Join us **April 16** for a celebration of Southwestern’s 50th year. **PAGE 7**

**50 Years of Progress**

**PAGE 4**

Couples of Southwestern **PAGE 9**

Schroeder Inducted to Athletic Hall of Fame **PAGE 12**
It is with great pleasure that we share this 50th Anniversary edition of the *Southwestern Magazine* with you. The legislation authorizing community colleges in Iowa was passed in 1965 and Southwestern opened its doors in rented facilities in uptown Creston in September 1966. The college served 351 students during its first year of operation. A great deal has been accomplished in the 50 years since then!

The College relocated to its current location on more than 400 acres at the north edge of Creston in 1970. Student housing has been upgraded from trailer houses arranged in a circle to beautiful apartment-style residence halls, programs and services have been expanded, and enrollment has grown. Over 2,000 students were served in college credit programs and there were nearly 8,000 participants in continuing education programs during the last fiscal year (FY2015).

In the pages that follow, we have highlighted some of the major milestones in Southwestern’s history. We hope you will enjoy this brief trip down memory lane as we celebrate our golden anniversary. The individuals and groups that have been integral to the success of the College are too numerous to mention each one. Please know that each and every contribution to the College has had an impact. Whether you have served on the board, been an employee, been a student, volunteered time to serve on an advisory committee, helped to pick-up debris on campus following the tornado, or made a monetary gift to the Education Foundation, you have been an important part of Southwestern’s progress and the success of the students we serve.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past 50 years, we extend our sincere appreciation for your support during these years. Southwestern would not be the educational institution it is today without your support.

Please join us on April 16 as we celebrate 50 years of progress! See page seven for specific details for the 50th Anniversary Open House.

*Dr. Barbara J. Crittenden*

*Southwestern Community College President*
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Southwestern Community College, in Creston, began operation as a part of Iowa’s community college system on July 1, 1966. The college inherited the facilities and instructional programs of Creston Community College, which had been operated by the Creston Community School District since 1926.

Southwestern’s district, designated as Area XIV, includes eight primary counties—Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Montgomery, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union; as well as portions of five other Iowa counties—Madison, Lucas, Page, Pottawattamie, and Wayne. The region the college serves, which covers approximately 3,804 square miles in south central and southwest Iowa, is characterized by low population density and small rural communities.

In the Beginning
A study was initiated in the spring of 1965 by the superintendents of 22 community school districts in eight counties of southwest Iowa to determine the feasibility of creating an area college for the geographic region. Formal application to form a community college for the area was submitted to the State Board of Public Instruction on September 15, 1965, with final approval for the establishment of merged Area XIV being granted on February 18, 1966.

On April 21, 1966, members of the first Southwestern Community College board of directors were elected from each of the eight designated director districts. Original board of trustees members included Robert Beecher, president, of Creston; Dr. Harold Condit, vice president, of Lamoni; R.D. Brown, of Osceola; Dr. A. Jay Gantz, of Greenfield; John Kolterman, Jr., of Red Oak; Dr. W.J. Kopp, Lenox; Austin Turner, of Corning; and E.M. Watson, of Diagonal.

July 1, 1966
College began operation as part of Iowa community college system

November 1, 1966
406 acre campus site purchased

February 11, 1967
First adult education class was held

March 1971
College granted accreditation through North Central Association
The initial meeting of the board took place in the Union County Courthouse in Creston on April 28, 1966. According to Wendell J. Kopp, DVM, original board member from Lenox now 99 years of age and living in Oak Ridge, TN, “Many hours were spent in session, often twice per week and extending into the early hours of the morning.” Kopp said it was an effort to put together a faculty unit, create curricula, find housing for classes, and operate with some sense of cohesion.

Kopp, who left Iowa in 1973 to become a professor at the University of Tennessee, is amazed and proud of the college’s progress. “There is a saying, ‘from an acorn, a sturdy oak will grow’ and this is a perfect analogy [for how far the college has come],” Kopp stated.

Kopp and other original board members hired Dr. W.R. Pierce, Jr., a native of southern Missouri, as the first president of Southwestern Community College. Pierce assumed his duties on July 1, 1966.

“We’re interested in the education of the people,” said Pierce in an August 1966 article appearing in the Creston News Advertiser. “We will try to fill the gaps in this eight-county area.”

Pierce earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees at the University of Missouri at Columbia. Prior to coming to SWCC, he was superintendent of schools at Charleston, MO. He was president at Southwestern until July 1971 when Dr. John A. Smith became the second president of the college.

During his exit from Southwestern, Pierce stated, “The people of Iowa, and especially Southwest Iowa, have been extremely good to me in my position as superintendent, as well as to my family as a whole. The administration, the faculty, and students have cooperated to the fullest in making this a good institution.”

