

# The SCC Challenge

Fall 2020



# **Southeast Community College**

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## **High-Quality Student-Built Homes Since 1961**



**Building Construction Technology  
Milford Campus**

# The SCC Challenge

FALL 2020 - VOLUME 25, NO. 1

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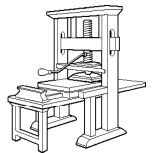
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## **Write for The SCC Challenge and get class credit!**

### **Journalism courses for spring:**

#### **JOUR 1810 - Introduction to Mass Media**

Survey of new and traditional media roles and procedures, including social media, film, music, and news. Introduction to newswriting style and new media news production, including story assignments for The SCC Challenge.

# SCC Pride Focuses on Belonging, Acceptance

By James Wassinger

In 2020 alone, 36 transgender and nonbinary people have been killed simply for being trans. Of that number, over half are people of color, and, as some have pointed out, many more incidents go unreported.

One concern is that trans people may be misgendered in police reports and funeral services, which disguises the severity of the issue and prevents victims from being remembered for who they truly were.

This year has seen a sharp increase in violence towards trans people and trans people of color, so more attention has been given to educating and broadening acceptance.

As advocates point out, every victim had a life, family, friends, careers and futures.

One example is Yampi Méndez Arocho, 19, who was killed in Moca, Puerto Rico, on March 5. Arocho, a transgender man, shared his love for basketball and the NBA,

and his Facebook biograph line reads simply, "Humility Prevails."

Advocates have sought to educate and increase awareness of such examples to prevent more victims.

One such group of advocates can be found at SCC.

SCC Pride is a group of students who come together to discuss different issues within the LGBTQIA+ community, which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and anything else that one may identify as.

"The purpose is to have a space for LGBTQIA+ students and allies to meet and find community in a safe environment," explained Kevin Forch, SCC's Director of Student Success.

In addition, "The group also hosts educational and awareness events for the benefit of the public," he added.

"The group is a great home for students who need a place where their

identities are affirmed and they can talk openly about them," Forch said. "As the group goes on, I hope they can continue to grow and still be that safe, inviting community."

"With the mission of the group being about belonging," he said, "there is an effort made to make sure that individuals feel welcome when they attend the group. It is a safe

space for all."

Due to Covid-19, meetings for the SCC Pride group are currently being held via Zoom every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Anyone who would like to receive more information about becoming involved can reach out to Kevin Forch, at (402) 437-2678, or via email at KForch@southeast.edu.

## SCC Cancels Fall Graduation Ceremony

By Terry Wolf

On Friday, Oct. 30, School officials announced the cancellation of the fall graduation ceremony.

According to Administrative Director of Registration and Records Nancy A. McConkey, the decision to cancel came after close consultation with state and local health officials.

With the rising COVID-19 cases and an expected spike, school officials felt the risk was too high to proceed with an in-person ceremony.

McConkey reiterated that the primary concern was for the students' and attendees' health.

SCC had already canceled the spring ceremony, promising that graduates could attend the next in-person event with that class's graduates.

If that happens this coming spring, then there may be a record number of students in gowns in Pinnacle Bank Arena in May.

McConkey indicated that she couldn't remember a time when two graduation ceremonies in a row had been canceled.

SCC isn't alone in its decision to cancel graduation ceremonies. The University of Nebraska, Bellevue and Creighton University also canceled in-person graduation.



# Health Sciences Building Now Ready



By Grant Ellis

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, Southeast Community College held an official ribbon cutting ceremony to announce the end of construction of the new Health Science facility.

The building will open for classes to students at the start of the Spring semester in 2021, although some offices and some student work transitioned to the new space at the beginning of December.

Some of the features of the 81,909 square foot building include 14 health science labs, eight classrooms, faculty offices, outdoor learning spaces, collaboration spaces for students and several areas that simulate real-life medical settings.

A total of 16 programs

will be housed in the new facility.

The \$25 million project was started to expand the current Health programs offered at SCC, which graduates around 2,000 health science students every 10 years, according to SCC President Dr. Paul Illich.

“We can’t wait to see the students flourish and grow in state-of-the-art labs, engaging student spaces, and interactive classrooms enhanced with learning technology,” said Jill Sand, the Dean of Health Sciences.

Construction on the project began back in early 2019, but the space limitations had started the discussion many years before.

There has been a backlog of students for the health science fields due to the lack of labs available for them to utilize.

The college hopes that this facility will give them the ability to increase the amount of qualified, high-demand health care professionals in the area.



Photos by Joshua Whitney

**At left are the interior and exterior shots of the newest addition to the Lincoln campus, the Health Sciences Building.**



# VALT System Makes Labs Virtual

By Megan Reuter

Southeast Community college is presenting a new system in January 2021 called the VALT system.

This recording software was purchased in 2018 and will create a new method for students to perform remote labs.

According to Intelligent Video Solutions, VALT stands for Video, Audio, Learning, Tool. SCC is investing in this to provide students a comfortable environment to improve their skills in the health field.

Two years ago, Jill Sand, the Dean of Health Sciences at SCC, and a team of faculty members went to the International Medical Simulation Conference to meet with Simulation Software companies.

They were able to meet with six different software companies and evaluate

their programs. In the end, they decided to go with VALT.

SCC is able to purchase the VALT system for healthcare students with the USDA grant they have acquired. This grant allows the college to provide the software to any class and for students to access VALT without a fee.

Students will be able to start recordings in a lab location or with their SCC ID. Depending on the setting of the VALT system at different locations, an instructor may need to start the recording.

Sand stated, "So often, students will do procedures and an instructor will tell them what they're doing wrong or where they need to improve or even where they did a really good job. I think the more effective learning strategy is when students start to identify those things on their own."



**Top left is one of the engaged learning classrooms in the new Health Sciences Building, similar to ones in the new Beatrice campus's Student Excellence Center (see cover and pages 28 - 29); top right is a student rest area; and above is the camera and directional microphone for the VALT system.**

She later stated that it is "less intimidating" because students don't have an instructor standing over them the entire time and referred to this system as "the next level of learning."

SCC hopes that the VALT system will connect all the locations by decreasing driving time.

The system will be in every one of the learning centers, on the Beatrice campus and in the new

Health Center at the Lincoln Campus, and it will allow students and professors to connect even though they are located at different locations.

This will allow for even older adults with families or other obligations to have increased access to education.

Sand said, "I am excited that technology is going to help bring healthcare education to them."

# Fresh Faces at SCC

## Jodi Freeman

By Megan Reuter

LINCOLN – Jodi Freeman is a human services instructor who just started her first semester as full-time at Southeast Community College.

Freeman is originally from Omaha, but before joining the SCC team full time, she was a substitute at the college. She got her bachelor's and master's degrees at Bellevue University.

After graduating, Freeman pondered on what she would do next. She thought her career field would be enjoyable, but really wanted to pass down the knowledge she had to others.

Prior to SCC, Freeman was always involved in teaching in some way. She was in public relations for a funeral home, worked in outreach for multiple communities, and even started her own side busi-



Jodi Freeman

ness, Dream Catchers.

When asked what inspired her to teach, Freeman answered, "I'd always had a passion for education ... for helping others to grow."

This shows in her Dream Catchers program, which she founded in 2018.

Dream Catchers is a program that provides less fortunate youth with interest in horses the op-

portunity to learn to care and ride horses.

Freeman states, "The kids think they are learning to ride a horse which they are, but we also tie a big mentoring piece to it."

Freeman and her staff use horses to help kids blossom while learning a new skill.

So how does someone like Freeman start her day?

"Selfcare is so important," claims Freeman.

Freeman starts her day by listening to meditation music and journaling.

She also rereads influential books to pick out a positive quote for the day and believes that by creating this positive start, even a bad day will have a positive aspect to look back on.

She keeps this positive outlook when teaching in her Communications and Human Services classes.

With Covid-19 as an

obstacle, Freeman had to adjust like any other instructor. She creatively adapted in Zoom by having students break out in to groups and download an app to continue the word cluster activities they did in person.

Freeman suggests that students complete homework and participate in class to be successful in the course.

If a student is struggling, they are welcome to ask questions. If it goes beyond her, she helps students find connections through the school.

When asked what her biggest accomplishment at SCC was, Freeman stated, "I think right now... This early on into my career into SCC is becoming a team member in the Human Services Department."

## Dr. Robert Hensley



Dr. Robert Hensley

By Josalynn Podtburg

LINCOLN – Dr. Robert Hensley is yet another new face on the Lincoln campus.

Dr. Hensley, the new psychology teacher on the Lincoln campus, was born in Chicago Heights, Ill., and grew up in Iowa. He received a bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Northern Iowa and his doctorate from Iowa State Univer-

sity.

Dr. Hensley was inspired to be a psychology instructor when he started as a community college student in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

He chose this profession because the knowledge between the textbook and his college professor's lectures captivated him. That's when he realized that he loved the discipline of psychology.

At school in Iowa, one

of the professors Dr. Hensley looked up to taught human relationships and sexuality, and the way he taught classes solidified Dr. Hensley's interest in the field.

He says, "It didn't take long to decide what I wanted to do."

There was a second instructor there who influence Dr. Hensley's direction.

