WINDING BACK

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN MILFORD

southeast.edu/Milford75
Seventy-five years ago, Sen. Stan Matzke drove to North Dakota to take a closer look at a vocational school in that state. He often said it was the most profitable trip he ever made.

Today, in 2016, we say thank you to Mr. Matzke and all of the other people who tirelessly worked to make the Nebraska State Trade School a reality. While I am new to Nebraska and have only served as president of Southeast Community College for 18 months, I am fully aware of the important role our Milford Campus plays in our entire operation.

One of the greatest challenges facing Nebraska is a lack of a qualified workforce in career/technical fields. There is a growing need for highly skilled technicians in fields such as manufacturing, agriculture, health sciences, and transportation. SCC is uniquely positioned to fill the skills gap and provide Nebraska with a strong, qualified workforce.

The programs we have at Milford are vital to the economic health of the communities throughout our 15-county service area. With approximately 20 career/technical programs, the campus has continued to graduate nearly 400 students per year. SCC is committed to continuing the legacy of SCC’s Milford Campus by strengthening its existing programs and by creating new programs to meet student, employer and community needs.
Throughout his life, Stanley Matzke championed the cause of the little guy who sometimes got lost in the shuffle. He also knew the value of a good education and believed the people of Nebraska needed the opportunity to learn a skill that would enable them to earn a decent living. In 1940, Matzke was elected to his first of two terms in the Nebraska State Legislature, where he was a strong advocate and the driving force behind what would eventually become Southeast Community College in Milford. After visiting a vocational school in North Dakota he penned LB No. 148, creating the Nebraska State Trade School which was approved by a 36-0 vote and signed by Gov. Dwight Griswold on March 28, 1941.

When the school opened its doors on May 1, 1941, five men taught five students courses in Auto Mechanics, Auto Body and Fender, Watchmaking, Radio and Television, Electricity, Shoe Repair, Cabinetmaking and Carpentry, Diesel and Farm Mechanics, Machine Shop, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. The 1950s was a turbulent time for the trade school, which motivated the school to move forward by building a new college both literally and figuratively. On the academic side, the Shoe Repair, Pattern Making and Watch Repair programs were dropped to make way for three new programs: Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and Electronic Data Processing. In addition, the Cabinetmaking/Carpentry program was expanded to include more building skills and was renamed Building Construction.

In 1972 the Nebraska Technical College in Milford merged with Fairbury Junior College to create the Southeast Technical Community College System. In 1973, Lincoln joined the system which served a 15-county area and would become Southeast Community College. During the 70s, programs in Commercial Art, Machining Technology, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning were added. During the energy crisis of the early 80s, the campus initiated the Alternate Energy program to train technicians in the areas of solar energy and energy-saving heating and cooling systems. Once the energy crisis passed, the demand for alternative fuels died, and the Alternative Energy program was dropped as a separate program.

The college built relationships with businesses and the community in the 80s which still prosper today. The first partnerships with General Motors and John Deere created the John Deere Tech, Deere Construction and Forestry Equipment Technology and the General Motors Automotive Service Educational programs. This opened the door for the creation of the Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training and the MOPAR-Chrysler/Dodge/RAM/Jeep College Automotive programs. The newest program at Milford is Energy Generation Operations, which is in the process of creating a control room environment similar to those seen at energy plants around the world, providing students real-world problems to solve. Started in 2011, the program has already received recognition from the Nebraska State Traded School in Milford.

Dad was always interested in helping the underdog, whether it be as Seward County Attorney, Farm Editor of the Lincoln Journal, businessman, State Senator, conservationist or in his personal life. He championed the causes of the average little person who sometimes got lost in the shuffle. He was interested in the trades at an early age helping in his dad’s hardware store in Gurnsey, Nebraska. He was skilled in assembling binders used in harvesting.

In 1940 Dad was elected to the state legislature from the 24th Legislative District (Seward and York Counties). He went to visit a vocational school in North Dakota and then wrote a Legislative Bill No. 148 creating the Nebraska State Trade School in Milford. There was a lot of opposition from private trade schools. Dad, because of his love and interest and political ability, got the bill passed.

