

The Conquistador

Fall 2025

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DC3 CHEERLEADERS FIRE UP THE CROWD AT THE SEPT. 27 FOOTBALL GAME AGAINST HIGHLAND, DURING THE COLLEGE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY WEEK.

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Celebrating 90 Years of Conq Nation!

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DC3 Signs MOU with K-State
for Bachelor's Degree Access

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DC3 Celebrates
Homecoming



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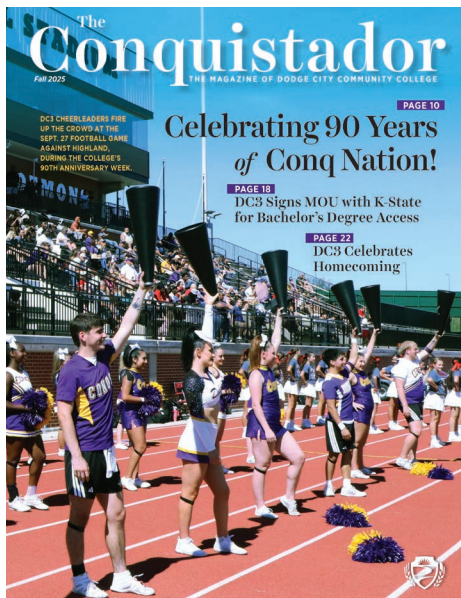
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The Conquistador

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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,742

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

13

STUDENTS FROM

39

STATES/TERRITORIES

30

COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

17

STUDENT GENDER

49%

FEMALE

51%

MALE

90 Years Young



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

As in past issues, this edition features stories about student achievements, excellence in athletics, and the many ways DC3 students contribute to our community. It also includes numerous photos from our 90th Anniversary celebration in September and our Homecoming Week in November.

Both celebrations were busy weeks filled with activities that showcased DC3 and its wonderful students. To say I am proud of what we accomplished would be an understatement. There are so many great things happening on our campus and in our community, and it's always valuable to take a moment to appreciate them. And while we did spend time looking back on our first 90 years, please know, we remain laser-focused on the future.

I often say that our job is simple: to recruit, to retain, to educate, and to graduate. Based on the articles in this magazine, you can see that we take these four tasks seriously. I hope you also see that DC3 is in good hands. Reflecting on our rich history has been meaningful, but looking ahead to our bright future is even more exciting. We may be 90 years young, but our story is far from over!

Thank you for being a part of Conq Nation—and enjoy the issue!

All the best,
Harold Nolte
Harold Nolte, Ed.D.
President

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



The DC3 rodeo team was recognized on Aug. 15 for its winning entry in the 2025 Dodge City Days Western Parade. Placing second in the Horse & Western category, the team received a check for \$225 from the Dodge City Chapter of AMBUCS. Pictured (left to right) are Colton Valenta, DC3 Assistant Rodeo Coach; Jacob Perkey, DC3 Head Rodeo Coach; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Jacob Ripple, DC3 Athletic Director; and Chris Woodruff, DC3 Assistant Athletic Director.



LANCE ZIESCH

More than 325 DC3 students and employees participated in the college's Dodge City Days Western Parade entry on July 26. Above, Jacob Perkey, Head Rodeo Coach, stands on horseback to give a short thumbs up to the camera.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

More than 50 people gathered for the grand reopening of the Coleman-Webb Residence Hall on Aug. 5, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted in partnership with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce. The event marked the completion of a full remodel of the hall, which was originally built in 1989 and named after former instructors Cal Coleman (Band Director, 1971-1989) and Dorothy Webb (Professor of Nursing, 1958-1986).



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORITZ

DC3 hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony, in partnership with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce, for its new Automotive Technology Center on Aug. 28. The state-of-the-art facility, completed in 2024, is dedicated to the late Jeffrey Cole, a 17-year DC3 Professor of Diesel/Automotive Technology. Cole, who played a key role in designing both the building and the automotive program, passed away on Aug. 7, 2024—just one week before the program's official launch on Aug. 14, 2024. Speakers at the ceremony included Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Gary Harshberger, DC3 Board of Trustees Chair; Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development; and U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, who was instrumental in securing grant funding for the program. The event was attended by community partners—including representatives from Dodge City Public Schools and Lewis Automotive Group—as well as Cole's family and friends.



HOLLY MERCER

Approximately 67 DC3 students gave back to the local community on Sept. 7, by volunteering and performing at the sixth-annual International Festival in Wright Park. Representing a wide range of programs, including track and cross country, rodeo, men's soccer, men's golf, and the music department, students dedicated their time and energy to help make the event a success. DC3 students assisted with festival setup and teardown, served food in the popular Crossroads Kitchen, and participated in games and cultural activities with festivalgoers of all ages, with some students performing on stage.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORITZ

DC3 students took the next step in their academic journeys on Sept. 18, at the Fall Transfer Fair in the DC3 Library. Nearly 85 students met with representatives from a total of 21 Kansas and Oklahoma colleges and universities.

Cong Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



JORGE H. GARCIA

On Oct. 1, DC3 Tech hosted its annual Career Exploration Day at the Western State Bank Expo Center. The event welcomed approximately 800 middle and high school students from nine area schools. Jennifer Lix (left), Director of Nursing, demonstrates the proper techniques for listening to a patient's heart and lungs using a medical mannequin.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On Oct. 7, the DC3 Rodeo Team brought a selection of farm animals to the Child Development Center for Animal Day. Pictured above are Adyson O'Reilly, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Cooper Killian.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

DC3 showcased its vocal ensembles during the Fall Choral Concert on Oct. 9 in the Little Theatre. Under the direction of DC3 Vocal Professor Kerry J. Kuplic, with accompaniment by Gloria Morford, student groups performed a variety of pieces, highlighting their ranges and talents, with some featuring student solos. To close the evening, all ensembles joined together for a final group performance.



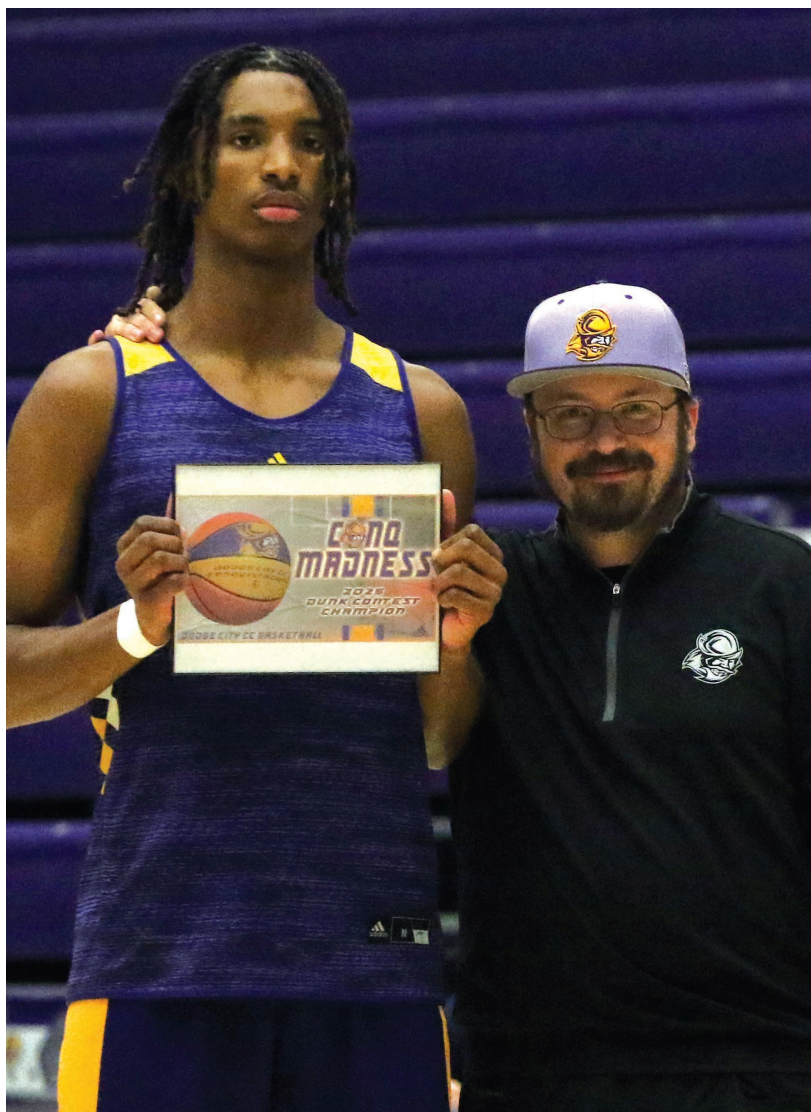
ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