Dr. Hensley said, "He  
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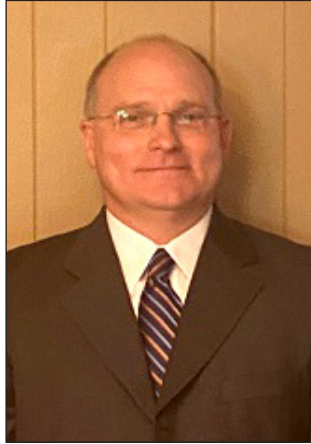


# Dr. Michaelis is New VP of Instruc-

By Easton Gropp

Texas, Kentucky and Nebraska, what is one thing all these states have in common? They're all places where the new Vice President of Instruction, Joel Michaelis, has worked in his lifetime.

"I started working in community colleges in 1993 and have worked in a variety of roles with- in student services and instruction at various colleges, serving students from different back- grounds," Michaelis said. "I hope that experience can add to the great work that is already happening at Southeast Community



Dr. Joel Michaelis

College."

Michaelis leads ap- proximately 350 full-time faculty and hundreds of adjunct faculty, as well as a team of deans, associate

deans and staff.

Michaelis grew up in Kansas and North Dakota and spent the majority of his life in Texas. He started his college career at Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas.

He earned a B.B.A. in Management from Texas A&M University and a M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Texas. He then earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Ad- ministration from Baylor University.

Michaelis began teach- ing as a sixth-grade math- ematics instructor. He also taught developmental algebra and served in var-

ious administrative roles in both student services and instruction at Central Texas College, Howard College, Hill College, Gal- veston College, Navarro College and SKCTC.

Michaelis believes that the mission of a commu- nity college is to offer a second chance and an opportunity to those who want to get a degree for cheaper.

When asked what he wants to accomplish, he stated, "It's to make sure those wonderful facilities are filled with the most wonderful programs we can possibly offer our students."

As VP of Instruction, Michaelis will lead the faculty of deans among the Campuses, and "help guide us to provide the best possible programs for SCC."

He said, "It's not just shiny new buildings; shiny new buildings are nice, but it's what those shiny new buildings say ... what it says is 'we're here, and we care.'"

Michaelis added that the SCC community "has been very welcoming ... and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention how wonderful people have been here at SCC. I could not have asked for a warmer wel- come, and I'm extremely grateful for it."

Michaelis is a jack of all trades, as he enjoys gam- ing, golfing with his dad, and, as he's slowly become an empty nester, he said he is "just enough of an old fart that I enjoy fuddering around the house."

## Hensley, continued

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was charismatic beyond belief and a great story- teller. Not only was he charismatic, but he set the bar high."

Dr. Hensley said his professors made his class- es incredible and thinks about these two people very often.

He got hired on at Southeast Community College in late June and now teaches Introduction to Psychology and Lifes- pan Human Development. His degree is in human development and family studies.

Dr. Hensley says, "I love being a teacher; it just feels so wonderful to come back to my roots. I take with great pride as a com- munity college graduate."

"This place adds to

my love for teaching," he added. "One of the greatest satisfactions when students get interested in psychology and have that intellectual curiosity that's stoked or developed."

Dr. Hensley says, "Anywhere you go, people are capable of intellectual curiosity. It doesn't hurt to be civil, be kind to one another."

His largest class that he teaches now has 24 students and the smallest is six. In his past, he has taught classes as small as two and as big as 400 students.

He says that he enjoys the positive attitude of his coworkers and is happy to land in Lincoln.

Hensley says, "The more I'm finding out, the more I want to plant roots

here with my wife and ex- plore Lincoln some more. I couldn't be happier in terms where I'm at now. I couldn't see myself living anywhere else."

He enjoys running and taking drives with his wife to find new restaurants.

Dr. Hensley says, "I want to get up and explore the countryside. There is a lot of history here."

If there was any advice to give to someone who wants to major in psy- chology, Dr. Hensley said, "Realize there is a lot more to do with a psychology degree. You can take any other major on a campus and minor in psychology because psychology goes with everything. We need intellectual people to work in psychology."

# Milford Adds Three New Instructors

## Scott Bashore

By Nick Bretta

MILFORD – The Land Surveying and Civil Engineering Technology Program has a new instructor this semester: Scott Bashore.

In that program, he currently teaches Land Development, Basic CAD and Advanced CAD.

Bashore says the classes cover “All aspects of surveying from fundamentals construction, boundary survey, land development and earth work inspection.”

Bashore grew up in Lincoln initially but moved to Milford during grade school and ended up moving to Malcolm for high school. After high school, he moved back to Milford to go to college at SCC Milford.

Bashore got his education from SCC Milford in the Surveying Program and says he wouldn’t have gotten into the program if it weren’t for Larry Meyer, a dean at the time.

Bashore originally wanted to do architecture because of his stepdad’s architecture job, but Meyer ended up showing Bashore the surveying program, and that swayed him to go into surveying because that fit more into what he was interested in.

Following a pause in his instruction to care for



Scott Bashore

his family, Bashore found a position at Olsson Associates, where he worked for a number of years.

After working for Olsson Associates, he ended up working for the state geodetics office, spending a total of 20 years as a field surveyor.

Following an opening made available by a retirement, Glenn Pasho at SCC Milford called Bashore to notify him of the opening for which he was later hired.

As for his strengths as an instructor, he said, “Well, I’m new, so I am still figuring out my strengths, but I’m very organized, driven and can communicate well.”

While Bashore hasn’t been an instructor for long, he says that he enjoys the students, and being from Milford, he actually knows some of them, but he said that

he is having a good time getting to know everyone and build rapport with the students.

He said, “Everyone is different, so it will be an interesting challenge, and I am all game for a challenge.”

Bashore said that the best thing about being in civil engineering and surveying is seeing the finished product, something he called “an amazing sight.”

He likes the outdoors, and he said that a person has to be built to be outside otherwise they might

not like surveying.

Outside of work and teaching, Bashore has a wife and two daughters, and he and his wife have been married for 26 years and met in Milford, where he has been a member of the Milford Fire and Rescue for 23 years.

Bashore is also a big sports fan, especially the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the Denver Broncos. He also loves going to concerts, his favorite being the 40th anniversary of The Allman Brothers Band.

## Jordan Liekhus

By Luke Pelton

MILFORD – Jordan Liekhus has enjoyed working as an adjunct lab assistant in the Electrical/Electromechanical program over the last three years in Milford.



Jordan Liekhus

On top of that, he has been working as an Electromechanical Technician for three and a half years at a manufacturing plant in Columbus.

He is now a full-time Electrical/Electromechanical instructor on the Milford campus.

Liekhus said that with the troubleshooting and hands-on experience that he has, he fell in love with his occupation.

Liekhus grew up in Fremont and went to high school at Fremont Bergan, where he graduated in 2005, but did not find his field until 2015, when he attended Southeast Community College

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## Lynnette Frey

By Kartney Green

MILFORD – Have you noticed a few new faces wandering the halls of the Milford campus? One of those faces belongs to Lynnette Frey, a Manufacturing Engineering instructor.

Frey grew up in Cresco and later moved to Lincoln, where she graduated from Southeast High School.

Her college career began at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in the architecture program. She eventually transferred to SCC, where she

graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Design and Drafting Technology.

In addition, she will soon have a bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University.

After graduating from SCC, Frey worked at Novartis Consumer Health, where she dealt with solids and liquids manufacturing, engineering documentation and process piping.

This isn't Frey's first foray into teaching. She previously taught at SCC in Lincoln for almost nine years before she left to



Lynnette Frey

teach at Northeast Community College.

When she was offered a chance to return to SCC, Frey couldn't refuse the

offer because she said she's always loved the SCC community.

Frey credits her career choice to her father, who was a graduate of SCC through the Diesel Technology program. He pushed her and her siblings to have some sort of mechanical aptitude. Any routine car maintenance, such as changing oil and brake pads, was something she did herself.

Her mother's family was very academic, so she likes to say she has some of both halves.

Over the course of her career, she said has become more efficient in planning and grading. Fortunately, she loves her job and treasures the time she has with her students.

At the start of the pandemic, Frey was still working for Northeast Community College. They swapped to online-only learning, which put a damper on her engaged teaching style.

"For the first couple of days, I was pacing the house," she said. "I wasn't a big fan of online learning at first because I like to be hands-on with my students."

When Frey isn't working, she likes to golf and bike. She's anticipating a move back to Lincoln and hopes to be able to start playing the Lincoln golf courses when she's settled in with her daughter.

## Liekhus, continued

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for Electrical/Electromechanical Technologies.

When asked what he loves most about his job, he answered, "I really enjoy passing on knowledge to other students and being able to talk about some of my life experience that has helped me in our field that we're going into. I love passing along the information I've obtained to others."

Liekhus is currently enjoying teaching AC, DC principles and the motor machine controls classes. He goes back and forth between each one which can be a challenge at times.

He says that problem solving is important in his occupation because in the engineering industry, fixing issues is key.

He says, "There was a troubleshooting atmosphere where we were fixing all the machinery, and keeping it all running. I like to try to get in the right mind frame of the problem at hand and build a plan quickly and try to follow the steps to the conclusion."

He explains, "I have a lot of troubleshooting experience. The plant I worked for is very heavily automated. I've worked a lot with robotics, vision systems and other automated pro-

cesses. My primary focus was to troubleshoot the already-installed equipment, but there were certain projects that I was involved in designing new processes."

"I enjoy what I'm doing and so far, so good," Liekhus said. "I love the full-time position, and I'm looking forward to this as a long-term career."

Right now, he is keeping busy with three kids and enjoys playing sports and other types of games like poker. His favorite season is fall because he likes to watch football and go camping if the weather permits. His favorite movie is "Dumb and Dumber."

