Spartans Make History by Winning National Championship
This has been a year to remember at Southwestern Community College! In addition to the many student successes and exciting happenings throughout the year, the men’s basketball team made history with their first-ever national championship win. The excitement surrounding their success will not soon be forgotten. You will find photos and information about this phenomenal team in this edition of the Southwestern Magazine. The community support and enthusiasm surrounding this accomplishment has been extraordinary.

Included on this page are a few data points I wanted to share with you to give you a snapshot of the college today. This information was taken from the Annual Condition of Iowa’s Community Colleges, 2016 edition, prepared by the Iowa Department of Education Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation. The data is from Fiscal Year 2016 (academic year 2015-16). In addition, I am pleased to report a survey of 2015 graduates indicated 94 percent of career and technical education (CTE) program graduates were employed with 91 percent of these individuals working in Iowa. Also noted in the survey, students graduating with transfer degrees (Associate of Arts degrees and/or Associate of Science degrees) transferred to 39 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

Twelve staff members will be entering retirement this year. Their tenure at Southwestern ranges from 11 years to nearly 43 years! You will find information about these outstanding individuals in the pages of the magazine. We will miss each of them as they have made a unique contribution to the success of the college. We wish them the very best in retirement!

We extend our appreciation to all of our alumni and friends of Southwestern as we conclude another academic year and look forward with anticipation to taking in another class in the fall. Your kind and generous support is appreciated. We value our ongoing partnership with all of you as we continue to work hard to make your community college the best it can be!

Dr. Barbara J. Crittenden
Southwestern Community College President
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by Terri Higgins

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It was March 25, 2017. The scorer's clock at the NJCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship game at the Mary Miller Center in Danville, IL, had ticked down to 45 seconds, when it hit Southwestern Head Coach Todd Lorensen that he and his Spartan team were going to make school history by becoming national champions. He paused to soak it all in and pinched himself for a reality check.

The buzzer went off and chaos ensued. The Spartans had defeated Louisburg College, from North Carolina, with a score of 77-53, to become the 2017 NJCAA DII men's basketball champions. Smiles, hugs, high fives, pictures, trophies, and individual and team awards followed. Then, it was time for the ceremonial cutting down of the net. All were indicators of a moment in time to be remembered for a lifetime.

"Players come and go, but banners stay forever; and we're putting one up in Creston, Iowa," exclaimed Lorensen following the Spartans championship victory.

2016-17: The Dream Season
Lorensen felt good about the dynamics of the team from the day his players arrived on campus in August 2016.

"When you start with Jordan [Johnson], first team all-region as a freshman; KeShawn [Wilson], second team all-region; and Calvin [Chambers], honorable mention all-region, you have three really good players returning, and we knew we had a good group of new players coming in," Lorensen reflected. "It helps you feel confident; but until you get the entire group together and have some practices, you never really know."

When they hit the floor for a pre-season Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) jamboree, on October 8, Lorensen liked what he saw. Then, on October 15, at the Coffeyville Jamboree, when the Spartans played some "really stiff competition," according to Lorensen, he had an indication of what could be ahead for the team.

On October 24, Southwestern was ranked as the #11 team in the pre-season NJCAA Division II rankings. The team started their regular season with a 120-58 victory in their home and season opener vs Graceland University JV.

The Spartans continued their winning run, improving their record to 15-0, prior to a huge game on January 7, 2017, vs. NJCAA Division I Indian Hills, who was ranked 19th in the nation at the time. That night, the Southwestern men picked up a 102-91 win, in front of a packed house on their home court, and Lorensen had confirmation he was coaching something special.

"Officially for me," Lorensen stated, "I thought, something’s brewing, this season could become a lifelong event."

Following this game, on Jan. 18, 2017, the NJCAA released its weekly rankings and Southwestern was perched at #1 in the Division II rankings. This was the first time in school history the Spartans had been ranked as...
the top team in the nation. Throughout the remainder of the season, the Spartans spent six weeks ranked at #1, including the final regular season poll. In every regular season poll, they were ranked among the top five teams in the country.

The winning continued through the beginning of February, until, with a record of 23-0, the Spartans were stopped in their tracks by Kirkwood, on February 11, when the Eagles popped in a three-point game-winning shot with 2.1 seconds remaining on the clock. Kirkwood came away with a 78-75 victory on their home court in Cedar Rapids and the Spartans went home with a lot to think about.

“It was a little reality check,” stated Jamil Maddred, sophomore guard. “We had to realize what we were doing was big and people were going to want to stop that … Kirkwood definitely made us realize every possession matters, every second matters, every shot matters, every turnover … rebound … everything plays into the game and ultimately the win or the loss.”

The Spartans regrouped and came back tough their next game, on Feb. 15, vs. Central Community College of Columbus, NE, at home. The Spartans claimed a 93-71 non-conference victory, ending with a perfect non-conference season of 18-0.

Their regular season ended at NIACC in Mason City on March 4, with an 83-78 win. Again ranked at #1 in the nation, the win gave Southwestern an 11-1 ICCAC (conference) record, a 29-1 overall record, and the first-ever outright conference title in program history; two previous seasons they had earned a share of the title.

**The Tourney Run**

But as Johnson, sophomore guard, said, following the regular season, “We’re not done yet!”

The Spartans were relentless during their run leading up to the national tournament. Their hard work and victories from throughout the year paid off as well, because Southwestern earned the home court advantage throughout the regional tournament.

Post-season play started on Saturday, March 7, with a Region XI Quarterfinal victory of 137-85 over Little Priest Tribal College. Next up, the Spartans played Ellsworth on March 9, and came out on top, 94-62. Their last opponent before nationals was once again Kirkwood, in the Region XI Championship. The Spartans had some redemption in this game and when the buzzer sounded, they walked away with a 98-90 victory and a national tourney berth.

