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Your impact can change lives. Find out how.

NORTHWEST TECH ALUMNI NEWS

Issue #4: Winter 2021



**WELCOME
TO OUR FOURTH EDITION**

Letter from the President



Over the past few years we have all been inundated with the mania surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic. If you're anything like me, I have become nearly numb to doom and gloom articles, news, and social media posts even referencing it. So, for the sake of this edition of our Alumni Newsletter, I would like to focus my comments on some of the positive things happening at Northwest Tech in spite of the ongoing pandemic.

Enrollment: Like much of higher education across the nation, we took a pretty tough enrollment hit in 2020. While there had been some challenges recruiting students, we were able to adapt and were pleased to see a slight increase in students this past fall semester. With a return to traditional high school visits, college fairs, and recruiters back out on the roads, we are seeing applications rise and are hopeful for a strong enrollment for Fall 2022. It has also been encouraging to visit with prospective students when they are on campus for tours and hear firsthand how hopeful they are for a future in technical education and a return to normalcy.

One of the beauties of being a small technical college in rural Northwest Kansas is that we have experienced a relatively small case count for COVID-19, which has allowed us to provide a normal experience in the classrooms and labs. Throughout the duration of the pandemic, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to offer technical education that delivered skills and experience students have come to expect from Northwest Tech. After all, you can't teach a student to tear apart and rebuild a transmission over a laptop – we knew we needed to be in-person and doing all we could to remain open. And we have done just that.

Technology Expansion: One of the silver-linings of the pandemic has been the new opportunities for federal funding provided to colleges and universities across the country – much of it geared toward ensuring we could remain open and operational. While we expended funds on COVID-related protocols, several channels of funding allowed us to expand the amount of technology we had available in the labs, shops, and classrooms for our students. Over the past 18 months, we have been able to add close to \$2 million in new equipment directly into each of our technical programs. The funding has allowed us to upgrade existing equipment, add new equipment, and ensure our programs are on the front-lines of producing quality graduates for a hungry workforce.

Network Upgrades: One of the most significant improvements this past year was a major upgrade to our existing campus fiber, which has served as the backbone of our network since the mid-90's. In the first major upgrade of the network infrastructure in three decades, we were able to stand up new single-mode fiber across campus and all of our facilities. As part of the improvements, we relocated the heart of our network to the emergency shelter on campus. The shelter has a backup power generator in the building and allows us to ensure that our network will remain open and available regardless of weather or other factors.

Grant Funding: The college has remained highly active in pursuing grant funding over the past few years. Following success securing funding on a state and regional level, the decision was made to engage with a federal grant writing agency to pursue larger transformative grants. The new partnership has led to over \$2 million in additional federal funding for the college. The first grant was for a 5,000 sq. ft. addition to the Diesel Technology program that included a new chassis dynamometer. The second grant was for expanded educational programming opportunities through our Precision Agriculture program.

Just as the old adage goes, when life gives you lemons – make lemonade. In spite of all that may be going on surrounding the pandemic, we are excited to remain open, moving forward, and educating our students on campus with new technology and equipment. We appreciate your continued support as a friend of the college and look forward to a bright 2022!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Schears', written over a white background.

Ben Schears
President - Northwest Tech



NORTHWEST TECH



WE ARE **NT**

Since the college was founded in 1964, over 12,000 students have been affiliated with Northwest Kansas Technical College. Our alumni have gone on to establish very successful careers in academia and industry. We would like to share the successes and accomplishments of our alumni and provide a system for re-establishing contacts with old friends and colleagues. We invite you to contact us to let us know your achievements and also recommend you to visit our website where you will find links to a variety of newsletters, events, and endowment opportunities.



We love to hear from Northwest Tech alumni. Please do not hesitate to contact our Director, Kelly James, at kelly.james@nwktc.edu.

We send an email or print newsletter filled with college news bi-annually. This is your opportunity to keep up-to-date with the latest announcements from Northwest Tech!

How to Update Alumni Info



SCAN ME

Moved? Changed your name? Engaged or Married? New Job or Promotion? Births? Honors or Awards? WE WANT TO KNOW! Keep in Touch!