# New Instructors at ESQ

## James Wolf

By Nick Bretta

ESQ – The Graphic Design Media Arts Program at Education Square has a new program director, James Wolf.

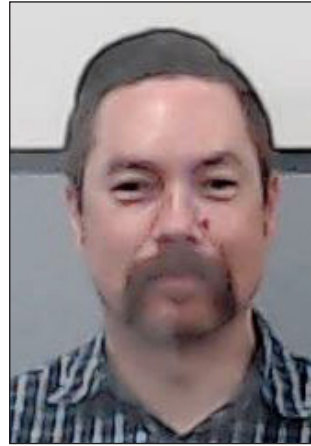
Wolf currently teaches second-year classes at ESQ, and this fall he teaches Portfolio 1, Package Design and Web Design 3. In the spring, Wolf will teach Graphic Design Portfolio 2, Web Design 4 and Web Design 1.

Wolf said his daily workload consists of

mainly hanging out in his office grading assignments, meeting with the students or the dean and getting ready for the next class.

Wolf originally grew up in Saginaw, Mich., and went to Delta College in University City, Mich., where he earned his Associates of Arts degree. He then transferred to Eastern Michigan University, where he got his bachelor's degree in graphic design.

Wolf then moved to



James Wolf

Chicago, where he worked as a designer for 10 years before moving to Ne-

braska and becoming a full-time instructor for graphic design at Metro Community College for about 14 years.

Wolf ended up applying for a job at the ESQ this summer as he heard that there was an opening.

Wolf did show interest in graphic design near the end of his high school career. He said a guidance counselor opened his eyes up and inspired him to start taking design

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## Jason Jolicoeur

By Josalynn Podtburg

ESQ – New to the downtown campus at Education Square this fall is Criminal Justice instructor Jason Jolicoeur.

At the beginning of his educational journey, Jolicoeur explained, “I was not the best high school student, and I came out of

high school not suited for college and didn't think I could make it.”

Despite those challenges, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, both in criminal justice, at Wichita State and earned his PhD, in education, from the University of Missouri.

Jolicoeur was inspired to be a criminal justice instructor when he decided to go back to graduate school to get a master's degree.

His plan was to work for the DEA after graduation, but then he then had a chance to teach after already working in the field.

Jolicoeur's first career was in law enforcement. While he enjoyed the work, he found out teaching even more rewarding.

But the biggest inspiration for Jolicoeur to be a criminal justice instructor came from his instructors.

He said, “The interest that those faculty members took in me helped me think that I could actually do it. I gained confidence and had the chance to pay it forward and hopefully have that influence on my children.”

While having taught at university level (at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan.) and at the community college level, he said, “I think the community college is a little better fit for me.”

Jolicoeur likes to write and be involved in research. With that, he wants to continue to work on his research agenda, primarily religious

orientation and criminal involvement.

He says he would also like to co-author a book and help develop new courses.

What Jolicoeur likes the most about his line of work is that he gets excited about his career and learning because of the field he is in.

He says, “Being in a field that appreciates and values my creativity is awesome for me and gives me an outlet.”

Outside of work, Jolicoeur loves spending time with his three children. His kids talked him into getting two service dogs where he spends a bunch of time working with them.

He said, he loves to travel and enjoys museums, music and reading.



Jason Jolicoeur

# Developmental English Adds Two

## Cheney Luttich

By Erika Alvarez

LINCOLN – Cheney Luttich is a new developmental English instructor at Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

Luttich has been teaching on and off at Southeast Community College since 2006, teaching developmental English, composition and writing workshops.

Over the course of her teaching career, she has taught at seven different schools, but definitely

enjoys teaching at SCC.

“I really like SCC; it’s my favorite school of all the schools I’ve taught at,” says Luttich.

Within SCC, she especially enjoys the diversity within her classrooms. This diversity of ages, cultures, backgrounds and walks of life is her favorite part of teaching at SCC, as well as something Luttich appreciates about teaching as a whole.

After teaching English for about a decade, she says that her favorite

part of being an educator is “seeing the growth in students in their writing” and that she “can meet new people every semester.”

Luttich said that while she has had a variety of jobs, including stock broking, teaching is the only thing she enjoyed. Within those other jobs, the only component that was appealing to her was teaching other employees.

Teaching has become increasingly difficult as of late due to the Covid-19



**Cheney Luttich**

pandemic, and Luttich says here difficulties this semester include not being able to see faces due to face masks, not being able to hear people easily due to masks and the fact that online comments can be misconstrued easier than an in person comment.

While the pandemic has created many obstacles for teachers, she said she is using the current limitations to her advantage.

For example, due to the pandemic, more remote learning options have been made available for her classes. She then observes what methods are working best for students and what resources are most helpful.

Luttich says that she will continue to implement the most helpful strategies such as posting class recordings to Canvas, even after the pandemic is over.

## Eder Jaramillo

By Avery Kirk

LINCOLN – Eder Jaramillo is a new English teacher at Southeast Community College who teaches two segments of Introduction to College Reading/Writing and three segments of Inter College Reading/Writing.

Jaramillo has been a teacher for 10 years, having previously taught in Chicago and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

There are many factors that have guided Jaramillo in his professional journey.

Although he dropped out at age 17, it was in high school that he first truly understood the positive impact teachers can have on students’ lives.

As he worked various manual labor jobs, Jara-

millo held the impactful image of teachers in the back of mind.

“There’s something about teachers that’s kind of a good gig and the way that they’re invested in their students and their wellbeing,” Jaramillo said. “Good teachers can change the lives of students.”

He was encouraged by others to go back to school and pursue a career path that he was passionate about and that he could enjoy having for the rest of his life.

This advice led him to return to his education and pursue a career in academia, which he loves.

“For me (my job) is my favorite place in the world; it’s like my sanctuary,” Jaramillo said. “Being in the classroom is worth every hour that

you put in outside of the classroom.”

He said that students may not realize the countless hours that many teachers put into their work to not only ensure that the course is fitting to the curriculum, but also that the students are in a course that is valuable.

“I especially like being in the classroom for those 50 or hour-plus minutes interacting with students,” he explained. “I see it as a privilege where I get to have intellectual exchanges with people that I will only meet for a certain amount of time and that I feel very fortunate to have crossed paths with.”

Jaramillo says it is important that students who are taking his course

**continued on page 16**

# SCC Women's Soccer Program in Full Swing

By Alexis Schroeder

BEATRICE - Southeast Community College introduced women's soccer for the first time ever in the college's history during the fall, but because of COVID, the planned fall season was postponed until the spring.

Head coach John Hakari has coached at several places, including De Pere Select Soccer Club, Luxemburg-Casco High School, Magellan Soccer Club and Villarreal Nebraska Academy.

Hakari has found that college coaching is a little different than his prior experience.

"Having to worry about grade and eligibility is a big difference," he explained.

He also stated that, "I am allowed a bit more freedom to demand excellence and high levels of soccer from (players)."



Photo contributed

SCC Women's Soccer Team at a Halloween team bonding event.

The teams have been facing challenge after challenge since they've been recruited.

Their seasons have been moved to spring, but coaches believe that it is truly to the team's benefit.

"It was actually very

fortunate for us, as a brand-new program, as it gave us more time to train and gel as a team before competition," Hakari said.

"Now we have almost nine months to prepare, and the girls have

improved so much just during the first months so far," he added.

Recruiting during the pandemic was another new challenge for the coaches.

"The most difficult part  
**continued on page 15**

# Cross Country Team Continues to Improve

By Hannah Bruna

BEATRICE - Coach Vicki Wooton couldn't be prouder of the SCC cross-country team so far this year.

Wooton has been coaching for 26 years now and has no desire to retire anytime soon.

"My coaching goals every year are to prepare the student athletes to compete at their highest level based on their skills

and athletic ability," she said.

This year, her team has six members, one female and five males.

But to her, that's "not enough. I would love to have more people enjoy the exhilaration of running on my team."

She stated, "Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it really messed up my recruitment process on getting more members on my team."

During a normal year of cross-country, "we usually have 7-8 meets, but due to the pandemic we weren't able to have as many this year," she explained.

But all things considered, Wooton said, "Our season has been going really good so far. We have been improving each meet and at our last meet four out of the six individuals on my team ran PR's. I have a good

team of runners that are gaining more confidence each meet."

The Region IX championship was held on October 31st in Alamosa, Colorado. The host school was Trinidad State Community College.

Due to Coach Wooton coming down with COVID-19, the runners were unable to compete.

# Storm Men to Field a Tall Team

By Nick Bretta

The pandemic hasn't canceled the Storm basketball team's season, but it has delayed it.

The season will start on Friday, Jan. 22, and those games will count for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

The season will continue until early April, and the district tournament will follow.

The team has been practicing off and on as Covid-19 has presented a problem for the team, as some players tested positive for the virus and had to quarantine. Even Head Coach Joel Wooton contracted Covid-19 in October, requiring all operations to stop.

Wooton said he does not know if fans will be allowed to watch the game in person, but he says

his main concern for this season is the safety and wellness of the players.

While the NJCAA did allow five early scrimmages in the fall and two in January, Wooton said, "We have decided not to scrimmage until January."

In addition to January bringing the first game of the season, January will also bring new players.

"We have a couple of other players who will not be joining us until January, because one is from Australia and couldn't get out of the country until December and will be quarantined, 6'6 Jackson Townsend," Wooton explained.

The other player is from Omaha and won't be on campus until his transfer is done.

This season, coach said, "we have a lot of big guys."