**Nationals**

Once the team arrived in Danville, there was no looking back.

“Everybody was confident,” Maddred explained. “We saw we were the number one seed and then we were confident and we knew we could win … Mostly everybody just stayed in the gym and kept working. We were just ready to go there and handle business.”

What made the team’s tournament run go so well?

“I think there was just a subtle and unspoken confidence,” Lorensen remembered. “Especially for me as a coach, in previous years I felt like a lot of things would have to go our way to get over the hump, whereas this year I think I had a much calmer approach because I knew we were good enough and talented enough, it was just going to come down to us playing a respectable game throughout the tournament.”

The coach definitely got his wish. The Spartans’ trip to nationals was all about respectable play. Maddred said the team was confident throughout the tournament, in fact, he said he’d never been around a group of more confident individuals.

Here are the results from the 2017 NJCAA DII National Championship games:

**Game 1**—Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 11 a.m., Southwestern vs Southern Maryland Hawks, win, 94-69

**Game 2**—Thursday, March 23, 2017, 1 p.m., Quarterfinals, Southwestern vs Pima, win, 81-75

**Game 3**—Friday, March 24, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Semifinals, Southwestern vs Richard Bland, win, 70-62

**Game 4**—Saturday, March 25, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Championship, Southwestern vs Louisburg, win, 77-53

Maddred felt the team’s discipline, hard work ethic, and depth were key to the Spartans’ success all season. Even in the tournament, he explained, they stuck to their roles and techniques and the determination and dedication ultimately paid off in a big way.

“Winning the national championship … it felt so surreal at first,” Maddred remembered. “I couldn’t believe it. My dad was there and seeing everybody from Creston, Iowa, in the crowd. It was amazing! And this was like the first national championship in school history. All the
hard work we started in August finally paid off. And now, we’ll always be a part of SWCC history.”

The Spartans finished the season with a school record of 36-1. Southwestern is the fourth Iowa team to win a Division II national title. North Iowa Area Community College won the title in 1995 and Kirkwood won in 1997 and 2016.

What Made This Team Special
There were certain factors making this season and this team different than the others.

“We had a lot of unselfish kids and our best players were our most consistent and hardest workers,” Lorensen reflected. “They weren’t worrying about playing time, or touches, or number of shots. It was just a lot of guys who valued winning and that was most important to them.”

These observations were apparent not only to the coaching staff but to those following the court, playing as a team rather than just a group of talented individuals. Every member of the team had an important role and together they were unstoppable.”

Dr. Barb Crittenden, Southwestern president, could not be more proud of the coaching staff and players for their conduct throughout the season.

“It was incredibly fun to watch this team come together and win a national championship,” stated Crittenden. “I could see early on that they were a special group with exceptional chemistry as a team.”

Crittenden continued, “Teams like this do not come together on their own. Coach Lorensen brought this group together in such a way that they were a force to be reckoned with. They were unselfish on the court, playing as a team rather than just a group of talented individuals. Every member of the team had an important role and together they were unstoppable.”

Bill Taylor, Southwestern vice president of instruction and head men’s basketball coach from 1993 to 2001, was also amazed with the work we started in August finally paid off. And now, we’ll always be a part of SWCC history.”

The newly crowned national champions pose for the cameras following the championship game.

“I’m just so proud of what Todd [Lorensen], Scottie [Davis], and Rand [Hazelton] did with this team,” Taylor said. “The way they brought this team together; there was truly no ‘i’ in this team. That’s unusual, especially with today’s athletes. All they focus on today is stardom. These guys just wanted to win.”

Maddred had a very similar message.

“Comradery,” Maddred responded when asked what made this team special. “These guys were the hardest working people I’ve ever met in my life. I was always the guy who stayed in the gym, so when you see multiple people doing that … I felt very confident from an early stage. We had a lot of confidence going into the season.”

We’ve Been Here Before
This was the second time in Southwestern Community College history, the Spartans qualified for the NJCAA National Championships. Prior to that, the Golden Bears of Creston Junior College (the college name prior to the Iowa community college system being created in 1966) had qualified for nationals to end their 1961-62 run. The Golden Bears lost in the first round of the tourney.

The Spartans of Southwestern made their first national appearance in 1999, with Taylor at the helm. One ironic point, the ’99 team also defeated Kirkwood to earn a trip to the national tournament. That game was played at Kirkwood and the Spartans won 56-53. The 1999 team, with a national
tourney record of 2-1, ended their tourney run with a seventh place finish at the national championship. Many players from the 1998-99 team still have strong ties to the college and they were right there to support the players on this year’s team. Five members of the ’99 team—Key Kain, Jim Peterson, TJ Tassell, Jeremiah Ubben, and Brian Werner—even made the trip to Danville, IL.

Taylor said, “Even the guys who live farther away are still engaged. We hear a lot of times, ‘I wish Southwestern was four-year,’ by the end of a player’s second year.”

Taylor enjoys watching players get comfortable at Southwestern. “This group [the 1999 team] loves Southwestern,” Taylor explained. “They want us to be successful. All I heard this year was, ‘When is a good game I could come watch?’ and then I saw them at that game.”

Taylor, who also made the trip to Danville, said he was glad to be around to see Southwestern history being made. “It’s created a lot of energy and excitement around town that hasn’t really gone away,” Taylor explained. “Anybody associated with Southwestern will remember it for years to come. It’s an unbelievable accomplishment when you think about losing just one game all season. They are not only national champions, but they have a record of 36-1. It’s a defining point in Southwestern Community College history.”

The Lasting Impact

Crittenden said she is proud the college has had a number of significant student successes through the years, but feels when a small rural community college gets a big public win, such as a national championship, it reminds people you can start anywhere and accomplish anything.