Visit the link below or scan the QR Code to fill out a updated contact form: <https://www.nwktc.edu/alumni/alumni-friends>

Student Spotlight - Joseph Mann

Joseph Mann, 20

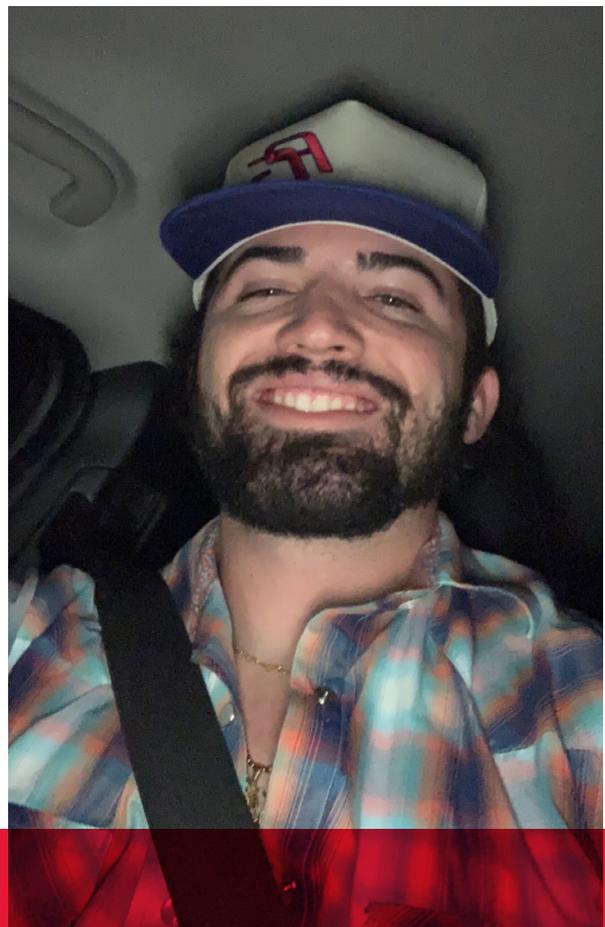
I was born and raised in Goodland, Kansas. I've spent most of my life mowing lawns and taking care of the family ranch with my grandpa. I graduated high school in 2019. After high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life, but I got a scholarship to play football at McPherson College so I packed my bags and headed that way. I decided to pick Health Science as my major because I thought it might be one of the easier ones to do while being an athlete. I spent my freshman year battling concussions and the classroom. After we got sent home at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, I really started to hate school because sitting on my couch trying to pay attention made me feel like I wasn't getting an education.

Sophomore year finally rolled around and we were back on campus and I was back to battling concussions again. By now I had gotten my ninth concussion and my coach had told me he wasn't going to let me play football for him anymore because he wasn't letting me risk my life on his field. I was crushed, but I understood where he was coming from. After that, going to class seemed pointless because I didn't have a reason to get good grades anymore because I couldn't play football. I spent two months avoiding my teachers and at the end of the semester, I dropped out.

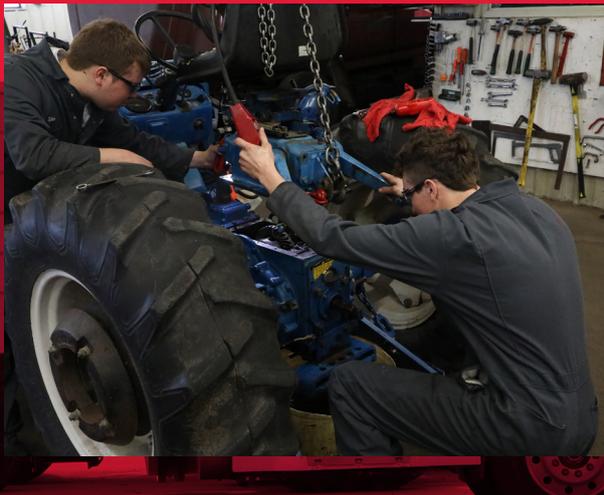
In early December, me and one of my roommates moved down to Hutchinson, Kansas and agreed to work for the spring until we would transfer to Washburn University in Topeka in the fall. I was working full-time at Walgreens, which I hated. After a couple months, I realized I wanted to move back home. I just didn't know how to tell my roommate and leave him with all of our bills alone. After a couple more months, his girlfriend moved in and I could finally go home.

Once I moved back home in April, I started working at our local golf course and got ready to enroll into our local college, Northwest Kansas Technical College. I wasn't sure what I wanted to go into, but after my experience at a four-year school, I knew a hands-on classroom was where I needed to be. Over the summer at the golf course, I did some small electrical work and I enjoyed it; so I decided to enroll into the Electrical Technology program.

The best advice I could give to anyone wanting to get into the electrical field would be to be willing to learn multiple ways of doing something, but find the one you like the best and stick to it.