Southwestern’s First Year
Southwestern opened its doors in September 1966 in rented facilities in Creston. As of October 1966, the college was still polling the communities of Area XIV for top program choices in the vocational/technical areas. Choices on the mail-in ballots, which appeared in the Creston News Advertiser, included auto body, auto mechanics, carpentry, drafting, electronics, practical nursing, and secretarial training.

During its first year, Southwestern had 326 students enrolled in arts and sciences classes and 25 students enrolled in three vocational/technical programs—auto mechanics, auto body, and carpentry. Arts and sciences classes began in the fall of 1966 and vocational/technical courses, which included auto mechanics and auto body (carpentry followed soon after), began with the start of the spring semester on January 16, 1967. In early newspaper clippings, the acronym for the college name was SWC. Today, Southwestern Community College is shortened to SWCC (pronounced “swick”).

The Facilities
On November 1, 1966, the college purchased a 406-acre campus site, “the Bullard Farm,” on the northwest side of Creston, Highway 25 and Green Valley Road, for $160,000. The first building on the site, the 105,000 square foot Instructional Center, was occupied the summer of 1970. This building remains the largest instructional facility on campus today.
Suites (2006), Spartan Hall (2010), and Spartan Court (2014).

Accreditation
Early in its history, Southwestern sought accreditation through the North Central Association. On March 31, 1971, Southwestern was granted the status of Recognized Candidate for Accreditation. In 1974, the college completed an extensive self-study in preparation for a visit by an accrediting team from North Central Association. Southwestern was granted initial accreditation following that visit. The college was reaccredited in 1978, 1988, 1996, and 2006.

In February 2003, Southwestern’s accreditation was extended to include online credit courses for associate degree programs facilitated through the Iowa Community College Online Consortium.

In addition, Southwestern is accredited by the Iowa Department of Education. It was 1993, when the Iowa General Assembly modified requirements and specified the state accreditation process be integrated with the process used by the North Central Association.

Four career and technical education programs at Southwestern have acquired specialized accreditations as well:

- Auto Collision Repair/Refinish—Certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.
- Automotive Repair Technology—Certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.
- Electrical Technology—Approved by the Iowa Electrical Examining Board Post-Secondary Electrical Program.
- Nursing Education—Licensed practical nursing (LPN) and associate degree in nursing (ADN) programs are approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing

Southwestern works in close partnership with the secondary schools in the area, offering a variety of courses and programs to their students. The college’s concurrent enrollment programs are accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.

The Centers
In 1985, Southwestern opened a center in Red Oak to “better serve the western part of the district.” The Red Oak Center was initially housed in a rented facility in downtown Red Oak. In 1992, the college purchased a building located at 2300 North 4th Street in Red Oak and extensively remodeled the facility to house the Red Oak Center. The Red Oak Center 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.

In 1992, the college opened a center in Osceola, which is located in the eastern part of Southwestern’s district. The Osceola Center was located in downtown Osceola until 1993, when a facility was constructed on the south side of Highway 34, just west of Osceola. The center was expanded by 8,290 square feet in 1999 to accommodate the growing needs for industrial training. Today, the Osceola Center offers college credit courses, adult and continuing education classes, and customized training for local businesses and industries.

Student Housing
Student housing was first provided on the Southwestern Community College campus in 1972 in the form of a mobile home park, named College Park. According to the ’72 yearbook, College Park was “a trailer park consisting of seven units, each housing six students.”

Housing at Southwestern has come a long way since then. The college now has two traditional-style residence halls—West Hall (built in 1996) and Wilson Hall (built in 1979)—as well as three apartment-style residence halls—Spartan Court (built in 2014), Spartan Hall (built in 2010), and Spartan Suites (built in 2006). Currently, the college has capacity for 280 students in residential housing.

Athletics
Throughout its history, athletics have been an integral part of Southwestern’s landscape, bringing students who may not have attended otherwise from great distances to the college. The first intercollegiate sports the Southwestern Spartans fielded included baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, and wrestling. The athletes were all male at that time. Cheerleading was

[Article continued on page 14]
You are invited

50th Anniversary Open House

Sat., April 16, 2-4 p.m.

Southwestern Community College, Student Center
1501 W Townline St., Creston, IA 50801

—Come and go event—

Refreshments, historical college video and display, tour of the nursing simulation lab, drawings with prizes, live music by the professional music department, photo booth, and tours of the campus and residence halls.

The SWCC Shoppe and Spartan Café will be open in the Student Center throughout the event.

Also that day:
• Career and technical education program areas will be open for tours.
• The softball team will host Ellsworth in a 1 p.m. game at the Spartan softball field.

