

# Northwest Tech

# Memos from students talk about college decision

*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 more of a series of short articles from Auto Technology Diesel Technology, Business Technology, Medical Assistant and Respiratory Therapy.*

I am sending more memos, Williams wrote in April. 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 why they chose to come to college, or 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 Goodland Star-News. 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: Austin Buell and Logan Lampe

Re: Automotive Technology at Northwest Tech

Auto tech is a new experience. We enjoy the moments with our friends, and working on cool muscle cars once in awhile is a treat.

To hear the roar of a V-8 engine coming from under the hood of a '67 Chevelle SS is heart pounding. We enjoy the fact we can bring in our own vehicles to work on them.

The hands on experience is awesome. We learn so much modernized technology about vehicles, and the class room exercises are not that difficult.

Students at Northwest Tech automotive technology have a wide variety of vehicles from old school to brand new which all are live customer vehicles, not mock up work.

Our current projects are '64 A100 Dodge Van, which reminds you of the Mystery Machine, and a '57 Chevy super stock 383C.I. Bel-Air.

From: Taylor Bliss

Re: Good life in Goodland

This is my first year at Northwest Tech. I am currently enrolled in the diesel program at Goodland.

The reason I chose diesel is because of my life of living on the farm and driving diesels all the time. This school has a great reputation for having all hands on learning. The willing people at the college always seem to help you remember just how good of a town it is here.

As a young kid, I can always remember going out to start the feed truck in the mornings and smelling that familiar smell of diesel fuel.

By the time I was 7, I was driving tractors and working in the field. I have done almost everything there is to do on a farm in western Kansas.

I have always wondered how these things work but never knew, so now I am learning.

Being in a school with hands on learning is one of the most helpful ways for someone like me to learn.

When I was in high school, I did not learn very much out of reading a book; I was the kid who liked to tear things down and try and put them back together.

Goodland is not the most exciting place in the world that is for sure. However, the college does a pretty good job of making it worth your time. The college has a lot of new and exciting things planned for next year to help raise the excitement level in Goodland. I believe Northwest Tech has done some really good recruiting to get the girl to guy ratio up.

Diesel is something I plan to work on and be around my whole life. Going to school is already the main foundation for what I have planned in the future; I guess we will just have to wait and see what happens next.

From: Ethan Kammer

Re: Scholarship

I chose to come to the Northwest Tech in Goodland and study Diesel Technology because I could not sit in a classroom doing bookwork all day. Here in diesel tech I can use my skills and physical strengths to work on equipment, take machinery that comes into the shop not working and make it work before it leaves.



Buell



Medrano



Benton



Bentley



Cole



Cranston



Vargas



Molzahn



Vrbka



Verlinden



Douglass



Riley



Morris

I started to realize I wanted to go to a place for college that offered hands on training that would give me more experience how to use tools and make things work and develop my people

skills. I started checking around and found there are not many schools that offer this kind of trade and degree opportunity that were close to home. Goodland was my final choice because it is only 20 miles from my home and I could still help my father when I arrive home in the evenings.

After college, I plan on finding a job in the field I am going into and use the skill I have learned throughout my life and college. I will wrench for another employer for many years to come and when my father plans on retiring I will come back and take over the farm for him. I will use the skills and knowledge I learn in my work experience to better benefit our farm, for when the time comes it will be most used.

From: Chance R. Cranston

Re: Northwest Tech

How Northwest Tech Caught Me

The entire way through high school I knew I would be attending college. I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College because it was close to home.

Diesel Tech grabbed my attention because I work on trucks day in and day out. Our family owns a trucking company in Colby and working on trucks over here in Goodland at school gives me that much more practice at what I am doing.

Even if I don't stay with the family business, I will still have learned how to be a great mechanic because of Northwest Tech, and I can take that a long ways.

**Business Tech memos**

From: Jenn Cole

Re: What I am learning in Business Tech at Northwest Tech

In Business Tech, I have learned a lot over the past six months. I am very proud of myself for getting through this program.

I think taking Business Tech would be good for anyone.

In this program, you learn how to work with Microsoft Office, accounting, payroll and speech.

Being in the business program is a good way to get involved with this school. Business Tech is a good hands-on program. The program takes nine months and the school can help you get a job anywhere you want to go.

At Northwest Tech there are a lot of people you meet and make friends with. I am glad to have a good experience and to meet new people.