“The community support throughout the season was phenomenal,” stated Crittenden. “We had a lot of loyal fans who didn’t miss a game. And, when it came to the national tournament, it was amazing to see the number of people who drove to Danville to support the team.”

Crittenden said Southwestern easily had the best fan support of any of the teams there. “The energy in the gymnasium for the championship game was something I won’t soon forget,” Crittenden said. “I understand there were a lot of people in our local communities gathered to watch the games being live streamed or listening to the radio broadcasts, as well. The team clearly felt the support and responded.”

There’s also a hidden message for everyone here, because this team was built around a group of everyday 18- to 20-something guys who would smile and say hello to you on the sidewalk or as they walked to class, and were willing to help when someone needed a hand. But when the time was right, they all came together, acted as one, and accomplished the unthinkable.

Lorensen helped put it in perspective. “I think there were a ton of really good life lessons,” Lorensen explained. “When you’re about the right things, and are unselfish, you get rewarded for it, not only in sports, but in life as well.”

Lorensen said there will always be kinks in the road. “There were days they [the team members] were upset with me or I was upset with them … but as long as you’re doing the right things, you’ll get there,” Lorensen continued.

For a lot of those following Spartan basketball, this was a long awaited victory. “Prior to this, I just never thought we could pull off a national championship at Southwestern,” Taylor chuckled. “This team shocked the world and I was extremely proud to be a Spartan.”

Members of the ’99 Spartan team who came to Danville, IL, to cheer on the ’17 Spartans at nationals: (L to R) Key Kain, Jeremiah Ubben, Brian Werner, Jim Peterson, TJ Tassell, and Bill Taylor, former Spartan head coach.
Men’s Basketball Alumni

The 2017 men’s basketball tourney run was exciting for everyone who has been a part of the Southwestern men’s basketball program through the years! Read on to learn where some of our former Spartans are now and what they remember from their time at Southwestern.

Brad Baker ‘85–’87 (below) attended Westmar College after SWCC and taught for 10 years at East Union School. Later he completed his masters at Iowa State University. Now, he is the elementary school principal for Creston Community Schools. He remembers being coached by coach Krejci and taking classes with “The Fox.”

Kirk Baldwin ‘85–‘87 is a professional land surveyor and land survey department manager in Kansas City. Baldwin enjoyed playing baseball and basketball for SWCC.

Tom Stibbs ‘89–‘91 played basketball for and graduated from Briar Cliff University after leaving Southwestern. He has coached boys and girls high school basketball and college men’s and women’s hoops. Currently, he works at State Steel in Omaha, NE. He is the assistant girls basketball coach at Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha, as well as helps train amateur boxers at Grover Wiley’s Punch Fitness. He remembers playing basketball and building relationships with teammates and coaches at SWCC.

Chris Danner ‘95–’97 (at right) attended Fort Hays State where he pursued a teaching degree. He completed his degree in education at Upper Iowa University and received a master’s degree from Grand Canyon University. He is currently teaching sixth grade math/science in Johnston and coaching high school basketball. His favorite SWCC memories include playing basketball for the Spartans.

Mike Morley ‘95–’97 (below) played at Northwest Missouri State after SWCC. Currently he coaches high school girls basketball and eighth grade football and teaches elementary PE in Liberty, MO. He remembers winning a lot of basketball games and making lasting bonds with his fellow Spartans.

Mike Goodale ‘98–’00 (at right) continued his college basketball career at South Dakota Schools of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD, where he graduated with a BSME in 2003, before starting as a design engineer for Gits Manufacturing in Creston. In 2006, he started working for Altec Industries, Inc., in St. Joseph, MO, where he currently works in the prevention and product safety group. He and Sarah, his wife of 11 years, have three children. His favorite memories include going to the national tournament in 1999 and playing for Bill Taylor and with TJ Tassell and all the great men he got to know during his time as a Spartan.

William Lacy ‘98–’00 (below) moved to Minneapolis, MN, and started a family. He remembers beating Kirkwood in the regional final.

Tyler Tassell ‘98–’00 (at right) attended Grand View University on a basketball scholarship where he completed a bachelor’s degree in business administration and secondary education. He has been a teacher and coach at Audubon High School for 14 years and has three children. His favorite SWCC memories include the national tournament, team bonding, and hanging out at the apartments.

Drew Hose ‘99–’01 (at right) works at Ameritas dealing with variable life insurance and annuities. He remembers beating Iowa Western at home against four future Division I players.

Tyler Tassell ‘98–’00

Drew Hose ‘99–’01 (at right) works at Ameritas dealing with variable life insurance and annuities. He remembers beating Iowa Western at home against four future Division I players.

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Drew Hose ‘99–’01 (at right) works at Ameritas dealing with variable life insurance and annuities. He remembers beating Iowa Western at home against four future Division I players.
Addam Wall ’02-'03 transferred to Arizona State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in construction management. Currently he is a partner of Efficio Group, LLC. His favorite SWCC memories include meeting life long friends, Happy Chef, Hy-Vee tent sales, and the Animal House.

Jeff Lauridsen ’05-'07 (at left) transferred to the University of Iowa and received a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in recreation management. He is currently the sports program coordinator for the Waukee and Walnut Creek YMCA in the Des Moines area. He remembers watching the men's basketball team grow from one season to the next and building lasting relationships with fellow players.

Jeff Schwartz ’05-'06 (above) went on to finish school at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. For the past six years he has been at a small school in Nebraska teaching PE and serving as athletic director. Next year, he will start a new job at Auburn High School as assistant principal and activities director. His favorite memory was wearing a mask for about five games during the season due to a broken nose he received during a game at Iowa Lakes. He says coaches Drymon and Colvin were convinced the mask made him shoot better.

