

















SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

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DUARTE, CARILLO, AND MORGAN SEND MESSAGE TO NEBRASKA REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)'s conference is typically held each year in Washington D.C. Student meet with their state senators and district representatives to share their experiences and perspectives. This yearly event is always a highlight for NICC's Student Representative, as well as NICC President, Dr. Michael Oltrogge.

This year, AIHEC's in-person conference was cancelled. AIHEC used this as an opportunity for tribal college students to highlight their voices by submitting video testimonials to be sent to senators, representatives, and also featured on AIHEC's website.

NICC was very fortunate to be able to feature not just one, but two student testimonials from Adrianna Duarte (Isanti/Umonhon), Santee Campus General Science Studies major and Christa Carrillo (Umonhon), Macy Campus General Liberal Arts major. Maunka Morgan, NICC's Native American Studies and

American Indian Higher Education Business Department Division Head Consortium (AIHEC)'s conference is served as the interviewer and tupically held each year in facilitator.

Both Duarte and Carrillo had important messages to share with their senators and representatives.

shared Duarte about the importance of honoring mother earth on a larger level. She also expressed that there is much that policy-makers could learn about sustainabilitu. preservation. ecological factors indigenous knowledge. She says, "It's important to give indigenous students and indigenous people a platform to spread the traditional knowledge... of the culture, of the land. I think it's important if we are heard." Duarte also spoke about the importance of tribal colleges and the impact NICC has had on her. She says, "The culture is implemented into the curriculum. This institution has brought out the beautiful things that are a part of me... This institution is for me, and I'm learning for my community."

Carrillo also shared about how her experience at NICC helped her succeed. Carrillo walked at May's 2021 Graduation Ceremony and has plans to continue in the Human Service workforce. She shares. "It's close. It's affordable. It's in my area... I love it." Carrillo "NICC helped me so much in this pandemic... They went above and beyond." Carrillo determination shares that her continues beuond the She says, classroom. determined to continue on working for my tribe, helping as many kids as possible... "

Duarte and Carrillo's final words to the senators and representatives echoed similar themes. Carrillo summed it up, saying, "We are still here as people. We are still expanding, thriving, uplifting... I ask that they listen to us as people... We're here. We are going to continue to be here... I hope that they are beside us supporting us."

Student Spotlight Christi Merrick



Christi Merrick (Umonhon/Diné/Hopi) is a Business Administration major at NICC. Merrick (pictured above with her son, Kamden) will be graduating in Spring of 2022, and is excited to getting heading into her upcoming fall semester.

Q1: How would you describe your educational journey in 3 words. Why did you chose those words?

Christi Merrick (CM): Insightful, doable and fun. I chose these words, because I am gaining a lot of knowledge in my classes geared toward my major. It is doable, because I am a young mother and came into educational journal feeling a little intimidated but [by] having organization and support of my family it can be done. The fun of it is learning with my peers, the technology of online learning, and most of all the grades I receive on assignments.

What is your major, and why did you decide on this area?

CM: My major is Business Administration. I decided on this major after I had the opportunity to intern at Carl T Curtis Health Education Center. I really loved working with people every day and being able to be busy with daily tasks.

What are some of your future goals (personal, professional, cultural, educational, etc.)?

CM: My future goal is to obtain my AA in Business Administration and move right on to my Bachelor's and so forth. As I have mentioned I love the idea of being busy and social at the same time. I don't want to take breaks, my goal is to get it all done while my son is young.

What is one class you've taken at NICC that had a big impact on you?

CM: One class that had an impact on me was my first business class I had taken, Intro to Business. My professor was very tough, but I enjoyed the challenge with every assignment. Those kinds of classes are fun, and I can't wait for the rest with him.

What is one of your favorite memories at NICC?

CM: My favorite memories at NICC are the in person class times I had with other classmates and the interactions. I really took it for granted because, it is what I miss the most now that we are all online only. I just hope everyone is sticking it out at home and finishing strong, especially when it gets tough to stay motivated. We can do it together.

NICC Wears Red for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons

May 5th is National Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls Day. NICC's staff, students, and community wore red to spread awareness and stand in solidarity. Pictured below are a few of NICC's staff members who participated (from top, far left, L-R, clockwise) Crystal Ross, Macy Campus Student Services; Vanessa Hamilton, Student Billing/Accounts Receivable; Dr. Kristine Sudbeck, Academic Dean; Megan Miller, Instructional Designer; Al Widrowicz, Institutional Researcher and Math Instructor; Dr. Keisha Siriboe, Assistant to the Academic Dean; and in center, Dawne Price, Dean of Student Services.



