



Dr. Dave Schmitter,  
Physics Instructor,  
Receives National Award

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**Featured Alumni Years**  
Stories, photos & more!

## Upcoming Events & Information

*Summer 3-week Session Begins*.....May 15  
*Summer First 5-, 8- and 10-week Sessions Begin* ...May 22  
*Memorial Day, College Closed*.....May 29  
*Summer Second 5-week Session Begins* ..... June 26  
*Independence Day, College Closed* ..... July 4  
*2023 Fall Semester Begins* .....Aug. 21

## Featured Content



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### 4 Distinguished Faculty

Milford's Dave Schmitter receives prestigious national award.



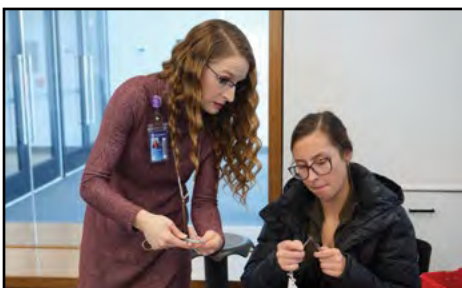
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Casey Glassburner shares her passion for surgical technology.



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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(April 2023)

### Pursuing SCC's Vision

Over the past several years Southeast Community College has been robustly pursuing its vision, including the “creation of destinations and the highest quality learning climates through permanent, innovative, modern, virtually linked, sustainable, and collaborative facilities.” The latest example of this pursuit is the March 22 groundbreaking for the new Sandhills Global Technology Center, which will be located on the Lincoln Campus. The College received a \$5 million capital campaign gift from Sandhills Global to support the new 75,000 square-foot facility, which will house the Computer Information Technology, Electronic Systems Technology, Biotechnology, and Design and Drafting Technology programs. SCC also received a \$3 million award from the city of Lincoln via the American Rescue Plan Workforce Development Grants to create dedicated industry spaces within the Center.



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These collaborative partnerships also are reflective of the College’s vision to “work collaboratively and courageously with its higher education partners, employers, and local and state officials to address Nebraska’s skilled worker shortage and the need for everyone to have affordable access to the life-changing benefits of higher education.” The College is in the planning and design phase of other facilities projects, including the Welding Technology Center on the Lincoln Campus; the Construction Technologies Center on the Milford Campus; and an Agriculture Career Center on the Beatrice Campus. These projects, which will help the College directly address the skilled workforce shortage in the high-demand industries associated with these new facilities, will be partially funded with the College’s \$50 million Empower Capital Campaign.

A section of SCC’s Vision Statement states “the College strives to be a national leader in developing high-contact technical and academic experiences through personal and sincere relationships with engaged and invested faculty, staff, and administrators.” It is vital that we are successful in creating these high-contact experiences for our students. I know that our faculty and staff are highly committed to ensuring our students have the highest quality learning and personal growth experiences during their time at SCC. These efforts are anchored by our collective culture goal to “maximize a positive and engaging organizational climate by encouraging input, reflective and transparent communication, and compassion and respect toward the views and ideas of others.” SCC is committed to providing our students with technical and academic skills, as well as essential life skills.

As an alumnus, I thank you for choosing SCC and for your role in helping the College pursue its mission of empowering and transforming the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Illich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "Q" at the end.

**Paul Illich**  
President

# SCC's ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CENTER RECEIVES NUMEROUS ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

One building on the Beatrice Campus not only stands out in Beatrice, but to the architectural world as well. The Academic Excellence Center, which opened in 2021, has received numerous accolades, including one prestigious award for its unique architectural style.

The award is from The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design, which recently announced the overall winners of the 2022 American Architecture Awards. The facility was one of 12 named in the Schools/Universities category and among 150 projects chosen by Italian architects and recognized for being the best new architecture designed and constructed by American architects and by international architects with offices in the United States.

Winners were selected from a short list of more than 400 projects. In addition, the building has received many other awards ranging from Outstanding Project Award to Excellence in Architecture Award to Interior Design Excellence.

“These types of awards are in alignment with the College’s vision to create dedicated destinations and the highest quality learning climates through permanent, innovative, modern, virtually linked, sustainable, and collaborative facilities and green spaces,” said SCC President Dr. Paul Illich. “These awards also validate the College’s commitment to its core values of excellence, integrity, innovation, inclusion, and stewardship and accountability.”

The 52,000 square-foot building includes classrooms, health and science labs, and a multi-functional room that can be used for many purposes. The \$19 million facility was designed by BVH Architecture and Gould Evans (now Multistudio) and constructed by Hausman Construction.

The Academic Excellence Center also was featured in the September/October issue of Nebraska Life magazine in a story by Tom Hess and on the website of Architect: The Journal of the American Institute of Architects. ❖

## Awards received to date:

### *International Design Award*

The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, American Architecture Award

### *National Design Awards*

2023 Education Facility Design Award by the American Institute of Architects' Committee on Architecture for Education

SCUP Excellence Awards, Honorable Mention

Learning by Design - Educational Facilities Design Awards, Outstanding Project Award

### *Regional Design Awards*

AIA Central States, Honorable Mention, Excellence in Architecture

AIA Nebraska, Honor Award, Excellence in Architecture

AIA Nebraska, Honor Award, Architectural Detail

AIA Kansas City, Merit Award, Excellence in Architecture

AIA Kansas City, Professional's Choice Award

AIA Kansas, Honorable Mention, Excellence in Architecture

IIDA Great Plains Chapter, Interior Design Excellence Award



# NEW STATE FAIR DIRECTOR IS AN SCC-LINCOLN GRAD

**Jaime Parr** first started working at the Nebraska State Fair in 1998 as a summer employee, when the event was still being held in Lincoln. Fast-forward to 2023 and she's not only still working at the State Fair, she's the Executive Director of the annual event, now in Grand Island. The State Fair Board approved her appointment in December.

"I most love seeing the Fair through the eyes of a guest or an exhibitor," she said. "The memories made at the Nebraska State Fair are priceless, and I look forward to helping others make so many more priceless memories."

"Jaime's longevity with the fair, knowledge of the institution and love of all things Nebraska made her the ideal choice," said Bob Haag, Fair Board Chairman.

