



**NSCS**

Nebraska State College System

# CHADRON PERU WAYNE NEWS

## NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM

Spring 2008

## Enrollment Increases by 3.3 Percent in Nebraska State College System

Chancellor Stan Carpenter announced a 3.3 percent increase in enrollment throughout the Nebraska State College System (NSCS) this spring. The NSCS includes Chadron, Peru and Wayne State Colleges. Nearly 8,000 students are currently enrolled at the three colleges.

NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter said, "In the fall, we had a substantial increase in freshmen, so we are very pleased to see an increase in the overall number of students this spring. It shows that more students are taking advantage of the opportunities our three college offer. It also affirms that the NSCS is fulfilling our mission to serve our students, communities and state by providing high quality, accessible educational programs."

Carpenter added that about 70 percent of NSCS students are the first members of their families to receive a college degree. Last May, nearly 1,300 students graduated from Chadron, Peru and Wayne, which was a 15 percent increase from the previous spring.

"More students are choosing to attend our colleges and more are graduating and becoming

successful in their chosen field. Our colleges continue to improve the ways in which we educate students and remove the barriers preventing them from earning a degree. We provide opportunities that not only better the lives of our students, but also the lives of their families," Carpenter said.



*Jamie Stech, a recent Wayne State College graduate, is becoming a statewide celebrity. The Osmond native's image can be found on the NSCS billboards and print advertisements that encourage prospective students to "Apply Now!"*

Carpenter added that more than 75 percent of the NSCS graduates stay in Nebraska to become vital members of a well-trained, well-educated work force.

"Our students graduate well-prepared to enter the workforce and become leaders in their communities. Thus, they begin a new family tradition that encourages their children to attend college as well," Carpenter said.

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# Chancellor's Message

As you know, the Student Information System (SIS) that is currently used throughout the Nebraska State College System will not be supported by our current provider after the year 2011. Consequently, we have the opportunity to find a new SIS that will better serve our students, faculty and staff.

You can learn more about the project at [www.collegiateproject.com/Nebraska](http://www.collegiateproject.com/Nebraska). The site will be updated throughout the implementation process. First though, let me provide a little background about the NSCS SIS project.

When the NSCS started the process of selecting a new SIS, Ed Hoffman, NSCS Vice Chancellor for Facilities, Planning and Information Technology, led a system-wide committee made up of representatives from each of the colleges. This group did a needs' analysis that then provided the basis for the committee to create a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was sent out last summer and we received five responses. In October, the committee spent six days in North Platte listening to presentations by the top three vendors capable of providing user friendly programs.


In December, Governor Dave Heineman asked us to consider joining the University of Nebraska to find a SIS that would benefit both of our systems. After many discussions, which included determining the short and long-term cost savings, we decided to jointly pursue a common SIS solution with the university. As part of our joint arrangement, the NSCS will now utilize the university's Systems Application Products (SAP) administrative and financial system for our administrative computing needs. SAP connects to NIS through a specially designed interface.

By working in partnership with the university we project savings of approximately \$2.7 million or 11 percent of the original planned costs. In the longer term, there are likely to be more substantial savings and efficiencies related to the implementation and maintenance of a single system rather than two separate and distinct systems.

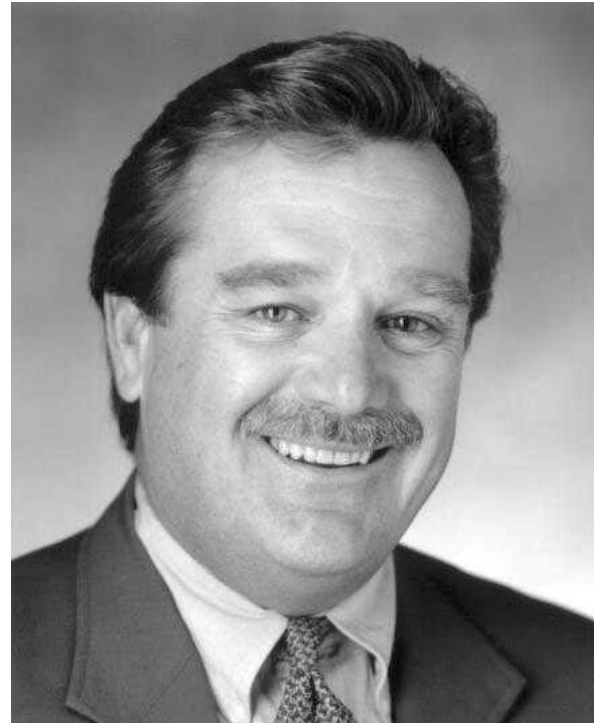
In February, NU President J.B. Milliken and I went before the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature together to seek funding for the new SIS. Our decision to work collaboratively on this project was well received by the committee. The Governor recommended that our project receive \$10 million this year toward the purchase of the new SIS. This was seen as a "down payment" for the entire cost with the expectation that the Legislature would fund the balance of the cost of the project in the next biennium. All of us in the NSCS are pleased that the Governor and the Appropriations Committee recognized that an up-to-date SIS is critically important to our enterprise.