Nursing Alumni:
The nursing department will be hosting an alumni gathering from 1-2 p.m. in the Allied Health Center.

Find more information at:
www.swccioia.edu/swcc50
Years of Guidance from the Board of Trustees

Throughout the years, Southwestern’s esteemed board of trustees has provided direction and guidance to the college. Many thanks to board members past and present for their dedication and time!

Current Board Members

Ken Rech, Red Oak
President
Board member since 1980

Dr. Tony Cass, Creston
Vice President
Board member since 2009

Jerry Smith, Osceola
IACCT Representative
Board member since 1997

Denny Davis, Greenfield
Board member since 2001

Zach Gunsolley, Diagonal
Board member since 2013

Carol Saxton, Leon
Board member since 2013

Fred Shearer, Corning
Board member since 2002

Vicki Sickels, Mount Ayr
Board member since 2007

Past Board Members

Cindy Cox, Bedford, 2010-2013
Susan Lane, Leon, 1982-2013
Jan DeMott, Bedford, 1987-2010 & June-Sept 2013
Larry Mark, Creston, 1978-2008
Larry Giles, Mount Ayr, 1999-2007
John McMahon, Corning, 1994-2002
Dr. Duane Mitchell, Mount Ayr, 1967-1999
Gary Kimes, Osceola, 1994-1997
Dr. Fred DeHaan, Osceola, 1979-1994
David Schweers, Corning, 1988-1994

Joseph Rivera, Greenfield, 1986-1993
Dr. Rodney Gold, Bedford, 1986-1987
Wendell Sheriff, Greenfield, 1983-1986
John Brown, Bedford, 1983-1986
Dr. E. J. Janson, Gravity, 1973-1983
Dr. Paul Edwards, Lamoni, 1978-1982
Austin Turner, Corning, 1966-1981 *
Karen Kelsay, Red Oak, 1977-1980
Dr. A. Jay Gantz, Greenfield, 1966-1980 *

Wayne Christensen, Murray, 1976-1979
Dr. Harry Dennis, Lamoni, 1975-1977
John Koltermann, Jr., Red Oak, 1966-1977 *
R. D. Brown, Osceola, 1966-1976 *
Dr. Harold Condit, Lamoni, 1966-1975 *
Dr. W. J. Kopp, Lenox, 1966-1973 *
William Evans, Creston, 1971-1972
Charles Ehms, Creston, 1970-1971
Robert Beecher, Creston, 1966-1970 *
E. M. Watson, Diagonal, 1966-1967 *

* Denotes members of the founding Southwestern Community College Board of Directors
It all started here! While their initial intention was most likely a college degree, some Southwestern grads have left the college with a whole lot more. Here’s a tribute to some of the relationships that got off to their start at SWCC! Congrats to everyone who came as an individual and left as a couple!

Olivia (Cook) Wackernagle ’04 of Diagonal and Gary Wackernagle ’02 of Bedford met working in a group in one of Dave Neas’ classes. They got married in March 2008 and live in Omaha, NE.

Alisa (Nelson) Eichorn ’00 of Lenox and Doug Eichorn ’99 of Lincoln, NE, met while they were students at SWCC. They are now married and live in Albuquerque, NM.

Alex Duffy ’14 of Bondurant and Aaron Hixson ’14 of Bellevue, NE, are dating and remember countless walks together on the trail, supporting each other at baseball and volleyball games, as well as having fun at the Halloween dance.

Samantha Borland ’15 of Lenox & Evan Maynes ’14 of Corning are currently engaged to be married this summer. Their relationship sparked after Evan politely held the door at Spartan Hall one night for Samantha. They are both working their dream jobs and looking forward to spending their lives together.

Lilia (Lower) Blass ’14 of Williamsburg and Kenny Blass ’14 of Casey met each other on a team photo day at SWCC, but didn’t start dating until Kenny enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. They married in January 2016 and now live in Kailua, HI.

Heather (Magneson) Downing ’04 of Stanton and Adam Downing ’04 of Orient met in a journalism class while working on the Southwestern Star. They were married in December 2015 and currently live in Corning.

Hannah (Henrichs) North ’09 of Thayer and Doug North ’08 of Grand Haven, MI, met working at the theater while attending SWCC. They married in May 2013 and live in Creston.

Megan Doubleday ’14 of Mount Ayr & Devan Wicks ’14 of Des Moines met during their sophomore year through another SWCC couple Alex Duffy and Aaron Hixon. Despite initially being turned down by Megan, Devan persisted and his self-described “irresistible charm” paid off. They have been dating ever since.

Sandra (Trenkle) Noon ’72 of Creston and Michael Noon ’72 of Council Bluffs met at a college sponsored get-together in the fall of 1970 and were married shortly after graduation in July of 1972. They still enjoy staying in contact with some of their SWCC friends and roommates and live in Council Bluffs.