Parr, a Fremont native who attended SCC in Lincoln from 1995-1997, has held many roles at the State Fair. Her responsibilities have included helping people sign up for livestock and competitive exhibits, accounting clerk,

space rental manager, facility director, and deputy executive director. She has learned many things over the years.

"I moved to Grand Island with the Fair in 2009, and we hosted the first State Fair in Grand Island in 2010," she recalled. "The Fair exposed me to agriculture, (including) livestock, crops and manufacturing, as well as entertainment. The Fair taught me about volunteering and giving back to the community."

Parr graduated from SCC with an associate degree in business. She recalls spending a lot of time in the college library.

"SCC was a great option for me," she said. "The flexibility of class times and the affordability of course hours is what led me to SCC."

Parr continued her education at Doane University where she received a bachelor's degree in business. She's spent the majority of her professional career with the Nebraska State Fair. One of her goals is to continue the



traditions of the past while finding new traditions of the future.

"The Nebraska State Fair is best when we are in balance with what is new, while appreciating the tried-and-true traditions of contest, entertainment and education," she said. "I'll be working with partners statewide, and even outside of Nebraska, to be current with technology trends while hosting some of the most traditional contests like quilts, baking and horticulture."

Parr and her husband David have a daughter, as well as two dogs, three cats and dozens of pond fish. They enjoy visiting other fairs and festivals, as well as spending time on the golf course. ❖

*Jaime Parr, left, and Facilities Assistant Janna Kuklis.*





## MILFORD INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Science instructor **Dave Schmitter** is the recipient of the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty designation for 2023. The American Association of Community Colleges recognizes around 30 faculty members from around the country to receive the award.

“When I heard the school was nominating me for this award, I felt truly humbled,” said Schmitter, a math and physics instructor on SCC’s Milford Campus. “I know there are many instructors at SCC that do amazing work and work just as hard as I do, so it is truly an honor.”

The AACC recognizes faculty from around the country on different criteria, including how they demonstrate passion for students and classroom, how they support students in and out of the classroom, their participation in college committees,

and going above and beyond to make sure their students are successful.

“Dave is always willing to help students both in and out of the classroom,” said Kevin Uhler, SCC associate dean. “He is consistently involved in self-evaluation and professional development opportunities, as well as serving the college on teams. He is a tremendous recipient of this recognition and an asset to SCC.”

Schmitter grew up in Hyde Park, New York, and received his bachelor’s in physics from the University of Rochester. He then went on to earn his master’s and Ph.D. in physics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He started teaching in 2007 as an adjunct at Providence College, and then at Massachusetts Maritime Academy from 2010-2016. He’s been at SCC’s Milford

Campus since 2016.

“I love the students and my colleagues, of course,” he said. “I also have enjoyed the opportunities outside of the classroom that SCC has given me. Working on the Accreditation Steering Team, participating in Family Science Night, goal planning . . . all of these have helped me grow as an educator and a person.”

As for future goals, Schmitter hopes to further engage his students in different ways, as well as contribute to the mission of the College. When he’s not teaching, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two boys. He helps coach their sports, is the STEM Coordinator for their Cub Scout pack, and is part of a Lincoln improv troupe. Schmitter received the award on April 4, 2023, in Denver, Colorado, at the AACC Annual Conference. ❖

# STORM SOCCER PLAYER COMMITTS TO PLAY AT DIVISION I COLLEGE



Former Storm soccer player **Trinity Babcock** is the first member of the Storm women's soccer team to commit to a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I school. Babcock will play at Chicago State University next fall. The college has around 3,100 students enrolled in the undergraduate program, with 15 intercollegiate sports.

"I knew I wanted to go to a bigger city after playing in a smaller town for a new experience," she said. "I have family in Chicago, so I started to explore places around the city and fell in love with the culture at Chicago State after meeting the coaches and players."

Babcock graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School in 2020 and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall. She had missed her senior soccer season because of COVID, and when the opportunity to transfer to SCC and play on the first-ever women's soccer team presented

itself, she decided to take the chance.

"I don't know why everyone who plays sports doesn't consider community college athletics instead of quitting and becoming the average

student at a big university," she said. "Being a student-athlete teaches you discipline and perseverance."

Babcock was able to play three seasons for the Storm, since she had an extra year of eligibility due to COVID, and earn her associate degree. During that time, she developed her soccer skills while building relationships with her teammates.

"I enjoyed how competitive it was and how supportive the coaching staff was," she recalled. "They were able to open these doors for me to continue playing and were always working on growing you as a player no matter what skill level you were at. I was able to form friendships with kids from other countries and SCC soccer gave me many new experiences."

"I'm very happy for her; it's a big step, and



I can't wait to follow her career," said Morgan Anderson, SCC Interim Head Coach. "She's a very smart player."

Once she gets to Chicago State, Babcock said she will study Business Finance. However, she will always remember her time at SCC and advises other high school students to consider giving community college a shot.

"SCC gave me the flexibility to explore possible four-year majors while getting all of my general classes out of the way at a fraction of the cost," she said. ❖



# 2013 PTA ALUM IS SCC's 2022 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

After dropping out of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln after three semesters, **Cady Belli** worked as a home health aide. While she accompanied her patient to physical therapy visits at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, she realized that was her calling.

"The therapists were knowledgeable and passionate about their jobs," she recalled. "After a few months I applied to SCC's Physical Therapist Assistant program to start in this field. The cost and location of SCC were a huge bonus, as well as the credits I could apply toward pre-requisites from UNL."

Belli was a member of only the third PTA class at SCC. She said the material was rigorous and the teachers were strict, but supportive. After graduating in 2013, she started working at Eastmont in Lincoln and continues there today.

"I fell in love with working with older adults during one of my clinical rotations at a nursing home in Plattsmouth, so Eastmont had



both the clientele and location I was looking for," Belli said. "Plus my boss, Mark Sunderman, helped guide me from a very shy but willing PTA to someone with confidence and passion about my job."

Sunderman nominated Belli for the 2022 Distinguished Alumni award at SCC. He said she goes above and

beyond her job responsibilities at Eastmont, and is also a good role model for PTA students doing their clinical rotations at the facility.