I have on my wall next to my desk a picture frame Dad put together with a copy of the legislative bill and a newspaper article about the start of the Milford trade school dated April 29, 1941. Another article shows Dad and me standing in front of the Administration Building in 1961 when I taught at Milford. Also included in the frame is a letter from Governor Griswold dated March 15, 1941, saying he will sign the bill, and in the governor’s own handwriting asking Dad if he wanted the pen used to sign the bill. Dad attached the pen on the front of the frame and it’s still there. Dad really cared about the Milford school. He always supported it whenever there was action trying to close it. Over the years the school has had the benefit of outstanding leadership. As a part of Southeast Community College it has continued to be a leader in vocational technical education in the state and nationally.
TIMELINE

1940–1959

Pre 1941
Gen. Jacob H. Culver, a Civil War veteran from Wisconsin, moved west at the age of 25 and eventually settled in Milford. He opened Sanitarium Park and Springs which would become a part of the Soldiers and Sailors Home system in 1893. The Soldiers and Sailors Home in Milford closed its doors in 1939, leaving the campus vacant and ready for a new adventure.

May 1, 1941
The Nebraska State Trade School opened on the Soldiers and Sailors Home campus in Milford with five instructors teaching five students in the instructional areas of Auto Mechanics, Auto Electricity, Machine Shop, General Welding, and Foundry Pattern Making.

DECEMBER 7, 1941
The focus of the school temporarily disharmonized when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Under the direction of J.R. “Jess” Jewell, the school moved immediately to aid in the national defense by adding the programs of Aircraft Sheet Metal, Industrial Electricity, Radio Operating and Mechanical Drafting. The Army Signal Corps sent 889 enlisted men to Milford to train them as radio mechanics, repairmen and operators. In addition, more than 1,000 war production workers and specialized technicians, both men and women, were trained around the clock under special arrangement with war plants for the next two years.

1945
Lowell Welsh became the school’s first full-time resident director, a post he would hold until Dec. 31, 1973. An experienced tradesman, he brought practical judgement, training in trade and industrial methods, and experience as a school administrator. His commitment to vocational education and his belief in vocational training would impact the history of Nebraska education.

OCTOBER 26, 1944
Sen. Syas moved for efforts to close the school with the support of Sen. Robert Crosby (above). On Feb. 18, more than 500 supporters of the school testified at a meeting of the legislative Budget Committee to keep the school open. After heated debate, supporters of the school had the more convincing argument and it remained open.

1951
Omaha State Sen. George Syas introduced LB 235 to close the Nebraska State Trade School. The bill was met with vigorous opposition and was killed following a hearing of the Education Committee.

JUNE 17, 1954
The first commencement for the Nebraska State Trade School was held with Stanley Matzke as the speaker.

1953
Sen. Syas renewed his efforts to close the school with the support of Gov. Robert Crosby (above). On Feb. 18, more than 500 supporters of the school testified at a meeting of the legislative Budget Committee to keep the school open. After heated debate, supporters of the school had the more convincing argument and it remained open.

JUNE 17, 1954
The first commencement for the Nebraska State Trade School was held with Stanley Matzke as the speaker.

1957
Omaha Sen. John Munnelly introduced the third bill in the decade to try to close the school in an effort to save taxpayers money. More than 350 people attended the hearing on the bill, and after a two-hour debate, the Education Committee killed it by a vote of 4-1.

1959
Sen. Faye Wood of Seward introduced LB 519 to change the school’s name from the Nebraska State Trade School to the Nebraska Vocational Technical School to better represent the core of the education offered and add prestige.
Following the tornado and in the midst of a growing student population, the need for better facilities arose. Gov. Frank Morrison signed LB 115 which authorized a $550,000 campus building project which would dramatically change the look of the campus as all but one of the remaining structures of the Soldiers and Sailors Home would be razed to make room for a single-unit classroom and lab facility.

1963
Paula Gerlach of Hastings and Lenora Vannatta of Hay Springs were the first women to enroll in the school since World War II and the war defense training. They enrolled in the newly created Electronic Data Processing program. Gerlach was the first woman to graduate from the Nebraska Vocational Technical School in 1965.

1965
Administators approached State Sen. Fern Orme to introduce LB 284 to change the school’s calendar from a two-semester academic year with a three-month summer break to a four-quarter calendar with classes conducted year-round to accommodate growing enrollment numbers.

1967
Jan Eicher, a former public school teacher, was the first woman instructor hired at the college. The wife of Bob Eicher, assistant campus director, she was hired to teach business English, speech and interviewing techniques in the general education department. She also served as the college’s first Dean of Women.

