SCC Wants to Continue Expanding Programs Throughout Region; Including Nemaha County

By David Swanson

Southeast Community College (SCC) representatives know how it can meet the needs of residents living in the county service area. That includes Nemaha and adjacent counties.

The college wants to expand its programs by meeting the region’s employment, community and student needs, related Paul Illich, president.

Tuesday afternoon, March 26 at Auburn City Hall, Illich said SCC is in the fourth year of a five-year strategic plan. The document developed in 2014-2015 continues another year. Illich stated it is time to think about the next five years. A new plan begins in the summer of 2020. It will include many components from the current one, he indicated.

“We think a lot of things are happening. Many are still in progress. We want to look at opportunities we might be able to pursue in the new strategic plan,” Illich said.

In compiling the new plan, the college staff will examine internal and external trends; results from the 2015-2019 document; accreditation standards and requirements; data collected regarding students and programs of study; and comments from faculty, staff, students and community.

Illich stated Kathy Boellstorff of Johnson, SCC board member, has been active with helping the college move forward. Boellstorff is currently the board secretary. Also representing Nemaha County on the board is Keith Hammons of Weeping Water, elected in 2018. Steve Oltmann of Dorchester is the at-large board member.

The president shared community response gathered while developing the 2015-2016 plan. Many wanted SCC to become more visible throughout its service area, provide more and higher quality student learning, modernize its existing facilities and improve alignment with academic partners while doing a better job of marketing benefits of its programs.

“We want to make sure the community knows what our strategic plans are about, capacity building and strengthening our educational systems. We want communities to be in a position to grow because they have the skilled workers they need,” he continued.

SCC’s 2017 graduate report notes 67 percent of employed graduates were working in its service area. Those include six in Nemaha County. There are 88 percent of graduates who are continuing their education doing so in Nebraska, including 16 at Peru State College (PSC).

Strategic Achievements Over the Past Five Years

Illich reviewed the college’s accomplishments since 2015.

Opening learning centers: The six locations include Nebraska City and Falls City. They offer credit and noncredit classes, he said. The latter includes recreational or skills areas. Some classes take place in Auburn.

“It allows everyone in Southeast Nebraska to be within 35 miles of a campus or learning center. It is a major accomplishment the board pushed. The board remains dedicated to that,” the president noted. Other centers have opened at Hebron, Plattsmouth, Wahoo and York. SCC’s campuses are at Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford.

New facilities: It is the first phase of new construction in years, Illich stated. Included are residence halls at Beatrice and Milford, facilities for diesel technology at Milford and health services at Lincoln, an interdisciplinary center at Beatrice and a learning center at Falls City.

The 10,000 square foot facility in Falls City is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. The president states it will house such programs as licensed practical nursing, manufacturing and welding.

“It’s not about buildings. It’s about building capacity to meet the skills gap in Nebraska. We are committed to growing our ability to produce skilled workers in Southeast Nebraska while retaining affordability,” the president continued.

Improvements: The upgrades consist of the welding area, bookstore, fitness space and Great Plains Culinary Institute, all at Lincoln; welcome center at Beatrice and student center at Milford.

“We needed to modernize our existing facilities to meet industry standards. The strategic plan revealed many of our facilities needed renovating or replacement,” Illich noted.

Moving to a Semester Calendar: Will take effect in the fall of 2019. SCC has been operating on a quarter system. More than 90 percent of U.S. colleges/universities use a semester calendar.

“It will not change our costs. We’ve been working about three years on it. We are working closely with advisors while working hard to educate students on transitioning. It’s been a long and careful process. A lot have put in time. It gives us a lot more flexibility,” he added.

SCC has partnerships with PSC in business and education. Illich said it allows a student to start at SCC before transferring to Nebraska’s first college.

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Obituary

ELEANOR Y. ADAMSON 1922 - 2021

Eleanor was born on November 9, 1925 to Ed and Wiesbe (Wings) Yates in Auburn, NE, and passed away on April 11, 2021, surrounded by loving family in her own home.

She grew up in Auburn, became quite the independent personality, enjoyed all forms of music, backward sports, and had a strong desire for exploring and adventure. She graduated from Auburn High School.

She married Thomas J. Adamson, Jr. on July 25, 1945 in Auburn where they lived and raised their three young children in the family farm. They moved to Auburn in 1958, enjoying a full and active life together until Tom passed away prematurely in 1981.

Eleanor was very involved in the First Presbyterian Church in Auburn and in the Nebraska Mrs. Jaycee's organization in both Auburn and Lincoln. She volunteered countless hours as a Bluebird and Campfire leader, for all three girls, in both locations, as well. She was a 50-year member of the Elks Lodge Chapter 45 Order of Eastern Star.

While living in Lincoln, she was quite active at Westminster Presbyterian Church, serving in various capacities, including the Altar Choir, Bell Choir, the Wedding Committee, as a Deacon, and as the President of the Session. She also held an Honorary Life Membership with Westminster Women (Presbyterian Church USA).

Eleanor was a member of P.E.O., Chapter D for 52 years and thoroughly enjoyed the relationships built with her PEO sisters through attending meetings, serving in the officers and participating with a very special group of women in Bible study.

Most of all, Eleanor enjoyed Nebraska Football and Volleyball, and she was quite proud of her son's personal experiences with "NSK Fan!" She took great pleasure in going, attending OLLI classes, and was a world traveler. Her favorite trips were to the Ozarks, the Shenandoah Valley, and the Rockies.

Eleanor leaves behind her devoted husband, Ed Adamson, of Lincoln; and her children, Davis (Laura) Adamson, Brian (Lisa) Adamson, and Kyle (Erin) Ball and their families.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lincoln Community Playhouse in her name.

Obituary

ROSA L. (MARCH) BRIGGS 1923-2021

Rosa Luella (March) Briggs, was born March 9, 1923, in Rapid City, South Dakota, to Julius William and Winnie Columbia (Maxwell) March. Her family then relocated to rural Nodaway, Iowa, where Rosa received her education. Rosa loved playing high school basketball and singing with many namesakes, sister Emma Jean, for various functions.

On August 8, 1942, Rosa was married to Dayton Briggs in Davenport, IA. The couple returned to Iowa and started their family. While raising their five children, Rosa also held a variety of jobs over the years. During the family's years in Des Moines, Iowa, she was the Manager of Crans Café while she and Dale owned Dale's Deli and then the Crans Cartage depot.

In 1974, they relocated to Rockport, Missouri, to manage a trucking company, with so many children, Rosa loved to sail. She was a big advocate for sail. She spent much of her time helping others to sail. When she was diagnosed with cancer, she took her time to help sail, until her cancer progressed. She passed away on the 60th birthday of her 60th birthday at a care facility in Nebraska. She was remembered at the birthday song party, saying one of her favorites was "If I was a boy, I would have gone to see the circus."