"She is an excellent employee in terms of dependability, relationships with her co-workers and other departments, and her skill as a clinician is only getting better," Sunderman said in his nomination letter. "She has been outstanding with guiding our students from the SCC PTA program and other pre-PTA students. She is an excellent clinical instructor."

As for the future, Belli hopes to finish her bachelor's degree at Bellevue University. In addition, she counts her blessings every day for her sobriety as she overcame mental health and substance abuse issues.

"My residents have taught me that we never know where our lives will take us or how we'll age, but to just do the best with what we have. I am very fortunate to be where I am right now," she said. ❖

## Shoe Repair Program



*Herb Grover and Alvin Jessen work on an orthopedic shoe project in the Shoe Repair program.*

Featured Year: 1956



# MILFORD CAMPUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES AWARD

**Ed Koster**, vice president for research, planning and technology and Milford Campus executive director at Southeast Community College, is the recipient of the Friend of Special Education award through the Nebraska Council of School Administrators – Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors.

Koster received the award at a luncheon April 13 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lincoln.

Michalla Schartz, Southeast Region transition facilitator and an instructor for Project CRAVE at Educational Service Unit No. 6 in Milford, praised Koster for his work with ESU 6. Project CRAVE is an SCC-Milford transition program that offers a variety of practice opportunities for secondary students with disabilities.

“Without a doubt, Ed has contributed to many young adults’ lives who access special education services in many of our ESU 6 communities,” Schartz said. “He is a leader, a mentor and a kind soul

to each and every young adult who comes through the SCC-Milford Campus. He leads by example and design.”

Koster is proud of the way SCC responds to the CRAVE students.

“The CRAVE students bring incredible value to the campus,” Koster said. “Seeing the staff interact, mentor and teach them, as well as seeing how our student senate welcomes them into the campus community, is a profoundly gratifying experience.”

Schartz nominated Koster for the award. She said the students’ disabilities range from Down’s Syndrome, autism, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, or some combination of these.

“Each of these students is able to work within the structure of SCC to build marketable employment skills in high-need areas for our region,” Schartz said.

Students learn how to obtain a job, how to keep it and how to advance



within the job. Each student receives mentorship from those skilled in the area and employed by SCC or its subsidiaries. The young adults interact with peers of the same age on the college campus socially and in leadership positions within the Student Senate.

Koster said the partnership upholds SCC’s mission.

“As a community college, our mission is simply to meet students where they are academically and teach them marketable skills,” he said. “The CRAVE students are another group of students that naturally fit our college’s mission.” ❖

# ERIC UNRAU, 1990 GRADUATE, WINS AWARD



The first male graduate from SCC’s Early Childhood Education program is the recipient of an award.

**Eric Unrau** (Summer 1990) was honored by the Lincoln Chapter of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children with the Sally Wysong Award on April 12. The award recognizes individuals who provide outstanding service to children and families.

Unrau is a lecturer in the Ruth Staples Child Development Lab

School at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“Eric embodies all that Sally Wysong stood for as an early childhood educator,” said Crystal Kozak, chair of SCC’s Early Childhood Education program. “He is community-oriented, professional and dedicated to the field of early childhood. He is a unique role model in a predominantly female workforce.”

Unrau formerly served as a group supervisor at SCC’s Child Development Center.

In 2016, Unrau was one of 50 teachers across the country to receive the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children’s Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Award. The award acknowledges the critical role of childcare teachers in providing quality early care and education. ❖

# FAIRBURY WOMAN TO FILL VACANT SEAT SCC BOARD SELECTS VICKI HASKELL

**Vicki Haskell** of Fairbury was appointed March 28 to fill the vacant District 1 seat on the SCC Board of Governors.

Haskell, a retired Jefferson County Assessor, was one of three applicants interviewed by the Board during a special meeting on SCC's Beatrice Campus. SCC's District 1 is comprised of all of Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, Saline, Fillmore, York, and Seward counties and roughly the southwest quadrant of Lancaster County. Haskell will be sworn in at the Board's April 18 meeting at the York Learning Center.

She said part of her motivation to apply for the vacant seat was the vast educational opportunities for citizens.

"Looking to the future of education of our youth will be a challenge," she said. "I feel there are so many areas of education that can be explored to help our citizens with career

advancement and skills to be the best they can be."

Haskell attended one semester at SCC's Fairbury Campus and majored in business administration. She worked as a pharmacy technician at the Fairbury hospital before beginning her duties in the Jefferson County Assessor's office in 1990. She was appointed deputy assessor in 2004 and elected county assessor in 2010. Haskell served on the Jefferson County Zoning & Planning Commission and currently serves as vice chairperson of the Jefferson County Board of Adjustment and on the governing board of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging.

"Being on the governing board of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging has given me great experience on budgeting, grants, and federal programs that are available," she said. "Working with other leaders of the area has given me insight as to what other counties are facing, too. My time as an elected county official meant dealing with the public, occasionally making unpopular decisions, working with deadlines, and researching subjects to be better informed on what was being discussed or what was expected of me."

When asked about her beliefs and understanding relating to the role and mission that SCC plays in the 15-county service area, Haskell



said she believes the College is a vital resource.

"I believe that you can do anything you set your mind to, and SCC plays a huge role to many in this area due to being able to obtain a degree in less than four years," she said. "That is a plus for many people. The transfer program is also a great asset to those wishing to further their education by allowing them to remain local while attending classes."

At its Feb. 21 meeting the Board of Governors approved the resignation of Sandi Hoffman of Beatrice. Hoffman ran unopposed in 2022 for the Board seat vacated when Dr. Dale Kruse of Beatrice decided not to run again. Haskell will fill the vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term, which ends Jan. 7, 2027. ❖

## All SCC Lincoln Campus Retirees Invited

Thursday, June 8  
10:30 a.m.

### Harbor Coffeehouse

1265 S. Cotner Blvd., Lincoln

This will be an opportunity for retirees to visit and catch up with friends.

