

The Conquistador

Fall 2024

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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A New Bridge for
Lake Charles

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DC3 Launches Program
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DC3 Celebrates Homecoming



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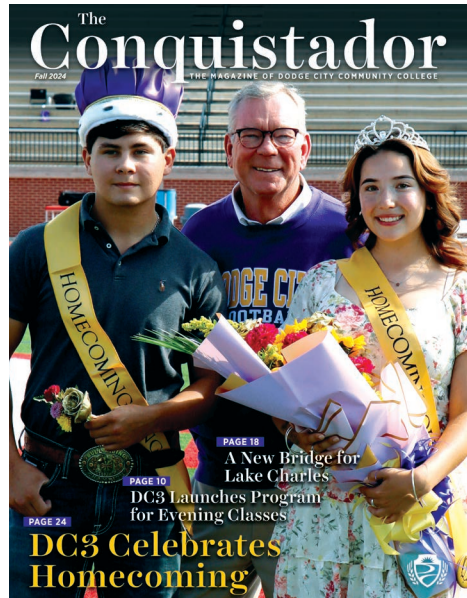
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OFFICE OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF:

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS:
Lance Ziesch

CONTENT & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:
Jorge H. Garcia

MARKETING & MEDIA SPECIALIST:
Alba Gutierrez-Ortiz

THE CONQUISTADOR STAFF:

EDITOR/DESIGN EDITOR:
Lance Ziesch

WRITERS:
Christina Haselhorst,
Mike Smith, and Lance Ziesch.

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Jahaziel Alualu-Talaomoa,
Katherine Bowden, Jorge H. Garcia,
Alba Gutierrez-Ortiz,
Konstantina Mantziori, Holly Mercer,
Mike Smith, Lance Ziesch,
and contributors.

CONNECT WITH US:

We welcome your comments!
Email us at alumni@dc3.edu or
foundation@dc3.edu.

SUBSCRIBE:

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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,653

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

11

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

13:1

STUDENTS FROM

37

STATES/TERRITORIES

27

COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

17

STUDENT GENDER

50%

FEMALE

50%

MALE

A Conq Legacy



COLLEGE ARCHIVES

I would like to welcome you to the fall issue of the Conquistador magazine. Within its pages, you will find positive, upbeat stories about the amazing things happening here at 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 the fall semester. (Don't miss our Homecoming Week cover story!)

With all of these wonderful things occurring in Conq Nation, I would be remiss if I also did not mention something on a more somber note. On Aug. 7, we lost a dear friend and colleague when Professor Jeff Cole passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jeff, who was a 17-year employee of the college, was a quiet leader on this campus and also a well-loved instructor. Therefore, his family remains in our thoughts and prayers. And we dedicate this issue to his memory with love, honor, and respect.

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte

Harold Nolte, ed.D.

President

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



On May 9, the Ford County Historical Society hosted its Landmark Arts Project awards ceremony at Boot Hill Distillery. The program, which is designed to encourage art students to incorporate local history into their artistic creations, awarded DC3 freshman Ayden Ruiz (right), of Dodge City, with a scholarship award for her ceramic plate art. Also pictured is Kent Stehlik, Ford County Historical Society President.



A new documentary titled “Under Five Flags” premiered at Boot Hill Museum on Aug. 1. Following the film’s screening, a panel discussion highlighted the area’s evolving cultural diversity. Pictured, left to right (seated), are Ernestor De La Rosa, ITC Regional Manager/Local Government and Community Affairs; Coral Lopez, Main Street Dodge City Director; Holly Mercer, DC3 Director of Library and Project Director; Brenda Carmona, Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center Community Specialist; Roxana Arjon, City of Dodge City Management Analyst; (standing) Collin Clark, City of Dodge City Public Information Officer; Monica Shuey, Harmony Marketing; Keith Wondra, Boot Hill Museum Curator of Exhibits and Interpretation; Dr. Leo Oliva, Kansas historian; Melissa McCoy, City of Dodge City Assistant City Manager of Public Affairs and staff person for the Cultural Relations Advisory Board; Tim Wenzl, local historian and Archivist Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City; Susan Finley, at-large-board member Cultural Relations Advisory Board; and Darlin Rayo, City of Dodge City Recruiter & Community Outreach Coordinator.



The University of Kansas, in partnership with the Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence (IC CAE), hosted a day-long science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) boot camp at DC3, on June 20. Tasked with investigating the source of a mock epidemic, students analyzed data, utilized specialized scientific tools, and explored careers in STEM fields. In addition, the participants learned about the 18 agencies that make up the U.S. Intelligence Community, such as the CIA, FBI, NSA, and military intelligence. A total of 28 students—from DC3, Garden City Community College, Seward County Community College, and area high schools—participated in the event, which concluded with a question-and-answer session at a mock congressional hearing (pictured above).



On June 28, the DC3 Adult Learning Center (ALC) celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2024 at the DC3 Little Theatre. Students, their families, and ALC staff gathered to honor the hard work and dedication of the graduates. A total of 35 students earned high school diplomas, although not all were present for the ceremony.



Through an ongoing partnership with Truck Center Companies (TCC), the DC3 diesel technology program was presented with two trucks and a diesel training engine on Aug. 16. The two donated trucks include a 2012 Freightliner CA125 on-highway unit and a 2019 Freightliner M2 106 medium-duty box truck, and the engine is a DD15 from Daimler Truck North America. DC3 wishes to thank Terry Wright, TCC Vice President of Kansas, and Silver Ruiz, TCC Dodge City General Manager, for organizing the truck donations; Kenny Smith, TCC Diesel Trainer from Omaha, Neb., for acquiring the training engine; and Daniel Williams of Southwest Towing for donating his time and new Western Star X-Series tow truck to move the donated units. Pictured above (left to right) are Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development; Colby Kline, DC3 Professor of Diesel Technology; Terry Wright, TCC Vice President of Kansas; Bruce Faulkner, TCC Dodge City Service Manager; and Silver Ruiz, TCC Dodge City General Manager.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



HOLLY MERCER

On Sept. 8, DC3 students took the fifth-annual International Festival by storm. Whether they were there to perform or volunteer, there was no shortage of purple and gold at Wright Park. Approximately 90 student-athletes from the Track, Cross Country, Golf, and Men's Soccer teams were present, as well as several students from the college's Vocal Music Department. Adding to the diversity of the festival, many of the DC3 students in attendance were internationals themselves.



JORGE H. GARCIA

The DC3 Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) hosted Hispanic Heritage Week from Sept. 16-20, with a wide range of activities, such as free cookout on the college quad, with food provided by Great Western Dining and hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by Black Hills Energy. Above (left), Amber Velasco, sophomore, Dodge City; and Lluvia Delgado, sophomore, Cimarron, Kan., serve food during the Sept. 16 cookout.



LANCE ZIESCH

The DC3 rodeo team was recognized on Aug. 7 for its winning entry in the 2024 Dodge City Days Western Parade. Placing first in the Horse & Western category, the team received a check for \$250 from the Dodge City Chapter of AMBUCS. Pictured (left to right) are Jarrod Ford, Head Rodeo Coach; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Financial Aid and Interim Director of Foundation; and Jacob Perkey, DC3 Assistant Rodeo Coach.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On Oct. 9, DC3 Tech hosted its annual Career Exploration Day at the Western State Bank Expo Center. At the event, approximately 1,100 Southwest Kansas area middle school and high school students visited booths and asked questions about DC3's technical education programs. Above, Amy Soberanes (front right), sophomore, Dodge City, demonstrates a Van de Graaff generator that is producing static electricity through friction. Dual-credit students from Dodge City, Elvis Martinez (back left), and Christopher Ruiz (back right), also can be seen working with series and parallel circuits.