PAGE IN NEW GRANT-WRITER/ INSTRUCTOR ROLE AT NICC



My name is Patti Page and I have two children, a son in Chadron and a daughter in Seoul, South Korea. Both are married and each of them have given me a grandchild. I have taught on the Navajo Reservation for many years, taught high school English at Omaha Nation school, and junior high and high school English at Walthill. I have been at NICC since 2012 as an adjunct professor while teaching at Walthill. I saw Dawne Price at a Parent Teacher night at Walthill, and asked her if they had any openings at NICC. She said yes, apply, and so I did and that summer I started with the college.

Currently I have a full-time position at NICC as full-time faculty and grant writer, I have wanted to be full time at NICC for quite some time and am so happy that it has finally happened. Because of all my teaching in the area, I have students in college that I had in Jr High, and high school. I also have been blessed to teach many of their family members also.

My new role really focuses on two distinct areas. I teach three different classes as well as write grants for different areas of the college. I am always busy which is just how I like to be.

I am most excited about my position because it is at NICC! I have been a strong supporter of this college since I found out about it.

I feel it gives a quality education to all its students and it covers a lot of different study areas. The faculty are all great and the college has a real family feel. Everyone is here to help the students. I also see the college developing some four-year programs of study which means the tribes will not have to even leave home to get their education. NICC is a comprehensive Tribal College and is always seeking ways to contribute to the self-sufficiency of the Nations served, and the well-being of our communities.

Broadband Comes to Santee and Macy Areas

Press Release via Charles Kreber, NICC's Public Information Officer

Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) has been equipping students with the tools they need to succeed. In Spring of 2020, NICC transitioned in-person courses to an online format mid-semester, and courses have continued remotely nearly a year later. With assistance from the Cares Act funding, NICC has been able to enhance technology, internet access, and build students' skills.

During Spring 2021, degree-seeking students received 1-on-1 laptop technology at no cost to the student, an improvement from loaner laptops issued in 2020. Loaner are also available laptops enrichment, and other non-degree-seeking students. In addition, NICC also saw the growth in rural internet access. By working with the Santee-Sioux Nation and Umonhon Nation on tribal broadband installations, NICC has been able to provide students unprecedented access to remote learning opportunities. Many full-time, part-time, enrichment, and dual credit students are also able to receive free internet service within a seven miles radius of Santee, Macy, Walthill, Rosalie, and Pender Nebraska.

NICC's remote learning has allowed students the opportunity to focus on their health and safety without compromising their educational goals.





Higher Learning Commission Visits NICC

by Dr. Kristine Sudbeck, NICC's Academic Dean

Nebraska Indian Community College is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The accreditation process allows internal reflection within the institution, as well as external quality control. During NICC's March All-Staff meeting, faculty and staff had the opportunity to review the narrative for each of the five criterion, as well as strengthen the argument by providing additional documentation. On April 12-13th, NICC hosted a team of four peer reviewers from HLC to check on the progress we have been making as an institution of higher education. We gained a lot of insight during their visit, one of which was the opportunity to pause and reflect to see how far we have come. Wibthahon/Pidamayaye/Thank you to each person who shared their experience and contributed to this process!



Dean Sudbeck Heads to Haskell

Dr. Kristine Sudbeck, NICC's Academic Dean, made a trip to Haskell Indian Nations University to discuss potential future collaborations. Dean Sudbeck is pictured above from L-R: Sudbeck with the Haskell school sign, campus view of the statue, "Apache Hoop & Pole Player" in front of the auditorium, and Dean Sudbeck pictured with Haskell's Dean Cheryl Chuckluck, both enjoying a mask selfie.

For more info. on future collaborations with Haskell, as well as other institutions, be on the lookout in upcoming newsletters, as well as NICC's Facebook page and website!

In Memory of Those Who Have Passed On

For our teacher, from your student Binah

Tinuhá tha'é oⁿthágithe t^he wígthahoⁿ. Big Brother thank you for pitying me and loving me.

Onthágthize. You accepted me as your own.

Zhuónthagigthe thagthín. You sat with me.