## Soccer, continued

continued from page 14

was that I was not able to watch players play in-person," Hakari said. "Film can only show so much, and seeing a player play in-person really can give you a feel on how they are as a player."

In the spring, the Storm's first game will be on Friday, April 2, against Western.

This game is going to

be a very historic game for the college, as it will also be the first game on the new grass field, which is maintained by SCC's agricultural students.

"The most rewarding part of my job is watching the girls improve. Over the past three months, the girls have improved their physical fitness... and they have embraced my desired playstyle," mentioned Hakari.

# Lady Storm Gets Ready to Begin Delayed Season

By Kaitlyn Stellingwerf

Southeast Community College women's basketball is right around the corner, with the start of the season beginning in January.

The team has been preparing for its first game, but has spent time outside of practice doing acts of service as a group.

In October, they worked together to donate food to SCC's food pantry.

This season will see some new faces, including Rosie Campbell from New Zealand and Lexi Billeter from Loomis High School.

With the unknown of the future of Covid-19, the team is hoping to be able to get on the court come January.

That first game will take place at SCC against Concordia University on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 6 p.m.

Those players include a 6'11 All State from Paxton, Blake Brewster; 6'10 Brady Ideus from Adams; a 6'8 transfer out of Grand Island, Much Biel; and Mike Wardy, a 6'7 transfer out of Roca who Wooton described as "extremely athletic."

Another transfer from Syracuse, Wil McCoy, is a good wing shooter, Wooton said.

Wooton said this season will also benefit from a number of returning players.

One of them is 6'4 Kofi Hamilton out of St. Martin in the Caribbean. Kofi was All Conference and All Region last year.

Another returning player is a redshirt from St. George, Utah, Parker High, who is a high-level recruit.

Teny Gakdeng, a 6'6

returning player from Lincoln, was described by Wooton as "long and athletic."

This season, the team is also receiving quite a number of guards from all over the country, one from Houston, Texas; another from Anderson, S.C.; and a few more from Nebraska.

Wooton had this to say about the whole team: "We have a good balance between size, speed, athleticism and experience. This may be the tallest team we have had since I have been here."

As he looks at the season to come, Wooton said, "We have a good chance to be very good this season if our team chemistry can develop and our team can take advantage of our strengths of size and athleticism."

## CAP Wins Milford Food Drive



Photo by Stacey Harrifeld

The food drive for the Milford campus food pantry, above, was won this year by the Chrysler Automotive Program.

By Kartney Green

MILFORD - From Oct. 12 through Nov. 20, the SCC Milford campus collected food donations for their annual food drive competition that has been going on for the last 12 years.

They are primarily looking for grab-and-go items that can be eaten with little or no preparation, but they are also accepting cash donations.

The food drive doubles as a friendly competition between programs offered on the Milford campus. The Manufacturing program won last year, collecting 499 out of the 1,470 items donated.

This year, the competition was based around Bingo. Completing a row

granted the student's program two points, and receiving a black-out on the card granted ten points.

The victor this year was CAP, the Chrysler Automotive Program, which won with two blackouts; Manufacturing Engineering Technology came in second with six bingos.

The program with the most points earned pizza from the cafeteria.

The food collected went to the SCC Milford Food Pantry, which is available for any student who may need it.

More information about the pantry can be found in the food pantry itself, located between the career services office and the accommodations office on campus.

## Jaramillo, continued

continued from page 12 understand the importance of working towards more than a letter grade.

"If you're motivated to just learn, not for a grade, not for an outside reward, but just for you, then you'll never worry

about your grades, and you'll never worry about whether or not you're going to do well in the class," Jaramillo said.

He hopes that in his courses, his students will understand that they are in a "learning environ-

## Beatrice Practical Nursing Donates Hats, Gloves



Photo contributed

Heather Grove, Beatrice, right, a Practical Nursing student, conducted a hat and glove drive for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). Her efforts resulted in a collection of 182 items for this program, including over 90 pairs of gloves. The Gage county program currently serves over 40 children. Grove is pictured with Amber Lovitt, left, Program Director for Gage County. CASA volunteers are judge-appointed advocates who speak in court for the best interest of abused and neglected children, for whom they provide comfort and support.

ment" and that everyone in this environment should be consistently learning and growing, himself included.

Outside of work, Jaramillo has many hobbies.

He enjoys exercising,

playing golf, coaching soccer and writing short stories, and one of his favorite things that he has crossed off his bucket list has been creative writing.



# Submissions Sought for Next Issue of “Illuminations”

By **Kailyn Bors**

“Illuminations,” SCC’s award-winning arts magazine featuring writing and art, is currently taking submissions from students, staff and faculty.

The first “Illuminations” publication appeared in the spring of 1999, but before that, it was something more like a “Zine,” which was more a laid-back, do-it-yourself magazine, according to editor and English instructor Tammy Zimmer.

Now, the team sends off the publications to a professional printer, and each year, the magazine

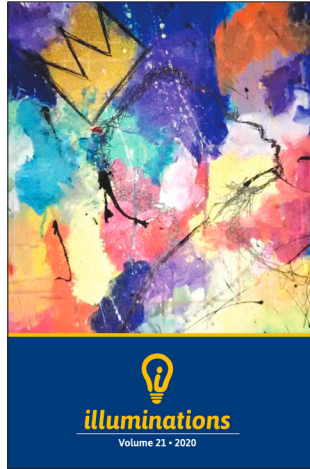
takes as many submissions as possible.

The magazine usually hits around 200 published pages, and students from every SCC campus can submit their work for publication, as well as faculty and staff.

The magazine is put together by staff, faculty and students, who can join the editorial team.

All submissions collected are put into a format for the editorial team to read and rank scores based on a 1-10 scale.

Once ranked and chosen for publication, awards are given to the best student submissions in three categories: po-



etry, prose and art, with cash prizes for the best in each of those categories.

The magazine is published each year in the Spring, and usually features a celebratory launch

party.

The goal of “Illuminations,” according to Zimmer, is to bring light to all of the creativity at Southeast Community College.

Zimmer explained, “You’d be surprised by the submissions we’ve gotten over the years from all different departments.”

To make a submission, visit the “Illuminations” page on the SCC Website under “Literary Magazine” on the “Student Life” tab.

That same page also features an archive of past editions.

## How to See Europe on a College Student’s Budget

By **Avery Kirk**

Do you find yourself dreaming of Italian beaches, German bakeries or the Eiffel Tower on a cool summer night? These places may all seem unreachable due to the substantial costs of traveling abroad, but with my simple tips on how to travel Europe on a college student’s budget, it can become a possibility for anyone.

When I was 18, I moved to Germany to be a nanny for one year. Earning only \$300 a month, I wasn’t able to fund lavish, all-inclusive vacations, but instead, I learned how to get by on my small salary and see as much of Europe as possible.

By learning how to pack lightly to avoid extra baggage fees, how to select which cities to visit and where to stay in those cities, and how to choose low cost transportation, you too can travel Europe on a college student’s budget.

Packing for a trip can be very stressful, especially if you are unsure what or how to pack. If you want to travel to many places in Europe, I recommend investing in a backpack that is durable and built for travel.

Personally, I use a Hynes Eagle 40L backpack which can hold about a week’s worth of clothes, in addition to my laptop, travel size soaps and one pair of shoes.

I recommend packing clothes that are versatile and can easily be worn together. Don’t waste space by packing many different pairs of shoes; instead, pack one pair that is comfortable to walk in, as you will be walking a lot. Having a compact bag will relieve a lot of stress on crowded trains and will allow you to fly without any additional baggage fees.

Now that you’ve packed your bag, let’s choose the destination.

There are many hidden gems in Europe that are far less expensive and sometimes even higher quality than typical tourist cities.

For example, instead of exploring Berlin or Mu-

nich, check out Dresden or Nuremberg, cities that have history and culture just as rich, but may not be as manipulated by the tourism industry.

Additionally, cities in eastern Europe like Prague or Kiev are significantly cheaper than western cities like Paris or Barcelona.

Once you have chosen the city you are going to visit, it’s important to choose accommodation that is suitable for low-budget travelers.

Hostels and AirBnBs are almost always cheaper than hotels.

It can be intimidating searching for the right accommodation, so I rec-

**continued on page 23**

## Review

## Lazzari's Brings New York Pizza to Lincoln

By Caitlyn Schuette

Lazzari's Pizza brings New York-style pizza to the growing city of Lincoln. This local restaurant gives a little taste of what is the large but thin-crust-ed pizza famously known as New York style.

On a casual Saturday evening, my great-grandma and other grandmother demanded I go to their favorite pizza spot on 4701 Old Cheney Road. My grandmothers are currently obsessed with pizza and spend seemingly every Saturday at this little pizza shop, Lazzari's Pizza.

Walking into Lazzari's, the place smelled like fresh lavender with a hint of pizza dough burning in the oven. It was a warm embrace that left a significant first impression.

The staff of Lazzari's Pizza was a great surprise with their friendly and welcoming character. When we first walked into the door, they immediately greeted us with a smile and warm embrace of the restaurant. Considering both of my grandmas come here almost weekly, they recognized my grandmas instantly and are chit-chatted about their weekends.

They were a little slow when bringing out our food, specifically the pizzas, but it was expect-

ed considering staff was limited, and the staff was great at communicating with us when our food was delayed. The workers at Lazzari's are very professional by taking the time escorted us to our table after finishing the order, especially since the restaurant is tiny, and they could just point in the direction of places to sit.