COLLEGE ARCHIVES

IN MEMORIAM

Jeffrey Cole, DC3 Professor of Diesel Technology, passed away on Aug. 7, after a battle with cancer. Cole, who was a 17-year employee of DC3, was preparing to lead the college's new Automotive Technology Program, which formally began on Aug. 14.



LANCZESCH

DC3 was recognized on Sept. 27, by High Plains Public Radio (HPPR), for the donation of its KONQ-FM 91.9 radio frequency and transmitter. After the 2023 sale of the college's physical radio station property, which was located at 3004 N. 14th Ave., DC3 legally transferred the KONQ-FM frequency to HPPR on July 25, 2023. Prior to the transfer, DC3 and HPPR had been sharing broadcast time on KONQ-FM since 2015, due to the phasing out of the college's radio and TV program. Pictured (left to right) are Amy Rinehart, HPPR Board Member from Dodge City; Abby Killingsworth, HPPR Development Director; Dr. Jane Holwerda, HPPR Board Member (and former DC3 employee) from Dodge City; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development; and Fred Jones, HPPR Board President from Garden City.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORITZ

On Oct. 3, the DC3 Vocal Music Department put together a riveting concert at the DC3 Little Theatre. Under the direction of Kerry J. Kuplic, with accompaniment by Gloria Morford, the concert also featured the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Concert Choir as special guests. As students introduced each song, the different choir groups took turns performing. These groups consisted of the Chamber Choir, the Choral Union, the Oklahoma students, and two groups of combined choristers, who joined each other on stage for the final number.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



LANCE ZIESCH

On Oct. 31, DC3 hosted its 24th annual Halloween celebration. Returning to the residence halls, after a four-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was once again hosted as Trick-or-Treat in the Halls. Approximately 1,500 adults and children enjoyed the festivities inside Becker Hall and in front of Jackson Hall. Per tradition, the cost of admission was one nonperishable food item per child, with the donated goods going toward a local pantry. Above, students Hannah Garcia (front left), sophomore, Hays, Kan., and Josie Oakley, sophomore, Shattuck, Okla., hand out candy to area youngsters.



LANCE ZIESCH

Dylan Faullin, Professor of Mathematics, was honored on Nov. 14, for coming up with the idea for the Science Café program in 2021. The first Science Café focused on “Cryptocurrency” and was presented by Mike Webster, Assistant Vice President of Information Technology/CIO, on Nov. 11, 2021.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORITZ

On Oct. 30, DC3 celebrated its new Industrial Maintenance program with a Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event included remarks by Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development; Gary Harshberger, DC3 Board of Trustees Chairman; and Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President. It also featured special guest speaker U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) (center, with scissors), who was instrumental in the college receiving the \$500,000 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant that made the new program a reality.



The DC3 portion of the Kansas Groundwater Geopaths team includes (front row, left to right) Josie Robinson, Dodge City dual-credit student; Damaris Tzunux, sophomore, Dodge City; Ayden Ruiz, sophomore, Dodge City; (second row) Sherry Rogers, DC3 Professor of Physical Science; Newel Loosli, Dodge City dual-credit student; (third row) Juan Becerra, sophomore, Dodge City; Alejandro Guerra Ramirez, Dodge City dual-credit student; Brayan Marquina Mendez, freshman, Dodge City; (fourth row) Felix Sandoval Garcia, sophomore, Dodge City; and Darian Rincon, freshman, Dodge City.

DC3 Students Gain Real-Life Research Experience

By Lance Ziesch

Through a three-year undergraduate program called the Kansas Groundwater Geopaths project, Dodge City Community College (DC3) students now have the opportunity to study groundwater contaminants in the Great Bend Prairie Aquifer region.

Alongside students from Barton Community College (BCC) and Kansas State University (K-State), the program gives participants real-life field and laboratory experience in scientific data collection and research.

Sherry Rogers, DC3 Professor of Physical Science, said the Kansas Groundwater Geopaths initiative began with Dr. Matthew Kirk at K-State, who applied for the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant that funds the program.

“Before he wrote the grant, he asked me—as well as Dr. Helene Avocat, from K-State; and Dr. Amanda Alliband and Rick Sloan, from Barton—to join him,” she

said. “We officially began Groundwater Geopaths in January 2023. So, we are in our second year now.”

Formally titled “Introducing Community College and Pre-College Students to Geoscience Through Groundwater Quality Monitoring,” students collect water samples from private wells using outside spigots.

“To prepare for the program, our students went to K-State for training at the end of August,” Rogers said. “Then, they spent the weekend of Sept. 13 and 14 collecting samples in Pratt, Kiowa, Edwards, Barton, Stafford, and Pawnee counties.”

With one year left in the grant, Rogers said that she and her students will continue to compile data for the foreseeable future.

“Each year we have a poster presentation to share the data with well owners and the public, and our latest presentation was on Nov. 8 at the DC3 Library,” she said. “When the project concludes next year,

we will have to decide if we want to try to continue the data-collection process or if we want to focus on publishing the results in a scientific journal, etc.”

In addition to the geoscience training DC3 students receive, the program also provides groundwater quality information to the public, as the water samples are tested for major ions, alkalinity, trace elements, stable water isotopes, dissolved organic carbon, and total dissolved solids.

“There needs to be an increased awareness of what is in our groundwater and the potential health hazards that can come from drinking unsafe water,” Rogers said. “At the end of the day, I think we all want safe drinking water.” ■

***Editor’s Note:** DC3 students interested in joining the Kansas Groundwater Geopaths program should contact Rogers at srogers@dc3.edu for more information. Applications for fall 2025 are due April 15, 2025.*



A new partnership between the USD 443 Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center and the DC3 Early Childhood Education program will help Bright Beginnings staff members stay current with their state certifications. Pictured above (left to right) are Dr. Fred Dierksen, USD 443 Superintendent; Sheila Bertelsen, Bright Beginnings Education Specialist; Bianca Alvarez, Bright Beginnings Principal/Head Start Director; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; and Lorna Ford, DC3 Early Childhood Coordinator.

DC3, Bright Beginnings Partner for Credentialing

by Lance Ziesch

Through a new partnership with Dodge City Community College (DC3) Early Childhood Education (ECE), paraeducators from USD 443's Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center will be better able to keep their state credentials up to date.

For the past two years, Lorna Ford, DC3 Early Childhood Coordinator, and Bright Beginnings program management have investigated ways of obtaining a Child Development Associate (CDA) equivalent state certification.

"The ECE program has been working with Bright Beginnings for several years,"

Ford said. "And some of their staff were DC3 ECE students. Sheila Bertelsen, Bianca Alvarez and I also serve on several community councils/groups together."

In addition, Ford said Bright Beginnings staff members are required to earn their CDA, which has to be renewed every three years, or they must obtain a one-year degree.

"Previously, Bright Beginnings staff could serve candidates as a Professional Development Specialist [PDS], but requirements have changed, and no one from the candidate's organization can serve as their PDS," she said. "I am a PDS and

one of the few in western Kansas. With my schedule changing and taking on the center's coordinator role, I am not as free as I was to be able to serve as a PDS. All of this led to us talking more about Bright Beginnings staff earning their one-year certificates."

