Ag Site renovation project

Criminal justice program added for fall

Osceola and Red Oak Centers increase outreach in SWCC's region
IT has been another great year at Southwestern! We have once again had the opportunity to work with a number of very talented students. A few student success highlights of the past year are shared in the pages of this edition of the Southwestern Magazine. We have also included articles on new programs and building projects, along with other exciting news. While we couldn’t include all of our success stories here, it is our hope that the magazine gives you a sense of the progress that is being made.

Two employees with more than 40 years of service retired from the college this year. Mary Jo Skarda retired from her position as administrative assistant to the president and board secretary. Dale Barnett retired from his position as electrical maintenance supervisor. Both of these individuals made a huge impact on Southwestern and they will be missed. You will find information about their time with Southwestern in the pages of the magazine. We wish them the very best during their well-deserved retirements!

Included on this page are a few data points that will give you a snapshot of the college today. This information was taken from The Annual Condition of Iowa’s Community Colleges, 2018 edition, prepared by the Iowa Department of Education Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation. The data is from fiscal year 2018 (academic year 2017-18). In addition, I am pleased to report a survey of 2017 graduates indicated 97 percent of career and technical education program graduates who were seeking employment were employed, with 80 percent of these individuals working in Iowa. Also noted in the survey, students graduating with Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees transferred to 35 different colleges and universities across the United States.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Southwestern Magazine. We value our ongoing relationship with you and look forward to more great things to come from our partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara J. Crittenden
Southwestern Community College President

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2,103
Students enrolled in credit courses during the 2017-18 academic year (FY2018 MIS data)

5,346
Individuals served in non-credit/continuing education programs (FY2018 MIS data)

280
Students living in on-campus housing

Full-time 137  Part-time 111
Employees (as of Nov. 1, 2018)

Fiscal Year 2018 General Operating Fund Revenue by Source

- Tuition & Fees: 47%
- State: 36%
- Federal & Other Sources: 12%
- Local: 5%

FY2018 Student Profile (MIS data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 &amp; Under</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27-30</td>
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<td>31-39</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-55</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 55</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment Status

- Full-Time: 87.8%
- Part-Time: 12.2%

Residency

- Iowa: 87.8%
- International: 1.2%
- Out-of-State: 11%

Gender

- Male: 59.4%
- Female: 40.6%
Cover Story

SWCC Ag Site renovation project
by Terri Higgins

Features

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   by Terri Higgins

6 Criminal justice AAS coming to Southwestern!
   by Cait Maitlen

6 SWCC at National SkillsUSA
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7 New heights, new digs for Spartan athletics
   by Scott Vicker

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12 Centers reach out in Area XIV
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13 40 years of service to Southwestern
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   by Nicki Carr, SWCC Graduate

18 Nursing student featured on statewide STEM poster
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18 Southwestern grad receives prestigious DAISY Award
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14 Alumni Updates

20 2019 Retirees

On the Cover

An architectural rendering of the Ag Site renovation project looking southwest back toward campus. See more online at www.swcciowa.edu/ag-expansion.
Six students from Southwestern Community College’s professional music program were honored as student music award winners in the June 2019 issue of DownBeat Magazine.

This is the 42nd year DownBeat has presented their annual Student Music Awards (SMAs). The musicians honored in this magazine are touted as “some of the finest young musicians on the planet.” Former SMA competitors mentioned include Norah Jones, Brad Mehldau, Chris Potter, and Kendrick Scott.

2019 SMA recipients from Southwestern’s School for Music Vocations included:

**Vocal Jazz Soloist - Community College Winner**
Amanda Ross of Santa Cruz, California

**Vocal Jazz Soloist - Community College Outstanding Performance**
Annie Kemble of Panora

**Small Vocal Jazz Group - Community College Outstanding Performance**
First Take
Directed by Dr. Jeremy Fox

* Outstanding Soloist: Charisma Carson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on “Summertime”

DownBeat Magazine is distributed to subscribers around the world. According to its website, DownBeat is an American magazine devoted to “jazz, blues and beyond.” The “beyond” helps indicate the publication’s expansion beyond the jazz realm, which it covered exclusively during previous years. DownBeat was established in 1934 in Chicago, Illinois.

(Pictured L to R): Southwestern Community College professional music students Milton Padilla, Kasey Domer, Annie Kemble, Charisma Carson, Lawson Roof, and Amanda Ross.
### SWCC 2018-19 awards and honors

| #2 | Ranked #2 in The Top 10 Community Colleges in Iowa on schools.com |
| #2 | SWCC’s RN program is ranked #2 of 29 programs in Iowa by nursingexplorer.com |
| #8 | Ranked #8 in the 10 Best Online Colleges in Iowa by valuecolleges.com |
| #3 | SWCC’s LPN program is ranked #3 of 29 programs in Iowa by nursingexplorer.com |

**#2**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOWNBEAT</th>
<th>PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home of the three 2019 Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award (SMA) winners (details on page 4).</td>
<td>One of nine Phi Theta Kappa chapters in Iowa to receive Five Star Chapter awards for 2018-19.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>WORLD OF WHEELS</th>
<th>3RD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third place finish in Summit Racing Pedal Car Challenge at World of Wheels Car Show in Omaha in March 2019. SWCC auto collision repair/refinish, automotive repair technology, electrical technology, and welding technology students competed in the challenge.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>SkillsUSA</th>
<th>10</th>
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One of 19 concurrent enrollment programs in the nation to receive reaccreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) Accreditation Commission in 2019.

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www.swcciowa.edu
Criminal Justice AAS coming to Southwestern!