Alicia (McKibben) Olsen ’09 of Earlham and Keith Olsen ’08 of Treynor met through another couple on campus. After Keith initially tried to call Alicia at a busy time when she couldn’t talk, she asked him to introduce himself next time he saw her. Five years later they got married and they recently had a son, Max.

Molly (Budach) Kayser ’14 of Mount Ayr and Trevor Kayser ’13 of Agency got to know each other during their sophomore year through many mutual friends. While at SWCC, they enjoyed cheering on the athletic teams together, and hanging out at the café and the Spartan Suites lobby. They said “I do” in July of 2015 and now live in Mount Ayr.

Amanda (McBroom) Kimpton ’05 of Winterset and Chris Kimpton ’06 of Canberra, Australia met in the library between classes during the first week of school. They were married in September of 2015 and now live in Sydney, Australia.
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opportunity I have ever received,” Doubleday said. “As long as I can remember, I’ve always been one to take advantage of this blessing and work hard at every activity in high school. Because of this, I have always been involved in as many things as I can. Growing up in a small town in rural Iowa, you are able to participate in a lot of activities as possible.

“As long as I can remember, I’ve always been one to be involved in as many things as I can. Growing up in a small town in rural Iowa, you are able to participate in a lot of activities in high school. Because of this, I have always taken advantage of this blessing and worked hard at every opportunity I have ever received,” Doubleday said.

As a student at Southwestern, Doubleday became actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa, the college’s Student Ambassador program, and the Spartan Dazzlers drill team.

Doubleday noted, “I chose to begin my education at Southwestern Community College so I would have the opportunity to continue to be active and support my community. Being involved and helping others, by giving back to the school I loved, has always been a passion of mine. Southwestern gave me the confidence and support I needed to believe in myself and to keep striving even at the next level.”

Her drive and passion to give back continued as she transferred to Iowa State University. She was elected president of the Iowa State University Education Association for the 2015-16 academic year. Doubleday is studying elementary education at Iowa State University and will graduate with her bachelor’s degree in May.

The purpose of the Iowa State University Education Association is to help pre-service teachers succeed and prepare them for their future careers. The School of Education is a department in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.

We congratulate Megan on such a tremendous honor and wish her the best of luck as she seeks to begin her career as an elementary teacher!
Schroeder Inducted to Athletic Hall of Fame

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

Just a mention of Southwestern Community College’s volleyball program and Coach Rita Schroeder’s name is sure to come up. In fact, Southwestern’s home court was named after the longtime Spartan coach in 2012. Now, following a ceremony held on January 23, 2016, Schroeder has become the third inductee into the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, joining the ranks of Ron “Fox” Clinton, retired SWCC athletic director, coach, and instructor, who was the first Hall of Fame inductee in March 2013, and Bill Krejci, longtime SWCC athletic director/athletic fundraiser, coach, and instructor, who was inducted in December 2014.

During her time at Southwestern, Schroeder built a volleyball empire, respected throughout the nation for her players’ athletic tenacity and academic integrity. Schroeder, who hailed from the small Iowa town of McClelland, was a May 1980 graduate of Treynor High School. She first walked the halls of Southwestern from 1980 to 1982 as a student-athlete. Ironically, during her college years at Southwestern, she didn’t touch a volleyball. She was recruited to play basketball for Coach Betty Gaule and also helped Ron “Fox” Clinton as a student assistant with softball. She graduated from Southwestern in May 1982 with her associate’s degree and from Simpson College in Indianola in 1984 with her bachelor’s degree.

Schroeder obviously made an impression during her time at Southwestern. It was Clinton who persuaded her to return as a coach. According to Schroeder, following her graduation from Simpson, she returned to Treynor and one day Clinton showed up on her doorstep in a cowboy hat and boots and asked her to come back to Southwestern to be his basketball assistant.

It was 1985 when Schroeder returned to Southwestern with a host of coaching duties—assistant basketball and softball coach under the direction of Clinton and assistant volleyball coach under Head Coach Sarah Funderburk. After one season, Funderburk resigned and Clinton asked Schroeder to take over the reins of the volleyball program. Schroeder said at that point Clinton had more confidence in her than she had in herself. From that time on, she considered Clinton her most valued mentor for the entirety of her coaching career.

Schroeder served at the helm of the Spartan volleyball program from 1986-2009. From 2010-12, she served as an assistant coach, most recently under the direction of her former player Melissa Blessington, now head coach at Ottawa University in Kansas. Blessington nominated Schroeder for the prestigious honor of joining Southwestern’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

Schroeder poses, after the Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, with fellow members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, Ron "Fox" Clinton (left) and Bill Krejci (right).