1965
Jan Eicher, a former public school teacher, was the first woman instructor hired at the college. The wife of Bob Eicher, assistant campus director, she was hired to teach business English, speech and interviewing techniques in the general education department. She also served as the college’s first Dean of Women.

1965
The Associate of Applied Science degree was sanctioned as the award for those completing the 18-month training programs. A diploma was awarded to those completing 12-month programs of instruction and certificates to those enrolled in programs requiring less than 12 months. Courses were organized on a credit-hour basis rather than contact hours, making it easier for students to transfer to four-year institutions.

1961–1974
LB 759 went into effect, which created technical community college systems throughout the state and allowed counties to voluntarily join various districts. The bill encompassed all of the publicly supported two-year colleges in the state, including six municipally owned and operated junior colleges in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Columbus, Norfolk, McCook, and Fairbury; three area vocational technical centers in Hastings, Norfolk and North Platte; two district centers in Lincoln and Omaha; and two state-operated technical schools in Sidney and Milford. Seward, York, Fillmore, Saline, Jefferson, Thurston, Pottawattamie, Gage, Saunders, and Cass counties, in southeast Nebraska voted to create the Southeast Technical Community College Area. Two existing institutions, the Nebraska Technical College at Milford and Fairbury Junior College, were included in this area.

1975
The Milford Campus was approved as a candidate for accreditation by the North Central Association.

1975
Nebraska native Dr. Robert Klabenes was appointed the new director of the college. During his tenure he further developed the quality of the programs while making much-needed improvements to campus facilities.

1973
The legislature assigned Lancaster, Otoe, Nemaha, and Richardson counties to the Southeast Technical Community College Area, adding the Lincoln campus to the system. Gov. J. James Exon appointed an all-new governing board representing all 15 counties. Their first responsibility was to hire a president to direct the three-campus system. Dr. Robert Eicher, former assistant to Lowell Welsh at Milford, was appointed to that role.
SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MILFORD CAMPUS

75th Anniversary Celebration Events & Activities
May 6 and May 7, 2016

ALL CAMPUS ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
CAR, TRUCK & SEMI SHOW
Location: Community College Southeast Parking Lot
Saturday, May 7, Noon - 4 p.m.
MILFORD ALUMNI REUNION
Location: SCCC Campus Center
Friday, May 6, 5 p.m.

LAWN GAMES
Location: Rainy area between Welch Center and Placement/Assessment Center – Bad weather location is lower level of Welch Center
Saturday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PHOTO BOOTH
Location: Welch Center Entrance
Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TOUR FORMER DIRECTOR’S HOME WITH PICTURE DISPLAY
Location: Placement/Assessment Center Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

HISTORY VIDEO – OPEN TO ALL
Location: Welch Center Technical Center
Friday, May 6, 10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m.

SCC MILFORD ALUMNI REUNION
Location: Welch Center Gym
By reservation only (see back cover) Friday, May 6, 10 a.m. Program, Noon Luncheon

ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT
Location: Thorrington Golf Course, Millford, NE
By reservation only (see back cover) Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS
Location: North of John Doerr Building Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

BRUNT BISOKTS BAND
Location: Welch Center Gym During the Free Barbecue Saturday, May 7, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

GAYLE BECWAR – ENTERTAINER/COMEDIAN
Location: Welch Center Gym Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.

KIDS TRACTOR PULL
Location: Outside of John Doerr Building Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SHIRSENS MOTORCYCLE & CUSHEIM CLUB SHOW
Location: State Street in front of Eicher Technical Center Saturday, May 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

MILITARY VEHICLES DISPLAY AREA
Location: South of Dunlap Center Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MONKEY MOTION THRILL RIDE
Location: Grassy area North of Northfield Center Saturday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

BLACKHAWK MILITARY HELICOPTER
Location: South of Dunlap Center Saturday, May 7, 7-1:15 p.m.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS
Howard Bay Memorial Scholarship
Robert Rosen Memorial Scholarship
Location: Second Floor Auditorium – Eicher Technical Center Saturday, May 7, 2 p.m.

CELEBRATION BAR-B-QUE
Location: Welch Center Gym Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MODEL T CAR RIDES
Location: North of Corshuber Hall Dormitory Saturday, May 7, Time: TBA

FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE
Dunlap Center Cafeteria Friday, May 6, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Meal Deal)

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
All campus programs will have displays and demonstrations during the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Below is a listing of some of those programs related activities and events.