By Cait Maitlen, Director of Admissions/Executive Director of the Education Foundation

August 28 will mark the first day of the fall 2019 semester for Southwestern Community College, as well as for students entering into the NEW criminal justice Associate of Applied Science degree program. This degree option will implement hands-on learning opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in criminal justice. Upon completion of this program, students will have the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment in the areas of law enforcement, courts, and/or corrections. The college will continue to offer the Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice for students interested in transferring to four-year colleges or universities.

As of June 11, the college’s board of trustees approved the hire of Diogenes Ayala as criminal justice instructor. Ayala graduated with both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in criminal justice from Simpson College in Indianola. Beyond his extensive educational background in the industry, Ayala has several work experiences relevant to course and program content that will set him up to lead an extremely successful program.

Ayala recently spoke about his goals and expectations for this new venture. His excitement to get this program started is off the charts. Ayala stated the addition of an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice is a great addition for Southwestern and southwest Iowa alike. He mentioned students who complete two-year degrees at SWCC and look to go straight into the industry will have the certification with lots of opportunities for students interested in pursuing program.

[Article continued on page 16]

Diogenes Ayala, criminal justice instructor.

SWCC at National SkillsUSA

By Scott Vicker, Marketing and Institutional Advancement Specialist

Ten Southwestern students qualified for the 2019 National SkillsUSA Championships by placing first at the Iowa SkillsUSA competition in April.


“It was a very difficult competition. They had last-minute blueprint changes they had to deal with and overcome,” said Micah Elefson, SWCC welding instructor.

The assigned project during competition was a shoe donation box for a charity organization called Water Step, which uses shoes to raise funds to build water filtration systems for emergency disaster relief in third-world countries.

“At that level, it’s a 1,000-point competition, but it can come down to 10 points or less separating places,” Elefson said.

Cory Marquardt of Creston finished fourth in the electrical construction wiring (post-secondary division) after winning the national championship in the secondary division of the competition last year.

Lane Craven of Gilman took fifth place in collision repair technology (post-secondary division), while Riley Smith (Osceola) took eighth place in the secondary division.

Makayla Flora of Adel finished seventh in the welding sculpture competition and also received an invitation to display her project at Lincoln Electric Training Center in Ohio.

During the SkillsUSA Championships, more than 6,200 contestants competed in 100 events. According to its website, SkillsUSA is a multi-million-dollar event that occupies a space equivalent to 20 football fields.

“For our students, they represented Southwestern very well in the competitions they were present in,” Elefson said. “They all have pretty good futures ahead of them. There were some major companies trying to hire them on the spot. It shows the level of training and intelligence they have.”
New heights, new digs for Spartan athletics

By Scott Vicker, Marketing and Institutional Advancement Specialist

Southwestern’s athletic programs made a splash during the 2018-19 academic year with numerous national qualifiers, the rebirth of the softball program, and new facility upgrades.

The Spartan men’s cross country team kicked off the year by qualifying for the NJCAA National Championships in Garden City, Kansas, where it posted the program’s best finish since the 2009 season.

As a team, Southwestern finished 24th, improving by four places from the 2017 season. This was the best finish for the program since a 22nd-place finish in 2009 and the fourth-best finish ever by a Southwestern team.

Freshman Cedrick Watson led the team individually by finishing 104th. Other team members included Shane Breheny, Colin Shreve, Skyler Rawlings, Joshua Carstens, Eric Portis, and Phillip Selmer.

Along with chilly and unpredictable weather, the spring sports seasons brought a flurry of national qualifiers for Spartan athletics.

In women’s golf, sophomore Bianca Findlay of Australia claimed the Region XI Championship and took home the ICCAC’s conference player of the year honor. By winning the Region XI Championship, Findlay earned her second straight appearance at the NJCAA Women’s Golf National Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida.

After the first round of competition was canceled because of weather, Findlay posted a 54-hole score of 266 to finish in a tie for 45th place.

The Spartan sports shooting team at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas.

New Zealand broke the school’s 18-hole scoring record with a round of 68 on his way to winning the Wartburg Spring Invite in Waverly.

In May, the Spartan men finished third at the Region XI Championships in Ames to earn a qualifying spot to the NJCAA Men’s Golf National Championship in Plymouth, Indiana. Saunderson and sophomore Oliver Pearson led the Spartans by tying for seventh place at the regional competition.

Other members of the national-qualifying team were Kyle Somers, Shaun Richards, and Jesper Holke-Farnam.

At nationals, the Spartan men finished 15th with a four-day team total of 1,272. The Spartans were led by Holke-Farnam, who finished tied for 68th.

“We reached new heights we’ve never seen before. It was a big step in the right direction,” Southwestern Head Golf Coach Doug North said.

Another highlight of the spring season was the resurgence of the Southwestern softball program.

After enduring a one-year hiatus in 2018, Head Softball Coach Nick Weinmeister, in his first year at the helm, resurrected the program and led the Spartans to a 15-41 record overall and 10-18 in ICCAC Division II play.

The Spartan softball team played near .500 during the final month of the season and also picked up a win over nationally ranked Iowa Central. Southwestern finished fifth in ICCAC Division II behind four nationally ranked teams, building a foundation for future success with Weinmeister’s young team that featured nine freshmen.

Southwestern’s sports shooting team finished seventh in Division 4 at the ACUI Clay Target National Championships in San Antonio in late March.

Eight shooters competed for the Spartans, highlighted by Courtney Nielsen’s 11th-place finish in the women’s open class in American trap. Nielsen finished with a score of 96 out of 100, hitting the last 77 birds in a row during the competition.

The Southwestern track and field program qualified nine events to the NJCAA Outdoor Championships.

On the women’s side, Elenani Tinai and Remie Haynes both qualified in the heptathlon, while Tinai also qualified in the long jump.

Tinai broke five school records at nationals on her way to an All-American performance in the heptathlon. She broke the school record in the long jump competition, and then broke school records in the javelin, 100 meter hurdles, and 200 meter dash during the heptathlon, while also breaking the school heptathlon scoring record.