*Committee members are Alicia Baillie, Karen Bonczynski, Pat Frakes, Jerry Gruber, Nancy Krumland, Charlotte Pasco, Ron Snyder, Jo Taylor, Carol Wells, Lynn Willey, and Iris Winkelhake.*



## 2005 GRAD CIRCLES BACK TO SCC WHERE SHE IS NOW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

After first attending a four-year university with the goal of becoming a physician, **Casey Glassburner** decided she'd rather focus on a health profession where she also has time to raise a family.

"Surgical technology was an excellent fit as it allowed me to work alongside surgeons in the operating room and fueled my passion for anatomy and the human body," she said.

After graduating from the Surgical Technology program in 2005, Glassburner worked as a Certified Surgical Technologist at the Lincoln Surgical Hospital. She also worked as an adjunct instructor at SCC, helping students with their clinical experiences. She later became a full-time instructor, and since 2020, has served as the program director, replacing Sharon Rehn, who became

associate dean of Health Sciences.

"When I think back to when I first met Casey as one of my students, I knew she was very special and possessed an inner drive that I had never seen before," Rehn said. "She seeks out ways to remove barriers that hold back learning for her students and ways to streamline the program courses with consistent outlines and methods that will provide the highest outcomes."

"I enjoy sharing my passion for surgical technology with the future of the profession," Glassburner said, "and assisting students in finding their purpose as a vital member of the operating room team where they are able to see the positive impact they have on the lives of their patients."

After receiving her degree from SCC, Glassburner went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Allied

Health from Doane University, as well as her Master of Arts degree in Management. In her new role at SCC, she hopes to increase the number of graduates in the program, add new clinical sites for the students to gain experience and keep up with the latest technology in the program.

"Our goal is to make program content as interactive, hands-on and dynamic as possible to adequately prepare students for success in their role as a CST following graduation," Glassburner said.

"Students have always strived to be the best they can be for Casey because they know how much she invests in their future and their success," Rehn added.

Casey and her husband Matt have two children, Reagan and Emerson, who keep them busy with their extracurricular activities. ❖



## HOLSING FINDS PURPOSE AFTER LIFE-CHANGING ACCIDENT

If **Casey Holsing** didn't have medical insurance, she'd have more than \$4 million of bills racked up from hospital stays, surgeries, rehab, therapy, and more. All from a car accident in Beatrice that could have been avoided.

"I had five surgeries in 36 hours," Holsing recalled. "My entire life changed in one second."

It was Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020. Casey was on her way home from work at Southeast Community College's Beatrice Campus. She decided to stop at Sonic for a snack. The last thing she remembers is the light turning green and she was turning. The next

thing she knew she was waking up in a strange room.

She was life-flighted to a Lincoln hospital where she was immediately taken into surgery for internal bleeding. She had more than 50 blood transfusions that night, and even a visit from the hospital chaplain. Casey doesn't remember any of this because she spent 10 days on a ventilator in a medically-induced coma.

"Where am I? What's going on? I was really confused," she said upon waking.

After spending a month in the Intensive Care Unit, she was moved to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

in Lincoln, where she stayed for three months inpatient and another nine months outpatient. It would be almost a year and a half before she returned to work.

Her injuries included a concussion, whiplash, broken ribs, bruised lung, shattered hips and pelvis, broken femur, torn bowel, shattered L5 vertebrae, broken tibia and fibula, and a dislocated shoulder. She had two subsequent hip replacements and continues to be in a lot of pain. She had a total of 11 surgeries, and takes around 18 prescription medications a day.

"It (the accident) was hard to talk

about at first, but talking about it has helped me process it," Holsing said.

She first shared her story at SCC's Safety Fair last summer. After realizing people were interested in what happened, she continued to speak out. She then went to her mother's place of employment and then to her church. She takes along a tri-fold featuring pictures from the accident as well as X-rays showing her injuries. She hopes to visit more places to talk about what happened.

"Maybe I have a new mission, a new purpose," she said.

For Casey, it was difficult to get back into a car, and even harder to pass by the intersection where the accident happened. After so much time away from work, Holsing is glad to be back as an admissions counselor and testing coordinator at SCC's Beatrice Campus.

"I missed my co-workers and missed my students," she said. "It's nice to be back in a routine. People want to help, and it's awesome to see the outpouring of support."

All of the SCC campuses held blood drives in honor of Casey during her recovery period, including two at the Beatrice Campus. People sent her cards, texts, and emails in support of her getting better. She felt the love and continues to have a positive attitude, despite the fact she still doesn't feel anywhere close to 100%.

"SCC and my church family have been awesome," she said. "I make the most of every day. You never know when life can change. It's important to be there for people. You never know what they're going through."

If you're interested in having Holsing speak to your organization, she can be contacted at [cholsing@southeast.edu](mailto:cholsing@southeast.edu) or 402-228-8242. ❖

## '86 FIRE TECHNOLOGY GRAD IS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**Scott Cordes** of Norfolk was appointed by Gov. Jim Pillen in January as the state fire marshal. Cordes graduated in 1986 from SCC's now defunct Fire Protection Technology program.

"He understands we need to help volunteers so they can continue to protect their communities without red tape and unnecessary interference from the state," Pillen said.

Cordes is Norfolk's Public Safety Director/Assistant City Administrator. Because of his many accomplishments, he was selected as the NCCA's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient from SCC. Three years earlier, Cordes received SCC's Distinguished Alumni Award for the Lincoln Campus.

He became a firefighter because his grandfather, uncles, cousins, and brothers all served as volunteer firefighters in his hometown of Scribner. His father also was the fire chief.

"I grew up in a family that was deeply entrenched in the fire service," Cordes said. "I spent so much time in and around it. It just seemed like a really cool way to make a living." ❖





# SCC FORD ASSET STUDENTS WORKING ON ELECTRIC FORD MUSTANG MACH-E

SCC's Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training program recently received a 2022 Ford Mustang Mach-E and started learning how to train on it, by earning their certification.

The Mustang Mach-E is a fully electric car and retails for around \$44,000 and up. SCC is one of only

six ASSET programs in the country to train with this new technology. Students recently worked on the car battery, which sits underneath the vehicle.