Noⁿbé thoⁿ oⁿwóⁿnoⁿ. You held my hand.

Nónde thon eyón nín khe uthágtha. You always shared your heart with me.

Ebé nín the inwinthana. You told me who you were.

Ebé bthín the onthóngipahon. You knew me for who I am.

Ebéshti thagthón ázhi nón, ebéshti thahíd ázhi nón. You never said a hurtful or a mean thing about or to anybody.

Iⁿdádoⁿ shkáxe nóⁿ t^he, Wakóⁿda ak^hé íthigaxe nóⁿ. Whatever you did, Creator did through you.

Inshtá wéthathazhi shón thashtónbe nón. Though your eyes were hard, still you could see.

Nóⁿde thítexi shóⁿ watháshkoⁿ nóⁿ. Though your heart was heavy, still you did your best.

Údoⁿ wéshkaxe. You did good for us.

Ónbathe íthakipahon. Today you know your true nature.

Ónbathe áta monnín. Today you walk beyond.

Wakóʰda akʰa égoʰxti íthigthigthoʰ. Creator truly decided it for you. Áthigthathiʰ akʰí. And took you home.

Úwigithiha. I'm lonesome for you.

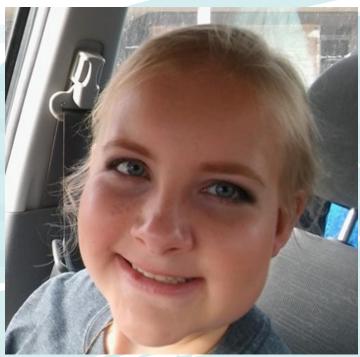
Íwigipahon the ínudon. I'm happy to know you.

Wagisitha. Remember us.

Tinuhá tha'é wathágithe the onthígthahon. Big Brother thank you for pitying us and loving us.

NICC would also like to thank all those who shared memories in conversation, prayer, through gestures, and more. While we could only include print stories/memories with permission from the loved one's family, we thank you for your good words and support for loved ones who have passed on and their families. Wibthahon/Pidamayaye.





Pawnee Nation College Garden Project

By Elizabeth Dallas (pictured right), Spring 2021 Pawnee Nation College's NICC Student Representative

Pawnee Nation College (PNC) is an extension of NICC. At PNC, there is a garden that has been at the campus for two years. This year is going to be the third year. The garden started in the year of 2017 by Dr. Patricia Rayas from Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater, Oklahoma to do and give a probable opportunity for a program of/called agriculture at Pawnee Nation College (PNC). Dr. Patricia Rayas approached this opportunity to Ms. Kim Murie and Mr. Dennis Haga to start a garden. The intention for Pani-O garden was initiated or started. The definition for Pani-O, the word Pani is the Indian word for Pawnee. The word Pani-O is short for Pawnee Agriculture Nutrition Initiative-Outreach or in other words OSU. Where the garden would be planted, is the same place where the Pawnee Indian reservation and the old Pawnee Indian boarding school took place. The capability at the time included Kim Murie as cultural, Dennis Haga as science, and another person named Montse Leon who was an intern from Mexico and OSU (Ms. Montse came to work at the school that first year). The starting point of doing the garden was rough. The size of the garden was 50 X 100-foot. It was planted with a gas-tiller. Seeds were planted with a wooden stick that was given among Deb Echohawk Pawnee Seed Preservation Project (PSPP). Dennis Haga chose a certain special kind of shape to herbage in the garden. The name of the shape is called the Pawnee Star. What the Pawnee believed in, was the Morning and Evening Star. The first of the garden consisted of growing beans, squash, corn, cucumbers, watermelons, cantaloupes, and okra. There they also grew extensive and enormous amounts of sunflowers to keep the deer away from the garden. Like the corn, some of the seeds that they used were from the Pawnee bundles. For this, the garden was a project set for the school and the community to rally on together and a great teaching tool to develop for the students of PNC to learn agriculture.

Pawnee Nation Garden Project ctd.

Like the first year, the second year is just the same. Accept they had gained more progress by gaining more students/helpers or VISTA volunteers per say. They did not have enough VISTA volunteers and students in the first year. By doing this, the VISTAS and students took turns on selling produce to the local Farmers Market and also by donating fruits and vegetables.