Chad Boston ’08-'10 finished his college basketball career at Simpson College and graduated with a degree in biochemistry. Currently he works as a research associate at DuPont Pioneer in Johnston and coaches a middle school AAU basketball team in his free time.

T.J. Bower ’14-'16 is studying sport and recreation management at the University of Iowa. His favorite Spartan memory is Dylan dunking on Jaylon!!

Ahmad Newsome ’14-'16 (at left) transferred to Concordia University in St Paul, MN. His favorite memories as a Spartan are beating Kirkwood and DMACC.

Jaylon Smith ’14-'15 (at left) continued his basketball career at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO. He liked being a part of the Southwestern men's basketball team and making a change at the school.

Alec Hall ’09-'11 graduated from the University of Kansas where he was involved in the men’s baseball program. He is currently coaching high school basketball in Kansas City, MO. He said he enjoyed being a part of the Spartan basketball team and meeting a bunch of great people in the Southwestern community, as well as winning.

Mataika Koyamainavure ’13-'15 (at right) went on to play in the NCAA DII-MIAA conference at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO, where he is studying and majoring in speech communication. He enjoyed having a new coach, playing in a new system, and having new teammates who shared the same winning philosophy and Spartan pride that he had as a player.

Joshua Tolbert ’14-'16 transferred to Point University, majoring in business administration and minoring in sports management.
Since 1974, Sandy Webb has made her daily trek to the student services department at Southwestern. Serving in the roles of secretary, office manager, administrative secretary, and her most recent role as registrar, Webb has dedicated the majority of her working career to the college. Her 43 years of full-time service are the most years anyone has worked at Southwestern in a full-time capacity since Southwestern was established in 1966.

Before she heads out to do the things she loves, we asked her to recap her years at Southwestern.

SWCC Highlights
Webb said she was honored to receive the Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCOC) STARS (Striving to Achieve Retention and Success) Award in 2013. She was nominated for the award based on recommendation of peers at Southwestern and the official vote of a committee of ICCOC staff members. Another top moment in Webb’s career at Southwestern was when she followed the 2017 Spartan men’s basketball team to the college’s first-ever national title.

Comments
When Webb first started working at Southwestern on November 4, 1974, everything from classroom to student support offices were located in the Instructional Center of Southwestern’s main campus in Creston.

Webb pointed out the college has certainly evolved throughout her time on campus. In the beginning, her role included totaling grade points submitted by vocational technology (now career and technical education) instructors and figuring a student’s GPA by hand and then hand-typing the information on another mimeographed sheet. She would then photocopy each sheet with the grade information, providing one copy to the student and placing the other into the student’s file. The arts and sciences registration was all completed through keypunch cards. After Webb punched in the grade, stickers on a tractor-feed printer would print the grade for each respective student and then she was required to place the stickers on the student’s transcript form.

At the beginning of Webb’s time at the college, all course rosters, registration cards, student schedules, report cards, etc. were all paper or card stock forms. All letters were either hand-typed or printed on a duplicator machine or mimeograph machine. She was expected to answer the bosses’ phones and field all calls that came into the college. All reports to the Department of Education and IPEDS were hand-counted and hand-typed, so it was important that the registration cards were filled out completely and filed in the correct area of the file drawer.

The college added computers in the early 1980s and one of the college’s electronics instructors developed a program for a registration/grading/transcript/billing system, which worked well for that period of time. The college then went through a huge undertaking to implement a new, electronic computer registration system in 1985.

The process then had to be converted, with all students’ class and grade information previous to that date, by hand into the new system.

At the beginning of each semester, Webb said she ran off course rosters the night before the first day of school, separated out the copies so that the office had a copy, and then tore them apart and distributed them throughout the Instructional Center to put into faculty mailboxes.

Faculty members were required to notify her of student attendance through notes or in person as there was no e-mail at the college at the time. At midterm and the close of the semester, Webb printed off rosters and faculty hand-marked the grade on the form and then returned it to her in the registration office. Webb said she then hand-entered all grades into the computer system. Grade reports were required to be printed off, copies separated out, envelopes stuffed and grades were then mailed.

...
Many of the reports required of Webb’s position are now submitted electronically and faculty now enter their grades into the system. Paper forms are no longer required, but there is still a lot of background work to make sure that all of the information is accurate. Webb noted there have been a lot of changes throughout the years, including the addition of several new buildings, athletic programs, and a number of new majors.

Future Plans
Webb indicated she has no future plans at this point, but rather she intends to keep her options open. She predicts she will be spending a lot more time with her family and grandkids as they will keep her busy. She also mentioned she might write a tell-all book about her time at Southwestern. She stated that if she included several of the great, funny memories, it would definitely be a book.

One thing that has not changed at Southwestern, is that Webb has served and been fortunate enough to get to know many students over the years. Without a doubt, she has been a part of their successes.

We congratulate Sandy Webb on her tremendous dedication to Southwestern Community College and wish her the best of luck in her retirement!

New Scholarships Established

By Beth Kulow, Dean of Student Services/Executive Director of 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 individuals 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 SWCC to ensure their academic success through financial support. The foundation continues to grow on an annual basis thanks to generous contributions from its donors.

Within 2016-17, the foundation has established several new scholarships and an endowment.

