

The Conquistador

Spring 2024

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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Partner for Solar Walk**

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Building a Legacy,
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The Conquistador

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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,498

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

10

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

12:1

STUDENTS FROM

33 STATES

25 COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

17

STUDENT GENDER

51% FEMALE

49% MALE

Unconquerable



Welcome to the spring issue of the Conquistador magazine! As always, you will find positive, upbeat stories about the unconquerable spirit, enthusiasm, and culture of Dodge City Community College (DC3).

Like in past issues, this one is packed with stories about campus improvements, student achievements, and excellence in athletics. It also includes lots and lots of pictures from annual events like Spring Fling, the Honors Banquet, Nursing Pinning and Commencement.

Regarding campus improvements, our cover story is about our brand new student-athlete weight room, which officially opened March 22. Large enough for entire teams to train together, this up-to-date and spacious facility will help make our student-athletes become even more competitive.

Speaking of student-athletes, we have had tremendous success the past few months! Not only did our football team win the first bowl game in school history back in December, our cheer team brought home two national championships in April! And that's just a few of the wonderful things our student-athletes have accomplished.

I often say that our job is simply to recruit, to retain, to educate, and to graduate. And based on the articles included in this magazine, you can see that we are taking these four tasks seriously.

Thanks for being a part of Conq Nation! Read on!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte, ed.D.

President

Cong Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



A group of DC3 students and staff attended the 2024 Ad Astra Conference for first-generation college students, at Wichita State University, Jan. 26-27. Representing the college's TRIO and Student Support Services (SSS) programs, the representatives from DC3 included (standing, left to right) Victoria Bautista, freshman, Dodge City; Destanie Larson, Kiowa County High School; Aaliyah Anderson, Kinsley High School; Misty Hands, SSS TRIO Tutor Coordinator; Daisy Lopez, freshman, Dodge City (and TRIO Administrative Assistant); Magali Osornio, sophomore, Dodge City; Josue Gomez, SSS Academic Advisor; Brenda Visoso-Basilio, freshman, Belpre, Kan.; Dr. Brian Kimball, TRIO Talent Search Program Advisor; Janet Visoso-Basilio, freshman, Satanta, Kan.; and (kneeling) Sophie Aguirre, freshman, Dodge City.

COURTESY OF DC3 TRIO/SSS



More than 110 students participated in the Spring Transfer Fair, on Jan. 30, in the DC3 Library. The fair, which is designed to help students explore their transfer options after DC3, featured representatives from 24 four-year colleges and universities from around the state of Kansas, as well as schools from Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas. In addition to free snacks and water, the first 100 students also received free Transfer Fair T-shirts.

LANCE ZIESCH



A large crowd attended the second-annual DC3 Rodeo Live and Silent Auction, on Feb. 10, at Boot Hill Museum. With proceeds from the event going toward the rodeo program, the night included remarks from President Dr. Harold Nolte, a home-style meal, and silent and live auctions. Pictured (from left to right, front row) are Audrey Breen, freshman, Minooka, Ill.; Kaitlin Stuard, freshman, Jonesboro, Texas; Jersey Voss, freshman, Lenora, Kan.; Katherine Walker, sophomore, Sherman, Ill.; Leah Addison, sophomore, Lake Placid, Fla.; Ainsley Carter, freshman, Belen, N.M.; Montana Heller, freshman, Meriden, Kan.; Taylor McFarlen, freshman, Texhoma, Okla.; (back row) Assistant Rodeo Coach Jacob Perkey; Jake Voss, freshman, Concordia, Kan.; Cody Newell, sophomore, Jonesville, Mich.; Jadea Graves, freshman, Wheatland, Wyo.; Kyle Cheney, sophomore, Powell, Wyo.; Lane Boshaw, sophomore, Dewitt, Mich.; Nathan Torres, freshman, Millsap, Texas; Jackson Guoan, freshman, Tawas, Mich.; and Head Rodeo Coach Jarrod Ford.

LANCE ZIESCH



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

The DC3 Jazz Band came together for “An Evening of Jazz” concert at the DC3 Little Theatre on March 1. Directed and led by Dr. Joel Vinson, the show featured soulful vocals by Katherine Bowden and Ed Bethea and several solo performances. Multi-instrumentalist students also were given an opportunity to showcase their skills on a variety of instruments.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On March 7, the DC3 Music Department presented the “Taking on Broadway” concert at the DC3 Little Theatre. The concert included solo acts and group ensembles, featuring popular Broadway melodies and contemporary songs. The students’ captivating performances received a standing ovation from a full audience.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On March 22, the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the DC3 Athletics building to inaugurate the college's new student-athlete weight room. Pictured above are college representatives (front row, left to right) Bill Turley, Trustee; Dr. Jammie Phillips, Trustee; Dr. Harold Nolte, President; Jacob Ripple, Athletic Director; Kathy Ramsour, Trustee Vice-Chair; and Dr. Kelly Henrichs, Trustee. **Editor's Note:** For more information about the new weight room, please see Page 30.



RENEE ALLEN

The Kappa Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society named Donald Newton "Newt" Taylor, sophomore, Lakewood, Colo., to the 2024 All-Kansas Academic Team. Taylor was honored April 12 during a luncheon ceremony in Junction City at the Geary County Convention Center.



CHRISTINA HASELHORST

On April 8, DC3 students, administration, faculty, staff, and members of the community gathered on the Student Activity Center lawn for a solar eclipse watch party. With eclipse glasses and telescopes provided by Professor of Physical Science Sherry Rogers (far left) and other faculty members, approximately 300 people joined in the fun.



ERIC MERCER

On April 23, the DC3 Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion awarded Michelle Lorenzo (left), a sophomore from Dodge City, with the Champion of Diversity Award. The award, which is merit-based, seeks to honor a student who demonstrates a commitment to an initiative or program that supports diversity, equity and inclusion. Also pictured is Holly Mercer, Library Director.



JORGE H. GARCIA

On April 25, the Music Student Recital took place at the DC3 Little Theatre. Featuring applied students of Professor Kerry J. Kuplic, with Gloria Morford on piano, the students dazzled the audience with 12 performances. Above, Reesa Nuss, sophomore, Jetmore, sings “Runaway.”



DAISY LOPEZ

The DC3 BizConqs Business Club hosted its first-ever 5K/1-mile run on April 27. The races, which started and finished by the DC3 Little Theatre, attracted a large crowd of participants and bystanders. A total of 31 participants finished the 5K run, and a total of 49 participants finished the 1-mile run. In the 5K category, the Top 3 runners were (first) Francisco Lopez (pictured second from left above), with a time of 18:59; (second) Jose Luis Chavez, with a time of 19:15; and (third) Brody Gronewold, with a time of 20:27. In the 1-mile category, the Top 3 runners were (first) Danny Lamas, with a time of 5:05; (second) Isaiah Jimenez, with a time of 5:16; and (third) Jose Luis Chavez, with a time of 5:49. The event, which is scheduled to return next year, raised \$1,085 for the club’s 2024-2025 activity fund.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Due to his exemplary work ethic and for helping DC3 students during a January 2024 blizzard, Jose Garcia, Security Officer, was honored as the first Conq of the Month at a come-and-go reception, on April 23, in the Student Union Ford County Room. Chosen by members of the Celebrating Excellence at DC3 committee, he received an award certificate and \$100 in Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce bucks.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On April 16, DC3 hosted its Employee Recognition Banquet at the Mariah Gallery at Boot Hill Museum. The event honored the dedication and commitment of employees who have served the college for five, 10, 15, and 20 years. Pictured, left to right, are Christy May, Nursing Skills Lab Coordinator (for 15 years); Sunshine Hicks, Professor of Nursing (for five years); Lance Ziesch, Assistant Director of Marketing and Community Relations (for five years); Colby Kline, Professor of Diesel Technology (for 20 years); Sherry Rogers, Professor of Physical Science (for 10 years); and Marinita Aragon, Accountant/Grants and Payables Manager (for five years). Not pictured in the five-year category are Cynthia Denson, Veteran Affairs Coordinator (Arizona and Kansas); Eli Egger, Assistant Baseball Coach; Brittany Rohr, Director of Human Resources; and Tim Brennan, Chief Flight Instructor. Not pictured in the 10-year category is Dr. Mechele Hailey, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health. Not pictured in the 15-year category are Charlene Figger, Academic Affairs Coordinator; and Tracy Shaw, Residence Life Office Manager.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