In the month of May in the year of 2020, Dennis Haga passed away from pancreatic cancer. The beloved teacher of PNC started his career in 1979.He, Dennis Haga, had a Master of Science degree. Mr. Haga started teaching at Chelsea Schools for a length of time. From there he taught at Tulsa Community College and then went to Pawnee Nation College. He taught a total of forty years. There in the garden stands a memorial bench that is dedicated to Mr. Haga in memory of him. When anyone passes the garden, that person will remember Mr. Haga as a great teacher and all the tremendous work he gave and what he put into for the community and PNC. So in all, the garden is great project and a wonderful way for students to use, experience, and an excellent way to learn something about agriculture.









Alumni Spotlight: Cornelia Farley-Widow

NICC Alumni, Corey Farley-Widow graduated from NICC in 2018 with a degree in General Science Studies. Farley-Widow was the class valedictorian, pictured on right in her graduation robe and cords. To the left Farley-Widow helps pick up trash during Santee's Annual Community Cleanup.

When did you attend NICC? When did you start? Why did you start?

Cornelia Farley-Widow (CFW, pictured above): I started at NICC in spring 2016. I started school because I always wanted something to fall back on- having a degree.

How has your life changed since being at NICC?

CFW: My life has changed by being more outgoing and more involved in the community I live. I also learned that I like to learn new things.

What is one of your fondest memories at NICC?

CFW: My fondest memory of going to NICC was my science and chemistry classes. Really enjoyed the lab part if the courses.

What is the most valuable experience at NICC that you don't think you could have gotten elsewhere?

CFW: The belief in the student, that they can achieve their goals. The one on one teaching. How the college embraces the community and culture.

What advice would you give to a student looking into the sciences?

Be open minded and really stop, smell the roses, look at the bright colors of nature because nature embraces us every time we step outside into the world. Science is the very tool that keeps us centered to mother earth. Also, you are never to old to start learning new things!

Student/Employee Spotlight: Chastity Warrior

NICC Extension **Assistant** Student Representative at Campus, Santee Chastitu Warrior, has had a busy semester. Majoring in General Liberal Arts, Warrior has assisted with NICC's KZYK Radio (awareness promo right), contributing social media posts and flyers, learning about the ins and outs of NICC. From NICC's Historu to customer service troubleshooting technology, Warrior employee and student of many skills. Warrior (pictured top right) answers about her student and employee experience below.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? How has your career path changed? Chastity Warrior (CW): I always wanted to be an architect until now. Architect blood runs in my families veins from [my] great grandfather to the newest generation of the family. We cant get away from it. Even my 6-year-old daughter has already been showing her interests in building and designing houses. I changed my path when I went to college and found out that there was no Archi[tect] course in the same university where I was finishing my high school and my mother didn't want me to transfer to another school... so I stayed in the same school when I went college, and took a different path.

What made you want to apply to be an NICC Student Representative?

CW: ...Considering that I have a family of four... financially...I needed to do something to help... When I was reading the duties and responsibilities, I told myself, 'These aren't so hard.' So then I decided to apply for a student rep. [position]. I though of the concept of student reps. back in my school before, which was way different.

What is your favorite class you have taken at NICC?

CW: Public Speaking and Computer class. Public Speaking is way too not-like-me so challenging, but I made it to the end- thought I would quit but I didn't. Computer class- I'm averagely comfortable with it.

My favorite thing about NICC is the_____

CW: Drive to help the students to fulfill their dreams and to become a successful individual.





Child Abuse Prevention Month

In behalf of KZYK 88.9, we are showing our support in raising awareness that APRIL is a "Child Abuse Prevention Month".

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - MADISON ROSS



NICC Dual Credit Student turned NICC Alumni, Madison Ross, has been busy the past year. From Onawa, Ross earned her high school diploma in the same month that she earned her Associates Degree from Nebraska Indian Community College. Ross shares her experiences below.

How did you first begin taking classes with NICC?

Madison Ross (MR): The summer before my junior year, I started researching dual credit courses. NICC became a top priority with the close proximity and wonderful resources that they provide to students. I reached out to the admissions and with the excellent staff and support, I knew NICC was a great fit for me.

What made you want to continue earning your degree at NICC?

MR: As I started taking classes at NICC, my advisor Dawne Price helped guide me to see the importance of achieving a two-year degree. As a high school student taking dual credits, it was challenging at times, but my professors were very encouraging and helped guide and support me along the way.

