

Northwest Tech students share personal stories

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 a continuing series of short articles split up by program at the college. These memos are from electrical and collision repair students.

Paint/6h certification. After college, I plan on working in a body shop for a short amount of time, then moving up to restoration of old cars and then hopefully having a shop of my own where I restore old cars and fix the new ones.

Our first year instructor, Levi Houston, has been teaching us how to repair dents all over the car's body structure. It's very challenging but fun because he won't let us putty over the dent till we have the metal work to his specifications. Recently, we have started our door projects, which are like a final in the class. For the door project, he puts holes in it, slashes it, and lots more, and we have to repair a door that you would normally replace on a car.

All in all, the Northwest Tech Collision Repair program has lived up the reputation of being one of the best programs there are to take. It's been a relentless course so far; there are no easy ways out of solving the problem, and I know my education here will help me secure a job anywhere I go in life.

From: Jose Varela

I am currently attending Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, KS, in the career of collision repair. In the last 7 weeks, I have enjoyed my class and classmates and also the staff at the college. It is a friendly school to go to because of the size and the people attending it.

I chose this college because I am from Burlington, CO, and I didn't want to go far away from home; I also heard that this school had a great collision repair class and instructor, which is top compared to any colleges in the tri-state area. The program has a high percentage of job placement after graduation.

After I graduate from Northwest Kansas Technical College, I am planning to work with Carlin Auto Body in Burlington for few years, then apply in Denver, Colorado for a job. If everything goes well after working several years in Denver, Colorado, I want to apply somewhere in California, and further on, I want to open my own shop in California.

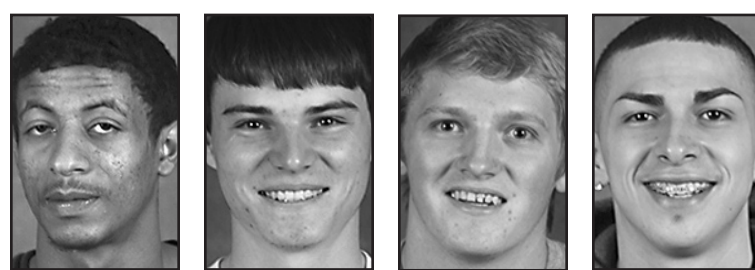
I believe I am able to lead a group; I can work with people, and I am really good with customers. I can multitask and stay on task. My goal in this field is to someday be my own boss and be the one hiring technicians. My education will help me obtain my goals.

From: Luis Zapata

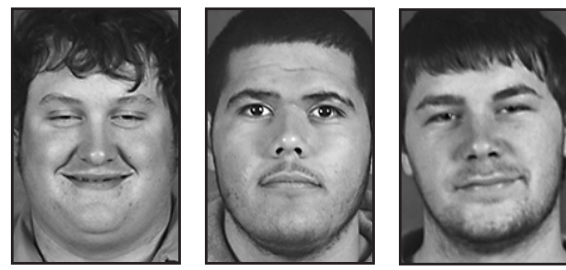
Through high school, I was watching my teacher my senior year paint his car and do work to his car every year, so I began to look up to see how fun it was to actually work with cars and be able to paint them. I liked what he did to his car, so I thought to myself, I think I want to be in my college first year at Northwest Technical College. After I graduated from Syracuse High School, I went straight to college for my first year in Collision Repair.

My instructors at Northwest Tech have led us on the right way to fixing damaged vehicles. They have also told us how it would actually feel in the future working in an auto body shop working with customers' cars. Our instructors always look at what we have done and check if it is well done because if it is not well done, they always make us redo our mistakes so we can get the idea of what we are going to see in the real world as a collision repair technician.

This is one thing we do: fixing our dents that our instructor assigns us. At the moment, we have started working on our door projects, which



Abdulwahid Eversole Kimple Zapata



Rico Varela Williams

is when our instructor damages our doors and we have to fix them the way they originally are. It is difficult to put a damaged door back to its original condition, but it is something we will look at in the real world.

After I have graduated from Collision Repair, my plans are to move to Phoenix, Arizona, where I was born. I plan on moving up there because there are bigger and better opportunities to a famous body shop. After that, I plan on banking some money to the bank and finally opening my own body shop and actually having people working for me so my body shop can become well known through the city.

But for now, I am glad that I am here at Northwest Kansas Technical College, learning how to fix wrecked vehicles and get them back how they used to be.

From: Luke Conley

My experience at Northwest Kansas Technical School has made me see what it will take to make it in the real world. In the electrical program, we go out into the town and perform residential electrical work, which gives us students hands on experience.

Our instructor, Mr. Dobbs, has helped us in our field of work by showing us what we need to know and how to do the work involved that electricians do. He is teaching us the three different fields including residential, commercial, and industrial. Learning in the classroom has been difficult for me, but the hands on has really helped me in getting this field figured out and in understanding what I need to do to one day become a master of my trade.