The DC3 Nursing Department hosted its first-ever health assessment clinic on Oct. 14, giving Level 1 nursing students the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge in a hands-on setting. Students performed full head-to-toe assessments on volunteers, including checking vital signs such as blood pressure, pulse rate, and body temperature, under the supervision of their instructors.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

DC3 welcomed approximately 180 high school seniors from across Kansas on Oct. 23 for Senior Day at the Skinner Student Activity Center. During the event, Student Ambassadors (from left to right) Jake Voss, sophomore, Concordia, Kan., Amery Macias, sophomore, Dodge City; and Anyssa Macias, sophomore, Dodge City, shared their Conquistador experiences during a special panel discussion.



CAMPBELL ANDERSON

DC3 Athletics hosted its fifth-annual Conq Madness basketball kickoff on Oct. 21 at the Skinner Student Activity Center. The event featured team introductions, scrimmages, three-point and dunk contests, and prize giveaways. Pictured above are 2025 Dunk Contest Champion, Jordan Russell, freshman from Washington, D.C., and Mike Smith, Sports Information Director.

Cong Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On Oct. 23, DC3 nursing students visited Beeson Elementary to read aloud to young learners. The event brought smiles and laughter as the future nurses shared stories aloud with the children. Pictured (from left to right) are Dodge City sophomores, Janeth Guzman Rodriguez, Elizabeth Cisneros Vazquez, and Perla Ambriz.



JACOB PERKEY

The DC3 Rodeo Team hosted its first-ever Halloween jackpot on Oct. 28, at the college's rodeo practice facility, which proved to be a night filled with laughter and healthy competition. Two of the jackpot's winners, were team ropers Chestin Smith-Rohman (left), sophomore, Bailey, Colo., and Jackson Wykert, freshman, Grant, Neb., who dressed as Mario and Luigi!



MIKE SMITH

On Oct. 28, the DC3 baseball and softball teams had a spooky good time as they competed against each other in the second-annual Halloween-themed slow-pitch scrimmage at Legends Park.



LANCE ZIESCH

DC3 officially unveiled the newly renovated Cavalier Field on Oct. 30, celebrating the milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in partnership with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce. The upgraded facility now features brand-new DC3-branded turf, giving the home of the Conquistador baseball team a bold and refreshed look. Before the Conqs took the field for Game 2 of their Fall World Series scrimmage, DC3 Board of Trustees Chair Gary Harshberger and Dodge City Mayor Jeff Reiner marked the occasion by throwing out the ceremonial first pitches.



JORGE H. GARCIA

DC3 hosted its 25th-annual Halloween tradition on Oct. 30. For the event, which was renamed Haunted Halls this year, Shelden Hall was transformed into a festive corridor of fun as students in costume lined the dorm doors, handing out candy to approximately 700 local children and their families.



LANCE ZIESCH

The Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) awarded seven scholarships to DC3 Building Construction Technology students on Nov. 4. Pictured (from left to right) are Gracie Beierle, sophomore, Centennial, Colo.; Patrick Shiew, DC3 Professor of Building/Construction Technology; Jake Voss, sophomore, Concordia, Kan.; Craig Mock, CHAD Board Member; Adrik Perez, sophomore, Dodge City; Josue Fernandez, freshman, Dodge City; Kevin Navarrete, freshman, Dodge City; Loren Coval, DC3 Building/Construction Site Coordinator; Wilmer Hernandez, freshman, Dodge City; Dan Love, CHAD Board Member; Debbie Snapp, CHAD Board Member; Dr. Clayton Tatso, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development; and Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President. Not pictured are Alan Lopez-Agustin, sophomore, Dodge City, and Caroline Petty, CHAD Board Member.



DC3 Adds New Vocal Concert at Historic Church

by DC3 Marketing and Public Relations Staff

Through a new partnership, Dodge City Community College (DC3) and the Hanston Mennonite Heritage Foundation (HMHF) are joining forces for the college's first-ever holiday concert at the historic Hanston Mennonite Church at 7 p.m. on Dec. 10.

The new concert, titled "Carols by Candlelight," will take place at the 101-year-old Hanston Mennonite Church, located at 35497 N.E. Q Rd.—about 1½ miles north and 2½ miles west of Hanston—as part of the college's latest service-learning project.

"The choir takes its service-learning projects very seriously," Kerry J. Kuplic,

DC3 Professor of Vocal Music, said. "Sometimes, we raise money for area charities, other times we share our music at area schools, and other times we provide entertainment for residents at retirement homes. This year, we're excited to partner with the Hanston Mennonite Heritage Foundation to become a part of the church's candlelight service tradition."

Kuplic said service learning is about highlighting the unique programs and services DC3 can provide to the community, and he is "tremendously excited" about this new initiative.

"This concert will be a meaningful, joyous way to connect with a new partner

in the community," he said. "We love taking our music out into the community, and the idea of being able to perform at a new-to-us venue is exciting. In a sense, we're helping bring new life to a historic church that has stood on the Plains for generations. There's a place for big, bombastic music in a large space, but there's something really magical about performing more introspective and personal songs in a smaller venue."

Lance Ziesch, who serves as DC3's Director of Marketing and Public Relations and as President of the HMHF, said the foundation is equally excited about the new collaboration.

“The HMHF was formed following the closure of the Hanston Mennonite Church, with the goal of preserving the church building and adjacent cemetery for future generations,” he said. “But our mission goes beyond simply maintaining the property as a historical site—we want to keep it alive and relevant by hosting meaningful community events there each year. This partnership with DC3 is a great example of that vision in action.”

The Hanston Mennonite Church, built in 1924 and originally known as Einsiedel Mennonite Church, is a little white church on a hilltop overlooking the community of Hanston.

“There aren’t many old country churches like this remaining in our area,” Ziesch said. “When you open the door, it’s like stepping back in time.”

Although there is additional seating in the church’s tiny balcony, the building can only comfortably fit about 115 people, he said.

“So, this will definitely be a more intimate DC3 concert experience for both the musicians and the audience,” he said. “If people want a seat, they had better come early!”

Kuplic said concertgoers will be treated to a wide variety of seasonal music—from sacred classics to modern compositions—and he hopes the program will inspire listeners to reflect on the lyrics and the true meaning of the holiday season.

“So many of my students tell me that Christmas music is their favorite genre of music,” he said. “So, programming this concert is going to be an exciting undertaking. Students will get to showcase their solo voices in a different way than at our other concerts.”

Cheyenne Davis, a sophomore from Bucklin, Kan., said that she thinks the Hanston Mennonite Church concert will provide “a lovely and meaningful experience” for both singers and listeners.