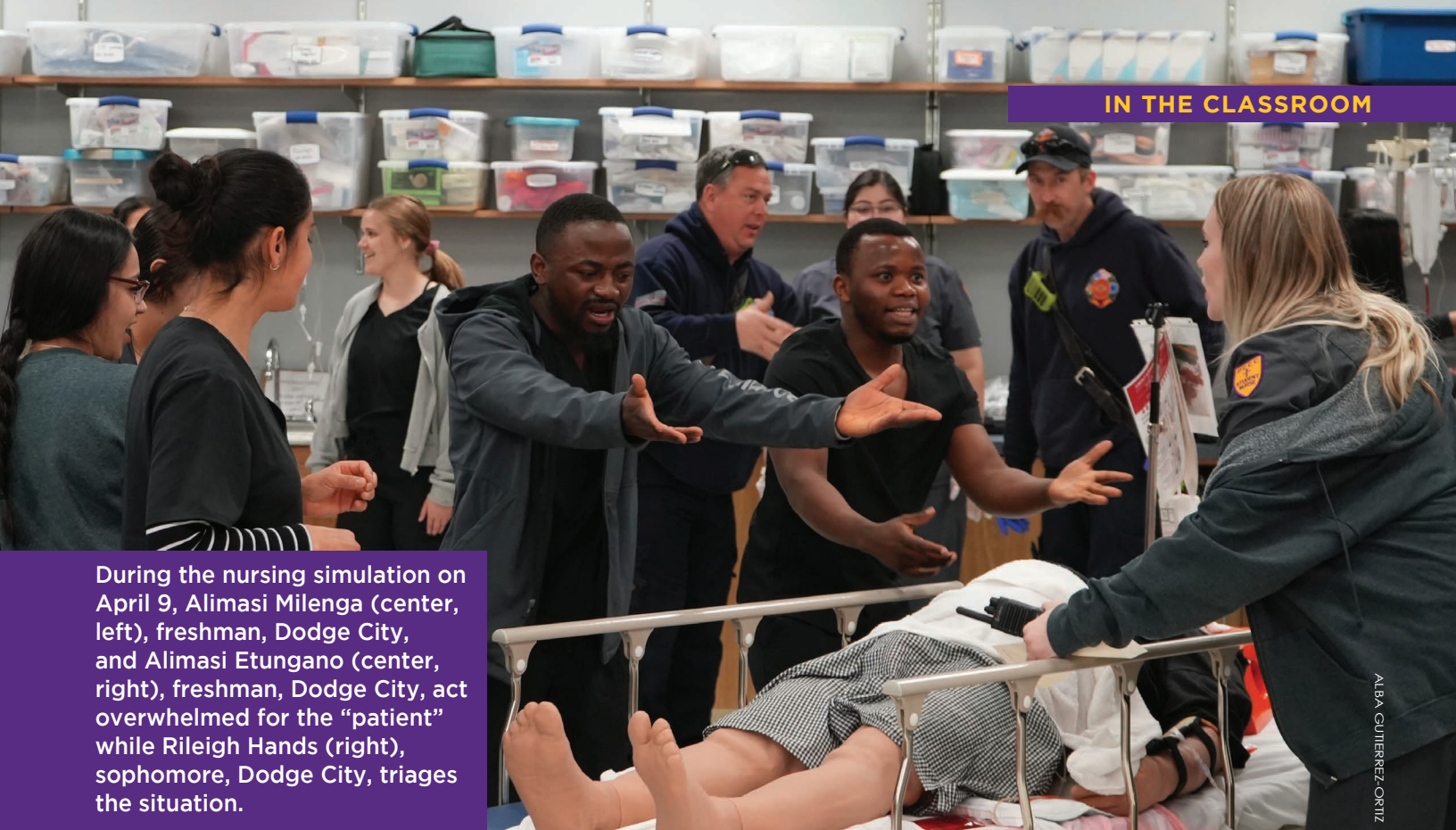
ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On April 28, the Kappa Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) inducted 12 out of approximately 60 new members at the DC3 Library. Kerry J. Kuplic, Professor of Vocal Music and PTK Advisor; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President, and Olivia Ramos, past Kappa Psi President and Distinguished Regional Alumnus, all spoke at the induction ceremony. Pictured, left to right, are Teanna Beckham, sophomore, Parker, Colo.; Donald Newton “Newt” Taylor, sophomore, Lakewood, Colo.; Camryn Lenz, sophomore, Dodge City; Rylee Cox, sophomore, Salina, Kan.; Lexi Hunt, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Kerry J. Kuplic; Aubrey Dewell, sophomore, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Luka Gorogranz, freshman, Berlin, Germany; Sian Cha-Jinju, sophomore, Seoul, South Korea; Anexi Gaucin, sophomore, Dodge City; Ariannah Borchard, dual-credit student, Minneola, Kan.; Koa Nolte, sophomore, Dodge City; and Joshua Webster, dual-credit student, Spearville, Kan.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On May 5, the DC3 Music Department performed its spring concert at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Windthorst, Kan. Professor Kerry J. Kuplic conducted the choral ensembles, while Band Director Dr. Joel Vinson, conducted the instrumental ensembles. Katherine Bowden also conducted and gave a special performance on the marimba. At the conclusion of the performances, Kuplic thanked his talented students and bid the ones who would be graduating a final farewell.



During the nursing simulation on April 9, Alimasi Milenga (center, left), freshman, Dodge City, and Alimasi Etungano (center, right), freshman, Dodge City, act overwhelmed for the “patient” while Rileigh Hands (right), sophomore, Dodge City, triages the situation.

ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Mass-Casualty Simulation

By Alba Gutierrez-Ortiz

On April 9, a group of second-level students from Dodge City Community College (DC3) participated in a simulation of a mass-casualty scenario at the Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center.

The surprise exercise, designed to provide practical training to second-year nursing students on critical care practices, tasked the students with treating volunteers who were playing the parts of injured patients.

These “patients” included current and former nursing students, as well as departmental faculty. The simulation was a valuable opportunity for the nursing students to apply their knowledge and skills in a critical care setting.

Jennifer Lix, Professor of Nursing, said, “We wanted students to understand the necessary protocols when dealing with a mass-casualty event and the importance of those protocols being followed, especially utilizing the proper chain of command.

By doing a simulation, rather than just a lecture alone, Lix said students could better experience these types of events in a controlled and safe environment.

“I am just incredibly proud of these students,” she said. “We created an unexpected, intense, and chaotic simulated experience for this group of students. Without hesitation, these future nurses rose to the occasion, took control of the situation, and provided exceptional nursing care to many simulated patients brought in for treatment.”

Level-one students, unaware of the scenario, found out on the day of the simulation. This helped to keep the simulation under wraps.

Amber Ellis, sophomore, Ashland, Kan., said, “It was a good learning experience for all involved. It was definitely an eye-opener on what could potentially happen at any moment in this line of work.”

To add to the real-life effect of the scenario, personnel from

Ford County Fire and EMS, Dodge City Police Department, and Ford County (Kan.) Emergency Management also were present to assist with the exercise.

In addition, the DC3 Marketing Department provided a fake news broadcast used during the simulation.

Lix said she is incredibly grateful for the support of these professionals because their collaboration teaches the students the importance of interdisciplinary communication and good working relationships with other organizations, which they will need throughout their nursing careers.

“Ford County Fire and EMS and DCPD have been incredibly supportive of our program,” she said. “They helped the students understand that emergencies, especially large-scale emergencies, are never planned, and it’s important to be able to remain calm when they do.” ■



Through a new college partnership, a Solar Walk has been added to Dodge City's Gunsmoke Trail walking path.

DC3, City of Dodge City Partner for Solar Walk

by Lance Ziesch

Because of a new cooperative effort between Dodge City Community College (DC3) and the City of Dodge City, users of the Gunsmoke Trail walking path can now experience a scale model of the solar system while they exercise.

The idea for the new Solar Walk Trail, which begins in the St. Mary's Complex by the Dodge City Family YMCA, grew out of an astronomy and physical science lab taught by Sherry Curtis Rogers, DC3 Professor of Physical Science.

"In the labs, we would compare the relative size and distances of the planets and Mr. Sun," Rogers said. "We would scale the distances in the hallway. During the COVID-19 spring, when I couldn't see my students every day, I built a scale model of the solar system on a two-mile stretch of county road, just east of our house, to teach the content."

After the "COVID dust settled," Rogers said she realized it would be useful to have a scale model of the solar system somewhere on the DC3 campus.

"I wandered around campus a few times looking for a long enough path to build it, but I just couldn't find a good spot," she said. "That is when I reached out to Melissa McCoy at the city about building it along the walking path."

McCoy, who serves as the city's assistant city manager and public affairs person, showed other city employees the video Rogers had made for her class of her "county road" solar system, and they were all intrigued, Rogers said.

"They liked the idea, but they wanted Pluto to be included!" she said. "So, my faithful colleagues—Dylan Faullin and Stephanie Gruver—and I started making plans."

Rogers said she then had one of her astronomy classes make a scale-size display for a class project to visualize the relative size of the planets.

"Then, we started pacing off the distance to the planets," she said. "I wanted the walk to start at the YMCA, and I wanted Neptune to be at the corner of 14th Avenue

and the bypass by the college."

After Rogers and her colleagues figured out the scale for the Solar Walk, they turned the idea over to Lance Ziesch, in the DC3 Marketing Department, to design the signs. In addition to having images and information about the sun and each planet, the signs also needed to be in both English and Spanish and feature a QR code to the project's website at dc3.edu/solarwalk2.

Dylan Faullin, DC3 Professor of Math, who helped determine the various distances listed on each sign, said he hopes the project will help people appreciate the vast distances between—and the relative sizes of—the planets in our solar system.

"To give people a sense of the scale of the Solar Walk Trail, for the average adult, each step represents approximately 734,000 miles," Faullin said. "So, on your walk, if you arrive at the Earth any sooner than 8 minutes, you are traveling faster than the speed of light."

The Solar Walk Trail begins with the Sun sign, Rogers said. It is located at the

southeast corner of the YMCA building, and its reverse side features a large map of the entire project.

“Heading east and following the walking path, you will find the first six planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn—before reaching Central Avenue, which is within 0.6 miles,” Rogers said. “Farther west along the walking path is Uranus, which is 1.14 miles from the Sun. At the corner of U.S. Hwy. 50 and 14th Avenue, which is 1.8 miles from the Sun, you will find Neptune. Finally, heading south on 14th Avenue and into Chilton Park, we find the dwarf planet Pluto, which is 2.36 miles from the Sun.”

The signs, which were manufactured by Luminous Neon and cost around \$6,000, were paid for with funds made available from a Kansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (KS-LSAMP) grant through Kansas State University, Rogers said.

“KS-LSAMP is a program that promotes minority participation in STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] fields,” she said. That is how we paid for the signs. The city installed them, and my students and coworkers at the college did the rest.”

Although the finished signs were installed in March, Rogers said the project is far from over.

“This will be an ongoing thing,” she said. “This spring, I had my astronomy students create projects related to the Solar Walk. One student made an amazing podcast that walkers can listen to during their journey through the solar system. Some of the others developed a curriculum for elementary students.”

In addition to eventually adding her astronomy students’ content to the Solar Walk website, Rogers is also planning Facebook and Instagram pages for the project. And she said she is considering some other options, too.

“Later this summer, the city wants to have a ribbon cutting,” she said. “I’m thinking it might also be nice to have a fun run through the solar system for the kids. And for the adults, we could have a solar system 3.85K run. The possibilities are endless!”

Thus far, Rogers said she and her colleagues have already received “a fair amount of positive feedback” from community members regarding the project.

“One lady’s son took her on a walk to Pluto for Mother’s Day,” she said. But no matter why people are out on the walking path, I hope the project makes them stop and think about the vastness of space and how small we really are.” ■

LANCE ZIESCH



Dylan Faullin, DC3 Professor of Math, and Sherry Curtis Rogers, DC3 Professor of Physical Science, at the starting point of the new Solar Walk Trail, on May 22.

LANCE ZIESCH



The second planetary stop along the new Solar Walk Trail is Venus.



LANCE ZIESCH

DC3 and CHAD Host Open House

by Lance Ziesch

Dodge City Community College (DC3) and the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) hosted an open house on May 14, to show off this year's CHAD house, which is located at 1306 Military Ave.

Through this hands-on partnership, which is in its 10th year, DC3 students build houses from the ground up, learning all facets of building construction.

And for CHAD, specifically, it accomplishes three things in the community: it adds additional moderate-income housing units, it trains future workforce professionals, and it cleans up and improves blighted neighborhoods.

This year's project began on Aug. 24, 2023, and is a 1,350-square-foot, single-family home. It contains three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a two-car garage, and it will be fully complete by July 25.