"This helps our students to see and use the most advanced

diagnostics and tools and will give them the skills they need to be the most successful Ford technicians in the dealership," said Mark Berggren, Ford ASSET program director. ❖

*For more information on SCC's Ford ASSET program, visit [southeast.edu/fordasset](https://southeast.edu/fordasset)*



## SAVED BY THE WINE

# SCC ALUM OPENS WINE BAR TO SUPPORT COLORADO ANIMAL SHELTERS

When **Allison Buffum** moved to Colorado in 2015, her plans did not include starting her own business.

She did want to be a ski instructor at Keystone Resort as her day job and a restaurant server or bartender in the evening. It was a perfect way to combine her passion for skiing with her Culinary Arts degree from SCC.

While working at Keystone, she met fellow ski instructor Erin O'Brien in 2016. O'Brien also worked in the hospitality industry, and together they began to brainstorm what it would look like if they opened a place of their own.

"We both were bartenders at a local golf course when we started thinking of opening up a wine bar," Buffum said. "The first thought that comes to mind about opening your own space is terrifying. There's a lot of things you don't know yet. That can be overwhelming, but it's also extremely exciting and exhilarating."

Buffum and O'Brien knew they wanted to go beyond providing great wine and food by making a difference

in their community. More than that, they wanted to create a place where they could save animals by drinking wine.

They came up with Saved by the Wine, a wine bar and bakery that donates a portion of all proceeds to animal shelters in the area.

"We created a company that gives back to the community," Buffum said.

By 2019, they had a business plan and started hunting for a location in Dillon, Colorado. The pandemic pushed back their grand opening, but they were eventually able to open their doors in August 2020.

Trying to open a wine bar during the pandemic required them to pay close attention to the rapidly changing rules and procedures. It also made them think outside the box and try every avenue.

"It was later than we planned, but it worked out in our favor," Buffum said. "In the end it made us better business owners and entrepreneurs. I

think the obstacles made us more resilient, which

really helped us adapt and cultivate a successful business."

Now, more than two years later, Saved by the Wine is thriving and giving back to the community in new ways. In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, Buffum and O'Brien hosted a special wine tasting featuring their favorite female winemakers, and a percentage of sales went to support women in the wine industry and to promote education.

For other women thinking of starting a business, Buffum offered this advice: "The most rewarding part is being the boss you've always wanted. It's not going to be easy, but no obstacle is too big. You just have to do it." ❖

*Saved by the Wine is a wine bar and bakery located in Dillon, Colorado. Owners Allison Buffum and Erin O'Brien had wanted to create a place where they could "save animals by drinking wine." That's why they donate a portion of each sale to support local animal shelters.*



*Buffum and O'Brien mark two years in business with a Luau party in September 2022.*



# CULINARY FUNDRAISER HELPS PAY FOR TRIP TO FRANCE FOR SCC STUDENTS

A two-day bakery fundraiser to help pay for expenses for a trip to France in May turned into a one-day fundraiser because items sold out so fast. Colorful cupcakes, cookies, cakes, chocolate-covered strawberries, macarons, and more sold out fast the day before Valentine's Day.

"Thank you to everyone who



stopped by the bake sale," said Vicki Rethmeier, Culinary/Hospitality Program Co-Chair. "Everything sold out today. We appreciate the support!"

Sixteen students and two faculty members will embark on a nine-day trip to France May 15-23, 2023. The "Taste of France" trip will focus on French cuisine and includes tours of restaurants, vineyards and even a cooking class with a famous chef. The tour includes Paris, Loire Valley, Normandy, and more historic locations. Culinary instructors Kim Williams-Lamb and Amber Pankonin will take part in the trip with the students.

"Building communication with our students is really important," said



Pankonin. "This is a way to feel more connection with the program and with each other."

\$1,200 was raised from the event. In addition, there was a five-course banquet fundraiser on March 23 to raise additional funds. ❖

## Architectural Engineering Graduates — June

Featured Year: 1998



**Front row, from left:** Jason Snipes, Chad Heiman, Eric Newman, Jeff Steuhmer, Mike Anderson.

**Second row, from left:** Karen Koch, Jeff Hankel, Jarred Meyer, Brian Craig, Ryan Schmitt, Candra (McDowell) Dumas.

**Back row, from left:** Danny Allen, Jeremy Lewis, Matt Werner, Joel Troester, Blake Meints.



## CONSTRUCTION OFFICIALLY BEGINS!

# GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR SANDHILLS GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Construction on the \$32.4 million Sandhills Global Technology Center on the Lincoln Campus of Southeast Community College officially began March 22 with a groundbreaking ceremony.

Sandhills Global, an information technology company headquartered in Lincoln, made a \$5 million gift, the largest in SCC's history, toward construction of the facility. Shawn Peed, chief executive officer of Sandhills Global, attended the groundbreaking.

SCC also received nearly \$4.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds distributed by the city of Lincoln to address workforce development needs. The funds are supporting SCC's new Office of Work-based Learning and dedicated lab spaces to provide upskilling, reskilling, and other asymmetrical training opportunities in the information technology industry.

The College has received additional financial support for the project, including \$1 million from the Acklie Charitable Foundation, \$500,000 from the Dillon Foundation, and \$100,000 from Ameritas.

Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president, said the building is part of the College's vision to transform and empower its diverse learners for fulfilling

careers, lifelong learning and community and societal advancement.

"This is a very exciting time for Southeast Community College as we go through a number of transformative phases," Illich said. "The event we are celebrating today is the direct result of the implementation and relentless pursuit of our strategic plan to expand our capacity to produce a skilled workforce and to provide affordable access to higher education. The new Sandhills Global Technology Center is an example of SCC's and our industry partner's commitment to directly address the skilled workforce gap in Nebraska."

Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, guest speaker, said Lincoln's long-term commitment to equipping SCC students and area residents with life-changing opportunities is being celebrated with the launch of the new facility.

"For our local employers, this new facility will be an opportunity to reskill and upskill their existing workforce. For students, this is a place where they, too, can break ground. This is a place where they can prepare



to enter the fields of health sciences, biotech, manufacturing, electronics, and cybersecurity. This also reflects our commitment to the value that SCC provides to our community every day and to the hands-on education that will soon take place inside the walls of this new facility."


Arlyn Uhrmacher, vice chairman of SCC's Board of Governors, also spoke during the ceremony.

