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PRESIDENT’S WELCOME

85 Years of Conq Nation

I would like to welcome you to our latest issue of the Conquistador magazine. Because 2020 marks 85 years of Dodge City Community College (DC3), we have several pages of historical content and alumni-related news in this edition. And we will also give you a sneak preview of the history we will showcase at our 85th anniversary celebration on Oct. 18!

Founded in 1935 during the Great Depression, DC3 was originally known as Dodge City Junior College and was housed on the third floor of Dodge City High School at 1601 First Ave. In 1957, the college moved to its second location at 1000 N. Second Ave., which most recently housed the USD 443 administrative offices.

Because the growing college was again out of space in the late 1960s, property was acquired and dirt work began on a new multi-building campus west of town. This third and current location at 2501 N. 14th Ave. officially opened in 1970. So, not only are we celebrating our 85th anniversary as a college, we are also celebrating 50 years at our present campus!

There is no denying that 2020 has been a challenging year. Although COVID-19 has disrupted nearly every aspect of our ‘normal’ lives, DC3 is still prepared to offer students an affordable, high-quality education—no matter what is going on in the world. And, as always, we remain committed to our mandate of meeting the needs of our students where they are.

So, once again, I just want to welcome you to our latest issue. Not only do I hope you will enjoy the trip down memory lane, but I also hope you will like reading about the wonderful things our students are doing now. As always, thank you for being a part of Conq Nation! Together we conquer!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte
President
Due to the generosity of several anonymous patrons, the DC3 art studios have recently received some much needed new equipment. Some of these upgrades include new exhaust booths, new tables and chairs, and a new kiln. Pictured (left to right) are Jennifer Nolan, DC3 Associate Professor of Art, and Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Foundation Director.

DC3 maintenance staff completed the installation of new purple and gold flags around campus on Aug. 10. The four flag styles include the college academic logo, college mascot, DC3 Tech logo and the college's 85th anniversary logo.

On Sept. 15, John Walker—the man in charge of the DC3 cafeteria—officially retired after 17 years. At a come-and-go reception in the DC3 Board Room, members of the college's faculty, staff and administration met to wish him well in his retirement.

At a special Board of Trustees meeting on June 30, Jacob Ripple, DC3 Athletic Director, was presented with the 2019-20 Junior/Community College Under Armour AD of the Year Award. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Jacob Ripple; and Gary Harshberger, DC3 Board of Trustees Chairman.

Kyle Wolnik and Amanda Zayas were recognized on March 12 at the All-Academic Awards ceremony in Topeka for their academic achievements through the DC3 Kappa Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Wolnik is a December 2019 graduate of DC3, and Zayas is a current DC3 student majoring in elementary education. Pictured (left to right) are Wolnik; Clay Cederquist, Kappa Psi Chapter Advisor; and Zayas.

On Aug. 14, Winter Livestock hosted members of the DC3 rodeo team for an evening meet-and-greet cookout at their Dodge City sale barn location. (See related story on Page 14.)
Throughout its 85 years, Dodge City Community College (DC3) has graduated thousands of students with certificate and associate degrees, and many of them have remained in the area. Several DC3 alumni are even the second, third or fourth generation in their families to attend the college.

One of the current members of the DC3 Board of Trustees, Kathy (Wheaton) Ramsour, is one such graduate. Not only did she graduate from DC3, but so did her husband Don, her sister Pamela Preston, her brother-in-law Steve Preston, and her son-in-law Tom Armstrong.

Ramsour, who graduated from DC3 in 1970, went on to become an educator for 46 years in the Dodge City school system. She said she credits DC3 with teaching her leadership skills, time management, and the love of education.

When it came time for the college to move from Second Avenue to its new campus on 14th Avenue, Ramsour was actually one of the students who helped with the move over the 1970 spring break.

“When the new campus was built, that was huge!” she said. “We became a hub of other communities and a feeder college to St. Mary of the Plains College.”

In addition to the college changing locations during Ramsour’s sophomore year, it also made a controversial decision to cancel the football program, she said.

“At that time, they believed football was not an asset,” she said. “What we [the students] believed was football brought students, was a community gathering spot, and gave us college spirit and a common bond. So, the Student Senate, DC3 students, and even high school students, protested. And football was reinstated.”

As DC3 heads toward its 85th anniversary celebration on Oct. 18, Ramsour said she thinks it is key that the college continues to be progressive and to take programs to the people, especially the area high schools.

“Working with the high schools will only continue to help meet the needs of our potential students,” she said. “We have a strong alliance with USD 443 and our city, and that is a positive direction we are all going.”

Another DC3 success story is Ernestor De La Rosa who graduated from DC3 in 2010. After DC3, De La Rosa attended Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University, and he is now a Dodge City assistant city manager.

“As an immigrant and the first member of my family to attend college, DC3 was the gateway to experience college while continuing to be close to my family,” De La Rosa said. “DC3 gave me the confidence, experience and the ‘tools’ needed to be successful at FHSU and WSU.”

De La Rosa said the Ford County scholarship opportunities at DC3 were huge for him, because they helped pay his tuition and other fees.

“I think DC3 has continued to be an affordable option for Latinos and students in general, which allows us to complete all necessary requirements and achieve our career goals and be successful professionals,” he said. “Part of my success is due to staff and faculty at DC3 for being patient and going above and beyond to make sure students like me are successful,” he said. “They went beyond their classrooms to make sure I was on the right track, since I was an ESL [English as a Second Language] student and the first out of my family to attend college. I will forever be thankful for all they did.”

De La Rosa said he thinks DC3 has made many strides to engage and to involve the local Latino population, especially those who have never been to a college campus. And he said Latino participation will only increase if the college continues to meet Latinos “where they are.”

In order to stay relevant, as the demographics and culture have changed through the years, the college has changed with them. And so after nine decades, the secret of DC3’s success remains unchanged since its founding: Meet the needs of the people—where they are.
‘Nothing Ever Replaces Expertise’

Dr. Roger Barnes, son of DC3’s longest-serving president, reflects on his dad’s legacy

By Lance Ziesch

For Dr. Roger Barnes, Dodge City Community College (DC3) is far more than a two-year school he attended before transferring to the University of Kansas. It’s also like home, because he actually grew up with the college.

In 1959, his father, Charles McDonald Barnes, who was DC3’s longest serving head administrator, took the helm of the college. Back in those days, the college president position was known as a college dean. As history would have it, Charles Barnes would be DC3’s last college dean (1959-1965) and its first college president (1965-1982).

In 1959, DC3, like other two-year junior colleges, was under the authority of a local school district, which in this case was USD 443.

“The 443 Board had actually made dad an offer the previous year in 1958, but in Pratt they wouldn’t let him out of his contract,” Barnes said. “So, we came to Dodge the following year in 1959.”

To cover the 1958-59 school year, USD 443 administration asked Bryce Gleckler, who taught economics and sociology at DC3, to serve as an interim dean, he said. That way, they could hold the position for his father. So, in 1959, the Barnes family moved to Dodge City, when he was 8 years old.

At that time, DC3 was located in the city’s former junior high school building at 1000 N. Second Ave. It had moved there in 1957, after spending 22 years on the third floor of Dodge City High School. So, although the college now had more space to grow, the facilities were still a little crude and cramped, Barnes said.