Tinai finished fifth, with 4,279 points, in the heptathlon. She becomes the first women’s track and field athlete to earn All-American honors.

For the Spartan men, Benjamin Aliel qualified in the 400 meters, Alex Vandor in the 800 meters, Selmer in the 1,500 meters and Breheny in the...
This spring, the Southwestern Community College board of trustees approved an expansion project at the Southwestern Community College agricultural site. The project is estimated at $1.8 million and construction will begin this summer.

The project includes the following additions to the main facility at the SWCC Ag Site:

- One 45-person classroom (1,000 square feet)
- One 24-person lab-style room (1,000 square feet)
- One 24-person classroom (750 square feet)
- Student lounge
- Mud room
- Two faculty offices

The original agricultural facility, constructed during the 2000-01 academic year at the SWCC Ag Site, was a 60-foot by 125-foot metal building housing classrooms, a laboratory, an office, and an equipment storage area. Prior to construction of the new facility, the college had offered agricultural business and ag transfer programs. Enrollment was at 12 to 15 students. Since then, ag enrollment has continued to grow and additional programs have been added.

Lindsay Stoaks, assistant vice president of instruction, told the SWCC board in March the ag department had a record-breaking 66 students enrolled during the 2018-19 academic year. During the past five years, Stoaks said enrollment has been at approximately 55 students each year. She continued by saying there are 187 prospective students for the 2019-20 academic year.

“Due to an increase in the number of students enrolling in SWCC’s ag programs, we have outgrown our current facility,” Stoaks explained to the board.

Stoaks said during planning for the expansion, overall needs of the ag department and the safety of students were also considered.

“With this expansion, we were able to plan for the two larger classrooms to be concrete-reinforced structures, therefore the areas will double as storm shelters,” stated Stoaks.

“Students with ag majors spend the majority of their time in this facility and their safety is of upmost importance.”

Stoaks said the project will also double the size of the existing parking lot and tie the SWCC Ag Site to the college’s existing septic system. In addition to the main classroom building, the SWCC Ag Site includes a 215-acre farm complete with three other outbuildings providing space for working livestock indoors, washing and fitting livestock, storing machinery, and protecting

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**Agricultural Program Enrollment 2008-2018**

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
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<td>2017-18</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
livestock from harsh weather conditions; livestock pens; pasture with rotational grazing capabilities; row crop ground; and hay ground.

Susannah Miller, lead ag instructor, said she is excited about the addition of more space. “Expanding the agriculture site at Southwestern will create new agriculture science hands-on learning spaces, initiate additional course offerings, and build an area where our students can learn about today's agriculture technology,” Miller explained.

Agricultural programs were first offered at Southwestern in 1998. Agricultural business first appeared in the 1998-2000 college catalog as a career option program. Courses offered in the ag department included animal science, microcomputer application in agriculture, agribusiness management, commodities, crop production, agricultural finance, agricultural sales, forage crop management, beef production, sustainable agriculture, livestock and meat evaluation, and internship.

The ag department currently offers four agriculture-related programs: agricultural business, Associate of Applied Science Degree; crop production, Associate of Applied Science degree; livestock production, Associate of Applied Science degree; and ag transfer, Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree meant for transfer to a four-year college or university. In addition, SWCC’s agricultural business degree is available online.

Trends such as an aging workforce, fewer young people from agricultural backgrounds, and overall urbanization have led to a shortage of agricultural talent. According to the Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers, 418,777 Iowans are directly and indirectly employed by production agriculture and related industries and the agricultural industry accounts for 21.5 percent of the state’s workforce.

“Overall, we are very excited about the future of the ag program,” explained Stoaks. “With an optimistic agricultural employment outlook and the strength of our ag faculty, including lead instructor Susannah Miller, this is a program we believe we can continue to grow.”

In conjunction with the ag expansion project, the ag department will be unveiling a sprayer simulator to utilize in the classroom. The instructional department has earmarked $35,000 for this purchase and according to Miller it will be an invaluable tool for teaching and learning.

For additional information, related to the expansion of the ag facility at Southwestern, as well as a simulated video tour of the proposed facility, please visit www.swcciowa.edu/ag-expansion.

Science lab renovation underway as well
Renovation of the science labs, located in the college’s Instructional Center, is underway and slated for completion prior to the spring 2019 semester. Tom Lesan, SWCC vice president of economic development, spoke to the board regarding the science lab renovation project during the March 2019 regular board meeting.

The total cost of the science lab renovation project is approximately $1.2 million. Lesan said the current science labs are essentially the same as they were when the Instructional Center was constructed in the early 1970s. Renovation will include updates to four science labs; new instructional technology and teaching stations; motion controlled lighting with dimming capabilities; student collaboration area; seven renovated offices; two laboratory preparation rooms; chemical storage area; enclosed corridor in courtyard area; plant growing area; flexible student learning stations; and new gas and water lines.

During renovation, a mobile lab will be utilized for a portion of the science courses while other courses have been moved to classrooms in Technical Center I and elsewhere on campus.
Thank You!