Weitz Construction of Lincoln is the general contractor for the project, which will consist of 75,000 square feet for Computer Information Technology, Electronic Systems Technology, Biotechnology, and Design & Drafting Technology programs. BWBR, with offices in Omaha; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Madison, Wisconsin, is the architect.


The facility is expected to be completed in time for the start of the 2024 Fall Semester. ❖




# We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 “Still working at my age and I absolutely love it. My time at Southeast Community College was something I will never forget. Had a lot of friends, a lot of fun and learned a lot.”


*Gary Thielholdt,  
Diesel Technology-Truck, 1973*

 “I retired as a diesel tech in December 2020 from MHC Kenworth in Omaha. From working on trucks and diesel engines at an early age, that was 50 years of heavy-duty diesel repair. I also started an engine-building business in 1983 to support my race car as a part-time business. Since retirement, I am now full-time building race engines and other machining operations in my shop at home. Thanks SCC!”


*Randy Beyer,  
Diesel Technology-Truck, 1974*

 “Having just retired, I can look back on my experience at SCC Milford with fond memories. SCC provided an excellent background for all my work experiences and allowed me to excel in all I did. I was in one of the early classes in Electromechanical, graduating in 1976. Then I decided to return and complete the Electronic Engineering course in 1978. Beyond my work career, I also continue to utilize my knowledge from EM in a side business building specialized auto parts sold worldwide. I often think of my machine tool instructor, Duane Cassem, while machining items. He was a strict instructor, but I still hold him in great respect for his teachings. SCC provided a wonderful base to continue learning lifelong.”


*Rory Zink, Electromechanical Technology & Electronic  
Engineering Technology, 1976 & 1978*

 “I am nearing retirement from a career that started with my studies at SCC Milford.”


*Joe Schmitz,  
Electromechanical Technology, 1978*

 “After a 34-year career with Exxon Mobil, my days are filled with construction and electrical work rebuilding and remodeling “Camp on The Boulder,” a Christian family and kids camp, [www.campontheboulder.com](http://www.campontheboulder.com). Thanks to SCC Milford for my education that made this life possible for me and my family. All that education is still at work.”

*Robert Shanahan,  
Electrical Technology, 1978*

 “It is amazing that the training I received 40 years ago at SCC is a perfect fit for what I do today.”

*David Plummer,  
Electromechanical Technology, 1980*

 “I graduated in 2016 and was able to meet many challenges in the industry. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, I ended up leaving the industry and going back to school at UNL. My credits from SCC transferred, and I was able to get a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in theatre arts. A surprisingly large volume of the training from my automotive degree and my field experience helped greatly when it came to work in theatre and film, as well as development of psychological/ cognitive studies. I am currently a full-time graduate student studying for my Ph.D. in psychology with a research emphasis, as well as working as a researcher at UNL and a mediator. My automotive training, the industry insight from SCC, and some of the training methods have proven useful in development and application to many other areas of work and academics in ways that I never would have guessed when I first enrolled at SCC.”

*Joshua Magee,  
Automotive Technology, 2016*

## 2001 GRADUATE MAKES HISTORY IN OMAHA

# BOSSMAN FIRST FEMALE CHIEF OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kathy Bossman, a 2001 graduate of the Fire Protection Technology program, became the first female to be named fire chief for the city of Omaha. The appointment was announced March 16.

Bossman joined the department in 1997 as a firefighter paramedic. She has been promoted to captain, battalion chief and, in 2017, assistant fire chief.

“As chief, I intend to continue our diversity, equity, inclusion and sense of belonging, especially in our higher ranks,” Bossman said in a statement.

“We value the different perspectives that a diverse workforce offers.”

Bossman earned a Master of Arts degree in organizational leadership with a concentration in fire/rescue executive leadership from Waldorf University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She received her paramedic certification from Creighton University. ❖



### Architectural Engineering Graduates — December

Featured Year: 1998



**Front row, from left:** Jennifer (Gembica) Ahlers, Lee Danczak, Cory Wittstruck.

**Second row, from left:** Shelley Owens, Chad Rockwell, Jennifer (Klawitter) Essman, Amy Korbekik.

**Back row, from left:** Brent Shelton, Justin Scamehorn, Mike Yoch, Zach Brackett.

Not pictured: Adam Kent.

# We want to stay in touch with our grads!

Email information to [alumni@southeast.edu](mailto:alumni@southeast.edu) or

call **Beatrice, 800-233-5027, ext. 1216; Lincoln, 800-642-4075, ext. 2622; or Milford, 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.**

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1956 Graduates?

### Beatrice Campus

Mabell Alexander	Donald Fraley	Neva Joy
Verlon Barnes	Gilbert Gray	Richard Kerns
Diane Bishop	Donald Haake	Glenn Kirk
Bessie Bloomgren	Rebecca Heddrich	Margaret Kohl
Robert Bottger	Reuben Heller	Jo Ann Martin
Larry Bowker	Alberta	Ralph Neumann
Irene Bunting	Hermsmeier	Dale Ozbun
Patsy Chirnside	Harlan Hubka	Donald Patmore
Roger Dailey	John Huff	James Peterson
E. Dart	Jean Huneke	Joann Powell
Peggy Deterding	Bonnie Jennings	Cornelius Rader
Edith Dolezal	Marion Johnson	Shirley Schmitz
Shirley Eastwood	Allen Jonason	Donna Schuster

### Milford Campus

Donald Anderson	James Larson
Ronald Avery	Bernard Mc Donald
Donald Ball	John Mc Mahon
Gary Bergin	Melvin Miller
Clarence Braymen	Gerry Pack
William Chastain	Floyd Patch
Robert De Voogd	Neil Prather
Dale Dugger	Francis Rueckel
Richard Dunlap	Richard Sampson
Richard Fischer	Deland Sayles
Herman Frederick	John Sheppard
Herbert Grover	Leonard Smith
Glenn Johnson	Gerald Snook
Willard Johnson	Chester True
Raymond Kelly	Robert Vebka
Robert Krantz	Ray Volz
Roy Krumtum	

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1998 Graduates?