ENERGY GENERATION OPERATIONS
Control Room Simulator Location: Eicher Technical Center, Room ETC #178 Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Industry Partner Displays NPPD, OPPD, Kooi Nitrogen, LES, & Ethanol Location: Eicher Technical Center, Rooms ETC #166 & ETC #167 Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY
Masonry Laying Demonstration Location: Eicher Technical Center, Building Construction Lab Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Concrete Stamping Demonstrations Location: Eicher Technical Center, Building Construction Lab Friday, May 6, 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

PRECISION MACHINING TECHNOLOGY
Automated Production Cell of SCC Kitchen Utility Tool Location: Eicher Technical Center, Room ETC #162A Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
"Can-struction Building Activity" Location: Eicher Technical Center, ETC #120 Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LAND SURVEYING/CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
Global Positioning System (GPS) Demonstration Location: West of the Placement/Assessment Center Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
Student demonstrations on live customer vehicles used for training, (engine, transmission, steering/suspension, diagnostics, etc.) Location: Automotive Lab Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
Take the Engineering Challenge Location: Eicher Technical Center, ETC #205 & #207 Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Visit newly remodeled Manufacturing Lab Location: Eicher Technical Center, ETC #226 Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ELECTRICAL & ELECTROMECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY
Robotics workstations producing SCC Kitchen Utility Tool in conjunction with Precision Machining Location: Eicher Technical Center, Rooms ETC #205 & #207 Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION TECHNOLOGY
Soldering Project Location: HVAC Building Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Free Ice Cream Location: HVAC Building Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - Noon

DIESEL-AG EQUIPMENT SERVICE TECH
Equipment demonstrations Location: Eicher Technical Center, Main Diesel Shop and ETC #159 Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Competition Pulling Tractor Display Location: Eicher Technical Center, Main Diesel Shop Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY - TRUCK
Student demonstrations on live customer vehicles used for training, (engine, transmission, steering/suspension, diagnostics, etc.) Location: Eicher Technical Center, Main Diesel Shop Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1941 & 2016 Model Vehicles Display Location: Eicher Technical Center, Room ETC #160 Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE
Dunlap Center Cafeteria Friday, May 6, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Meal Deal)

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Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Meal Deal)

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MILFORD CAMPUS

5th Anniversary Celebration Events & Activities
May 6 and May 7, 2016

FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE
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Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Meal Deal)

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1979–2009

After a lengthy process, the Milford Campus was granted a 10-year accreditation by the North Central Association, the most any institution can receive.

OCTOBER 11, 1985
General Motors unanimously selects the Milford Campus over two other community colleges as the regional site for its Automotive Service Educational Program to train students to become technicians at sponsoring GM dealerships.

On Oct. 1, 1986, the first ASEP class was held with 20 students, each sponsored by a GM dealer.

1986
The Milford Campus was selected by GM as the site of a regional technical training center for technical updates and training for its GM technicians.

JULY 1986
The Automotive Technology program received the American Vocational Association’s “Award for Excellence” as the outstanding postsecondary automotive training program in the country.

JUNE 7, 1988
GM representatives were on campus for the graduation of the first ASEP class and the ribbon cutting for the GM training center.

AUGUST 1988
John Deere officials announced the development of the nation’s first John Deere Ag Tech program at the Milford Campus.

1989
John Deere and SCC Milford announced the addition of another premier program, the John Deere Ag Parts, which would be launched in 1990.

JULY 1984
Dr. Thomas Stone was named campus director.

1983
Dr. Robert Klabenes resigned as campus director to take a position with Oklahoma State University.

1986
The Milford Campus was selected as the site for AutoCAD training in cooperation with the Auto Desk Company of Sanatolu, Calif., one of the leading producers of computer-assisted drafting software.

JULY, 1984
Dr. Thomas Stone was named campus director.

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The Milford Campus was selected as the site for AutoCAD training in cooperation with the Auto Desk Company of Sanatolu, Calif., one of the leading producers of computer-assisted drafting software.

JULY 23, 1979
After a lengthy process, the Milford Campus was granted a 10-year accreditation by the North Central Association, the most any institution can receive.

JULY 1, 1996
Larry Shaw is the fifth campus director of the SCC Milford Campus. Shaw graduated in 1960 from the Nebraska Vocational Technical School with an Electronics Technology degree and went on to serve the Milford Campus as an instructor and administrator for more than 30 years before he was named campus director.

