

College holds winter graduation

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Fifty-three students graduated from the Northwest Kansas Technical College automotive technology and communications technology programs.

Gary Gordier, a 1968 graduate from the college's data processing and office occupations programs, gave the commencement address, "ASK for Success," an acronym for "Attitude, Skills and Knowledge for Success."

Some things never change, Gordier said at the ceremony Friday, Dec. 19; other things always change.

"When I was born," he said, "there were no ballpoint pens, no polio vaccine, no television; and making out meant how you did on your test."

Gordier said that since he graduated, the Internet came into existence, along with Post-It notes, cellular phones, compact disks, high-definition television and DVDs. In the future, he said, the world will be changed in ways we can't even imagine.

He told the graduates they need to believe in themselves and be the creators and instigators of changes in their lives.

Three things necessary for success, he said, are attitude, skills and knowledge.

Besides needing the skills to do something, Gordier said, there is a need to ask questions and gain the knowledge needed and to have con-

fidence in your ability to do it and the drive to do it — attitude.

Kids entering kindergarten now, Gordier said, will likely change careers seven times. People have to be able to deal with change in the world today, he said. In order to do that, he said, they need to believe in themselves.

Albert Einstein could not speak until age 4, Gordier said, and he could not read until he was 7. His parents and teachers worried about his mental abilities. Ludwig Von Beethoven was told he was hopeless as a composer.

"What if he believed it?" Gordier asked.

Walt Disney was once fired by a newspaper editor because he had no good ideas, the speaker said, and Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team as a sophomore.

"Where would we be without the entertainment from these people?" he asked, "or without the knowledge from (Thomas) Edison?"

Gordier told the graduates they need to believe in themselves in order to live up to their potential.

"Seize the day and make your future!" he said.

After graduating from the Goodland college, Gordier said, he went on to get a degree in business administration from Northwood, Mich., University. He is director of information technology for the City of Fort Collins, Colo.

Gordier is a Vietnam War veteran and has worked with computer sys-

tems for 30 years. Graduates in automotive technology: Joshua L. Anderson, Gorham; Brian L. Bauman, Goodland; Neil Bolyard, Guymon, Okla.; Joshua A. Brown, Colby; Justin S. Bussell Imperial, Neb.; Peter M. Caines, Goodland; Joshua J. Cohoon, Cimarron.

Fred J. Counter, Oberlin; K.C.M. Coyne, Holyoke, Colo.; Travis G. Epp, Minden, Neb.; Jason K. Galentine, Clayton; Christopher P. Gift, Holyoke, Colo.; Lance R. Goodman, Goodland; Jason D. Haskell, Kinsley; Adam J. Ketterl, Herdon; Rustin L. Leiker, Wallace.

Justin T. Lohr, Goodland; Travis Ludowese, Scott City; Jonathan D. Mason, Hugoton; Jason A. Mayo, LaCrosse; Travis J. Morris, Haigler, Neb.; Abel J. Ontiveroz, Goodland; Aaron G. Ploussard, Oberlin; Wesley A. Rand, Arriba, Colo.

Daniel T. Rigel, Imperial, Neb.; David A. Rose, St. Francis; Kyle J. Schmidt, Hays; Bryan A. Stephenson, Goodland; Thomas M.H. Tompkins, Goodland; Paul A. Trowbridge, Lamar, Colo.; Greg L. Unruh, Weskan; Luke B. Warren, WaKeeney; and Michael W. Will-

iams, Lamar, Colo. Graduates in communication technology: Matthew D. Easton, Manhattan; Jacob L. Hagler, Atwood; Benjamin D. Haydock, Ashland; Robin L. Johnson Jr., McCook, Neb.; Stephen G. Kologiski, Johnson City, Tenn.; Benjamin G. Legg, Cimarron; William B. Lewis, Syracuse; Drew M. Loftin, Weskan; Jordan M. Long, Quinter; Kayla M. Marshall, Wallace; Jacob M. Meier, Russell; Daniel P. Orosco, Ulysses; Hector E. Rios, Manhattan; Lacy D. Schick, Cheyenne Wells, Colo.

Cody R. Schields, Goodland; Derik L. Schneider, Great Bend; Lee M. Schroeder, Jetmore; Yancy J. Tryon, Gardner; and Landon L. Tucker, Scott City.

Ketterl, Lohr, Morris, Trowbridge and Johnson were members of the National Technical Honor Society.

Kevin Berggren, communication network; John Brown, communications; Caines; Easton; Haydock; Ketterl; Kologiski; Legg; Lohr; Mayo; Rios; Schick; Schields; Tucker; and Schroeder all earned associate of applied science degrees.



Northwest Kansas Technical College graduates approached the stage Friday to receive their diplomas at commencement services in the Memorial Union. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



Gordier

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