To our Education Foundation donors for 2018-19

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Josh Abel
Melinda Abell
Sue Adams
Adams Street Espresso
Ben & Nicole Adamson
AgriVision Equipment
Akin Building Centers
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Casey’s Corporation
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Ruth Clinton
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Akin Building Centers
American Home Design
American State Bank
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Larry & Bonnie Bailey
Roger Baker
Larry Bakerink
Kaeleigh Ballentine
Cynthia Bangston
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Sharon Bennett
Laurie Besco
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Dr. Tony & Peggy Cass
David & Ann Driskell
Greg Driskell
Mark & Kelly Duben
Tom & Charlene Dunphy
Edward Jones
Edward T. Harvey, Attorney
at Law
Jo Ehm
Robert & Sharon Eklund
Micah Eleson
EMC Insurance
Avis Evans
Family Vision Center
Fareway Store Inc.
Elaine & O.J. Fargo
Fastenal Company
Feldhacker Contracting
First National Bank
Dennis Fisher

Southwestern Magazine
Scholarship recipients for the 2018-19 academic year

- Colton Abell
- Blake Alden
- Casey Allen
- Aaron Allsup
- Jessica Anderson
- Aaron Armstrong
- Troy Arnold
- Autumn Ashby
- Hallee Ashby
- Alyssa Audlehelm
- Jasmine Aviles
- Martin Basaldua
- Cassidy Becker
- Katelyn Belding
- Royce Bernard
- Cody Birt
- Jaden Bohn
- Jesse Bohn
- Devin Bowen
- Shane Breheny
- Brooke Caltrider
- Brolin Carruthers
- Josie Carter
- Cerah Clark
- Ethan Coleman
- Quincy Collier
- Cassity Conley
- Patrick Coughlin
- Olivia Cramer
- Garrett Dahl
- Hannah Darland
- Corissa Davenport
- Hannah Davis
- Shayna Davis
- Jamie Dean
- Rebecca Decker
- Luis Diaz
- Kanyon Dulin
- Andrea Echeverria
- Emily Eggert
- Jessica Elliott
- Ali Enright
- Keaton Eslinger
- Noah Fargo
- Makinna Fitzgerald
- Alexia Francis
- Taylor Frederickson
- Jocelyn Frost
- Kennady Fry
- Payton Gentry
- Sophia Groumouitis
- Patrick Groves
- Chloé Hagle
- Rachel Hamilton
- Zadie Hatfield
- Jasmine Hernandez
- Joanthony Hernandez
- Cole Higgins
- Gabrielle Hogue
- Jesper Holke-Farnam
- Mykenna Hribal
- Sean Hucker
- Jentri Hullinger
- Mia Hutchinson
- Evan Jacobson
- Schyler Johnson
- Josie Jones
- Trevor Jones
- Kelsi Kautz
- Sean Kelly
- Ike Kibet
- Madison Konrad
- Tina Lair-Van Meter
- Anna Larson
- Kiersten Latham
- Michael Lauer
- Zoie Lecy
- Kayla Lewis
- Makenna Lilly
- Paul Lorenz III
- Alexa Losee
- Kirston Lynam
- Cayla Maitlen
- Cory Marquardt
- Travis Mascher
- Kylie McBride
- Dylan McDonald
- Camden McFadden
- Makayla McMann
- Samuel McMillin
- Dustin Merritt
- Cameron Millsagle
- Chase Miner
- Logan Mitchell
- Emily Mitchell
- Rylee Mitchell
- Kuniaki Mori
- Bret Myers
- Brody Neas
- Christina Newcomb
- Courtney Nielsen
- Jonna Palmer
- Kaylee Parmer
- Kevin Parrott
- Oliver Pearson
- Kylie Peddycoart
- Kolten Phelps
- Hannah Pollard
- Haley Pollard
- Margaret Pugh
- Morgan Pulliam
- Keyla Quintanilla
- Sarah Rauschberg
- Skyler Rawlings
- Luke Richardson
- Byron Rivera
- Emma Roan
- Tyllar Roesener
- Vanessa Romo
- Perla Rosales Avila
- Amanda Ross
- Ella Rutherford
- Hannah Ryan
- Fabian Salinas
- Briceda Sandoval
- Munoz
- Aaron Schmitz
- Jonathan Seals
- Quentin Randy Sefrit
- Jared Sekera
- Colin Shreve
- Evan Skelton
- Mackenna Skroh
- MacKenzie Slykhuis
- Levi Snyder
- Fnu Sokem
- Brian Soto
- Pantera Stowers
- Michael Stults
- Harold Sundy
- Cole Swenson
- Tonya Thatcher
- Jennifer Thomason
- Hannah Thompson
- Kessler Tomas
- Leslie Torres
- Rachel Vanderflught
- Jodie Vanhouten
- Jerry Velez
- Jan Von Kessel
- Cody Wagner
- Halee Wallace
- Chance Webster
- Shelbie West
- Ronald Wigginton
- Isaac Wignall
- Leevi Wilson
- Christina Wilson
- Shelby Wolters

New Scholarships

By Cait Maitlen, Director of Admissions/Executive Director of the Education Foundation

The Southwestern Community College Education Foundation is dedicated to providing services and assistance to students, faculty and staff, alumni, and the community. Hard work and generosity from donors assists in ensuring the success of the foundation and the advancement of Southwestern Community College.

The Education Foundation provides financial support and services to the students at Southwestern Community College to ensure their academic success through financial assistance. The foundation continues to grow on an annual basis due in large part to the financial assistance provided by its donors.

Within the 2018-19 academic year, the foundation has established two new scholarships and an endowment:

- Allen Rager Business Scholarship, a scholarship for students majoring in business with a 3.0 GPA or less.
- Ron ‘Fox’ Clinton Memorial Endowment, awarded to a student athlete each year with preference given to a softball, women's basketball, men's basketball, or volleyball player.
- Freml Family Scholarship, a scholarship that is designated for students entering into the nursing program.

With the rising costs of a college education, the SWCC Education Foundation plays a vital role in assisting to keep college education costs at Southwestern affordable for students. During the fall of 2018, 17.5 percent of the college’s student body received scholarship funding from the Education Foundation. This is a half percent decrease from the fall of 2017.

In an effort to keep increasing the percentage of students who receive scholarships, the foundation continues to utilize the “iGive2SWCC” annual scholarship campaign that began in 2010. Individuals can donate to this campaign anytime during the year (see card insert in magazine).