JUNE 2009
Six new paint booths and 8,000 total square feet were added to the Auto Collision Repair Technology program and formally dedicated on June 7.

MAY 2004
A 4,100 square foot addition of the Building Construction Technology program was completed in December 2003 and dedicated at the May 2004 Open House.

2003
Larry Shaw retires as SCC Milford Campus director. Lyle Neal succeeds him as campus director and vice president for technology.

2009–

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JANUARY 2011

The Energy Generation Operations Program is added to the Milford Campus. The program provides a broad base of core curriculum in the first five quarters, followed by specialty courses in various focuses during the final sixth quarter.

DECEMBER 12, 2013

The 100th house built by the SCC Building Construction Technology, Electrical and Electromechanical Technology and Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology programs was auctioned off. The first house was constructed in 1961 and auctioned by Engvært and Darrol Larsen of Cordova.

JUNE 30, 2014

Lyle Neal retires after more than 40 years of service to Southeast Community College and the former Nebraska Technical College. Neal was hired by Lowell Welch in 1971 as an accounting instructor and ended his tenure as the Milford Campus director and SCC vice president for technology the last 11 years.

AUGUST 2014

SCC ranked second nationally in the number of graduates in Precision Production by Community College Week. The category includes the Milford programs of Manufacturing Engineering Technology and Precision Machining and Automation Technology.

NOVEMBER 2015

The 20,000 square-foot expansion to the John Deere facility was dedicated, which doubled the space used by the John Deere Tech and Deere Construction & Forestry Equipment Tech programs.

JULY 2013

The $1.2 million facility addition and remodel of the Precision Machining and Automation Technology program opened in July 2013.

2011–PRESENT

MARK KOLTERMAN grew up in Seward, but he wasn’t a city boy. Growing up, he and twin brother Clark worked for their father, Don Kolterman, at the Ben Franklin Variety Store that grandfather Fredrick Kolterman started in downtown Seward in 1915. After graduating from Seward High School in 1969, one might think Kolterman would enhance those skills by venturing south to Milford and the Nebraska Vocational Technical School. But his parents had other ideas. “They wanted me to go to the university, and I did for two years,” Mark said. “I didn’t enjoy the classrooms with a couple-hundred kids. I’ve always been a hands-on person.”

After two years at UNL, Mark married his high school sweetheart, Suzanne Geis. He put his name on the waiting list at Milford, started in the Building Construction Technology program in 1973 and graduated in September 1974. He worked for Hughes Brothers, Inc., in Seward until 1976, when he stepped out of the construction business and went to work for Hafemeister, Suhr & Imig Insurance Agency in Seward. Four years later he bought his own agency in Utica, NE.

His construction background, which includes building four houses for his family, paid off when he called on agricultural customers. “I could evaluate if their buildings were adequately insured,” he said. “And in those early years, on weekends former Milford classmate Bill Saalfeld and I would do some masonry projects. That helped keep my construction skills sharp.”

Kolterman earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology from Peru State College in 1994, but he’s most proud of the degree he received 20 years earlier.

“My degree from SCC I treasure the most,” he said. “I’ve used it my entire career. Last summer I built a treehouse for my grandkids. I’ve built a shop for myself. Once or twice a month I use those skills.”

Kolterman, 63, represents District 24 of the Nebraska Legislature. He’s proud of how the Milford Campus of SCC has graduated skilled workers throughout its 75-year history. “I’m such a proponent of hands-on education,” he said. “This campus was the first of its kind in the nation. It has a reputation of being second to none. It’s good to see how this campus has grown and prospered. But the thing I appreciate about this school is that the instructors wanted you to succeed. They were hands-on. It was a great environment in which to learn.”

Note: Go to www.southeast.edu/Milford75 for an expanded version of Sen. Kolterman’s story.
Norman Schulz learned a lot in a short amount of time during his early years of college. He studied business at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a year, entered military service and was sent to the University of Southern California to take accelerated courses. He even clipped his toe into Harvard Business School. It was officer training with the Coast Guard, followed by the Navy College Training Program, where more than 125,000 participants were enrolled in 131 colleges and universities in the U.S. But for Schulz, something was missing.