Bertelsen, who is a Bright Beginnings Education Specialist (and also a DC3 Board of Trustees member), said it was Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development, who suggested that the program try and utilize funds from the Kansas Board of Regents Kansas Promise Act Scholarship.

“The Kansas Promise Scholarship offered a way for our paraeducator staff to fund their educational endeavors by declaring Early Childhood as a major and pursuing a CDA-equivalent state certificate or Early Childhood associate degree,” she said.

Bertelsen said it was important for Bright Beginnings management to find a way to obtain credentialing through the college sector because such a pathway allows paras to use college hours to pursue a certificate or degree.

“College hours do not expire as a traditional CDA would,” she said. “It was also crucial to the district and our program to grow our own [educators]. This pathway allows for paraeducators to work throughout the day and complete coursework after school hours. It also lends to a four-year degree in Elementary Education, as the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) Licensure is pre-K through Grade 6.”

Bright Beginnings, which serves children and families from prenatal care to age 5, is primarily supported by grants, Bertelsen said. These funds come from federal Head Start and Early Head Start grants, state Early Head Start grants, and At-Risk preschool grants. And USD 443 serves as the program’s grantee.

“These grants, crucial for our functioning, necessitate CDA credentials at a minimum,” she said. “Pursuing the CDA Equivalent State Certification by our staff will enhance their professional growth and elevate the standard of high-quality early childhood education we provide to the children and families we serve.”

The CDA requires 120 hours of study in early childhood development, Bertelsen said. It is offered in three areas: infants and toddlers, preschool, and family services. These credentials require recertification every three years, and previously, only staff participated in the traditional CDA certification.

Because Bright Beginnings requires its staff members to obtain their CDAs in 18 months or less, Ford said the program is presented in a sequence of classes that are offered over five semesters, beginning with summer 2024.

“The first group will take classes summer 2024, fall 2024, spring 2025, summer 2025 and fall 2025,” she said. “Then the sequence of classes will repeat. Any new staff can join in at any time. These classes will be offered either online or face-to-face, in the evening or summer semesters, to accommodate work schedules.”

Bertelsen said the DC3 Admissions and Financial Aid departments were very

helpful in enrolling students and verifying that they had met the Kansas Promise Act Scholarship requirements.

“This summer, we began a cohort of paraeducators who started their studies by taking three DC3 CDA College Equivalency Pathway courses,” she said. “And they will continue the pathway by taking three college courses each semester going forward.”

The first six participants of the program include Mayra Lopez-Gomez, Cassidy Hargis, Evelyn Tonche Perez, Juana Retana,

Noemi Rivas, and Bethany Galdamez. And from there, Ford said the program will grow as Bright Beginnings adds new employees.

“Some of the Bright Beginnings staff who have completed their one-year certificates previously have gone on to earn their two-year degrees and then their four-year teaching degrees,” Ford said. “This partnership is an opportunity to continue growing our own teachers in our local community.” ■



On May 24, students and staff representing the new DC3-USD 443 Early Childhood partnership gathered for a photo at the Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center. Pictured (left to right) are Sheila Bertelsen, Bright Beginnings Education Specialist; Lorna Ford, DC3 Early Childhood Coordinator; Evelyn Tonche Perez (sitting on stairs); Mayra Lopez-Gomez (standing on stairs); Juana Retana (top of photo); Bianca Alvarez, Bright Beginnings Principal/Head Start Director; Noemi Rivas; and Bethany Galdamez.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Spring 2025 night classes include a variety of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science & Math, and Fine Arts courses.

DC3 Launches Program for Evening Classes

After a 10-year absence, Dodge City Community College (DC3) is returning to a structured and comprehensive schedule for night classes through its new DC3 After 5 initiative.



By Lance Ziesch

“As our lives become increasingly busy, many individuals find it challenging to pursue further education or skill development during traditional daytime hours,” Dr. Mechele Hailey, DC3 Vice President of Academic Affairs, said.

“The DC3 After 5 initiative aims to bridge this gap, providing flexible learning opportunities that cater to a diverse range of students,” she said.

DC3 After 5 is designed to offer classes during the evening hours, making

education accessible to nontraditional students who may be working, parenting, or managing other responsibilities during the day.

“Students can balance their education with their daily responsibilities, reducing stress and enhancing their learning experience,” Hailey said. “For professionals looking to upskill or change careers, evening courses can provide the necessary knowledge and credentials without interrupting their day jobs. These classes

can also help strengthen community ties by bringing together individuals with shared interests and goals.”

Beginning with spring 2025 enrollment, Hailey said the program’s focus will be to offer classes that are required for most degrees, such as English, government, history, math, and speech. In addition, music and art classes also will be offered.

“In the future, the idea is to attract a wide range of participants, fostering a

rich learning community with diverse perspectives,” she said. “We would also like to collaborate with schools, local businesses and others in the community to offer a wider range of courses and resources.”

In addition, Hailey said the DC3 After 5 initiative represents a vital step toward making education more inclusive and accessible for the community.

“By offering flexible learning opportunities, we empower individuals to pursue their goals and enhance their skills, ultimately benefiting both the participants and the community,” she said. “As we continue to adapt to the changing needs of society, initiatives like this can play a crucial role in fostering lifelong learning and personal growth.”

DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said he is excited about the return of the college’s night class program.

“The citizens of Ford County and the surrounding area have been asking for more night classes, and this new initiative is a response to those requests,” Nolte said. “We are a community college that exists to serve its community, and our community has spoken. That’s what DC3 After 5 is all about.” ■

Editor’s Note: For more information regarding the new DC3 After 5 program, people may email the Office of Academic Affairs at academics@dc3.edu.

Partnership Helps Students Get Bachelor’s Degrees

Program Gives DC3 Students an Option to Get 4-Year Degrees Without Leaving Dodge City

Newman University and Dodge City Community College (DC3) recently announced a partnership to bring bachelor’s degree programs to students in Dodge City earlier this year.

Courses are now underway as students begin their path to graduation with bachelor’s degrees in nursing, teaching, agribusiness or business.

“I am so proud that this new partnership allows our students a way to pursue a bachelor’s degree without leaving our area,” Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 president, said. “Instead of finishing their four-year degrees elsewhere, our students can continue their studies here in Dodge City, which is not only a benefit to them but to our community as well.”

The HERE bachelor’s degree program ensures higher education is accessible and affordable for all students in Dodge City. Classes are offered on flexible schedules, and while many students prefer in-person learning, online options are also available. Students may also take courses at night.

All students who have graduated or plan to graduate from DC3 with an associate degree automatically qualify for a \$20,000 scholarship toward coursework on their bachelor’s degree through Newman University. Additionally, students who choose nursing, business or agribusiness will receive a federal Pell or state grant match. This means that all federal Pell or state grants will be matched by Newman University, up to \$7,500. Additional scholarships are available for teaching majors as well.

The program already has 60 students who are currently taking bachelor’s degree courses in Southwest Kansas.

Enrollment periods will continue to occur each fall and spring, and spring 2025 enrollment is currently open. ■

Editor’s Note: For more information about the HERE program, please see the Newman University ad on Page 12. To complete the free HERE application, please visit dc3newman.com.

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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DC3 Student Tapped for Drum and Bugle Corps

by Lance Ziesch

Josue Zapata, a Dodge City Community College (DC3) sophomore from Dodge City, was chosen to perform on July 15-16 with the Sky Ryders, a drum and bugle corps based out of Hutchinson, Kan.