Patrick Shiew, DC3 Professor of Building/Construction Technology, said that each CHAD house is unique in some way, and this one is no exception. This year's build features a "barrel ceiling" between the bedrooms.

In addition, Mollea Wainscott, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation Assistant Director, said a second thing sets this year's house apart from its predecessors.

"This house is also unique in that a former student, Juan Castro, designed it," she said. "Juan graduated from the program last year and now is attending K-State."

As CHAD and DC3 wrap up their 2024 project, they are already making plans for their 2025 house, which will be located one door to the west of the current one.

"We will build a duplex next door," Wainscott said. "We are going to use the

house plans that local architect Dana Williamson donated a few years ago that we built at Avenue E and Brier."

Shiew said he is grateful for the ongoing CHAD partnership because it gives his students a lot of on-the-job training with area construction professionals. And he's glad to see this year's students are already stepping out into the workforce and moving on with their lives.

"We could not do these projects without the City of Dodge City Code Enforcement staff and CHAD leader, Mollea Wainscott, and the CHAD board," Shiew said. "And, of course, on the DC3 side, Dr. Clayton Tatro, Vice President for Workforce Development; Loren Coval, Building/Construction Technology Assistant; and our college administration and staff."

In addition to the come-and-go open house, Black Hills Energy sponsored a free hamburger feed during the event. ■

On May 14, DC3 and CHAD hosted an open house at the site of the newest CHAD house, which is located at 1306 Military Ave. Pictured above (left to right) are Loren Coval, DC3 Building/Construction Technology Assistant; Isaac Hernandez Gonzalez, dual-credit high school student, Cimarron, Kan.; Josue Gallegos, dual-credit high school student, Dodge City; Trevor Taghon, freshman, Rockford, Mich.; Evan Pyle, freshman, Dodge City; Esaid Mendez, freshman, Dodge City; Aldo Aguero, sophomore, Dodge City; Connor Benton, sophomore, Cimarron, Kan.; David Ethan Hamilton, sophomore, Dodge City; Shawn Goodwin, sophomore, Dodge City; Koa Nolte, sophomore, Dodge City; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Mollea Wainscott, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation Assistant Director; Dylan Wainscott, dual-credit high school student, Dodge City; and Patrick Shiew, DC3 Professor of Building/Construction Technology.

Study Shows DC3 Adds Millions to Local Economy

by Lance Ziesch

According to an economic impact study commissioned by the Kansas Association of Community Colleges (KACC) released in December 2023, Dodge City Community College (DC3) added a total income of \$95.9 million to its nine-county service area during the fiscal year of 2021-22.

This figure, which is equivalent to 2.4% of the region's total gross regional product, is determined by adding the college's operations spending impact of \$14.6 million, its student spending impact of \$2.6 million, and its alumni impact of \$78.7 million.

According to the report, which was conducted by a nationally known economic firm called Lightcast, the operations spending impact is determined by the number of regional residents who are employed at DC3 and the large scale of goods and services the college purchases each year.

The student spending impact is determined by the amount of money students spend each year on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and household expenses. And the alumni impact is determined by measuring the

added income generated in the college's service area by DC3 alumni each year.

"DC3 and its students supported 1,814 jobs, which equates to one out of every 22 jobs in its service area," Joe Baumann, DC3 Executive Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, said.

Baumann said the report also shows that students and taxpayers are both seeing a favorable return on their investments.

"For every dollar spent, students will receive \$6.60 in higher future earnings, which corresponds to an annual rate of return of 22.7%," Baumann said.

"Taxpayers can also expect a positive return from their investment in DC3, gaining \$1.50 in added tax revenue and public sector savings for every dollar spent."

Baumann said that for every dollar invested in the college, the State of Kansas can expect to receive \$4.80 in tax revenue because students will be earning higher wages and will be contributing more in taxes. In addition, the state also will receive more public and private sector savings.

Furthermore, the study shows that the college provides two major benefits for Kansas society as a whole, which are

additional income sources and reduced demand for government-supported social services. And added together, these two benefits total \$216.1 million.

According to the study, "These benefits include \$161.4 million in added student income, \$35.5 million in added business income, \$15.2 million in added income from college activities, as well as \$3.9 million in social savings related to health, the justice system, and income assistance in Kansas."

DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said the results of the study are encouraging because it shows that the college is providing a good return on investment for both students and taxpayers.

"At DC3, one of our goals is to provide a quality education at an affordable price. Along with that, we strive to offer up-to-date programs that will help fill crucial gaps in our area workforce and also give our transfer students the classes they need to succeed at four-year colleges," he said. "This study shows we are on the right track as an institution. It shows we are adding value to the lives of our students and to the people of this region." ■

Investment analysis



For every \$1...



Students gain **\$6.60** in lifetime earnings

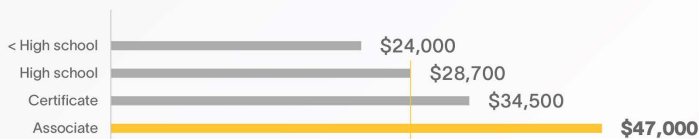


Taxpayers gain **\$1.50** in added tax revenue and public sector savings



Society gains **\$4.80** in added income and social savings

The average associate degree graduate from DCCC will see an increase in earnings of **\$18,300** each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Kansas.





LANCE ZIESCH

After 21 years, Dr. Jane Holwerda, Vice President of Academic Affairs, will retire at the end of the spring 2024 semester.

Dr. Jane Holwerda Retires from DC3

by Lance Ziesch

After 21 years, at the end of the spring 2024 semester, Dr. Jane Holwerda, Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA), will retire from Dodge City Community College (DC3).

Since 2003, Holwerda has served variously as English faculty, Humanities Division Chair, Dean of Instruction, and currently the VPAA.

“It’s truly been one of the greatest learning experiences of my life to work with President Nolte and executive leaders Jeff Cermin, Clayton Tatro, and Jay Kinzer, and our Board of Trustees,” she said.

DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said he will miss Holwerda, and he acknowledges she will be a “tough act to follow.”

“Jane Holwerda will be greatly missed on this campus,” Nolte said. “She has long been a fierce advocate for our faculty members and, more importantly, for our students. However, we are excited for her next chapter, and we wish her the best. Thank you, Jane, for the many wonderful things you have done for Dodge City Community College.”

Of her varied responsibilities as VPAA, Holwerda said she is most proud of the

faculty’s growing participation in the life and processes of the college—through standing committees and subcommittees—and their initiation and mentoring of student clubs.

“I’m also proud of the leadership of division chairs, all faculty, and of the staff of the Office of Academic Advising: Charlene Figger, Coordinator of Academic Affairs, and Amanda Hoskinson, Executive Assistant for the VPAA; Holly Mercer, Library Director, and Jorge Estrella, Director of the SARC [Student Achievement & Resources Center],” she said. “Every day these people demonstrate their commitment to the mission of the college, to students, and to teaching and learning. It’s inspiring and empowering to work alongside them.”

Sherry Curtis Rogers, DC3 Professor of Physical Science, said it has been a “blessing to work with and for” Holwerda for the past 21 years.

“I was an adjunct [professor] when she was hired,” Rogers said. “I taught a couple of sections of developmental English Composition, so I had the privilege of working with her when she first got here.

When I came back in 2014, she was the Humanities Division Chair, then Dean, and then Vice President of Academic Affairs.”

Rogers said that she will miss Holwerda’s “leadership, support, and commitment to academic rigor and integrity.” In addition, she will miss their impromptu visits.

“I always appreciated her perspective and sense of humor,” Rogers said. “She did an amazing job of ‘herding cats.’ Administration is not an easy job. There were a lot of different faculty personalities to manage, and she did a good job!”

Dylan Faullin, DC3 Professor of Math, said he also will miss Holwerda’s trademark sense of humor, which he describes as “a unique blend of subtle and wry” that always makes him smile or laugh.

“I gave Dr. Holwerda a rap album that I liked and asked her to listen to it,” Faullin said. “We were both faculty at the time. She gave it a listen and, upon returning it to me, provided me with feedback as only a seasoned English professor can. Putting a positive spin on negative criticism, and I’m paraphrasing, she said, ‘It was ... good, but

a bit too lyrical for me. I enjoy music with more ... music and not so many words.’

“She later became my supervisor,” he said. “If I had known there was a chance of that happening, I never would have given her that album to listen to. (Apologies to Dr. Holwerda for the dangling participle in the previous sentence.) Thankfully, the topic of my questionable taste in music was never brought up in my performance reviews.”

Holwerda, a native of Lindsborg, Kan., holds a 1983 Bachelor of Arts in English from Marymount College of Kansas, a 1986 Master of Arts in English, with high honors, and a 1998 doctorate in American Studies with distinction, both from Saint Louis University. She also earned a 2019 graduate certificate with high honors, in Composition Studies, from Indiana-East University.

In the years prior to her employment at DC3, Holwerda’s teaching appointments included Lindenwood College, Saint Louis University, where she advised undergraduates across five colleges for 15 years, and Michigan State University.

Holwerda also taught outreach for Friends University, for the EDUKAN consortium, and was contracted as a reader of advanced placement (AP) exams with Educational Testing Service (ETS). She also has served as a book discussion leader for Humanities Kansas, the American Library Association, and High Plains Public Radio.

In addition, Holwerda has served in leadership roles for a wide range of national and state educational and arts/humanities organizations, including Boulevard literary magazine, Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, and the Kansas Board of Regents. And her award-winning stories, creative nonfiction, and poetry have been published in regional and national venues.

“I honestly am not sure what comes next for me, but I am looking forward to doors opening to new paths in the future,” Holwerda said. “To choose to walk through that door hasn’t been easy. After all, DC3 has great leadership, strong faculty, excellent staff, and provides so many opportunities to so many. I know I’ve served well as an executive leader through some extraordinarily tough times. And I’m proud to be a part of Conq Nation and its history.” ■

Editor’s Note: *The college honored Holwerda with a come-and-go retirement reception on May 15 in the Student Union Board Room. Her last official day on campus was May 22.*

Former DC3 Student Selected for Internship

by Lance Ziesch

Julian Chavez, a former Dodge City Community College (DC3) student from Dodge City, has been selected for a paid summer research program, which seeks to find equitable pathways to community disaster resilience, with a focus on social equity.

The internship, which is organized by the U.S. National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), is an immersive, interdisciplinary team-based research experience. Split between three universities around the state—Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University—the program will run from May 28-Aug. 9.

Chavez, who found out about the internship opportunity through the DC3 Student Achievement and Resources Center (SARC), will be spending his summer at Wichita State working with experienced professionals in the areas of computer, electrical, and manufacturing engineering.