### Beatrice Campus

Marjorie Bowman	Emily Lane	Erich Staben
Chemaco Brown	Patricia Mercer	Neil Stewart
Shelly Durflinger	Laci Paul	Ryan Strain
Amy Everett	Michelle Pool	Jennifer Sugden
Tasha Hamata	Mark Rathe	Jeffrey Swanson
Eric Hawley	Tamara Redding	Nicole Waldron
Andrew Heiss	Danielle Sand	Christine Wardlaw
Loretta Jurgens	Jeffery Skrdla	Shannon Weichel
Crystal Knobbe	Brenda Smisek	Wanda York
Scott Kosek	Kelly Speakman	Katherine Younger

### Milford Campus

Jennifer Carpenter	Matt Lockard	Justin
Logan Cautrell	Jeffrey Mahrt	Schneiderheinz
Daniel Harms	Ryan McCracken	Jason Smith
Vicki Hayes	Darwin Miller	Adam Stroup
Scott Hilger	Stephen Mulligan	John Stuhr
Christian Janousek	Travis Peterson	Joseph Sykora
Benjamin Johnson	Phillip Pinkelman	Russ Thurman
Nicholas Kavan	Raymond Ross	Joseph Williams
Donald Kopiasz	Jerod Schlake	

### Lincoln Campus

Jenny Appleget	Craig Cooley	Nealie Haddock	Natalie	Teresa O'Connor	Wendolyn Toppa
Douglas Barber	Annette Cummings	Sarah Harmon	Lewandowski	Kari Pierson	Anh Tuyet Tran
Jamie Bergman	Janet Diltz	Bryce Helms	Christine Long	Christopher Plate	Torrey Tripe
David Blevins	Teresa Dinslage	Sabrina Henne	Darlene Lovorn	Tina Pleskac	Ha Van
Kathleen Boos	Priscilla Dring	John Hoffa	Sherry Martin	Kimberly Rose	Kelly Vandervort
Troy Boothe	Mohamed Elazouzi	Jason Holle	Kelly McBride	Terri Schrad	Chinh Vo
Blaine Boyington	Robert Elder	Joni Jahn	Doreen McDaniel	Aaron Schrage	Jayne Vollmer
Bernice Butler	Brent Evans	Marie Jarrett	Kimberly Merrill	Kristin Schuster	Polly Watts
Barbara Camper	Jenifer Friend	Brenda Johnson	Melinda Mohler	Sharon Shirley	Jody Webb
David Caputto	James Garnette	Bret Jurgens	Eloise Mullen-Gray	Kelly Shonka	Digessie Yohannes
Robert Carter	Mindy Garrett	Michelle Kelly	Sarah Nelson	Monica Smallbear	
Gwendolyn Chandler	Andres Gomez	Scott Krous	Seconde Nkundizanye	Marilyn Starkweather	

# In Memory of...

## Beatrice / Fairbury

Stephen Dory (Academic Transfer, 1975)  
Patricia J. (Patterson) Eisenhauer  
(Academic Transfer, 1950)  
Betty Hohensee (Ag Business, 1987)  
Joni M. Woodard  
(Practical Nursing, 2000)

## Lincoln

Lona Faubion  
(Food Service/Hospitality, 1992)  
Debra Griffith (Medical Assisting, 2008)  
Christina Harding  
(Associate Degree Nursing, 1992)  
Debra Miller (Human Services, 1979)  
Ryan Yanagida (Academic Transfer, 2014)

## Milford

George "Geo" Cowles (Diesel, 1961)  
Don Douglas DeShon (Machine Tool, 1973)  
Calvin Dietrich (Electronics, 1970)  
Terry A. Drake (Welding, 1972)  
Randy R. Erb  
(Computer Programming, 1970)  
Myron L. Fred (Diesel, 1969)  
Debra Griffith  
(Computer Programming, 1999)  
Larry C. Ihde Sr. (Welding, 1955)  
Don Kauk (Architectural, 1971)  
Roger "Rog" Keilig (Machine Tool, 1964)  
Aaron Kinnan  
(Building Construction, 2007)  
Larry Lemburg (Automotive, 1958)

Glenn J. Lockman  
(Building Construction, 1958)  
Merwin D. Long (Electrical, 1960)  
Bernard Lyons (Machine Tool, 1978)  
LeRoyce Margritz  
(Building Construction, 1971)  
Duane Mau (Automotive, 1961)  
Lawrence "Larry" Merriman  
(Retired Electronics Instructor)  
Grant Saddler (Auto Body, 1964)  
Frank Smutny (Machine Tool, 1963)  
Darrel Lee Stromer (Diesel, 1954)  
Charles "Chuck" Warner (Drafting, 1966)  
Clarence Wattier (Electronics, 1968)  
Kirby L. Woebbecke (Machine Tool, 1970)

## SCC BUSINESS INSTRUCTOR WINS REGIONAL AWARD

# JANET SCOTT FINALIST FOR ACBSP NATIONAL HONOR

**Janet Scott**, an instructor of economics, global business and introduction to global studies on the Lincoln Campus of Southeast Community College, was recently selected as the recipient of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs Teaching Excellence Award for Region 5.

"I'm really honored to receive the teaching excellence award," Scott said. "There are many deserving teachers, and I'm humbled by the recognition."

As a regional winner, Scott will receive \$500, a crystal medallion and a waiver of registration fees to the annual conference. Winners from each of the 11 regions within ACBSP will be honored at the 2023 annual conference June 29-July 2 in Chicago. The Accreditation and Awards Gala is scheduled for the evening of July 1. The national award-winners also will be named at the conference.

Dr. Beth Deinert, co-chair of the Business program on the Lincoln Campus, said it is a well-deserved honor.

"Janet is such a deserving recipient," Deinert said. "She personifies higher education in her approach to teaching and learning, professional development and her unwavering commitment to SCC and the diverse communities we serve. Her passion for students is evident in her Economics courses as she prepares them for a successful transfer to a four-year institution. She frequently presents at economics conferences and is a huge proponent of Global Education and its benefits to students."

Scott shared what's most rewarding for her as a teacher.

