It has been another great year at Southwestern Community College! We have once again had opportunities to work with a number of very talented students. In the pages of this edition of the Southwestern Magazine, you will read about a few of the academic and athletic successes and achievements of our students. While the magazine isn’t large enough to include articles on all of our well-deserving students, it is our hope that the few we are able to highlight will give you a flavor of the student learning and growth that is occurring.

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, 2017 edition, prepared by the Iowa Department of Education Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation. The data is from Fiscal Year 2017 (academic year 2016-17).

Ken Rech, longtime board member from Red Oak, retired from the board in the fall after serving 37 years, including nine years as board president. In addition, two staff members will be entering retirement this year, Automotive Repair Technology Instructor Steve Schmalzried and Instruction/Distance Education Office Assistant Sharon Dunfee.

You will find information about each of these individuals in the pages of the magazine. We wish them the very best in their well-deserved retirement!

As we conclude another academic year, we once again extend our appreciation to all of you for your kind and generous support. We value our ongoing relationship with all of you and look forward to our continuing partnership with you!

Dr. Barbara J. Crittenden
Southwestern Community College President

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2,222
Students enrolled in credit courses during the 2016-17 academic year (FY2017 MIS data)

4,994
Individuals served in non-credit/continuing education programs (FY2016 MIS data)

280
Students living in on-campus housing

141
Full-time Employees (as of Nov. 1, 2017)

114
Part-time Employees (as of Nov. 1, 2017)

Fiscal Year 2016 General Operating Fund Revenue by Source

- Tuition & Fees: 48%
- State: 37%
- Local: 5%
- Federal & Other Sources: 10%

FY2016 Student Profile (MIS data)

- Age:
  - 17 & Under: 656
  - 18-22: 1072
  - 23-26: 149
  - 27-30: 94
  - 31-39: 154
  - 40-55: 85
  - Over 55: 12

- Enrollment Status:
  - Full-Time: 26.2%
  - Part-Time: 73.8%

- Residency:
  - Iowa: 88.5%
  - International: 1.1%
  - Out of State: 10.4%

- Gender:
  - Female: 42.3%
  - Male: 57.7%
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by Terri Higgins

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Inquiries regarding compliance with the nondiscrimination policy and the appropriate grievance procedure may be directed to: Jolene Griffith, Educational Equity and Title IX Coordinator, Southwestern Community College, 1501 W. Townline St., Creston, IA 50801, 641.782.1456 or 800.247.4023, ext. 456, or TitleIXCoordinator@swcciowa.edu; or the Office for Civil Rights (Midwestern Division), U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-4544, phone number 312.730.1560, fax 312.730.4023, TDD 800.877.8339 or email OCR.Chicago@ed.gov.
Southwestern Community College (SWCC) has had a huge year nationally in academics and in athletics. Want to hear about our national champions? We love to tell their stories!

**Joel Hartstack, 2017 collision repair technology SkillsUSA champion**

Joel Hartstack, of Clarinda, a May 2017 SWCC auto collision repair/refinish graduate, was named the country’s 2017 Collision Repair Technology Champion at the National SkillsUSA Championships in Louisville, KY, from June 18-23.

This is the second-time in SWCC history that a student has earned a national SkillsUSA championship title. Just a year earlier, Daniel Leonard, of Mount Ayr, a 2016 electrical technology graduate at SWCC, finished in the top spot nationally in electrical construction wiring.

Hartstack earned a diploma in auto collision repair/refinish from SWCC in June 2016 and then continued on to earn his Associate of Applied Science degree in auto collision repair/refinish in May 2017. Currently he is working as a reassembly technician at B Street Collision in Omaha. He is a 2012 graduate of Clarinda High School.

During the SkillsUSA Championships, more than 6,000 contestants competed in 100 events. According to its website, 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.

**Kyle Redinbaugh, 2018 ACUI Class C national champion, international trap**

Kyle Redinbaugh, freshman of Atlantic, was named the 2018 ACUI Class C national champion in international trap during the 2018 ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships, March 26-April 1, 2018, in San Antonio, TX.

Redinbaugh captured the event by winning a “sudden death” shoot-off against Hayden Dempsey of Georgia College. The shoot-off started on station one and continued until someone missed. Both shooters shot identical targets. The Georgia College shooter missed his first target and Redinbaugh stepped up and crushed his, giving the Spartan shooter the victory.

About an hour later Redinbaugh found himself in another shoot-off, this time in Class C, American skeet. Redinbaugh was tied for third place with Dayton Bennet from Missouri University of Science and Technology. The Missouri University shooter did not show for the shoot-off, giving Redinbaugh the third place trophy. According to Marc Roberg, head sports shooting coach, in true Spartan sports shooting fashion, Redinbaugh insisted on shooting the required pair anyway. Roberg said he broke them both, bringing a loud roar from the crowd.