“I was approached by one of the academic coaches at the SARC, Aneth Morales, a close friend and associate,” he said. “She came to me on a whim. I read the flier taking note of how well their criteria matched my circumstances, and I decided to give it a shot.”

To be eligible for the internship, applicants must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program and preferably have completed at least two years of college coursework (or an associate degree). And community college students, like Chavez, also must plan to enroll at a four-year college after they finish their two-year degrees.

“It’s so cool to me to finally get a taste of my life’s dream of being an engineer,”



Julian Chavez

LAKIN SCHECK

he said. “I’m also excited to make connections with others in my field.”

Morales said she also is excited that Chavez was selected for the opportunity because he has a natural disposition for new experiences that place him in areas where he can leave a lasting impact.

“Julian is extremely observant, applies himself well, and is an excellent critical thinker. As a result of these highly-developed skills, he is capable of processing information fast and efficiently,” she said. “His regard for analysis and self-reflection improves the lives of those around him because he challenges them to consider possibilities they may not have considered before.”

Following his summer internship, Chavez plans to attend Wichita State, working toward a bachelor’s degree in computer science.

“I really learned to appreciate the people in my life this year,” he said. “If not for them I wouldn’t be here. They continue to educate, motivate, and love me. The greatest wealth lies in those who lift us higher.” ■



Spring Fling '24

Monday, April 29 - Friday, May 3

Spring Fling returned for another week of food, games and fun, from Monday, April 30, until Friday, May 3, courtesy of DC3 Student Activities. One of the new features this year was a water slide in front of Shelden Hall, which was sponsored by DC3 Residence Life.

Other activities this year included a pancake bar, a spikeball tournament, a yogurt parfait stand, a bingo night, and lots and lots of food each day. Like last year, the week concluded with a fun carnival in the auxiliary gym, which included bounce houses and traditional carnival games. ■



LANCE ZIESCH

Pablo Gil Hevia (left), freshman, Santander, Spain; Jayci Galindo, freshman, Amarillo, Texas; Jose Rojas, freshman, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; and Avy Zapata, freshman, Pasadena, Texas; enjoy the water slide in front of Shelden Hall on April 30.



LANCE ZIESCH

Jamiko Mathies (left), freshman, Tulsa, Okla.; Arthur Lemeunier, freshman, Saint-Victor, France; Theo Hoang, freshman, Elancourt, France; Charles Hornecker, freshman, Plobsheim, France; Jatna Pena, sophomore, Invivienda, Dominican Republic; Sierra Scanlan, sophomore, Hilo, Hawaii; and (kneeling) Jahaziel Alualu-Talamoa, freshman, Honolulu, Hawaii; pose for a group photo on April 30.



LANCE ZIESCH

New for Spring Fling this year was a water slide on the east side of Shelden Hall, which was sponsored by DC3 Residence Life. Above, (left) Chaise Turner, freshman, Eureka, Kan.; Charles Hornecker, freshman, Plobsheim, France; and Theo Hoang, freshman, Elancourt, France; begin their race down the slide to catch a football, which will be thrown by Arthur Lemeunier, freshman, Saint-Victor, France.



LIBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Theo Hoang (left), freshman, Elancourt, France; Chaise Turner, freshman, Eureka, Kan.; Jahaziel Alualu-Talamoa, freshman, Honolulu, Hawaii; and (middle on back) Charles Hornecker, freshman, Plobsheim, France; scramble to catch the football as they near the end of the water slide.



Christina Boluda Piqueras (left), sophomore, Valencia, Spain; Amber Boswell, freshman, Westerham, United Kingdom; Joselin Pando, sophomore, Great Bend, Kan.; and Sian Cha, sophomore, Jinju, Korea; smile for the camera during the May 3 carnival.



Diego Villarreal, freshman, Santiago, Chile; Bruno Hernandez, freshman, Santiago, Chile; Luc Soler, freshman, Soucieu-en-Jarrest, France; Emmanuel Kimutai, freshman, Eldoret, Kenya; and Jose Rojas, freshman, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; pause for a quick photo after receiving their 2024 Spring Fling T-shirts on May 3.



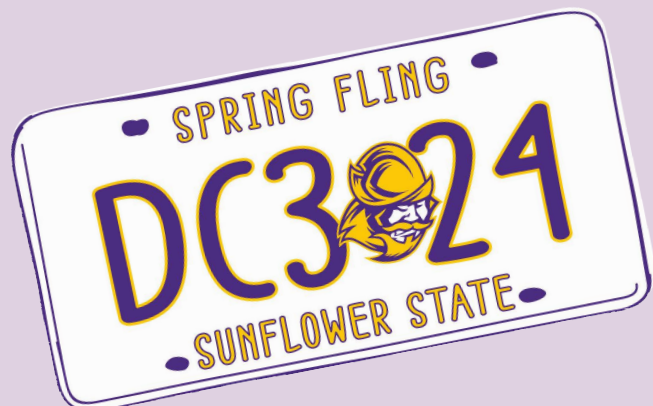
Johnathan Hughes, freshman, Fullerton, Calif.; and Jattna Pena, sophomore, Invivienda, Dominican Republic; enjoy the climbing wall on May 3.



Vicente Sandoval (left), freshman, Region Metropolitana, Chile; and Benjamin Pino, freshman, Santiago, Chile; face off in the jousting inflatable during the May 3 Spring Fling carnival.



Diego Villarreal, freshman, Santiago, Chile, tries out the Velcro wall inflatable at the 2024 Spring Fling carnival on May 3.





LANCE ZIESCH



LANCE ZIESCH

LANCE ZIESCH



LANCE ZIESCH



CHRISTINA HASELHORST

The Student Government Association President, Leslie Jaquez, delivers the student leader remarks at the 2024 commencement ceremony.

DC3 Celebrates Its 88th Graduating Class

by Lance Ziesch

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) graduation weekend began with the college's fourth-annual Honors Banquet, on Friday, May 10, at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center.

Featuring remarks from Distinguished Alumnus **Greg Goff**, the evening included a special recognition ceremony for the college's High Honors and Honors graduates.

On Saturday, May 11, the college hosted its annual graduation ceremonies at the United Wireless Arena. Up first was the Nursing Pinning Ceremony at 10 a.m., which was followed by Commencement at 3 p.m.

At Commencement, **Leslie Jaquez**, of El Paso, Texas, gave the invocation and the student leader remarks, and Goff gave a second address as the 2024 Distinguished Alumnus.

Following suit with last year's change to purple caps and gowns for the graduates, the college's diploma covers also were changed from black to purple this year.

Of the 2,145 people who attended the 2024 Commencement ceremony, 212 were DC3 students receiving degrees and/or certificates. ■

Editor's Note: For more about the 2024 Distinguished Alumnus, see Page 21.

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CHRISTINA HASELHORST

Members of Dodge City Community College's 88th graduating class wait to receive their diplomas on May 11, at the United Wireless Arena.



LANCE ZIESCH

Jennie Toland, the guest speaker at the 2024 Nursing Pinning ceremony, addresses the 12 nursing students prior to their pinning on May 11.



LANCE ZIESCH

Reesa Nuss, sophomore, Jetmore, Kan., performs “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the May 11 commencement ceremony.



CHRISTINA HASELHORST

Student Government Association President, Leslie Jaquez, sophomore, El Paso, Texas, gave the invocation and student leader remarks at the 2024 commencement ceremony.



LANCE ZIESCH

Above, members of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFJROTC) Color Guard at Dodge City High School prepare to present the flag at the 2024 graduation ceremony.



LANCE ZIESCH

Dr. Joel Vinson (right), Band Director, and the DC Symphony Orchestra pause for a photo prior to playing the ceremony's prelude, “Darklands March.”



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ



LANCE ZIESCH



JORGE H. GARCIA

The Board of Trustees pause for a photo with college administration and the keynote speaker prior to the commencement exercises. Pictured (left to right) are Jim Lewis, Trustee; Dr. Jay Kinzer, Vice President of Student Services and Risk Management; Sheila Bertelsen, Trustee; Jammie Phillips, D.C., Trustee; Kathy Ramsour, Trustee Vice-Chair; Greg Goff, Distinguished Alumnus; Dr. Harold Nolte, President; Kelly Henrichs, D.D.S., Trustee; Bill Turley, Trustee; Dr. Jane Holwerda, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Jeff Cermin, Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO; and Dr. Clayton Tatro, Vice President for Workforce Development. Not pictured is Gary Harshberger, Trustee Chair.

Greg Goff Named Distinguished Alumnus

by Lance Ziesch

Greg Goff, of Dodge City, served as the college's 63rd Distinguished Alumnus for its May 2024 graduation weekend activities.

In the public eye, Goff is known for basketball, for business, and for bettering the community of Dodge City. In his private life, he is husband to Linda Burke Goff; father to Jarod, Travis and Derek; and "Papa" to grandchildren, Gage, Mason, Parker, Ellie, Carly, Graham, Gracie and Aurora.

Goff's family moved to Dodge City when he was in the sixth grade. He attended Central School, Dodge City Junior High, and graduated from Dodge City High School in 1967.

During Goff's school years, he played football, but it was basketball that stole his heart. He had an outstanding high school career, garnering numerous All-League honors and was a team leader in assists and scoring. As a result, DC3 awarded him a scholarship where he had the honor of playing for Coach Dick Brown.

After graduating from DC3 in 1969, Goff attended Baker University and played for Coach Charles Mansfield. As a Baker Wildcat, Goff was team captain, led the team in assists and set a school record for free throw percentage. He was also a top-20 scorer in school history for a two-year career. In 1971, he graduated from Baker University with a degree in physical education and a minor in social science.

Goff's four years of coaching took him to Herington, Kan., and Spearville, Kan., where his teams won two district championships. He thoroughly enjoyed his four years of coaching and teaching. He was, and still is, a passionate proponent for young people.

