

# Dual Credit NEWSLETTER

SPRING SEMESTER 2026



## Sophomore Engagement Powers a Year of Achievement

A key highlight from this year is that 304 sophomores enrolled in dual credit classes, underscoring the importance of early engagement in college-level learning. Data shows that sophomores who start earlier demonstrate higher continuation into additional dual credit courses, maintain higher GPAs, and achieve higher success rates compared to juniors and seniors. As we move forward, we are committed to increasing transparency and collaboration with our partner schools, ensuring they understand where we are headed and how these opportunities can benefit their students. Our success rate remains the highest, and we will continue to set the standard for excellence in dual credit enrollment.

## Enrollment Growth

Our Dual Credit program has seen remarkable growth, reflecting increasing demand for accessible higher education pathways and career-focused preparation. Over the past five years, enrollment has steadily climbed, demonstrating both the values of the program and the strong partnerships that support it.

### Five year Enrollment Trajectory

2020-2021	7,381 Seats
2021-2022	7,517 Seats (+1.8%)
2022-2023	7,666 Seats (+2.0%)
2023-2024	8,733 Seats (+13.9%)
2024-2025	10,451 Seats (+19.7%)

**Total Growth: 3,070 additional seats  
(41.6% increase)**

This consistent upward trend demonstrates the program's growing reputation and the increasing recognition of dual credit as a pathway to academic and career success.

### Credit Hour Achievement

#### Year in High School

Sophomore  
Junior  
Senior

#### Unique Student Count

304  
1,737  
2,108

#### Average Hours Earned/ Attempted Hours Ratio

4.4  
6.5  
8.2

**>>>>** [Access the full report here!](#)



# Dual Credit **RISING STARS**

## *Love Grows: Turning Creativity into a Business*



**Explore Camry's work at Love Grows**

A simple love for flowers sparked an unexpected journey for Camry Draeger, a Sacred Heart High School student. After feeling disappointed that bouquets faded too quickly, she tried pressing flowers in an old textbook. That first frame ignited a passion that grew into something bigger - Love Grows, a flower-pressing business born during her SCC dual credit Introduction to Entrepreneurship class. With help from her parents, she built a custom flower press, designed a logo, and launched a website and social media accounts.

Today, Love Grows creates beautiful frames that preserve special memories-wedding bouquets, gifts, and tributes to loved ones. What started as a creative experiment has become a thriving business and a personal journey of growth. "Love Grows taught me patience and resilience," Camry says. "It showed me that love truly grows where kindness and care are planted."

Cooper Knobbe (right), as second-year Welding student, and Avery Santo (left), who earned her CNA last year, are both from Sacred Heart High School. They are currently taking English Comp I as a dual credit class. They're taking a moment to showcase their SENCAP magnets on their lockers and show pride in the SENCAP program.





# TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lora has been with SENCAP for two years, starting as a SENCAP Facilitator and currently as a Career Explorer. Both positions have allowed her to push students to expand their efforts and career ideas to more fully explore job opportunities. She enjoys meeting with high school counselors to explain this new position and to offer a new set of services. In order to stay abreast of changes in the workforce and SCC program changes, she continues to learn about the trends so she can share that information with coordinators, students, and counselors.

Lora enjoys her 3 daughters, their spouses, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. The remainder of her spare time is spent on travels and fiber arts like quilting, knitting, spinning, etc.



Lora Yardley  
SENCAP Career Explorer

## Key dates

## FOR SPRING 2026



16-week  
Jan 12 – May 8

1st 8-week  
Jan 12 – Mar 6

1st 5-week  
Jan 12 – Feb 13

2nd 8-week  
March 16 – May 8

2nd 5-week  
March 16 – April 17

Year-long  
Aug 18–May 8

No shows  
due

Jan 21  
3 pm

Jan 16  
3 pm

Jan 15  
3 pm

March 20  
3 pm

March 19  
3 pm

Sept 8  
3 pm

Midterms  
due

March 2  
12 pm

Feb 9  
12 pm

Jan 28  
12 pm

April 13  
12 pm

April 1  
12pm

Jan 2  
12 pm

Last day to  
withdraw

Varies  
Refer to Self-Service

Grades  
Due

May 11  
12 pm

March 16  
12 pm

Feb 16  
12 pm

May 11  
12 pm

April 20  
12 pm

May 11  
12 pm

Graduation  
applications  
due

February 6, 2026  
5 pm



# Words of Wisdom

## ADVICE THE SENCAP TEAM WOULD'VE LOVED BACK IN THEIR SCHOOL DAYS

Plan thoroughly. First set specific and measurable goals. Second, and more importantly, create a very specific action plan for each goal. Third, and most important, is to do regular reviews to check reality with the plan. All three steps need to be in writing, preferably hand-written. Remember that the goals and plans are written on paper, not stone and not public, so they can be changed. – **Lora Yardley, SENCAP Career Explorer**

In high school, focus on building habits (studying, organizing, and time management). Get involved in clubs and classes that offer life skills. – **Deb Rinne, SENCAP Coordinator**

Develop a mindset for long-term thinking that allows you to enjoy the present while focusing on the future through personal development in critical areas including understanding financial basics, scholarships opportunities and taking responsibility for learning. Carefully balance advanced courses so as to allow for exploration of careers while not overloading your schedule. Take time to explore interests by joining clubs or volunteering as this will be rewarding and provide important material for your resume. Take time to set long and short-term goals being resilient, patient and willing to adapt as you prepare for future changes. Along the way, develop strong relationships that allow you to collaborate and network with individuals who can provide insights and differing perspectives. – **Rob Hanger, SENCAP Coordinator**

I would highly recommend taking dual credit courses in high school as long as you are mentally ready for the challenge. I would recommend the first step is to have an idea of what your future career goals are and research the education required for those goals. From your research, open the conversation with your parent/guardian, letting them know what dual credit is and how it will be of benefit to you. Be sure you mention things like lower tuition, instructor support, shorter time in college and explain how this will affect your future goals and how you plan to get there.