Lazzari's staff is special because they can maintain a professional and cordial attitude while making sure you feel comfortable.

With the welcoming and friendliness of the staff at Lazzari's Pizza, it is no surprise that the overall atmosphere of the restaurant would be any different.

When walking into the restaurant it hits you with this warm embrace and a hint of orange lighting that makes you feel alleviated as soon as you open the door, and having the tables and booths at a perfectly good distance from each other allowed my grandmothers and other customers a sense of privacy and intimacy.

The atmosphere of Lazzari's Pizza sets the stage for what was to follow.

Lazzari's Pizza was hyped up from my family, but the quality and quantity of the food didn't disappoint.



Photos contributed

**The thin and wide New York-style pizza, above, has a home in Lincoln at Lazzari's, at 4701 Old Cheney Road.**

I ordered two slices of New York-style pizza, which was Lazzari's original Spicy Chicken and classic pepperoni. It was no surprise that they were made to order, fresh and flavorful.

The pizza replicated what New York Style Pizza is with the dough being soft and thin, and as I took each bite, I could picture the pizza maker in the back of Lazzari's hand tossing it while powder flowed in every direction.

The slices were thin and wide at the same time, making them easy to fold to eat in half. The slices were at least the size of my head.

I understood why the spicy chicken pizza is so famous because it's delicious and adds a modern take to pizza with a blend

of spices and full of flavor.

They also had a marguerita pizza that had mozzarella, basil and balsamic glaze on the top that reminded me of traditional Italian pizza that I would eat growing up celebrating my Italian roots.

Lazzari's has a wide selection of different pizzas, and they also provide the option of creating your pizza with whatever toppings.

But even with all that, easily, my favorite was the fried dough bites for dessert.

These bites were leftover pizza dough that were covered in cinnamon and sugar, with a side of cream cheese icing to dip in.

**continued on page 19**

*Review***Vincenzo's is a Highlight of the Haymarket****By Coby Leago**

On a nice Thursday afternoon in downtown Lincoln, my girlfriend and I were looking for a place to go eat dinner and stumbled across Vincenzo's.

I had heard that I should go check it out sometime, so we did.

Vincenzo's is an Italian restaurant located in the Lincoln's Haymarket on the bottom level of a three-story building.

As we were walking up the restaurant, I could see people dining on the outside, and the smells were reminiscent of all the deliciousness of Italian foods inside.

The outside is maintained very well considering the building's old age, and the lot and



Photos contributed

**Vincenzo's in Lincoln's Haymarket proves a worthwhile recommendation.**

sidewalk leading up to the front door was very clean and inviting, making the overall impression of the façade upon arrival very

appealing.

Once we were seated, the waitress came right over told us that she would be with us in a just a moment, and that was definitely the case.

The amount of time it took to be served was very impressive, and in fact, it took less than one minute from the time I sat down to when she came over and served me.

Looking around the restaurant from where my table was, Vincenzo's was very authentic.

The walls had pictures of the Italian family that owned the restaurant, and on the wall furthest

from me was a huge painted map of Italy. The map portrayed the entire country and labeled each of the different regions with the cities that resided within them.

The inside also had a low dark lighting to it, something out of the ordinary for most other restaurants. This gave the restaurant more of a slowed down and enjoyable kind of setting.

The first thing was the appetizer. The appetizer was a kind of marinated meatball in a marinara. This was overall not my favorite, but still tasty.

The next course was the side salad and bread. This was very tasty and looked as it should.

I ordered "The Big Vinny," and this entrée consisted of baked lasagna, noodles and baked chicken parmesan. The food smelled and tasted great, and the baked chicken parmesan was the most unique item on the menu.

The overall rating of the food was very great and I look forward to coming back.

Overall, the rating for Vincenzo's was extremely high. I would definitely recommend Vincenzo's to anyone who wants to get out there and try something new.

**Lazzari's, continued****continued from page 18**

I savored this dessert because it was such a sweet treat compared to the salty and spicy pizza.

The food at Lazzari's Pizza is made from scratch daily, and the quality and quantity of food, especially the pizza, is what makes Lazzari's Pizza it's own.

Lazzari's Pizza whole pizzas range is from \$11 - \$22, and this is reason-

able pricing considering the quality and size of the pizza. On Tuesdays, customers can get two pizza slices and a drink for \$5, so I know where I will be going to eat on Tuesdays in the future.

Overall, Lazzari's Pizza gives the citizens of Lincoln an impression of what is New York-style pizza, and this little local restaurant left a serious impression.

Review

# Vung Tau Pho Grill Worth the Visit

By Lena Khalaf

On a recent Saturday, my sister and I tried Vung Tau Pho Grill. The restaurant surprised me because I was nervous to try a new Vietnamese restaurant.

First off, my sister and I pulled open the glass door of the restaurant and we were greeted by a male server who sat us down in the left corner of the door.

While I was sitting, my eyes wondered around, and I noticed how clean the tables and chairs were. I appreciated how clean the furniture was because it tells us a lot about the restaurant and how the servers have great customer service.

Immediately after I noticed my surroundings, the server was ready to take our order. The server was a young Vietnamese man and who politely gave us two menus and asked what we'd like to drink.

The server was very kind and respectful, and throughout our time at Vung Tao, the server always checked up on us to see if we needed refills on our water or if we needed anything else.

Glancing at the menu, I already knew what I wanted; I ordered the pho na nuong, which is grilled chicken and noodle soup.

The soup also comes with onions, mint and



Photos contributed

**Vung Tau Pho Grill, located at 2708 Y in Lincoln, serves up outstanding chicken pho.**

mung bean sprouts with a slice of lime on the side. I also asked for shrimp spring rolls.

Spring rolls come with many different meat alternatives, even tofu and vegetables. My personal favorites spring rolls are shrimp and tofu. The spring rolls come with a delicious peanut sauce.

We also wanted to try their coffee.

Fifteen minutes went by and our food was served.

I ordered a medium size, and the bowl was as huge as a cake. The bowl was made fresh, and I could see the steam of the hot soup.

I put the white, washed

mung bean sprouts in my soup, with some fresh mint leaves, and I also squeezed the lime into the soup and mixed everything around.

The two spring rolls were wrapped perfectly.

As I was eating my food, I realized how different the chicken pho is.

I have tried all the

Vietnamese restaurants in Lincoln, such as Pho Nguyen, Pho 14, Pho Factory and House of Hunan, but I'd never enjoyed the chicken in pho because it was broiled.

But Vung Tao's chicken pho was the best I've had. The chicken was grilled and had the best seasonings.

As for the spring rolls, they were bigger and had more filling inside at other restaurants, but the peanut sauce wasn't very thick.

Anyhow, I was ready to try the coffee.

As I sipped the coffee, I could taste how strong it was.

It tasted like dark roast coffee, and I don't usually like dark roast coffee, but that coffee was perfect.

Vung Tao Pho Grill is now one of my favorite Vietnamese restaurants because of the chicken pho, and it's certainly worth paying a visit.

**illuminations**

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*Review***Red Dragon Inn Serves Up a Good Time****By Trevelian Satterfield**

A group of adventurers are sitting in a tavern, resting their weary bones and having something to drink. There are many other adventurers in The Red Dragon Inn, but none such as the players sitting around the dining room table sharing laughs and drinks over the board game known as The Red Dragon Inn.

The Red Dragon Inn is a board game meant to be played with friends, and there is no deception or hidden objective involved, just the need to out drink your friends, although there is no actual drinking involved with my friends since none of us are old enough to drink.

I have played this game many times with my friends over the last few years, and I greatly enjoy the setting behind it and how long the game can last.

Let me dive right into the length of the game.

It is a shorter experience for board games, often lasting just 45 minutes or little longer. Depending on how the players at the table want to play their cards, the game could be over in fifteen minutes or in two hours.

Red Dragon Inn is supposed to take longer than



some other board games because players can chain effects on each other's turns, and it is supposed to be the story of these seemingly random adventurers looking for a place to drink and relax.

Next is the design of the game, as thematic and fantastical as it is. Red Dragon Inn is all about out-drinking your fellow adventurers, knocking them out or running them out of gold.

One of the characters is Remi, the first mate, a dark elf pirate who keeps a watchful eye of the other adventurers and steps in when a fight breaks out or someone makes a move towards him.

Remi is designed around other players fighting each other so that Remi can step in and tell them to knock it off while placing them under his gaze. While a character is under his gaze, Remi can activate various bonus effects on his cards to help knock other players out of the game.

There are some cards that every character has access to since it would be too unfair otherwise.

For example, every character has an assortment of basic gambling cards, an "I don't think so" card, and a "The Wench thinks you should stop playing with the drinks" card.

The basic gambling cards are a way to get some gold from the other characters, which is good, because if a character runs out of gold, they get kicked out of the tavern for being broke.

The "I don't think so" card is every character's way to shut down a "sometimes" card, but they can only play their "I don't think so" against a "sometimes" card.

"The Wench thinks you should stop playing with the drinks" is every character's way to stop other characters from modifying values on their drinks to either increase the alcohol content, decrease it or split it with another character.

Modifying drinks is one of the easiest ways to knock a player out of the game since there are not very many cards that stop it, but none of the cards that do modify drinks are too powerful, usually only raising or lowering alcohol content by one.

Each character has unique art for their cards that are unique to them, such as Phrenk covering a sly grin on his "I don't think so" card or glowing while he shouts, "I love troll regeneration!"

There are some cards that share the same art, such as the basic gambling cards that every character has and "The Wench thinks you should stop playing with the drinks."