On the main floor of the building was the auditorium, the library, offices—including his father’s—and on the north end, classrooms. Upstairs there were more classrooms, a couple of science labs, and the balcony entrance for the auditorium. And in the basement was a dark, dungeon-like gymnasium, which was used for physical education classes, and the original Conq Corral snack bar.

1934
DCJC opens.
1935
First Conq mascot logo is introduced.

1936
Students choose Conquistador mascot.

1953
DCJC becomes Dodge City College.

1956
“Hail the Purple and the Gold” becomes the college alma mater song on April 27, 1956.
During his growing-up years, Barnes said he would regularly accompany his dad to the college on Saturday mornings. While his dad would work, he would explore the building and shoot hoops in the subterranean gym.

“It was like going into a dungeon!” he said. During this time, DC3 continued to grow, and in the early 1960s it again needed additional spaces for its programs, classrooms and offices. So, the college purchased the houses across the street. These buildings would be used for programs like art and band, and one would even house the business office and the bookstore.

“When we were at Second Avenue, the college bought some houses across the street, and they were old,” he said. “They were dilapidated, they were tight, they were cramped, and they weren’t adequate at all.”

Not long after Charles Barnes became dean, he and others began to strategize about how to solve the college’s growing lack of space. And a few years later, he began to talk with others in the county and state about changing the way junior colleges were structured and funded. Some of these conversations would eventually help craft the Kansas Community Junior College Act of 1965.

Barnes said he remembers his dad making lots of trips back and forth to Topeka on the train during this period.

“He was really involved with the legislative move to create the Kansas community college system and to take the junior colleges out of the local school boards and create a county-wide basis of support,” Barnes said. “I know he worked closely with Laurin Jones, who was a state senator from Dodge, in writing the Community College Act in the mid-1960s.” Barnes said.

1957

DCC moves to 1000 N. Second Ave.

1959

Charles Barnes hired as Dean.

DC3 Bids a Final Farewell to Second Avenue

Although it has been 50 years since the Conquistadors left the building, the two-story red-brick school at 1000 N. Second Ave. is still referred to as the “old college” by many in the community. And now that the building is undergoing demolition, Dodge City Community College (DC3) bids the venerable old place one last goodbye.

In its 106 years, the “old college” building has had several uses. Originally built in 1914 by Dodge City Schools as a high school, it became a junior high facility when the new high school (now Comanche Middle School) was completed in 1924. And when Dodge City Middle School was built in 1956, the building was once again open for occupancy. And the following year, DC3 moved in—after outgrowing its space on the third floor of Dodge City High School.

So, in 1957, the building became the proud home of the Conquistadors. However, like its prior location, DC3 would soon outgrow this building as well. And with no room on site to enlarge the facility, the college’s only option for expansion was to purchase the houses across the street, which it utilized for various offices, programs, and departments.

By the mid-1960s, the DC3 campus buildings were showing their age, and the college was again out of space. So, the college began to look for property on which to build a new campus. And in 1967, they acquired 143 acres of farmland on the western edge of the city. A year later, dirt work and construction began.

After DC3 moved to its new campus in March 1970, the “old college” building was vacant once again, although not for long. In October 1970, USD 443 moved its administrative offices there, and the Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts Center, which later became the Kansas Heritage Center, moved into the old college library area.

However, now that USD 443 has completed and occupied its new district office, which is connected to the Dodge City Civic Center, and the Kansas Heritage Center has relocated across the street to the basement of the Dodge City Public Library, the “old college” building is undergoing a speedy demolition.

The first phase of the building’s dismantlement began in July 2020, when furniture and fixtures were offered for sale on Purple Wave Auction. The next phase, which began in late August, started with asbestos removal. And then the real demolition work began in September, as workers began knocking out windows and removing wood from the interior.

The building’s 1914 cornerstone was removed on Oct. 1, by workers from USD 443 and Hutton Construction, which is the company in charge of the demolition. A small crowd—made up of representatives from USD 443, DC3 and the Ford County Historical Society—was on hand to watch the process.

The cornerstone, along with the matching Board of Education block located near the front doors, will join other salvaged items already given to the Ford County Historical Society. These items include some of the building’s interior woodworking and doors, the decorative light fixtures from its hallways, the west entrance’s iconic triangle-grid-pattern windows, and the second floor stained-glass skylight.

As of early October 2020, the “old college” building is undergoing its final demolition. And by the end of the year, all that will remain are memories—and a vacant lot. 
“He and Edwin Walbourn [of what is now Butler Community College] were the two community college presidents who were the most involved in that push,” he said.

After the state legislature passed the community college act in the spring of 1965, the citizens of Ford County voted overwhelmingly to establish DC3 as a county-based school in the summer of 1965. Later that fall, the first Board of Trustees was elected from the county-at-large.

“I think that’s one of the reasons why somebody like Hugh White, from Kingsdown, and Jack Randall, from Bucklin, said, ‘Okay, if our communities are going to be involved, we want to have a say in how all of this operates.’ They were tremendous Board members. I think the best Board my dad ever had was that first one.”

In addition to Hugh White, who served as the Board chairman, and Jack Randall, the other members of that inaugural Board of Trustees included Maxine Alderson, (Dodge City); Alfred Steimel (Wright); Clair Conard (Dodge City); and Lee Braddock (Dodge City), who also served as vice chairman.

About a year later, on Oct. 11, 1966, the citizens of Ford County, by a two-to-one margin, endorsed a $2.5 million dollar bond issue to build a new campus.

“Although, I do remember a little bit of concern, a little grumbling, in some of the smaller communities in Ford County. Some of the people outside of Dodge City weren’t crazy about being taxed to support a school that was in Dodge City,” Barnes said.

“But, that skepticism was overcome, and the bond issue passed rather successfully. The politics of making that happen was something that my dad was very pleased with.”

With the bond now in place, DC3 was finally ready to begin making plans to literally move the college to greener pastures.

**THE NEW CAMPUS**

“They bought the land from Jim Mooney, who was a farmer,” Barnes said. “His son was in my class.”

At the time of the land purchase, the U.S. Highway 50 bypass was the northern boundary of Dodge City, and the Mooney farm was at the corner of town, he said.

“There was nothing on the other side except fields,” he said. “So, putting the college out there turned out to be a really good move.”

After purchasing the Mooney property on Feb. 6, 1967, the college hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site on May 26, 1968, and the campus construction officially began that June.

The new campus was designed by a Houston-based architectural firm called Caudill Rowlett Scott. And one of the firm’s key representatives was a guy named Truitt Garrison.

“He [Garrison] made numerous visits to Dodge City, back and forth,” Barnes said. “He would come over to the house, and he and my dad would look at these blueprints and these plans. The two of them together would say, ‘Well maybe, we ought to move this over here and move this over to here.’ It was fun to watch the college grow up, brick by brick, on what had previously been a cow pasture,” he said.

“It wasn’t like you were just adding a new building. You were adding all new buildings, all new facilities, everything boom at once!” he said. “I think it is one of the prettiest community college campuses in the state, if not the entire region. I think it was a huge accomplishment.”

For its design of the DC3 campus, Caudill Rowlett Scott would later receive an Honor Award from the Texas Society of Architects in 1971.

Although the new campus would open for classes after the 1970 spring break, its official dedication would not be until Oct. 25, 1970.

Moving from Second Avenue to the new campus was a “day and night” difference, Barnes said. The Conquistadors had gone from a tired old building, with its dilapidated houses across the street, to a brand new 143-acre campus with “these marvelously designed” buildings.