Redinbaugh was also Southwestern’s highest scoring shooter in the High Overall category. High Overall is calculated by adding the scores of all six events: American trap, American skeet, international trap, international skeet, sporting clays, and super sporting clays.

**National qualifiers**

In addition to SWCC’s national champions, there have been a number of national qualifiers in athletic and academic competition.

**Men’s basketball**

The Southwestern Spartans wrapped up another tremendous men’s basketball season on Saturday, March 24, 2018, with a third place finish at the NJCAA DII National Basketball Championship in Danville, IL.

During the tournament, the Spartans went 3-1, defeating Dakota County Technical College, 92-77, on Wednesday; Erie Community College, 68-66, on Thursday; and Delta College, 98-81, in the consolation game on Saturday. The Spartans’
Spartan Athletics has a new home.

Head to the new website for the Spartans’ latest:

» scores and results
» individual and team stats
» rosters
» schedules
» athletics news
» camps
» and all things Spartan

The 2017-18 men’s basketball team following their third place finish at the NJCAA DII National Basketball Championship

In addition to the team success, two Spartan players received individual tournament honors as well. Terence Shelby, Jr., red-shirt sophomore of Peoria, IL, was named to the All-Tournament Team and Khallid Edwards, of Des Moines, also a red-shirt sophomore, received the Jack Cistriano Best Small Man Award.

The Spartans ended their season with an overall record of 29-8 and a conference record of 8-4. They averaged 89.3 points per game.

Women’s golf
Bianca Findlay, freshman of Hopper Crossing, Australia, finished in sixth place at the 2018 Region XI Championships held over two weekends, April 20-21 and April 27-28, at Otter Creek Golf Course in Ankeny, qualifying her for the NJCAA Women’s Golf Championship at Longbow Golf Course in Mesa, AZ, held May 14-17, 2018.

Doug North, head golf coach, said Findlay played well in windy conditions at regionals to have a few unlucky bounces on holes 17 and 18 and finish with an 88. Day four, however, is when the hard work paid off. Findlay had pars all day. She was one-over par through 10 holes after a key 20-foot birdie on hole 10. She held it together down the stretch and had a good finish.

Findlay competed with 14 other ICCAC women golfers at the NJCAA Women’s Golf...
Championship. She finished T-36 in a field of 118 competitors.

**Men’s golf**

Southwestern Spartan golfers Oliver Pearson, freshman of Melbourne, Australia, and Reinhardt Saunderson, freshman of Whangaparaoa, Auckland, New Zealand, qualified for the NJCAA Division II Men’s Golf National Championship, from May 21-24, 2018, in Foley, AL, at Glen Lakes Golf Club.

Pearson and Saunderson are the first men to qualify for a national championship under Head Coach Doug North.

During the qualifying rounds, Saunderson shot a two-under par 70 in his first round, followed with an 80, earning him a spot and finishing in a tie for fourth place (carded back to fifth place). Pearson joined Saunderson after posting a 74-74–148 to take second overall in the stacked field.

North said the two student-athletes were disappointed in how they played, but he considers it a huge individual accomplishment for each of them to qualify.

“They have been my leaders since day one, even as freshmen,” said North. “Finishing all-region, coming home with tournament wins, and earning national championship experience will be invaluable in the future. The 2018-19 season has the making to be special.”

The leaders of the Spartans will both be back for the 2018-19 campaign and look to lead a very talented Southwestern golf team. These two will join fellow national qualifier Bianca Findlay, freshman of Hopper Crossing, Australia, as returning Spartans with national championship experience under their belts.

**Business Professionals of America**

Southwestern Community College students Shawna Abell, sophomore of Greenfield, and Corissa Davenport, sophomore of Creston, competed and placed at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference held May 9-13, 2018, in Dallas.

As a team, the duo brought home third place in the administrative support team competition. Abell and Davenport were the only two-person team. All other teams had four members.

Individually, Abell earned eighth place in integrated office applications and 10th place in advanced word processing skills. Davenport placed 13th in advanced college accounting and 12th in fundamental word processing.

**Track & field**

Chris Krystofiak, sophomore of Cedar Rapids; Ronald Henderson, sophomore of Akron, OH; and Phoenix Shadden, freshman of Atlantic, qualified for the 2018 NJCAA Division I Men’s Outdoor Track & Field Championships, held May 17-19, at BG Products Veterans Sports Complex in El Dorado, KS.

During nationals, Henderson placed fifth for high jump with a jump of 2.08 meters (6 feet, 9.75 inches). Phoenix finished 15th in the 3000-meter steeple chase with a time of 10:27.44. Krystofiak finished 11th in the decathlon scoring 5500. To qualify for the decathlon, runners must be in the top 16 in the nation. Krystofiak was ranked 14th at the time of qualifying and improved to finish the season ranked 11th in the nation.