The Spartans finished third in the NJCAA D-II National Championships.

One of Schroeder’s greatest coaching memories came during the 1988 Region XI championship match. Schroeder said the Spartans were down 0-2 in the match and came back to win the next three sets earning their first trip to the NJCAA National Championships in Miami, FL.

“I really think that win set the stage for our program’s future, our quest to be stronger, and to contend for more championships,” said Schroeder. “Strong recruiting makes championships possible and championships help coaches recruit.”

In 2009, Schroeder’s 700-win coaching record helped her rank as one of the top five active coaches for winning records in Division II of the NJCAA and as the highest ranking active volleyball coach in the state of Iowa. Schroeder coached nine All-Americans and close to 100 all-region players during her college coaching career.

In November 2014, Schroeder was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Hall of Fame during a ceremony held during the NJCAA Division II Volleyball Championships in Phoenix, AZ.

As players, Blessington said they always knew Schroeder’s toughness came from a place of love. “Rita genuinely cared about every player from the best to the worst,” Blessington explained. “She wanted to get the best out of you and wanted you to learn to accept nothing but the best from yourself.”

As a coach, Schroeder was adamant that academics be important to her student-athletes. During Schroeder’s tenure, her teams earned 10 NJCAA team academic awards and 10 American Volleyball Coaches Association awards. In 1993, the team had a 3.4 grade point average, which ranked them first in the country with the NJCAA.

According to Blessington, Schroeder was really a pioneer for volleyball in southwest Iowa. Blessington said her coaching ran much deeper than the college level. Schroeder started a high school club team in 1988 and ran it for almost 15 years. Blessington said Schroeder spent countless hours coaching club and was never paid for her time.

“Rita felt getting volleyball started and thriving in southwest Iowa was more important than money,” stated Blessington. “She focused on teaching quality fundamentals to girls and giving them the dream to one day play in college.”

Schroeder’s club team, the Southwestern Juniors, had two top six finishes in the 18 and under Iowa regionals. In 1993, she was named the Cornbelt Outstanding Junior Volleyball Program Director, and in 1994 she was named the Cornbelt Female Coach of the Year.

In addition to her coaching duties at Southwestern, Schroeder was also an admissions representative. She now lives in Mooresville, NC, with Leslie Atkinson, where she continues to follow volleyball and mentor new coaches. She visits her friends at Southwestern and throughout the region every chance she can get.

Congratulations on becoming the third inductee in the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, Coach Rita Schroeder.
open to men and women and the pep club was predominantly women. During the following years, new sports were added while some sports were removed. A few women participated in tennis during the early ’70s, however the first varsity sport designated for women only was basketball in 1976.

In 1992, the women’s basketball team was the first Spartan team to become national contenders, placing fourth at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women’s Basketball Tournament. During the tournament, they beat the top-ranked team in the nation and were just five points short from playing for the national championship.

The men’s basketball team followed suit in 1999, placing seventh in the NJCAA DII National Championships.


Today, Southwestern offers the following sports for student-athletes: baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, bowling, men’s and women’s cross country, drill team, men’s and women’s golf, softball, sports shooting, men’s and women’s track and field, and volleyball.

Adult and Continuing Education
From the beginning, in addition to credit courses, Southwestern offered adult and continuing education courses and programs. Leonard Kuhre was Southwestern’s first adult education director. In a 1971 article, he said 3,219 people participated in adult education programs between July 1 and December 31, 1970. Kuhre said, in the same article, at that time there were three main types of adult education courses—continuing education, job improvement, and recreation.

Today, Southwestern’s adult and continuing education department offers adult literacy programs; state/federally mandated, recognized, and court ordered programs; employability/academic success, and career/vocational training programs; economic development; and recertification/re-licensure programs. During the most recent fiscal year, adult and continuing education served nearly 8,000 participants with more than 143,000 contact hours.

Industrial Training
Since July 1, 1983, Southwestern has been offering industrial training programs for area businesses and industries. The program was developed in accordance with House File 623, which was passed during the Iowa General Assembly’s session in 1983. At the time it was the only such law in the country allowing joint effort between community colleges and private industry in training employees in new industrial jobs. To date, Southwestern’s business training programs have provided more than $31 million to area businesses and industries, in turn, creating more than 8,900 new jobs.

The Tornado
It was April 14, 2012, when a tornado left a path of destruction across Southwestern’s Creston campus and the northwest portion of Creston. The bulk of the college’s damages were in residential housing, the Performing Arts Center, and the Technical Center.

Following the tornado, the majority of those living in student housing were relocated to a hotel for the remaining weeks of the semester. A number of area residents generously allowed students to stay in their homes as well. During the days and weeks following the tornado, Southwestern saw an outpouring from near and far.

