

Northwest Tech named an Apple Distinguished School

Northwest Kansas Technical College has been selected as Apple Distinguished School for 2015 through 2017. This is the second time that Northwest Tech has been selected as an Apple Distinguished School.

Northwest Tech was also the first two-year college to receive an Apple Distinguished Program award for its iPad Mobile Learning Initiative back in March of 2012. The Apple Distinguished Program award, like the Distinguished School award, is earned from innovation, leadership and educational excellence.

Every program at Northwest Tech emphasizes hands-on learning and real-world experience in the field. This learning and experience that occurs is supported by complete iPad integration in the classroom. Instructors work to instill the hand, mind, and heart philosophy into students to encourage them to work hard, be smart, and do the right thing; this philosophy along with the iPad Mobile Learning Initiative are what make Northwest Tech graduates so successful. With around a 90 percent placement rate in most of our programs, our students are finding quality jobs and careers in their selected fields.

The selection of Northwest Tech as an Apple Distinguished School highlights its successes in enhancing both the teaching and learning experience with thoughtful and innovative implementations of technology.

Apple TV and the iPad are bringing Northwest Tech students closer to their learning materials than they have ever been before, as well as increasing collaboration between both students and faculty.

"This recognition further validates Northwest Tech's role as an educational leader and faculty's commitment to student learning," said Adam Elliott, Apple Distinguished Educator and Computer Graphics Technology Instructor, "The forward-thinking culture we have would not be possible without everyone working together: administration, faculty, staff, and most of all, the students."

Elliott played a large part in the creation of the Northwest Tech multi-touch book, which details the reasons behind Northwest Tech's merit of the Distinguished School award.

"At the end of the day, the students benefit. We see it in their test scores and in their employment rates," he said. "And that is what it's all about—that is our mission."

This 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.

NKTC is opening a new campus in Norton, Kan.

GOODLAND, Kansas —Northwest Kansas Technical College announces campus in Norton, Kansas.

Northwest Kansas Technical College is partnering with the Community of Norton to provide educational opportunities for the Norton and surrounding communities—Northwest Tech at Norton. This collaboration of efforts began in April with a meeting in Norton comprised of Northwest Tech leadership and Norton business and community leaders. Carolyn Applegate, Norton County Commission and Diane Stiles, Director of Norton City/County Economic Development asked educational and business leaders to come together to assess the needs of businesses and industries in the Area. This exciting project came to reality because of the vision of these community leaders.

Northwest Tech at Norton will officially launch on Saturday, August 21 with a gathering of all of the partners who came together to make this project a reality. Classes will begin for the Fall on August 23 with seven classes being offered. The classes that will be taught are Accounting I, Blueprint Reading, Developmental Psychology, Entrepreneurship, Intro to Business, Precision Measuring and Statistics. Statistics will be taught at Norton Junior High; Precision Measuring will be taught at the Natoma Corporation and all others will be taught at Norton High School.

“We are excited about this partnership” said Dr. Ed Mills, President of Northwest Tech. “The Norton Community has been wonderful to work with and their leadership has truly stepped forward to make sure this project came to fruition.” “We are hopeful we will have a Northwest Tech Campus in the years to come, “ said Diane Stiles, the director of Norton City/County Economic Development. “However, this would not be possible without the support of the County Commission, businesses, educational leadership and other community members,” said Diane Stiles.

Northwest Kansas Technical College continues to look for ways to collaborate efforts and provide the needs of students in spite of economically challenging times. “Make it Happen”, the tagline for Northwest Kansas Technical College is truly befitting as they continue to move forward in pioneering new curriculums and programs.

Anyone needing more information on Northwest Tech at Norton may contact the Economic Development office in Norton, at 785-874-4816. If you are interested in taking the classes beginning on Aug. 23, you may call 1-800-316-4127 or go to www.nwktc.edu.

College does well in first full year

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

President Ken Clouse says two successful transitions top his long list of signs of progress at the Northwest Kansas Technical College this year.

First, he said, students, teachers and administrators adapted to having new leadership for only the second time in 37 years. Clouse, formerly president of the technical college in Atchison, took over here last July after long-time director Larry Keirns retired.

The new president said members of the board that runs the college told him the transition has been easier than they expected.

"They told me it's been almost a seamless change," he said.

Second, Clouse said, this was the first full year the institution has been a college, and many students took advantage of the benefits the new status offers.

The school became a college last spring after the Legislature approved the change. That allows the institution to award two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees.

More than 100 students earned degrees this year, Clouse said, which is about 20 percent of the graduating class. He said the college hopes to increase that to half.

Smaller signs of progress came every month, Clouse said.



The administration building got a name change on the wall to reflect the new status of the Northwest Kansas Technical College which completed the first year as a college in May.

Photo by Rachel Miscall / The Goodland Daily News

In August, he said, administrators made a presentation to the Northwest Education Research Center in Olympia, Wash., for a study on how to improve higher education in Kansas.

In September, the college's curriculum committee developed a five-year plan to implement new programs that could attract a more diverse student body, including more

women. The board approved the plan in October.

Clouse said the Kansas Board of Regents, which oversees all of the state's colleges, has approved starting a graphic design program this year. But, he added, the college won't be able to afford it unless the budget-troubled state provides some money.

Other programs the board wants to phase

in over five years, he said, including ventilation and air conditioning, physical therapy, paralegal and cellular technology.

In November, Clouse said, the college received two state grants totaling \$100,000 to buy new electronic equipment.

In February, he said, the board approved lengthening the diesel automation program from one to two years. Clouse said the change was made because diesel engines are becoming more sophisticated.

In March, he said, the board approved lifting a restriction on the amount of college credits that were good for. Belcher said, credits students had earned could count towards a degree if the credits were taken within five years.

In June, he said, stricter admissions requirements were passed, requiring students to have higher scores on tests in reading and other subjects. Clouse said the college also developed a program to help students earn associate's degrees.

Also during the past year, Clouse said, the college's first two newsletters were distributed and school districts in Newton and WaKeeney joined the college by sending representatives. Clouse

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