In addition, Henderson qualified for and competed in the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field National Championships, held March 2-3, 2018, at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. At that time, Henderson was ranked fourth in the nation for high jump.

Henderson finished his career at Southwestern as a two-time NJCAA All-American and a four-time national track and field qualifier. He is a four-time regional champion in the high jump and his personal best is 2.10 meters.

Shawna Abell (left) and Corissa Davenport (right) came home with a third place finish in the Administrative Support Team competition at the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in May 2018 in Dallas.
These seats are taken

By Beth Kulow, Dean of Student Services

Empty seats in a nearly full gymnasium. To some, these seats may go unnoticed. To others, they may wonder why the seats are unoccupied. To many, these seats are filled with memories of lifetime supporters of Southwestern Community College. The seats, located directly in the front row of the Southwestern Spartan gymnasium, belong to Kevin, Amy, Sterling, and Adrianna Sharp.

The national media provided extensive coverage of a family from Iowa who tragically lost their lives while vacationing in Mexico. The media outlets covered everything they could with regard to the vacation location, Tulum, Mexico, and the events that followed as the Sharp family was laid to rest in Creston, the town they called home, some 1,500 miles away from Tulum, where they were found following a vacation gone terribly wrong.

What the media failed to cover is the legacy that the Sharp family has left in the community. Kevin, 41, Amy, 38, Sterling, 12, and Adrianna, 7, had a love for Creston and southwest Iowa; where they were equally loved and respected. All members of the family were extensively involved in the community, each finding their own niche in an area that best suited their interests.

Kevin and Amy both took classes from Southwestern. Kevin was enrolled while in high school and in the summer when he was home from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Amy took a course here or there to improve a skill that she could use at work. Neither graduated or earned credentials from Southwestern, yet they continued to support the college in various ways.

Opening their home to students from out of the area, the state, or even the country, the Sharp family impacted a great number of students from the college. At Thanksgiving, students who stayed in the residence halls were always welcomed by Kevin and Amy. More specifically, Sterling would actively invite athletes to join the family, while Adrianna would invite any college girl who would dance or share her passion for fashion to their home. When the news broke of their untimely deaths, alumni from SWCC who were impacted by the family reached out to share their memories.

Shaquille Beck, a 2015 Southwestern graduate, recalled the times that he spent with the family. “I’m so hurt and sorry to hear about the Sharp family,” stated Beck. “I still remember them bringing me to their home for meals and the kids always greeting me like I was a famous family member.”

Beck worked with Sterling at the SWCC youth basketball camps and with Adrianna at SWCC Drama Camp. “I appreciate the opportunity given to me at the summer camps when I was able to work with both children,” said Beck.

In general, the basketball team members recalled Sterling as the boy who always brought his own ball to the gymnasium. It was clear to them that Sterling had a love and dedication to the sport of basketball. While other 12-year-olds would run about the gym, Sterling was always found in the front row, attentive to the game before him. The photo of Sterling shooting a three-pointer (at left), was taken on March 10, 2018, by Kevin, the last time that Sterling had the opportunity to shoot a basket in the SWCC gymnasium.

Adrianna was always with the family at the basketball games and sporting events but could be found in various places around the Student Center. She enjoyed “helping” in the concession stand, visiting the SWCC Shoppe, warming up with the Dazzlers dance team, and serving as the waitress for everyone in the first few rows where she was to be seated.

Kevin, Amy, Sterling, and Adrianna joined their friends, family, and community members one last time in the SWCC gymnasium on Saturday, March 31, 2018. A celebration of life memorial service was held in front of a packed gymnasium. The family once again found their way to the front row, this time as the distinguished honorees.

The Southwestern Community College Education Foundation has been given the honor of establishing a Sharp Memorial Scholarship with a portion of the memorial funds. The memories of the Kevin and Amy Sharp family will truly live on with stories of unspoken generosity, uncelebrated contributions, and quite possibly most important, countless laughs. Through the memorial scholarship, these stories will be shared with the recipients to ensure the legacy of Kevin, Amy, Sterling, and Adrianna Sharp will live on forever.

www.swcciowa.edu
What began in April 2009 as an assignment in former Southwestern Community College (SWCC) instructor Kate (Burrell) Rice’s social psychology class is now an annual treasured tradition at SWCC.

According to the Google dictionary, to pay it forward is to “respond to a person’s kindness to oneself by being kind to someone else.” Definitely something we, as humans, should all be doing every day, but sometimes time passes and we may not consciously be making the effort to do so.

In the beginning

Rice, a May ’96 SWCC graduate herself, said it all started in the spring 2009 semester with a class discussion about prosocial behavior. This may sound like a textbook topic that could have put the back row of the class to sleep, but instead it turned into something that, in its first year alone, impacted and positively affected the entire Southwestern student body and college community; and then, with each passing year, began to reach so much further than Southwestern.