Going into dual credit with your support system on board is very important as you will need assistance paying the tuition, books, fees and setting enough time aside for studying. Once you have done your research, meet with a counselor or a Career Explorer who can assist you in the planning stages and taking the right classes to transfer to the school you are considering. After all of the planning, take action! Continue to reach out to those around you who can answer your questions and continue to support you in your challenge. – **Cindy Lien, SENCAP Faculty Liaison**

Invest in yourself. Believe in yourself. Be your best self. Lead others to do the same!  
– **Dr. Nich Herrington, SENCAP Coordinator**

Dual credit classes are a great way to get ahead, and staying organized, asking questions, and using resources will help you succeed. Balance school and life, explore future career paths, and treat dual credit like a college “cheat code” that boosts your confidence and opportunities.  
– **Michelle Sullivan, SENCAP Career Explorer**



# Celebrating Years of Service

We proudly recognize our dual credit instructors whose dedication, expertise, and commitment have strengthened student success year after year for the 2026 academic year.

10  
years

Dusten Bruss - York  
Kyle Weyers - Wahoo  
Gina Vifquain - Lincoln Southwest  
Jason Vitosh - Falls City  
Elizabeth Crabtree - Milford  
Kurt VanDeWalle - Fillmore Central

5  
years

Michael Anderson - Lincoln Northwest  
Andrew Christiansen - Lincoln Northeast  
Jane Brogan - York  
Stephanie Buzek - Heartland  
Anthony Jacobsen - Waverly  
Erica Kohout - York  
Scott Kohmetscher - York  
Holly Podliska - Centennial  
Melissa Dux - Fairbury  
Melissa Chvatal - Yutan  
Scott Rice - Louisville

*\*Years of service reflect time spent working for SCC as a dual credit adjunct instructor. Periods of service gaps are not included.*



## Discovery Days 2026

Discovery Days give you the opportunity to experience SCC firsthand. Gain information about SCC's Programs of Study, how to pay for college, SCC support services, housing, activities, and more! A campus tour and lunch are provided.

**Event times: 9:30 am – 1:15 pm**

### **Beatrice Campus**

Friday, February 6 | Friday, March 20

### **Lincoln Campus**

Friday, February 27 | Friday, March 23

### **Milford Campus**

Friday, February 9 | Friday, March 30

## Explore It Days 2026

Explore It days provide you with a hands-on experience as you learn alongside SCC faculty, students and industry partners. These events provide a great opportunity to get a firsthand look at career opportunities in each industry! Lunch is provided.

**Event times: 9 am – 2 pm**

### **Lincoln Campus**

Technology Day | Wednesday, February 11  
Transfer Experience Day | Wednesday, April 15

### **Milford Campus**

Transportation Day | Tuesday, February 24



## THE 2026-2027 SENCAP GUIDEBOOK IS LIVE!

The 2026-2027 SENCAP Guidebook is now live on our website! This updated guide features 7 diploma options, 17 certificate options, and a detailed list of dual credit courses organized by grade level. It's the perfect resource to help students explore opportunities for the upcoming school year.

**2026-2027 SENCAP Guidebook**



### SENCAP RESOURCE GUIDE

The SENCAP & TCA Resource Guide supports dual credit students by offering crucial details on applications, registration assistance, and much more.

[2025-2026 SENCAP & TCA Resource Guide](#)

### DUAL CREDIT INSTRUCTOR HANDBOOK

The updated Dual Credit Instructor Handbook is now available, offering quick guidance and essential resources to support instructors throughout the semester

[Dual Credit Instructor Handbook](#)

Explore more dual credit resources on our [website](#).



# Financial Support

**Learn to Dream Scholarship** allows economically disadvantaged students to complete up to 60 semester credit hours for Lincoln students and 30 credit hours for students in the 15-county area of the Southeast Community College campuses in Beatrice, Lincoln, and Milford, without paying tuition and fees. Students attending high school in SCC's 15-county area may be eligible! Learn to Dream is accepting applications from December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025.

**Access College Early (ACE)** Scholarship program pays tuition and mandatory fees for qualified, low-income high school students to enroll in college courses from Nebraska colleges or universities, either through dual enrollment or early enrollment agreements with these institutions.

## **Financial Aid and Scholarships**

As always, our financial aid representatives specialize in helping make education at Southeast Community College affordable. Applications are open for high school seniors from December 1st to March 1st.

## Faculty Liaison's CORNER



Recently, we shared key documents designed to make the administrative side of teaching dual credit easier to navigate. If you missed them or need assistance, please reach out—we're here to help!

We're excited to introduce Stacey Troxel, our new part-time Faculty Liaison for Arts and Sciences instructors. Stacey brings valuable experience in education and is eager to collaborate with you and your school. Stacey and I will be visiting schools this spring and look forward to connecting with you in person.

Please feel free to contact us anytime if you need assistance!



Stacey Troxel  
Faculty Liaison



**Cynthia L. Lien** – SENCAP Faculty Liaison, CTE  
clien@southeast.edu

**Stacey Troxel** – SENCAP Faculty Liaison, Arts & Sciences  
stroxel@southeast.edu