“This beautiful church will offer a calm and peaceful space to share music with gentle acoustics that will allow each voice to carry naturally,” she said. “The setting will add a quiet beauty to the performance, helping our songs feel sincere and soothing rather than upbeat or showy. More than just a performance, this will be a time to connect and create moments that we hope will leave a lasting impression.” ■



LANCE ZIESCH

Student Honors Instructor with Award

by Lance Ziesch

On Oct. 15, Dodge City Community College (DC3) dual-credit student Aidyn Thompson surprised one of his college instructors, Andy Ruiz, DC3 Assistant Professor of Welding, with a special recognition—his high school’s Bluejay Difference Maker Award.

Thompson, a senior at Cimarron High School, said the Difference Maker Program, which is in its third year, provides a way for members of each senior class to honor individuals who have made a meaningful impact on their lives.

“You’re allowed to give it to one certain person, or you can purchase another award if you want to give it to two people,” Thompson said. “I decided to give mine to Andy because he makes me look forward to coming to school. It’s always a really good vibe here.”

Thompson said that although Ruiz encourages his students to have fun while learning, he also appreciates that Ruiz treats them like adults.

“Having a teacher like Andy really makes me want to come to school and actually give effort instead of wanting to skip school and slack—all the stuff teenagers like to do nowadays,” he said. “While I’m able to joke around with him, we’re also able to have one-on-one conversations.”

Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development, said it is always exciting for him to see DC3 faculty and staff being recognized for making a difference in students’ lives.

“When good students commend good faculty, it is doubly gratifying,” Tatro said. “Andy Ruiz works hard to connect with students, and we are thrilled to honor both Andy and Aidyn.”

Although students have thanked Ruiz in the past, he said this is the first time he’s actually received an award from one of them.

“Earlier this semester, I had a student come up to me and tell me, ‘I understand why they hired you—you really make it [the welding process] make sense.’ And you know, that felt good,” Ruiz said. “But to receive an actual award that I can place in my office and look at every day brought tears to my eyes.”

Ruiz said he was so touched by the gesture that he immediately shared the news with his family on Snapchat.

“It really does mean a lot to me,” he said. “This award made my whole semester.” ■



Saturday, Sept. 27, was the final day of the college's week-long 90th celebration. In addition to cheering the Conqs to victory against Highland Community College, the DC3 cheerleaders also performed a special halftime routine in honor of the occasion.

Celebrating 90 Years of Cong Nation

DC3 Marks Milestone with Week of Events

by Alba Gutierrez-Ortiz

Dodge City Community College (DC3) wrapped up a week of events on Sept. 27, celebrating its 90th anniversary, bringing together students, alumni, and community members to honor the college's legacy since its founding in September 1935.

The festivities, spanning Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Saturday, Sept. 27, featured a blend of historical reflection, community engagement, and forward-looking partnerships.

The celebration began Tuesday with a time capsule ceremony on the college quad at 4 p.m. DC3 students and employees gathered to bury memorabilia, photographs, letters, and a 2025 Golden Shield yearbook, all scheduled to be unearthed during the college's centennial in 2035. A granite marker, donated by Kitchens Inc., now marks the site.

On Wednesday, DC3 hosted a 5:30 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renamed Skinner Student Activity Center, known locally as the Dome. The event, which was in partnership with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce, was followed by a community reception upstairs in the Western State Bank Cong Lounge. Attendees enjoyed free pizza from Dodge City Brewing and commemorative cupcakes before cheering on the Conquistador volleyball team at 6:30 p.m. in a home match against Cloud County Community College.

The college turned its focus to the future on Thursday, signing a memorandum of understanding with Kansas State University. The agreement, aimed at expanding collaboration in agriculture and education programs, was signed

during a 10 a.m. ceremony in the Student Union Board Room. Speakers included Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Dr. Richard Linton, K-State President; and Jesse Perez Mendez, K-State Provost.

From 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, the Student Activities Department hosted "Quad Bash: 90 & Thriving" on the campus quad with walking tacos, outdoor activities, and music by DJ Benji Beatz.

Friday evening featured the unveiling of "DC3 Through the Years," a historical photo exhibit presented by the college's Office of Marketing and Public Relations. Hosted in the newly remodeled Communications Center from 4-6 p.m., the event debuted 33 new photo collages spanning 1997 to 2025 and included live music by Them Spicy Boys, hors d'oeuvres, and giveaways. At the same time, the



JORGE H. GARCIA

Daniela Cerda, sophomore, Liberal, Kan., and Adiana Telles, freshman, Las Cruces, N.M., take a Polaroid selfie to include in the college's 90th anniversary time capsule.



LANCE ZIESCH

Cheerleader Brooklyn Kopp, sophomore, McKinney, Texas, shovels dirt on the buried time capsule. Also pictured is Hunter Edwards, Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations, and Paulina Duenas, Student Activities Coordinator.



LANCE ZIESCH

Dr. Harold Nolte, President, and Dr. Jay Kinzer, Vice President of Student Services, shovel dirt on the time capsule at the ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Fine Arts Department presented an art exhibition in the Little Theatre Gallery showcasing pieces from the college's permanent collection.

Saturday's events began with a Pilot Meet-and-Greet at Dodge City Regional Airport, at 8 a.m., where families toured helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft from DC3's Arizona-based flight programs. In addition, free coffee, donuts, and kids' giveaways were available.

Later in the day, beginning at 11 a.m., the community gathered at Memorial Stadium for a tailgate party and football game against Highland Community College. Free food and drinks were provided by National Beef, Central Station Bar & Grill, and Heartland Coca-Cola. Local service-area K-12 students received free admission with school-distributed passes.

Just before the 1 p.m. kickoff, the game ball was delivered by helicopter courtesy of Sherry Curtis Rogers, Professor of Physical Science. During the game, cheerleaders from Dodge City High School and Dodge City Middle School joined the DC3 cheer team on the sidelines. At halftime, the DC3 cheerleaders performed a special routine for the crowd, followed by a recognition ceremony for pilots from DC3's flight programs.

The celebration concluded with "Books, Bottles, and Brie," a wine and cheese fundraiser hosted in the DC3 Library from 7-9 p.m. Guests enjoyed live music by Jeff Mitchell and refreshments provided by Hilmar Cheese, Great Western Dining, and Boot Hill Distillery, all while viewing sculptures and artwork by the late Mary Spurgeon, a 1938 alumna. The evening

also featured raffles and cash games, with proceeds from the event supporting the future preservation and display of Spurgeon's work on the DC3 campus. ■

- CONTINUED



90 YEARS CONTINUED -

SKINNER STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER

WEST ENTRANCE



LANCE ZIESCH

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, the DC3 Foundation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony, in conjunction with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce, to officially recognize the renaming of the Skinner Student Activity Center. Pictured above, Margaret Hamilton, cuts the ribbon during the event.



JORGE H. GARCIA

K-State President Dr. Richard Linton and DC3 President Dr. Harold Nolte, share a laugh during the Memorandum of Understanding Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 25. **Editor's Note:** For more on this agreement, please see Page 18.



JORGE H. GARCIA

On Thursday, Sept. 25, the Student Activities Department hosted "Quad Bash: 90 & Thriving" on the east side of the Student Union. In addition to free walking tacos, DJ Benji Beatz provided music for the occasion.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORITZ

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, following the Skinner ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees received free admission to the DC3 volleyball match against Cloud County Community College, where the Conqs completed a dominant 3-0 sweep (25-16, 25-19, 25-9).



Them Spicy Boys provided live entertainment during the “DC3 Through the Years” history event on Friday, Sept. 26, in the Communications Center.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Also during the “DC3 Through the Years” exhibit on Friday, Sept. 26, the Fine Arts Department presented an exhibition in the Little Theatre Gallery showcasing pieces from the college’s permanent art collection that have been acquired over the years.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Lukas Gunderson, Associate Professor of History, examines DC3’s new photo collages, which highlight the college’s history from 2000 to 2025. Also pictured are Jacob Ripple, Athletic Director, and Paulina Duenas, Student Activities Coordinator.



