

# The Conquistador

Spring 2020

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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## The Conquistador

Spring 2020  
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# Celebrating 85 Years



I would like to welcome you to the latest issue of the Conquistador. This issue is full of wonderful stories and photos showing our Conqs in action here on campus and out in the community. In addition, I want to share with you an important anniversary. 2020 marks 85 years of Dodge City Community College! We have some special events planned for the fall semester to mark this momentous occasion.

And speaking of our history, DC3 recently was awarded a \$1,500 Crossroads grant from Humanities Kansas, for an upcoming exhibition titled “Roots and Renaissance,” which will be an on-campus exhibit showcasing the contributions of DC3 alumni to the local and regional community. In this comprehensive exhibit, which opens in August, people, photos and memorabilia from each of our nine decades will be represented.

Founded in 1935 during the Great Depression, DC3 was originally known as Dodge City Junior College and was housed on the third floor of Dodge City High School (now Comanche Middle School) at 1601 First Ave. In 1957, the college moved to its second location at 1000 N. Second Ave., which currently houses the USD 443 administrative offices. And by the late 1960s, the growing college was again out of space, so property was acquired and dirt work began on a new multi-building campus west of town. This third and current location at 2501 N. 14th Ave. officially opened in 1970.

I could not be more proud of our rich history and our students, faculty and staff! But before we begin looking back on the last 85 years, let's take a quick look at what the Conqs were up to last semester!

Sincerely,

*Harold Nolte*  
HAROLD NOLTE, Ed.D.  
President

# Conq Corral

Highlights focusing on the moments that matter — Conqs on campus and around our community.

## DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

**2,446**

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

**20**

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

**15:1**

STUDENTS FROM

**38** STATES

**16** COUNTRIES

NUMBER OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

**18**

STUDENT GENDER

**53%** FEMALE

**47%** MALE



In November, the Dodge City Community College Athletics Department received the 2019 Good Neighbor Award, from Main Street Dodge City, for the many volunteer hours DC3 student athletes have served the Dodge City community. Pictured (left to right) are Main Street Coordinator, Coral Lopez; DC3 Athletic Director, Jacob Ripple; and DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte.



The newly formed eSports Club has been hosting biweekly Super Smash Brothers tournaments on campus to raise funds to purchase equipment and to finance trips to local and regional tournaments.



Students from Spearville High School came to campus to view “WWI: Lessons and Legacies,” which was a WWI poster exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service that was on display throughout the month of November.