“With all that had to be restored, we were fortunate at all stages of the recovery to have assistance and support coming from so many directions," stated Dr. Barb Crittenden, SWCC president. “With a lot of hard work, we were able to have student housing ready by the time classes began in August.” (Crittenden, 2013)

The community’s reaction, coupled with the support the college received following

Fall 1985
Semesters changed in length from 18 weeks to 16 weeks

Fall 1988
Women’s volleyball had the honor of first national appearance by a Spartan athletic team

Fall 1989
ENROLLMENT OVER 1,000! Fall 1989 enrollment was 1,048, surpassing enrollment of 896 in fall 1988
The tornado, was a testimonial for the positive impact Southwestern has had in the lives of innumerable individuals.

**Enrollment**

Today, Southwestern enrolls approximately 1,700 credit students each fall and nearly 8,000 non-credit participants each year. The college offers transfer courses, career and technical education programs, continuing education, industrial training, and economic development. Anyone who desires and is committed to obtaining an education is welcome. Southwestern’s faculty and staff are dedicated to providing challenging learning experiences that support the success of students.

The college has 22 career and technical education programs ranging from business and technology-related, to automotive, to construction-related programs. The largest of the career and technical education programs is nursing with a capacity each year for 90 licensed practical nursing students and 70 registered nursing students (45 students in Creston and 25 students at the Red Oak Center).

One of the most unique career and technical education programs Southwestern offers is professional music, which attracts talented musicians from across the country, as well as internationally. The professional music program was created at Southwestern in 1991, “to offer the serious music student the opportunity to explore music deeply, to discover by hard work his or her musical potential, and to consider seriously the relationship of music and the arts to the whole of life.”

**Leadership**

Southwestern has been fortunate to have a strong and committed board of directors throughout its history. This is evidenced, in part, by the willingness of members to serve for multiple terms. Five of the board members served for more than 20 years each. These individuals include Jan DeMott, Bedford, October 1987-March 2010 and June-September 2013; Larry Mark, Creston, September 1978-January 2009 (president from October 1981-October 2008); Dr. Duane Mitchell, Mount Ayr, November 1967-September 1999; Ken Rech, Red Oak, October 1980-present
enrolled offered, 11 students

Online classes first offered, 11 students enrolled

A campaign celebration was held in November 2005 to acknowledge the receipt of more than $3 million in pledges and gifts during “Investing in Excellence,” the college’s first-ever major gifts campaign. Shown from left to right: Dwight and Marilyn Conover, campaign co-chairs; Dr. Barb Crittenden, SWCC president; Larry Mark, former board of trustees president; and Tom Lesan, SWCC vice president of economic development.

(president from October 2008-present); and Susan Lane, Leon, May 1982-June 2013.

In 1995, Southwestern’s board was the first community college board of directors in Iowa to adopt the Carver Model of Policy Governance. Board members developed interest in the Carver Model after hearing a presentation at the American Association of Community College Trustees’s national conference. According to Carver and Mayhew (1994), “… the model redesigns the job of the board of trustees in such a way as to ensure that the board leads powerfully on behalf of the public, and that the staff is enabled to act with as much authority as possible, though within limits set by the board.” Southwestern’s board continues to operate utilizing the Carver Model.

Southwestern’s board today includes Ken Rech, president, of Red Oak; Dr. Tony Cass, vice president, of Creston; Denny Davis of Greenfield; Zach Gunsolley of Diagonal; Carol Saxton of Leon; Fred Shearer of Corning; Vicki Sickels of Mount Ayr; and Jerry Smith of Osceola.

Southwestern’s current president, Dr. Barb Crittenden, was named interim president at Southwestern Community College in November 1996. On April 8, 1997, the Southwestern board of trustees voted unanimously to appoint Crittenden as the fourth president in Southwestern’s history. Crittenden followed Dr. Richard Byerly who had been president at Southwestern since November 1984.

Prior to being named president, Crittenden served as the college’s vice president of instruction for nine years. She began her career at Southwestern in 1981 as a nursing instructor. Crittenden was the first female community college president in Iowa. In 2003, she received the Outstanding Chief Administrator Award from the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

Importance of Southwestern to the Region

When Larry Mark, who served on the SWCC board from December 1978 to January 2009, retired from his position on the board, he was asked why he remained on the board for 31 years. He replied, “SWCC was the hub of the community and this part of the state. Things were always happening and programs and facilities were being added and expanded. I wanted to stay a part of it as long as my constituents wanted me to stay.”

Mark’s sentiments are shared by many in Southwestern’s region. Generations of southwest Iowa families have relied on the community college to be there for their children and grandchildren.

