

College welding students write about their choice

Editor's note: The following short articles were written as memos for a writing assignment for Leland Williams, technical writing instructor at Northwest Technical College. We have cleaned up a bit of the grammar, but mostly these are their papers as submitted. This is the sixth of a series of these short articles split up by program at the college. This group is from the welding program.

I am sending another classes memos, Williams wrote in February. You will be able to tell many students have written something heartfelt and others shied away from too much writing.

I told the class to write about either why they chose to come to college, why they chose Northwest Technical College and how they made that choice. I wanted them to reflect on their choices and be able to tell a bit of a story that might interest readers.

I let them know they were responding to an invitation on your part to write for publication in the newspaper. The writing is in memo form to keep them practicing the requirements of that form as a common way to write in the business world.

From: Blaize Vance
Re: why I chose NWKTC
Message:

There are many reasons why I decided to choose Northwest Kansas Technical College, but here are the main reasons why I chose this college over other schools.

One reason I chose this college was because I had family here in Goodland and already knew the town well. Another reason I chose to come here was the campus and the instructors.

Next, the town had good people and I knew I would be able to find a job. Lastly, the college was close to my hometown for me and my girlfriend to visit out parents.

This is a great school, and I am happy with my decision to study welding here at NWKTC.

From: Chad Pace
Re: Why I Chose Northwest Kansas Technical College
The summer of 2009 I decided to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College for the great welding program.

I moved from Stratton, Colo., to Goodland in order to take advantage of the in-state tuition, but I'm not too far from my friends and family.

So far, the welding program has been great. I have met some really cool people and learned some really useful skills.

But the most exciting part about coming here is getting my associate degree in one year. Yes, it's a lot of hard work, but I am really benefiting from all the classes I take.



Pace



Chamberlin



Seyler



Meitl



Fyfe



Allacher



Schmit



Anderson

To wrap it all up, this school will help me with finding a job when or even before I graduate.

From: Dalton Chamberlain
Re: Why I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College

The reason I chose NWKTC is the cost and the distance.

Northwest Tech was the first college I heard about that had welding, and I didn't really feel like looking very hard for anything else because welding was pretty much all I did at Wiley High School in Wiley, Colo. I had a few other friends who were coming, so I stuck with my decision.

The cost of Northwest Tech was not very expensive at all and that was a big selling point for me. I don't remember the exact cost, but it was very reasonable, especially because I could live in Kansas and receive in-state tuition.

Some people might think that two hours is a ways away, but compared to other places it is not far at all. The commute home on weekends is not boring; you pass through a few towns and the trip seems shorter than it actually is.

Now that I have been here for a while I am still pleased with my decision to come to Northwest Tech.

From: Dylan Seyler
Re: why I went to school
I am a current student at Northwest Tech. I am informing you of my student life at Northwest Tech, Why I have decided to come to college and even why I chose this college.

I am a typical Northwest Tech student. I am an 18-year old male in the welding program from Spearville. The reason I have chosen to come to Northwest Tech is because welding is a short term program. I can actually learn with instructors who have experience in this field other than just a diploma.

My instructor in the welding program is Jake Conger. Conger is from the Kansas area and learned to weld in the U.S. Navy, which is where he got all his experience in this field.

The program I am in is a nine-month program. In this program, you will get certified in pipe and plate with an arc welder. You learn how to run other machines such as mig, tig, oxy acetylene, plasma torches and all sorts of metal fabricating machines.

I am glad I chose this program because I have had a little experience in this field, and my experienced instructor has taught me a lot in just the short time I have been here. I recommend this program to anyone looking to get a quick diploma in this field and to further their education.

All in all, I am glad I have chosen this program because not only have I learned a lot, but my instructor brings in employers to look at our welding abilities and possibly hire us.

From: Jimmy Spitzer
Re: Why I Chose NWT
I chose Northwest Tech College because my brother came here and it seemed like a good tech school.