JORGE H. GARCIA

The highlight of the Marketing and Public Relations Department event, “DC3 Through the Years,” was the unveiling of 33 new photo collages spanning the years 1997 to 2025. These additions expanded the college’s historic photo collage collection, which previously showcased the years 1937 through 1996.



JORGE H. GARCIA

The Marketing and Public Relations Department hosted a family friendly Pilot Meet-and-Greet at the Dodge City Regional Airport at 8 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, showcasing DC3's Arizona-based helicopter and fixed-wing flight programs.



LANCE ZIESCH

Daniel Hernandez (left), Chief Flight Instructor, and Dr. Adam John, Provost, chat with “future pilots” Logan Culver and Jayce Hoskinson at the Pilot Meet-and-Greet at Dodge City Regional Airport on Saturday, Sept. 27. Also pictured are Lora Culver, Bookstore Manager, Tyson Culver, Director of Information Technology, and Amanda Hoskinson, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.



LANCE ZIESCH

Sherry Curtis Rogers (right), Professor of Physical Science, delivers the game ball to Memorial Stadium at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27. Also pictured are Dr. Adam John (center), Provost, and Daniel Hernandez, Chief Flight Instructor.



LANCE ZIESCH

Prior to the Conq football game on Saturday, Sept. 27, the college hosted a community tailgate party in the Memorial Stadium parking lot. Free food and drinks were provided by Central Station Bar & Grill, Heartland Coca-Cola, and National Beef.



LANCE ZIESCH

Julia Reish, freshman, Monument, Colo.; Reese Rhodes, Assistant Volleyball Coach; and Jayde Ta'amu-Perifanos, freshman, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, pause for a quick photo before they begin serving food at the tailgate party on Saturday, Sept. 27.



LANCE ZIESCH

Athletic Band drummer, Josue Zapata, sophomore, Dodge City, prepares for the Conq football game on Saturday, Sept. 27.



JORGE H. GARCIA

Head Football Coach Ryan Lusby (center) leads the Conq football team onto the field on Saturday, Sept. 27, for their matchup against Highland Community College. With a commanding final score of 35-6, the Conqs secured their first win of the season.



JORGE H. GARCIA

The final event of the anniversary week, “Books, Bottles, and Brie,” was a wine and cheese fundraiser on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 27. Hosted by the DC3 Library and the DC3 Foundation, the event proceeds will benefit the preservation and display of a collection of artwork by DC3 alumna Mary Spurgeon, generously donated to the college by Jim and Linda Seeger-Newby. Pictured above (from left to right) are Kathy Ramsour, Board of Trustees Vice-Chair; Holly Mercer, Library Director; Michael Marino, Foundation Director; Jim Seeger-Newby; and Dr. Harold Nolte, President.



LANCE ZIESCH

Two of Mary Spurgeon’s paintings, “The Firebird Maria Tallchief, Osage” and “Cimarron Hills” are unveiled by DC3 cheerleaders Zoey Giessel, sophomore, Minneola, Kan.; and Nate Aragundi, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.



LANCE ZIESCH

“Books, Bottles, and Brie” featured an array of food and drink and was complemented by live music from Jeff Mitchell, which helped to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for guests.



JORGE H. GARCIA

Another highlight of “Books, Bottles, and Brie” was the event’s raffle drawing. Pictured above are just a few of the many items that were generously donated for the fundraiser.

DC3 Launches New Transfer Success Strategy

by Alba Gutierrez-Ortiz

At Dodge City Community College (DC3), helping students reach their next educational milestone isn't just a mission, it's a promise. Through its bold new initiative, DC3 is making it easier than ever for students to move forward with clarity, confidence, and purpose.

This student-focused strategy is built around three integrated components: in-person transfer fairs, individualized academic advising, and a year-round resource hub. Together, they create a streamlined, personalized path for students who plan to transfer to a four-year university.

"Each component is designed to provide clear guidance, hands-on support, and actionable resources at every stage of a student's transfer journey," Melanie Smith, DC3 Director of Advising, said.

Twice a year, students can attend DC3 Transfer Fairs, interactive events during the fall and spring semesters. These come-and-go sessions connect students directly

with representatives from Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) universities and other regional institutions. From admissions timelines to scholarship info, students can ask direct questions and get answers on the spot.

Another key track in the initiative is Transfer Academic Advising, where students meet with DC3 Advising Specialists, online or in-person, for customized transfer planning. Ideally scheduled mid-semester, these sessions help students choose the right classes, avoid wasted credits, and align their course load with the requirements of their target universities.

"These partnerships provide direct connections, smoother transfers, and trusted support throughout the student journey," Smith said.

And for ongoing support, the new Transfer Corner, already available in the Student Union's Student Services area, will serve as the resource hub of the

transfer success strategy initiative. Open from September through April, it offers unlimited access to one-on-one meetings with university transfer navigators and representatives, either virtually or in person.

DC3's strong ties to KBOR universities—including Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Newman University, Pittsburg State University, the University of Kansas, Washburn University, and Wichita State University—ensure that students don't just transfer, they transfer well. These partnerships open doors, clarify credit transfers, and give students trusted points of contact at their future campuses.

"Whether you're beginning to explore your transfer options or actively planning your next academic move, DC3's transfer success strategy ensures you don't have to navigate the process alone," Smith said. ■

TRANSFER CORNER



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ



DC3 and K-State are teaming up to expand bachelor's degree pathways for southwest Kansas students through a new collaborative initiative, which was formalized in a memorandum-of-understanding signing ceremony in the DC3 Student Union Board Room on Sept. 25. Pictured (from left to right) are Dr. Marshall Stewart, K-State Executive Vice President for External Engagement and Chief of Staff; U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann; State Sen. Ron Ryckman; Bill Turley, DC3 Board of Trustees; Dr. Dan Moser, K-State Interim Eldon Gideon Dean of the College of Agriculture; Dr. Adam John, DC3 Provost; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Dr. Richard Linton, K-State President; Dr. Jesse Perez Mendez, K-State Provost and Executive Vice President; Annel Gonzales, DC3 Teacher Education Program Coordinator; Kristin Holt, K-State Executive Assistant to the President; Thomas Smith, DC3 Agriculture and Farm/Ranch Coordinator; Diana Mendoza, Kansas Board of Regents Vice-Chair; and State Rep. Lon Pishny.

DC3 Signs MOU with K-State for Bachelor's Degree Access

By Lance Ziesch

Thanks to a new agreement between two leaders in Kansas higher education, students in Dodge City and southwest Kansas will have expanded access to the transformative power of a bachelor's degree—all from the comfort and support of their hometown region.

Combining the breadth and depth of a traditional four-year university with the homegrown reach and accessibility of a two-year community college,

Kansas State University (K-State) and Dodge City Community College (DC3) are collaborating to expand access to bachelor's degree programs in agriculture and education.

Formalized during a special Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ceremony at DC3 on Sept. 25, the new three-year collaboration will run through July 31, 2028. As part of the agreement, K-State will provide DC3 with \$100,000

annually for faculty positions—\$50,000 designated for agriculture and \$50,000 for education.

Students in the program will enroll and take the first 60 to 75 credit hours of their four-year degrees through DC3. After that, they can remain at home and complete their bachelor's degrees with K-State courses using a combination of remote instruction and on-site lab experiences in Dodge City, which

will offer students better flexibility and alignment with local workforce demands in fields such as agriculture, education, and health and human sciences.

K-State President Dr. Richard Linton said that K-State has a responsibility to meet the needs of communities across all 105 Kansas counties, and this new collaboration with DC3 is a strong example of fulfilling that mission.

“Both Dodge City Community College and Kansas State University share the same values and purpose: to provide opportunities for people in Kansas and beyond,” Linton said. “Through this collaboration between two-year and four-year degree programs, we’re creating multiple pathways and options for any Kansas student who wants to pursue higher education.”