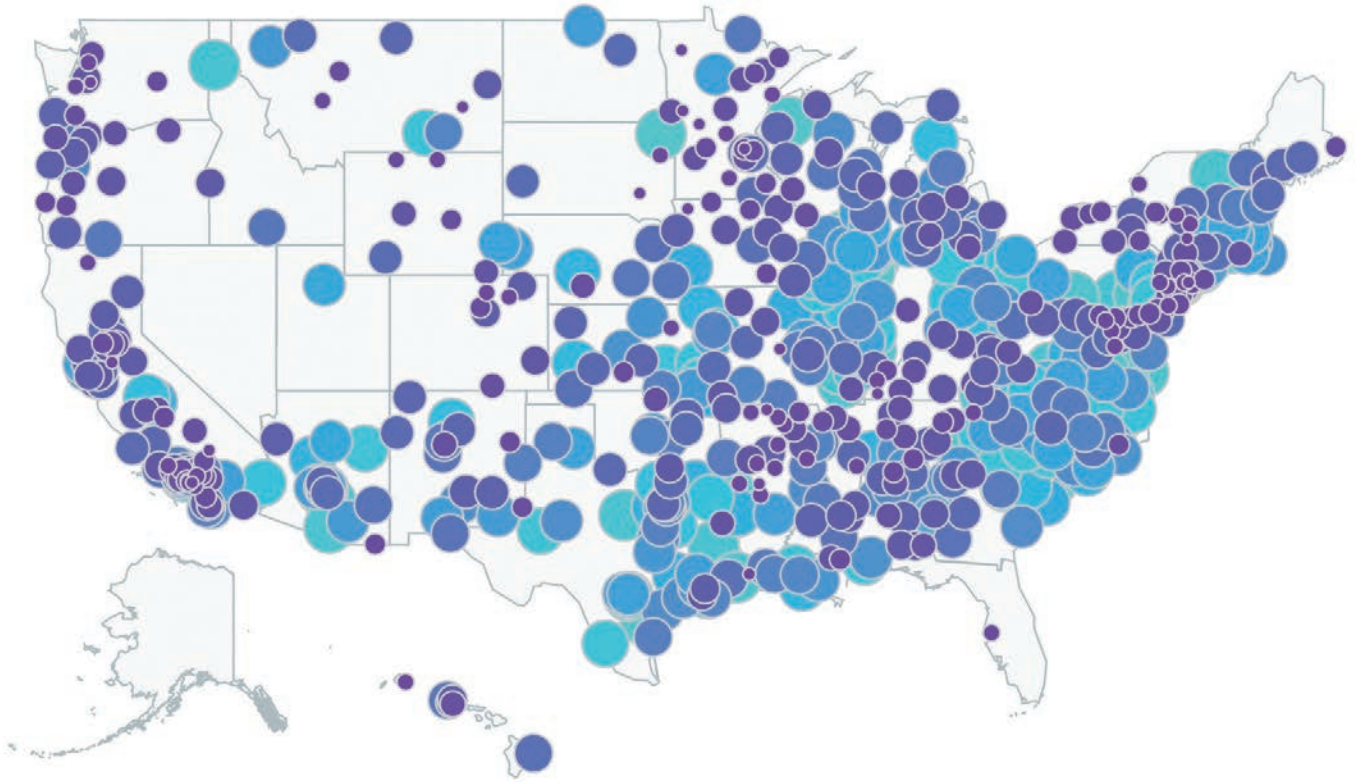
More than 1,000 kids, from ages Kindergarten through fifth grade, attended the 19th annual Trick-or-Treat in the Halls event in Jackson Hall, on October 31. Accompanying the kids were 415 adults, bringing the number of Halloween visitors to more than 1,400. Sponsored by United Way of Dodge City, the price of admission was one canned food item per child, which resulted in approximately 1,000 cans of food being collected for the Kansas Soldiers’ Home at Fort Dodge.



A large crowd attended the 2019 Western Plains DC3 Foundation Gala Dinner and Auction. With the theme of Mission 007, many guests chose to come dressed like their favorite Bond, Bond girl or Bond villain.



New members and officers of Dodge City Community College’s Kappa Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa were inducted into the honors society on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at a ceremony in the Little Theatre.



## DC3 Ranked No. 1 in Terms of ‘Cost and Financing’

In a study released on Aug. 19, 2019, by WalletHub.com, DC3 was ranked No. 1 in the “Cost and Financing” category of the 18 Kansas community colleges evaluated.

“The DC3 ranking of No. 1 among Kansas community colleges in ‘Cost and Financing’ reflects the prudent stewardship and oversight of college operations,” said Dr. Glendon Forgey, DC3 vice president for administration and finance. “The college has implemented many cost-saving and cost-cutting strategies to keep operation costs low, thus providing very affordable tuition and fee rates for students and families.”

“Although there is always room for improvement, I think this ranking speaks highly of our institution,” said DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte. “At DC3, we strive to provide a high-quality education at an affordable price, and this study reflects that we are on the right track.”

Overall statewide, DC3 ranked No. 5 in terms of best education at the lowest price. Coming in at first through

fourth places were Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, Hutchinson Community College, and Colby Community College, respectively.

“WalletHub compared more than 700 community colleges across 19 key indicators of cost and quality,” said WalletHub, in a release on its website. “Our data set ranges from the cost of in-state tuition and fees to student-faculty ratio to graduation rate.”

According to the U.S. Department of Education website, there are a total of 1,462 community colleges in the country—with 1,047 of those being public and 415 being private institutions. Of the 710 community colleges evaluated by WalletHub.com, DC3 came in at No. 303.