Katherine Bowden, DC3 Interim Band Director, said she and Zapata first heard about the Sky Ryders opportunity from a social media post.

“This was a very prestigious event,” she said. “And it was a great honor for him to represent DC3.”

Zapata, who was tapped to play second snare drum for Sky Ryders, played a “vital” role in the performance, due to his abilities and leadership, Bowden said.

“As a percussionist you have the hardest job of keeping the corps in time and on the beat,” she said. “So, Josue playing second snare in the drumline means he had to be very well rounded on his instrument.”

The Sky Ryders Drum and Bugle Corps—a competitive Hutchinson-based drum and bugle corps that was originally in existence from the 1950s to the 1990s—is in the process of reestablishing itself, with the help of the Sky Ryders Performing Arts Foundation, which was formed in 2022.

Zapata said that performing with the group was “amazing” and felt different than playing at the high school or college levels.

“It was something that felt more special, and it truly is,” he said. “The Sky Ryders haven’t been around since the early ’90s, and I was part of that first group to perform under the name of ‘Sky Ryders’ since then. That is something that no one can ever take away from me and something I’ll always be proud of.”

Another thing no one can take away from Zapata is the fact he has already been asked back for next year as the lead snare drummer, Bowden said.

“Actually, because of how much they loved Josue, Sky Ryders wants to host a camp here this coming summer to see if they can get more talented kids who are in the area to join,” she said. “All ages are able to join, but I hope as they rebuild Sky Ryders, we begin to see more DC3 kids like Josue take part.”

The Sky Ryders performance aside, Bowden said it has been a huge blessing to have Zapata in the DC3 band the past few semesters due to his strong work ethic and leadership skills.

“He builds others up and helps those around him,” she said. “He is constantly trying to improve himself not only as a musician, but as a leader and a person. He is literally every band director’s dream student, and I couldn’t be prouder of him.” ■



ABOVE: Josue Zapata, a Dodge City sophomore, rehearses with the Sky Ryders Drum and Bugle Corps on July 15.

BELOW: Zapata (second row, fifth from left), performs with the Sky Ryders on July 16.





ALEXA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

A total of eight students participated in the DC3 Library's Read and CONquer essay contest, although not all were able to attend the competition's award reception on Oct. 24. Pictured (left to right) are Victoria Bautista Lara, sophomore, Dodge City; Amber Velasco, sophomore, Dodge City; Daisy Lopez, freshman, Dodge City; and Alexis Bradshaw, freshman, Jetmore, Kan.

Students Compete in Essay Contest

Competition Encourages Students to 'Tell Us Who You Are'

A student essay contest called "Tell Us Who You Are" was part of the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Library's celebration of multiculturalism and diversity during the month of October.

Based on the October Read and CONquer Committee's book selection, "Tell Me Who You Are: A Road Map for Cultivating Racial Literacy" by Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi, the contest encouraged DC3 students to submit a 350-word essay about their unique stories and experiences.

Committee member and DC3 Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Lance Ziesch, suggested the contest after reviewing the "Tell Me Who You Are" book, which is a collection of stories about race and identity from people of all walks of life across America.

"Dodge City Community College is a very diverse place with students coming from up to 40 U.S. states and 40 foreign countries each academic year," he said. "After reading some of the essays in

the book, I thought it would be neat to hear these types of stories from our own students."

After some discussion, the committee enthusiastically decided to move forward with the idea.

"Not only are our students able to tell their stories on campus, but the top three essays are included in the fall issue of the Conquistador magazine," Ziesch said. "In addition, they received gift cards to either the campus bookstore or the Conq Corral snack bar."

Holly Mercer, DC3 Library Director, said the contest's overall goal was to encourage students to share their unique stories, perspectives, and identities. Writing these types of essays, she said, can help foster empathy, understanding, and connection among students from different backgrounds—and give voice to experiences that might otherwise go unheard.

"Recording their own stories offers students a powerful opportunity for self-

reflection and personal growth," she said. "It allows them to explore their identities, experiences, and perspectives in a structured way, while also hopefully having some fun with it. This process may lead to increased self-awareness and possibly even increased confidence."

A total of eight students submitted essays for the contest, and the winners were announced at a special reception hosted by the DC3 Library on Oct. 24.

The top five students were Amber Velasco, sophomore, Dodge City (first place); Dorothea Evebo, freshman, Sandane, Norway (second place); Alexis Bradshaw, freshman, Jetmore, Kan. (third place); Vicente Sandoval Basaulto, sophomore, El Quisco, Chile (fourth place); and Jose Figueroa, freshman, Santiago, Chile (fifth place).

In addition, Daisy Lopez, freshmen, Dodge City; Victoria Bautista Lara, sophomore, Dodge City; and Ilias Kafi, freshman, Saint-Pierre-d'Irube, France, received Honorable Mention.

FIRST PLACE: Amber Velasco

Sophomore, Dodge City, Kan.

The first time I remember being shy was in kindergarten, when the teacher asked each student to say their name. While my classmates spoke confidently, I froze. Time seemed to stretch as I felt everyone's eyes on me, barely whispering my name. This small moment shaped the rest of my school career.

I was labeled the shy, quiet girl. I only spoke when called on and never participated in class discussions. My fear of embarrassment kept me from sharing my opinions or trying new things, leading me to miss many opportunities, such as avoiding classes I was interested in because I was too afraid to ask about them. Although I grew used to being shy, I often wondered how different my school experience might have been if I hadn't been too afraid to seize these opportunities.

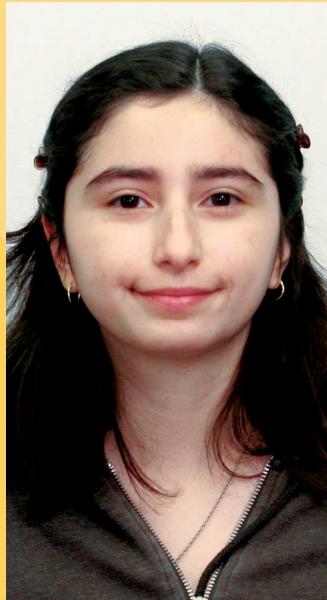
Over the years, my shyness continued to limit me. During my senior year of high school, I finally found the courage to stand up for myself. A teacher had taken away a position I had worked hard for. Rather than staying silent, I spoke up about it. Although I didn't get the spot back, I felt proud of speaking up. This experience sparked a shift in me. No longer hindered by shyness, I began participating in things I had always wanted to try. I competed in an animation competition, switched my schedule to classes I was passionate about, and stopped hesitating to participate.

Now in college, I continue to push myself outside of my comfort zone. I actively seek out ways to participate in clubs and activities that interest me. This shift has not only helped me grow as an individual but also sparked excitement for the future. When deciding between an art degree and a business administration degree, I chose business because it combined my love for art with a new confidence to run my own business. The shy girl I was in kindergarten would have never put herself in a position to be noticed. Today, I continue to challenge myself and embrace my passions with confidence.