At the MOU signing ceremony, K-State Provost Dr. Jesse Perez Mendez said the new agreement will also help transfer students close the “access gap” between two- and four-year institutions.

“As we grow the next generation of changemakers for the world, we have to meet Kansans where they’re at and with what they need,” Perez Mendez said. “Community colleges like DC3 open doors, and land-grant universities like K-State help expand those opportunities. Together, we’re building brighter pathways for Kansas students.”

Through the course of the agreement, the colleges will explore interests in additional program offerings, based on community surveys and regional industry needs. And K-State representatives, serving as transfer navigators, will also regularly work with DC3 students to explore transfer opportunities and support resources after they’ve completed their community college programs.

DC3 President Dr. Harold Nolte said he is excited to collaborate with K-State through the new initiative.

“At Dodge City Community College, we are always looking for ways to better serve our students, and this program is a great example,” Nolte said. “By allowing our transfer students to stay in the community while completing their four-year degrees, we’re helping them save both time and money. And in many cases, they’ll also be able to continue working in our local economy as they finish their studies.” ■



COLLEGE ARCHIVES/LAKIN SCHECK

New Program Helps Teachers Earn Credit, Experience

by Lance Ziesch

Through a new initiative, Dodge City Community College (DC3) is collaborating with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to provide scholarships and mentoring opportunities for teachers seeking to advance their careers in elementary and secondary education.

Known as the Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship, the program is a four-year, competency-based pathway designed for both newly hired teachers with no classroom experience or college credit, as well as current educators who are already on the job and have existing college credit.

“If newly hired apprentices have no classroom experience and no college credit, it will probably take them four years to complete the program,” Annel Gonzales, DC3 Teacher Education Program Coordinator, said. “If the apprentices do have prior experience and college credit, then the program could take less time.”

Through the program, school districts build an on-the-job training plan based on the teacher’s training rubric. Therefore, the apprentice learns, practices, and becomes proficient with all of the competencies required to be a teacher.

Gonzales said that apprentices are also assigned a mentor teacher, who holds a

professional license, to help guide them during the process.

“In addition, at least once a semester, the district will evaluate and observe them to ensure that they are making progress in their on-the-job learning and bachelor’s degree plans,” she said. “All in all, it’s a really great ‘grow-your-own solution’ for area schools to help fill teacher vacancies.”

To help offset costs, apprentices will also receive yearly tuition assistance, depending on available funding allotments. These funds, which will be granted to the district, will be coordinated and distributed by the corresponding university or community college, in this case, DC3. Any money not used for tuition can be applied to books and supplies.

“For individuals who are currently working for Dodge City Public Schools as a paraprofessional or substitute teacher, the apprenticeship program can be a substantial cost savings, as participants are working on-the-job in our community, while they are completing their degrees,” Gonzales said.

For more information on the Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program, please contact Annel Gonzales at agonzales@dc3.edu or (620) 227-9434. ■

Building Legacies

From Players to Mentors, DC3 Athletics Staff Pay It Forward to Help Build the Next Generation

By Mike Smith

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) celebrated annual NJCAA Day in early October and highlighted the building of legacies and the impact NJCAA schools have had on people to help develop legacies. The theme this year was “Empower the Future: Building Legacies.”

The NJCAA has been impactful in the lives of several of our athletics staff at Dodge City Community College (DC3), helping them build their personal legacies and now helping build legacies for others through coaching or working at DC3.

Nearly half of the Dodge City athletic staff competed or participated at NJCAA schools to start their college careers.

COLE BALLARD

(Head Cross Country/Track & Field Coach) Ballard has been coaching at DC3 since 2004-2005 serving as the head track and field coach for the last 19 years and head cross country coach for past 14 years, while starting off as an assistant football coach for the Conqs. During his time at Dodge City, he's led the women's cross country team to five Top 12 finishes, including fifth in 2020, while coaching several national qualifiers and medalists in track and field during indoor and outdoor seasons. He's coached several NJCAA All-Americans, including a silver medalist, **Amanuel McDowell**, who finished second in the long jump in 2021 at NJCAA outdoor nationals.

BOB DENUCCI

(Assistant Baseball Coach) DeNucci is in his second season as an assistant coach for the Conq baseball program. He played baseball at the NJCAA level for Itasca Community College, helping the team to a pair of region runner-up performances in his two seasons, while also playing basketball at Itasca.

JUAN ESPINAL

(Head Men's Soccer Coach) Espinal just finished his second season leading Dodge City men's soccer and guided them to the program's highest national ranking at No. 11 this past season as the Conqs finished 9-5-3. He played soccer at the NJCAA, suiting up for Iowa Central for the 2012 and 2013 seasons, recording six goals and 10 assists in two seasons, helping the team win 14 and 13 matches each season, respectively, as a two-starter. He earned second-team Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) All-Region honors as a freshman.

J.M. KELLY

(Head Baseball Coach) Kelly is in his second season leading the Conq baseball program, coming to Dodge City from coaching at another NJCAA school in East Central (in Missouri). He also played one season of college baseball at the NJCAA level, competing at Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa.

CHRIS LAYMON

(Assistant Men's Basketball Coach) Laymon is in his first season on the sidelines for the Conq men's basketball team. He is an NJCAA guy, having competed at St. Cloud Tech Community College for two seasons averaging 12.7 points per game in 25 games his sophomore season.

CEDRIC MONDJII

(Assistant Men's Basketball Coach) Mondjii is in his first season on the sidelines for the Conq men's basketball team. He competed at the NJCAA level, playing in 50 games in two seasons at Baltimore City Community College.

BIANCA RICHARDS

(Assistant Cross Country/Track & Field Coach) Richards is in her seventh year as an assistant coach for the Conqs' cross

country and track and field programs, helping the programs achieve many things. During her time, the women's cross country team has had five Top 12 finishes nationally, including fifth place in 2020, and she has had several national qualifiers in track and field. She competed for the Conqs from 2013-2015, helping the cross country team finish second at NJCAA Region 6 championships in 2013, and she still holds the school record in the 3000-meter run in indoor competition (10:45.87).

BRETT ROJAS

(Head Spirit Squad Coach) Rojas took over the head coaching duties for the Conqs' spirit squad ahead of the 2025-2026 school year after four years as an assistant coach for the program. Rojas knows the competition level at the NJCAA level, having competed at Blinn, winning National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) college championships as an athlete.

HEATHER SMITH

(Wellness Center Director/Athletics Administrative Assistant) Smith is in her ninth year working at Dodge City, overseeing the Wellness Center and serving as athletics administrative assistant. She was a Conq athlete from 1997-1999, suiting up for the softball program, helping the 1998 team win the KJCCC West championship, and ranking in the Top 10 in school history in career ERA (1.95), career wins (22), career innings (251), and single-season ERA (1.67).

ROYJEANNAE URSIN

(Assistant Spirit Squad Coach) Ursin joined the coaching staff for the Conqs spirit squad this year and brought experience at the NJCAA level with her. She competed at Blinn, competing at the NCA, along with multiple stops during her college experience.

COLTON VALENTA

(Assistant Rodeo Coach) Valenta is in his first season as assistant coach for the Conq rodeo program and knows what competing at the NJCAA level can be like. He competed collegiately at Wharton County Junior College and Sul Ross State University as a rodeo student-athlete.

MIKE VIRAMONTEZ

(Head Softball Coach) Viramontez is in his third season leading the Conq softball program, coming off a 27-win season last year, the most wins for the program since 2005, while having a winning Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) record for the first time since the 2019 last season. He was a Conq athlete suiting up for the Conq baseball program during the 2005 season.

DR. DAVID WIGGINS

(Band Director) Wiggins returned to DC3 ahead of the 2025-2026 school year to lead the Conquistador band program into the future. He was once part of the Conq band back in 1982.