To all the NSCS folks who have worked so diligently to make this process work, I say thank you. While we have come quite far in the process, the real "heavy lifting" will begin as we implement the new SIS and as we migrate from NIS to SAP. I am sure that we will come out on the other side of this process in a position to better serve our students and Nebraska.

Finally, I want to thank President Milliken and all the folks at the university who have made this unique and collaborative effort a very positive and rewarding experience. The NSCS was brought into the process as a full partner and our views and opinions are well received. Thus, I am confident that we will succeed together in ways that will be beneficial to the NSCS, the university and the state.



Stan Carpenter



# Rural Health Opportunity Program Benefits Students and Communities

Five years ago, Wayne State College senior Leann Bolte was the first person on the scene of a rollover vehicle accident on a country road. During the 25 minutes it took for medical help to arrive, Bolte cared for the four victims, flagged down those passing by to assist and continued to help once medics arrived.

Preparatory courses are offered at Wayne in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, dental hygiene and medical technology. The same courses are also offered at Chadron with the addition of nursing, physical therapy, physician assistant and radiography. Selection is based on, but not restricted to students from communities under 25,000 in population, academic potential and commitment to practice in rural Nebraska.

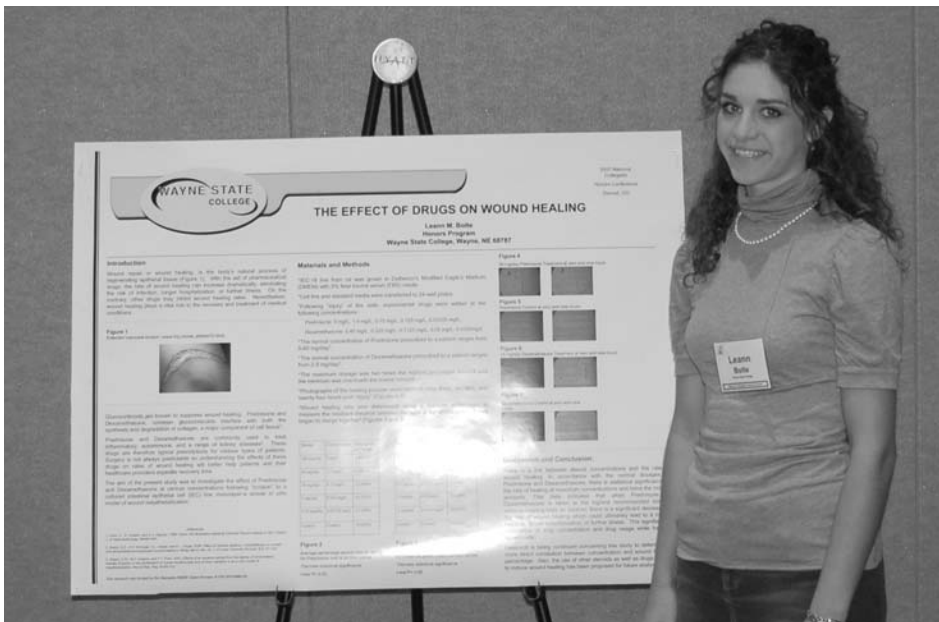
“A friend went through RHOP in pharmacy at Chadron State College, so I was familiar with the program. I think the partnership is very important in getting healthcare providers to return to rural Nebraska,” Bolte said.

Bolte is one of four RHOP seniors with the pre-med option at WSC. She spends many hours studying with Dena Brock, her next door neighbor and fellow RHOP student. The two have become such good friends that Brock will be a bridesmaid in Bolte’s wedding this summer.

“RHOP provides a special connection between not only those admitted in the same year, but all who are in the program. I became great friends with Ryan Becker, a fellow pre-med RHOP student, who was a year older. He became my mentor throughout the program. I asked him for advice about classes, medical school, and even borrowed his books and notes for several courses,” she said.

Bolte will graduate from WSC with a degree in biology and chemical health sciences this spring. She will attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha in the fall. After graduation, she plans to work in rural Nebraska near her hometown as a family physician.