WalletHub is a personal finance website based in Washington, D.C. It was launched in 2013, and it is owned by Evolution Finance, Inc., which is a parent company of the credit card website CardHub.com. ♥

# Display of Diversity

Recently, a new international flag display was unveiled in the DC3 cafeteria. This ongoing project, which seeks to honor international students by displaying their home country flags, helps celebrate the diversity of cultures on the DC3 campus.

Instituted by Dr. Glendon Forgey, DC3 vice president for administration and finance, the flag display is meant to show appreciation for the college's international students and to make them feel welcome.

"This has been done at other institutions where I have served," Forgey said.

"Learning about the customs from other nations helps students, faculty and staff from the United States become more diverse, receptive, and understanding of our international students. The flag display also reflects our appreciation and support

for the international students."

The plan is to have flags from every nation honoring all past and present DC3 international students, Forgey said. Currently there are 23 flags hanging in the cafeteria, and two more will be added shortly.

"We have two students planning to attend in the spring from Russia and Morocco," said Lewis Mize, DC3 director of enrollment management. "We would love to keep adding more."

"I have had several students tell me how excited they are to have their country represented here on campus," Mize said, "and it gives them a little relief from being homesick as well."

Mize said the original concept behind the flags was to emphasize that we are all Conquistadors, no matter where we are from.

"I think the flags also show that education knows no borders," Mize said. ♥



Ford County RSVP and members of the DC3 baseball team hosted their annual Fall Clean-Up Day for Dodge City area senior citizens on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Each year, the clean-up day assists 20-25 senior households with small projects,

## Annual Fall Clean-Up

which include minor repair jobs, winterizing homes, exterior caulking, cleaning gutters, draining outside faucets, yardwork, trimming bushes, or even simple things like replacing light bulbs.

Originally known as Make a Difference Day, Fall Clean-Up Day began in 2005 during Phil Stephenson's first semester as DC3 head baseball coach.

The clean-up day brings a lot of joy to the seniors, he said. The baseball team is able to do jobs in a short amount of time that seniors would have needed days or weeks to accomplish on their own, if they were in fact able to do them at all.

"This is their small way of giving back to the community while they are attending school here and playing baseball," Stephenson said.

Ford County RSVP director Crissa Salmans said she thinks the day is a great way to unite the community and to help the baseball players gain a sense of belonging in the community.

"The seniors really enjoy the interaction with the baseball team, and I think it also gives the out-of-town guys a chance to have a grandparent figure in their lives for a day," she said. ♥



# DC3 Hosts Successful Senior Day

Approximately 75 high school students from 16 schools across Kansas and Oklahoma took part in the 2019 Senior Day, on Thursday, Sept. 19, at Dodge City Community College.

Andrea Loll, director of marketing and public relations, said the overall goal for Senior Day was to create positive memories and a positive image of DC3 in the minds of students.

“This event was about potential students having the experience of Dodge City Community College,” Loll said. “We made sure the seniors got all the program details and their questions answered, but the main priority was making sure those students felt welcome and can hopefully picture themselves here next year taking classes.”

During the morning campus tours, seniors encountered activity modules at six different locations around campus. Most of the activities at each stop were related to that department’s subject matter. However, others were just fun team-building exercises.

Module activities ranged from games and competitions to shooting off water bottle rockets and doing yoga. And at the Tech Center, the workforce departments really pulled out all the stops by exhibiting a new semi-truck, bringing in farm animals, offering roping lessons, and giving highlights of programs such as diesel tech, welding, and building construction.

After students were treated to a catered Jimmy John’s lunch in the Student Activity Center, their next stop was the DC3 library. There, students were able to meet faculty and staff face-to-face and learn specific details about programs, clubs and services. Afterward, students were surprised with free popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones on the library’s south veranda.

Undoubtedly, the biggest surprise of the day was announced by DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte. On the library’s main staircase landing, Nolte informed the students they were all receiving \$500 stackable scholarships to DC3.

“These students show a lot of initiative by coming to this great event,” Nolte said. “That’s the type of student we’re looking for, so we definitely want to reward them and hopefully incentivize them to register next fall.”