“When we arrived at the new campus, it was new,” he said. “Everything was new. Offices, facilities, everything. It was beautiful. Maybe today they are not so spectacular, but 50 years ago they were cool.”
Everyone was excited about moving to the new campus, Barnes said. And everyone also pitched in—faculty, staff and students—to make it happen.

“We used our own cars,” he said. “It was a big collective effort. Faculty, staff, students—we moved the whole college, kit and caboodle, pretty much all at one time. And nothing really remained down on Second Avenue.”

Because Barnes was a work-study student in the DC3 library, he was involved in a “very interesting system” devised by the head librarian, Audria Shelden, to move the books to the new campus.

“They had trays made… We could just take the books off the shelves, put them on these carrying trays, and move them that way,” he said. “So, we didn’t take the books out of order, and it made re-shelving [relatively] easy.”

Once everything was in place, Barnes said the new campus gave everyone “a whole lot of spirit, and a lot of verve, and a lot of energy.” This was especially true for the drama and music students, he said.

“You take a look at the old auditorium, which was a tiny little inky-dinky thing on the first floor of the building on Second Avenue. And then you look at the new theatre, and it was the difference between night and day,” he said. “The kids had this beautiful theatre to work in now, and not some cramped little stage. And the kids who were in band, now had a band room… with rehearsal rooms.”

Looking back on the differences between the old and new campuses, Barnes said he thought the new campus also helped to compensate some of the longtime faculty for their years of service on Second Avenue.

“My dad once told me, ‘Remember Rog, nothing ever replaces expertise.’ And I look back at the faculty that he had back in those days, and he had a darn good faculty,” he said. “He had some people who had quite a measure of expertise.”

**Roger attends DC3**

After graduating from Dodge City High School in spring 1969, Barnes decided to continue his education at DC3 that fall. And after graduating from DC3 in 1971, he would later transfer to the University of Kansas. However, while at DC3, Barnes also would meet the love of his life, Karin Kessinger, who would later become his wife.

“When I started in 1969, in the fall, we were down on Second Avenue in the old building,” he said. “And so we moved in the spring of 1970 from the old building out to the new campus, and Karin arrived in the summer of 1970. She started working in the library for Mrs. Shelden. And the library is where we met in early September 1970, and the rest of that is history, as they say.”

Growing up with the college as he did, Barnes said he knew most of the faculty as family friends, well before he started classes as a student. Through the years, many of them had come over to his parents’ house for bridge or other activities, and some had played golf with his dad.

“I knew the faculty, and they knew me as a little kid, but I didn't get any preferential treatment,” he said. “If I did, I wasn't aware of it, and I also didn't catch any grief.”

Of course, he said the president of any school is going to make decisions that people are not going to like, and sometimes those decisions will affect how people interact with the president’s family. But as a whole,
having his dad as president while he was on campus “was not a bad thing at all.”

Barnes remembers walking by his dad’s office in the Administration building, which at the time, was also where the Board of Trustees met. This office, which is occupied today by the vice president of academic affairs, was located on the south end of that building.

“I would walk by on the outside, knock on the window and wave at him, and then just keep walking on,” he said. “I pretty much tried not to bug him when I was there. I knew he had things he had to do.”

So, although his college experience at DC3 was mostly like that of other students, there were other times when it was a little uncomfortable being the president’s son, he said.

“It was a little bit mixed when I started in 1969 because the Board had made… the decision to drop football, and I mean to tell you, it was a mess,” he said. “All of those kids who wanted to play football, and their parents, were really unhappy. It was very unpleasant to be my dad’s son [at that point], because he came under a lot of fire.”

Although that decision had been made by the Board of Trustees as a cost-saving device, his dad became the face of the matter to the students and to the public, he said.

“The Board is this kind of amorphous group of people who are very remote, in so far as most faculty and students know,” he said. “So, the one guy you could focus your discontent on was my dad. But, the Board changed that decision, and they were back to football the following year. I think everybody was very happy with that decision.”

Lecture Series program

So although it could be tough being the president’s son at times, there were also perks along the way, Barnes said. And his favorite was the distinguished speakers Lecture Series that his dad established while the college was still located on Second Avenue.

After these talks, which were usually at the Civic Center, the speakers would come over to his parents’ house—and sit down and talk. Sometimes these gatherings were attended by 30-35 faculty members and their spouses.

“One of the things that was so really rewarding—and one of the benefits of having your dad be the president of the college—was that these distinguished speakers would come over to our house after their talks,” he said.

Over the years, this speaker program brought in some really notable people, he said. People like John Howard Griffin, who wrote the blockbuster book “Black Like Me.”

“Griffin was a white man who dyed his skin black and then traveled throughout some portions of the South in the late 1950s,” he said. “He saw what life was like from the eyes of a black guy.”

Others included Tran Van Dihn, who had been the South Vietnamese ambassador to the United States; David Schoenbrun, who was a CBS commentator; Drew Pearson, who was a famed Washington, D.C. columnist; Julian Bond, the Georgia legislator, who was a huge player in the American Civil Rights movement; and Bill Russell, who was an all-star with the Boston Celtics.

But without a doubt, he said his favorite speaker of the Lecture Series was Bill Sands, who had written a bestselling autobiography called “My Shadow Ran Fast” about his years behind bars in San Quentin.

“Bill had served time in San Quentin prison as a teenager and as a young guy in his 20s,” Barnes said. “He had burglarized houses. He had stolen automobiles. He was a bad boy.”

However, Barnes said that his crimes were not the end of his story. Bill ended up in San Quentin, where warden Clinton T. Duffy became a surrogate father figure to him.

“It turned out to be hugely important, because Clinton Duffy was one of America’s most-famous prison wardens,” he said.

“The author of numerous books himself, and a prison reformer of great renown, Duffy taking Sands under his wing really turned his life around.”

DCCC moves to new campus at 2501 N. 14th Ave. 1970

1979 President Charles Barnes retires.

1982 Second Conq mascot logo is introduced.

1994 DCCC becomes an Area Technical Center.

1995 Lake Charles restoration project begins.

8 The Conquistador FALL 2020
“After Sands’ talk, him and his relatively new bride—a beautiful German girl named Regina—came over to our house,” Barnes said. “We had probably about 20 or 25 friends and faculty who were there. And I had just written a letter to the editor of the Wichita Eagle. This was the spring of 1968.”

In his recent editorial, Barnes had criticized the newspaper for printing another person’s letter, which supported the death penalty in Kansas.

“So, I went and grabbed my copy,” he said. “Here I am a high school junior, and I take my copy of the letter, and I said, ‘Mr. Sands, maybe you could read this?’ And he said, ‘Sure.’ And he sat there, and he read it. Then he and I talked for the next hour, just the two of us... with all of these other people around.”

Toward the end of the evening, Sands invited him to come to his hotel room the next morning, at the Silver Spur, to cut an interview. Sands explained to him that as he was touring the country for his lectures, he was also taping interviews with the “interesting young people” he was meeting along the way.

“So, I did this interview on tape with Bill, and then about a year later, he called me up, actually in the summer months, and said, ‘Listen, I’m taking a documentary team to Tucker prison farm in Arkansas, where death row is. Would you like to come and be a part of the team?’ And, I said, ‘Well, of course!’ ”

So, instead of beginning his first two weeks of college on Second Avenue, Barnes was traveling the country with a 19-person documentary team.