New scholarships established during the past year include:

- Automotive Instructor Insight Scholarship, driven by Nile Cornelison
- Larry Gile Memorial Scholarship, scholarship established specifically for professional music majors
- John Allen Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a second-year carpentry and building trades student
- Sonntag Development, LLC Challenge Grant, a donation that challenged additional donors to assist in creating more scholarship opportunities for nursing majors
- Jerry Phelps Memorial Account, provides funding to graduates of the HSED exam
- Employer Council of Iowa Scholarship, awards a scholarship to the graduates of the HSED exam who are furthering their education

In addition, during this academic year, the Turner Family Endowment was established in the name of Austin B. and Jo Ann G. Turner. Austin served on the original Southwestern board of directors and his son, Alec, currently serves on the Education Foundation board of directors. This newly established endowment will provide scholarships to Southwestern students, with a preference given to graduates of Southwest Valley High School.

The Gene Evans Memorial Scholarship is one of the most recently added scholarships to the Education Foundation. Long-time Southwestern science instructor Gene Evans passed away on February 10, 2017. Evans, who came to Southwestern from Creston Public Schools, taught in the college’s science department from 1966, when Southwestern Community College was founded.

[Article continued on page 13]
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Kalen Panec
Deb & Wayne Pantini
Marcus A Patten
Jean Anne Paul
Rich & Georgia Paulsen
PCSB Bank
Grace Pellot
Larry & Debra Peterson
Sandra R Peterson
Randy & Jan Pettit
Phillips Floors, Inc.
Pine Valley Bowling and Golf
Pizza Ranch
Allen Pohren
Lyle & Marlys Polson
Powars Funeral Home
Rachel Rameaeker
Rhine Body Repair
Annette Rice
Valma Riegel
Alyssa N Riley
Alex Rios
Andrea Rivera Rojas
Dub Roberts
Dorene Rusk
Karen Jean Saltzman
Tia Samo
Schildberg Construction
Rita Schroeder
Gerald D Schwab
Jana & Clint Scott
Midge A Scurllock
Ken & Carol Sharp
Lisa Shawler
Michael Sheldahl
Dayton L Simpson
Gene R Smith
Sharon Marie Snodgrass
Cheryl & Paul Somers
Sonntag Development, LLC
Jeff Sorensen
Southwest Distributing
Southwest Iowa Homebuilders Alliance
Jim & Betty Spangler
Ashlei Spivey
Stalker Chevrolet-Cadillac
State Farm Insurance Companies
Robert & Sheila J Stefani
Barbara & Jerry Stephens
Lindsay & Shane Stooks
Dr. Steve & Dee Ann Stuits
Subway
Larry & Cathy David Swanger
Jason Swierczek
Bill & Joni Taylor
The Bright Foundation
The Coach Store
The Lobby
Wynn Thornton
Tony & Peggy Cass
Trevor Frederickson Memorial Fund
Ed Trullinger
Alex & Nancy Turner
Diana Turner
Alex & Eric Turner
Farm Partnership
Tyler Insurance Services, Inc.
Union County Federated Women’s Club
Up in Smoke
Rose Vanderpluym
Deb Veitz
Kathy Walker
Wal-Mart Foundation
Sandy Webb
Wells Fargo Foundation
Matching Gift
Marilyn Werner
Steve White
Susan White
Barb Wilmeth
Windrow Restaurant & Sports Bar
Winterset Redemption
Janet Wuebker
Shawna Abell
Meldrick Agravante
Hunter Anderson
Jessica Aupperle
Jared Baier
Brenna Baker
Nicole Bantz
Tiffany Barr
Seth Baumfalk
Blythe Beck
Jonathan Bennett
Jacob Bolinger
Harleigh Bristow
Weston Brokaw
Anita Brooks
Mitchell Brown
Dusti Carlisle
Maleika Carter
Calvin Chambers
Gage Gaunt
Marcus Chieves
Alexis Clark
Courtney Clark
Kenzie Cole
Jessica Comes
Shaylee Cooper
Bennie Curtis
Clayton Dale
Wesley Davis
Juan Dominguez
McKayle Dudney
Brittany Estell
James Evans
Nathan Fierce
Rachel Flickinger
Chris Foster
Zoe Fridley
Abril Galaviz
Mackenzie Gaunt
Madalyne Green
Julia Hacker
Brionna Hagen
Ica Hauge
Lexie Heckman
Jared Heman
Ricky Hernandez
Britney Herr
Alyssa Higgins
Zachary Hoffman
Anna Horn
Tanner Howard
Charlie Hubbard
Brant Hudson
Joseph Huntington
Zachary Jackson
Levi Jarred
Lisa Jennings
Jordan Johnson
Brodie Jones
Daniel Keding
Shanna Keller
Marah Kilgore
Savannah Kistler
Aaron Kralik
Rebekah Kroese
Haylee LaMasters
Kyla Lane
Victoria Langille
Sabrina Lapcheske
Lucas Larsen
Michael Lauer
Nate Lee
Katrina Lee-Somarriba
Rhianna Leith
Gabriel Leon
Jacob Lindgren
McKayla Long
Angie Lopez
Madison Mace
Jamil Maddred
Megan Masters
Hanna Mateer
Delaney May
JoHana McGuire
Caitlin McClavy
McKenzie McIntosh
Sasha Miller
Shaley Miller
Morgan Moe
Brittany Mullen
Shelby Myers
Kenneth Negron
Lane Neitz
Nicole Page
Curtis Palmer
Samuel Paz
Blane Pearson
Peyton Pedersen
Victoria Perez
Caleb Peterson
Courtney Phelps
John Poldberg
Anthony Pottebaum
Jacob Powers
Alyssa Proffitt
Brook Purcell
Travis Purdy
Trina Restauro
Luke Richardson
Emily Rohner
Meghan Roush
Selena Sampson
Chelsi Sams
Nancy Sanchez
Benjamin Sandquist
Stephanie Santoyo
Xochitl Santoyo
Zackery Scheel
Danielle Schwarz
Gunner Sergeant-Elben
Waldemar Shedrakk
Jenna Shepherd
Jami Sickels
Holly Smith
Kobe Smith
Raegan Smith
Loran Sneller
David Sorensen
Peter Sorenson
Rachel Sorenson
Stephan Soto
Cheyenne Spahr
Morgan Spurrier
Julie St. John
Sydney Suiter
Gustin Swagel
Wyatt Thompson
Shelby Tolle
Alexis Tolly
Dylan Torres
Kevin Torres
Rauvardo Torres
Alexis Tyler
Brayann Ubiera
Hayden VanMeter
Gabriel Vazquez
Miguel Villegas
Klani Waters
Miranda Waugh
Chance Webster
Katlin Weinkoetz
Shelby Whited
Richard Wilkins
KeShawn Wilson
Tessa Winn
Nathan Woosley