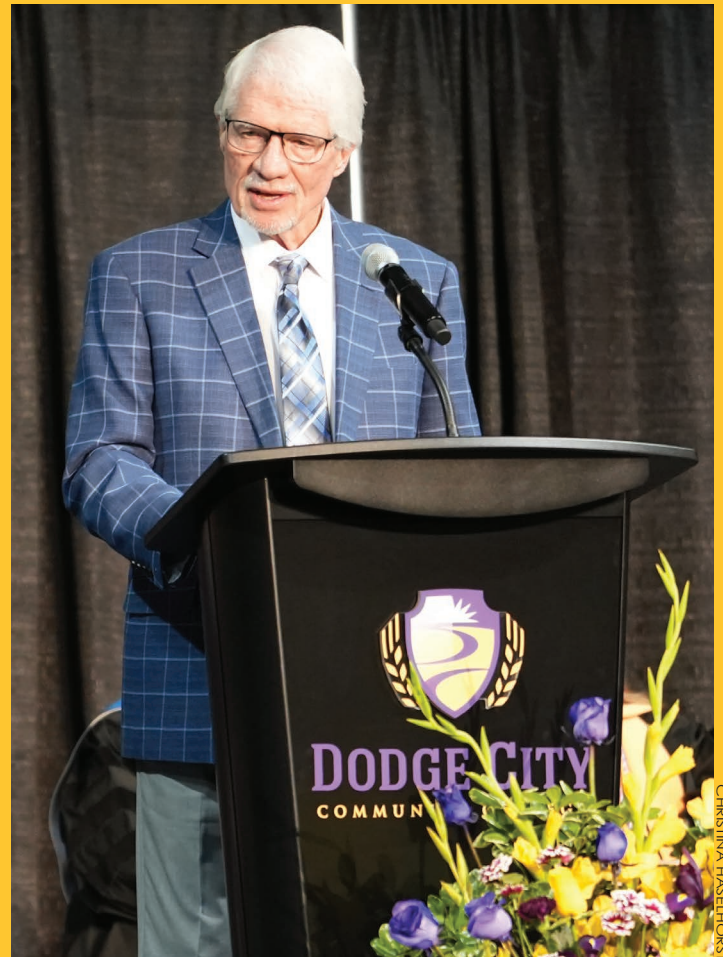
Although his coaching prowess was noted, and he was offered a basketball graduate assistant position at a Division I university, Goff chose to return to Dodge City to join the family car business with his father, Don Goff, in 1974. Thus, he began his quest as a community-minded businessman and supporter of all things Dodge City and Southwest Kansas.

After Goff's father retired in 1992, he maintained the Goff tradition for many years, before retiring himself in 2014. During his 40-year career, Goff Motors grew from its humble beginnings into G&G Supercenters with numerous transitions along the way.

All through the evolution and growth of the family business, the Goff underlying principle was to generously give back to Dodge City and the surrounding communities. This core value of small business stood at the forefront of the company's belief system, and not once was a student, club, organization, sport, yearbook, or other fundraiser ever refused.

Among Goff's many volunteer endeavors, he is most proud of orchestrating the Upward Sports basketball youth program for grades one through six. This faith-based activity brought together 235 girls and boys, consisting of 30 teams, and supervised by 100 adult volunteers. Scripture was shared at halftime, and the major objective was to encourage young children and their families to attend a church of their own choice.

In 1992, Goff was the impetus for the USD 443 Academic Booster Club. Its purpose was to honor elementary, middle



Recognized for achievement in business and community service, local businessman, Greg Goff, addresses the graduating class on May 11 as the college's 2024 Distinguished Alumnus. Goff is the 63rd alumnus to be recognized by the program since it began in 1963.

school and high school students for their outstanding scholastic achievements.

Another treasured memory for Goff was forming an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball team, which traveled in a 15-passenger van in a four-state area to compete. This group was comprised of young men from Dodge City, including his sons, and several from area communities. Through this program, these young men learned how to succeed with grace and how to lose with dignity.

In 2015, Goff transitioned from retirement to Major Gifts Chairman for the DC3 Foundation. Through his efforts, many area businesses and individuals were recruited to support the enhancement of the Student Activity Center. As a result, this facility is recognized as one of the top venues in the Jayhawk Conference.

"It is with sincere modesty and deep gratitude that I accept the DC3 Distinguished Alumnus Award," Goff said. "Dodge City has been so very good to my entire family. Giving back has always been a top priority of our family, and that joy is unparalleled. As a college student, this institution gave me great confidence to pursue my goals, and I have wanted to reciprocate with my time and energy." ■

CHRISTINA HASELHORST



On March 27-28, James "Jamie" LeMon, a former Conq wide receiver, returned to campus for the first time since his 1986 graduation.

A 'Bucket-List' Trip

Alumnus Returns to Campus After 38 Years

by Lance Ziesch

After nearly 40 years, James "Jamie" LeMon decided it was time for a "bucket-list" trip back to Dodge City Community College (DC3), on March 27-28, to visit the place that helped change the course of his life.

LeMon, a native of Washington, Penn., was a wide receiver for the Conquistador football team from 1984-1986. Although being sidelined with an injury his sophomore year, he graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in May 1986.

"I was from Washington High School, right outside of Pittsburgh, Penn.," he said. "When I was in 11th grade, I got a call to the front office. And when I got there, two gentlemen I didn't know were there. One was the head coach at Virginia Tech, and the other was Tennessee, I think. Both ultimately said that if I had my grades up, they would offer me a full ride."

So, when LeMon began his senior year, he decided to try a little harder in the classroom to see if he could snag one of those Division I school scholarships.

"I always had a potential. That was never an issue," he said. "I just needed encouragement. I never took books home until I was in the 11th grade. It wasn't like I was studying and wasn't getting it. I just wasn't doing it."

This lack of effort was painfully apparent when he received his final grades his senior year. Although he had made improvements, he ended his high school career with a 1.4 GPA. So, not only should he have not graduated, he should not have been eligible to play sports.

"How did I have a 1.4?" he asked. "I was never ineligible, ever. How was that possible?"

So, with no scholarships in sight after graduation, LeMon decided to follow in his father's footsteps and get a job working in a nearby steel mill.

"I worked at X-Mark Industries," he said. "I worked for eight days, and I realized that it was not the job for me. So I called my high school coach Guy Montecalvo. I

said, 'Coach, can you call Tennessee or one of those schools that wanted me to go to a junior college?'"

After a few phone calls, LeMon was on his way to Dodge City for his first college recruiting visit.

"On my birthday, June 16, I flew out here to Dodge City," he said. "And the bottom line is I'd never been really anywhere outside of Pennsylvania. But people were really nice."

Based on his favorable impression of Head Coach Jerry Cullen and the DC3 football program, LeMon decided to nix his other two recruiting visits.

"So, I canceled my trip to Northeast Oklahoma A&M and another one in California as well," he said. "I was going to come to Dodge City, so I worked that summer trying to make some money."

Being the youngest of six, and the only boy, LeMon said his family didn't have a lot of resources. So, over the summer, he worked and saved. However, when the time came, he still didn't have enough money to buy a bus ticket from Pittsburgh.

"My brother-in-law was going to Cincinnati," he said. "So, he dropped me off in Cincinnati at the bus station, and I caught the bus."

As it turns out, it was a 36-hour bus ride to Kansas, with an 8-hour layover in Chicago.

"I cried the whole time," he said. "I'm not ashamed to say it. I just cried. I was sick. I had never left home before."

Thinking back on it now, LeMon said that more than anything when he arrived, he was just angry.

"The first few weeks, I just wouldn't talk to a lot of people," he said. "I was just a little frustrated. I was wanting to go home, but my mom said, 'Please stay.'"

And stay he did, due in part to the support of his football coaches, specifically Head Coach Jerry Cullen and Assistant Coach Tim Beck, as well as campus legend Jo Weinmeister, who was the college's Registrar at the time.

"People were just kind," he said. "I had every reason to go home in my mind. I had somebody who was ready to send me the money to do it. But, staying here is the best decision I ever made, because it was exactly what I needed. At that time in my life, being 18 years old, I really needed to figure out what I was going to do."

By taking the risk and seeing it through at DC3, LeMon said he was ultimately able to "slow down and reset" himself.

"I didn't know what was going on at the time," he said. "But, it was exactly what I needed to get the heck out of Pennsylvania and come out here and kind of reset myself."

LANCE ZIESCH

However, unknown to LeMon, actually making the team wouldn't be so easy. Although he had made the trip to Kansas to play football, he discovered he wasn't guaranteed a spot on the team. Because of the rules of the era, only 10 of the 30-35 out-of-state students would be allowed on the football roster.

"I didn't know there was a limit," he said. "It was like dog-eat-dog. I was very lucky. And fortunately, I was able to make it."

Not only did he make the team, he became a first-team all-conference player in his freshman year. And also that year, for the first time in his life, he buckled down and took his grades seriously.

When LeMon returned for his sophomore year, his best friend from home, Robbie Mazzie, came with him.

"He [Mazzie] went to West Virginia as a lineman the first year I was here," he said. "And then the second year, he came out here with me. Having him here with me through when I got hurt and all that was invaluable."

Referring to an early-season injury that resulted in a torn medial collateral ligament, LeMon soon found himself at another crossroads. Because he was now out for the remainder of the season, he wondered if he should finish his sophomore year or just go home. Heeding his mother's advice a second time, he decided to stay.

"My mom said, 'Stay there, and take care of your grades,'" he said.

In addition to Coach Cullen, LeMon also credits Jo Weinmeister for making a difference in his life. He said that not only was she patient with him, but she helped provide the structure he needed to succeed academically.

"Football was only going to take me so far," he said. "When I left here, I realized the academic piece had been my focus."

Following his two years at DC3, LeMon received a full scholarship to West Virginia University to play for the Mountaineers.

"I was there for three years," he said. "We went to the Sun Bowl one year with Oklahoma State. My last year, we lost to Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl National Championship Game."

More than three decades later, LeMon said he is glad he finally made the trek back to Dodge City to the place where he "reset" his life. Grateful to share the experience with his wife Erica, he said he's already planning to return in a year or two with his children.

"I have had a chance to connect with some people who are here now," he said. "And it makes me realize, cements what I was thinking about my own personal experience. These kids [at DC3] are in good hands."

LeMon is now in his 24th year with the Howard County (Maryland) Public School

system, where he started as a high school teacher and head track coach. After being promoted to assistant principal, and then high school principal for six years, he is now the Executive Director of Community, Parent, and School Outreach. In his current capacity, he said he talks about his DC3 experience "all of the time."

"I have shared my personal journey with thousands of students," LeMon said. "One thing I try to tell the kids is it's not where you start. It's where you finish. And it's the people who help you along the way. It's really the people who help you along the way." ■

Editor's Note: Jamie LeMon received a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education in 1989, and a Master of Science in Physical Education/Teacher Education in 1993, both from the West Virginia University School of Physical Education. In 1994, he earned a Master of Science in Community Health Education from the West Virginia University School of Medicine. In 1999, he graduated from the University of Maryland School of Social Work with a Master of Science in Social Work. Lastly, in 2003, he graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies in Business and Education with a Certification in Administration and Supervision.



