## 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



Re: Electrical Program

I chose to come to Northwest Kansas Technical College (NWK-TC) 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

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.

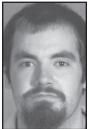
I have learned a lot at NWKTC. I have reconnected with old friends and met new ones. Once again, I have enjoyed my time here at Northwest Tech.

#### 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







Hornbaker **Alanis** 





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

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

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

Northwest Tech, I already believe ate's degree, which means I have to 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 job to survive during college. Goodland, where it is located.

Higher education is very important because if you receive a degree, vou can use that degree in your

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 many people in my community who 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 We will be building a "green" house this year; I am very excited to begin that project.

Not only am I studying carpentry, Beginning my second year at but I am also aiming for my associtake my general education courses

#### 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

The college to me is a good school

tion to every one of the students who places that I need to go. attend the college. In terms of the Electrical Technol-

ogy 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

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

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

because I think it is doing the very Carpentry program instructor. The best it can to give the most educa- campus is small to get around to

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

#### 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

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

My stay at Northwest Kansas Technical College has been one of mixed feelings. Not knowing what to expect, I ventured in through those doors, open minded and willing to learn. Having absolutely no electrical background, I knew I was going to have to apply myself more than I ever had.

The first day of school was very odd to me, like learning to speak a new language, talking about receptacles, circuits, schematics, and many other terms I was uncertain of at the time. I definitely got an "in over my head" feeling.

Coming back from lunch that first day, I was very uneasy about what I had gotten myself into. Then, Mr. Loftin walked in and stated that we had already gotten a job lined up and asked if any of us wanted to go with second year to check it out. I quickly said I would and grabbed my tools. The two second year fellows were Koltin Nelson and Ben Rienhart. Koltin and I had played high school football against each other, so I knew him a little bit going into this job.

Once we got out there, it was back to terminology I was unfamiliar with; J-boxes, short nipples, homeruns, and romex were just a few more terms used that blew my mind. I had no idea what was going on and what to do. As that job went on, I realized that I couldn't afford to let myself get overwhelmed in electrical work. All I had to do was get started, and before I knew it hours went by and I looked at all the progress I had made and was surprised.

The hardest part of electrical work to me is getting started on what I am trying to do. Once I get started, everything seems to fall into place and get done. Every job displays a new challenge, something I haven't seen before. When that happens, I need to slow down and think about what needs to be done and how I am going to do it.

Northwest Tech has taught me the skills I need to go into the workplace and be successful. It's also taught me to have patience with what I do and to take pride in my work, skills that will only help me with whatever

# City upholds truck zoning code language

TRUCKS, from Page 1

I do not believe semis should be in is best for the city, and the whole picture is what is good for the city

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

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

inherited the zoning code and it has said it seems to be working. served the city well.

residential areas. I feel that is what up the streets they probably ought to get to pay for it.

> should modify the ordinance to make it user friendly for our truck- sus of the commission to leave the ing 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 Fre- do some public information effort donia has an ordinance dealing with to tell people the city is going to this. He said the city offers a permit during the winter to allow the semi Gerber said one of the issues is tractor to be parked in town. He said the city effort to beautify and feels the tractor has to be parked somenot be aggressive in enforcement this falls in line – not to say trucks where other than the front yard, and until it has a chance to sink it and are ugly. He said the commission cannot be started before 6 a.m. He give the people some time to find

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do the same thing as Goodland. He said Hillsboro is considering a city Garcia asked if the commission sponsored parking lot for truckers.

Garcia asked if it was the consenordinance 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 enforce the ordinance that has been

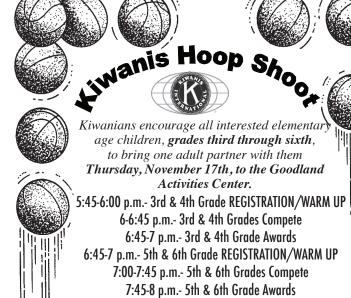
on the books. Gerber said he would do that and

Gerber said he has found a lot of Farris asked about the man who Farris said if the trucks are tearing cities handle this question and many bought his house thinking he could park his truck on his lot and now

> 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.



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