New Scholarships Established (continued)

established, until 1996. He was born and raised in Missouri and moved back to his roots following retirement.

Following Gene’s death, his wife, Avis, and their family decided to utilize his memorial funds to create the Gene Evans Memorial Scholarship, to be given to a sophomore student at Southwestern. The student must be taking classes in a science-related major. This scholarship will be awarded for the first time in fall 2017.

With the rising costs of college education, the SWCC Education Foundation plays a vital role in assisting to keep college education affordable for students. During the fall of 2016, 14 percent of the college’s student body received scholarship funding from the Education Foundation.

Originally started in 2010-11, the foundation continues to utilize the “iGive2SWCC” annual scholarship campaign. Each year, the Education Foundation receives more applications for scholarships than it can fund. Uniting 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!

At left: Gene Evans (far right), former SWCC science instructor, with physics students (left to right) Tom King, current SWCC plant services director; Alan Farley; and David Petermeier.

Gene Evans, SWCC science instructor, 1966-96
When David Kragel graduated from Corning High School in 1972, this four-sport high school athlete headed to Southwestern Community College to play baseball and basketball for the Spartans. Kragel's prior high school successes, including all-state honors in basketball and football, only led to even bigger accomplishments throughout his college career. It was on the basketball court at Southwestern that Kragel went down in history, college-wide and nationwide.

While a student-athlete at Southwestern, Kragel earned First Team All-American honors in basketball his sophomore year and he was selected for Who's Who Among Junior College Students. In 1974, at the end of his sophomore season, he led the nation in scoring with 773 total points for the year. His nearest teammate in scoring for the Spartan team finished with 287 points. He ended his 1973-74 season with 323 of 571 field goals made for a field goal percentage of 56.57 percent. He had a total of 570 rebounds that year as well. He ended his career at Southwestern with 468 field goals made and a field goal percentage of 57.7 percent. He contributed 1,134 total points to the Spartans during those two seasons.

Kragel played basketball at Southwestern under legendary head coach Ron "Fox" Clinton. According to Kragel, playing for Fox was one of the greatest highlights of his playing career. He and Fox still keep in touch and when Kragel is in town, the two get together to catch up.

After leading the nation in scoring at the junior college level, Kragel earned a scholarship to study and play at Oklahoma State University. He earned MVP honors for the Cowboys his senior year. Kragel earned his bachelor's degree and continued on at Oklahoma State, receiving his Masters of Business Education degree while working as a graduate assistant coach.

It was 1977 when Kragel was announced as head women's basketball coach and business professor for Walters State Community College in Morristown, TN. He assisted briefly with the men's basketball program as well. In 1985, Kragel wrapped up his teaching career and was named coordinator of activities for the student services department.

Kragel has accomplished much as the head coach for the Senators. During the 2015-16 season, Kragel surpassed 900 wins as a coach, making him third in total wins among active coaches in the NJCAA and fifth overall for all-time winningest coaches in the NJCAA. That same season, his team earned their fifth straight appearance in the NJCAA national tournament, ending the season in second-round tourney action against #1 ranked Gulf Coast State, who went on to win the national championship.

His teams currently have a 105-game winning streak in the conference, not losing a game since 2011. During his coaching career, his teams have earned 16 Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) championships, and 13 national tournament appearances. Kragel has been named TCCAA Coach of the Year 18 times and NJCAA Region 7 coach of the year 13 times. In 2004, Coach Kragel was inducted into the TCCAA Hall of Fame. Kragel has been the Women's Basketball Coaches Committee Chairman since 1995.

In 2014, Kragel was named to the NJCAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. At that time, he had a career record of 806 wins and 258 losses. He currently sits with a career record of 904 wins and 260 losses.

Under Coach Kragel's reign, 152 players have received scholarships at four-year institutions, 50+ athletes have been named to all-region teams, and 28 players have received All-American honors.

Kragel has always believed in the mission of the community college and this is the reason he has remained at Walters State for almost 40 years. Kragel said there is a huge benefit to students staying in a small environment to continue their education. One of his proudest achievements is having approximately 90 percent of his players earn degrees from Walters State and/or transfer to four-year institutions to continue their education.