“RHOP allows those who have grown up in rural Nebraska to give back to their communities. A rural background allows healthcare providers to better relate to their patients and others in the community,” she said.



*Leann Bolte presented the results of her Wayne State College Honors Project at the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) convention this fall in Denver. She and fellow WSC student Ashley Villarreal of Fremont were the only Nebraska students invited to present.*

“After the accident, I realized I had a true passion and gift for helping people in critical situations. Since then I have completed an emergency medical technician class, as well as a certified nursing assistance class. Having worked in a nursing home and hospital for four-and-a-half years, I definitely know the medical field is my future,” Bolte said.

A McCool Junction native, Bolte is part of the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) at WSC. RHOP is designed to address the special needs of rural Nebraska by encouraging rural residents to pursue a career in the health care fields. High school seniors selected for the program obtain guaranteed admission to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Colleges upon successful completion of their studies at Wayne or Chadron State Colleges.

# Dream Within Reach for Davis-Chambers Scholar

Born in Guatemala, Virgilio “Alex” Villeda came to the U.S. when he was seven years old. He recalls watching his mother come home in pain from work at the meat packing plant. He promised himself that he would not have that kind of future. Today, the Chadron State College junior from Grand Island is majoring in pre-medicine and has a 3.6 grade point average. Three years ago, he became a U.S. citizen, which he considers one of his biggest accomplishments.

“My teachers always told me that I’m particularly talented in science and my parents have been very supportive and a huge influence on my life. My biggest challenge by far was the fact that I did not have the required funding to attend college. This is why I chose to go to a community college first,” he said.

At Central Community College in Hastings, Alex received a Davis-Chambers scholarship during his sophomore year. The scholarship allowed him to finish his associate’s degree and focus more on his studies rather than paying his bill.

Then he found out the Davis-Chambers Scholarship was also available for students transferring to one of the institutions in the Nebraska State College System – Chadron, Peru or Wayne State College. He applied to Chadron State as he heard the “best reviews” and knew the pre-medicine program was strong.

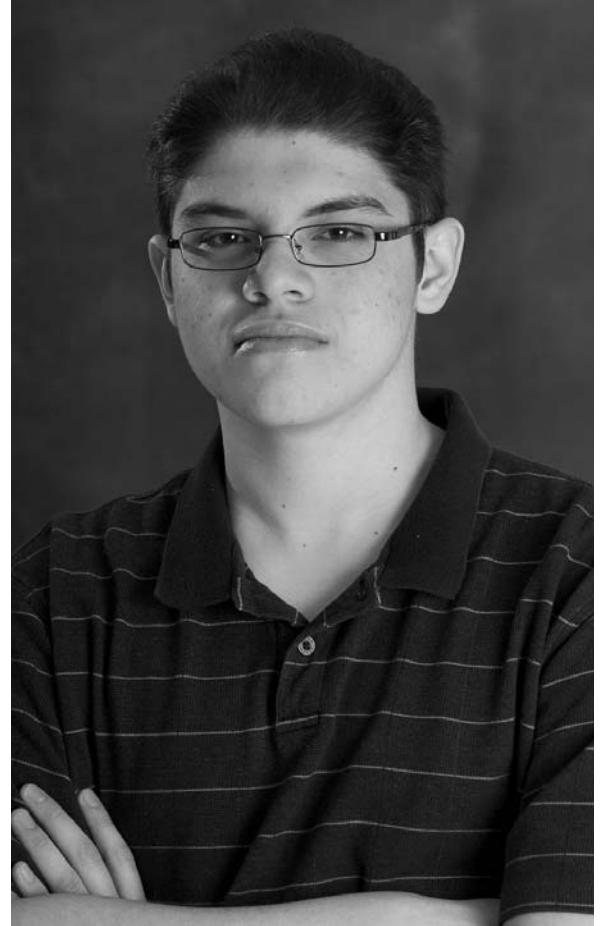
He received the Davis-Chambers Scholarship and transferred to Chadron State this fall as a full-time student. Receiving the scholarship, which provides tuition, room, board, fees and book expenses, provided him with the opportunity to take a full load of courses without the constant worry of how he would pay for his education.

“Chadron is a small campus and a small town, but I enjoy it here. The teachers are some of the best that I’ve ever had and while the subjects may be difficult, the teachers themselves are kind-hearted and very helpful. To me, that is very important,” Alex said.

He said it is also very important that students get involved in activities at the college. “It’s a great way to network and meet people. It also looks good on a resume and potential scholarship applications. Participating in extracurricular activities also distracts me from school for awhile and sometimes we just need a break,” he said.