Defining prosocial behavior

What is prosocial behavior? According to Rice, who is now teaching psychology at Des Moines Area Community College’s West Campus in West Des Moines, prosocial behavior is as simple as, “doing something for someone else.”

Rice said from the beginning it was a group effort, a class discussion about social influence grounded in social psychology. Then, the discussion turned into an assignment and the class began discussing what they could do to integrate ideas and use topics like social influence to reach out and help others.

Kristian Williams, May 2009 SWCC graduate and member of the spring 2009 social psychology class implementing Pay it Forward (PIF) Week at SWCC, said the class was intrigued by looking into people’s behaviors and determining how they, as individuals, could influence and change those around them in positive ways. Williams, who came to SWCC as an international student from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, said this discussion led to the PIF project and the class soon began to brainstorm ideas about...
how they could inject the concept into the local community.

**Implementing Pay it Forward Week**

According to Rice, when PIF was first implemented the goals were fairly simple. The number one goal was to do something nice for someone else; the number two goal was to get as many people involved as possible.

“I think it says a lot about them [the nine social psychology students], that it came from something [a discussion] and it required a commitment from them,” explained Rice. “Those students were willing to do extra to implement ideas and ultimately do something for others, which in-turn creates a community.”

Rice said during that first year 700 pay it forward wristbands were purchased and distributed to people on SWCC’s campus and throughout SWCC’s communities. The impact was felt immediately.

“Gratitude is the first word that comes to mind as the response from most people in regard to the PIF experiment,” stated Williams.

When recalling the PIF concept, Williams said he recalls people walking into gas stations to pay for gas and having the attendant tell them, “Someone has been nice enough to cover your first $30 worth of gas today.” Then, Williams explained, the people would be shocked, which led them to ask, “Why would someone do that?” When the experiment was explained to them, most people would still pay for their gas in full and respond, “I appreciate it, but pass it on to someone else.”

**The magnitude of PIF Week**

Through the years, PIF Week has grown, changed, and branched out in a variety of directions. The week is now initially organized by the college’s student services department and then employees from the entire campus and centers (Osceola and Red Oak) are asked to submit activities and events they have planned for the week. The week normally falls in April the same week as Earth Day, which seems very appropriate.

Rice said because PIF Week is such a tremendous amount of work each year, it had to become a college-wide effort to be sustained. Both Rice and Williams say, however, they never dreamed, years later, PIF Week would remain an annual tradition.

“I want people to be very appreciative that something like this can continue to happen in a place like Southwestern because there are so many great people who see the value in it and many people are putting in extra work to make this happen,” said Rice. “That says so much about Southwestern and the people who work there.”

Williams added, “I’m so glad that it has [continued on], because so often we get caught up in all the negative experiences we go through...”
Alyssa Higgins  
May 2018 grad

Pay it Forward is fulfilling an act of kindness without any intention of being recognized or rewarded. It’s a chance to make someone’s day or make a difference in their life.

Kristian Williams  
May 2009 grad

My favorite memory was just being a part of something bigger than me … People worry too much about what they don’t have and what they want, which results in them forgetting about what they do have and should be thankful for.

Kristian Williams  
May 2009 grad  

Brenna Baker  
May 2017 grad

Pay it Forward has definitely continued to have a huge significance in my life after leaving SWCC. It is always important to be kind to others and treat others the way you want to be treated. I strongly believe that sharing your positivity to others is something that people should carry out in their daily lives, not just during PIF week.

Kevin Dietrich  
May 2018 grad

PIF Week is something everyone should do every week. You don’t have to do something big or extravagant, it can be a small gesture! There are days when a person’s bucket is leaking and you can change that. Live a life full of kindness and if you do so then you’ll be on a roller coaster that only goes up!

Tell me about your PIF experience...

Loran Sneller  
May 2018 grad

The thing I enjoyed most about PIF Week was being able to go out into the community and help people in need.

Tell me about your PIF experience...

Shelby Freestone  
Current SWCC student

I think that PIF acts are something that everyone should continue to involve themselves in throughout their lives, whether it is through volunteering or any other means.

Tell me about your PIF experience...

Alyssa Higgins  
May 2018 grad

Pay it Forward is fulfilling an act of kindness without any intention of being recognized or rewarded. It’s a chance to make someone’s day or make a difference in their life.

Tell me about your PIF experience...

Brenna Baker  
May 2017 grad

Pay it Forward has definitely continued to have a huge significance in my life after leaving SWCC. It is always important to be kind to others and treat others the way you want to be treated. I strongly believe that sharing your positivity to others is something that people should carry out in their daily lives, not just during PIF week.
their $5,000 first-year goal, raising a total of $5,223. Since inception, Miracle Network Dance Marathon has raised more than $200 million for kids, ensuring no child or family fights pediatric illness or injury alone. During SWCC’s event, two families facing the reality of childhood cancer spoke to SWCC students and other attendees. The impact of their words could be felt by the silence in the gymnasium as these brave parents spoke about their courageous children’s battles.