SECOND PLACE: Dorthea Evebo

Sophomore, Sandane, Norway

I am a mix of cultures and experiences, shaped by my upbringing in a small town on the west coast of Norway. My mother is from Thailand, and my father is from Norway. This background makes my identity special. Growing up in a place with few opportunities made me want to explore and see more of the world. From a young age, I have loved to travel. The beautiful landscapes of Norway, with its fjords and mountains, made me curious about other countries. I wanted to learn about different cultures, foods, and ways of living. Each trip I take helps me learn and grow, opening my eyes to new experiences.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORITZ

Amber Velasco



JORGE H. GARCIA

Dorthea Evebo



JORGE H. GARCIA

Alexis Bradshaw

Meeting new people excites me. I enjoy connecting with others through shared experiences, whether it's talking with travelers or making friends in new places. These connections make my life richer and help me appreciate our shared stories. They show me that, despite our different backgrounds, we all have similar hopes and dreams. Challenging myself is also an important part of who I am. I believe that we grow when we step outside our comfort zone. Whether it is learning a new language, trying new foods, or moving to a foreign country, each challenge helps me become more resilient and adaptable.

In the end, I am a curious explorer at heart, driven by a desire to learn and connect with others. My multicultural background and love for adventure give me a strong foundation for my life. They inspire me to seek new experiences and embrace the beauty of diversity in the world around me.

THIRD PLACE: Alexis Bradshaw

Freshman, Jetmore, Kan.

I thought the sound of my crutches on the tile floor was enough to show how much mental and emotional pain I was in, but that smile and laugh I carried always hid my trail of troubles and trauma. Over the months, years of the life I knew unveiled its true colors. I felt lost and wasn't my usual self.

To get in shape for track, I went for a run. I reached the top of a steep hill, turned around, and began running back down. All of a sudden, I heard a weird pop from my left knee. Instantly, I stopped running and sat down. I couldn't bend my knee correctly. It caught with searing pain and would unbend itself like it was an old door refusing to shut. I began my new chapter by the time I stiffly walked myself a mile back home and told my mom what happened.

I came out of surgery devastated with everything. I remember asking God why this happened to me, when I fought and prayed so hard for peace in my life for years just for me to get more pain and loss. I thought He abandoned me. He knows running is my healing. It's what brings me close to Him and got me away from traumatic times.

I cried so hard one night praying, wondering if I did something wrong. I felt someone hug me and I opened my eyes to find no one near me. Then I heard a whisper in my ear, "This will all pass. When it does, this will be a beautiful story of your blessing. These tears you cry now will become beautiful tears, my daughter. You are strong and I will never put on you that is too hard for you to handle." I regained my mental strength and strove for my healing. I kept going and going. Now, eight months after my surgery I'm living my dream and running track for DC3. God was right, my tears at that time are now a beautiful testimony. I thank Him for that. ■

CONO NATION



SINCE

1935

FIRST
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CHURCH



DC3 Represents at 2024 Dodge City Days Parade

by Lance Ziesch

More than 280 Dodge City Community College (DC3) students, faculty, and staff took part in the 2024 Dodge City Days Western Parade on July 27.

With approximately 110 more people participating than last year, the college's 2024 parade entry included several college vehicles, floats from the Nursing Department and the Adult Learning Center (ALC), and student-athletes and coaches representing the Football, Men's and Women's Soccer, Track and Field, Volleyball, Cheer, and Rodeo teams.

In addition, DC3 faculty and staff from Athletic Training, Athletics, the Business Office, Financial Aid, Marketing, the President's Office, Science and Math, Security, and Transportation also joined in the fun.

Following the parade, the DC3 Rodeo Team was recognized on Aug. 7 for its winning entry in the parade. Placing first in the Horse & Western category, the team received a check for \$250 from the Dodge City Chapter of AMBUCS. ■





A New Bridge for Lake Charles

DC3 Receives a Grant for a New Fishing Bridge

by Lance Ziesch

Recently, Dodge City Community College (DC3) was awarded a \$40,000 grant to help replace the aging bridge on Lake Charles.

The \$40,000 grant, which is the largest amount given to a single project in the program, was awarded to the college on Aug. 14 by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) Community Fisheries Assistance Program.

Jared Stevens, DC3 Director of Facilities and Operations, said he began to consider replacing the old bridge last winter when the lake thawed and revealed a massive amount of wood rot.

“The former bridge was made of wood and metal with plastic floats,” he said. “Over the years, we at the Facilities Department did our best to keep up with its maintenance. However, the problems just became greater and greater.”

Not only were the wooden portions of the bridge rotting, but Stevens said the expanded metal walkway was rusting, the railings were coming loose, and the plastic floats were taking on water.

“The issues were becoming insurmountable,” he said. “We repaired

what we could over the years, but recently we had to close off a section of the bridge because it just wasn’t safe to walk on anymore.”

Stevens said the new modular bridge is gray and made of polyethylene plastic, a material that will not rot, splinter, or require paint. And it will hold up in all types of weather—including high winds and strong storms—without needing replacement planks or other substitutions.

“The old bridge was first put into the water many, many years ago, and it was taken out at least two times for repairs,” he said. “The first time was about 15 years ago, and the second was in 2019.”

During the 2019 refurbishment, Stevens said any damaged pieces were repaired or replaced, and the bridge’s color was changed from sky blue to purple and gold.

“It was also decided that this would be the last time it would be taken out and repaired without a complete rebuild,” he said. “The floats underneath the bridge were the deciding factor, as many were starting to take on water even then.”

The redesigned Lake Charles bridge, which features a small fishing dock, arrived

on campus on Sept. 11, and its modular sections were assembled on Sept. 12-13 by DC3 maintenance staff.

“EZ Dock of the Great Plains prebuilt the bridge for us,” Stevens said. “In addition to the fishing dock, another neat feature of the bridge is that it floats according to the lake’s water line. So, when Lake Charles floods, the bridge will not be underwater like it was in the past.”

The new bridge project, which cost a total of \$58,872.24, was approved by the DC3 Board of Trustees on Aug. 27.

“Of course, the grant covered \$40,000 of that, which is about 68% of the project,” Stevens said. “And the college paid the remaining \$18,872.24.”

DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said he is excited about the upgrade to the Lake Charles bridge.

“We are incredibly proud of our beautiful campus here at Dodge City Community College,” he said. “And Lake Charles is a huge part of that. It’s an iconic spot for both the campus and our community, and I’m glad we can once again offer people full access to the bridge.” ■



LANCE ZIESCH

The extent of deterioration to the bridge's east side can be seen in this Aug. 29 photo.



LANCE ZIESCH

Maintenance staff work to remove sections of the old bridge from Lake Charles on Sept. 10.



LANCE ZIESCH

Maintenance staff members work to assemble the modular sections of the new bridge on Sept. 12. Pictured (from left to right) are Daemian Serna, Dallas Katz, Marcus Coca, Hunter Edwards, and Alejandro Delgado. Jared Stevens, Director of Facilities and Operations, can be seen in the background guiding the completed sections of the bridge to the west shore.



FLASHBACK TO APRIL 23, 2008. Dr. Richard Burke (at podium), DC3 President, gives a welcome address at the beginning of the Fallen Warrior Memorial dedication ceremony. Also pictured (left to right) are Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, Adjutant General of Kansas; Josh Klein, DC3 Student Government Association (SGA) President; and Jeff Hiers, Wilroads Gardens Christian Church Pastor.

Fallen Warrior Memorial

A Look Back at the April 23, 2008, Dedication Ceremony

by Lance Ziesch

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Fallen Warrior Memorial is located between the Student Union and Science & Math buildings. It has been a stately fixture on the campus quad for the past 16 years since its installation.

Dedicated to U.S. Army Sgt., Benjamin C. Morton; U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Brian A. Escalante; and U.S. Army Sgt. Christopher R. Kruse, it is a proud reminder of three former DC3 students who gave their lives for their country while serving in Iraq.