The day ended with a panel discussion in the Little Theatre, where seniors were given an opportunity to get their college-related questions answered by current DC3 students.

In addition to activities for the students, high school advisors and school administrators were given a separate campus tour and were treated to a private lunch at Prime on the Nine.

Tara Salmans, a counselor at Dodge City High School, said students were surprised and impressed with the scholarship offers and the uniqueness of the event.

“The college really rolled out the red carpet for us,” Salmans said. “It was a great day. I think they are absolutely moving in the right direction for our students.”

Senior Day was a campus-wide, coordinated effort that brought together dozens of faculty, as well as staff and support personnel, and maintenance and grounds workers, Loll said.

“We are so grateful for all the work everyone put into Senior Day,” Loll said. “The reviews from the comment cards were overwhelmingly positive. It was exciting to have so many potential students on campus, and the people of Dodge City Community College showed them a very good face that day. We are already looking forward to next year!” ♥

NEW PARTNERSHIP HELPS  
DIESEL TECH STUDENTS

## ‘Get Ahead’



An agreement for a new partnership between DC3 diesel technology and Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) was approved at the October DC3 Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

This new partnership, called the Get Ahead Program, is a nationwide cooperative effort between DTNA, participating diesel schools, and DTNA service network locations that offer diesel schools access to Internet-based training free of charge.

In this case, the “diesel school” is DC3, and the “DTNA service network location” is Truck Center Companies (TCC). TCC is one of the nation’s largest full-service Freightliner dealerships with 12 business locations, including one in Dodge City.

The idea for starting the Get Ahead partnership at DC3 originated from a diesel tech advisory board meeting last spring, Colby Kline, DC3 professor of diesel technology, said.

The advisory board is made up of businesses who hire DC3 students and provide needed feedback regarding diesel tech curriculum. And one of the businesses represented on the board is TCC.

“The board helps us in so many ways,” Kline said. “Besides being the businesses

who hire our students, they also help us get equipment at reduced rates.”

So, after the advisory board meeting, Kline and the TCC recruiting director, Jim Walsh, began working on the partnership. Part of this collaboration resulted in TCC bringing a new Freightliner truck to campus for Senior Day in September.

“In a nutshell, students can get access to all the online training that’s available to a professional technician on our Freightliner and Daimler products, while they’re still in college,” Walsh said. “The benefit for a company like ours is we invest thousands and thousands of dollars in training people after they graduate, and it just accelerates our training curve.”

Typically, TCC spends about \$50,000 in training costs for each new technician they hire, Walsh said.

Through the Get Ahead Program, diesel tech students receive access to all the online training that Freightliner technicians get. And if they complete the training, they become system certified for any company who completes warranty work on Daimler products, such as Freightliner, Detroit Diesel, Western Star and Thomas Bus.

In addition, every participating school receives 10 copies of DiagnosticLink

for free. DiagnosticLink is a computer-based diagnostic software for Detroit powertrain and Freightliner vehicle systems. It can display engine control unit information, diagnostic fault codes, and instrumentation, as well as run service routines.

Jeff Cole, DC3 professor of diesel technology and workforce development division chair, said the program definitely puts students a step ahead when they start their jobs, in terms of training. But it also can bring a potential pay bump, he said.

“The strength of this program is students will get job training here at DC3, which is at the same standard as what the industry provides,” Cole said. “The training through this program also will be more up to date than a textbook-based curriculum, because information becomes obsolete so quickly these days due to changes in technology.”

Another bonus to the Get Ahead program is that diesel tech instructors, such as Cole and Kline, can stay current with their certifications more easily.

“I’m excited about the program,” Cole said. “I think it will help open doors for other partnerships, because a lot of companies are begging for good diesel technicians.”





## CHAD Presents BCT Students with Scholarships

The Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) presented 11 scholarships to DC3 students on Thursday, Oct. 24.

Presented to students in the Building Construction Technology class, these scholarships were awarded at 806 Westlawn Ave., which is the location of this year's CHAD building site. This is the third time that CHAD has presented scholarships. The first was in January 2015, and the second was in May 2019.