In 2003, the Southwestern Community College Education Foundation conducted its first major gifts campaign. The Education Foundation was established in 1981 to raise funds to support the college in ways not supported by taxes, tuitions, or grants. During the major gifts campaign, the college received support internally (from faculty, staff, and board members), as well as externally.

At a ceremony to kick-off the campaign in 2003, Dwight Conover, campaign co-chair, Education Foundation board member (1984-2009), and then Chairman of First National Bank of Creston, stated, “Southwestern has a history of bringing solutions to businesses and individuals in our area of the state. Now is the time to step up and support this already successful initiative.”

During this five-year initiative, the major gifts campaign raised more than $3 million.

Southwestern continues to play a vital role today in business and industry. Jim Schipper, former superintendent of banking for the state of Iowa and chairman of American State Bank in Osceola, Lamoni, and Winterset, has been an advocate of the college for years. Schipper was active in the Clarke County Development Corporation for more than 35 years and was a board member for Southwestern’s Education Foundation from 1993 to 2010.

Schipper said he feels Southwestern is a tremendous asset for all of south-central and southwest Iowa. “The college improves people’s quality of life continuously by raising individuals’ knowledge and skill levels,” Schipper explained. “Over time, Southwestern helps all aspects of our labor force, assisting and adapting to meet the opportunities and challenges of a changing world.”

Future Directions

Throughout its history, Southwestern has been flexible and adaptable in responding to the needs of students, employers, and the communities in Region XIV. According to Dr. Barb Crittenden, Southwestern’s president, the future will demand continued ability to move quickly to address the need for educational programming to prepare the workforce for new and emerging occupations.

“Colleges will be preparing students with expectations that have not yet been defined for jobs that don’t yet exist,” Crittenden stated. “It will be imperative that we maintain communication in our area of the state. Now is the time to step up and support this already successful initiative.”

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“Colleges will be preparing students with expectations that have not yet been defined for jobs that don’t yet exist,” Crittenden stated. “It will be imperative that we maintain communication
with employers in order to ensure we are able to modify curriculum and content delivery methods in response to the changing demands of the workplace."

Crittenden feels faculty will continue to be called upon to address the learning styles of students in multi-generational classrooms, where students who have lived their entire lives with access to the internet and social media are learning along with those who are still adapting to the rapidly increasing use of technology.

"When graduation approaches, we often hear students say, ‘I wish Southwestern was a four-year college.’ As the only public institution of higher education in the area, Southwestern provides access to higher education and lifelong learning for residents of the area who might not otherwise have access."

According to Crittenden, continued efforts to develop partnerships with four-year colleges and universities that bring opportunities for transfer and articulation to students will remain a focus as well. Crittenden explained, “Southwestern Community College has been a vital part of southwest Iowa for the past 50 years and will remain so in the future, adapting and growing to meet the needs of the area."

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**SWCC Presidents Throughout the Years**

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<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. W.R. Pierce, Jr.</td>
<td>1966-1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. John A. Smith</td>
<td>1971-1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Richard L. Byerly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Barbara Crittenden</td>
<td>1997-Present</td>
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**SWCC Board President Honored for Years of Service to Community Colleges**

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

Ken Rech, president of the Southwestern Community College (SWCC) board of trustees, was honored for 35 years of service to community colleges during an Awards Banquet at the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT) 2016 Conference at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines on Mon., February 22, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Jerry Smith, SWCC board of trustees member from Osceola and IACCT representative, presented the award to Rech during the IACCT Awards Banquet. Rech, of Red Oak, has served as the District 5 representative on the college’s board since 1980. He was vice president of the board from 1999 to 2008. Rech was elected as president of the SWCC board of trustees in 2008 and he continues to serve in that role today.

Rech, who retired from Red Oak’s Oakview Construction, has been an active leader in the Red Oak community for years, serving on the Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association; as well as playing an integral role in economic development activities. He is a member of the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital board, where he currently serves as treasurer.

Jerry Smith (left) presented Ken Rech (right), president of the SWCC board of trustees, with a 35-year service award during the 2016 Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Annual Conference, held February 22 in Des Moines.
Alumni Updates

1960s
Carl Hartman ’61 is enjoying retirement in Fort Collins, CO.

Margaret Hoadley-Storms ’72 is a retired CC RN-EMT-P currently living in Stuart.

Kirk Augustine ’73 is the founder and president of Animal Health Digest, LLC, in Liberty, MO. Some of his favorite memories about his time at Southwestern include big band with Dick Bauman because it was challenging and a nice break from academics.

Deb (Faber) Schumacher ’75 is a teacher and tutor at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge. She enjoyed making many good friends with students from surrounding towns.