Kragel and his wife, Sharlene, met while both were students at Southwestern. They have two sons, Alex, wife Amanda, and Ryan, wife Audra. The Kragels have five grandchildren, Abby, Anna, Ava, Carson, and Conner. Kragel's brothers, Don and Dennis, also attended Southwestern.
Good Luck to the SWCC 2017 Retirees

John Doyle
PC Technician/Network Specialist
Years of Service: 18
Other Positions Served: PC Technician

Randy Hughes
History Instructor
Years of Service: 11
Other Positions Served: Adjunct Instructor

Dr. Lori Lester
Biology Instructor
Years of Service: 12

Georgia Paulsen
Student Records/Veterans Coordinator
Years of Service: 17
Other Positions Served: Clerical

Kathryn Scott
Nursing Instructor
Years of Service: 11
Other Positions Served: Clinical Nursing Instructor

Jason Smith
Professional Music Instructor
Years of Service: 25

Ed Trullinger
Chemistry Instructor
Years of Service: 13

Rosemary Vanderpluym
Housekeeping Supervisor
Years of Service: 13
Other Positions Served: Housekeeping

Helen Waigand
LRC Media Assistant
Years of Service: 19

Sandy Webb
Registrar/Administrative Secretary
Years of Service: 43
Other Positions Served: Student Services Secretary

Marilyn Werner
Assessment Center Coordinator
Years of Service: 23
Other Positions Served: The College Experience Instructor

Dr. Susan White
Nursing Chair
Years of Service: 29
Other Positions Served: Adjunct Nursing Instructor and Full-Time Nursing Instructor

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Sampson Named 2017 Coca-Cola Silver Scholar

In March, Selena Sampson, a student at Southwestern Community College (SWCC), was named a 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars, and providing nearly $200,000 in scholarships annually. Each Silver Scholar receives a $1,250 scholarship and a special medallion.

Sampson is a student in SWCC’s licensed practical nursing program. She is the incoming president for the college’s Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter, Beta Eta Nu. Sampson’s goal is to transfer after completion of SWCC’s registered nursing program and eventually obtain her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program. Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of community college students and helping them grow as scholars and leaders. The honor society is made up of more than 3.2 million members and has nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.

Southwestern Sprinter Competes in 2016 Olympics

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

Summer 2016 was one Sisilia Seavula, Southwestern Community College sophomore student-athlete from Suva, Fiji, will never forget. Seavula ran in the 2016 Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Seavula, who competes on the Spartan track and field team, competed at the Olympics in the women’s 100m dash for her home country of Fiji. She placed second in her first round heat, with a time of 12.34 seconds, on the morning of Friday, Aug. 12, which then qualified her to run in the preliminary round, at 8:55 p.m. Central Standard Time, that same night, where she finished eighth in her heat with a time of 12.48.

When Seavula qualified for the Olympic games, she said it was a privilege and an honor to run on a worldwide stage.

“I feel blessed and very humbled to be given the opportunity to represent my country in Rio,” Seavula explained.

Following her Olympic experience, Seavula was able to sum up what it was like to be an Olympic athlete.

“Competing with the best of the best from around the world motivates me to become better and want to achieve more in track,” stated Seavula recently. “It has also enabled me to gain confidence and experience, which I can use in other competitions.”

Seavula is thankful for the assistance she’s received from those around her.

“I would just like to thank God, my family, my coach, and my friends, for without them, I wouldn’t have accomplished that milestone achievement,” Seavula said.

Seavula is Southwestern’s record holder at 100 meters, 200 meters, and 400 meters. Her track and field coach, Jordan Strofaci, said her contributions to Southwestern’s team have been invaluable.

“Sisi is an absolute joy to work with on a daily basis,” Strofaci beamed. “She has an unwavering faith, passion, and drive. Sisi trains like she has never won, and competes as though she has never lost. Her work ethic and enthusiasm are contagious, which noticeably improves the intensity and focus of the athletes around her.”

Seavula is a liberal arts major and participates in the multicultural club. She was recognized by Southwestern for her Olympic running accomplishments during a ceremony held Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016, in the Student Center gymnasium, between the women’s and men’s basketball games.

Seavula was one of two runners with Southwestern ties to qualify for the 2016 Olympic games. Theo Piniau, a May 2015 Southwestern graduate, qualified for the Papua New Guinea team and competed in the men’s 200m dash.
Southwestern Community College (SWCC) electrical technology graduate Daniel Leonard of Mount Ayr placed first in the nation for electrical construction wiring at the 2016 SkillsUSA Championships held June 20-24, 2016, in Louisville, KY.

The SkillsUSA Championships showcase the best career and technical education students in the nation. Leonard qualified for the national competition by placing first in the electrical construction wiring competition at the Iowa SkillsUSA 2016 competition in Ankeny on April 29, 2016.

Leonard, a May 2009 graduate of Mount Ayr High School, earned his Associate of Arts degree from SWCC in December 2011. He entered the college’s electrical technology program in the fall of 2014. He was granted a diploma in electrical technology in June 2015 and received the Associate of Applied Science degree in electrical technology in June 2016. He maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout his time in the electrical technology program, qualifying him for the President’s List each semester. Currently, Leonard is employed by Munyon Electric in Mount Ayr.

During the SkillsUSA Championships, more than 6,000 contestants competed in 100 events. According to its Web site, SkillsUSA is a multi-million-dollar event that occupies a space equivalent to 16 football fields. The purpose of the championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance and to keep training relevant to employers’ needs.

Southwestern 2014 graduate Logan Kinyon, a 22-year-old from Creston, is currently reigning as Miss Rodeo Iowa 2017.

Kinyon holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture business from Northwest Missouri State University, which she uses to fuel her passion for agriculture. Prior to attending Northwest, Kinyon received an Associate of Arts degree from Southwestern Community College. While attending Southwestern, she was involved in the very first Dazzlers dance team, golf team, and she was also a resident advisor.

Kinyon described her time at SWCC as some of the most memorable years of her life. “SWCC was like home. And the people I met there became family,” Kinyon explained. “I’m still very close with those people and we often talk about how much we miss SWCC. We will forever cherish our memories there.”

Southwestern provided a great starting place for Kinyon’s education. “Southwestern was the perfect start to my college career because it was the right size and I was able to make personal relationships with all the teachers and staff,” stated Kinyon. “It was also very affordable and I was lucky enough to leave SWCC debt free. All my credits transferred without any issues and my transition to Northwest was easy thanks to all the great effort of the SWCC staff.”