DC3 students receiving CHAD scholarships include: Servando Martinez, Dennis Linares, Jeffrey Schnitker, Heriberto Real, Ivan Sanchez Esquivel, Ismael Rosas, Wyatt Hessman, Mason Dickens, Carlos Mendoza, Ismael Ochoa and Roberto Carreto.

Through this hands-on partnership, which is in its fifth year, DC3 students build houses from the ground up, learning all facets of building construction.

"The program gives the students a chance to complete an entire structure, from framing all the way to a finished building," said Patrick Shiew, DC3 construction technology instructor.

Students are exposed to framing, siding, roofing, insulating, painting, drywall installation and finishing,

door and cabinet installation, and also interior trim work, Shiew said.

The students also get to work with and learn from local businesses who provide the necessary licensed contractors for the HVAC, electrical and plumbing aspects.

"We are lucky to have such great contractors in Dodge City who are willing to teach the students their trades while providing their service," said Mollea Wainscott, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation housing coordinator. "It's beneficial to the students to learn the licensed trades along with the general construction."

Wainscott said the partnership allows CHAD to accomplish three things: to build additional moderate-income housing units, to train future workforce and to clean up blighted neighborhoods.

This year's build, like the previous one, will be a duplex, with each unit containing three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a one-car garage. The project, which began in September, is expected to be completed in May 2020. ♥



2019

**HALL OF FAME**

Eldon Becker  
*Outstanding Career Achievement*

Jim Coffin  
*Outstanding Volunteer Service*

Stacy Sparks  
*Outstanding Service*



Dodge City Community College inducted three recipients to its Hall of Fame at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The ceremony and reception, which was hosted for the first time ever in the DC3 Library, drew a crowd of 65 people.

The first recipient was Eldon Becker, who was honored for Outstanding Career Achievement. During his 30-year tenure at DC3 (1969 to 1999), he taught every sport, from badminton to his first passion, basketball, and he coached a fair number of teams as well.

Becker was introduced by one of his former DC3 students, Stuart Chance.

“Eldon has a unique way of interacting with his students,” Chance said, in his introduction. “It is a gift that not only helped them get through the classroom, but helped them later in life in whatever career path they chose. Mr. Becker put his students first. He always was there to assist them in reaching their highest potential.”

Becker served as physical education professor, director of intramurals, assistant football coach, assistant basketball coach, head golf coach, division chair and athletic director. However, Becker is probably most remembered for the expansive reach of his sports officiating program, which gained him regional and national recognition.

“I wanted to be a basketball coach for some reason, and it didn’t happen,” Becker said in his acceptance speech. “And then, this job came up, and people in my class at Fort Hays said, ‘Well, if you take a junior college job, you’ll end up there.’ And I said, ‘What’s wrong with that?’ And that’s exactly what happened.”

Becker has continued to serve the college on various committees since his retirement, and he often can be spotted attending college events. He resides in Dodge City with his wife Joan. His family also includes a son, Brenton (Sheri), and a daughter, Julie.

The second recipient was Jim Coffin, who was honored for Outstanding Voluntary Service Achievement. He attended DC3 from 1966-67. Although, Coffin was unable to attend the ceremony, DC3 Foundation Director, Christina Haselhorst spoke in his absence.

“We’re very, very proud to have Jim as a part of our [DC3] Foundation Board and as a volunteer here at Dodge City Community College,” Haselhorst said. “Over the years he has donated quite a bit of his time and his money to fixing sidewalks and helping us create parking lots. And we’re very, very happy that he has had such a generous heart with Dodge City and our community.”

J-A-G Construction Co. was established in Dodge City by Coffin’s parents, Bob & June Coffin, in 1962. In 1970,

Coffin joined the company, and that same year, J-A-G decided to add a ready-mix concrete facility to the business.