Another highlight for 2018 was the Pink it Forward project, last year known as Sprinkling Happiness (pictured on the Southwestern Magazine cover), where students literally took their positive messages on the road.

“My favorite memory of Pay it Forward Week was standing at one of the busy intersections in Creston during the morning when people were heading to work,” explained Brenna Baker, May 2017 SWCC grad. “We held up signs that had nice sayings and we smiled and waved to the morning traffic.”

Baker said it felt good to start people’s days on a positive note.

Pay it Forward Week has largely impacted SWCC’s communities as well.

“Pay it Forward Week, started by SWCC some years ago, has really become a year-long activity for many Creston residents,” said Ellen Gerharz, Creston Chamber of Commerce director.

Gerharz continued, “PIF helped show people that little acts of kindness do make a difference in people’s lives. In fact there is now a local Facebook group that gives people opportunities to share their acts or comment on what they have seen taking place. Thank you SWCC for leading the way.”

The future of PIF Week
Southwestern’s Pay it Forward Week shows no sign of going away, and here is an example of why.
To our Education Foundation donors for 2017-18

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Randy Quentin Sefrit
Konnar Shepherd
Kayla Siefkas
Thane Simmons
Holly Smith
Beth Smith
David Sorensen
Stephan Soto
Morgan Spurrier
Noah Standley
Melia Stonehocker
Steven Stow
Emily Stults
Taylor Sufit
Katie Taylor
Tonya Thatcher
Alexis Tolly
Kessler Tomas
Dylan Torres
Henry Tracy
Alexis Tracy
Tyson Tucker
Rachel Vanderflugt
Jenna Vanderpluyrn
Celeste Vela
Gerrit Vlieger
Jacob Walter
Marissa Walter
Chance Webster
Chelsea Weis
Brittney Westlake
Isaac Wignall
Dustin Williams
Kylee Williams
Jamie Young

New scholarships established

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

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

The Education Foundation provides financial support and services to the students at Southwestern Community College to ensure their academic success through financial assistance. The foundation continues to grow on an annual basis thanks to generous contributions from its donors.

Within 2017-18, the foundation has established several new scholarships and an endowment:
• Gary Veitz Memorial, a scholarship established specifically for students majoring in education
• Carol Harrison Nursing Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a student who is conditionally accepted into Southwestern’s LPN or ADN program
• Martin Shawler Memorial Endowment, a scholarship created specifically for a student in Southwestern’s automotive repair technology program
• Mardelle Harris Scholarship, a scholarship designated to a pre-nursing or nursing student at Southwestern
• Automotive Career Starter Tool Set Award, an annual gift of two advanced professional tool sets to a student in each respective automotive program
• Sharp Family Memorial, designation yet to be determined

With the rising costs of a college education, the SWCC Education Foundation plays a vital role in assisting to keep college education costs at Southwestern affordable for students. During the fall of 2017, 18 percent of the college’s student body received scholarship funding from the Education Foundation. This is a 4 percent increase from the fall of 2016.

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

Each year, the Education Foundation receives more applications for scholarships than it can fund. Uniting donations of all sizes, the iGive2SWCC scholarship campaign that began in 2010. Individuals can donate to this scholarships, the foundation continues to utilize the “iGive2SWCC” annual campaign anytime during the year (see card insert in magazine).

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

www.swcciowa.edu
Long-time SWCC employee and recent retiree Sandy Webb (pictured above), of Creston, donated a unique piece of art to the Southwestern athletics department to be auctioned at the annual Athletic Fundraiser in November 2017. The painting was purchased by Dr. Barb Crittenden, SWCC president, and she, in-turn, donated it to the college for display. The painting is now hanging in the hallway on the lower floor of the Student Center.

Webb’s elaborate painting features an array of former Spartan student-athletes, at least one for each intercollegiate sport the college offers. The poses of the students came from photos on file in the college’s marketing department.

Webb has utilized her artistic talents for many years by taking courses through SWCC’s art department. She was also active in the Art Club during her time at Southwestern.

“I have always enjoyed drawing and painting and took art in high school, as well as a few credit and non-credit college classes when I was younger,” said Webb. “Then I put my art supplies away for 18 years as I was busy with family activities.”

It was actually after an acquaintance, with whom Webb had been in art class with several years earlier, came in to sign up for an art class at the college while Webb was working, that Webb said she thought, “Why don’t I sign up for that class …”

Linda Dainty, SWCC art instructor, said Webb is an amazing artist with the ability to paint any genre with a very high level of skill. Dainty said, with approximately 16 figures covering the canvas, the painting Webb donated to athletics took approximately two years to complete.