In her free time, Kinyon enjoys watching her brother compete in various sports and rodeo events. She also enjoys fishing, painting, and camping with her family. With Iowa’s rich western heritage pumping through her veins, she strives to educate people across the country about the sport of rodeo and western way of life.

In December 2017, Kinyon will represent Iowa at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas. After the completion of her year as Miss Rodeo Iowa, Kinyon plans to go back to school to get her master’s degree in agriculture education. She hopes to someday be able to teach at the collegiate level and create a college experience for others, just as wonderful as her own.
Alumni Updates

Howard Henderson '62 retired from Iowa Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Marcella, are enjoying retirement in West Des Moines.

Dennis Elliott '70 currently resides in Topeka, KS, with his wife, Gwen (Koether) '70. They met and found true love at SWCC!!

Bonnie (Whittlesey) Westman '71 is enjoying retirement in Creston.

Kathleen (Bovaird) Liebenguth '72 is an English teacher at Bellevue Public Schools in Bellevue, NE.

Georgia (Hancock) Hays '75 is enjoying retirement in Creston.

Dana Legg '81 (below) is a freelance musician in Chicago. He enjoyed the concerts both on campus and touring the state and performing with both the jazz ensemble and the jazz choir.

Dana Legg '81

Tyler Tassell '00

Lori (Short) Henrichs '84 is the school nurse at Clarke Community Schools in Osceola.

Jody (Cross) Greene '91 currently resides in Mount Ayr.

Linda (Kilgore) Landers '94 is the president of Kilgore’s Enterprise in Creston. Michael (Mick) Landers '98, her husband, was the assistant fire chief in Creston. He had been with the fire department since 1993. In April, Mick passed away following a battle with ampullary cancer. There was an outpouring of support in the Creston community following his loss. On April 19, 2017, an article in the Creston News Advertiser said Landers “is remembered as being observant, humble, and dedicated in all aspects of his life.” We are proud to have Mick as a member of the Southwestern family and our thoughts are with Linda and his family.

Patrick Updike '95 is a communications technician at the Iowa Department of Corrections in Clarinda.

Kate (Shipley) Widhalm ’99 is a middle school speech/drama teacher at Gretna Public Schools in Gretna, NE. One of her favorite things about her time at SWCC was working on the Southwestern Star.

Tyler Tassell '00 (at left) is a teacher and coach at Audubon High School. Some of his favorite memories of Southwestern include the national tournament, freshman year basketball team, road trips, and hanging out with teammates at the apartments.

Drew Hose (attended '99-01) (at right) is an annuities rep at Ameritas in Lincoln, NE.

Jeff Lauridsen '07 is a sports coordinator at the YMCA of Greater Des Moines.

Rachel (Madison) Williams '07 is an administrative assistant at Printer, Inc. (TPI) in Des Moines.

Rachel (Sinn) Wallace '11 (below) is a copywriter at Lessing-Flynn in Des Moines.

Chad Boston '10 is a research associate at DuPont Pioneer in Johnston.

James Coverdell '13 (below) is an assembler at Salford’s, Inc. in Osceola.

Jennifer Brandt '15 transferred to Graceland University. She enjoyed spending time performing as a SWCC Dazzler. The best performance for her was the faculty dance because she had the opportunity to connect with the faculty members on another level.

Keep the updates coming!

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

1. Go to www.swccio.edu/alumni and complete our online update form.

2. Fill out the inserted Alumni Update card and return it in the mail.
Southwestern Supporters Give Back

By Cait Maitlen, Director of Admissions

Nile Cornelison and Howard Long have been seeking an opportunity to give back to the automotive industry for quite some time. After reaching out to a number of individuals within the automotive industry, they have elected to give back to those pursuing their education through an annual scholarship, ‘The Automotive Instructor Insight Scholarship, driven by Nile Cornelison and Howard Long,’ set up through Southwestern’s Education Foundation. Both gentlemen had a passion for the automotive industry and have respectfully taken their own pathways through life, proving that to be true.

After Cornelison attended Creston Junior College from 1960-62, he remained attuned to the needs of the industry at all times. Over time, he elected to start his own business in Creston where he sold automotive parts to car enthusiasts across the Midwest. He was recognized a number of times by the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), an annual car show hosted in Las Vegas. Cornelison was also elected to the SEMA Hall of Fame in 2014 for his continuous training and hard work. He is in fact a prime example of success within the automotive industry.

Taking a completely different route through life, Long turned his teenage experience of building and racing cars into a lifelong hobby. He has maintained his personal vehicles and worked on restoration pieces for nearly 60 years. After obtaining a degree in mechanical engineering, Long joined the United States Air Force with an intent of learning how to fly airplanes. He flew for the Air Force during the Vietnam Era, was a T-37 Jet instructor for four years after receiving his pilot training and eventually decided to fly commercial jets in 1970. He was employed by Delta Airlines for 32 years.

The duo have a passion for continuous learning and the automotive industry, stemming back to their experiences growing up racing cars in and around southwest Iowa. Through this passion, they have supported an annual scholarship with the assistance of Southwestern automotive faculty members for current students pursuing their education within either the automotive collision repair/refinish or automotive repair technology programs at the college.
In early-2017, the Southwestern Community College marketing department unveiled a new 30-second television advertisement, “Why pick SWCC?”

The TV ad features a number of current SWCC students and has been airing on Des Moines television stations and cable networks, on southwest Iowa cable networks, and in online advertising. The television advertisement may be viewed on the SWCC Web site at www.swcciowa.edu/about/marketing.

During the making of the ad in October 2016, an entire day of filming took place on campus, with more than 20 current students being interviewed about why future students should choose Southwestern Community College. The additional footage from that day will be used for recruitment efforts in digital and Web site advertising.