Program Spotlight



Kansas Institute of Diesel Technology

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INVESTS \$2 MILLION IN CARES ACT RECOVERY ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE GROWTH AND BUSINESS CAPITAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN KANSAS

Contact: EDA Public Affairs Department, (202) 482-4085

March 4, 2021

Twitter logoFacebook logoMail logoLinkedIn logo

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$2 million in CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants to help the state of Kansas prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

“The Economic Development Administration is committed to helping communities across the nation implement strategies to mitigate economic hardships brought on by the coronavirus pandemic,” said Dennis Alvord, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. “These EDA investments will grow businesses and create jobs by expanding a diesel and automotive technician training and education program in northwest Kansas and supporting the capital needs of businesses in northeast Kansas.”

“This \$2.1 million in CARES Act grants will help our local and statewide economy grow through additional workforce training in Goodland and small business recovery aid in Wichita,” said Governor Laura Kelly. “It’s not good enough to return to our economy before COVID-19, we must grow back stronger with more, higher-paying jobs and a healthier workforce. This federal money will help us achieve these goals and ensure Kansas can prosper now and into the future.”

“A key component of recovering from this pandemic is building back a strong economy, and these investments and new resources for Kansas will help us accomplish that goal,” said Senator Jerry Moran. “The grants will not only help create new jobs in our state, but also provide resources to small businesses and entrepreneurs to keep their lights on and employees on the payroll. As the lead republican on the Appropriations subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the EDA, I will continue to support its mission to grow the economic activity of our communities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The EDA investments announced today are:

Northwest Kansas Technical College, Goodland, Kansas, will receive a \$1.2 million EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to expand their Diesel Tech training facility, increasing their capacity to train workers to compete for high-skill, high-wage jobs and positioning the region for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The project, to be matched with \$295,986 in local funds, is expected to create nearly 300 jobs.

Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship, Wichita, Kansas, will receive an \$800,000 EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to capitalize and administer a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to provide critical gap financing to small businesses and entrepreneurs adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic in Clay, Douglas, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Marshall, Miami, Morris, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, and Wabaunsee counties. This project is funded under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136 PDF), which provided EDA with \$1.5 billion for economic assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance, which is being administered under the authority of the bureau’s flexible Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) (PDF) program, provides a wide-range of financial assistance to eligible communities and regions as they respond to and recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.eda.gov/news/press-releases/2021/03/04/ks.htm>



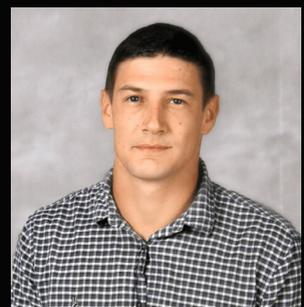
Oura Garrett
Instructor



Jason Cook
Instructor



Josh Simmons
Instructor



Oura Garrett
Parts Manager

Your Impact

Every gift is appreciated at Northwest Kansas Technical College whether the gift is one dollar or one million. Since our founding in 1965, gifts from alumni and friends have helped shape Northwest Tech into one of the top technical institutions in Kansas. We use donated funds to support our students, faculty, facilities, academic programs, NJCAA athletic programs, and much more. There are many ways to support Northwest Tech and it is easy to find something that best suits you. Explore our "Ways to Give" section to find our areas of support and how you can help.

Know an Outstanding Alumnus? Visit the link at the bottom of this page to nominate them!



Thanks to the support of alumni and friends, Northwest Kansas Technical College can continue to pursue its mission to "prepare individuals for gainful employment in technical and professional careers, productive personal lives, and lifelong learning." Help Northwest Tech deliver on the promise of education by giving today.

**Know a Northwest Tech
Alumni who deserves to be
recognized? Visit the link
below or scan the code.**

<https://nwktc.wufoo.com/forms/q1lga4k000232ij/>



Instructor Spotlight - Jim Kennedy

Looking back at childhood dreams, not many of us fulfilled our hopes of going to the moon or pursuing that big shot career we grew out of being interested in. The same can not be said for Jim Kennedy. He really did shoot for the stars and made it by pursuing his dreams in auto tech at Northwest Kansas Area Vocational Tech School. Former student and current instructor, he is now in his twenty-sixth year of teaching Automotive Technology at what is now known as Northwest Tech. Having grown up in a farming community himself, Kennedy recalls knowing he would lean into his interests and talent working with automobiles. He arrived on campus in the fall of 1989. Two hours away from his hometown of McCook Nebraska, he left his family and highschool sweetheart to pursue an education and follow his passion.