“Sandy works tirelessly on each of her paintings and always chooses subject matter that is personal and important to her,” Dainty explained. “It’s one of the things making her paintings so interesting to see; you can tell, just by looking, she loved painting it.”

Webb, who began working at SWCC in 1974, retired from her position as the college’s registrar in 2017. Her 43 years of full-time service are the most years anyone has worked at the college in a full-time capacity since Southwestern was established in the Iowa community college system in 1966. She is now working part-time for the Creston Chamber of Commerce.

Webb says she will continue to take art classes at SWCC because she feels it keeps her involved in creating art and because Dainty is so encouraging.

“Taking art classes is my ‘me’ time,” Webb explained. “It’s an opportunity to do something I love.”
Coming straight out of high school and jumping right into a university was a big change for me. A huge change. When I made the transfer to SWCC I finally was able to feel my happy self again. Southwestern Community College has done great things for me. Because of SWCC I have been able to be with my family, move into my own home, and open my own daycare, all while taking classes online and with the flexibility of a night class here and there. The staff at SWCC works with my schedule and makes sure it's just how I want it. Whenever I've had a question, it's always been answered in a very timely matter. I tell myself weekly how fortunate and lucky I am to be a part of such an amazing and loving college community. Thanks SWCC for helping me reach my future goals! #pickswcc

In early-2018, Southwestern Community College (SWCC) was announced as one of the top 10 Best Online Colleges in Iowa by Value Colleges, www.valuecolleges.com. Southwestern, who came in eighth on the top 10 list, was the only community college to make the list.

Since 2000, SWCC has offered distance education to students through the Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCOC). The ICCOC is a group of Iowa community colleges who collaborate to offer online courses and degrees.

Doug Greene, SWCC distance education director, is proud of the online options the college is able to offer to students.

“Because of our partnership with the Iowa Community College Online Consortium, Southwestern is able to offer hundreds of classes in multiple terms, giving our students lots of options,” Greene explained.

Greene said the ICCOC changed their platform at the start of the current academic year. The ICCOC now utilizes an application called Canvas and, according to Greene, that has aided online efforts as well.

“Canvas is a national leader in this field,” stated Greene. “This platform has allowed our students to access their courses even more readily, offering students opportunities to connect to their college course work any time and from any location, even from their cell phones.”

Each semester, SWCC offers more than 400 online courses. The college credits earned may be used toward a degree at SWCC or transferred to four-year colleges and universities.

Southwestern offers the following degrees completely online:
- Associate of Arts degree for transfer
- Associate of Science degree for transfer
- Associate of Applied Science degree in business administration
- Associate of Applied Science degree in accounting
- Associate of Science degree in agricultural business

According to Value Colleges' website, “More than ever before, attending college full time on a traditional campus is not a desired avenue for obtaining a degree for many students … Highly respected and accredited universities and colleges across the nation offer associate through doctorate degrees online and in this Value Colleges Top 10 list you will find the best of the best when it comes to online colleges in the state of Iowa.”

Southwestern makes Top 10 Best Online Colleges in Iowa

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

During the 2018 SWCC Awards Ceremony, held in April, Darien Keefe, sophomore of Corning, was selected as the Online Student of the Year. Keefe is pictured above with Doug Greene (left), SWCC distance education director, and Sharon Dunfee (right), SWCC distance education office assistant.

Darien Keefe, of Corning, graduated with her Associate of Arts degree in May 2018. Keefe, who completed the early childhood education course sequence, loved the flexibility provided by online college coursework. Read more about Keefe’s experience in her SWCC Facebook review (below right).
Alumni Updates

1960s
Larry Swanger ’67 transferred to the Illinois College of Optometry after SWCC. In 2017, he retired from his career. He lives in West Des Moines. His favorite memories at SWCC were changing from the 1965-66 Creston JC Golden Bears to the 1966-67 SWCC Spartans, baseball, and being Mr. Evans physics lab assistant.

1970s
Sharon Irelan ’77 transferred to Northwest Missouri State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education and the University of Iowa where she earned her master’s in education. She is now enjoying retirement in Creston. One of her favorite memories at SWCC was how supportive and encouraging the instructors were.

1990s
Jody (Cross) Greene ’91 is currently an elementary teacher at Mount Ayr Community Schools in Mount Ayr. She resides with her husband, David, and children, Ashlie, Shelbie, Myles and Jaxson.

Aric Becker ’92 transferred to the University of Iowa in 1994 and received a Bachelor of Science degree. He is currently an FAA quality assurance technician for Rockwell Collins in Coralville.

2000s
Austin Smith ’04 transferred to Iowa State University. He is a professional civil engineer at Garden & Associates, LTD in Creston. His favorite memories include field trips with the drafting club.