From: Jodie Benton

Re: My Business Department

I was raised in Goodland and believe in supporting our community. I try to get actively involved in activities and events that are planned for and in our community.

The college has always been in our community, and over the years, several family members and friends have attended and graduated from Northwest Kansas Technical College, including myself.

The reason I chose to attend college again is I realized I needed additional education and hands-on training to accomplish the goal of owning a business. I enrolled in Business Technology and haven't looked back. I knew I would receive an excellent education at my hometown college.

The instructor for this program is Bonnie Hawks. She is a very knowl-

edgeable, creative and energetic with the subjects that are taught, as well as a great role model for this college and community.

This program and college is the best choice I could ever make. The instructors and staff are always there with a smile and are willing to help whenever it is needed.

I would recommend this college as a great investment in your career and your education. Feel free to come by the college anytime and I will personally talk with you in depth about this program, or if you are interested in another program, I will get you to who you need to talk to.

From: Brittane Medrano

Re: Myexperience in Business Technology

Hello, my name is Brittane Medrano and I am in the business technology program at Northwest Technical College.

First, I'm going to get my business certificate and then I will come back and get my AAS degree while I work.

The business tech program offers accounting, Microsoft office, payroll, speech, entrepreneurship, calculator math and many more classes.

I really enjoy the small class size and the one-on-one help from the teacher and all the fun projects we get to do.

I am really glad I started college right after I got out of high school because my future looks really bright, and I look forward to finding a great job with everything I learned from Northwest Tech.

From: Kayla Bentley

Re: College

Business Technology! I have improved my business skills a lot over the past six months.

Business Tech is a good program for anyone because every business needs an accountant or payroll clerk. I would recommend this program for anyone who wants to own their own business.

I wouldn't say this program is easy. You just need to apply yourself.

Time management and good people skills are very important. This program is one where you can get your associate's degree in less than nine months or you will have five years after you graduate to get your associate's degree.

Two years from now, Business Technology will be becoming a two-year program.

I personally chose this program because when I was in Dundy County-Stratton High School, I enjoyed the business classes I took my junior year.

Now in college, accounting was a hard subject for me, but with help and one-on-one time with Bonnie

Hawks I became more efficient on my accounting skills.

I will be graduating in May and would like to work as a payroll clerk or a secretary.

**Medical Tech, Respiratory Therapy memos**

From: Gerarda I. Vargas

Re: My college choice

I am a student at Northwest Tech

enrolled in the Medical Assistant program.

I enrolled at Northwest Tech to get an education to be able to get a better job opportunity to provide for my daughter and myself.

Before having my daughter, I worked in anything, and I didn't really care what the pay or benefits were. However, now my way of thinking is different. Making sure I have a good job and education to provide for my daughter is my first priority.

My mother and family are very proud of me for being the first of my family to go to college, and for working very hard to get where I am. I believe enrolling in Northwest Tech was the best decision I have made so far.

Medical assisting is a variation of techniques. You learn about medicine, laboratory, business and you have the opportunity of getting an Associate's Degree of Applied Science. One of the benefits this program offers is it's shorter than others. It is only 11 months.

After graduating in May with an associates degree and medical assistant certificate, I plan on moving to Lamar, Colo. Having applied at Lamar Community College, I hope to get accepted to finish my prerequisites for Licensed Practical Nurse and work my way up until I become a Registered Nurse.

I believe the experience and training I have received at Northwest Tech will be a big help in getting the job I want while I work on becoming an RN.

From: Sara Riley

Re: The Medical Department

I am writing in regards to the Medical Assistant Program and why I chose this college and this program.

I am 24 years old with a 4 year old son and a 2 year old daughter. We have lived in Goodland for 2 years in April, and I enjoy helping people and enjoy every aspect of the medical field.

I decided to come to Northwest Tech because it was a step on my path to getting my Registered Nurse, which is what I'm working towards.

My choice of the medical field is not just a money thing, like some people in this field, I chose this field because it is about helping people and saving lives. When I am completely done with school, I hope to work in a hospital in the pediatric unit, saving lives of children and

helping find ways to help children in need.

I will graduate from the Medical Assistant Program at Northwest Tech in May. Then I will complete my externship at Goodland Family Health Center and then hopefully stay working there after I complete my externship and start my prerequisites for my nursing degree.

From: Jessica Vrbka

Re: Medical Assistant Program

I will be the first to admit that becoming a Medical Assistant was not something I saw myself becoming.