The Wench is a character featured on many cards, as she is the barmaid and waitress at the Red Dragon Inn, so she is often in the background of other cards that do not mention her. The Wench was such a popular character in the card art that she got added to the game as one of the playable characters.

The other side of the aesthetic design for the cards and characters is that some of them are evil.

The ways they are denoted as evil compared to the other characters are that their card border is red, they have more powerful effects, and they come from a seedier tavern where even the Wench is corrupted.

These evil characters have slightly more powerful cards, but these stron-

**continued on page 30**

## Review

# Front Bottoms Album Fine for Fans, But Won't Win Any Converts

By Kartney Green

Coming off of a year long hiatus from touring, New Jersey band The Front Bottoms make their return with “In Sickness & In Flames,” a fitting title for a release this year, released on August 24th through record label Fueled by Ramen.

On this release, duo Brian Sella and Mat Uychich continue to release pop-punk ballads about living an unfulfilling suburban life.

First and foremost, the album's title is sure to catch some eyes in a year like this, which was initially wrought with brushfires in Australia, followed by a pandemic that has upended so many of our lives, and now includes more fires in California and Colorado.

Initially, the title had a much different meaning to the duo.

In an interview with “The Alternative,” Sella, who got married last year, explained where the inspiration had come from.

It started as a play on “in sickness and in health,” the traditional expression in wedding vows, and the duo chose to stay with “in sickness” due to Sella having an emergency operation on



his appendix. “In flames” was coined when a property that the two were close with caught fire.

“Right as we finish the record, the pandemic hits,” Sella explained. “So now, all of these songs have become something totally different.”

As is common with The Front Bottoms, and so much of their emo, pop-punk companions, the real power behind their music comes right away. There are no subtleties in the lyrics, which is a common feature in The Front Bottom's discography, and the opening track, “Everyone Blooms,” makes it apparent.

As stated in one of Sel-

la's Twitch streams, this song is about flowers and people. It's about growing up, which he says both him and Uychich did a lot of in their time away from touring.

This narrative doesn't change going into the second song, “Camouflage.” In fact, the focus of the songwriting remains in self-reflection for most of the album. If the lyrics of a song on this album aren't monologues, then they're about love.

To parrot Pitchfork's Julia Gray, “lyrics are the album's biggest downfall.”

Sometimes it feels like Sella ran out of things to say and chose the best course of action was to

repeat what he wanted to say.

They put a lot of emphasis on statements that don't make a lot of sense, such as in “Jerk,” where the chorus is a repeat of “Yeah, I know that I look like a jerk, like a jerk” four times.

The repetition is seen in other songs, such as “The Truth,” which clings to “You are the truth I choose to bend myself around,” and “Montgomery Forever,” which has a fixation on “Montgomery forever, and ever, and ever.”

These are the worst offenders on the album, but they aren't the sole examples.

Sonically, “In Sickness & In Flames” attempts to blend the acoustic guitar and yelping vocals of their early releases with the ballads found on previous releases.

The instrumentals of this album are the strongest part.

Powerful, driving riffs like the ones found in “Leaf Pile” and the squealing guitars closing the choruses in “Montgomery Forever” have always been a strong suit in The Front Bottom's songwriting.

The Front Bottoms  
continued on page 23

# Joslyn Art Museum is a Sight to be Seen

By Josalynn Podtburg

Joslyn Art Museum is an interactive space where visitors can experience the visual arts of curiosity.

This art museum is located in Omaha near Creighton University, just north of downtown Omaha.

The Joslyn Art Museum was opened in 1931 as the Society of Liberal Arts, and the museum has collected over 11,000 works from cultures and artists.

It is recognized for the collection of the American, Native American, ancient, art of the American West, Asian, European, Latin American, and post-war and contemporary artists and explorers.

Joslyn Art Museum is closed Monday and Tuesday but remains



open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum Shop and Cafe Durham are main locations inside the museum itself, but both are temporarily closed because of the pandemic.

Right outside is the Joslyn Art Museum's Peter Kiewit Foundation Sculpture Garden and Discovery Garden, and it is open year-round from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The museum also

features special temporary exhibitions from other institutions, private collections and other museums.

The current special exhibition is by Tuan Andrew Nguyen, a storyteller who connects with the

narratives of the historical supernatural elements.

Something new to the Joslyn Art Museum is walk up weddings.

This location can be used for a small ceremony that is not only memorable but beautiful.

There are currently free advance reservation tickets that are required for all visitors, but the general admissions is free to everyone during public hours.

Those advance tickets can be reserved at the museum website, [josalyn.org](http://josalyn.org).

## See Europe, continued

continued from page 17

commend always reading through the reviews to ensure you are staying at a place with a quality track record.

Hostelworld.com is one of the best resources for researching youth hostels and finding adequate accommodation. Although you may find yourself sharing a room or apartment with strangers, this can be a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, in addition to saving costs.

Now that you know where you're going and where you're staying, let's pick the means of transportation.

Traveling by bus one

of the cheapest forms of transportation throughout Europe, with tickets starting as low as \$5. The bus lines are very well connected but can take longer.

For a slightly more expensive but faster way to travel between European cities, the train lines are the way to go. There are many vouchers and discount ticket that can help further reduce train ticket prices.

During a global pandemic, it can be difficult not to pine for the travels not being taken; however, when all is safe, I hope you will follow these budgeting tips and go out and see the world.

## Front Bottoms, continued

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did away with the heavy synth of their last release, "Going Grey," and chose to produce this album with Mike Sapone, whose works include big names such as Brand New, Sorority Noise and Taking Back Sunday.

At the end of the day, The Front Bottoms didn't strive to reinvent themselves with their latest release.

They've sat somewhere between genres their

entire existence, finding labels like pop-punk and indie rock.

Lovers of the acoustic power-pop-punk duo will continue to love their music, but "In Sickness & In Flames" likely won't change the minds of those who don't.

In a perfect world, the witty, comical words of a younger Sella shouting over these strong riffs would've made this album a must-listen, but such was not to be.

# New Hires for Fall

## Dr. Noah Weiss

By Kaitlyn Stellingwerf

BEATRICE – Southeast Community College in Beatrice has a new addition to their faculty, Dr. Noah Weiss, the newest math professor on campus.

Dr. Weiss earned his doctorate at Northwestern University in 2015, and following graduation, he taught at the University of Wisconsin at Stout and two other Wisconsin schools.

After deciding that he wanted to be closer to family, he moved to Lincoln to continue his teaching career.

Originally, Dr. Weiss



Dr. Noah Weiss

is from Lincoln, but he also lived in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Wichita, Kan., growing up.

Dr. Weiss found his passion in education while tutoring and work-

ing in the math resource center at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln during his sophomore year of college.

His first indication was while he was working in a physics research lab and realized that it was not sparking joy, so he decided to explore other options which led him to teaching.

Dr. Weiss hopes to make a difference in his students' lives and to help them overcome "math phobia."

He is excited to be given the opportunity to give each student individual attention.

His advice to his stu-

dents is to ask for help and keep up with the work, and most importantly, practice is the best way to achieve success in his math class.

When Dr. Weiss isn't teaching, he can be found playing card games, riding his bike or taking Zumba workout classes. He also enjoys his three bunnies: Thunder, Storm and Lightning.

Dr. Weiss has three younger siblings, two sisters and one brother.

When asked what one thing he wishes he could tell his younger self he said, "Get out there and talk with people."

## Michael Harrison

By Mack Haszard

LINCOLN – Michael Harrison does not simply look at rocks; he holds a master's degree in geology from Ball State

University and is working towards a PHD in geology, both with a focus in micropaleontology from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Harrison recently joined Southeast Community College in August as a geology instructor, teaching Physical Geology 1010.

"I'm super excited to be here!" he exclaimed when asked about his transition to SCC. "I want to make the world a better place and have a better understanding of the world and communicate that to my students"

Part of Harrison's role

includes using a scanning electron microscope to observe items, primarily microfossils, at the sub-millimeter level.

He says having access to this and other tools for research while teaching what he loves is an incredible benefit. His research focuses on studying marine based diatoms, a type of algae with a glass shell, the largest of which are smaller than the tip of a sharp pencil.

A typical day for Harrison includes balancing a full schedule involving prepping for classes, teaching, course development, research and

parenting his two-year-old son.

Hobbies of Harrison's include collecting vinyl records and CD's, playing the guitar and ukulele, scuba diving, watching football, primarily the Nebraska Huskers and the Miami Dolphins and, more recently, playing ice hockey.

A fun fact about Mr. Harrison: When completing research for his master's degree, he spent some time on the island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific where he swam not far from a twelve-foot long bull shark.



Michael Harrison



## Robert Ravndal

By Megan Reuter

LINCOLN – Robert B. Ravndal is originally from Lake City, Fla., and is a new paramedic instructor at the SCC Lincoln campus.

He received his associate's degree from Casper College in Wyoming and is currently working towards getting his bachelor's degree at Bellevue University.

Ravndal teaches an EMT class/lab and a Paramedic class/lab. In his classes, he prepares students for certification.

He said he considers his teaching style as col-

laborative and engaging.

"I like seeing them develop (from) coming into the EMT program and not knowing anything to developing into EMTs," he explained.

Prior to SCC, Ravndal worked as an active paramedic and firefighter. Due to a traumatic event he experienced in the field, he decided he could be most useful as a paramedic instructor to educate others.