Brian Dorian ’93
Brian Dorian ’93 is a police officer for the Lynwood Police Department in Lynwood, IL. He recently reached 20 years as an officer. He said one of the best decisions he ever made was leaving Chicago to come to Creston. One of his favorite memories at SWCC was playing ball for Krej [former SWCC baseball coach Bill Krejci]. “To this day, he’s one of the greatest guys I know.”

Kevin McMahon ’94 transferred to Illinois State University and is currently on the board of directors for Madsen Kneppers & Associates in Dallas, TX. His favorite memory of SWCC was living in the dorms (converted apartment building) and driving in the parking lot as the llamas chased them!

Sharon Aupperle ’95 is currently a GIS coordinator at Atlantic Municipal Utilities in Atlantic.

Misty (Means) Johnston ’97 transferred to Iowa State University. She is currently a stay-at-home mom. She said she enjoyed playing softball at SWCC and the fact it was an “all-around great experience!”

Caitlin Jeske ’06 received a bachelor’s degree in psychology and human services from Buena Vista University in 2009 and is currently a social worker at Families First Counseling Service in Fort Dodge. Her memories at SWCC include playing softball for her grandpa, Ron “Fox” Clinton, and playing volleyball for Rita Schroeder. She said SWCC gave her lifelong friendships she is so thankful for!

Anne (Oshel) Sneller ’07 transferred to Buena Vista University and is currently a financial crimes manager at Wells Fargo in West Des Moines. She said SWCC successfully prepared her to finish her four-year degree at BVU and also helped her develop the skills necessary to be successful in her career.

Douglas Behrens ’07 is currently a security guard for G4S Secure Solutions in Council Bluffs, IA.

Lindsey Veitz ’08 earned her Master’s of Healthcare Administration degree from Des Moines University. She is currently clinic administrator at UnityPoint Clinic in Storm Lake. She met two of her best friends at SWCC and said it was nice to get a great education in a smaller town.

Brian Dorian ’93
Austin Smith ’04
Caitlin Jeske ’06
Anne (Oshel) Sneller ’07
Douglas Behrens ’07
Lindsey Veitz ’08
Edgar (Ed) Stoll ’10 is currently a laborer at H&H Trailer in Clarinda.

Jenny (Hendrickson) Bogda ’11 transferred to Graceland University after SWCC. She is currently an enrollment services specialist at Capital District Educational Opportunity Center in Troy, NY. She enjoyed being on the cross country and dance teams and said these experiences helped her meet some of her best friends and learn a lot more about herself.

Megan (Wallace) Alumbaugh ’12 transferred to Northwest Missouri State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree. She now lives in Derby, KS.

Serena Yong ’14 is currently a preschool teacher at All About Kidz in Omaha, NE, and is a coach for her parents’ volleyball club in Omaha named Banzai Volleyball Club. Her favorite SWCC memories were earning a bid to nationals, experiencing nationals, and finishing in fifth place. She remembers Creston went crazy and said it was awesome to see the town come watch them for every home game.

Alicia Wedemeyer ’15 is currently a surgical registered nurse at Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic. She said the one-on-one teaching at SWCC was amazing and the environment was fun and conducive to learning.

Jordan Newburg ’15 transferred to the University of Northern Iowa to earn her Master of Arts degree in psychology. Currently, she is an administrative assistant at Graceland University in Lamoni. She remembers the Psychology Club trip to the Gløre Psychiatric Museum and said every bit of the trip was educational and entertaining.

Megan Short ’17 transferred to Buena Vista University. Her favorite memories at SWCC included meeting and getting to know many of the individuals that work at SWCC, as well as many of the students. The people she met and developed friendships with were a huge contributing factor in her success at SWCC.

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.

Keep the updates coming!
The September 2017 Southwestern Community College board of trustees’ meeting was the end of an era as Ken Rech, District 5 representative of Red Oak, stepped down from the board after 37 years.

Kevin Britten, of Red Oak, was elected to the board for District 5 in September 2017 and attended his first meeting in October 2017. Britten is the owner of AgriSmart Information Systems.

Rech, a long-time Red Oak businessman and community development leader, became a member of the board of trustees in October 1980. In October 1999, Rech was elected as vice president of the SWCC board. He served in this role until October 2008, when he became the president of the board.

During his time on the board, Rech said there were three different college presidents who served—Dr. John Smith from 1971-84, Dr. Richard Byerly from 1984-96, and Dr. Barb Crittenden, appointed president in 1996 and named president in 1997. Crittenden is still serving as the college’s president today.

Crittenden said she always appreciated Rech’s commitment when he served on the board.

“Ken was an outstanding board member and board president,” stated Crittenden. “He was always very thoughtful in his evaluation and consideration of issues that came before the board and he provided strong leadership for the board in his role as president.”