Each year, the Education Foundation receives more applications for scholarships than it can fund. Unitizing donations of all sizes, the iGive2SWCC campaign aligns donations to positively impact the highest number of students possible.

There is no gift too big or too small! Every donation matters, so please consider a gift to Southwestern’s Education Foundation today!

www.swcciowa.edu
Centers reach out in Area XIV

By Scott Vicker, Marketing and Institutional Advancement Specialist

Southwestern Community College stretches its reach to the farthest corners of its territory with its centers in Osceola and Red Oak.

Southwestern’s territory stretches 116 miles east to west across a swath of land along the Highway 34 corridor and 64 miles north to south along Highway 25. With the main campus in Creston located squarely in the middle of the region, the centers in Osceola and Red Oak provide access to Southwestern’s services to an even greater percentage of the region’s residents.

Creston Community College became Southwestern Community College on July 1, 1966, with Southwestern serving Area XIV, which includes eight primary counties – Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Montgomery, Ringgold, Taylor and Union, as well as portions of Madison, Lucas, Page, Pottawattamie, and Wayne counties.

Red Oak Center
The Red Oak Center opened in 1985 to “better serve the western part of the district.”

Originally housed in a rented facility in downtown Red Oak, the Red Oak Center eventually moved into its current location when the college purchased a building at 2300 N. 4th St. in Red Oak.

Southwestern offers college credit courses in the areas of accounting, business administration, registered nursing and Associate of Arts/college transfer; adult and continuing education classes; and customized training for local businesses and industries at the Red Oak Center.

The Southwest Iowa STEM Region Hub is also housed at this location.

Kattie Lewis, Red Oak Center coordinator, said staff and location are the biggest draws for the center.

“Students express how grateful they are to have staff that care how they are doing in their classes and personally,” Lewis said. “Location is important because many students cannot afford to drive to Creston or Council Bluffs.”

About 100-120 students enroll at the Red Oak Center over the course of a year. Lewis estimated about 15-25 students take face-to-face and online classes through Red Oak, with another 10-15 HiSET students throughout the year. The center sees about 75-80 high school students taking face-to-face or online classes through dual-credit enrollment.

Having a center in Red Oak has been beneficial for both Southwestern and the community of Red Oak.

“The CNA [Certified Nursing Assistant] lab on site allows for more adult and continuing education classes, thus employing more CNAs in the area; which in turn helps create more enrollment from students interested in pursuing a formal nursing education at SWCC,” Lewis said.

Lewis has implemented activities to help students feel connected. She has also seen interest grow in online classes because many students are working full-time while obtaining their education.

Osceola Center
Southwestern opened its Osceola Center in 1992 and, in 1993, moved the center from downtown Osceola to its current location on

[Article continued on page 19]
40 years of service to Southwestern

By Cait Maitlen, Director of Admissions/Executive Director of the Education Foundation

Mary Jo Skarda, Executive Assistant to the CEO and to the Board of Directors

Since 1979, Mary Jo Skarda, often known simply as “Jo,” has been a key component at Southwestern. Serving in the roles of secretary to special needs for eight years, and her most recent role as administrative assistant to the president and board secretary, Skarda has dedicated her entire working career to the college.

In May, Skarda took advantage of Southwestern’s early retirement program. Before she headed out to spend more time with her grandchildren, we asked her to recap her years at Southwestern.

During her 40 years of full-time service to Southwestern, Skarda said she witnessed a number of technological advancements. In April 1979, Skarda used office tools such as electric typewriters, mimeograph machines, and carbon copies. Through the college’s advancements, she learned new technology regularly but could still be found at the typewriter every so often.

Skarda commented she was unsure how 40 years could go so fast. She walked through the doors on her first day as a 20-year-old with no children and felt like the very next day she walked out through a tunnel of coworkers to the Iowa Fight Song with three sons and four grandchildren. She is beyond proud all three of her sons attended Southwestern during her tenure and then transferred on and graduated from Iowa State University.

When asked to share her top memories at Southwestern, Skarda indicated her top memories happened during the cleanup process in the days and months that followed the Creston tornado in April 2012, as everyone came out and worked together to recover from the damage. Another memory she was forever grateful for was that her Southwestern family was so kind when her family lost their home and all of their belongings in a house fire in 2003. She said the outpouring of support and donations of food, clothing, money, and furniture was absolutely amazing and beyond appreciated.

Skarda continuously mentioned the people make Southwestern a great place and that she has made a number of lifelong friends over the years who she will never forget.

Skarda indicated her future plans will revolve around spending as much time as she can with her four grandchildren. She also said she would try to invest more time into her hobbies of gardening, sewing, reading, and going to auctions to acquire antique furniture she can refinish. Her SWCC co-workers think she might also plan to be at the campgrounds at the Iowa State Fair every now and then.

We cannot thank Mary Jo Skarda enough for her 40 years of tremendous dedication to Southwestern Community College and wish her all the best in her retirement!

Dale Barnett, Electrical Maintenance Supervisor

After graduating with his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University in 1976, Dale Barnett started in his role with Southwestern’s maintenance team just two short years later. Since 1978, Barnett has held a significant role in keeping the lights on at Southwestern Community College.

During the last 40 years, Barnett has been intricately involved in a majority of building projects and improvements across campus. The most challenging project he recounted was the installation of the fiber optic cable one fall semester. He also noted the continuous improvements across campus have been a great part about being a staff member on campus. He recounted another fun project he and a fellow co-worker, Dean Thatcher, worked tirelessly on years ago. The project was transitioning the Instructional Center from pneumatic to electric controls to make the temperature in the building easier to control.

Barnett still remembers the note he and Thatcher received after the completion of that project from members of the college’s administration thanking them for their hard work in completing that project.