What is something you have learned in your dual credit courses that is unique to NICC?

MR: ... [In spring] semester, I had the opportunity to take an Omaha Language course where I... [learned] the basics of speaking the language. Last year I also took Introduction to Native American Studies that taught me about the issues facing Native Americans today. These courses opened my eyes to their culture[s] and taught me things that I wouldn't have learned at another college.

What are your future goals/career plans?

MR: My goal... [was] to graduate this May from NICC with an Associates in General Liberal Arts and then go on to attend a four-year college where I will take classes to receive a Bachelors in Elementary Education. After I graduate from college, I would like to teach in an elementary classroom as well as coach sports.

What advice would you give to high school students who may be interested in taking dual credit classes?

MR: Taking dual credit classes will likely ease the transition into college. They are also a cost-effective way to earn credits and teach you how to work hard and be disciplined. If you have the opportunity to take dual credit courses, take the opportunity because it will be so worth it and rewarding in the end.



Charles Kreber

Nebraska Indian Community College's Public Information Officer, Charles Kreber (pictured to the left), is one of NICC's new hires. Working out of the Santee Campus, Kreber highlights below some of his experiences in higher education, the military, working with various communities, and his excitement in learning and growing with NICC. Check out his interview below.

Tell us more about you, your background, and experience working with TCUs. Charles Kreber (CK):

This is my first experience working with a TCU. I do have a degree from a community college, Central Texas College 1998. Moving around the country and overseas [for the military] forced me to attend about 7 different college campuses. Therefore I have seen a few different setups and operations, to the extent that it took me another 16 years to earn my bachelor's degree (2014). Attending mostly schools with a military designation did help with the transfer credits and most schools evaluated my military training and accepted that training for credit as well.

How did you come to be with NICC and your current position?

CK: I took a class in higher education focusing on how universities are financed. It was an interesting and enjoyable class that helped draw me toward working at the college level. Originally I was interested in the NICC PTAC position that was open last fall. But we were harvesting corn and soybeans at the time and I did not want to apply for the position until we were finished with the harvest. By the time I called HR about the position I was told it was already filled. However, Anthony took my information and he called me back when the PIO positioned opened, he recommended that I submit an application.

Can you share more about your new role and what you are focusing on?

CK: Currently my role with NICC seems to be expanding rapidly. In Santee I have met with and have contacts with the tribal leadership, Public health educator, Wellness center director, Public outreach, and the Santee clinic. I am also in the process of coordinating a site visit to the Macy and South Sioux City campuses in order to help me understand all of NICC's programs and capabilities. Other directives are also popping up in safety, marketing, and policy creation.

What are you most excited about with your position?

CK: I am most excited about working with the communities and tribes. I need to learn how the NICC works and functions, because I don't think the we face the same challenges that other small colleges in the U.S. face. The last study I read approximately 10 small colleges close their doors per year in the U.S. The Covid 19 pandemic likely helped a few more close mostly due to small enrollments, small endowments, and aging facilities with overdue maintenance issues.

Hopefully at NICC we can keep high graduation rates, GPAs, and high enrollment numbers. A growing economy and growing populations in the tri-state area should help to keep our numbers trending upward. It will be fun to be a part of NICC's progress.





Pictured above: Wynema Morris speaking after receiving NICC's Faculty of the Year Award at NICC's 2021 Graduation Ceremony. McKillip pictured to right presenting at Dhegiha's 10th Annual Conference (more info. to come in Summer Semester Newsletter).

W. MORRIS AND MCKILLIP PRESENT AT NEIHARDT CONFERENCE

Adjunct Faculty and BOD Vice-Chairperson and Barbara McKillip, Archives Facultu Neihardt Spring Conference. The in-Neihardt and His Contemporary Nebraska Authors".

While many of the presenters focused on well-known works of literature from Nebraskan prominent authors, Morris and McKillip took a different routehighlighting the lack of historic representation of Native American authors. The presentation was titled, 'The Absent Narrative of American Indian Authors', which centered on indigenous voices that have been from excluded literary acknowledgment.