One of the biggest transitions during Rech’s tenure was a change in the college board’s governance style. Rech said he and Larry Mark, long-time board member and board president at that time, attended an Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) conference in Toronto and learned of the Carver Model.

“We were introduced to that style of governance and it really made sense to us,” stated Rech. “It was the consensus of the board that we should explore this more. They [Carver Model representatives] came and held a seminar with us and then they helped us write the policies we still have in place today.”

The Carver Model was implemented in 1995. One of the aspects Rech appreciates most about the Carver Model is that it “puts responsibility where responsibility should be.” Rech fully believes the day-to-day operation and management of the college should be the responsibility of the administration.

Another major accomplishment during Rech’s time on the board was the addition of centers in Osceola and Red Oak. He is especially proud of the updates in his hometown. Prior to having the centers, Rech said college programming was not held regularly in specific locations. Once the centers were established, the college was able to have brick and mortar facilities and this was a great asset in helping promote the college in these communities.

Rech said he always valued the joint partnerships between the college and area school districts, hospitals, businesses, industries, etc. He believes these relationships and the flexibility in programming are unique luxuries for community colleges.

“I always knew we could make a phone call and within a few minutes have training set up for a company,” said Rech.

Crittenden will remember Rech for the time he donated to the position he served.

“Ken volunteered considerable time over the years to attend board meetings, graduation ceremonies, and other board-related activities,” explained Crittenden. “His commitment to Southwestern and to the citizens of the college district are to be commended.”

Rech’s belief in the community college system was part of what made him a powerful and impactful board member.

“I think my reason for staying on the board was probably two or three fold,” stated Rech. “I have a passion for educational opportunities for everyone; I think the college is very important for the continued development of jobs and jobs training; and I really enjoyed representing SWCC in our own area to answer questions and inform people of what we had to offer.”

Rech always enjoyed coming together on a regular basis with other people from SWCC’s merged region.

“Everyone brought to the board table some particular area of expertise, which was so important,” said Rech. “All those talents coming together is a great opportunity and allows you to meet and learn about a lot of people.”

During Rech’s retirement, he is enjoying good health with his wife, Carolyn; traveling; spending time with grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and having time to spend with his friends on the golf course.
Garrett Herrmann, freshman of Orient, was enrolled in my introduction to computers course during the Fall 2017 semester. You could tell Garrett was very proficient with spreadsheets. After a conversation before winter break, Garrett had not signed up for the next level course of Comprehensive Spreadsheets. After a little convincing, I am glad to say Garrett decided to enroll.

During that course, students take a Microsoft Office Specialist – Excel Certification Exam. This is a proctored online exam that takes approximately one hour to complete. A passing score is 700. The exam has students complete more than 100 Excel-driven tasks. Garrett completed every question of the exam and scored a perfect score of 1000!

In the 11 years I have been with SWCC, no student has ever scored a perfect score of 1000. To complete more than 100 Excel tasks perfectly in less than an hour is a great reflection on Garrett’s attention to detail and his excellent critical thinking skills.

—Tom Borland, SWCC business and information technology instructor

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Business student earns perfect 1000 on Excel Certification Exam

SWCC auto collision repair/refinish program recognized by national foundation

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

The Southwestern Community College (SWCC) auto collision repair/refinish program is one of 163 career and technical education programs nationwide recognized by The Collision Repair Education Foundation through its new designation program called the Collision School Career Readiness Benchmark.

The Collision Repair Education Foundation launched the Collision School Career Readiness Benchmark in 2016. Through the program, the foundation classifies schools in three tiers: Tier 1, advanced; Tier 2, proficient; and Tier 3, developing. SWCC is one of 17 schools receiving Tier 1 designation.

Jeff Magneson, SWCC auto collision repair/refinish instructor, said this recognition is a huge testament for the quality of SWCC's program.

“This benchmark validates the work SWCC and the program’s advisory committee have put into the collision repair program to make it one of the best for future technicians,” Magneson stated. “We are especially excited to extend this program to area high school students next fall.”

Starting fall 2018 semester, SWCC’s auto collision repair/refinish program will be offered as a Career Academy to high school students in SWCC’s region. With the Career Academy program in place, high school students will be able to enroll in collision repair/refinish college classes and receive credit at both their high school and at SWCC. Upon high school graduation, students will have the option to continue on to a full program in collision repair/refinish.

SWCC offers a one-year diploma program and a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program in auto collision repair/refinish.
Good Luck to the SWCC 2018 Retirees

Sharon Dunfee
Office Assistant/Instruction/Distance Education
Years of Service: 10.5
Other Positions Served: ICN Assistant Scheduler

Steve Schmalzried
Automotive Repair Technology Instructor; Trades & Industry Department Chair
Years of Service: 16
Other Positions Served: Automotive Repair Lab Supervisor