THE 1984 CONQUISTADOR FOOTBALL TEAM. Pictured, left to right (front row), are Coach Terry Szucs, Gary Whaley, Roger Kirkhart, Ed Brown, Dan Thomas, Roman Wiehebrink, Victor Williams, Brent Mitchell, Aaron Adams, Vic Hannah, Bernard Brown, Reggie Atkins, Head Coach Jerry Cullen, (second row) David Heath, Jeff Hager, Troy Adams, Bret Wulfkuhle, Greg Langer, Joe Hibbert, Phil Johnson, Coach Tim Beck, (third row) Coach John Frangoulis, Darrell Brzon, Tim Ochs, John McDaniel, Les Elder, Eric Vandorn, Shawn Wyatt, Brent Cotton, Mike Lorenzon, (fourth row) Brian Gottschalk, Phil Thomas, Todd Brown, Robert Bieberle, Jamie LeMon, Jeff Keller, Troy Vandergriff, Craig Christlieb, Kent Michel, Kyle Schafer, (fifth row) Eric Ackerman, Kevin Moege, Jeff Nelssen, Darrin Harris, Mike Hicks, Kevin Hicks, Kevin Humphrey, Mike Seldon, Robert Delpino, and Tracy Fitzsimmons.



Conqs Win Wool Bowl

Football Makes School History with First-Ever Bowl Game Win

by Mike Smith

The Conquistador football team won the school's first-ever bowl game with a 37-6 victory over New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) in the Xcel Energy Wool Bowl, on Dec. 1, 2023, in Roswell, N.M.

With the win, the Conquistadors closed out the season 8-3, marking the most wins since 2015 and tying for the second-most wins in a single season in school history.

The Conqs also ended the season on a five-game winning streak (the longest since 2016) and put **Terry Karg**, at 11-career wins as Dodge City head coach, which ranks 11th most in school history.

It was a sluggish start to the contest as both team's first offensive drives would end in interceptions with the Conqs' defense coming up with a **Moses Sarweh** interception and then a fourth-down stop to stymie the Broncos of NMMI early.

Early in the second quarter, the Conqs forced another punt by NMMI, and **Trey Simmons** scooped up the ball returning it 66 yards to the 2-yard line leading to

a **Stone Wilson** 1-yard touchdown run giving the Conqs a 7-0 lead with 8:53 left in the second quarter.

The Conqs would ride Wilson's back throughout the contest marching down the field toward the end of the first half and capping a scoring drive with a **Bryce Conover** 1-yard touchdown run after getting the ball back on a forced fumble by **Kenyan Hunter** that **Dwight Nunoo** recovered.

Conqs forced a three-and-out the next NMMI drive and **Bobby Arnold III** busted through on the punt and blocked it, then scooped it up and ran it back 27 yards for a touchdown leading to a 20-0 lead at halftime for the Conqs.

Wilson helped the Conqs extend the lead early in the third quarter scoring his second touchdown of the game on a 1-yard run with 11:13 left in the third quarter to make it 27-0. Then the Conqs would add a 22-yard field goal by **Angel Dominguez** after another NMMI turnover.

Early in the fourth quarter Arnold would put his fingerprints all over the game again with the Conqs' fourth interception and would return it 72-yards to give the Conqs a 37-0 lead. NMMI would get on the board at 13:38 breaking a big 65-yard touchdown pass, but the Conqs would go on to secure the 37-6 victory in the Wool Bowl.

In the contest, the Conqs ran for 262 yards as a team, and the defense was strong holding NMMI to just 214 total yards, just eight first downs, 2-13 on third down, and five turnovers.

Wilson paced the Conqs on offense running for 196 yards, on 37 carries with two touchdowns, while adding two catches for 12 yards.

On defense, **Antonio Delgado** tallied seven tackles, while **Jaden Kelly** registered six tackles. Sarweh, Arnold, **Tyrence Crutcher**, and Kenyan all recorded interceptions, while Hunter added a forced fumble. ■



MIKE SMITH

Pictured, left to right (FRONT ROW) are Terry Karg, Head Football Coach; Shannon Craver, soph., Katy, Texas; Aki Harvey, soph., Columbia, Md.; Angel Dominguez, fresh., Stafford, Kan.; Malkolm Wright, soph., College Park, Ga.; Josh Ames, fresh., Wilmington, Del.; Antonio Delgado, fresh., Phoenix, Ariz.; Jalen Smith, soph., Bronx, N.Y.; Mar'Quavious Moss, fresh., West Point, Ga.; Kam'Ryn Thomas, soph., Bear, Del.; Kenyan Hunter, soph., Richmond Hill, Ga.; Stone Wilson, soph., Dodge City; Sam Brooks, fresh., Jacksonville, Fla.; Tyrell McMillan, soph., Quincy, Fla.; Alexandre Dedieu, soph., Marseille, France; Amarie Archer, soph., Miramar, Fla.; Kerya Powell, fresh., Humble, Texas; Richard Dorceus, Assistant Coach;

(SECOND ROW) Kyle Gurss, Assistant Coach; Aukaniaii-Pila Goo Sun, soph., Honolulu, Hawaii; Gavyn Vickers, soph., Alexander City, Ala.; Newt Taylor, soph., Lakewood, Colo.; Orion French, soph., Fort Cobb, Okla.; Leonardo Braga, fresh., Orlando, Fla.; Sonny Semeatu, soph., Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mike Jones, soph., Willingboro, N.J.; Caiden Shouse, soph., Denver, Colo.; Mitchell Olson, fresh., Midland, Texas; Dallas Robinson, soph., Columbia, S.C.; Miguel Hernandez, fresh., Sublette, Kan.; Noe Geremias, fresh., Saint-Gilles, France; Dan McNair, soph., Richardson, Texas; Mazio Randall, soph., Miramar, Fla.; Keith Liggins, soph., Richardson, Texas; Dylan Umbra, Assistant Coach;

(THIRD ROW) Sean Kelly, Assistant Coach; Anthony Najera, fresh., Satanta, Kan.; Moses Sarweh, soph., Hyattsville, Md.; Zach Lorhan, fresh., Shawnee, Kan.; Logan Gareis, soph., Eden Prairie, Minn.; Andre Berry, fresh., Haines City, Fla.; Greg Lewis, soph., Covington, Ga.; Jaylin Thomas, fresh., Zephyrhills, Fla.; Victor Balderas, fresh., Kansas City, Kan.; Bryce Conover, soph., Mead, Colo.; Torian Spencer, soph., Douglasville, Ga.; Jorian Haynes, fresh., Rockmart, Ga.; Tyrek Eaddy, fresh., Bennettsville, S.C.; Isiah VanDenberghe, soph., Huntsville, Ala.; Kiyon Delts, soph., North Versailles, Pa.; Javon Campbell, soph., Stafford, Va.; Trey Simmons, soph., Glassboro, N.J.; Steven Johnson Jr., Assistant Coach;

(FOURTH ROW) Thad Turner, Assistant Coach; Kamaar Alexander, fresh., Wichita, Kan.; Tory Gethers, fresh., Goose Creek, S.C.; Ed Wilson, soph., Elgin, S.C.; Jaden Kelly, soph., Arlington, Texas; Eleazar Whitfield, soph., Manhattan, Kan.; Jacobe Fowler, fresh., Winter Haven, Fla.; Brenden Carter, fresh., Summerville, S.C.; Jay Carney, soph., Richmond, Va.; Dwight Nunoo, soph., Grand Prairie, Texas; Greg Genross, soph., New York, N.Y.; Amarian Louis, fresh., Miami, Fla.; Antonio Jamison, fresh., Tampa, Fla.; Donovan Plummer, fresh., Fort Washington, Md.; Symon Stukes, soph., West Columbia, S.C.; Casey Johnson, fresh., Benton, Ark.; Stanley Mack, fresh., Pembroke Pines, Fla.; Anathan Gibson, Assistant Coach; Rico McCoy, Assistant Coach;

(FIFTH ROW) Jamiko Mathies, fresh., Tulsa, Okla.; Shakur Harris, fresh., Wichita, Kan.; R.J. Hill, soph., Hutchinson, Kan.; Ty Crutcher, soph., Meridianville, Ala.; Manasseh Ripert, soph., Lakeland, Fla.; Kaleb Gray, fresh., Texas City, Texas; Benjamin Maldonado, soph., Miami, Fla.; Isiah Canidy, soph., Wichita, Kan.; Albert Anyan, fresh., Bear, Del.; Bobby Arnold, soph., Newark, Del.; Cedrick Pllum, fresh., Dallas, Texas; Kavion Majors, soph., Dallas, Texas; and Curtis Rearden III, soph., Louisville, Ky.; Kordell Johnson, soph., Houston, Texas;

(SIXTH ROW) Solomon Massey-Kent, fresh., Millville, N.J.; Ted Michel, soph., Kissimmee, Fla.; Eric Wilson, fresh., Riverside, N.J.; Caleb Sedegan, soph., Longmont, Colo.; Elijah Jones, soph., Goodlettsville, Tenn.; Treyvon Jefferson, soph., Highland, Kan.; Jalen Williams, soph., Fort Worth, Texas; Cayden Wynn, fresh., Commerce City, Colo.; Khalil Poteat, soph., New York, N.Y.; D'Arren Vilsaint, soph., Lakeland, Fla.; Jakwon McGinney, fresh., Mobile, Ala.; Denard Smith, soph., Lakeland, Fla.; Hollis Sams, fresh., Tallahassee, Fla.;

(SEVENTH ROW) Akim Lanieux, soph., Plaquemine, La.; Ashton Francis, fresh., New Iberia, La.; Treron Collins, fresh., Atlanta, Ga.; Ahmir Culmer, fresh., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Brayden Hast, soph., Oskaloosa, Kan.; Melvin Robinson, fresh., Lakeland, Fla.; Cedric Jackson, soph., Madison, Ala.; Zane Shadid, fresh., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Aiden Koski, fresh., Syracuse, Utah; Gabriel Davis, fresh., Topeka, Kan.; and Chris Fitzpatrick, fresh., Edmond, Okla.

DC3 cheerleaders watch as Austin Mee (center), sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Jessica Facio, sophomore, Plainfield, Ill., prepare for a dismount with Teanna Beckham, sophomore, Parker, Colo., during a grass warmup on April 12.

Cheer Brings Home Pair of Championships

by Mike Smith

Bringing home the hardware is what the Dodge City Community College (DC3) cheer team has done in the past, and they did the same this year as they competed on April 11-13, at the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Cheer National Championship, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The Conquistadors would repeat as the Intermediate Small Coed Junior College champions and battle back from behind in the Advanced Small Coed Junior College competition to edge out the competition for the championship.

The Intermediate team would sit in first place after their prelim performance on April 11, with a score of 91.61, significantly ahead of second place by more than two full points.

The Conqs would then crush their performance in the finals on April 12 and post a 94.4306 to defend their title in the Intermediate Small Coed Junior College divisions and claim the championships.