"I think the most rewarding experience for any teacher is when students share feedback of what they actually learned in a course and how



they were able to use it in their lives," she said. "When a student shares how they gained a new understanding or perspective on the world, it's pretty fulfilling. That's why we do what we do."

Scott thanked the Business Division leadership for nominating her for the award.

"It really feels great to be appreciated," she said. ❖

# WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP



## Women's Basketball

Head Coach Lynn Schlake's team played for the Northwest Plains Championship and a berth in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II national tournament, but came up short, losing 83-77 to United Tribes Technical College. SCC finished the season with an 18-13 record, including a 74-52 victory over North Platte in the Region IX championship on March 4.

Four players averaged double-figure scoring for the Storm, led by Matalynn Campbell, a freshman from Lincoln East, at 14 points per game. Klover averaged 12, and Jordan Koehler and Siebold averaged 11 each. Koehler is a sophomore from Johnson-Brock.

## Men's Basketball

Head Coach Joel Wooton's team finished with a 23-7 overall record. The Storm saw its season come to an end with a 72-60 loss to Central Community College in the Region IX championship on March 4.

SCC finished with a 12-2 record at home. The Storm was led in scoring by Denim Johnson, a freshman from Omaha (Central), who averaged 21 points per game in just 16 games played. Luke Williams, a sophomore from Olathe, Kansas (South), averaged 18 points per game in 28 games played. Maijhe Wiley, a sophomore from Omaha (Creighton Prep), rounds out the double-figure scorers for the Storm with 13 points per game. He played in all 30 games this season. SCC averaged 75 points per game. ❖



## STORM BASKETBALL PLAYER PICKS UP HONOR



# CAMPBELL NAMED THIRD-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN

SCC point guard **Matalynn Campbell** has been named a Division II Third-Team All-American by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Campbell, a freshman from Lincoln East High School, was one of only

five freshmen to make the first, second or third teams.

Storm Head Coach Lynn Schlake said he was pleased with how Campbell improved in her first year in the program.

"Matalynn had a very good season," Schlake said. "She just got better as she grew with the game. She played hard at all times and made others around her better. She is only

a freshman, so she should be a leader for us next season."

Campbell led the Storm in scoring, averaging 14 points per game. She also averaged five rebounds, 4.6 assists and 2.7 steals per game.

Campbell did not see action until five games into the season. She opened her season with a 23-point effort in an 86-63 win over Des Moines Area Community College. A week later she poured in a season-high 32 in a 93-90 loss to Neosho County (Kansas) Community College. Campbell was one of the Storm's leading scorers during the final month of the season.

The Storm finished the season with an 18-13 record. SCC won the Region IX championship before losing to United Tribes Technical College in the Northwest Plains Championship. Campbell also was named to the All-Region IX team. ❖



**Dear Southeast Community College Alumni, Parents and Friends:**

On behalf of the Foundation Board and SCC faculty and staff, thank you for your support of the College and our students.

The 2023-2024 school year will be a historic time of celebration, including the grand opening of the new Student Academic Support Center which just opened the end of March, the new Residence Hall on the Lincoln Campus which will be complete by January of 2024 and the groundbreaking of the new Sandhills Global Technology Center on March 22, 2023. In addition, SCC was able to distribute more than \$4.7 million in school support and scholarships to SCC students this past year. What an exciting time for SCC students, faculty and staff and alumni!

We have some other great news to share! Stacker looked at data from Niche's 2023 Best Community Colleges in America to compile a list of the top 100 community colleges nationwide. Data is based on rigorous analysis of academic, financial, and student life data from the U.S. Out of over 1,200 community colleges nationwide, Southeast Community College has also been selected in the Top 100 Community Colleges in America (#60 to be exact)!

If you are in the area or would like to visit one of our campuses in Lincoln, Beatrice or Milford, please give the Foundation Office a call and we would love to meet you and give you a tour!

As always, THANK YOU for all that you do to support the mission of SCC. Without your investment none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,



Michelle Birkel, Executive Director  
Southeast Community College  
Educational Foundation



Mark your calendars for the **2nd Annual Golf Tournament** on June 9, 2023!

Proceeds from this golf tournament will fund scholarships and help pay membership and registration fees for students in SCC trades and industry programs to attend and compete in SkillsUSA conventions and competitions. We are proud of the work our graduates do for employers and within their communities, and participating in events such as SkillsUSA only enhances our students' knowledge and skills.

View all available sponsorships and register now at <https://bit.ly/sccgolftournament2023>.



Donate securely online at  
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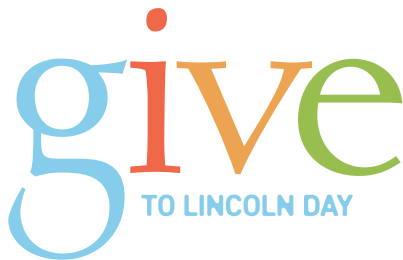
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**Check out our other issues  
you may have missed!**  
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It's time for the 12th Annual Give to Lincoln Day! The Lincoln Community Foundation hosts this special day of giving to encourage philanthropy for Lincoln nonprofits. Your tax-deductible gift of any size—\$10 or \$10,000—will increase the SCC portion of the \$500,000 challenge match fund provided by the Lincoln Community Foundation and their sponsors. Participating during Give to Lincoln Day 2023 will support SCC students by funding student scholarships to help families with financial need.

Many of our scholarship donors are people just like you paying it forward. Without your generous support, many of our students would not be able to realize their dream of graduating from college and having a successful career. Each gift to the Southeast Community College Educational Foundation represents a level of confidence in Southeast Community College's tradition of providing a high-quality education to our future workforce.

*"By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus on the most important aspect; learning. You have inspired me to help others and give back to the community." ~ Brianna*



Here's how you can help us this year:

- ▶ Give online anytime from May 1-24 at [givetolincoln.com](https://givetolincoln.com) and search for *Southeast Community College Educational Foundation*.



- ▶ Deliver checks to the SCC Educational Foundation (301 S. 68th St. Place, #204, Lincoln, NE 68510) by noon May 23 made payable to Lincoln Community Foundation with "SCC Foundation" in the memo line.
- ▶ Help us spread the word about Southeast Community College by following us on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/SCCNeb](https://facebook.com/SCCNeb))