My brother majored in automotive and now he is making good money in Lamar, Colo. I am glad I chose this school; there are lots of good people here.

The teachers know what they are talking about and know what they are doing. The cost of everything is not too bad either. It was one of the cheapest schools I looked at. I'm in the welding program and I like it. I chose welding because my dad was a welder.

I would recommend this college to anybody who likes hands on and is willing to work for a certificate or

even an AAS degree like two students in our program are doing.

From: John Meitl
Re: why I chose NWT
The reason I decided to join Northwest Tech was because I knew I needed to get an education. You have to have a good education to get a good paying job.

The reason I chose Northwest Tech was because I could afford to come here. I had a couple family members who came here and said it was a good college.

I chose the welding program because I enjoy welding and working on projects. You can make a lot of money welding if you find the right job.

I enjoy being at Northwest Tech and being in the welding program.

From: Kody Anderson
Re: Why I took welding at NWKTC
Message:

I graduated from Burlington High School and decided to go to Northwest Kansas Technical College because Mr. Nemechek, one of the welding teachers, visited with me and showed me how great welding is.

I love to work with my hands and I love to weld. I want to make some good money and with welding I can do that because there is such a demand for welders that it is not hard to find jobs and the employer will pay well for your help. The feeling I get after I have finished a project I have built is the best thing about welding.

In my class there is a great group of guys I can learn from and they can learn from me. The staff here at the school are very helpful; every time I have a question or problem, they always have the answer or solution for me. Before I came to Northwest Tech I was terrible at writing and math, but after I finished those classes, I am now good at them which is very important for welding.

Northwest Technical College is an amazing school and the welding program is perfect for me.

From: Michael Allacher
Re: Reason why I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Last March, I attended a welding contest here at Northwest Tech and won first place. I received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the welding program. With such a great offer, I

chose to come to school here.

The first reason for choosing Northwest Tech is because I originally come from Burlington, Colo., so it's not very far from home. This school is good about giving in-state tuition, so I moved over to Goodland to take advantage of this opportunity. Secondly, welding is a good skill to know how to be good at. It's a skill you can always fall back to.

The final reason why I chose to come to school at Northwest Tech is because they have a very high job placement rate. The job placement is a good start to finding a successful job.

All in all, I am glad I chose to attend Northwest Tech because it is a path to something better in the future. The program only being nine months is really relieving and is a quick path to a certificate. Northwest Tech is teaching me a skill I will be able to do for a career.

From: Lee Fyfe
Re: Why I went to college

I am a typical student from Goodland. I graduated from Goodland High School. My choice was to either go to college or get a full time job; well, I chose to go to school and got a part time job.

Why did I choose Northwest Technical College? I chose Northwest Tech mostly because it was closer to my family and it was the cheapest school I could think of. I did think about Colby Community College, but then I noticed I would have to take some really irrelevant classes in my course of study.

I am glad I chose Northwest Tech because it was, I feel, in my best interest rather than Colby. I wouldn't want to live in the dorms and I wouldn't want to commute back and forth from Goodland and Colby. My program is going well; I am having a great learning experience and meeting new people.

From: Tim Schmit

Re: Choosing Northwest Tech
I chose to come to Northwest Tech because they gave me a scholarship. They also gave me in-state tuition.

If it were not for the in-state tuition and the scholarship, I would have gone to Southeast Community College in Milford, Neb. However, the welding program in Milford is a two-year program, so I would only be half way done with the program there.

Therefore, I chose this college and I am sure I made the right choice.

According to the Northwest Tech catalog: "The Welding Program is designed to teach specific skills in all aspects of the welding trade. This includes arc welding, oxyacetylene welding, TIG, MIG, brazing, and semi-automatic cutting. Other related areas of study will include blueprint reading, job layout, shop math, hard surfacing (ARC as well as powder torch) and pipe welding."

I feel like I will be a well qualified welder after I have completed the program at Northwest Tech.

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