Barnett said his job was made a bit easier when the college purchased mobile lift platforms and moved away from utilizing step ladders about 20 years into his career. He was excited about that investment as he no longer had to haul a ladder between the different projects he was working on.

Barnett indicated the last 40 years have certainly gone fast, but said he has truly enjoyed his time as a member of the Southwestern family. Some fun facts about Barnett include the following:

• He has driven 17.6 total miles to work each day for the last 40 years.
• In 40 years, Dale has had five immediate supervisors to oversee his position.
• He carries more than 30 keys on the original key ring holder he was given on his first day of work. He wears those keys on his belt, but has an additional 20 keys in his pickup just in case.

During retirement, Barnett mentioned he plans to enjoy lots of extra time with his family. He was certain to bring up a couple of projects he already has lined up to assist family members in their homes and even a couple of things he has to get done in his own shop at home. He joked he wasn’t retiring necessarily, but more relocating his work.

Barnett has been an extremely dedicated, valuable, and helpful employee of Southwestern Community College for the last 40 years. His co-workers wish him the absolute best in his retirement and certainly hope he enjoys his time with his family and friends!
Alumni Updates

1960s
William Winterstien ’68 is a self-employed home builder in Creston.
Tom Frey ’68 is retired and living in Plattsburg, Missouri. He remembers participating in basketball, baseball, and cross country, as well as being an initial student in 1966 when Southwestern was established.

1970s
Marijane (Cline) Miller ’73 is retired and living in Milaca, Minnesota. She recalls the housing in the new mobile homes situated southeast of the college, with six students in each.
Linda (Scheel) Hadley ’74 is a retired teacher, now doing part-time office work for Trinity Lutheran Church in Creston.
Deb (Faber) Schumacher ’75 remembers all the great people and great instructors in the area.
Ernest Rivers ’75 is retired and living in Lancaster, California.

1980s
Paul Scroggie ’81 is the owner of All-American Collision Center in Moriarty, New Mexico.
Scott Kuster ’83 is a quality control manager at Cardinal Glass in Greenfield.
Callie (Rieck) Anderson ’83 is a principal and curriculum director for Creston Community School District in Creston.

1990s
Eric Roberts ’85 is a certified chemical applicator, CSFM for Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, Kansas.
Daniel Marcus ’86 is the food service director for Consolidated Management Company in Creston. The best times he had at SWCC included playing baseball and forming lifelong friendships.

1990s
Jeffrey Hawk ’95 remembers touring with Audio Radiance and Voices on the West Coast. He learned a lot about performing live and running sound in a live setting.
Amy Mobley ’96 is a utilization review/quality improvement/case manager at Ringgold County Hospital in Mount Ayr.
Brian Collins ’98 enjoyed his time at Southwestern, where he played baseball for Bill Krejci and took auto body with Jeff Magneson.

2000s
Timothy Henke ’03 is a parts representative at Whipp Sales in Clarinda.
Janelle Higgins ’05 received degrees from Northwest Missouri State University in 2009 and Ohio University in 2012. She is currently the area associate dean of student life and head women’s softball coach at North Platte Community College in North Platte, Nebraska. Her favorite SWCC memory was playing softball for Coach Ron “Fox” Clinton and said players became better community-minded adults because of that.

2000s
Megan Decker ’07 is a nurse practitioner/ARNP at CHI Health in Lenox.
Sierra Mattson ’09 is a stay-at-home mom in Smithville, Missouri, after five years as a fifth-grade teacher in Ravenwood, Missouri.

John Hollen ’78
John Hollen ’78 is a local sort and air driver for UPS in Red Oak. He met many great people, as well as continued great relationships with high school friends while attending Southwestern.

Rick Myers’78 is a truck driver and laborer for Montgomery County Secondary Roads in Red Oak.

Brett Hiller ’08
Brett Hiller ’08 received a BSN from University of Iowa in 2010 and is currently a house supervisor at CHI Health Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs.

Aric Bishop ’09
Aric Bishop ’09 received his master’s degree in business administration with a human resource management emphasis from Upper Iowa University in 2016, as well as a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Washington. He is currently the library director at Osceola Public Library in Osceola.

Janelle Higgins ’05
Janelle Higgins ’05

Sierra (White) Mattson ’09
Jenna Greene ’10

2010s

Jenna (Leach) Greene ’10 is a mortgage loan originator/AVP at First National Bank in Creston. She enjoyed being a name and not just a number at Southwestern.

Anthony Danti ’10 is a police officer for the West Des Moines Police Department. He enjoyed playing baseball and making new friends at Southwestern.

Cait (Lesan) Maitlen ’10 received a master’s degree from Peru State College in 2016 and is currently the director of admissions and executive director of the education foundation at Southwestern Community College in Creston. She is forever grateful for all the lifelong friends she made while a student at Southwestern.

Weston Brandt ’11 is a farmer in Corning. His favorite SWCC memory is helping organize the Ag Club cattle production sale.

Kylea Lynam ’11 is a traveling RN for Travel Nurse Across America, currently working in Greenville, North Carolina.

Jaime (Cox) Nelson ’12 is a registered nurse at New Life Family Medicine in Creston. Her favorite SWCC memory is developing the relationships with her classmates in the nursing program.

Michael Mason ’12 is an assistant shop supervisor for Arkansas Highway and Transportation in Camden, Arkansas.

Taylor Royster ’13 is a branch operations assistant at Iowa State Savings Bank in Creston. One of his favorite memories from Southwestern was participating in Pay It Forward Week.

Olivia Olmsted ’13 is a customer relations manager for Hansel Auto Group in Petaluma, California. She fondly remembers her time in the SMV, saying everyone in Creston is so supportive and how much fun it was to sing for locals around coffee shops and at A&G.

Isaac Sedlmayr ’13 is a park ranger for Fayette County Conservation in Elgin.