Due to a weather delay, the Advanced team had to wait an extra day to perform, but the Conqs would come out April 12 with a solid prelims performance posting a score of 91.55 and would sit in third place.

The Conqs would come out even stronger on April 13, and land an even better performance, posting a 93.3125 score, which would leapfrog two teams into first place winning the championship by 0.1083.

The Conqs Advanced team would also then compete in the Grand Champion Small Coed competition to cap the NCA Championship and would land a score of 93.5333 to finish second out of six teams, with the five others being four-year schools including two National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division I programs. ■





Pictured above are 1. Johnathan Hughes, sophomore, Chicago, Ill.; 2. Anais Telles, sophomore, Las Cruces, N.M.; 3. Allison Sullivan, sophomore, Centennial, Colo.; 4. Avy Zapata, freshman, Pasadena, Texas; 5. Baylea Larson, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 6. Ashlyn Beard, Assistant Coach; 7. Kaitlyn Leffley, sophomore, Perth, Australia; 8. Jayci Galindo, freshman, Amarillo, Texas; 9. Sadie Acuna, sophomore, Clute, Texas; 10. Samantha Alaniz, sophomore, Gonzalez, Texas; 11. Jady Sawyer, sophomore, San Angelo, Texas; 12. Emalea Warden, sophomore, Bucklin, Kan.; 13. Lexi Hunt, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 14. Suede Soza, freshman, Dodge City; 15. Tayler Petrikat, sophomore, Pearland, Texas; 16. Emily Cacari, sophomore, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; 17. Denicea Lewis, sophomore, Cherokee County, Texas; 18. Jessica Facio, sophomore, Plainfield, Ill.; 19. Adrianna Vnnelli, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 20. Madison Vogel, sophomore, San Angelo, Texas; 21. Candler Clark, sophomore, Atlanta, Ga.; 22. Zebastian Mata, sophomore, Dodge City; 23. Marcelles Foster, sophomore, Homewood, Ill.; 24. Brandt Berryman, freshman, Amarillo, Texas; 25. De'Shawn Bowling, sophomore, Clarksville, Tenn.; 26. Michael Brewster (holding Finn Brewster), Head Coach; 27. Clara Martinez, freshman, Midland, Texas; 28. Ryan Larner, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 29. Teanna Beckham, sophomore, Parker, Colo.; 30. Austin Mee, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 31. Erin Hall, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 32. Kenzie Wehmeyer, sophomore, Mart, Texas; 33. Chaise Turner, sophomore, Eureka, Kan.; 34. Brett Rojas, Assistant Coach; and 35. Brandon Billingsley, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.





MIKE SMITH

Thanaphon "Thunder" Suwannapratheep

Men's Golfer Wins National Championship

by Mike Smith

Thanaphon "Thunder" Suwannapratheep captured the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Men's Golf National Championship on May 17, in Hobbs, N.M., to close out his Conquistador golf career.

Suwannapratheep won the first NJCAA National Championship since 2000 for Dodge City athletics and captured the 24th individual national title in school history, which was the first in men's golf.

He would card a four-round score of 275 (-9) to record the lowest score by a Conq at the national tournament and would win by two strokes to become the NJCAA Division I (DI) National Champion. He helped the team earn an 11th-place finish in the tournament.

Suwannapratheep who hung out in the Top 10 all tournament long, and posted under-par rounds of 69, 67, 69, and 70, finished with a 9-under score of 275 to win the national title by two strokes. He posted 18 birdies and one eagle, and his performance elevated him from honorable mention PING All-American honors to first-team PING All-American. He also earned first-team NJCAA All-American honors becoming only the third Conquistador to accomplish that feat as he bested the previous best performance at nationals for the Conqs.

The sophomore from Thailand had a great year overall, capping it with the national title. He finished third in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) to earn first-team KJCCC All-Conference, while finishing eighth in the Central District and fifth in Region 6. On the year he recorded six top-five individual finishes and nine top-10 finishes, including winning the Jayhawk Match I and the NJCAA DI National Championship.

In his two years at Dodge City, Suwannapratheep accomplished plenty in addition to winning the 2024 NJCAA DI National Championship. He had three tournament wins, he was first-team KJCCC All-Conference as a sophomore and second-team All-Conference as a freshman, and he had 13 top-10 finishes and eight top-five finishes.

He won his first-ever collegiate tournament in the fall of 2022, the Southwestern Christian Invitational, breaking a school record for a 54-hole score with a 199 (-17), which helped the team break the school record for a 54-hole score with a 818 (-46) to win the tournament. ■

August 16, 2024

14TH ANNUAL CONQS **GOLF** TOURNAMENT



Hosted by the DC3 Foundation and Dodge City Community College

REGISTRATION IS EASY!

Register your team and/or register as a sponsor online at www.fundraiser.support/DC3Golf by August 14, 2024. SIGN UP TODAY!

JOIN US...

...for a great day of golf. Help support the DC3 Foundation. Beverages available for purchase in the golf shop. Coffee, donuts, water, soda, green fees, team carts, and a BBQ lunch are provided for everyone.

THE WHY:

Each year, the DC3 Foundation Conqs Golf Tournament raises funds for the Foundation and its programs. Your participation makes you a partner in these efforts as we work to increase our availability to DC3 and our students and alumni.

EVENT DETAILS:

- 8AM REGISTRATION
- COFFEE & DONUTS IN THE MORNING
- 9AM START
- \$100 PER PERSON/\$400 PER TEAM
- 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE - 18 HOLES
- PRIZES - GIVEAWAYS
- LUNCH PROVIDED
- SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Sign Up Here



or email: foundation@dc3.edu



Mariah Hills Golf Course, Dodge City, KS

From the Director's Desk



“If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

Wow, that sounds harsh. But is there not some truth to it? Planning is a critical component of achieving success, whether it pertains to a professional goal, a personal goal, an organizational goal, a charitable goal, or something as straightforward as a daily goal. Goal planning helps align focus, leading to greater success and higher performance. Engaging in this activity can enhance mental health and provide a sense of accomplishment. Sometimes achieving your most ambitious goals leads to great success and significant financial gains that you would not have had otherwise.

What if you have achieved those financial goals? I will tell you that here at the Foundation, my goal seven years ago was simply to establish trust with donors and the community. With the help of a few people, we managed to solidify a trust that had eroded over the years. Erosion occurred due to several factors, with the primary cause being a decline in communication. This happens with all organizations at some point, in my opinion, so no finger-pointing here. Organizations can become comfortable with the status quo and overlook the significance of relationships and effective communication.

That goal I set seven years ago has blossomed into some of the most amazing relationships! Over time, the unintentional result showed an increase in donations to the Foundation. THANK YOU! Friends of the Foundation have established a network of giving and support that has boosted scholarship funding, facilitated the completion of various projects at Dodge City Community College (DC3), and created lasting memories.

So, what is the Foundation's next goal? Yes, my short-term goals typically involve successful events such as a golf tournament and the annual auction. But my focus has shifted to planning for the future of the Foundation, for the future of our DC3 students, and for the future of this campus long after most of us are gone. That goal? Philanthropic planning in a program called “Together We Can Do More.”

Philanthropic planning, often seen as the convergence of personal values and charitable giving, creates a meaningful effect on society while also aligning with personal or family goals. This goes beyond writing checks for an event or making a meaningful annual gift. This is a long-term vision. This is looking beyond to the future. In an era where social responsibility and impact investing are gaining momentum, the significance of deliberate philanthropic planning cannot be overstated.

This planning goal leaves a lasting effect. It enables donors to create enduring legacies that transcend generations. It allows me, as the Foundation director, to get to know donors who make these goals, express gratitude to them today, and remember them for years and years to come. It forges authentic connections and serves as a catalyst for positive change within our DC3 community and the larger community. The art and effect of philanthropic planning remain essential drivers of social progress, innovation, and collective well-being.

For some, achieving this goal seems a long-way off. It does for me at least. However, I am bolstered by the knowledge that the friends of the Foundation helped to mend the organization over the last several years. You all did that. I am forever grateful for it. But I also know that you and future friends of the Foundation will continue to achieve greatness for the organization.

So, what goal is yours for the future? Are you looking to achieve many goals? Can you align one of your goals with mine? Will you help the Foundation plan for the future? Do your goals extend beyond yourself and have a positive effect on your community? I am asking for you to consider setting at least one charitable giving goal for the DC3 Foundation. This could involve making a monthly donation, volunteering with the Foundation, providing an annual donation, sponsoring an event, or assisting me in achieving my goal of planning for the future with an estate plan that includes the DC3 Foundation. We can reach our goals together. Together we conquer. Together we can do more.

#TogetherWeConquer #TogetherWeCanDoMORE

Christina Haselhorst
Director of Foundation & Community Relations



LANCE ZIESCH

APRIL 30, 2024. Members of the DC3 football team, lift in the new student-athlete weight room.

New DC3 Student-Athlete Weight Room Opens

by Lance Ziesch

The new student-athlete weight room is now complete on the Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus.

The \$1.2 million project, which was funded without using tax-payer dollars, was paid for by generous donors, both locally and nationally, and through strategic liquidation of aging college assets.

“Many donors took advantage of a state program that allowed them to claim a 60% state tax credit from donations given to community colleges for deferred maintenance, equipment upgrades, and project improvements,” Christina

Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, said. “In effect through 2026, the Kansas state tax credit program not only helped to make upgrades to DC3 athletics, but it is also now helping the DC3 automotive program make much-needed updates.”

Practically doubling the size of the old weight room south of the auxiliary gym, the new 4,400-square-foot facility is located in the northwest corner of the Athletics building complex, in space that once housed three racquetball courts and part of an indoor walking track.

“It is exciting to me to see an old space, such as the unused racquetball courts, renovated into something so new and so open,” Haselhorst said. “Three large windows were also added on the north wall that provide generous natural light—the old weight room was windowless—and the new space is large enough to accommodate entire teams of student-athletes.”

In addition to its expansive layout and large windows, the new facility also features five multi-station squat racks and multiple sets of dumbbells, as well as bars, benches, plyometric boxes, gym

compression mats, kettlebells, yoga balls, and other machines. And it also includes a mezzanine level on its south side, which will eventually house other pieces of necessary training equipment.

The project, contracted to Mammoth Sports Construction, of Meriden, Kan., began with razing the building's racquetball courts and walking track on March 17, 2023. After demolition was complete, Mammoth officially began construction.

Along with adding the three windows, Mammoth also bricked over the south double doors that connected the walking track to the auxiliary gym, added an exterior door on the north wall, enlarged the single west exterior door to a set of double doors, and added a mezzanine level and staircase.