“We spent four days at Tucker prison farm in Arkansas filming life on death row,” he said. “And then we went on to New York and did an interview with Norman Vincent Peale, and then to Washington, D.C., where we interviewed Senators Chuck Percy, of Illinois, and Dan Inouye, of Hawaii.”

Following their time in Washington, the documentary team then went to Rushford, N.Y., where they did an interview with American writer Philip Wiley.

“At that point, I had been gone for like two weeks, and it was time to come back to school,” he said. “So, I returned to Dodge, and Bill and the documentary team went back to California.”

A month later, on Oct. 28, 1969, Bill Sands had a heart attack and died at the age of 49. “His death crushed lots of people, including myself,” he said. “It was a huge loss.”

And to add to that loss, Barnes said all of the interviews that had been done for the Tucker project have never surfaced, to his knowledge.

“What the college did with this distinguished speaker series—bringing in people like Bill Sands and others—was very successful with the community,” he said. “It was big, and it was a real value to the community to do that. I’ve always thought that all colleges ought to have such a program.”

Because he was so deeply affected by the “life-changing” experience he had at Tucker prison, Barnes said he later decided to pursue a career in sociology. Today, he and his wife Karin make their home in San Antonio, Texas, where he teaches sociology courses at the University of the Incarnate Word.

After leading the college for 23 years, Charles Barnes officially retired in 1982. However, he remained at the college in an advisory role through the 1982-83 school year. And although he passed away in 2000, at the age of 82, his legacy proudly remains in the beautiful campus he helped create, which includes Lake Charles—the lake that bears his name.
The New Campus

Physical Education

Library

Student Union

Fine Arts
Dodge City Community College (DC3) recently received two sizeable grants for two of its on-campus student programs—one that seeks to help Hispanic students pursue technical training, and the second that serves low-income students, first-generation college students and students with disabilities.

The first grant—which totals $2,783,647—was awarded to DC3 for a five-year Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program Title V project called Achieving Credentials in Dodge City, KS (or AC/DC KS). “AC/DC KS is designed to develop five technical programs—including three new programs—at the college to provide Hispanic students opportunities to pursue technical training,” Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President of Workforce Development, said. “This training includes stackable credentials leading to high-wage jobs in industries that are recognized by the local area workforce board as high-demand in Local Area 1, which is the area where the college is located.”

Tatro said AC/DC KS intends to leverage its partnership with the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) to add industry-recognized certifications to robust career pathways, which will lead to college-awarded certificates and degrees.

“To encourage more high school students to transition to college and to attain college credit, DC3 will start an innovative dual enrollment program for high school juniors and seniors in these same programs,” he said. “The college will also revise and implement the Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) pathways for existing and new programs. This program will co-enroll adult education students in basic skills and technical programs, and all project participants will be provided tutoring and wrap-around student services.”

The DC3 service area is made up of nine counties, which covers 9,000 square miles. And although it has a high number of Hispanic residents—and a low unemployment rate of 2.4%—earnings in this area are low compared to the rest of Kansas.

“Despite the high employment rate, earnings here are lower than the rest of the state,” he said. They are actually 9.3% lower. This reflects the high demand for workers in low-wage jobs.”

In recent years, the ratio of Hispanic students at DC3 has increased steadily from 32% in fall 2012 to 45% in fall 2018, Tatro said. “However, this percentage is lower than both the percentage in the community, which is 54%, and the percentage in the service area high schools, which is 56%,” he said. “At Dodge City High School, 78% of the students are Hispanic, which indicates that the community ratio is likely to continue to grow even more in the future.”

The second grant—which totals $1,309,440 over the course of the five-year 2020-2025 grant award cycle—was approved on Aug. 18 for the DC3 TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program. TRIO, which is committed to
the holistic success of currently enrolled DC3 students, is available for low-income students, first-generation college students and students with disabilities.

“The Department of Education received 1,732 eligible applications for new grant awards under the Fiscal Year 2020 Student Support Services Program competition,” Dr. Gregory Roberts, TRIO Student Support Services Program Director, said. “The department was able to fund in rank order 1,131 applications based on the total score assigned to each application.”

Roberts said that an application’s total score is determined by the average score assigned to the application by three non-federal reviewers, plus the addition of any prior experience points.

“The total score of an application is 110 points, along with 15 points for prior experience, which makes an application worth a total of 125 points,” he said. “The DC3 TRIO Student Support Services Program grant application scored 124.67, which is nearly a perfect score.”

The TRIO program’s objectives include to serve as advocates for students and to meet students’ academic, vocational, and personal goals, he said. And the grant award acknowledges that the college’s program has assisted “students to overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education,” he said.

“Because of our past successes in serving underrepresented students and nontraditional student populations in previous grant award cycles, the DC3 TRIO SSS Program has been awarded again to continue this social equity approach in serving educationally committed eligible students from disadvantaged backgrounds,” he said.

Through the DC3 TRIO SSS Program, 144 eligible program participants will be selected, Roberts said. And the program will provide academic advising in course selection and planning; financial literacy to identify scholarship opportunities, along with assistance to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); transfer assistance; academic tutoring; career exploration and life planning; and workshops to assist with academic and personal success.

“We provide opportunities through high-quality learning, academic tutoring, advising in course selection, assistance in completing the FAFSA and assistance in exploring scholarship opportunities—as well as provide assistance to apply for admissions to a four-year college or university,” Roberts said.

DC3 Partners with Area Businesses

An integral aspect of the Dodge City Community College (DC3) strategic plan is to meet the needs of the students and community members of which it serves. In the past few months, the college has worked with several area businesses—including National Beef, Jimmy John’s and Winter Livestock—to help meet those needs.

**NATIONAL BEEF**

On July 31, representatives from National Beef Packing Company LLC presented DC3 with a check for $10,000 to help with the college’s ongoing COVID-19 response efforts.

National Beef Human Resources Director, Onofre “Opie” Astorga, said National Beef is grateful to the college for how it has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“National Beef wants be supportive of DC3, and this donation is just a token of our appreciation for what they do,” Astorga said. “And we look forward to having better partnerships—and more partnerships—with DC3.”

In a release from National Beef, General Manager Kris Ragan said National Beef is grateful for how DC3 has taken care of its employees and their families during the past few months.
“I promise you that our National Beef family is committed to walking hand in hand with you, and other Dodge City community leadership and organizations, in doing all we can to protect the health and safety of our community,” Ragan said.

“I’m pleased with the contribution they made to the college for our COVID-19 efforts,” said Gary Harshberger, DC3 Board of Trustees Chairman. “We’re doing everything we can to make our students safe and feel comfortable here, and this donation will go a long way in helping us to continue to do that.”

DC3 President Dr. Harold Nolte said, “National Beef, like DC3, is committed to serving our community. We are so thankful for their generous donation during these challenging times, and we are excited about the possibility of helping National Beef meet its workforce development needs in the future.”

**JIMMY JOHN’S**

The owners of the Dodge City Jimmy John’s, which is located at 1601 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd., also partnered with DC3 to help provide a welcome back gift to faculty and staff as the college prepared for its first day of fall classes on Aug. 12.

“As we set out to plan our faculty and staff welcome back luncheon, we thought it would be fun to provide gift cards from one of our local restaurants to our nearly 300 employees,” Andrea Loll, DC3 Director of Enrollment Management and Marketing, said. “We wanted a gift that would accommodate our employees’ food allergies and also would give them a safe dining option during COVID-19.”