The Davis-Chambers Scholarship allowed Alex to take the maximum load of courses, which included cellular biology, human anatomy, chemistry, technical writing and applied statistics this fall. He said without the scholarship, he would have taken a minimal course load to keep costs down. In the long run that would have forced him to take an extra year of college to fulfill his pre-medicine requirements. It also would have postponed his enrollment in medical school.

“If it weren’t for this scholarship, I would not have attended any college after my time at Central Community College. I know for a fact that without this scholarship, I would not be where I am now. More importantly, my dream of becoming a doctor would never be within reach.”



*Virgilio “Alex” Villeda  
Photo by Daniel Binkard*

# Cooperative online masters program fits busy schedule

As the director of the Nebraska Rural Development Commission, a part-time professor, a wife, mother and grandmother of four, Linda Fettig of Anselmo knew that earning a second master's degree would require a balancing act. To be successful, she needed to find a program that would work around her busy schedule.



*Linda Fettig*

A former colleague told her about an online Master of Science degree in Organizational Management (MSOM) offered collaboratively through the Nebraska State College System (NSCS). Peru State College (PSC) provided a concentration in entrepreneurial and economic development. A published author of a book on community and economic development, Fettig felt the degree would be a "good addition" to her credentials.

"Since I live in the Nebraska Sandhills and travel frequently for my job, I need the convenience of an online program. The flexibility of the online format allows me to participate in educational opportunities that otherwise would not fit into my professional or personal schedule," Fettig said.

The entrepreneurial and economic development program offered by PSC is designed to prepare students to be effective change agents to create more entrepreneurial corporate cultures, start their own businesses and facilitate growth in their communities. The program can be completed in two to three years.

Other concentrations available through the NSCS cooperative online master's degree program include human services, natural resources and sports and recreation management. Chadron State College offers those three concentrations and Wayne State College's main focus is sports and recreation management.

"The masters program is unique because it was collaboratively designed by representatives from our colleges. Since this is a cooperative degree program, students attending one of our three colleges may take courses at the other two colleges to earn credits and complete their master's degree," NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter said.

The MSOM program was designed to prepare rising leaders for administrative, supervisory, management and leadership positions in a variety of corporate, government or not-for-profit settings. It was created in response to the increasing demands of the modern economy for knowledgeable workers

"There were very limited opportunities for advanced study in law enforcement, health and human services, sports and recreation management, entrepreneurial and economic development, and natural resource administration for place bound students in Nebraska unless individuals were willing to move. The MSOM program allows these students to stay in the rural areas to enhance the viability and vitality of their communities," Carpenter said.

Fettig, who has lived in Nebraska since 1993, said her professors were helpful. She added that it was also a positive experience networking with other students enrolled in the masters program.

"The online format allows for broader participation and brings together people from a variety of disciplines. This provides the opportunity for a greater learning experience," Fettig said.

# Chadron State and UNO Combine Strengths to Offer Master's Degree for Teaching Professionals

When Lori Clark-Erickson went to the Wyoming Library Association Conference, she wanted information to assist her with her job as a high school library media specialist. She had no idea at the time that she would soon become a student again herself, taking part in a new joint master's degree program.

At the conference, Clark-Erickson, who works at Jackson Hole High School in Jackson, Wyoming, learned that Chadron State had partnered with the University of Nebraska-Omaha to offer a Masters in Education, School Library Media P-12 program. The program allows teaching professionals to get their school library media endorsement and a master's degree in education at the same time.

"I live in a very rural area and have not been able to continue higher level studies very easily. This program offered mostly online courses and allowed me to focus on school library media and get a high quality master's degree," Clark-Erickson said.

Clark-Erickson said it was "extremely easy to enroll" and the staff was very accommodating. The online system allowed her to track the documents required for enrollment, so she knew when each of her transcripts arrived and everything had been received.

"There are very few accredited and nationally recognized library science programs around the country, so limited access to these degrees and endorsements is part of what has led to a local, regional and national shortage of credentialed school librarians. This program is graduate level and there were no graduate programs with on-campus options in Western Nebraska, Wyoming or South Dakota before this program began," said Rebecca Pasco, an associate professor and coordinator of the library science education program, at UNO.

The curriculum includes 12 hours (six courses) at UNO and 12 hours of graduate courses from CSC. The courses from each college may be taken simultaneously, though CSC awards the master's degree.

"Half of the courses are completely online and the other half are web-assisted, which means they are a combinations of online and on-campus learning environments. This makes the program very accessible for all students while ensuring a personal touch in instruction and advising," Pasco said.