During his first year on campus, Kennedy participated in a work study opportunity through the automotive program. One student per year is selected to manage the fleet vehicles maintaining oil changes, provide minor service work, and basic cleaning in the evenings. For Kennedy, there was no part-time job that could compare to the joy he experienced from working in the shop. Upon graduation in 1990, Kennedy returned to his hometown of McCook, NE and worked as a technician at the local Ford dealership.

Fast forward four years, now married to Marshall and raising their young daughter Makayla. Kennedy received a call from Curt Goodwin, his past automotive instructor who was now leaving the program. Goodwin asked Kennedy directly to be his replacement. With further encouragement from the transmission instructor Tom Pervis, the Kennedy family relocated in the spring of 1995 and have since made Goodland their home. The college embraced the Kennedy's by soon hiring his wife Marshall as a secretary in the communication technology department. Years later, their daughter Maykala became the second member of their family to go through the college as she spent a year in the Crime Scene Investigation program.

"The main reason I came back was the job, but after being here, the community of Goodland became home. There's a lot of good folks here," said Kennedy lives out this sense of community by volunteering at community service events put on by the college and continues to be heavily involved in The Knights of Columbus through the Catholic Church. Each year at the Flatlanders Festival Jim and Marshall, joined by the auto tech students, run a raffle booth. The prize? In pure auto tech fashion, an engine.

"I had very good and qualified instructors all the way through whose knowledge and general care for students impacted my life," said Kennedy. He relays the same care for his students each year, describing the atmosphere as a reflection of a "family-like work environment." Currently with twelve males and one female this semester, Kennedy explains each semester the first year program students create a bond that remains outside of the shop.

Similar to his experience, Kennedy explains how his students learn best with hands-on learning. First year students learn theory in the classroom, but Kennedy couples this learning with hands-on real-world experience. He explains how exposing students to real-world problems in a shop, such as worn out parts and broken pieces, allows them to understand why something failed in order to fix it. Referencing his own student experience, Kennedy developed a sense of professionalism at a young age as he built confidence interacting with customers face-to-face during his time as a student at Northwest Tech and in his high school auto classes. The program serves as a shop for the community to bring in cars of any make or model. The customer base is aware their vehicles are teaching tools for students, leading the turnover rate of repair to be slower. However they are never lacking in projects as the community is fully invested in the success of the students at the college.

Jim Kennedy Automotive Technology Instructor

Kennedy has long felt it is important to model work ethic in the programs at the college, just like they were when he was a student. "You gotta be there, you gotta show up on time, you gotta work, and you gotta want to work. If students exemplify these qualities as instructors we will support students all the way through."

"Technical fields are hard work, it has to be something you are passionate about to be successful." There has to be something in you, he explains, that passion, talent, and desire to perform that is going to drive students to be successful. Look at the programs and try to envision which area could be your niche. Once you have sorted through the opportunities available, jump in and go for it! Kennedy advises.



Economic Impact

Northwest Kansas Technical College (Northwest Tech) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, this study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect fiscal year (FY) 2017-18.

Economic Impact Analysis

In FY 2017-18, Northwest Tech added \$16 million in income to the Northwest Tech Service Area* economy, a value approximately equal to 0.6% of the region’s total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, Northwest Tech’s impact supported 333 jobs.

Summary of investment analysis results

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

\$29.8 million

Present value benefits

\$5.8 million

Present value costs

\$24.1 million

Net present value

5.2

Benefit-cost ratio

19.6%

Rate of return

TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE

\$6.4 million

Present value benefits

\$3.5 million

Present value costs

\$2.8 million

Net present value

1.8

Benefit-cost ratio

4.2%

Rate of return

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

\$61 million

Present value benefits

\$13.1 million

Present value costs

\$47.9 million

Net present value

4.7

Benefit-cost ratio

n/a*

Rate of return

* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

Northwest Tech impacts by industry (jobs supported)

Government, Non-Education

47

Other Services (except Public Administration)

28

Retail Trade

23

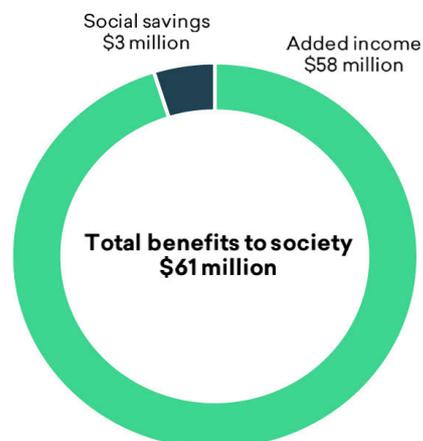
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting

20

Construction

20

Social benefits in Kansas from Northwest Tech



Maverick Accomplishments



SCAN ME!