After contacting the local Jimmy John’s owners—Larry and Jillian Janulewicz—about the gift card idea, Loll said they were both immediately enthusiastic.

“Not only were they onboard, they also were very gracious in helping us with some of the financial costs of the gift cards,” she said.

“We just like to help out,” Larry Janulewicz said. “We’re here to be part of the community, and we’re here to help.”

In addition to the gift cards—which were given out on Aug. 10—faculty and staff also received free commemorative T-shirts for the college’s 85th anniversary, Loll said.

“I think the gift certificate and T-shirt made a really nice welcome back gift for all of our employees,” Loll said. “And I am thrilled that Jimmy John’s helped us to make it happen.”

DC3’s ongoing partnership with Jimmy John’s began in September 2019 when the restaurant helped provide lunches for the college’s Senior Day event, Loll said.

“Following the success of Senior Day, Jimmy John’s then helped us provide food for our first Junior Experience event on Feb. 12,” Loll said.

The Jimmy John’s chain was founded in 1983 by Jimmy John Liautaud, in the college town of Charleston, Ill. As a means of survival, Liautaud began hand delivering tasty sandwiches to students at Eastern Illinois University. From there, he grew the business into what it is today.

“Jimmy John’s in Dodge City continues that legacy by providing tasty sandwiches to DC3 faculty, staff and students—as well as the entire Dodge City community,” Loll said. “The working relationship we have with them is another example of why Dodge City Community College continues to say, ‘Together We Conquer!’ ”

**WINTER LIVESTOCK**

On Aug. 14, Winter Livestock hosted members of the DC3 rodeo team for an evening meet-and-greet cookout at their Dodge City sale barn location.

“The cookout was a chance for Winter Livestock to get to know this year’s rodeo kids, who are primarily agricultural kids,” Gabe Burrows, DC3 Head Rodeo Coach, said. “It’s a good chance for the team to get out in the community and interact with people who have been really good to us.”

Burrows said the college’s relationship with Winter Livestock began in 2019, when they donated funds through the DC3 Foundation that were earmarked exclusively for ag programs.

“Last year, they helped us a lot,” he said. “They were really generous and donated money to the school. Through that, we were able to build new horse pens for the kids, a pipe perimeter fence around the facilities, and we were able to update a lot of our ag classrooms.”

DC3 Foundation Director, Christina Haselhorst, said she is grateful for the college’s relationship with Winter Livestock, and she is glad that the students who benefit from their generosity get a chance to meet them.

“I think the cookout was a fantastic idea,” she said. “It’s another way we can grow and strengthen our partnership with Winter Livestock—and also get our students more involved in the community.”

Burrows said he is incredibly thankful for Winter Livestock’s ongoing generosity, and he is excited about partnering with them for future projects.

“I appreciate all of their support and how they have helped my kids and how they have helped the school,” he said. “It’s just really nice that somebody wants to help.”

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VIRTUAL ART SHOW
Regarding the art show, Jennifer Nolan, DC3 Associate Professor of Art, said transitioning to an online exhibition only made sense, as a majority of classes had already moved in that direction because of the campus closure in March.

“I am a member of several professional art education organizations, and their online discussion groups were addressing the challenges of teaching three dimensional media such as ceramics, sculpture and metalsmithing,” Nolan said. “The next dilemma was how to handle exhibitions. Online catalogs are fairly common, so the use of those to create a virtual online exhibition was a natural transition. Devlin Goldworm and I agreed that this was the best way to continue the exhibition.”

A total of 25 students—from ceramics, metalsmithing/jewelry, painting and drawing classes—were featured in the online exhibition.

“Some students were able to take materials and supplies home before spring break, I was able to put together kits for my ceramics students,” Nolan said. “And some were not able to make arrangements to pick anything up, so there was a huge range of accessibility to materials, tools and equipment. Some students had machine shops to work in, and some had only their bedrooms or back patios. So, students were using whatever materials they had at hand.”

In spite of these difficulties, Nolan said the circumstances ended up inspiring students to be more creative and use unconventional ‘art materials’ in their projects.

“Students were freer to experiment and push the categories of traditional art making,” she said. “You will see that most of the ceramics pieces are in various states of completion. Some are finished with the glass glaze completely fired. Some have the glaze applied, but are not fired, and some pieces are in their raw state.”

Moving forward, Nolan said she expects student art exhibitions to return to the Little Theatre Gallery. However, the online catalog aspect might just become a new tradition to enhance the in-person shows, she said.

“This way we have a permanent record of all artwork shown that semester, which can be shared with a larger audience online,” she said.

With all the challenges facing DC3 art students this semester, Nolan said she fully expected to have a small response to the call for show entries. However, the result was quite the opposite, she said.

“They blew me away with not only the quantity of the work, but the quality of work with a message,” she said. “These students are ready to take any challenge that is thrown at them and not only survive, but come out on the other side with more skills and grit than before. I couldn’t be more proud of them all, and I look forward to having them back in the fall or watching them progress onto their next educational goals.”

DC3 Virtual Showcases Highlight Student Talent
In the wake of the current COVID-19 pandemic, DC3 creative arts programs are utilizing innovative ways to showcase their student talent. One example is the first-ever DC3 online art exhibition, and the second is a student-produced literary magazine, which is in its fourth year.
Wild Writers, which is DC3’s other online creative showcase, is in its fourth year. “When I arrived at DC3 more than three years ago, I was dismayed to hear we had no active student publications,” Kathryn O’Neil, DC3 professor of English and Humanities Division Chair, said. “I used to love submitting work to literary magazines in high school and during my undergraduate years, so I decided to create one.”

In addition to no active student publications at the time, O’Neil said the DC3 creative writing class was also not active. So, she also created a writing club, called the Dodge City Literary and Art Consortium (DCLA). The DCLA then published its first edition, which was originally titled Prairie Winds.

“The idea was and is that students would curate, create and contribute to this magazine, with me as sponsor and mentor,” she said.

After the first year, Prairie Winds was renamed Wild Writers, and the rest is history, she said. “This year we had submissions from 11 writers and seven visual artists,” O’Neil said. “Of them, seven of the writers are students, four are faculty, and all the visual artists are students. One student, Diego Marquina Mendez, illustrated his own writing.”

In terms of writing genres, O’Neil said horror was by far this year’s most popular category for submissions. Although, she said there also was a rise in in the number of superhero action and drama stories as well.

“Every time I launch a new edition of Wild Writers, I’m awed by the talent of our students and faculty,” she said. “The truly amazing part is that our students, though already skilled in their craft, are young and still developing. I expect someday to be able to say, ‘I knew them when ... ’.”

Wild Writers is open to all DC3 students, staff and faculty—as well as Dodge City High School students and members of the community. And there is no cost to submit.

“I’m thrilled with these online showcases. Kudos to Professors Nolan, Goldworm, and O’Neil for providing their students with the opportunities to share their works with an admiring public,” Dr. Jane Holwerda, DC3 Vice President of Academic Affairs, said.

“College art shows and literary magazines, like most student events and activities, commemorate students’ talent and commitment as well as our faculty’s mentoring and instruction,” Holwerda said. “What I feel, when viewing the DC3 online art show and the Wild Writers’ site, is the joy and passion our students and faculty put into these projects. How wonderful is that?”