Katie Byers ’14 is an emergency room RN at Greater Regional Health in Creston. She enjoyed attending a college with such a personal and close-knit feel, especially through the nursing program.

Logan Kinyon ’14 received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwest Missouri State University and is currently the county youth coordinator for Warren County ISU Extension and Outreach in Indiana. Kinyon said her friends who became family made her time at SWCC so special.

Olivia Olmsted ’13

Megan (Doubleday) Wicks ’14 received her master’s in higher education – community college leadership from Iowa State University in 2019. She is currently the transfer coordinator at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines. Wicks, who met her husband at SWCC, said her favorite memory was the ability to make lifelong friends because of SWCC’s close-knit culture.

Logan Kinyon ’14

Megan Wicks ’14

Keep the updates coming!

There are two ways for you to send us your updates:

1. Go to www.swcciowa.edu/alumni and complete our online update form.
2. Fill out the inserted Alumni Update card and return it in the mail.
Mataika Koyamainavure ’15 is a customer care representative at Vodafone Fiji in Suva, Fiji. Koyamainavure hopes to visit again soon and sends his love from the islands.

Jake Burgess ’15 is a personal trainer and wellness coach at Clarinda Regional Health Center in Clarinda.

Aliycn (Kuhns) McVey ’15 is an emergency/inpatient RN at Cass County Health System in Atlantic.

Trenton Cheers ’16 received a Bachelor of Arts degree in business management from Grand View University in 2018 and is currently the safety and compliance specialist at Heartland Coop in West Des Moines.

Tomasz Wodzynski ’16 is a loss prevention manager for Dolce & Gabbana in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Raegen Smith ’17

Raegen Smith ‘17 expects to graduate from Iowa State University in December 2019. She loved being a student ambassador and getting involved on campus. Pay It Forward Week was one of her favorite times of the year.

Waylon Clayton ’17 is a production team lead at Wellman Dynamics in Creston, as well as business owner of The Little Green Trailer in Creston.

Jamie Gard ’18 is continuing her education at Iowa State University. She loved meeting new people in class and having the same people from class to class.

Kayla Long ’18 is a registered nurse at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines. Her favorite memory from Southwestern is how the students were treated during finals week with pizza, treats, pancakes and massages.

Lawson Roof ’19 is continuing her education in jazz studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Jessica Aupperle ’18 is a waitress at Wiota Steakhouse & Lounge while continuing her education at Northwest Missouri State University.

Kayla Long ’18

Lawson Roof ’19

Criminal Justice AAS Coming to Southwestern! [continued from page 6]

of hands-on learning experience to put them above other applicants for any job they desire. Students who complete this program will be able to understand both sides of the criminal justice system’s process from start to finish.

While Ayala indicated his first and foremost goal is to help kick off an extremely successful program for the college, he has already been brainstorming ideas for future growth opportunities. He plans to utilize a hands-on learning style in the classroom with hopes to bring in experts from the industry to share their knowledge about defensive tactics, patrol procedures, and even cybercrime. In an effort to create a display to showcase the program, as well as build connections throughout the industry, Ayala asks graduates of Southwestern or those with ties to the profession to send criminal justice patches to Southwestern Community College to his attention: Diogenes Ayala, 1501 W Townline St, Creston, Iowa, 50801. He also stated his long-term goal for the program would be to create an area on campus where he could have students go through crime lab and situational awareness scenarios. In all, Ayala is ready to get students on campus to get the program started and the college is equally excited to have him as a member of the Southwestern family, as well as to get the hands-on program started successfully!
When I tell people in Romania what I do for a living, I often get this response. They cock their head, and searching for a polite response, they blurt out something like, “really, you like that?” My response is an inward chuckle and a polite smile, “Yes, I love my job.”

My first 10 years following high school were their own adventure. I visited both South Africa and China while attending Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny. After earning an Associate of Arts degree in Bible I applied to the SWCC nursing program. After graduating, I went on to work in Hawaii for two years. Coming back to Iowa, I worked a short time in Fontanelle before going back to the Bible college, where I completed my Bachelor of Science degree. There, I was introduced to the missionary work happening in Romania. In 2013, I went to Romania for a six-week internship. While in Romania, I learned more about the Roma people. The Roma are a specific ethnic group that can be found in Romania and all over the world. Many people know them as Gypsies. In Romania and in many other countries they continue to face issues of prejudice and exclusion. However, there are even deeper needs. Many of the people I work with are caught in a cycle of poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, and abuse.

In 2016, I returned to Romania as a church planting assistant. Working mostly with children and teens, I assist my teammates in various church activities like youth group, Sunday school, and teen choir. We take turns teaching various classes like painting, woodworking, and baking. As a nurse, I can talk to people about their health issues and encourage them to seek professional medical help when necessary. We also offer literacy classes to those older students who would like to learn to read. We are always encouraging the younger children to consistently attend school and not fall behind.

Many local people are supportive and encouraging when we tell them what we are doing, but there are also those who think we are simply wasting our time. For these people there is an underlying belief the Roma are a people group who can never change. We do not believe that. We believe that all people are one people. Sins and struggles are common to all, no matter where you live or who your ancestors are. We also believe victory over those struggles is possible for everyone.

Many of us know education is not enough. Having a good job and prosperity are not really what brings joy into our life. Many of the families in our village are caught up in self-destructive life styles. Addiction to smoking, alcohol, gambling and domestic abuse are rampant in many Roma villages. These things hold people like chains. They look up, out of the pits and see a better life is possible but it seems impossible for them to attain. This plight is not unique to the Roma. People all over the world face these same types of struggles. Those chains are universal. They are the chains of our own making. Our own desires blown out of control. But there is hope.