Available
on Spotify
Found on
OUR STORY

www.nwktc.edu/podcasts



The Mav on Campus

"This community has a vision for the future, a future of love and compassion fueled by excitement to see one another thrive.

This vision has made a home in my heart, it is one that this community is ready to see fulfilled."

- Your Host: Hallie Mayes, Northwest Kansas Technical College

Hallie Mayes

Lead for Kansas Fellow

Three days after a top-5 finish at national cross country, the Men's Cross Country has just earned a 2nd Place team finish at the NJCAA National Half-Marathon Championships!

TOP 5 FINISH - Cross Country

This finish marks the highest team finish of any program in Northwest Tech athletic history! Individually, there were three Mavericks who finished in the top-10 at the race.

Placings: Oliver Kiptoo (5th), Enock Kimutai (8th), Vincent Nchogu (10th), Nathan Kipyego (43rd), and Taylor Kleinow (67th).



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY - \$500,000 REMODEL



"Being awarded this grant from the Department of Commerce is a game changer in many ways," said Engineering Instructor Michael Zimmerman, "Not only will our students have access to new technology in the areas of carbon fiber & metal 3D printing, robotic welding, and multi-axis CNC machining, but the entire service area will have access to this technology as some courses will be available online and we will rely on community based projects to help deliver our curriculum to the students. This means that rural manufactures, community members, and regional high school students can gain access to the program as students or as project partners."

<https://www.nwktc.edu/news/post/northwest-tech-receives-500000-grant>

Athletics

Men's Basketball
 Women's Basketball
 Men's Wrestling
 Women's Softball
 Men's Track & Field
 Women's Track & Field
 Men's Cross Country
 Women's Cross Country
 Men's Shooting Sports
 Women's Shooting Sports

Maverick Athletics

Northwest Tech's Athletics is committed to educating champions in academics, sport, and life. We target excellence in 10 SPORTS; we achieve it as ONE TEAM. Northwest Tech is equipped to help student-athletes achieve their best. Our college is the fastest growing higher education institution in the State of Kansas with enrollment nearly doubling in the past three years. We aim to transform technical education while preparing student-athletes for life after graduation.



For updated athletic schedules
 visit:

NTMAVERICKS.COM

Athlete Spotlight

BE A PART OF THE MAVERICK BOOSTER CLUB



**SCAN the CODE
 below or visit:**

LEVELS * Red/Black Flag is a one-time gift on the first purchase of membership.

**GREY
 \$25+**

- Recognition on the ntmavericks.com website

**WHITE
 \$100+**

- Individual Athletic Pass to All Athletic Events
 - Recognition on ntmavericks.com website
 - Red/Black Yard Flag*

**BLACK
 \$250+**

- 2 Athletic Passes to all Athletic Events
 - Recognition on ntmavericks.com website
 - 10% Discount at NT Bookstore
 - Red/Black Yard Flag*

**RED
 \$500+**

- 4 Athletic Passes to all Athletic Events
 - Recognition on ntmavericks.com website
 - Advertising on Scoreboard at Home Basketball Games
 - Advertising on Scoreboard at Home Wrestling Events
 - 10% Discount at NT Bookstore
 - Red/Black Yard Flag*

**PLATINUM
 \$1000+**

- 8 Athletic Passes to all Maverick Regular/Postseason Events
 - 4 Tickets to the Northwest Tech Annual Endowment Fundraiser
 - Recognition on ntmavericks.com website
 - Advertising on Scoreboard at Home Basketball Games
 - Advertising on Scoreboard at Home Wrestling Events
 - Advertising on Live Stream for all sporting events
 - 10% Discount at NT Bookstore
 - Red/Black Yard Flag*

<https://nwktc.wufoo.com/forms/wvrs78s0i7fs0c/>



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
 CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

Ways to Give

Northwest Tech has been very fortunate to have so many individuals and businesses that see the value in a quality education. Over the years many have established scholarships in their name, a loved ones name, club, or business. For more information regarding setting up a scholarship please contact the Endowment Director (785) 890-1529.