DC3 Art Classes Are For Students of Any Age

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) visual arts program focuses on preparing traditional students with a foundation in arts education, and it also helps them explore career opportunities in the arts. In addition, non-art majors—including community members—are also welcome to take DC3 art classes as electives, especially if they are looking for hands-on courses.

“Community members also are encouraged to enroll in our studio art classes as an outlet for creative expression, and many find it a relaxing way to get some ‘me time,’” Jennifer Nolan, DC3 Associate Professor of Art, said. “When these two demographics come together, it creates a dynamic where everyone learns and grows with the support of their newfound creative community.”

Nolan said that, even in the midst of the continuing pandemic, all of DC3’s studio art classes are being conducted face-to-face. However, a host of new COVID-19 safety measures have been implemented, which include the mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing and increased cleaning measures.

“Many people are finding that the closures and isolation have been detrimental to their mental health or their general wellbeing,” Nolan said. “Studies suggest that participating in creative activities does improve our stress levels, moods and can even help combat the effects of aging on the brain. If you ask anyone who participates in creative activities, they will probably tell you, simply put, that it just makes them happy. We could all use a little bit more of that in our lives right now.”

The Conquistador  FALL 2020
DC3 and CHAD Host Open House for Building Project

Dodge City Community College (DC3) and the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) hosted an open house on July 14 to show off their latest building project. Through this hands-on partnership, which is in its sixth year, DC3 students build houses from the ground up, learning all facets of building construction.

“CHAD focuses on building affordable housing in established neighborhoods, which allows us to build additional workforce housing while cleaning up blighted neighborhoods,” Mollea Wainscott, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation Assistant Director, said.

This year’s CHAD house is located at 806 Westlawn Ave., and it was designed by Ric Marboeuf of M.R. Builder LLC.

The duplex features spacious floorplans with vaulted ceilings, plush carpeting and wood floors. And each unit contains three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a two-car garage. Both mudrooms also feature trendy barn-style doors that slide on a rails.

Although similar to the duplex that was completed last year on 510 E. Brier St., there are a few differences, she said.

“This is the first time the students poured the concrete sidewalk and steps,” Wainscott said. “And this time we were able to use the existing garage foundation that was already on-site.”

The build, which began in September, was originally expected to end in May. But, due to complications from the COVID-19 outbreak, the project was extended a few weeks, she said.

“We typically start in August and finish in May,” she said. “However, the students did not return on-site after spring break.”

Although COVID-19 caused a campus closure at DC3 in March, CHAD was able to hire some of the students back as contract laborers to finish the build, Wainscott said.

“We had two small groups of students who alternated days,” she said. “This allowed the students to continue to learn their trades, earn some income—as two of the students had lost their jobs due to COVID—and finish the project they had worked so hard on all year.”

Patrick Shiew, DC3 Professor of Building/Construction Technology, who supervised the student crews, said the project would have been completed on time, if not for the pandemic.

In addition to COVID-19, Shiew said the build had some other unique challenges, such as installing a floor-to-roofline firewall separating the two units of the duplex.

“We constructed a firewall between the units all the way up, which took considerable time and labor,” he said. “But that process was a valuable learning experience for the students.”

“Looking around this beautiful house, I am so proud of the great partnership we have with CHAD,” Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President of Workforce Development, said. “This house has great curb appeal, and it highlights the wonderful craftsmanship of both our area workforce and our building tech students. Together, we are helping to revitalize areas of our city by creating wonderful new housing options.”

Now that the current project is complete, CHAD and DC3 are already making plans for next year’s house, which ironically will be located near the CHAD house they built three years ago.

“We will build a single-family home at 1601 Mulberry Circle,” Wainscott said. “We purchased the lot last year, and Mr. Marboeuf is already working on a house design.”
The annual Foundation auction will be back in the Student Activity Center at Dodge City Community College (DC3) this November! Our goal is to raise $100,000 for the Foundation and for scholarships benefiting DC3.

However, because of potential restrictions, the in-person event will be limited to only 100 attendees. While disappointed that the large 300-plus crowd cannot attend as usual, the DC3 Foundation has found a solution. Due to the COVID-19 challenges in 2020, the DC3 Foundation is providing a NEW bidding experience with an online option for the auction this year! Thanks to sponsors, community supporters, and the Foundation, bidders have an opportunity to bid on some amazing auction items from the comfort of homes or offices. Silent auction bidding will begin on Nov. 8 at www.charityauction.bid/DC3Auction (free registration required) and will conclude on Nov. 14. Live auction bidding will begin on the website at 7 p.m. on Nov. 14 immediately following the drawing of the 50/50 Raffle, which will be broadcasted live on Facebook! 50/50 Raffle tickets are being sold for $20 each at the DC3 Foundation office, as well as at Dodge City Brewing in downtown Dodge City.

In 2019, the auction yielded nearly $100,000, which allowed the Foundation to provide more scholarship funds than ever to DC3. Even with the current financial climate, the Foundation has been encouraged by the response of sponsor and item donations from individuals and companies across the United States.

With federal and state funding in sharp decline for higher education, and a pandemic causing many people to seek higher education for new training, community colleges all over the country are relying more than ever on the efforts of their foundations and generous donors. This auction will raise funds for the Foundation and for scholarships for students who are working to reach their educational goals in higher education. It is the hope of the Foundation that this fundraiser will help to provide additional scholarships for students who desperately need assistance at this time.

To be eligible to bid, register for the auction at www.charityauction.bid/DC3Auction. To become a sponsor online, registration is also required. For item donations, please email foundation@dc3.edu or call (620) 225-9541. The DC3 Foundation is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID: 48-1164712.

The DC3 Foundation encourages everyone within the Conquistador Family to please join the auction virtually across the country this year! Please help the Foundation to provide for DC3 students and to continue the mission of Dodge City Community College!
On Aug. 14, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation hosted its 10th annual golf tournament in order to raise funds for its various programs throughout each year.

While some of the plans were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation was able to still make this year’s event possible by making a few changes. After a very foggy start to the day, the weather cooperated and the day became positively beautiful.

The DC3 cheer team, as well as other volunteers from DC3 athletics, marketing, and administration, helped to provide assistance to the Foundation staff and tournament attendees.

New games were created and placed at two different holes on the course, which allowed each team to safely participate as they played through. These games were met with enthusiasm from players, and they also allowed for the Foundation to raise some additional funds.

Other changes at the tournament included making lunch “to go” instead of the usual buffet, canceling the group photo, having registration in a tent away from the gathering teams, providing masks and hand sanitizer, and conducting many of the registrations entirely online or by phone.

A total of 96 players came and joined in the fun at this year’s tournament. Additionally, the tournament saw an increase in sponsors, and the Foundation was able to highlight Title Sponsors and Hole Sponsors on custom-made hole flags on the greens across the course. Should these sponsors choose to contribute to the tournament in 2021, these flags can be reused (unless logos are changed).

Title sponsors were Building Solutions LLC, Rocking M Media LLC, Ron Hamm and Sterling College, and Great Western Dining Service Inc. Hole sponsors were Edward Jones - Wes Owens, Victory Electric Cooperative, Western State Bank, Kerbs Law Office, Farm Bureau Wealth - Ann Frigon, and Landmark National Bank. Tee sponsors were Foley Equipment, Edward Jones - Melanie Harshberger, McDonald’s, Kindsvater Trucking, Prime on the Nine, Steve and Pamela Preston, United Wireless, and Harold and Lynn Nolte. Item donations for prizes and giveaways were provided by Boot Hill Distillery, Glazer’s Beer and Beverage, DC3 Athletics, DC3 Bookstore, Christina Haselhorst, Dodge City Brewing, and DC3 Marketing.