By Oct. 4, 2023, construction was nearly complete, and the safety fencing around the building was removed. On Dec. 13, the finishing touches were made, when the remaining wall graphics were installed.

"Although the facility was complete and functional by October, the donor wall was not installed until March 20, 2024," Haselhorst said. "And two days later, on March 22, 2024, we had our ribbon cutting with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce."

Even though the renovations are now complete, and the brand-new equipment has been installed on the main level, the DC3 Foundation is still taking donations for the much-needed equipment for the mezzanine, Haselhorst said.

Jacob Ripple, DC3 Athletic Director, said he is excited about the completion of the new weight room. Not only will the larger facility help maximize the efficiency of training schedules for the college's 17 sports, it will also serve as a "centerpiece for recruiting."

"I can't thank our administration, our board, and our donors enough for their dedication to this project," Ripple said. "This is a major step forward for our programs. Our student-athletes work hard on a daily basis, and they deserve to have a facility that they can be proud of."

Haselhorst said she thinks the up-to-date weight room also will help DC3 student-athletes become more competitive in their respective sports.

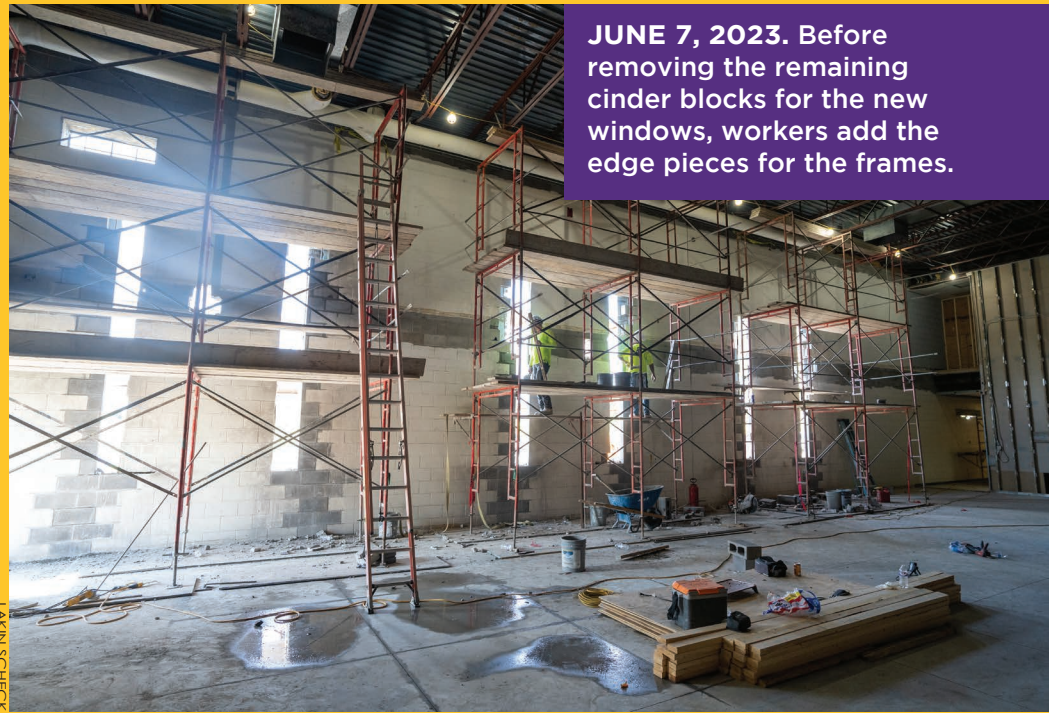
"It will provide optimal training to become even more competitive in both the Jayhawk Conference and nationally," she said. "The new weight room will allow our student-athletes to get even better prepared for the next level." ■

APRIL 21, 2023. Looking southwest from the racquetball courts observation mezzanine, which prior to demolition, was located along the north wall.



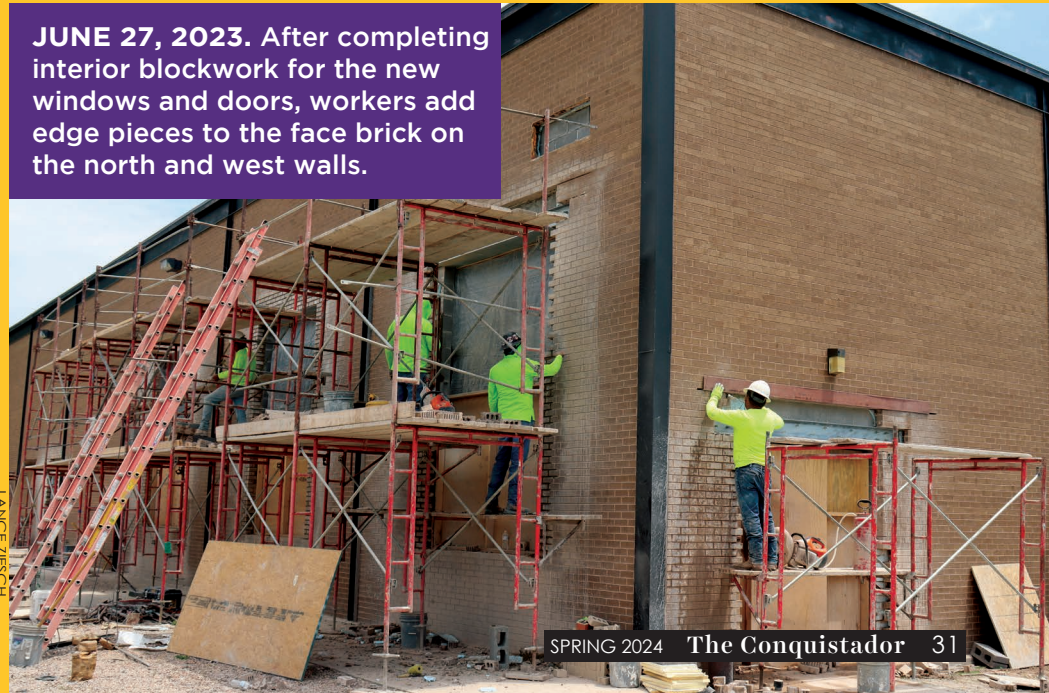
LAKIN SCHECK

JUNE 7, 2023. Before removing the remaining cinder blocks for the new windows, workers add the edge pieces for the frames.



LAKIN SCHECK

JUNE 27, 2023. After completing interior blockwork for the new windows and doors, workers add edge pieces to the face brick on the north and west walls.



LANCE ALESCH



Please Help Us Build Our Archive Collection!

If you are downsizing, and you have DC3 archival material from any era, please let us know. Due to gaps in our college archives, we are seeking old photos, copies of student publications—such as the Conquistador newspaper, Golden Shield yearbook or Conquest magazine—graduation programs, sports memorabilia, and other items.

So, before you throw anything away, please let us know! For more information, contact Lance Ziesch, DC3 Assistant Director of Marketing and Community Relations, at lziesch@dc3.edu. ■

Alumni Update Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

DC3 Attendance Years: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Major and/or DC3 Activities: _____

DC3 Memories and/or Life Updates: _____

This form may be mailed in the postage-paid envelope included with this issue or sent by email to alumni@dc3.edu.



60%

DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STATE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

What are these tax credits?

- To address maintenance, equipment, and project needs for community colleges, the state of Kansas has established the Community College & Technical College Contribution Tax Credit Program that runs through 2026.
- The tax credit equals 60% of the total donation each taxable year to Dodge City Community College (DC3). Tax credits per taxpayer cannot exceed \$250,000 per tax year. First come, first served until \$500,000 in tax credits is reached for DC3.

How does this work?

- This program allows DC3 to utilize these funds on deferred maintenance projects such as renovations to a new weight room (nearly complete!), an updated automotive program facility, and existing space for a new industrial maintenance program.
- Funds donated to the DC3 Foundation through this program will be applied to these project invoices directly.
- Example: A taxpayer makes a contribution of \$10,000 to the DC3 Foundation. They would receive a state tax credit for \$6,000. They may be eligible to deduct \$4,000 as a charitable donation on their federal return (DC3 Foundation is a 501c3 organization).

Donations and Tax Credit Amount Examples:

Donation	Kansas Tax Credit
\$ 1,000.00	\$ 600.00
\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
\$ 100,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
\$ 250,000.00	\$ 150,000.00

For more information or to donate, please contact:

Christina Haselhorst,
 Director of Foundation & Community Relations

 620-225-9171

 foundation@dc3.edu

 www.dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/campaigns



#TogetherWeCONquer

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

by Christina Haselhorst

These generous donors gave to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation from Nov. 11, 2023, to May 7, 2024, totaling more than \$289,000 over that time period, including donations for scholarships, projects, the Foundation general fund, the DC3 Rodeo Auction, DC3 employee donations, and memorials.

Leave your legacy with us and strengthen a community with our new campaign, #TogetherWeCanDoMORE.

We are not just a community college ... we are a college community. You are an integral member of that community! A monthly contribution is tax-deductible, but more importantly, supports the DC3 Foundation's commitment to help our DC3 STUDENTS!

DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION: <https://app.aplos.com/aws/give/DodgeCityCommunityCollegeFoundation/Specified>

You, too, can make a difference and be a partner for student success with the DC3 Foundation! ■

Several Anonymous Donors
AmazonSmile donations
Facebook donation
Renee Allen
Drs. Roger and Karin Barnes
Eldon & Joan Becker
Dwight & Emily Berry
Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS Foundation
Boot Hill Distillery
Michael & Nun Brewster
M. Jay Brown
Steve Burns
Mary Burchichter
NexGen Cattle Company
DC Central LLC
Jeff Cermin
Paul Chaffee
Jeffrey Cole
Community Foundation of SWKS
Taylor Davis
Stephen & Cherry Deges

Dale Doll
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Jill Graves
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Vander Hamm Cattle
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Winter Livestock
Gary Witherspoon
Chris Woodruff
Brendan Wright
Jim York
T. Michael Young
Lance Ziesch
Ben Zimmerman III



A Tree for Floris Jean

As a part of the City of Dodge City's 2024 Arbor Day celebration, a bur oak tree was planted on May 10, on the DC3 campus, in honor of the late Floris Jean Hampton. Hampton, a longtime DC3 Board of Trustees member and community champion, passed away on May 7, 2021, at the age of 93.



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Just One More



MIKE SMITH

Wool Bowl Victory

Conquistador football players celebrate after their 37-6 victory over New Mexico Military Institute in the Xcel Energy Wool Bowl, on Dec. 1, 2023, in Roswell, N.M. **Editor's Note:** For game coverage, please see Page 24.