Dan Goodale ’75 and Kristy Goodale ’75 live in Diagonal. Dan is a farmer. Kristy is an occupational health nurse at Quality Occupational Health Services in Diagonal. According to Kristy, her LPN class was a very close-knit class and they still get together at times.

Jim Rogers ’75 is in plant operations at Guthrie County Hospital. Some of his favorite memories during his time at Southwestern were a scouting trip with “The Fox” in Chicago, playing basketball and meeting a lot of great people, having Pizza Hut during western civilization class some days, and of course the baseball spring trip to Texas.

Kirk Augustine ’73

Gary Veitz ’75 is a sixth grade math teacher in Creston.

Kathryn (Mercer) Leffler ’78 is a customer service coordinator at ChildServe in Johnston. She has many great memories of SWCC, most of them centering on the music department. Dick Bauman and Mary Louise Petznick were wonderful people, teachers, and mentors. “My favorite memories center around my involvement in the SWCC jazz band and The Entertainers and all of the friends I shared these times with!”

1980s
Tory Blazek ’82 is a real estate professional in Redondo Beach, CA. “Some of the nicest instructors I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing—Ina Ray was one of the best! Gary Feddern was outstanding!”

Dawnette (Lorimor) Bredberg ’94 is an orthopedics case manager at Nebraska-Western Iowa Healthcare System-VA Hospital in Omaha, NE. One of her favorite memories about her time at Southwestern was getting their caps in nursing school and using surgilube jelly to secure the blue strip on the caps so they could take the strip off after they graduated.

Thomas Hayes ’84 is an operating engineer at County of Cook in Chicago. He currently resides in Tinley Park, IL, with his wife, Libby, and their three children, Kylie, Kelli, and Tommy.

Phil Bodine ’86 currently resides in Mendota, IL, and is a teacher/coach at Plainfield High School. He has been a teacher/coach for 26 years.

Douglas Welsch ’87 is a maintenance technician at Cardinal IG in Greenfield. One of his favorite memories about his time at Southwestern was “the great teachers that cared about your success!”

1990s
Amy (Jenkins) Bisenius ’97 is a middle school social studies teacher at Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Schools in Anthon. She enjoyed bonding with her volleyball teammates and Coach Rita Schroeder on the SWCC bus.

Phil Bodine ’86

1990s

Phil Bodine ’86

2000s
Theodore Gutman ’08 works on the grounds crew for the Baltimore Orioles. At SWCC he enjoyed getting to play the game of baseball and being surrounded by great people.

Kendra (Wagner) Lewis ’09 is an office support assistant at Maryville Treatment Center. One of her favorite memories was working with the “older” generation and showing them how to use a computer to complete homework assignments. Also, Barb Brown was one of my favorite teachers because she took the time to work with each student and was very approachable.

Dawnette (Lorimor) Bredberg ’94

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.

Southwestern Magazine
Like Father, Like Son
Contributed article

Dean Foresman graduated from SWCC in 1969. He was in the last class to complete the auto body program offered in the old Ford Dealership. The school as many students know it now did not exist. There were mobile classes in several locations throughout Creston and the dealership housed the auto body and auto mechanics programs. After learning his trade, Dean worked for two Ford dealerships and was a paint representative before purchasing an existing shop in Atlantic. Dean restored many Mustangs over the years as his son, Seth, worked and played side-by-side in his dad’s garage and shop. Working in a garage came natural to Seth as he learned to use tools and gain repair skills from his dad. At three years old, Seth had learned his sanding skills well enough that he took the liberty of using a sanding block all the way down the side of his dad’s new car! Seth was so proud of his sanding job that Dean couldn’t possible scold him!

Old school meets new school
Fast forward 40 years to 2009 when Seth also attended SWCC and graduated with the distinctions of earning an Outstanding Student Achievement Award and attaining the Dean’s list all three years he attended. He earned associate’s degrees in collision repair/refinish, as well as automotive repair technology. A few months before graduation Seth and his father realized that when old school meets new school there is a lot to learn from each other! Dean was an experienced body man who could teach his son about the real world of running a successful shop and Seth had new computer skills for estimates and updated processes to share with his dad. They became partners and purchased the business they own today, Walnut Street Autobody, in Atlantic. It is the perfect mix of two men who bring different skills to the table. They work well together and maintain a successful business! It all started from their roots at SWCC!
Not your current address?
Keep us up-to-date! Send your corrected address to ariley@swcciowa.edu.

Good Luck to the SWCC 2016 Retirees

Cheryl Blazek
Coordinator of Emergency Medical & Health Related Services
Years of Service: 16
Other Positions Served: Adjunct instructor

Carole Maske
Business Instructor
Years of Service: 11

Sarah Smith
Center Coordinator, Red Oak
Years of Service: 20
Other Positions Served: Adjunct instructor