Even with the COVID-19 challenges in 2020, this year’s golf tournament was the most successful the DC3 Foundation has had, nearly doubling last year’s contributions. And as a result, with the addition of some private donations, the DC3 Foundation was able to help provide funds for a seating area in the nursing department’s new facility, which is located next to Water’s Hardware (the old USD 443 Learning Center) at 308 W. Frontview St.
Following the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation, through a partnership with DC3, has created the Heart of Gold Fund. Formerly known internally at the college as the Benevolent Fund, the Heart of Gold Fund was created to further expand the internal employee giving via payroll deductions—and to also include members of the community.

The Heart of Gold Fund is designed to assist students and employees of DC3 who may need financial assistance due to circumstances beyond their control. It has helped students fly home to family funerals, which they would not have been able to attend otherwise, it has helped an employee in need after a house fire, and it has aided in many other ways over the years. DC3 employees made that happen for our Conquistador family. And now, the community at large also can help grow this assistance fund.

In addition, the Heart of Gold Fund plans to create a “Conq Cupboard.” This program will create a “kitchen” of sorts, stocked with snacks, school supplies, and other items to assist students in need. The program will rely on donations of products and funds—from community members, employees, and those students who previously have been helped and are later able to return the favor.

The Conq Cupboard is planned to be housed within the Student Activity Center. However, an opening has not yet been determined.

The Heart of Gold Fund is designated to offset a short-term financial need and is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid for students. Funds for both students and employees are awarded as a grant, and unlike a loan, do not need to be repaid. The number of students and employees who can be served by the fund is subject to available resources. The fund must be sustained by contributions from alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends of DC3.

To donate to the fund, go to [www.aplos.com/aws/give/DodgecityCommunityCollegeFoundation/general](http://www.aplos.com/aws/give/DodgecityCommunityCollegeFoundation/general). Select Heart of Gold Fund from the Purpose dropdown box. The DC3 Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization, and our Tax ID# is 48-1164712. #TogetherWeCONQuer, and together we can work to make DC3 stronger than ever!
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed on March 27 to help support the United States economically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among its many other provisions, the bill made changes to encourage charitable giving to nonprofits to recognize the important role they play in healthcare, social services, and education during this difficult time. Revisions to the Internal Revenue Code are intended to encourage charitable giving. As a result, your direct support of the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation this year can benefit you on your 2020 tax return. Here’s how:

$300 ABOVE-THE-LINE DEDUCTION
(Must Take Standard Deduction)
Charitable deductions are back! If you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return (the one that you will file in 2021), you can claim a brand new “above-the-line” deduction of up to $300 for cash donations to charity you make this year. That includes your support of the DC3 Foundation!

Donations to donor advised funds and certain organizations that support charities are not deductible. Normally, you have to itemize on Schedule A to get a tax break for charitable donations. In this case, though, it’s the other way around—if you itemize, you can’t take this new deduction.

60% OF AGI LIMIT WAIVED
(Must Itemize)
If you itemize on Schedule A of your tax return, you can claim a deduction for your charitable donations. However, the amount you can deduct for cash contributions is generally limited to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Any cash donations over that amount can be carried over for up to five years and deducted later.

The CARES Act lifts the 60% of AGI limit for cash donations made in 2020. (Although, there’s still a 100% of AGI limit on all charitable contributions.) That means itemizers can deduct more of their charitable cash contributions this year, which will hopefully boost charitable giving. As with the new above-the-line deduction, donations to donor-advised funds and supporting organizations don’t count.

CORPORATE & BUSINESS LIMITS INCREASE
For corporations, The CARES Act raises the annual deduction limit for eligible charitable contributions from 10% to 25% of their taxable income. This means that your company’s gift to the DC3 Foundation this year can help save on federal income tax.


CARES Act Encourages Charitable Giving

DC3 Adds Disc Golf Course

A new 18-hole disc golf course was completed on the Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus this past summer. Located mainly around the residence halls and Lake Charles, the new course is open to students, faculty and staff—as well as members of the community.

The course, which is known as Conquistador Park Disc Golf Course, was in development for more than a year, Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Foundation Director, said. “There is growing interest in the world of disc golf.” Haselhorst said. “Last summer, when the Marketing Department approached the Foundation to discuss the possibility of installing a course on campus, I was immediately intrigued. My own son, Matthew, is an avid disc golf player, and he often utilizes the course near his home at college.”

After Haselhorst discussed the idea with college administration, potential donors, and DC3 Head Groundskeeper, Jared Stevens, a plan began to take shape, she said.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, the object is to successfully throw a plastic disc, which is similar to a Frisbee, into a disc-catching basket, Haselhorst said. “On a recreational level, disc golf has all of the fun and challenges of traditional golf, but with very minimal expense for individuals,” she said.

Like most disc golf courses, DC3’s new course is free to use and is available on a first-come, first-served basis, Haselhorst said.

“For those unfamiliar with the sport, the object is to successfully throw a plastic disc, which is similar to a Frisbee, into a disc-catching basket, Haselhorst said. “On a recreational level, disc golf has all of the fun and challenges of traditional golf, but with very minimal expense for individuals,” she said.

Haselhorst said she thinks the new course will benefit not only DC3 students, but the community as well.
DISC GOLF CONTINUED –

“For students, it gives them the opportunity to get outside and have a more complete experience of college life,” she said. “And for our community college students, who usually just come to campus for class and then leave, it will give them another reason to stay on campus longer.”

Conquistador Park joins two other public disc golf courses in the Dodge City area. One being Chilton Park’s Tortilla Chucker, and the other being Dodge City High School’s Demon Disc Golf Course near Demon Lake.

“We already have community members who come to the college to utilize the indoor walking track, the outdoor walking path, Lake Charles, and more,” she said. “This is just another added activity that anyone can participate in, including visitors to Dodge City.”

Regarding the course layout, Stevens said he would describe Conquistador Park as a typical disc golf course. It features railroad tie tee pads, hole signage and disc-capturing baskets (with chain deflection assemblies) at the end of each hole.

“I came up with the design, and more than anything, I just used the natural layout of the campus to design it for me,” he said. “I designed 99% of the course to be used on areas that we currently mow on a weekly or biweekly basis.”

To play the 4,417-foot course, disc golfers will begin with hole No. 1 on the west side of campus near the Lewis Technology Center building, where there is ample public parking. They will then head south, eventually skirting around Lake Charles, and then back to the area where they started for hole No. 18.

So, not only did members of the DC3 grounds department install the course, but they also will be responsible for maintaining it, Haselhorst said.

“It’s a relatively cost-free and upkeep-free asset for the college and the community,” she said. “The baskets are highly durable and require almost no upkeep. The tee blocks will likely last many years as well before needing any replacement.”

Conquistador Park was sponsored by Dynamic Discs and the Greg and Linda Goff Family, who continue to display extraordinary generosity to DC3. Although the course is complete, the Foundation is still accepting donations for the project that would allow for later course expansions, such as sponsored benches, additional signage, named holes, and additional shrubs and trees—for beautification and for course obstacles.

“The Conquistador Park Disc Golf Course will provide all age groups an opportunity to enjoy the DC3 campus, to get some exercise and to enjoy the beautiful lake area for years to come,” Linda Goff said.

 announcements Scholarship Winners

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation recently announced scholarship recipients for the 2020-21 school year.