TY WILSON

(Head Women's Golf Coach) Wilson is in his fourth year leading the women's golf program while also working at the Student Achievement & Resources Center (SARC). He's guided the Conqs to multiple KJCCC, Region 6, and district titles, winning all three each of the last two years. He coached **Gaemphuang Ketrachong**, who earned first-team NJCAA All-American honors and recorded the best individual finish in school history at nationals, placing fourth. Wilson attended DC3 from 2018-2020, competing for men's golf coach, Chris Robinson.

CHRIS WOODRUFF

(Assistant Athletic Director) Woodruff is in his fifth year on staff for the Conqs as the Assistant Athletic Director, stepping into a full-time admin role when joining the Conqs staff back in October 2021. Woodruff competed at the NJCAA level as a baseball student-athlete at Glen Oaks Community College, playing two seasons, hitting .312 in his sophomore season.

All 15 coaches/staff members have said they felt their experiences competing at the NJCAA level helped them establish their legacies and build their futures, and now enjoy the opportunity to continue to give back at a level that is all about giving opportunities. ■



Cole Ballard



Bob DeNucci



Juan Espinal



J.M. Kelly



Chris Laymon



Cedric Mondjii



Bianca Richards



Brett Rojas



Heather Smith



Royjeannae Ursin



Colton Valenta



Mike Viramontez



Dr. David Wiggins



Ty Wilson



Chris Woodruff



DC3 Celebrates Homecoming

DC3 students participated in a wide range of activities during this year's Homecoming Week. The celebration kicked off on Monday, Nov. 3, with the "Cozy Kickoff"—a morning gathering featuring donuts and coffee inside the Student Union.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, students took part in the "DC3 Take a Selfie Day" challenge, with April Hermosillo, a freshman from Dode City, earning top honors. Wednesday, Nov. 5, brought the "Adam Sandler Day of Fun," where students dressed up in the comedian's casual signature style and later enjoyed indoor games in the Auxiliary Gym.

The fun continued Thursday, Nov. 6, with "DC3's Got Talent" in the Little Theatre, showcasing the creativity and skills of students and staff. On Friday, Nov. 7, the theme was "DC3 Pride and Pep Rally," featuring the college's traditional bonfire and pep rally in the old rodeo arena.

The fall Homecoming Week concluded on Saturday, Nov. 8, with "DC3 Victory and Crown Day" at Memorial Stadium, including a tailgate party, coronation, 2025 cheerleader championship ring ceremony, and the Homecoming football game against Coffeyville Community College. ■



JORGE H. GARCIA

Football players (from left to right) Ke'Tayrion Haynes, freshman, Savannah, Ga.; Marco Rodriguez, sophomore, Kansas City, Kan.; Roy Henry III, freshman, Opelousas, La.; Joshua Arthur, freshman, Dickinson, Texas; Braxton Clark, sophomore, Derby, Kan.; and Nick Ahles, sophomore, Wichita, Kan., enjoy snacks during the "Adam Sandler Day of Fun" on Wednesday, Nov. 5.



LANCE ZIESCH

Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President, fires up the crowd at the 2025 Homecoming bonfire and pep rally on Friday, Nov. 7.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Troy Larnar, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Nate Aragundi, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Adiana Telles, freshman, Las Cruces, N.M., perform at "DC3's Got Talent" on Thursday, Nov. 6 in the Little Theatre.



LANCE ZIESCH

The DC3 athletic band gathers for a photo prior to the Friday, Nov. 7 bonfire and pep rally, which was in the old rodeo arena behind Coleman-Webb Hall.



LANCE ZIESCH

The DC3 Homecoming Week concluded with the crowning of a king and queen at halftime of the DC3 football game, on Saturday, Nov. 8. Pictured above (left to right) are Queen Adiana Telles, freshman, Las Cruces, N.M.; King Troy Larner, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; and Paulina Duenas, DC3 Student Activities Coordinator.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

On Saturday, Nov. 8, the Homecoming game against Coffeyville Community College would result in a 10-42 loss for the Conqs.



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

At the Friday, Nov. 7 bonfire and pep rally, the DC3 athletic band performed the college's fight song, "Hail Dodge City," while the DC3 cheerleaders sang it.



CAMPBELL ANDERSON

Espinal Named Coach of the Year

Men's Soccer Coach Earns KJCCC DI Honors

by Mike Smith

After a great second season leading the Dodge City men's soccer program, Head Coach Juan Espinal was recognized by the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) as Coach of the Year on the Division I side.

Coach Espinal guided the Conquistadors men's soccer program to achieve their highest ranking in school history coming in at No. 11 at one point during the year, while being ranked for six straight weeks. The Conqs finished 9-5-3 on the season and finished third in the KJCCC and would host a first-round home playoff match. The season included wins over No. 9 Indian Hills (2-1) and No. 6 Barton (2-1) both teams who made the NJCAA national tournament.

The Coach of the Year honor is only the second time in men's soccer program history that the Conqs' head coach has received the award. ■

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CAMPUS, 1968.

Several of the main campus buildings are beginning to take shape, and the foundation of the Library is visible at the front middle right.

From the College Archives: The 1969 Golden Shield

by Lance Ziesch

Bookended with images of the construction progress at the future home of Dodge City Community College (DC3), the 1969 Golden Shield yearbook eagerly awaited the opening of the new campus in 1970.

The book's foreword shows the building site as it appeared at the beginning of the school year, and it includes these words:

"In a technological age when man suddenly faces the realization that he will confront new philosophical ideas, astronomical scientific gleanings, and

interstellar cultures, Dodge City and Ford County, through the medium of Dodge City Community Junior College, have accepted the challenge of involvement. As astronauts lessened the cosmo seconds to the moon, the Dodge City milieu meets the demands of a space age education for western Kansas youth, as residents and businesses both contribute to the culmination of dreams of a new campus. The 1968-69 school year has witnessed the emergence of this campus, as new buildings have mushroomed where the prairie once reigned, monoliths which

will orient future students to a cultural, religious, residential, business, and recreational life paralleling a moon trek. At the beginning of the school year, the emerging campus consisted of little more than heavy equipment. The end of May spotlights the vision of a pot of gold at the end of the "space-age" educational rainbow, a rainbow overarching the fabled Seven Cities of Gold—that long desired treasure—now translated into a journey into the infinite, one eagerly anticipated by undefeated and indefatigable space warriors ever known as Conquistadors."

And on the final page of the 1969 Golden Shield are images of the new campus as it appeared at the end of that school year. The yearbook closes with these words:

"While students structured their education at the Junior College facilities in town, the structure of the college's future home progressed steadily during the year. As the college complex spread out over the plains, so the widening horizons of the students expanded to meet the future they face—one that will encompass beautiful new buildings, vaster knowledge, and trips to the moon. So this book represents—not an end—but a beginning." ■



COLLEGE ARCHIVES/1969 GOLDEN SHIELD

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CAMPUS, 1969.

The Physical Education (now Athletics) building is visible at middle left, and the Maintenance and Agriculture Technology (now Computer Science) building appears at front right.

From the Director's Desk: A Busy Time in Southwest Kansas



Michael Marino

ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Foundation Director. I figured this would be the case when accepting the role, but getting to interact with so many forward-thinking areas of the college and this town has been a great source of energy to keep pushing.

Earlier in my professional career, I will admit I would not have anticipated speaking at the Dome's ribbon-cutting, countless suit-and-tie combos, and many hours of driving back and forth from DC3's service areas as fun "duties as assigned" within my new role. But, working at the college has thankfully given me time to appreciate and get to know my hometown again.