When asked what advice he had to give to people in the paramedic field who went through similar traumatic situations, Ravndal stated,



**Robert Ravndal**

"Seek help from qualified providers ... and sooner rather than later."

He continued on to say that if you take care of it

early then you can continue on with your life and continue with your career.

Ravndal described the paramedic field as "constantly evaluating and making adjustments."

When it comes to expectations for his students, Ravndal sets the bar high. He wants his students to be able to respond to emergency situations with all the knowledge they need and to be comfortable doing so.

One of the obstacles his students had to overcome last spring with Covid-19. They had to figure out how to do hands on topics through a computer.

Ravndal considered it "a big learning curve" because instead of being able to an intern alongside a paramedic, students had to simulate the entire internship.

"It's difficult to replicate an emergency scene," he stated.

Ravndal believes the new Health building will be a nice addition for students because it has a lot more technology to incorporate into the classroom and will provide more hands-on situations.

Other than his classes, he enjoys fishing and spending time with his family. Before starting his day, Ravndal likes to relax in the morning by drinking a cup of coffee and going over his lesson plan which he writes all by hand in a notebook.

## Tyler Corey

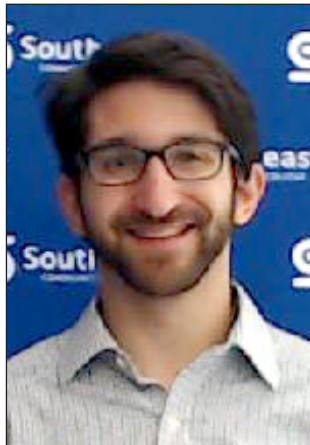
By Hannah Bruna

LINCOLN – Tyler Corey is loving his new job as a General Biology teacher here at SCC.

Corey is from Long Island, N.Y., and is enjoying his time in the Midwest.

In 2014, Corey obtained his bachelor's degree in science with a minor in music from Tufts University. In May of 2020, he received his doctorate in Biological Sciences with an emphasis in ecology evolution and behavior from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

He decided to become a teacher because "I like being in front of people and being a mentor. I love to help people and see others succeed in what they enjoy doing."



**Tyler Corey**

Corey says one of his strengths as a teacher is that "I can't hide my enthusiasm; its infectious. I love getting people excited about projects."

His favorite aspect of teaching is "getting to meet new people because they are funny and interesting."

Corey enjoys "helping students connect with opportunities they enjoy, and I like to help them on their career path. It's rewarding to help people grow, and that's one thing that drew me to SCC."

Students in his lectures average in numbers anywhere between 16-20, and in labs, the most is 14.

When Corey isn't teaching, he likes to spend time with his wife and dog, Topanga; play Dungeon and Dragons; and play music on his bass and electric guitar.

In five years, "I would like to teach more classes at SCC and get more involved," he said.

One of his goals is to teach a class in science communication and do a summer research program.

# Rickords is New Student Success Coach

By Kailyn Bors

LINCOLN – Anna Rickords, although not a new face at SCC, has a new outlook on what it means to mentor students.

From Wyoming, to New Mexico, to Nebraska, she’s helped students’ success sky rocket in educational needs.

Rickords grew up in Green River, Wyo. before moving to Nebraska to attend Concordia College, now known as Concordia

University, in Seward. After graduating college and meeting her husband, they relocated to Albuquerque, N.M., where she taught for 17 years.

After relocating back to Nebraska in 2013, Rickords began working at Lincoln Lutheran as a librarian for the next few years.

Her job at Lincoln Lutheran was part time so she applied for a position at SCC working with Learn to Dream scholarship recipients in 2019 as

a success coach. One year later, in April of 2020, she began working in the TRiO Student Support services as a student success coach.

She loves her career now, and her duties range from processing applications, checking in with students, planning events and hosting them for students and having cultural or educational activities monthly to keep students involved.

Since Rickords was a child, she knew she want-



Anna Rickords

ed to teach. She knew she had a gift in helping students and wanted to use it in the best way to help as many people as she could.

Her biggest goal is to continue to help students in understanding that lifelong learning is important and believing in oneself is important as well.

Being a mentor has changed her life, but she has many mentors as well. She has relied on many colleagues throughout her years of teaching, and now one of her biggest mentors is Sarah Aguirre, the department director for TRiO.

Rickords continues to learn more about students and how to help them daily, but her biggest goal in teaching is to remind students to stay involved.

Her advice to students is to “find a community and group of people that support you, and your success will sky rocket.”

## Career Services Provides Guidance

By Luke Pelton

Career Services at SCC is pretty much what it sounds like, and being knowledgeable about this program will help students be more prepared for their future careers.

Students can contact Heather Waite for help and advice on how to be set for their occupation.

Heather Waite who is the Career Service Specialist states, “Career Services helps provide assistance for preparing for future jobs and assist with resume writing and mock interviews.”

This service is available to all students and alumni no matter how long ago graduation was.

Career Services also helps with internships.

Going to school and

work at the same time can be very challenging, especially for full-time students, so the school assists with intern position that are flexible and match up in a way so that it doesn’t conflict with class schedules.

These professionals also help with job interview training and resume assistance.

Waite explained that it’s good to contact Career Services as soon as possible.

She also stressed the importance of being as prepared as possible life after college.

Waite says SCC offers this kind of help because student success doesn’t end at graduation.

Waite goes on to say, “Any help you can get when looking for a job is

great. We have employers reach out to us about opportunities that can help students make that connection.”

“When you go on a job search, there are multiple candidates looking,” she explained, “so you want to be well prepared to be able to put your best foot forward as far as what you have to offer.”

All a student has to do is ask for help.

To begin, simply call the office, (402) 437-2622.

Additionally, there is a link that students can go to for additional information on the main SCC page. Under “Student Affairs,” there will be a tab that reads “Career Services.”

## Wolf, continued

continued from page 12

classes, which he found that he enjoyed.

Wolf ended up going into graphic design because fine art wasn't what really interested him, and he knew that graphic design wasn't really a traditional career path, but he took the gamble anyway.

He says he likes more strategical design and that graphic design is more analytical than the typical art, but also has a great deal of creativity.

In regards to his strengths, Wolf said they include "Delivering information factually but making the concepts and curriculum interesting."

He explained, "(I like to) get the students excited about what they are learning and doing that in a practical way. I don't believe in knowledge just for the sake of knowledge."

Wolf has been an instructor for almost 15 years now, and he says

that what he enjoys most about the profession is "All day every day, I'm in an environment that encourages curiosity and exploration and learning."

In sum, he says teaching is the coolest job that he has ever had.

Wolf says that he is motivated to do his job because he is moved to give his students an education. He says that when a student enrolls that they are putting a lot of faith in that school and by extension, its faculty; he wants to make sure that they get a quality education.

Wolf's favorite part about graphic design is problem solving, and that's when a client comes to him with a problem and he gets to figure out how to fix it. He says that it can be difficult and challenging, but if it's done right, then everybody is happy.

Outside of his job at the ESQ, Wolf enjoys reading fictional books, creative coding and generative art.

## Beatrice blood drive proves successful

By James Wassinger

BEATRICE - Four times a year, with the cycle beginning in July, Southeast Community College in Beatrice partners with the American Red Cross to host a local blood drive for the students, staff and the community, according to its regularly planned schedule.

At 10:30 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon, on Tuesday, Sept. 15, SCC in Beatrice hosted another local blood drive.

The turnout was successful, with every appointment available having been made, and the original goal of 18 attendees being surpassed by 6, leading to a total of 24 donations on the day.

The drive was hosted with Beatrice campus admission representative Casey Holsing in mind.

Holsing was involved in a serious car accident on Tuesday, August 18, and event organizer Carrie Puhalla stated that she "lost a lot of blood, and without the blood drives, it would have been a struggle for her."

The new guidelines for maintaining extra precautions were implemented with ease as well.

When asked about the new safety requirements amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, Puhalla said, "There's a lot more rubbing alcohol now and wipes; plus, everyone wears masks, and their temperature is taken when they get here."

When also asked about tips for first-time donors, Puhalla recommended they "drink some water, eat a good meal, stay calm and get some sleep the night before."

Students and faculty were notified of the event with posters around the school that contained scannable bar codes that led them to the sign-up website.

Potential donors are also able to visit RedCross.org, click on the tab titled "Donate Blood" then select "Find a Blood Drive," located under the heading "How to Donate" and entering their zip code.

Puhalla said a total of approximately four people plus roughly a day of planning are needed to set this event in motion.

To donate, visit the RedCross.org website to view more locations and schedule appointment times.

