MISSION STATEMENT
Western Nevada College inspires success in our community through opportunities that cultivate creativity, intellectual growth and technological excellence, in an environment that nurtures individual potential and respects differences.
Most Nevadans live in the urban communities of Washoe and Clark County. However, a sizeable number reside in small communities of rural Nevada. Western Nevada College embraces its mission to provide higher education to the residents of Carson City and Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, and Storey counties.

These educational services provide our rural communities with nurses and teachers, peace officers, emergency medical personnel, workers in the new energy industries, and agricultural entrepreneurs. Many of these services are provided in collaboration with other state agencies, colleges and universities, as befits the delivery mode of our small but highly effective college.

Educational services which are significant in our rural communities include:

1. WNC and Nevada State College cooperate to provide bachelor’s degree level teacher education for rural residents. Approximately 25 students register for courses in this program each semester after completing their first and second years at WNC. Recent graduating classes have been numbering around ten each year, making a continuing number of new teachers available each year to rural Western Nevada school districts.

2. Through partnerships with Churchill County and Nevada Rural Hospital Partners, and because of the financial generosity of the county and the rural hospitals, WNC offers the Rural Nursing Initiative. This permits rural students to complete much of their nursing degrees without travel to Reno or Carson City. Last spring, 12 rural students graduated, 25 percent of the total college class of 47.

3. The college collaborates with rural fire and emergency response departments, offering access to training needed by first responders at the scenes of rural automobile accidents. CPR, First Responder, EMT, EMT Refresher and Paramedic Refresher classes are available, and may be requested by emergency service agencies.

4. The college has identified rural health services as a high priority for future curriculum development. When funding resources are available, one of the first priorities will be establishment of a physician assistant program focused on strengthening health services delivery in rural Western Nevada.

5. Rural students take advantage of the Western Nevada State Peace Officer Academy to become police officers. Over the last five years, 30 to 50 percent of POST cadets came from rural counties.

6. The college delivers more than 70 different sections of college level classes to rural students via interactive-video classrooms located in college facilities and high schools. WNC also offers high school students dual credit classes that add intellectual enrichment to the curriculum.

7. In cooperation with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service, the college supports development of sustainable agriculture methods in rural Nevada through its new Specialty Crop Institute. Recent programs have highlighted wine-grape growing, hoop houses, community supported agricultural marketing, and lavender and cut flowers grown for the commercial market. More than 500 individuals have enrolled in workshops and seminars within the past year.

8. WNC relies on seven president’s advisory boards to provide guidance for college faculty and staff. These boards meet each semester and include elected officials, business and economic development leaders, health professionals, school superintendents, and other local leaders.

9. Despite a severe budget crisis, the college has continued operating its rural teaching centers, albeit with generally diminished staff numbers or volunteer staff.

10. Each semester, 30 to 40 local home-schooled students attend WNC classes as part of their K-12 education.

11. WNC student services departments offer college outreach experiences to students in every high school through the Bridge to Success program. High school students and their parents receive one-on-one counseling and placement testing at school district locations.

12. In collaboration with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, WNC provides a “senior college” focused on the needs of rural senior citizens.

13. In cooperation with Job Connect, Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment Security, and other Nevada agencies, WNC provides a Workforce Academy. This three-day course provides pre-employment training skills to help the unemployed learn how to get and keep jobs.

14. English as a Second Language and GED instruction are offered where local high schools cannot provide these services.

The college has developed a reputation for quality higher education that improves lives across a widespread area of Nevada. In fact, during the most serious economic crisis to hit our state in many years, overall college full time equivalent enrollment increased 20 percent over a year ago.

Carol A. Lucey, Ph.D. President
GOAL ONE: Improve Student Success

Renewing and Reinventing Education

In a rapidly changing world, colleges, like businesses, must evolve and improve themselves. They must remain relevant as technology and community needs change. Foresight is a key ingredient, along with the commitment to continual improvement in an era of diminished resources.

Western Nevada College has faced these challenges in the past year and is responding in a unified and determined manner. The college is preparing students who are more focused than ever on obtaining degrees, while striving to create a more skilled Nevada work force.

Helping students obtain their goals means assisting more students with financial aid, making campuses more accessible for those with disabilities, and enhancing the value of technical programs through national certifications.

An important component of student success is providing the right programs and the quality of education needed by our communities and by those seeking employment in the Silver State.

First Bachelor in Construction Technology Graduates

When Western sought approval for a Bachelor of Technology degree program in Construction Management, it was with a clear idea that the program would attract and retain new students as well as skilled workers. The Associated Building Contractors and other construction industry groups recognized the need for students to climb a career ladder from constructing a building to becoming a manager in the construction field. The program combines knowledge in construction methods, planning and project management with business and supervisory skills.

In spring 2009 Western saw its first three graduates. True to the program’s intent, the students came to the program with a background in construction and used their education to enhance their careers.

Automotive Program Earns National Certification

WNC’s Automotive Technology program has earned a strong endorsement from a national group. Following an extensive examination of its courses, instructors and facilities, Western earned a certification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation for its auto technology program.

Credit goes not only to the college’s faculty and staff, but also to the local auto dealerships and vehicle repair businesses that took it upon themselves to make sure the program succeeded. Local automotive firms helped with the self-study component and the site visit.

The Automotive Service Excellence group certifies college level automotive programs. Completing a NATEF-certified program means that a student is better prepared to pass the ASE tests, which are nationally recognized for their demanding level of required skills.

Western plans to have all of its technical programs accredited or certified, including welding, machine tool technology, construction and drafting.