"After the service I had all this formal education, but no practical experience," said Schulz, who ended his service in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander. "Everyone said that after the war the country was going to build, so I thought I'd better get into the building business." And he did. From 1950 to 2010 Schulz was heavily involved in building and real estate.

Today he lives at Greene Place, an assisted living facility in Seward.

IN THE NAVY
Norman Schulz was born on July 12, 1923, in Seward County. He graduated from Goehner High School in 1941 with four other classmates. While studying business at UNL, the United States entered World War II. In 1942 Schulz was drafted and took basic training with the Coast Guard, but he eventually joined the Navy. His roommate during boot camp was film star Cesar Romero, who served aboard the USS Cavalier (APA-37).

During his studies at USC, Schulz got acquainted with Andy Pearson and his identical twin brother Richard. Andy went on to become president of PepsiCo in 1971 and helped engineer the spinoff of Pepsi's fast-food businesses KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut. He died in March 2006. Schulz understood how important the Nebraska State Trade School was to him and other students, particularly during post-war times.

In 1953, Omaha Sen. George Syas introduced a bill to close the Nebraska State Trade School for a second time. Schulz strongly opposed the bill and rounded up John W. Castle Sr., head of The Castle National Bank & Trust in Seward, and former Sen. Stanley Matzke Sr. to speak in support of the school.

"John spoke and told them about the economic value the school brought to the area because students graduated and stayed in the area to work," Schulz said. "I told them that after all of the colleges I attended (prior to tech school), this was the first full-time director at Milford. Welsh was an experienced tradesman, with knowledge in training for trades and industry. Cabinetmaking and Carpentry was one of the early programs offered at the school, and Schulz was eager to enroll.

"I thought I'd better go to tech school and learn something," said Schulz, who wanted to supplement his knowledge in business with some hands-on skills. "When we made the compound cuts for a roof, we did it all by hand.

Schulz took carpentry classes in "The Barn." He was one of seven students graduating from the second Building Construction class at the Nebraska State Trade School in Milford in June 1950.

SAVING MILFORD
After graduating from Milford, Schulz and three others formed a corporation that built houses in the Seward and Lincoln areas. Loren Dobson, Neal Smith and Marv Pollock joined Schulz in this venture.

"I did the sales work and contracting, they drove the nails," Schulz said. "We built hundreds of homes in Lincoln.

As a recent graduate and now businessman in the construction business, Schulz understood how important the Nebraska State Trade School was to him and other students, particularly during post-war times.

In 2000 Schulz began building houses again. Numerous townhomes in Seward and partnering with Bud Irons Excavating in Lincoln for 11 years. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s construction in and around Seward and Lincoln was "phenomenal," Schulz said. He collaborated with four other builders in Seward on numerous projects.

While business was booming, Schulz found the time to serve as president of the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce in 1957.

In the 1970s Schulz began building houses again. Numerous townhomes in Seward, as well as a handful of other houses, were constructed.

Later years
Schulz, now 92, tries to remain active. He enjoys his time at Greene Place, his work with military veterans’ groups and other activities. His wife of 64 years, Jean Elizabeth, died in 2011. The couple had two children, Beth Bahensky of Kearney and Neil Schulz of Seward, as well as six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Neil said his father has made a tremendous impact on Seward.

"I can’t count how many houses he’s built in Seward," Neil said. "And for being in one community all these years and to not have any enemies, that’s something. He’s quite a Norm." As Norman Schulz turns 90 on his time at Nebraska State Trade School, he can’t help but wonder what it would have been like had Welsh not been hired as director.

"Lowell had a way about him that was unreal," Schulz said of his old golfing buddy. "Everyone liked Lowell, and he had a real vision for vocational education.

"Guys like Lowell Welsh, John Castle and Stan Matzke were pioneers for the tech school. They’re heroes in this whole thing."
PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

THOMAS C. STONE Ph.D.

(continued from page 3)

I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure with the campus. This included working with the faculty and staff on campus projects, with the Open House committee, with the 50th Anniversary committee, the Program Advisory committees and the Women-in-Technology committee. We also enjoyed hosting Christmas luncheons each year for the faculty and staff. It was an informal time where we got to better know the faculty and staff.

As I reflect back on my time with the SCC Milford Campus, I hope I was able to help advance the instructional programs, improve the facilities and help the faculty and staff to advance professionally. I know it was a time of professional growth for me. I regret that since leaving we have lost key people like Larry Shaw, Larry Meyer and so many others.