Morton was a former DC3 student from Wright, Kan., who died on May 22, 2005, in Mosul, Iraq, when his dismounted patrol encountered enemy small arms fire. Morton was assigned to the 1st Battalion,

24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Escalante was a former DC3 student from Dodge City, who died on Feb. 17, 2007, in Al Asad, Iraq. He was riding in a Humvee with four other Marines when a remote-controlled bomb exploded near their vehicle. Escalante was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, at Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Kruse was a former DC3 student from Dodge City, who died on Nov. 13, 2007, in Mukhisa, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated during dismounted combat operations. Kruse was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd

Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Wash.

As stated in the April 30, 2008, *Conquistador* newspaper, which ran a cover story about the memorial's dedication ceremony on April 23, 2008, "The Battlefield Cross is the memorial's focal point and has a symbolic meaning that dates to the Civil War."

The next paragraph adds, "It symbolizes a fallen warrior and has been traditionally used on the battlefield as well as base camps. The rifle belonging to the warrior is pointed upside down and toward the ground. Atop the rifle is the helmet of the warrior; and the boots belonging to the warrior are at the base of the rifle,

symbolizing a warrior's final march in the final battle of his or her life."

These three simple, yet powerful objects, make up the DC3 bronze Battlefield Cross statue, which rests on a squarish concrete pedestal at the center of the memorial. Surrounding it—two on the north side and one on the south—are three black metal benches with engraved plaques that record each warrior's name, birth and death dates, and branch of military service.

A big part of the memorial's design is its iconic benches, which were designed and made by Tim Burns, of Jetmore, Kan., who was a college welding instructor at the time. In addition to the Fallen Warrior Memorial, these benches also can be found in various locations around campus.

The late Dr. Richard Burke, who was DC3's President at the time of the dedication, came up with the overall design for the memorial. In 2008, he said he designed it to be something that would last the test of time—and something that would truly honor the three students and their families for years to come.

"We are so very fortunate," Burke said, in his remarks at the 2008 dedication ceremony. "To have brave young men and women who serve our nation in the country and overseas, so that we may continue to enjoy the many blessings we have in our various walks of life."

In the unfortunate event that more DC3 students end up giving their lives for their country, there will be room to honor them as well, Burke said during his remarks. He said three additional benches could be included with the existing layout—one on the north side between the two benches designated for Escalante and Kruse, and two on the south side flanking the bench designated for Morton.

"The memorial is an octagon shape; we would add more benches in at least three areas—which I truly hope we don't need them," Burke said, in his remarks. "But

we can also put more benches along the walkway."

In addition to several guests of honor at the dedication, such as Rep. Pat George, Sen. Tim Huelskamp, Gen. Frank Scroggins, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, and representatives from the Kansas Board of Regents, there were also community leaders representing business, government, education, and society. However, Richard Burke said the true guests of honor that day were the 29 family members in attendance.

"The true guests of honor that we pay tribute to are the family members," Burke said, in his remarks. "The fathers, mothers, wives, children, brothers, sisters and relatives who are with us today. You have paid the ultimate sacrifice. You honor us by being here today. We thank you."

During the ceremony, Burke also thanked the DC3 Foundation, the DC3 Student Government Association (SGA), the DC3 Physical Plant employees, Tim Burns, Brak-Hard Concrete Construction, members of the Patriot Guard, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard for making the memorial and dedication possible.

He also noted that a majority of the funds needed for the project came from "contributors and SGA donations."

In a Dodge City Daily Globe article from April 24, 2008, Josh Klein, who was the SGA president at the time, said in his remarks that he thought the memorial would be a lasting tribute to the fallen soldiers and their sacrifices.

"On this occasion, I am reminded of a Bible verse that I learned from my dad when I was younger: 'No greater love hath a man than to lay down his life for his friends,'" Klein said, slightly paraphrasing John 15:13. "With this memorial, these fallen warriors will never be forgotten by the students and staff of this college." ■

Thoughts on the Memorial 16 Years Later

"Brian Escalante was a student of mine before he enlisted. He was killed in action, and I went to his funeral. There was a big turnout for it."

—

"My brother, like me, was a Vietnam combat veteran. As a result, he had great empathy for soldiers and especially respect for those who died. The memorial was primarily his idea, and I supported it wholeheartedly."

—

"I think it is a fine tribute to students who died in service to their country to be honored on campus. I hope that current students will notice and perhaps reflect on their sacrifice."

—Larry Burke

Retired DC3 History Professor and brother of the late Dr. Richard Burke



COLLEGE ARCHIVES



Amariah White (left) and Agnes Hegardt (right) go up for a block against Butler Community College in a five-set comeback win for the Conqs during the 2024 season.

Volleyball Finishes Third in Jayhawk Conference

by Mike Smith

Year two under Head Coach, **Erin Mellinger** saw the Dodge City volleyball team compete for a top spot in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) as the Conquistadors would finish third, marking the program's highest finish since 2010.

The Conquistadors put together a 21-14 record and recorded 11 conference wins—the most since 2010.

The team would compete against some topflight competition as 10 of the team's losses came to teams who made the National Junior College Athletic

Association (NJCAA) Division I (DI) National tournament.

For the third straight season, the Conqs would record a first-round playoff victory as they beat Hutchinson 3-0 to earn a spot in the NJCAA DI Plains District Playoffs Semifinals where their season would conclude.

Five Conqs earned the distinction of All-Conference KJCCC honors as **Amariah White** was selected to first team, **Leisey Keli'i** picked up second team honors for the second straight year, and the trio of **Azra Arslanoglu**, **Hayden**

Pinard, and **Sila Yildiz** each earned honorable mentions.

The season also saw a pair of school records broken as **Keli'i** finished her Conq career as the all-time leader in career digs in school history with 1,090. She became the first Conq to surpass 1,000 career digs.

Beatriz Lampugnani Cornachini etched her name in the school record books also as she finished her Conq career with 656 kills to own the school career record.

The Dodge City volleyball team finished the 2024 season strong recording a 21-14 record. ■

Women's Cross Country Caps Year in 12th Place

by Mike Smith

It's been top tier finishes nationally over the past years for the Dodge City women's cross country team, and the 2024 season was no different as the program finished 12th at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I (DI) National Championship in Virginia.

The Conquistadors capped the season by finishing 12th nationally making it five straight years with a Top 12 finish nationally. Leading the way for the Conqs was **Sarai Chavez** who with a

time of 19:16.1 earned 56th place out of 184 runners. **Ivy Washington** and **Ava Washington** were just behind her with times of 19:18.6 and 19:21.7 to finish 57th and 59th. **Daniela Cerda** captured a 70th place finish with a time of 19:39.2, while **Teresa Martinez** and **Abbi Worden** also competed finishing 113th (20:43.1) and 115th (20:45.4).

Throughout the season the Conqs recorded five Top Three team finishes at competitions including third place

overall at regionals and fourth place in the NJCAA DI schools. The Conqs would take second at the Neosho County Community College Invite, along with third place finishes at the Terry Masterson Twilight Classic hosted by Hutchinson and at the Fort Hays State Invite.

The Conqs capped another strong season with a Top 12 finish nationally for the women's cross country program. ■



The women's cross country team raced to a third-place finish overall at Region 6 Championships and a 12th-place finish at the NJCAA National Championship. Pictured, left to right, are Sarai Chavez, Ivy Washington, Daniela Cerda, and Ava Washington.