When I was younger, I grew up in the Student Union of Northwest Tech because my grandmother was the cafeteria manager.

Every summer my grandmother would sit me down with a snack, and I remember seeing all the kids coming in. I told my grandmother I was going to come to school here someday. I was going to be a Cosmetologist.

Well, as we all know, life happens and families start. Fifteen years later and many life changes and thoughts about what I wanted to do with my life, here I am.

The Medical Assistant Program struck me as a great investment in my future. I have always loved helping people and after having kids and being in the hospital, I wanted to go into the medical field of helping people.

The Medical Assistant Program here at Northwest Tech is one of two accredited programs in the state of Kansas. That factor along with the ease of being able to get my Associate of Applied Sciences degree was why I chose Northwest Tech.

From: Michelle Douglass

Re: Medical Assisting Department

The Medical Assistant department at Northwest Tech offers an amazing opportunity to be a part of a high demand career. I chose this program because of the many versatile careers I can choose from by becoming a medical assistant.

I have lived here in Goodland for almost a year now, and am originally from Seattle, Wash. I am 24 years old and a mother of a 2 year old son; I am not what you would call the "typical" college student.

I recently went back to school after being diagnosed four years ago with a neuro-muscular disease called Myasthenia Gravis. After being in the hospital off and on for two years, I realized the compassion I have for others in the medical setting. I have such empathy for those who are ill and feel I can give back to so many who have given me to me.

Another reason why I am attending Northwest Tech is to receive my Associate of Applied Science degree. This is great because I know employers favor those with degrees and my degree will come in handy in the job search. I like the fact I am getting my degree in as little as one year, whereas most other colleges require a minimum of two years.

So far, I am enjoying my time here at Northwest Tech. Although it is a struggle for me to go to school, I know the benefits outweigh the risk. I am looking forward to graduation and re-entering the workforce.

From: Janet Molzahn and Jodeen Verlinden

Re: Medical Assistant Program/ Northwest Tech

We are in the Medical Assistant Program at Northwest Tech. Class time is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We came to the college to get into a better field of work, to experience quality education and to improve

ourselves.

The good points about the program to us are the location, the campus and the experience. It is a small campus, with all the technology of a large campus. You get hands on experience in your field of study.

We made the right decision to come to Northwest Tech.

From: Randi Russell

Re: My unique college situation

I attend Northwest Tech, although the way I am attending is a lot different than most people.

I was born and raised in Phoenix, Ariz., with my two younger brothers. I graduated from Valley Vista High School and it was there I met my boyfriend. When I turned 18, I moved in with him before he left to go to college here at Northwest Tech. I ended up moving here as well, a few months after him.

I shadowed (went to class with) him a couple times in the Auto Program and in his general education classes. I came to really enjoy the school, and I liked the way things were done here. So I decided to enroll.

Unlike most, I did not enroll at the beginning of the school year. I decided to start at the beginning of the second semester. And unlike most, I decided not to start my program yet. I am only taking my general education classes.

I decided I wanted to start working towards my goal of getting my associates degree, but I wasn't positive what career field I wanted to go into. Therefore, taking just my general education classes sets a foundation for my degree while allowing me the time to decide which program I want to attend. Taking my general education classes gives me a chance to be on campus and interact with people from all the different programs, which allows me to get different perspectives about the programs.

I think the option of just taking the general education classes is very helpful and that more people will be doing this in the future. I know it has helped me out a lot and I would suggest this approach to anyone.

From: Tracy N. Morris

Re: My experiences at the Respiratory Therapy program

In the past, I have tried to go to a four year college, but all of the schooling just was not for me. I needed something more hands on and that constantly inspired my learning. I needed a new challenge.

I had been going to the University of Nebraska at Kearney for Respiratory Care for almost four years. The program forced me to take classes I felt were irrelevant, and the clinical sites were just too far from home. When I learned about the Northwest Tech Respiratory Therapy program from a college counselor, I knew I had found a school that would fit my needs.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a state of the art program right here in Goodland. In my opinion, the laboratory size and the skills of the instructors surpass those of most bachelor degree respiratory therapy programs in the state of Kansas.

The program has gained a great amounts of respect from the neighboring hospitals, and has been awarded the Kansas Workforce Grant.

All in all, The Northwest Tech Respiratory Therapy program is an amazing program, and I look forward to the program has to offer me and my career.

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