This is why we are in Romania. Anyone can receive power and be accepted into a family that crosses all borders, all nationalities, and all ethnic divisions. We are there to share truth and offer hope. Once people are free from all the weights of a selfish lifestyle, they are free to make positive choices for their daily lives.
Nursing student featured on statewide STEM poster
By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

Southwestern Community College registered nursing student Isaac Wignall, of Creston, was recently featured on a statewide poster campaign for the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council. He was quoted saying since he was a child he has always been interested in learning how things work. Therefore, nursing has been a good fit because it offers him the opportunity to help others while “doing something that is both interesting and challenging.”

Wignall, who plans to transfer to the University of Iowa following graduation from SWCC, hopes to someday be a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

“I am very thankful to be a positive force for people at a time when they are most vulnerable,” Wignall said.

The posters were distributed to high schools across the state. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Iowa STEM Council consists of leaders in higher education, business, pre-K through grade 12 educators, and state and local government officials.

Southwestern grad receives prestigious DAISY Award
By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

Chelsea Norris, a graduate of the Southwestern Community College (SWCC) registered nursing program, was named as a recipient of the prestigious DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, which is awarded to nurses internationally, in December 2018.

Norris earned her diploma in practical nursing in June 2006 and her Associate of Applied Science degree in June 2007 from SWCC. Following graduation, Norris earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Grand View University. She now works for ChildServe in Johnston. ChildServe is a non-profit agency providing a wide range of pediatric specialty healthcare services throughout Iowa.

To be considered for the DAISY Award, nurses may be nominated by patients, family members, co-workers, physicians, staff, or anyone who experiences or observes extraordinary compassionate care being provided by nurses. Norris was nominated for the DAISY Award by a central Iowa family she worked with as a homecare nurse at ChildServe. The family has a son, Alex, who was born with Trisomy 18. Due to this disorder, Alex relied on feeding tubes and respiratory equipment when he came home from the hospital. Initially the family was overwhelmed by Alex’s medical complications, however they say with the assistance and medical care of ChildServe and Norris in particular, the family readjusted to their new normal and was able to care for Alex at home.

According to a ChildServe article detailing the award, “Chelsea’s life-changing care inspired them to nominate her for the prestigious nursing award called the DAISY Award, which Chelsea would go on to win.”

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses was created in 1999 by The Daisy Foundation—Honoring nurses internationally in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. The goal of the award is “to ensure that nurses know how deserving they are of our society’s profound respect for the education, training, brainpower, and skill they put into their work, and especially for the caring with which they deliver their care.”

To read the ChildServe article explaining Norris’ honor, please visit https://www.childserve.org/alexs-story/
New heights, new digs for Spartan athletics  [continued from page 7]

Phillip Selmer runs the 1,500 meters at Simpson College.

3,000 meter steeplechase. The 4x400 relay team of Selmer, Vandor, Aliel, and Albert Miller and the 4x800 relay team of Selmer, Vandor, Evan Ouverson, and Eric Portis also qualified for nationals.

Southwestern’s 4x800 relay team broke the school record at nationals, running 8:08.12.

Facility upgrades

Southwestern's weight room, located on the lower level of the Student Center, received a face lift this year with all new equipment, flooring, and a new paint job.

“The graduating sophomores all commented on how much better it looks,” North said. “It better fits the needs of student-athletes offering more free weights and less machines, to work your whole body. It’s a better utilization of our space.”

The gymnasium also went through a major transformation with the installation of new bleachers during the spring 2019 semester.

Gone are the original brown metal bleachers from 1975, replaced with state-of-the-art, ergonomically correct bleachers in Spartan red and navy blue, tying everything in the gymnasium together. The bleachers also feature railings in the aisles for better spectator safety during events.

In addition, items can no longer be lost through openings in the bleachers.

“Facility upgrades mean a lot to the athletes, and it’s a lot better for the fans watching from the stands,” North said. “We can fit large crowds; it looks good.”

Reaching out for Area XIV  [continued from page 12]

Highway 34. The center was expanded by 8,290 square feet in 1999 to accommodate the growing needs for industrial training.

Students at the Osceola Center are able to complete a two-year associate degree between face-to-face, video conference, and online classes. The Osceola Center also offers ESL and HiSET classes, as well as space for organizations in the community to hold meetings.

“We are open to a lot of community organizations that come out here and hold meetings,” said Sue Stearns, Osceola Center coordinator. “That gives us a lot of exposure. We partner with a lot of organizations in town.”

Stearns, who started at the Osceola Center in 2011 as an instructor for criminal justice courses and became center coordinator in 2013, said Osceola’s location has been key to the success of the center.

“Osceola is an up-and-coming community and we have a lot of students who come from the surrounding area, especially south into northern Missouri,” Stearns said. “With our location being centrally located, along Interstate 35 and Highway 34, and the economics of this area growing, people are looking to increase their level of education.”

Having someone local acting as center coordinator makes for a more inviting atmosphere, said Stearns, who has lived and worked in the Osceola community for 40 years.

The Osceola Center features 11 adjunct instructors who teach face-to-face classes at the center, along with Stephen Jefferies, a full-time professor at the Creston campus who travels to Osceola to teach face-to-face classes.

“The students get individual attention. We know them all by name. That’s the advantage of being a small building. They can come to us for assistance and don’t seem to be intimidated doing that at all,” Stearns said. “I’m just proud of this center. We have a lot of good people who work here and a lot of good students who come here.”
Good Luck to the SWCC 2019 Retirees

Dale Barnett
Electrical Maintenance Supervisor
Years of Service: 40.5
Other Positions Served: Maintenance, Maintenance (Electrical)

Mary Jo Skarda
Executive Assistant to the CEO and to the Board of Directors
Years of Service: 40
Other Positions Served: Secretary to Special Needs

Cheralyn White
Adult and Continuing Education Secretary
Years of Service: 12.5