In 1986, Coffin took over the company from his father and began to operate both companies. Under his leadership, J-A-G continued to expand in the following years. In 1993, additional ready-mix concrete plants were added in Liberal, Kan., and Guymon, Okla. Five years later in 1998, Coffin acquired Dodge City Sand. And in 2001, another ready-mix concrete plant was purchased in Hooker, Okla. (In addition, J-A-G Construction also owns three portable cement plants.)

Coffin and his wife, Marie, have two sons, Kris and Andy; and a grandson, Harrison James.

The third recipient was Stacy Sparks, who was honored for Outstanding Service Achievement. She attended DC3 from 1978-79 as a student, and then returned in 1992 as a professor of journalism.

Sparks was introduced by one of her former DC3 students, Lance Ziesch.

“Stacy is an exceptional teacher, and she can be tough. She won’t let her students settle for mediocrity,” Ziesch said, in his introduction. “And she has an ability to see their hidden strengths and talents, and she knows how to channel them.”

In his closing comments, Ziesch added, “Even now, almost 25 years after I had one of her classes, Stacy is still one of the people I call when I have big news.”

From 1988-1992, Sparks served as the instructor of journalism, and also the sports information director, for St. Mary of the Plains College, Dodge City. Upon its closure in 1992, Sparks became a professor of journalism at DC3, serving from 1992-2006. During this time she also served as an adviser for The Conquistador newspaper and for Conquest magazine. In 2006, Sparks moved to Winfield, Kan., and became an associate professor of journalism and director of student media at Southwestern College. She still serves in this capacity today.

“You know learning is really hard work,” Sparks said, in her acceptance speech. “I learned as a student, but I learned even more when I was a faculty member. I learned from my colleagues, and I learned a lot from my students. People at this college know that learning can be an adventure. It requires a roll-up-your-sleeves attitude and a commitment to accepting a challenge.”

Sparks is married to husband Pat England. She has two daughters, Dana Sparks (Tyler) Cummins and Kara Sparks (Casey) Old; and three grandchildren, Claire, Caroline, and Cooper. ♥



## DODGE CITY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# DC3 Hosts FFA Welding Contest

57 high school welders descended on the DC3 campus Wednesday, Nov. 13, for the 2019 Southwest Kansas District FFA Ag Welding Contest.

The contest, which was judged by Mike Myers, Andy Ruiz, and Tim Burns, included participants from the following high schools: Bucklin, Cimarron, Dodge City, Dighton, Kiowa County, Hodgeman County, Holcomb, Stanton County, La Crosse, Larned, Ness City, Satanta, Sublette, South Central, and Wichita County.

“Judging this competition can be difficult and stressful to ensure that the students get scored correctly and guided to do as good as possible,” said Justin Weil, DC3 associate professor of welding. “These gentlemen spent five hours straight looking at welds and cuts, and then they awarded the scores. Thank you for the donations of your time and the prizes that you donated for the students.”

Individuals placing first through third received \$500 scholarships to DC3, and individuals placing fourth through 10th received \$250 scholarships to DC3. In addition, all winners received their choice of prizes, which were provided by various sponsors.

“We are very excited to offer these high school students scholarships to DC3,” said DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte.



“These are topnotch students, and we would love to have them here.”

The top 10 winners were: (first) Nathan Guenter, Sublette; (second) Alex Pavlu, Ness City; (third) Michael Mariche, Dodge City; (fourth) Wyatt Haley, Holcomb; (fifth) Joseph Addison, Cimarron; (sixth) Brock Brown, La Crosse; (seventh) Reese Garetson, Sublette; (eighth) Braden Mitchell, Holcomb; (ninth) Andrew Heimerich, Satanta; and (10th) Burke Shapland, Dighton.

Overall team placings included: (first) Sublette; (second) Dodge City; (third) Holcomb; (fourth) La Crosse; and (fifth) Kiowa County.

Sponsors of this event included: Airgas, National Beef, Excel/Cargill, Victor ESAB, Valtra Strong Hand Tools, 3M Abrasives, DeWalt, Miller Electric, Lincoln Electric, Metabo, Hypertherm, Ansell Safety, HE&M Saw, MSA Safety, Western International, Tillman, and Sqwincher. ●