MIKE SMITH



DC3 Celebrates Homecoming

Dodge City Community College (DC3) students participated in range of activities scheduled for this year's Homecoming Week. From donuts and coffee in the college quad on Oct. 8, to bracelet making and ice cream floats in the cafeteria on Oct. 10, a wide variety of events were hosted by the Student Activities Department.

In addition, two meals also were sponsored throughout the week. The first being a barbecue feed in front of the Student Activity Center prior to the volleyball game on Oct. 9, and the second being a hamburger feed tailgate party at Memorial Stadium before the Homecoming football game on Oct. 12.

The week culminated with the crowning of a king and queen at halftime of the football game, which resulted in a 39-15 Conquistador victory over Ellsworth Community College. ■



LANCE ZIESCH

As in past years, the Homecoming bonfire and pep rally was led by the DC3 cheerleaders. Dubbed Spirit Friday, the event was kicked off with a pizza party.



LANCE ZIESCH

On Oct. 11, DC3 students and employees gathered for the 2024 Homecoming bonfire and pep rally, which was in the old rodeo arena behind Coleman-Webb Hall.



LANCE ZIESCH

Members of the DC3 Band gather for a photo prior to the Oct. 11 bonfire and pep rally.



LANCE ZIESCH

Great Western Dining staff serve barbecue in front of the Student Activity Center on Oct. 9, as part of Homecoming Week's Wild West Wednesday.



LANCE ZIESCH

The DC3 Homecoming Week concluded with the crowning of a king and queen at halftime of the DC3 football game, on Oct. 12. Pictured above (left to right) are candidates from the 2024 Homecoming Court: Ryan Larner (Cheer), sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Avy Zapata (Cheer), sophomore, Pasadena, Texas; King Damien Wood (Rodeo), sophomore, Bosque, N.M.; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Queen Iran Rodriguez (Women's Soccer), Dodge City; Kerya Powell (Football), sophomore, Humble, Texas; Bianca Gleim (Track), sophomore, Aurora, Colo.; Antonio Delgado (Football), sophomore, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Jahaziel Alualu-Talamoa (Volleyball), sophomore, Honolulu, Hawaii.



JORGE H. GARCIA

On Oct. 12, the Homecoming game vs. Ellsworth Community College would result in a 39-15 victory for the Conqs.



LANCE ZIESCH

The Homecoming Week culminated with the football game versus Ellsworth Community College on Oct. 12. The 2024 King and Queen, who were crowned at halftime, are Damien Wood, sophomore, Bosque, N.M.; and Iran Rodriguez, Dodge City. Also pictured is Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President.



LANCE ZIESCH

The Conquistador Football Team takes the field for the Homecoming game vs. Ellsworth Community College, on Oct. 12, at Memorial Stadium.



JAH ZEIT ALIYAH TALAMONA

In a 39-15 win, Kerya Powell ran for a 67-yard touchdown against Ellsworth Community College on Oct. 12.

Football Puts Together Winning Season

by Mike Smith

For the second straight season the Dodge City football team finished the year with a winning record as first-year Head Coach Ryan Lusby guided the team to a 6-4 record for the 2024 season.

The back-to-back winning seasons are the first since 2015 and 2016 for the program as the Conquistadors look to continue to build for the future.

The Conqs went 5-0 at home on the season and for the second straight year finished with a winning record in crossover series with Iowa schools going 2-1.

The Conqs for the second straight year finished in the Top 15 nationally picking up wins over Iowa Central, Tyler, Ellsworth, and Independence—along with a forfeit win over Garden City—all at home, while also beating Highland on the road.

Coach Lusby is one of six coaches in school history—of the 23 in the program’s history—to start his coaching career at Dodge City with a winning record.

The Conqs also had seven players earn All-Conference Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC)

honors for their performances during the season. **Sam Brooks** earned first-team honors at safety, while **Stone Wilson**, **Quentin Butler**, and **Tory Gethers** picked up second-team honors at running back, offensive guard, and linebacker.

Honorable Mention honors were earned by **Kerya Powell**, **Caleb Sedegan**, and **Noah Williams** at wide receiver, tight end, and linebacker.

The Dodge City football team finished the 2024 season 6-4 finishing fourth in the KJCCC, recording a 21-14 record. ■

Baseball vs. Softball

Teams Square Off in Halloween Scrimmage Just for Fun

On Oct. 30, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) baseball and softball teams had a spooky good time as they competed against each other in a Halloween-themed scrimmage at Legends Park. In addition to the student-athletes, even the coaches from both teams got into the action! ■



MIKE SMITH



MIKE SMITH



MIKE SMITH



MIKE SMITH



Please Help Us Build Our Archives!

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 Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at lziesch@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:

DC3 Foundation

620-225-9171

foundation@dc3.edu

www.dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/campaigns



#TogetherWeCONquer

From the Director's Desk



Change. Sometimes that word strikes fear in people. Sometimes it creates an excitement and anticipation for things to come. Sometimes it represents uncertainty. Sometimes it showcases clarity.

Change is important in many ways, including personal growth, professional development, and organizational successes. Embracing change gives you the guts to do more. Change can help you grow as a person, explore new things, and learn from different people or situations. It can bring new perspectives, new possibilities, newfound confidence, and continuous improvement.

There are changes within the DC3 Foundation. A quote famously attributed to Albert Einstein says, “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results” defines insanity. This does not refer to the Foundation as insane, mind you. It simply means you must be willing to try different approaches, which leads me to revealing the changes happening at the Foundation.

The Foundation is looking for a new executive director to spearhead development for Dodge City Community College! Where did I go? I was asked to become the director of the Financial Aid Department on campus, and well, it took me back home where I started at DC3 and is allowing me to work directly with students again. However, I am still working for the Foundation as an interim director for the time being during this time of transition.

I look back at the eight years I have had with the DC3 Foundation, and I look back at those years fondly. We recreated an organization that needed change. We worked hard to make all sorts of projects at the college become a reality. We consolidated with the former Endowment Association and the former Alumni Association, and in doing so, developed a vibrant and strong scholarship program. We reinvigorated the annual golf tournament and the annual auction into pretty amazing events that really took off! I did not do these things... WE did these things. All of you and I.

So, do you know of someone who would love to jump into a great opportunity? Someone who would love to take our little Foundation to the next level? Send them our way! I am very excited to meet the next DC3 Foundation director as we will work very closely together, and I cannot wait to see how much more the Foundation WILL grow with this new leader's vision and passion for Dodge City Community College!

Thank you for being amazing supporters! Please KEEP BEING amazing supporters! I am still here and will be for a long time. Together we can embrace change and launch the DC3 Foundation further into the future than we ever have before! It is time to DO MORE!

#TogetherWeConquer #TogetherWeCanDoMORE

Christina Haselhorst
Director of Financial Aid and Interim Director of Foundation



LANCE ZIESCH



LANCE ZIESCH



JORGE H. GARCIA

DC3 Foundation Hosts Successful Golf Tournament

by Christina Haselhorst

With summer in full swing, the 14th annual DC3 Foundation Golf Tournament was on Aug. 16, at the Mariah Hills Golf Course in Dodge City.

This year, several student-athlete teams joined the event to volunteer, oversee games on the course, and assist with the serving of lunch for all in attendance.

Throughout the last several years of the tournament, participants have come to know and bond with the DC3 students who volunteer at the event. This helps participants to meet and know firsthand the lives that the fundraiser is affecting.

