

Northwest Tech students write about school choice

Editor's note: The following short articles were written as memos for a writing assignment for Leland Williams, technical writing instructor at Northwest Kansas Technical College. This is the first of a series of these short articles split up by program at the college. The memos are from carpentry and electrical technology.



Searle Dautel Hornbaker Alanis

From: Allan Alanis
 Re: Electrical Program
 I chose to come to Northwest Kansas Technical College (NWKTC) for various purposes. One of the reasons is it is close to home, and I did not want to wander off too far. Also, some of my friends came through the electrical program, and they said it would be a good choice if I came to the program.

I chose the electrical program because there will always be a need for electricians, and being an electrician is a well paying job. I am now in my second year, and I have learned a lot. One of our bigger projects in our first year was the school dorms' laundry mat. Now in our second year, we are learning about motor and automation controls.

My hopes are to graduate with an Associate's of Applied Science in Electrical Technology. Also, at the end of the year we have to take our Journeyman test to become certified electricians.

Job-wise, I really don't care where I get a job as long as I get a job, and because I have the education I have, I am certain I will find a perfect position with an excellent company.

I have learned a lot at NWKTC. I have reconnected with old friends and met new ones. Once again, I have enjoyed my time here at Northwest Tech.

Eric P. Boone II
 Northwest Tech Student

I wasn't even considering Northwest Tech as a choice until the end of my senior year when I was looking for a great career with a short training period. However, I was more than hesitant because of the reputation the college had from students in my high school who had attended there in former years.

Learning residential wiring my first year in electrical helped me to have a head start in the work place and excel in my year of working for

Boone's Construction. With my second year of electrical already underway and with the help of an excellent teacher backing me, I am more than sure I will finish as a qualified and knowledgeable electrician.

Because of my positive experience, I have changed the minds of many people in my community who looked down on the college as well as younger students.

This is my second year of electrical after taking a year off between years. Mr. Dobbs is an excellent teacher, providing in-field knowledge and easy to understand lesson plans. He also provides an exciting and fun learning environment, which was seriously lacking from my first year at Northwest Tech.

Beginning my second year at Northwest Tech, I already believe I have picked up on many things I felt would take me awhile to accomplish, thanks to the help of my bettered Electrical program. Seeing my program do a turnaround while I was away helps me to explain to many people from home how accomplished and rewarding it is to complete a course at Northwest Tech. The hands-on job experience has helped me to be more accomplished in the work place and a harder worker without pushing from my employer.

From: Gary Searle
 Receiving a Degree in College,
 I chose to go to Northwest Kansas Technical College because I am from Goodland, where it is located.

Higher education is very important because if you receive a degree, you can use that degree in your future work or career.

I am enrolled in the carpentry program because I have had experience in the past with building things and deconstructing things, so I kind of wanted to take something I pretty much already knew a lot about so I could be better off in class.

Wade Taylor is our instructor in our carpentry program; we are constructing a little shed in class right now. We are learning a lot of things from framing and siding to roofing, mudding, and dry walling. We will be building a "green" house this year; I am very excited to begin that project.

Not only am I studying carpentry, but I am also aiming for my associate's degree, which means I have to take my general education courses in one year.

From: Jason Rand
 Re: Education

I came from Arriba, Colo., to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College here in Goodland. My career goal is to be an electrician, so I attended Electrical Technology in 2010 to pursue my dream of becoming an electrician.

This is my second year here at this school, and I hope it is my last because the town doesn't have a lot of things to do, and jobs are pretty scarce for students to get, which is harder on those students who need a job to survive during college.

The college to me is a good school

because I think it is doing the very best it can to give the most education to every one of the students who attend the college.

In terms of the Electrical Technology program, in the second year, our main focus is going on jobs, going into more depth on motor control for the industry, and studying to pass the Kansas Journeyman's exam.

What I plan to do when I am graduated from Northwest Kansas Technical College is to pursue my electrical dream. My dream is to work for the Interstates in Colorado, or I plan to work for an electrical company that is primarily motor control. Motor control is my most favorite thing out of electrical because it is fun to do and I enjoy it.

From: Michael Barnett
 Subject: My Educational Choice
 I am an electrical student at Northwest Tech. I came to this college to get my associate's degree and my Journeyman's license. I am from Overbrook.

Right now, I am starting on my second year of the Electrical program. This year, I am going to learn the NEC (National Electric CODE), and at the end of the year, I will take a test; if I pass, I will get my Journeyman's license. After I graduate, I will try to get a job in Lane County, at Lane-Scott Electrical Cooperative or go home and work for somebody in electrical.

I am finishing my associate's degree this semester, and I will graduate in May. It is important to get a degree because employers like their employee to have a degree.

There will always be a need for electricians, so I can always find a job. I believe I will like my job, and it will be an exciting, fulfilling career.

From: Steve Hornbaker
 Re: Reviewing a degree in college

I chose to go to Northwest Tech to get an education in Carpentry in order to learn more about the building trade. I like to build things with power tools. I like hands-on things and being outside working on a house. Projects that are involved in my program go from building a sawhorse to building a Green energy house.

I chose Northwest Tech because it's the closest tech school from where I live, it's small, and I can get help from Mr. Taylor who is the

Carpentry program instructor. The campus is small to get around to places that I need to go.