If you've spoken with me, you will have heard my mother's mantra: "Show, don't tell." The Foundation hosted the 15th Annual Conqs Golf Tournament, a ribbon-cutting for the Skinner Student Activity Center, a tailgate at Memorial Stadium, a fundraiser at the DC3 Library, and we are currently planning another tailgate, another fundraiser, and assisting with the anticipated Rodeo Auction in mid-February.

I am very proud to be getting to know Dodge more via civic engagement at every level, and my goal is to let donors know that their support is going toward me devoting time to partnering with driven alumni and other community leaders who want to bring more to the college.

The Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce has been an excellent partner as I returned home, and I have joined the Multicultural Committee, Young Professionals group, and the Chamber Ambassadors.

The City of Dodge City has also offered opportunities for me and the Foundation to partner via the International Festival Committee and the Cultural Relations Advisory Board (CRAB).

Lastly, I have been deeply humbled by the opportunity to join the Women's Chamber of Commerce as a member and to serve as the Public Relations Committee lead. Please keep an eye out for their revamped newsletter soon!

This season's passing has also been marked by the wonderful student representation the DC3 community sees every year from our student volunteers.

So far, kids, parents, and young adults have seen DC3 student-athletes joining folks for soccer practice at this year's International Festival, various sports teams handing out candy at the Dodge City Days Western Parade, Women's Golf sinking putts at the Foundation's golf tournament at Mariah Hills Golf Course, the volleyball girls clinching a win after the Dome's ribbon-cutting, and the Cheer team presenting donated pieces of art sculpted by a 1938 DC3 graduate.

Soon, we hope to announce a public showcase for the Newby Collection display, funded in part by proceeds from the "Books, Bottles, and Brie" fundraiser earlier this fall.

So, please keep an eye out for me at many of the events happening in town, and feel free to share any guidance or thoughts you may have. Or, get to know one of our Conquistadors out in the community and ask them what they need!

I look forward to getting to know more of our exemplary students, alumni, and community partners. If you have time to meet me or Tegan Wenzl at the Foundation Office, the Dodge City Community College Foundation would love to partner with you to bring more to our community.

Go Conqs! ■

It came out of nowhere, but I turn 30 years old at the end of November. It feels like time is passing only faster and faster: my younger cousins are growing up, my brothers are out of town studying or working like I did, and I've been back at DC3 at the Foundation for a little over half a year already.

One thing has remained fairly steady, though, and, like many others, it's that my mother is usually right. This time, I am very pleased to say she was right to continually remind me of the opportunities waiting for me back home in Dodge City after I left for Chicago to study and work.

Getting on the Southwest Chief Amtrak train as a naive 18-year-old Red Demon in 2014, I never would have pictured myself coming back after a decade to do my part in furthering DC3's mission to make higher education more accessible and affordable for all in Dodge.

As more and more time passes, I am growing to realize that the entire point of me leaving Dodge City was to gain knowledge and experience to bring back home.

My time in the past six months has been split in many different ways as

Del Escritorio del Director:

Una Época Ajetreada en el Suroeste de Kansas



Michael Marino

ALBA GUTIERREZ ORTIZ

Surgió de la nada, pero a finales de este mes (noviembre) cumpliré 30 años. Siento que el tiempo pasa cada vez más rápido: mis primos más jóvenes están creciendo, mis hermanos están fuera de la ciudad estudiando o trabajando —como yo lo hice— y yo llevo ya algo más de medio año de vuelta en DC3, en la Fundación.

Sin embargo, hay una cosa que se ha mantenido bastante estable y que, como para muchos otros, es que mi madre suele tener razón. Esta vez, me complace decir que la tenía al recordarme continuamente las oportunidades que me esperaban en Dodge City después de marcharme a Chicago para estudiar y trabajar.

Cuando me subí al tren Southwest Chief de Amtrak como un novato Red Demon de 18 años en 2014, nunca hubiera imaginado que volvería después de una década para contribuir a la misión de DC3 de hacer que la educación superior sea más accesible y asequible para todos en Dodge.

A medida que pasa el tiempo, me doy cuenta de que el objetivo de mi marcha de Dodge City era adquirir conocimientos y experiencia para traerlos de vuelta a casa.

Mis últimos seis meses se han dividido de muchas maneras diferentes como director de la Fundación. Supuse que así sería cuando acepté el cargo, pero poder

interactuar con tantas áreas innovadoras de la escuela y de la ciudad ha sido una gran fuente de energía para seguir adelante.

Al principio de mi carrera profesional, admito que no habría imaginado dar un discurso en la inauguración del Dome, llevar innumerables trajes y corbatas, ni pasar muchas horas conduciendo de un lado a otro por las áreas de servicio de DC3 como divertidas “tareas asignadas” dentro de mi nuevo puesto. Pero, afortunadamente, trabajar en la escuela me ha dado tiempo para apreciar y volver a conocer mi ciudad natal.

Si has hablado conmigo, habrás oído el mantra de mi madre: “Mostrar, no contar”. La Fundación organizó el 15° Torneo Anual de Golf Conqs, la inauguración del Centro de Actividades Estudiantiles Skinner, una fiesta previa a un partido de fútbol americano en el Memorial Stadium, una recaudación de fondos en la biblioteca de DC3, y actualmente estamos planeando otra fiesta, otra recaudación de fondos y la esperada subasta Rodeo a mediados de febrero.

Estoy muy orgulloso de poder conocer mejor Dodge a través de la participación cívica a todos los niveles, y mi objetivo es que los donantes sepan que su apoyo permite que yo dedique tiempo a colaborar con antiguos alumnos motivados y otros líderes de la comunidad que quieren aportar más a la escuela.

La Cámara de Comercio de Dodge City ha sido un socio excelente desde mi regreso a casa, y me he unido al Comité Multicultural, al grupo de Jóvenes Profesionales y a los Embajadores de la Cámara.

La ciudad de Dodge City también nos ha ofrecido a mí y a la Fundación la oportunidad de colaborar a través del Comité del Festival Internacional y la Junta Asesora de Relaciones Culturales (CRAB).

Por último, me siento profundamente honrado por la oportunidad de unirme

a la Cámara de Comercio de Mujeres como miembro y de desempeñar el cargo de director del Comité de Relaciones Públicas. ¡Estén atentos al nuevo boletín informativo que se publicará próximamente!

El paso de esta temporada también ha estado marcado por la maravillosa representación estudiantil que la comunidad de DC3 ve cada año en nuestros estudiantes voluntarios.

Hasta ahora, los niños, padres y jóvenes han visto a los estudiantes-atletas de DC3 unirse a la comunidad para jugar fútbol en el Festival Internacional de este año, al equipo de fútbol americano repartir caramelos en el desfile de Dodge City Days, a las jugadoras de golf femenino haciendo putts en el torneo de golf de la Fundación en el campo de golf Mariah Hills, a las chicas de voleibol consiguiendo la victoria tras la inauguración del Dome y al equipo de animadoras presentando obras de arte donadas y esculpidas por un graduado de DC3 de 1938.

Pronto esperamos anunciar una exposición pública de la Colección Newby, financiada en parte con los ingresos obtenidos en el evento “Books, Bottles, and Brie”, celebrado a principios de otoño.

Así que, por favor, estén atentos a mí en los numerosos eventos que se celebran en la ciudad y no duden en compartir cualquier consejo o idea que puedan tener. O bien, conozcan a uno de nuestros Conquistadores en la comunidad y pregúntenle qué necesita.

Espero conocer más a nuestros ejemplares estudiantes, antiguos alumnos y socios comunitarios. Si tienen tiempo para reunirse conmigo o con Tegan Wenzl en la oficina de la Fundación, la Fundación del Dodge City Community College estaría encantada de colaborar con ustedes para aportar más a nuestra comunidad. ■



JORGE H. GARCIA

Foundation Hosts 15th Annual Golf Tournament

by Tegan Wenzl

On Aug. 15, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation hosted the 15th Annual Conqs Golf Tournament. This year's event saw an outstanding turnout, with 112 golfers enjoying a perfectly sunny day on Mariah Hills Golf Course.