“The Foundation supports more than 50 scholarships for full-time students,” DC3 Foundation Director, Christina Haselhorst said. “Scholarship awards range from $250 to $1,000, and students are eligible to apply for these scholarships each year through DC3 Financial Aid.”

With many students experiencing added challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, being selected as a recipient is “welcomed news,” she said.

“The nationwide shutdown did affect our investments to the point of concern regarding scholarship awards for this upcoming year,” she said. “However, they rebounded a bit and some extra donations came in, allowing the Foundation to award the scholarships, which was a relief.”

While businesses across the nation are having to make tough budgetary adjustments, there are still businesses, organizations, and individuals whose faithfulness extends beyond the strain of COVID-19, she said.

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

The 2020-21 recipients are as follows:

• Eldon Becker Education Scholarship: Abigail Billingsley and Mariah Cole.
• Dick Brown Memorial Scholarship: Anthony Ashley.
• Krumrey Scholarship: Melanie Whipple, Celeste Konda, and Wendy Aguileria.
• Jim Bock Memorial Scholarship: Esmeralda Gomez-Garcia, Berenice Casarrubias, and Caroline Huynh.
• Ann & Norman Ehrlich Memorial Scholarship: Jana Garcia and Adriana Hernandez.
• Elisa Murphy Memorial Scholarship: Alicia Monge.
• Bernice Williams Memorial Scholarship: Eruvey Salazar.
• American AgCredit Scholarship: Karen Rios Armendariz and Pedro Dias.
Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

These generous donors gave to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation from Jan. 1, 2019, to Sept. 30, 2020. Totaling more than $569,000 over that time period, donations were for the golf tournament and auction as well as for the Foundation, scholarships, projects, and memorials. A little over $186,000 was raised from January 2020 to Sept. 30, 2020, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your generosity during tough times is inspiring and we are so incredibly grateful for your help in growing the DC3 Foundation in the past year and a half. Thank you ALL for being a part of the Conquistador Legacy!

Can you help us over the next year? Contact Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Foundation Director, to set up an appointment (foundation@dc3.edu). We are working to continue to strengthen the scholarship programs of the Foundation and of DC3. With the continued decreases in state and federal funding, higher learning institutions are relying more and more on the philanthropic endeavors of their donors just like you. And there are some benefits to making charitable donations by Dec. 31, 2020, due to the CARES Act. We ask that you please consider including the DC3 Foundation in your wills and trusts as well.

Leave you legacy with us, and strengthen a community.

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. Students interested in applying for scholarships should visit www.dc3.edu to view institutional aid options under the "Admissions" tab.

“Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients,” she said. “The DC3 Foundation appreciates all of our donor contributions that make awarding these scholarships possible. And as alumni stories and pictures are pouring in for our 85th anniversary this year, awarding these scholarships is just icing on the cake after so many months of uncertainty.”

For more information on how to become a donor and partner with the DC3 Foundation, visit www.dc3.edu/foundation-alumni or call (620) 225-9541.
Larry Burke
DC3 HISTORY PROFESSOR FROM 1969 TO 2012

“I support the DC3 Foundation because of my love for the college. I taught history for over 40 years (part time and full time) and was Division Chair for many years in addition to my teaching duties. I also raised $44,000 for campus beautification projects on my own initiative, mainly for the planting of trees and shrubs and the installation of drip systems to water the trees. I had a great career there and have fond memories of my students and faculty colleagues. I came to work each day fired up about the subjects I was going to lecture on that day. No one was ever happier in their job than I was. I love the place and will always support the college.”
Wills. Estates. Death. Not many of us like to talk about these things openly. But the coronavirus pandemic has led many of us to consider our own mortality and plan for the future. The number of people using will-writing websites surged by as much as 200% in late March this year as people sheltered in place and reevaluated their lives, their giving habits, and what will be there for others when they are gone.

The most common way to make a “planned gift” is a bequest – a donation to a nonprofit noted in someone’s will. While the intention is expressed during the person's lifetime, charities get the money or other assets after that person has passed away.

Few of us consider leaving money to charity when we announce who should inherit our assets after we pass away (a bequest). And demand for nonprofit services is growing while in many instances our revenue is shrinking.

**FEW WILLS**

According to Elizabeth Dale, Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Leadership at Seattle University, only 32% of Americans have a will, according to recent estimates, which is down from 42% a few years ago. But the number of people leaving money to charity in those wills is far smaller: only an estimated 5% of Americans. Even though the numbers participating are small, bequest giving has quadrupled to nearly $40 billion annually over the past 40 years, according to the annual Giving USA report. That’s almost 10% of all giving funds going to charity each year.

**MANY WAYS TO GIVE**

There are other ways to leave money to charity after death besides bequest clauses in wills. All or part of an Individual Retirement Account, or IRA, as well as 401(k)s and other employer-sponsored retirement plans can also be left to charity. The same goes for many other kinds of assets, including life insurance policies, trusts, and real estate.

**A CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITY**

Writing a will, especially when it calls for leaving money to a charity, actually puts peoples’ minds at ease. It’s a way people make meaning of their lives. Many of our DC3 Foundation donors like to be able to express their appreciation for our organization and their commitment to our cause beyond their time here among us. Doing so with their charitable intentions through a planned gift is an important way for them to do this.

Time and time again, we continue to hear that remembering the DC3 Foundation and other non-profit organizations had not even crossed the minds of our donors until someone suggested the possibilities. And because so many people have consulted an attorney when they wrote their wills, it’s important that lawyers and financial planners at least raise the topic for every one of their clients.

**NOT JUST FOR THE 1%**

Many people think that writing a will is only for the very rich, but really anyone with a family, home, or bank account should have one. And you don’t have to be very rich to make bequests. Some middle-class donors write charitable gifts into their wills that exceed $100,000. For many donors, planned giving enables them to make a larger gift after death than their finances would allow them to do during their life.

The coronavirus pandemic and resulting financial crisis mean that many people will have more trouble than usual giving to charity as they usually do. Now can be a wonderful time for everyone to draft or revise their wills. And it’s important that they discuss how to support causes they care about after their death with their lawyers and loved ones. Please remember to include the DC3 Foundation when making these plans. Our Future Conquistadors will thank you, and you may just inspire them to do the same.
At a September 1935 all-school assembly—which was organized to discuss the new college’s colors and mascot—a student in the crowd suggested purple and gold, and the crowd enthusiastically agreed. After adopting these colors at the assembly, the students then set out to match them to their future mascot. In the following weeks, the students were asked to send their mascot suggestions to the staff of the Dodge City High School (DCHS) newspaper, the Dodger. After compiling the top six suggestions—which included Tigers, Panthers, and Broncs—the students voted for their favorite. And on November 12, 1935, at the conclusion of the vote, the Conquistador was the clear winner.

Suggested by Karl Wilson, who was a student from New Mexico, the mascot idea was popular because they knew the Spanish Franciso Vasquez de Coronado had explored the region in 1541 and because they knew the Spanish word conquistador meant conqueror. Because of the area’s history, Spanish conquistador was mentioned to discuss the new college’s colors which included liger, panthers, and broncs. After adopting these colors at the assembly, the crowd enthusiastically agreed. No matter which logo or location applies to your Dodge City Community College experience you are an important part of the Conq Nation story!