Being on this campus is a different experience from going to a tech school in a big city because you don't get all the help that you need compared to a smaller school. I get an education that uses iPads in real world experience to get things done.

From: Teather Dautel
 This is the story of a student's events at Northwest Kansas Technical College located in Goodland.

When I came to enroll at the technical college, I had no idea what was going to happen in the following two years in the electrical program, but I knew that I liked to take anything that had electricity apart to check out what was inside to try to understand how it worked.

The first day, I wasn't sure going to this program is what I wanted to do, but I gave it a chance and decided to keep coming and see what the program was all about. Once we began to get the practice boards out and begin to wire up some lights with switches and outlets, I knew that this was something I could do as a career.

I understood the concept of how electricity flows and how it would have to flow through switches to return to the light and turn it on. We began going out on jobs to people's homes or business's and everything seemed to click for me; we would go and ask the customer what they needed done, or the problem that they were occurring, and I could evaluate the problem/solution for their situation and make them happy at the same time.

My experience at Northwest Kansas Technical College was a battle to say the least for me. I had my "ups and downs," especially on ladders, in the pursuit of trying to graduate successfully with my degree. I'm happy to say I am climbing to the top of the ladder of success and will receive my diploma.

From: TJ Hawkins
 Re: Northwest Technical College

Kiwanis Hoop Shoot
 Kiwanians encourage all interested elementary age children, grades third through sixth, to bring one adult partner with them Thursday, November 17th, to the Goodland Activities Center.

5:45-6:00 p.m. - 3rd & 4th Grade REGISTRATION/WARM UP
 6-6:45 p.m. - 3rd & 4th Grades Compete
 6:45-7 p.m. - 3rd & 4th Grade Awards
 6:45-7 p.m. - 5th & 6th Grade REGISTRATION/WARM UP
 7:00-7:45 p.m. - 5th & 6th Grades Compete
 7:45-8 p.m. - 5th & 6th Grade Awards

The winning hoop shoot pair in eight categories will receive a free turkey compliments of Goodland Walmart Super Center. This event is free to all participants.

City upholds truck zoning code language

TRUCKS, from Page 1

I do not believe semis should be in residential areas. I feel that is what is best for the city, and the whole picture is what is good for the city of Goodland."

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she had a person stop by and at least two other talk to her about the issue. She said all of those people do not want semi trucks in residential areas and one of the people was a trucker.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman said he agreed with Finley, and feels there is an alternative for parking the trucks.

Gerber said one of the issues is the city effort to beautify and feels this falls in line - not to say trucks are ugly. He said the commission

inherited the zoning code and it has served the city well.

Farris said if the trucks are tearing up the streets they probably ought to get to pay for it.

Garcia asked if the commission should modify the ordinance to make it user friendly for our trucking people.

Golden suggested making the streets that can handle the trucks a truck route to allow them to get to the elevators.

Garcia said he had done some research and found the City of Fredonia has an ordinance dealing with this. He said the city offers a permit during the winter to allow the semi tractor to be parked in town. He said the tractor has to be parked somewhere other than the front yard, and cannot be started before 6 a.m. He

said it seems to be working.

Gerber said he has found a lot of cities handle this question and many do the same thing as Goodland. He said Hillsboro is considering a city sponsored parking lot for truckers.

Garcia asked if it was the consensus of the commission to leave the ordinance as it is. All the commissioners agreed that is what they felt was the right answer.

"You got some direction," Garcia told Gerber.

Finley said it would be good to do some public information effort to tell people the city is going to enforce the ordinance that has been on the books.

Gerber said he would do that and not be aggressive in enforcement until it has a chance to sink it and give the people some time to find

alternatives.

Farris asked about the man who bought his house thinking he could park his truck on his lot and now he can't.

Gerber said the city does not have any legal liability.

"We have a public relations liability," he said. "We said something wrong, but it does not change the fact the code is there."

Fairbanks said it is not a legal problem.

Do You Call Northwest Kansas Home?

Would you like your tax dollars to stay in Northwest Kansas? Are you interested in a way to lower your tax obligation and pay fewer taxes?

Contact Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Association for information about the "Deferred Maintenance Tax Credit Program" that CAN lower your tax obligation and WILL keep your tax dollars in Northwest Kansas.

Let us explain the benefits of the Tax Credit Program. The deadline for this tax year is December 31st, so act NOW!

For more information, contact:

Bill Finley, Vice President of Student Affairs
 785-890-1512
 bill.finley@nwktc.edu



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Receive a **60%** Kansas State Income Tax Credit on 2011 returns. Depending on your income, you may be eligible to receive a deduction resulting in further savings on your Federal Income Tax.

Examples			
Contribution to CCC		\$10,000	\$1,000
Less:			
Tax Credit, State of Kansas (60%)		(\$6,000)	(\$600)
Approximate Savings on Federal Income Tax*		(\$2,500)	(\$250)
Estimated Net Cost for Contribution		\$1,500	\$150

All donations are eligible (no minimum).

For tax credit details contact Chief Financial Officer Alan Waites at (785) 460-5402 or Nick Wells, Foundation Director, at (785) 460-4684.

*Based on taxable income above \$33,950 (single) or \$67,900 (married). Filing jointly (both have a "marginal tax rate" of 25%). Tax savings could be greater based on higher taxable income, thereby lowering the overall net cash flow for a contribution.