After graduation in 2013, moving back to Holcomb is my main plan as of now to go to work as an apprentice under a master electrician. In the hopes of one day partnering or owning my own personal business, I will be taking a journeyman's test for the state of Kansas. I chose electrical for the very good pay and the environment of work and the day-to-day change; there will never be the same job twice.

From: Skylar Williams

My personal experience at the Northwest Kansas Technical College has begun after a long wait. I have lived in Goodland my entire life, so I have been looking towards this moment for quite some time; I graduated from Goodland High School and now plan on graduating from Northwest Tech.

After I graduate from Northwest Tech, I plan on moving to a bigger city and starting off as an apprentice for someone and gradually moving my way up to sooner or later being a boss of my own auto body shop. I

me what it would be like to work out in the field and what the job would be about. The instructors have also made it easier here for us because we know that at any time we have a question about anything, they will know where to find the answer or at least give us hints on how to find it. These hands on experience, it made it easy to see what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

While I have been here, the school has had us certified in many different things; for instance, last year alone we got certified with our Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 cards, cardiopulmonary resuscitation training, and fire prevention classes. We will also be attempting our journeyman's this coming spring; when we pass this test, each person will have no problem finding a well-paying job. Also, all of the hands on learning has helped with confidence and knowledge about the trade.

The in-class work is a little rough due to the fact that we all want to be outside working with our hands, but the instructors understand and try their hardest to keep us interested. In the long scheme of things, I am very happy in my decision to come to the electrical program.

From: Tyler Kimple

Throughout college at Northwest Kansas Technical College, I have learned many things and have met many people who have helped me through collision repair. If at any point I did not understand how to do something, first I would ask one of my classmates, and if he did not know what to do, I then would ask my teacher Levi Houston.

While growing up, I lived in a small town not much bigger than Goodland, While going to Goddard High School, I took the auto shop course and started loving working on cars. It was then that I decided I was going to start a career in collision repair after high school. Although collision is not a career choice many people dedicate themselves to, I have

wanted to for a long time, and people do not realize how hard it really is; you have to be firm but gentle at the same time, and you always have to focus.

After I graduate, I plan on moving away far from Kansas and working as an apprentice in an auto body shop. Once I save up enough money, I would like to open my own auto body shop. Although I'd like to have my own shop, I would also like to have enough time to go home and work on my own projects.

Throughout my collision repair classes, our instructors, Larry McLemore and Levi Houston, have been a tremendous help preparing us for what the collision repair industry is like after college. The collision repair program has great teachers. I have never asked them a question that they could not answer. As of right now, we are waiting on a few classmates to catch up so we can move past body work and learn how to paint.

Basically, I think I am a hard working student when I want to be and a very quick learner. I love helping people in any way I can and love hard challenges. Someday, I hope to fulfill my dream of having my own body shop.

From: Clayton Rico

My personal experience at Northwest Kansas Technical College has been great so far. I have learned a lot about the electrical field. I think the best personal experience so far is wiring up the carpentry house the first year.

When wiring up the carpentry house, I learned how to run new wire to the panel box. I also learned how wire up lights in a chain so when you turn on a switch all of the lights in the room come on. Learning this makes it easier to troubleshoot somebody's house when they are having problems with lights. Then I learned how to run wire to outlets and hook them up in accordance. I hung can lights, or recessed lights, and fan boxes and ran the wire for the switches. I was taught how to run three wire romex for a three way and four way switch.

By learning all of these things, I feel more confident in being able to wire a house. Also, if we go on a service call, I feel better about the troubleshooting process. When I get out of school, I hope that my experience in the field will help to get a better job at Upwind Solutions.

From: Yahya Abdulwahid

My experience at Northwest Tech has been great because it has given me so many opportunities like doing something that I enjoy and meeting new people. Working in collision repair is something that I like to do. It's not an easy job, so that's why Northwest Kansas Technical College is helping me to become the best collision repair technician there is.

My first time coming to the class, I didn't know anything about collision repair, but our instructors, Mr. Mac and Mr. Houston, gave me the right book to read and showed me how to do things in the shop like welding and fixing dents. Learning was rough, and it still is; however, I'm learning so much because my instructors don't move on until we understand every basic of the topic that we're learning in class.

After I graduate from Northwest Tech, I'm planning to go back to Denver and work as an apprentice so that I can move up to being the boss and owning my own collision repair shop. It's not easy to get where I want to be, but I'm willing to work hard because I know that if I put something on my mind, someday I'm going to get it.