The morning began with coffee and donuts generously donated by Red Beard Coffee and Daylight Donuts. After an introduction from new Foundation Director, Michael Marino, a welcome from Dr. Nolte, and a group photo, the teams teed off to begin their first nine holes.

The DC3 Cheer and Women's Golf were a highlight of the day, volunteering to help set up, run on-course games and serve lunch. Members of the Women's Golf team were present to offer to tee for tournament participants, and the Cheer Team provided a lively environment and fun support!

Coronado, the Conq mascot, also made an appearance, riding along on the beverage cart and handing out waters and sodas to golfers and volunteers to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

Lunch was sponsored by United Capital Management and featured a delicious pulled pork sandwich, chips, watermelon, and a chilled Snickers bar provided by John Ross Catering Co.

The tournament was made possible through the generous support of kind and engaged sponsors: Conant Construction and Building Solutions, LLC served as Title Sponsors, while Steven '72 & Pamela Preston and Ann Frigon supported the event as Green Sponsors. Western State Bank, Victory Electric and Central Station Bar & Grill participated as Tee Sponsors. Title and Green Sponsors were recognized with custom hole flags displaying their logos around the golf course.

Thanks to the continual support of sponsors, volunteers, and all participants, the 15th Annual Conqs Golf Tournament was a tremendous first event for Michael and Tegan to lead at the Foundation. They are proud of the event's success in fostering community support, fundraising, and Conquistador pride. ■



ALBA GUTIERREZ-ORTIZ

Foundation Announces Scholarship Winners

by Michael Marino

The sincerest “Thank You” to all who donate to support scholarships via the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation. Scholarship support is integral to the Foundation’s goals and provides Conquistadors with the ability to pursue a higher education. I also want to thank all of the wonderful students who sent the Foundation emails and letters thanking our donors. These will be shared with donors in the 2025-2026 Foundation Scholarship Report.

The list below only reflects Foundation scholarships, meaning that not all Financial Aid available to DC3 students is listed here. Please navigate to the links below to review the full lists: DC3 scholarships can be found at dc3.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships and DC3 Foundation scholarships can be found at dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/foundation-scholarships/. ■

The 2025-2026 recipients are as follows:

- **Eldon Becker Education Scholarship:** Kara Haselhorst, Kloe Nelson
- **Dick Brown Memorial Scholarship:** Paityn Tenbrink
- **Krumrey Scholarship:** Frankie Martens
- **Ann & Norman Ehrlich Memorial Scholarship:** Josue Zapata
- **Sanko-Calhoun Trust Scholarship:** Zienna Kaiser, Jorge Estrella, Cheyenne Davis
- **DCHS Classes '60, '61, '62, White, & Williams Scholarship:** Maria Osorio, Karina Avalos Martinez
- **Elisa Murphy Memorial Scholarship:** Jennifer Rivera
- **Robbins Business & Leadership Scholarship:** Nicolas Cipolla
- **James & Carl Noland Memorial Scholarship:** James Bradley
- **Howard & Thelma Sailor Memorial Scholarship:** Juliana Carrillo, Luis Del Real Montoya, Litzzy Andazola, Leiann Maize, Adyson O'Reilly, Conner Lovin, Austen Raines, Kayl Klem, Quinton Kaufman, Danielson Conner, John Clifford, Ricky Loftin II, Loren Sweat
- **Richard K. Burke, PhD Memorial Scholarship:** Karen Vargas Alvarez
- **Frank & Edith Spaniol Memorial Scholarship:** Salvador Martinez, Abby Martinez Cuevas, Naomi Parra, Ashley Juarez Alarcon, Maria Ponce Castillo, Juan Rodriguez, April Hermosillo, Chantel Hernandez, Liz Reyna Rojas, Jaquín Valless, Derick Shanks, Anyssa Macias Adame, Amery Macias Adame, Skylar Courtney, Michael Martinez Lerma, Gabriela Villagrana, Ryan Hall Jr.
- **Irene Paulin Nursing Scholarship:** Carolina Ortiz Aguilera, Amy Alarcon Martinez, Alyson Dreiling
- **Vera Tully Nursing Scholarship:** Emily Estevane Moran
- **Scroggins Nursing Scholarship:** Daniela Cerda, Kimberly Hernandez
- **Lucille Schaapfeld Nursing Scholarship:** Chelsea Harris
- **Glen & Marjory Jeffery Memorial Scholarship:** Juanita Puentes, Jennifer Lamas
- **June Hull Sherrid Nursing Scholarship:** Nereida Rodriguez Torres, Maria Rocha, Cheyenne Davis, Chris Eargood Memorial Scholarship, Ryan Jensen
- **Kevin Pember Memorial Scholarship:** Austin Hornung
- **Scroggins Child Care Scholarship:** Jaqueline Hernandez Acosta
- **Jack Stoecker Athletic Scholarship:** Riley Moore
- **Carl & Linda Bjork Scholarship:** Dezae Schmidt
- **Barnes-Gleckler Scholarship:** Imogen Mann
- **Clair C. Conard Family Foundation Scholarship:** Morgan Ruff, Braxton Clark
- **Math/Science Scholarship:** Kristina Bates
- **Bob Schmitt Scholarship:** Careion Franklin, Shyann Clark
- **Eloise Berryman Memorial Scholarship:** Harley Shoaf
- **Ed Alexander Scholarship:** Jordan Garcia, Jesus Martinez
- **Joe & Melissa Rodriguez Scholarship:** Juliana Molinero, Josue Zapata
- **Landon Jay Frazier Scholarship:** Meike Paetzold, Cinthya Garcia Alvarado, Hayden Dingi, Lauren Hasenbalg
- **Leslie and Betty Houser Scholarship:** Alissa Weece, Raena Temaat, Paige Jordan, Elen Perez Silva, Maria Osorio, Betsy Marquina Mendez, Nathan Guile, Cindy Ortiz Mendoza, Breanna Rojas Aguilar, Juan Enriquez, Emily Jimenez, Uvia Otero Martinez, Ethan Pogue, Cherlyn De La Cruz Martinez, Ivory De La Torre, Yayrit Lopez, Jana Calderon, Crystal Vazquez, Shady Mohamed, Jasmine Henry-Quezada, Ximena Negrete Villafana
- **Noble Melencamp Academic Scholarship:** Matis Rodrigue, Breanna Cossman, Peter Bui, McCoy Rippentrop, Dariel Luna Santiago, Peyton Bannister, Sophia Faidley, Antonio Quezada, Destiny Russom, Carson Spoons, Cache Atwood, Campbell Anderson, Danica Miller, Caroline Olson, JaMon Carpenter, Saylor Rhoden, Jordyn Boxberger, Gage Strucko, Sophia Calistro, Kaylee Kinsinger, Lilian Trejo, Sawyer Brinkman, Brandon Ferguson
- **Mullin Brothers Foundation Scholarship:** Arias Armenta
- **Marvin Hampton Memorial Scholarship:** ZaRiyah Simmons, Taloc Figueroa, Ryder Brill
- **Kiwanis Club Scholarship:** Rachel Harrold

DC3 Foundation Donors

Make an Impact in Your Community!

by Michael Marino

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation would like to thank the following partners for their generous support between May 26 and Nov. 6, 2025. In total, more than \$367,000 will be used for scholarship support, beautification projects, a public display of local art pieces from the Newby Collection, and various other initiatives at the college and in the community. ■

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Just One More

On Nov. 5, members of the DC3 Baseball Team showed up in full force to cheer on the DC3 Volleyball Team as they battled rival Garden City Community College for a five-set victory at the Skinner Student Activity Center.