McKillip began the presentation, sharing an account of why there is a historic lack of Native American literature. She provided a timeline of events contributing to few records. One example included boarding schools, where children stripped of their language and culture. As McKillip said, "In that time history and how traditional

On April 24th, 2021, Wynema Morris, period, they [the U.S. government] NICC's Native American Studies wanted to extinguish everything so you weren't going to have those Native American authors." McKillip NICC Science and Math Adjunct and Morris both spoke about the Intern, importance of sharing this history. presented at The 40th Annual McKillip said, "Most people don't know the real history. I spent a lot of person and Zoom event was titled, time working on boarding school Thinkers on the Plains: information... when I talk to my friends and different people... I would say 90% of them don't know that boarding schools."

> McKillip also related present day similarities when it comes to lack of representation. She discussed that the majority of Native American literature is non-fiction, especially for adults. Both agree that this is a big reason why the works may not be popular literature and authors may not receive acknowledgment and credibility as novelists. Morris added "...they were authors, but they weren't novelists".

Morris shared in her presentation, examples of literature throughout history that had largely been missed from the historic narrative of several Umonhon authors including Fannie Reed Giffen and Susette were LaFlesche Tibbles. Morris also discussed the importance of oral

knowledge was passed on in this way. She added, "It's not just stories to entertain, but these were stories for continuity, identity... and for remembering who you are as a specific people. So telling these often took on great stories significance." Morris shared that oral history was often rooted in ritual as well. She explained that when stories began to be recorded on paper by non-indigenous people, they would not be correct in the retelling. Morris added that often these stories would be watered down, lacking continuity,

Morris and McKillip also shared their recommendations for when it comes to reading Native American authors. Both mentioned that reading for historic knowledge, entertainment, and connection have very different recommendations. Reaardina young-adult literature, McKillip recommended, 'The Absolutely True Diary of Part-Time Indian'. Morris shared her top picks of Vine Deloria Jr., Louise Erdich, David and Anton Treuer, D'Arcy McNickle, and Scott Momaday.

An engaging Q&A followed the presentation with two NICC professors leading conversations extending beyond the classroom.

All About Student Representatives with PNC's Elizabeth Dallas

NICC Student Representative, Elizabeth Dallas (pictured on bottom right) worked this spring at Pawnee Nation College to learn more about NICC, supporting students, and gaining skills in the customer service field. In many ways, Dallas's experience was job shadowing the PNC Student Services Team, while gaining hands on internship, course credit, and getting paid. She highlights her experiences here.

Share your name, (tribal affiliation if applicable), your major.

Elizabeth Dallas (ED): My name is Elizabeth Dallas. I am a Pawnee Nation College Student. I started in the Spring of 2020. I did not start out with Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) until the fall of 2020. That was the same time when Pawnee Nation College (PNC) started. I am ...[a small percentage] of two tribes, which are Cherokee and Choctaw, but I am not on the roll. What I am mostly is German, 3/4 to be exact. My major is Early Childhood.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? How has your career path changed?

ED: When I was kid, at first... I wanted to be a Physical Therapist just like my mom... Then later on I changed my mind and said that I wanted to be a teacher. What I am doing right now in my major, is... learning how to be a teacher.

As an NICC Student Representative, what is one of the most important things you have learned so far?

ED: Learning.... what the tribes went through and how they were treated when they were sent to boarding schools, learning where all the employees are... and what they do.

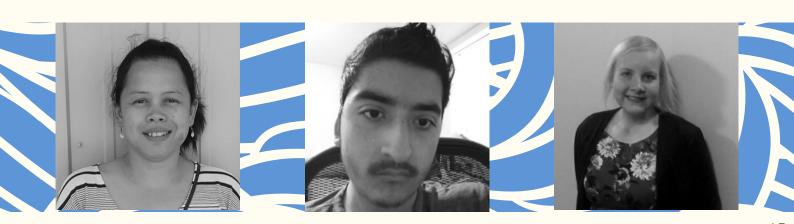
What is your favorite class you have taken at NICC? Why is it your favorite?

ED: Pretty much all the classes that I was taking and taking with Jackie Hahn because it is teaching me on how to work with kids, and the [Student Success] Strategies class that I took with Megan Miller, because it taught me about the NICC website

Fill in the blank: My favorite thing about NICC is ______

ED: My favorite thing about NICC is all things I had learned so far.

Pictured below are all three, Spring NICC Student Representatives. L-R: Chastity Warrior at Santee Campus, Victor Hahn at South Sioux City Campus, and Elizabeth Dallas, Pawnee Nation College.





Thank you for being part of Our NICC Family!



NICC's 2021 Graduation Newsletter Coming Soon!