From: Kyle Eversole

A little about me is that I have lived and worked on a farm my whole life. I have worked on cars to help maintain the farm in working order. The vehicles that I have redone consist of a 1992 AMC Rambler; I remodeled the inside and have fixed the original six cylinder engine so it runs like it did in 1962. Also, I have redone a 1972 Dodge Power Wagon. So I think I have knowledge in body and engine work, I came to Northwest Tech for its hands on education. It has exceeded my expectations with amazing teachers and instructors.

I plan to graduate from Northwest Tech in 2014 with a degree in collision repair with NATEF/ASE certification, Mitchell Estimating certification, and Martin Senior

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CITY OF GOODLAND TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT Goodland, Kansas

For the period from July 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012

	PREVIOUS BALANCE	RECEIPT	DISBURSEMENT	CURRENT BALANCE
FUNDS				
Special Highway	186,425.47	29,681.01	163,602.98	52,503.50
Self Insurance	150,380.70	21.69	50,000.00	100,402.39
Airport Fund	196,108.22	5,794.24	390.76	201,511.70
General Operating	1,071,655.78	503,935.18	527,487.35	1,048,103.61
Bond & Interest	265,222.35	28,927.96	263,470.63	30,679.68
Library	0.00	14,884.78	0.00	14,884.78
Sales Tax	2,101.95	68,220.63	69,380.57	942.01
Electric Utility	3,523,398.77	1,864,697.80	2,255,723.20	3,132,373.37
Municipal Ct. Div. Fees	21,081.42	773.01	50.00	21,804.43
Law Enforcement	18,017.27	2.59	0.00	18,019.86
Electric Meter Deposit	135,910.23	8,550.00	7,886.07	136,574.16
Water Utility	464,094.47	418,489.76	249,449.66	633,134.57
Water Service Deposit	75,029.00	5,100.00	5,825.00	74,304.00
Sewer Utility	243,505.04	109,446.29	61,936.94	291,014.39
Special Park & Rec.	62,012.61	2,102.51	25,929.98	38,185.14
Vehicle Insp. (VIN)	26,838.30	3,693.69	614.00	29,917.99
Grant Imp Res. Fund	618,618.57	418,340.95	556,603.46	480,356.06
Street Imp. Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Solid Waste	75,818.14	106,198.98	104,425.16	77,591.96
Fire Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airport Improvement	0.00	5,407.62	5,407.62	0.00
CDBG Grant -	1,887.13	70,668.00	68,080.00	700.87
Capital Imp. Reserve	1,252,179.79	148,657.38	209,955.78	1,190,881.39
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Benefit	522,166.28	64,243.05	116,674.02	469,735.31
Library Emp. Benefit	0.00	2,611.68	0.00	2,611.68
State Water Fund	3,731.28	6,496.44	3,572.62	6,655.10
Cemetery-Perp. Care	82,500.00	0.00	0.00	82,500.00
Cemetery Endowment	111,350.79	1,550.00	0.00	112,900.79
Cemetery Imp.	102,483.20	77.45	144.00	102,416.65
Economic Dev.	145,563.52	18,764.96	49,122.18	115,206.30
Electric Reserve	1,102,033.86	87,779.49	0.00	1,189,813.35
Water Reserve	193,065.71	99.73	144,817.13	48,348.31
Water System Imp. Proj.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Efficiency KS Project	0.00	534.69	534.69	0.00
Sewer Reserve	875,078.79	3,880.90	0.00	878,959.69
M.E.R.F.	1,406,727.34	62,942.51	23,205.61	1,446,464.24
Total	12,931,211.72	4,062,574.97	4,964,289.41	12,029,497.28

	PREVIOUS BALANCE	CURRENT BALANCE
AVAILABLE CASH		
Cashier's Change	2,000.00	2,000.00
Checking Accounts:		
BANKWEST	1,738,802.89	1,281,338.45
Investments	11,190,408.83	10,746,158.83
Total Available Cash	12,931,211.72	12,029,497.28

LIABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

ST OF KS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN	1,146,606.71
ST OF KS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN-2010	0.00
"GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2007	1,325,000.00
TOTAL	2,471,606.71

I, Janeil Dilling, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.
City Treasurer
Signature Title

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, October 26, 2012.

Gallery and studio is ready for creations!



Blackbird Gallery and Studio, located at 921 Main in Goodland, had its ribbon cutting last week. The business first opened in July of this year with just four artists showcased, and now boasts of 10 and growing.

The gallery is owned by Shirley Houston. She's a self-taught artist of more than 30 years. Shirley knew that she needed more space, and that others too were in the same situation. The gallery and studio was established to bring artists

together to both sell their work and give them studio space to create.

Shirley moved to Kansas from Minnesota nine years ago. In Minnesota she owned two successful businesses. She is currently the receptionist at Carnegie Arts Center and a teacher of the children's arts at the Center.

Stop in to Blackbird Gallery and Studio today and take a look around. You won't be disappointed!