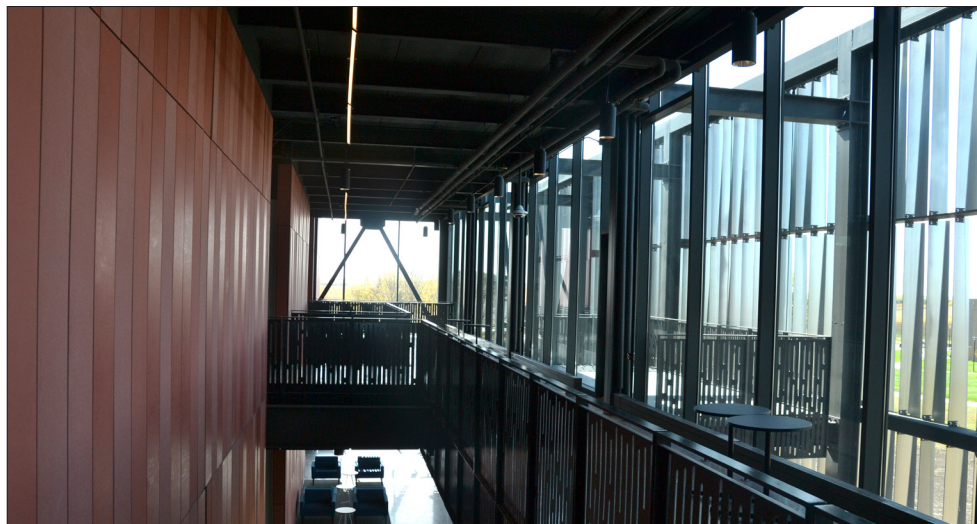
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# Academic Excellence Center Adds to Campus Transformation



Photos by Joshua Whitney

**The Beatrice campus continues its transformation with the opening of the new Academic Excellence Center, which will house the Nursing, Academic Transfer and Business programs. Top left is an open interior space on the western side of the building, below are two separate lab classrooms for science classes, and at bottom is a lactation room.**





Top right is a view from the top floor towards Jackson Hall, which once housed the Nursing, Business and Mass Media programs and will soon be razed. The new classroom building adds to the other two new buildings on campus, the dining hall, below and bottom right, and Homestead Hall, at right.



## Getting Political at SCC

By Avery Kirk

LINCOLN—An election year is a very important year for most Americans and even more so for the Young Democrats and College Republicans clubs at SCC.

Belle Kendell is in her third year at SCC studying human services. In 2018, she was approached by her friend, Alex Stevens, who asked her to help spearhead the two political clubs at SCC and act as leader of the Young Democrats.

Led by Kendell, the Young Democrats focus on discussing relevant political topics, fund-raising for the veteran's organization and raising awareness for each political party.

"The biggest importance for me is getting information and making sure that the sources we are finding that information on are credible," Kendell explained.

"There is political bias on any media platform," she explained, "and so trying to find the truth of the matter using our critical thinking skills is easier to do when there are multiple eyes on a certain subject."

The Young Democrats work alongside the college Republicans. The groups get together to debate topics and (before Covid-19), often ran

events as a unit.

The clubs have had to make some changes this year due to new restrictions due to the pandemic.

"The biggest (precaution) is moving our meetings on Zoom," Kenall said. "For our events, we've had to consider that people can't man tables. It's too big of a risk at the moment."

"So we have to figure out, how do we give little trinkets out to say 'hey (our club) exists' without it becoming a risk during a pandemic?" Kendell shared.

The Young Democrats club is currently comprised of three members who are in various areas of study at SCC.

The leadership of the College Republicans and the Young Democrats hope that those who are interested in joining the club will feel welcome and comfortable attending a meeting.

"To those who are considering joining, I say, 'please do,'" she offered, "not only for numbers purposes, but it's a networking opportunity, it's a leadership skill opportunity, and it's a resume builder."

"There are more benefits to joining any club on the SCC campus than you could even imagine," Kendell said.

## Red Dragon Inn, continued

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ger cards have drawbacks.

One of the evil characters is the Lich King, a powerful magician and undying king, but he has less health than other characters on account of him already being dead and having the ability to deny any card or effect he wants up to five times a game.

Another evil character is Baron von Vlazlo, a vampire who heals from the damage he deals to other characters, but he deals less damage overall.

Now all these cards and ideas may seem confusing, but they really are not. The cards do exactly what they say they do and even include when they cannot be used.

Every character has a character mat that tracks their health and how drunk they are, but it also has a list of what players can do on their turn and in what order they do it.

In all the times I have played the game, there was only one time where my friends and I had to

spend some time looking through the rules to find how something played out, but there was no official ruling in the instructions, so we made up the rule for what happens in that scenario.

Physically, the game is sturdy, since the cards are made of multiple layers of card stock, and the larger cards and tokens are made of much thicker material.

There have been cases where me or my friends have accidentally spilled a drink on the table or dropped a card onto a slice of pizza, but with quick reactions, the cards can be dried before they sustain too much damage or can be wiped off with a paper towel before anything stains the cards.

Overall, The Red Dragon Inn is a well-designed game with some minor adult themes of drinking and gambling, but it also gives a lot of unique character choices that feel strong in their own respective ways. It's certainly worth a try.

**illuminations**

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## Entrepreneurship Center Serves Budding Businesses

By Kailyn Bors

The Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center has been active for fourteen years in our community.

The goal of the center is to provide office space, specific training and guidance to those interested in pursuing their own business.

Director Steve Bors explains that the center offers many tools to help new business owners get started such as coaching services including the Gallup Strengthsfinder Assessments and workshops in accounting and marketing and Quickbooks to round out skills that may need to be improved on.

In addition, office space is also available for businesses that may need it.

The Entrepreneurship Center also provides a weekly event called “Perk Up Thursday Coffee” every week at 10 a.m.

This allows people to access real world experience from successful business owners each week, giving advice on the do’s and don’ts of entrepreneurship.

Currently, because of the pandemic, the Perk Up Thursday event is available via Zoom.

Bors’ biggest advice to new entrepreneurs is to “make sure the product or service they are selling is actually wanted by people. Do research up front before spending any

money.”

The center provides a coaching service called Business Model Canvas, a one-page tool where business owners can map out business ideas.

Bors says the Business Model Canvas is a great tool for vetting new ideas about multiple businesses someone may want to pursue.

The center also provides office spaces called Focus Suites, which are 20 office spaces available for rent that come with high speed internet and all-hours access to the office.

The coaches at the center also encourage business owners to collaborate on new ideas, learn from each other’s mistakes and provide social opportunities such as lunches or happy hour events to provide and gain support from other entrepreneurs.

A recent business that Bors called “extremely successful” which started in the center is called A Bridge to Better Living.

The business was started by Mary Ann Stallings, who retired from LPS and started a business to provide senior citizens with an insight on which retirement homes to live in. The business takes senior citizens on tours and helps them decide which care facility is best for them.

The service costs the seniors no money, and the company gets referral

## PBL Encourages Competition

By Hannah Bruna

BEATRICE—Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is an organization for students that have taken a business class or are interested in a business career.

Vicki Wooton is the current advisor of the chapter, and she has been the advisor for three years. The organization has six members.

The 2020-2021 officers are Hannah Bruna, president; Hunter Lierz, vice-president; Gabi Hirschler, secretary; and Samantha Adams, treasurer.

Wooton stated, “I’m excited for this year’s officers and to see where PBL takes us.”

Even though members of the PBL organization are usually students interested in a business career, anyone can join.

Wooton stated, “I am willing to take any students to build our membership back up like it used to be.”

The organization has had three meetings so far this year. Two meetings were held to build the membership and encourage student interest. The third meeting was held to vote on officer positions.

“The goal is to hold one meeting per month, and if something urgent arises, the officers will have an additional meeting to discuss the issue,” Wooton explained.

The National Leadership Conference (NLC) for Phi Beta Lambda will be held in Anaheim, Calif., this year, but due to COVID, Wooton said it will likely be held virtually, as it was last spring.

“This year’s membership theme for PBL is Aspire,” Wooton said. “PBL encourages all students to compete, meet others and achieve their career goals.”

fees from the care facilities. The company is now selling franchises all over the country.

Anyone interested in learning more about what the Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center offers can

access more information via the SCC Website, the Entrepreneurship Center Facebook page, or the center’s YouTube channel, “SCC Entrepreneurship Center.”

# Truck Drivers Training Program Has New Home

By Terry Wolf

MILFORD - For the past 39 years, SCC's Truck Drivers Training Program has been located at SCC's main campus at 8800 O St. in Lincoln.

According to Program Director Michael Kuebler, the program started in 1981 in the Airpark community of Lincoln; shortly after that, it moved to 8800 O Street, and now, it has moved to the Milford campus.

The decision to move was based on school officials' plans to do some more building and expansion on the Lincoln campus, and the backing concourse and perimeter road took up a lot of room.

Kuebler added that the Milford Campus has some benefits that Lincoln doesn't.

For example, being in a smaller rural setting reduces the stress for a student's first drive out. And for a new driver, Kuebler explained, it can

be a bit nerve-racking trying to access O Street traffic the first time.

Kuebler states, "Here (at Milford), we are still close enough to Lincoln, York and Seward that we have quick and easy access to city driving still."

Another advantage Milford has over Lincoln is the Diesel Technology program is located in Milford, making repairs to the tractors and trailers in house, which helps keep cost down and gives students real-life maintenance issues to identify and fix.

The same staff will be doing the instructing at Milford that was at Lincoln.

Classes run eight weeks, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., with an early out on Friday.

Class size varies from the current class of four students up to twenty-four students. Students learn to drive on twelve different tractors ranging in age from 1991 to 2019.

Tractors have various transmissions, including nine-speed, ten-speed, super ten, thirteen-speed and automatics. Trailers are all dry vans ranging from 48 to 53 feet long.

The program begins in the classroom, where students learn about the equipment.

Then, one of the two full-time instructors or four adjunct instructors gives the students a demonstration drive showing them how to drive correctly.

The students begin driving just a few days into the program.

First, they start on a quiet country highway,

progressing to in-town driving, interstate driving, and finally, bigger city driving.

Also included in the eight-week course, students practice six different backing exercises on a large concrete lot.

The two full-time instructors are third-party examiners for the State of Nebraska, enabling students to take the CDL tests onsite at the end of the course.

Kuebler started at SCC in the Professional Truck Driver Training Program in 2009 and became the program director shortly after that.

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