How can you help the students of Northwest Tech with your donations?

The Northwest Tech Endowment Association is a federally designated charitable organization and as such is eligible to receive charitable donations as a 501(c)3 entity. This means that not only can you provide incredible gifts to help our students and the college, but you are also eligible to lower your tax liability in the process. That said, what types of gifts can you provide to Northwest Tech and how can they be utilized?

How can you give a gift?

Our donors have used numerous financial tools to provide a gift to Northwest Tech. These include; cash donations, life insurance policies, estate gifts, multiple types of trusts, bequests, donations of equipment/tools, and donations of vehicles. Please don't hesitate to contact the Endowment Association if you have questions about how you can give.

What can the gift be used for?

One of the greatest needs for our students is scholarship support. Establishing a scholarship ensures Northwest Tech students can head out into their new career with as little student loan debt as possible. You can establish either expendable or endowed scholarships. When you establish an expendable scholarship, each year the gift you provide goes directly to eligible students and the account balance returns to zero afterwards. When you establish an endowed scholarship, the base gift (corpus) remains protected and is invested. The interest and earnings from the gift are provided every year to students for scholarships. Endowed scholarships are a great option if you desire your gift to provide scholarships permanently for the future.

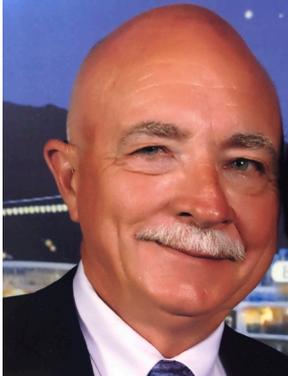
We also accept donations of new or gently used equipment for our technical programs. These can include tools, machinery, equipment, engines, or other items used out in business and industry. When you donate physical items to the college, the Endowment Association will issue you a tax letter reflecting the value of the items for your tax purposes. This is a great way to help the technical programs!

If you have a car you would like to donate, the Endowment Association will work with our Auto Tech, Diesel Tech and Auto Body Tech programs to see if the vehicle can be restored and resold, sold as-is, used in the programs, or sold for scrap metal. Again, this is a great way to help the programs with additional funds and students with scholarships.

No matter how or what you desire to give, the Northwest Tech Endowment Association is appreciative of your support and will work to make your gift go to work for our students! If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call to see how we can make your charitable contributions make the greatest impact.



Endowment



Albert Rall
President of the
Endowment Association



Kelly James
(785) 890-1529
kelly.james@nwktc.edu
Endowment Director



Ben Schears
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College President
Endowment Treasurer

The Endowment Association at Northwest Tech advances the college's mission of technical education by managing private dollars for scholarships, new facilities, and academic programs. Gifts from the community and alumni have enabled Northwest Tech to open the doors of opportunity to more than 9,000 graduates since 1964. Northwest Tech donors are directly responsible for many students' educational opportunities.

DON'T MISS OUT! OUR NORTHWEST TECH ANNUAL ENDOWMENT EVENT WILL BE ON JUNE 3, 2022. SAVE THE DATE!





OUR MISSION:

The mission of Northwest Kansas Technical College, as an institution of higher learning, is to prepare individuals for gainful employment in technical and professional careers, productive personal lives, and lifelong learning.

OUR VISION:

The vision of Northwest Kansas Technical College as a forward thinking, premier leader in career and technical education is to maximize learning through progressive technology and facilities, collaborations, and professional experiences that foster lifelong learning in a diverse global society.

OUR VALUES:

- Commitment to Learning
- Commitment to Quality
- Commitment to Integrity
- Commitment to Service
- Commitment to Diversity

STRATEGIC PILLARS

- Pillar 1: Enrollment Growth and Sustainability
- Pillar 2: Quality and Accessible Academics
- Pillar 3: Improving Student Success
- Pillar 4: Engage with the Community

- Pillar 5: Maintain Fiscal Health
- Pillar 6: Improve Facilities & Network
- Pillar 7: Developing Employees
- Pillar 8: Strengthen External Partnerships

OUR 15 TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

- Auto Body
- Automotive Technology
- Business Technology
- Carpentry
- Cosmetology
- Cloud Computing & App Development (Formerly Mobile Application & Gaming)
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Design & Digital Media
- Kansas Institute of Diesel Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Engineering Technology
- Medical Assistant
- Precision Agriculture Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Welding

NORTHWEST TECH

NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

P.O. Box 668 | 1209 Harrison | Goodland, KS 67735

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