retirement, she plans to continue using her teaching skills at the SCC Continuing Education Center, in addition to enjoying her cabin in the woods. A special thanks for the years of experience and gift of teaching provided to SCC!

After teaching Accounting for 17 years, **Pat Novak** has been granted the opportunity to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya. During her 27-month stay, she will be working in the Small Enterprise Development sector, helping individuals start new businesses or improve existing businesses. SCC wishes Pat a successful, meaningful experience!



SCC Provides Additional Training

The Electronics Systems Technology program has been designated an Authorized Training Institute for the International Association of Radio, Telecommunications and Electromagnetics organization. This designation qualifies all EST graduates for iNARTE Certification without further examination.

Welding Technology continues as an accredited test facility for certification of welders to meet various codes and standards for their specific industry. The program is currently certifying welders for Black Hills Energy (formerly Aquila), Burlington Northern and many other companies in the area. The service partners with local business and industry to provide a means of independent third-party certification to ensure quality welding.

Welding Adds New Equipment

Duane Parrish, program chair for Welding Technology, reports the new high definition plasma table is installed, which will allow students to gain experience with computer-based cutting and design. This high technology addition offers Computer Numeric Control experience and enhances students employability skills. Pictured are current Welding Technology students, **Joe Halloran** and **Nick Lyne**.



Human Services Program Recertification

Congratulations to the Human Services program for the national recertification granted through 2013. CSHSE site visitors reviewed the program for knowledge, theory, skills, and attitude/values and commented on the exemplary program, exceptional quality of the faculty and the solid relationships with service providers in the community. The site visitors reported the program is recognized throughout the nation as a role model for Associate degree level programs for their forward-thinking approach to human services. They further noted that the two additional listening labs recently installed at SCC to assist students in developing counseling skills sets the program apart as very unique. Additionally, those labs provide greater employability for graduates.



Pictured are the Advanced Clinical Human Services students and staff.

Staff Congratulations!

John Pierce, program chair, Electronic Systems Technology, for his accomplishment in reaching the Level III Developing a Curriculum Facilitator/Training Certification. John joins a group of 35 people worldwide and one of 12 SCC employees who have at least reached Level I certification. He noted SCC is a leader in education when it comes to ensuring each and every program of instruction continues to strive to be the best by keeping programs current and updated with technology.

Ron Snyder, director of SCC's customized training services, was presented the Leadership in Action Award by the Lincoln Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development for his vision, guidance, leadership and support for the chapter.

Linda Hartman, Business Administration instructor for SCC's Entrepreneurship Center, was awarded a full scholarship to attend the 26th Annual Entrepreneurship Education Forum in Austin, Texas. The scholarship was awarded to Hartman for her leadership and creativity in bringing entrepreneurship education to schools.

MILFORD CAMPUS



1988 Alumnus Becomes Business Owner With Help From SCC

Chuck Fritz grew up around cars, so it was no surprise when, after graduating from Bennington High School in 1986, he wanted to pursue a career in automotive technology. "I was already working for my folks," Fritz said. "We had a couple of Amoco stations." He went straight to Southeast Community College's Milford Campus, survived a rocky first quarter, and graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Automotive Technology in 1988. Twenty years later, he has owned his own business, Keystone Service Center at 7801 Military Ave. in Omaha, for more than three years. Keystone provides various automotive services, including repairs, installations, diagnostics, transmission and brake work, and towing.

"I visited the Milford campus a few weeks before I enrolled," Fritz said. "The tuition was a lot more reasonable at the time, and the instruction I received was a lot better than I'd hoped for. I'd never been to that caliber of school before." A self-proclaimed "motorhead," Fritz wanted to learn about cars. "I didn't care about business," he said, "but I know that the business courses and some of the required courses helped me a whole lot more in life. If I hadn't taken them, I wouldn't be where I am today." At the time, Fritz didn't realize the importance of his classes outside the automotive arena. "They were every bit as important as learning how to turn a wrench," he said. "SCC did a great job of putting things together. They gave me the tools for things I didn't even know I needed. I never had an instructor who wouldn't help."

Fritz, an Automotive Service Excellence Master Technician, has been awarded for his work. In December 2005, he was presented the American Towman ACE Award for achievement, service and performance. He also received a Customer Service Excellence Award from a group of motor clubs, putting Keystone in the top one percent of the nation's towing industry. His business philosophy is simple. "Be honest and don't sell something to people they don't need," Fritz said. "That's part of what SCC taught me."

After SCC-Milford, Fritz went to work for a Firestone station. After a year, he returned to the family operation. He managed both stations and did a lot of the work in the shop. While Fritz was a student at Milford, his father got sick. Years later, he died. "That changed everything," Fritz said. "It was just my mom and me pretty much." His mother retired in 2005 and sold the family business. That's when Fritz decided it was time to start his own. "I took all of the equipment with me and moved it to a new place," he said. "I kept the tow-truck from the other shop, and I've bought another once since." Like many small business owners, Fritz has been affected by the slumping economy. "It will turn itself around," he said. "I don't know how long it's going to take. I've noticed that people are finally fixing up more old cars instead of buying new." Fritz said he's just trying to be a "neighborhood guy" and "be a part of the community and earn a living." "Milford focused a lot on human resources. They prepare people for customer relations. Dealing with people is pretty important. But the most important thing is to make sure you like what you do, no matter what."

Outstanding Alumnus

Scott Volk, a 1995 Manufacturing Engineering Technology graduate, received the Outstanding Alumnus award at the December 2008 graduation ceremony. Scott is Vice President of Metal Quest Unlimited in Hebron, Nebraska. Scott has been very active in the local chapters of SME and currently serves on the advisory boards for the Manufacturing Engineering and Machine Tool programs at SCC. Scott also serves as an advisor for the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, an advisor for Central Community College's Mechatronics program and is a team leader for the THINC Developers Group, an international think-tank that develops and promotes leading-edge manufacturing systems and applications. Congratulations, Scott!



NAHB Student Chapter National Award



L to R: Dave Rainforth, Advisor; Brett McQueen; Brian Lassen; Lucas Giles; Kristin Scott; Gabe Chase; Derek Goetz; and Mike Benker, President of HBA in Lincoln

SCC is pleased to announce that the National Association of Home Builders Student Chapter on the Milford Campus placed in the Outstanding Student Chapter competition. The award ceremony was recently held in Las Vegas, NV as part of the International Home Builders Show.

- 1st Place – Delgado Community College, New Orleans
- 2nd Place – Southeast Community College-Milford
- 3rd Place – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The purpose of the competition is to recognize the accomplishments of NAHB Student Chapters. There are 152 student chapters with 4,200 members. The chapters are from four-year universities, two-year community colleges, vocational-technical centers and high schools.

Graduate Named National Commander

David Rehbein of Ames, IA was named National Commander of the American Legion, the nation's largest veteran's organization. Mr. Rehbein is a 1969 graduate from the Electronics program. A U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era, Rehbein served as an infantryman with the 4th and 1st Armored Divisions in Germany from 1970 to 1971.

National Commander David Rehbein spoke at SCC Milford with several local American Legion members present. He presented an award to Adjutant Ken Reinsch of Milford American Legion Post 171 for obtaining 100 percent Post membership for 2008. Ken is the program chair for the Electrical/Electromechanical programs on the Milford Campus.