LYLE NEAL

1971–2014 Instructor; VP of Fiscal Services; Asst. Campus Director; Vice President for Technology/Milford Campus Director

The Milford Campus was my life for more than 42 years, which means I’ve had a front-row seat to roughly 57 percent of its history. One of the first observations that came to mind was the fact the leadership over the years has been exceptional. Lowell Welsh stands out as a practical pragmatist who would have embraced the phrase ‘Git-R-Done!’ Former instructors Pete Peterson and Al Havener would regal us newbies about how the campus and labs were built from Army surplus, sweat and making do with what was available. I personally believe the early years of operations were characterized by the ingenuity of Lowell and his staff and carried an attitude of ‘Git-R-Done!’ for many years after Lowell’s tenure.

Dr. Robert Klabenes followed Lowell Welsh and was an excellent administrator who motivated the teaching faculty to new levels. Dr. Klabenes introduced lesson plans built upon Behavioral Objectives and personally taught a class that we all attended to learn the concept. It helped me put a focus on teaching that I found refreshing. What behavior or outcome do you expect from your class? Dr. Klabenes also was responsible for growing the campus to record enrollments and the start of the Ag Business and Management program that eventually moved to Beatrice.

Dr. Thomas Stone was exceptional at forging partnerships with business, industry and community. Dr. Stone was instrumental in developing partnerships with General Motors ASEP and John Deere’s first Ag Tech Program. Upon this foundation the Ford ASSET and Chrysler CAP programs were added. Dr. Stone believed in building bridges with the community and was heavily involved in the Milford Chamber and Milford Economic Development. Dr. Stone was a leader who demonstrated humility and respected opinions that may have been different from his own. Tom’s hidden talent included herding sheep on his campus housing lawn that escaped from a farm truck turnover by the Mini Mart.

Larry Shaw’s forte was the development of computer and network technology to the Milford Campus and SCC which started during his tenure as Assistant Campus Director. Larry had a knack for cutting through the proverbial crap. One of the moves Larry made was reflective of his insight. Converting the Campus Director’s home into a Placement and Testing center allowed students who traveled to Milford to test to see firsthand that education on the Milford Campus translated into excellent placement when they graduated. One insight into Larry’s service was his work with the Milford Pee-Wee football program years after his own children were no longer in the program. Larry also was a community builder and served on the Milford City Council for a number of years.

I was always amazed at the dedication of instructors who would go above the call of duty to work with students after hours. Rick Morphew, Kevin Ulher, Jerry Norris and others working with the Engine Build Contest and taking their students on the road to show off their skills. The work Ron Petch and his staff put into the National Association of Home Builders Chapter and winning many national contests for Chapters of the Year competing against four year colleges and universities. I was especially impacted by the quarterly chapter meetings when the students would meet with the Lincoln Home Builders and gain insights into networking and business opportunities available through the organization. You have to appreciate the faculty volunteers who lead the student clubs ASNT, AGC, ISET, FOA, NESDA, NSCA, Phi Beta Lambda, PSAN, SkillsUSA, and SME. These efforts make a distinctive mark upon the students and the culture of the Milford Campus.

This coming May will be a special time as we celebrate the Milford Campus’ 75th anniversary. I’m confident the campus will continue to ‘Git-R-Done!’ over the next 75 years. Borrowing from one of my pastor’s catch phrases, “The best is yet to come!”

More online at www.southeast.edu/Milford75
ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

- Thornridge Golf Course
  801 South D St., Milford, NE
- Saturday, May 7, 2016
- Four-Person Scramble
- Check-in 7:45-8:45 a.m. – coffee and rolls provided
- Shotgun Start at 9 a.m.
- 18 holes, light lunch at the turn
- Entry fee $40 per person
- Cash & pin prizes

Call Joel Dickinson, 402.761.8331 for registration/cart requests

MILFORD CAMPUS ALUMNI REUNION

- Welsh Center Gymnasium
- Friday, May 6, 2016
- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Reservation required

Contact: Shelly Tolle, Alumni Coordinator
402.761.8242 or stolle@southeast.edu

VISIT US ONLINE TO CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION!

At southeast.edu/milford75/ you’ll find:
- Additional Personal Reflections
- Expanded Feature Stories
- SCC Milford’s 75 Points of Pride
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