Clark-Erickson said her first three courses required frequent online discussions. She was impressed by the response of her professors and found the feedback beneficial. She also learned a great deal from other students in her courses.

"I completed my undergraduate studies in the '70s. The information I have been learning in curriculum development and educational research is absolutely crucial to being a teacher on the cutting edge," Erickson-Clark said.

Dr. Clark Gardener, professor of education at CSC, said students taking the graduate courses offered through CSC are required to be on campus about once a month. He added that students who would like to receive a library media specialist endorsement have to complete a practicum in school media through UNO. However, Clark-Erickson said she was not required to take the practicum because of her library media specialist work in a school library for the last six years.

Pasco said the UNO Library Science coursework is nationally recognized by the American Association of School Librarians. "We're very proud of that status. Combine that excellence with the rigorous and relevant graduate core courses at Chadron State College and you've got a very high quality and engaging educational journey."

Clark-Erickson said, "These two institutions took their academic strengths and combined them in a way to ensure a quality program. Students are exposed to two schools and have access to their libraries, services and support. It's a winner."



## Why Do Students Choose Chadron, Peru and Wayne State Colleges?



"Chadron State is a unique school. Where else can you get unparalleled academics at an unbeatable price? Also, students value and appreciate the small class sizes and dedicated faculty. You are able to forge lasting, meaningful relationships with both your teachers and your peers."

• *Tyler Thompson, senior, Chadron State College*



"At Peru State you learn, you don't just memorize facts. When you leave PSC, you know you are properly prepared to go out into the business world or graduate school. I attribute this to the wonderful faculty. I also hear from visitors that our campus is one of the friendliest around."

• *Cori Harmon, senior, Peru State College*



"Everyone is looking for a great college experience. Wayne provides many opportunities as a small college, allowing closer relationships with the other students and professors. Also, being able to take online courses at any of the colleges provides a larger selection of available classes."

• *Jennifer Myers, senior, Wayne State College*

## History-Making Collaboration Adds Architect Partnership

When Wayne State College and Northeast Community College teamed up to construct a college center to serve the Siouxland area, it quickly became a history-making educational collaboration. Throughout the planning process new partners were found, including the South Sioux City Community Development Association, who donated the land; Senators Pat Engel of South Sioux City and Speaker Mike Flood of Norfolk, who led the charge for state funding of the project; the unicameral who voted to provide funding during the 2007 Legislative session, and Governor Dave Heineman, who supported this project as well.

Almost a year later, the list of partners continues to grow with federal, corporate and private gifts. The latest addition to the ever-growing collaboration came from the architect selection process. The architect firms selected were Beringer Ciaccio Dennell Mabrey and The Clark Enerson Partners, who submitted a joint proposal.

"Both firms will work jointly on the South Sioux City project. Design development meetings are well underway and occur with NECC and WSC staff, as well as the architectural firms," said Beth Kroger, vice president for administration and finance at WSC.

The new center was approved by the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees and the Northeast

Community College Board of Governors in February 2005. The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education recommended approval for the center in December 2006.

The center is scheduled to open fall 2010. Once it does, place-bound students will be able to take their freshmen and sophomore courses from NECC and junior, senior and graduate courses from WSC in the same facility.

"The counties in and around South Sioux City have the fastest growing populations in the state. We wanted to build a new college center to provide extensive educational and cultural benefits to individuals in this area. This joint project is just another example of how our colleges – the community colleges and the Nebraska State College System – can work together for the benefit of the state," NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter said.

The 44,520-square-foot center is a \$14,619,087 project, including the estimated \$2.1 million land donation. The center will house general, distance learning, and business and industry learning community classrooms, and computer labs. Additionally, two science laboratories, a medical and health lab, a library, testing and tutoring areas, a bookstore and administrative/faculty/student services offices, and associated service and storage areas will be included in the facility.

# 2008 Faculty College Held May 8-9

Peru State College will host the 2008 Faculty College, May 8-9. The presentation themes include student/faculty project presentations, tenure and promotion (mentoring, research and publication), governance (online education and adjunct assimilation) and instructional technology.

The Nebraska State College System representatives planning the event include Associate Professor of Psychology Gail Hinesley from Chadron State College, Assistant Professor of Education Judith Ruskamp from Peru State College and Associate Professor of Mathematics Tamara Worner from Wayne State College.

NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter, CSC President Janie Park, PSC President Ben Johnson and WSC President Rick Collings encourage faculty to attend the event. More information will be provided through the college representatives in the near future.



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