Title sponsors for this event were Hilmar Cheese Company, LLC, Conant Construction, and United Capital Management (sponsoring a great lunch from John Ross Catering).

Other sponsors were LPL Financial-Ann Frigon, Boot Hill Casino and Resort, ITC Great Plains, Kerbs Law Office, Steven and Pamela Preston, Great Western Dining, and Victory Electric.

Proceeds from this event benefit the DC3 Foundation and its programs.

“The golf tournament is one of my favorite events each year,” Christina

Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Financial Aid and Interim Foundation Director, said. “This event has grown so much over the last few years!”

Haselhorst said the community’s support showcases the importance of the mission of the DC3 Foundation for Dodge City Community College.

“It is a day to reconnect with area leaders and friends who are engaged with DC3 and to meet new faces,” she said. “I am thankful for the funds raised by this event every year, which allow us to continue to grow the Foundation for future Conqs.” ■

DC3 Foundation Donors

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

by Christina Haselhorst

These generous donors gave to the DC3 Foundation from May 8, 2024, to Nov. 11, 2024. Totalling more than \$150,000 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

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contribution is tax-deductible but more importantly, supports the DC3 Foundation's commitment to service our Dodge City Community College 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! ■

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Foundation Announces Scholarship Winners

by Christina Haselhorst

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation recently announced the scholarship recipients for the 2024-2025 school year.

“The Foundation supports more than 55 scholarships for full-time students,” Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Interim Foundation Director, said. “Scholarship awards range from \$250 to \$1,000 per semester, and students are eligible to apply for these scholarships through the DC3 Foundation.”

“The Foundation is still completing participation in a program through Title V that requires the Foundation to place unrestricted funds into an investment account where it will stay for 20 years,” she said. “That will be available to future students and is a great way to grow the endowment funds for the organization.”

Donors are encouraged to send these unrestricted gifts this year to help the Foundation build up the endowment for years to come.

“I am grateful for the committed donors across the nation who submit donations each year to the scholarships entrusted to the DC3 Foundation,” Haselhorst said. “At DC3, because the tuition is so cost effective, we are able to help more students per capita than a larger, more expensive institution.”

The 2024-2025 recipients are as follows:

- **Eldon Becker Education Scholarship:** Ashley Martinez-Rodriguez
- **Jim Bock Memorial Scholarship:** Nila Alvarado, Alayna Holecek, Jeilen Augustin, Josie Garcia, Frida Oropeza, Zariyah Simmons, Damaris Coca, Andrew Crumb, Y. Gardea Machado, Alda Gomes

- **DCHS Classes '60, '61, '62, White & Williams Scholarship:** Cindy Riz Morales, Allyson Kramer
- **Elisa Murphy Memorial:** Elen Perez, Deanna Fehr
- **Bernice Williams Memorial:** Danica Amerin
- **James and Carl Noland Memorial:** Arnoldo Renova-Gonzalez
- **Howard and Thelma Sailor Memorial:** Brayana Marquina-Mendez, Alexis Bradshaw, Chase Kessler, Catrena Graham, Lovell Vereen II
- **Richard K. Burke, PhD Memorial:** Zoe Matthews
- **Frank and Edith Spaniol Memorial:** Amber Velasco, Aspen Haskell
- **Cleda Dodge Memorial Nursing:** Ryan Jensen
- **Vera Tully Nursing:** Emily Estevane-Moran
- **Scroggins Nursing Scholarship:** Megan Bennett
- **Lucille Schaapfeld Nursing Scholarship:** Cheyenne Davis
- **Glen & Marjory Jeffery Memorial:** Candie Southern
- **June Hull Sherrid Nursing:** Alyson Dreiling, Daisy Quinones
- **Jack Stoecker Athletic:** Donald “Newt” Taylor
- **Carl and Linda Bjork Scholarship:** Riley Moore, Kloe Nelson
- **Barnes-Gleckler Scholarship:** Betsy Gregg
- **Clair C. Conard Family Foundation Scholarship:** Elijah Lang, Kara Haselhorst
- **Math/Science:** Josiah Moss
- **Bob Schmitt Scholarship:** Frankie Martens, Arias Armenta
- **Eloise Berryman Memorial Scholarship:** Allyson Hamblin
- **Ed Alexander Scholarship:** Samantha Alaniz, Madison Vogel
- **Joe D. and Melissa R. Rodriguez Hispanic Legacy Scholarship:** Josue Zapata
- **Landon Jay Frazier Scholarship:** Morgan Ruff, Shyann Clark, Anyssa Macias-Adame, Lexi Hunt
- **Leslie and Betty Houser Scholarship:** Becca Unruh, Teresa Martinez, Amery Macias-Adame, Alayna Holecek, Julian Armenta, Cherlyn De La Cruz-Martinez, Emely Turcios Ramos, Emily Alonso



Class Notes

Chelsey Schartz



CLASS OF 2018

From Riley, Kan., Chelsey Schartz attended Dodge City Community College (DC3) from 2016 to 2018, graduating in May 2018.

Schartz is a wildlife conservation photographer, filmmaker, and marketing specialist. With a deep commitment to conservation, she uses her artistic skills to spread awareness and inspire change through visual storytelling.

Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to conservation efforts, beginning with an internship at the Toucan Rescue Ranch in Costa Rica. During this time, she leveraged social media and digital fundraising to financially secure new security measures for the organization.

In 2023, Schartz became the Marketing Manager for the Sedgwick County Zoo, in Wichita, Kan.

Editor's Note: Do you have a DC3 story to share? Feel free to submit your memories of DC3, along with any photos or life updates, to alumni@dc3.edu. We would love to hear from you!

COLLEGE ARCHIVES

- **Noble Melencamp Academic Scholarship:**
Josie Oakley, Teanna Beckham, Cole Rickard, Kaylee Kinsinger, Jordyn Boxberger, Layla Kerr, Brooklyn Kopp, Davis Blair, Carson Spoons, Kierstin Lindseth, Camdyn Cunningham, Juan Concepcion
- **President's IHO Marietta & Gene Kirk:**
Leisey Tiana Leilani Keli'i
- **Marvin Hampton Memorial Scholarship:**
Whitley Cash, Luc Soler
- **Johnny Boom Memorial Scholarship:**
Stephanie Ortega
- **Foundation Rodeo Fund:** Jerimiah Gullion, Cody Vance, Leland Kooper, McKinley Cole Dennis, Chloe Hock
- **Haley Scholarship:** Rogelio Aguilar, Andrew Heinz, Austin Hornung, Evan Pyle, Tonny Marquez

“The above list reflects only the Foundation’s scholarships, which means it does not include the full number of scholarships available to DC3 students,” Haselhorst said. “Additionally, we are able to continue to award this year throughout the academic year.”

Students interested in applying for scholarships should visit dc3.edu to view institutional aid options at <https://dc3.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships/>.

“On behalf of the DC3 Foundation, congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients,” she said. “We are excited to be able to continue to assist students in their educational endeavors at Dodge City Community College.”

For more information on how to become a donor and partner with the DC3 Foundation for student scholarships, projects, and the future of the DC3 Foundation, visit <https://dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/> or email foundation@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.



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Just One More

On Sept. 4, members of the DC3 Baseball Team showed up with gusto to cheer on the DC3 Volleyball Team as they battled Garden City Community College. Although the Conqs dropped the first set, they ended up winning the match with three set wins.



LANIGER ZIESCH