SIX YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN -
Progress After Year 3

OBJECTIVE: Increase service area high school graduate to WNC continuation rate to 30%  
Benchmark – 18%  
Rate after 2006-2007 – 23%*  
Rate after 2007-2008 – 26%**  
Rate after 2008-2009 – 23%**

OBJECTIVE: Increase persistence rate within a term to 80%.
Benchmark - 70%
Rate for 2006-2007 – 72%
Rate for Fall 2007 – 74%
Rate for Fall 2008 – 74%

OBJECTIVE: Increase number of graduates who transfer to a four-year institution to 36%
Benchmark – 18%
Rate after 2006-2007 – 21%
Rate after Fall 2007-2008 – 26%
Rate after Fall 2008 – 28%

OBJECTIVE: Increase student graduation rate to 26%
Benchmark – 16%
Rate after 2006-2007 – 20%
Rate after 2007-2008 – 21%
Rate after 2008-2009 – 20%

Source: WNC Office of Institutional Research  
*Provided by Nevada Department of Education  
**Provided by Nevada System of Higher Education

FULL-TIME STUDENTS SEEKING DEGREE/CERTIFICATE
2008-2009 Annualized Enrollment

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<td>869</td>
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Source: WNC Institutional Research

FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO STUDENTS
2008-2009 Academic Year

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<th>Award Type</th>
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<td>Grants-In-Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan</td>
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<td>Scholarship</td>
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<td>Work Study</td>
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<td>$229,678.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Source: WNC Institutional Research
Nurses Nearly Perfect on Exams
Western Nevada College’s 2009 nursing graduates were nearly perfect in their pass rate on the national licensure examination this fall. The nursing program is reporting a 96 percent first-time pass rate, with 45 of 47 students passing the examination on the first try. It was the second highest pass rate in the state.

WNC performed higher than national average rankings for both associate degree and baccalaureate degree nursing programs, according to statistics released by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The national average pass rate for associate degree graduates was 88 percent and the national average pass rate for baccalaureate degree graduates was 90 percent.

Machining Program Upgrades Technology
Western now has the latest technology for automotive machining, thanks to a $182,000 federal grant through the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. The funds were used to purchase two computer-guided machine tools: a milling center and honing device.

“These are the first two machines of this type in Nevada, and the only ones being used in a teaching setting in Nevada or Northern California,” Professor Paul Eastwood said.

Achieving Student Success
Attention to Students Pays Off - Fewer Default on Student Loans
In difficult economic times, students are arriving at college more financially challenged, and often, unemployed or under-employed. Many more students who have been hard hit by the recession are applying for grants and loans to attend classes.

In an effort to prevent students from losing their financial aid, Western’s Financial Assistance Office has instituted a variety of interventions that are making a difference. Fewer students are defaulting on student loans and the college’s overall loan default rate fell from 10.5 percent in 2006 to 6.7 percent in 2007, the most recent numbers available.

“We have an early alert system in Counseling Services, where if a faculty member sees that a student is struggling, we provide tutoring and other services to get him through the semester,” said Director of Financial Assistance Lori Tiede. “It’s a strong, campus-wide effort to retain students and lower the default rate.”

Western follows up with any student who misses a loan payment. Assistance may include asking lenders for forbearance or a deferment for the student.

Academic Tutoring Center Draws a Crowd
For the past two years, the college’s Academic Skills Centers have taken their message to students – “Don’t Fear!” – the skills center is here to help students succeed in class. Attention-getting posters featuring a Jaws-like shark with mouth wide open got plenty of attention around campus, and so did the tutoring centers.

Last year, the Carson City center served some 600 students and usage increased 167 percent over previous years with the number of student hours spent in the center approaching 20,000. Students at outlying WNC locations increased usage of an online writing tutoring program.

Students received tutoring in a range of subjects: accounting, American Sign Language, biology, business, chemistry, economics, philosophy, physics, psychology, Spanish, and study skills.

A visit to the ASC reveals students clustered at tables and tutors moving between groups. There is a positive vibe as students share tutors and help each other with problems, passing on tips and learning by teaching others.

“It’s a pleasure to see,” said ASC Coordinator Josh Fleming.
**GOAL 1**

**“Students First”**

**Western Completes Initial Disability Retrofit**

The hilly WNC Carson City campus is easier to use for those with disabilities after a seven-month retrofit that included new lifts between floors, more accessible restrooms, and walkways with a gentler grade. Tons of excavation work provided a level surface for handicapped parking spaces that were formerly on an incline next to the Bristlecone Building. The construction was the first phase of a long term campus improvement project.

Most work was completed in and around Bristlecone, the college’s first building that opened in 1974. Although it was built with an eye toward helping the disabled, several interior and exterior ramps did not meet today’s standards. The $3 million project, completed by Clark & Sullivan Construction Company of Sparks, began during the summer to minimize disruption for teachers and students. Project design was by Hershenow and Klippenstein Architects.

Susan Trist, coordinator of WNC Disabled Student Services, said many students have said “thank you” for the work done.

“I think the students feel special that the college has made these changes. They feel they are important because the college has gone out of its way to make their lives easier.”

Trist said that prior to the retrofit, disabled students would have to use exterior ramps in all kinds of weather to avoid stairs inside the building. More than 300 disabled students are enrolled at Western’s campuses and learning centers.

In addition to providing better access, the college is also enhancing the services it provides disabled students. Western began working with Landmark College of Vermont, the nation’s premier college for students with disabilities, in 2005 on a project to ensure that students with disabilities receive a quality education.

The four-year project developed 18 online learning modules entitled: “Best Practices for Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities in the Community College Setting” for faculty and staff of WNC and several other community colleges around the country. Instructors will have access to modules and eventually the contents will be available nationwide.

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**Arts for All Ages**

**WNC Fallon’s College for Kids program performed “Jungle Book Kids” over the summer.**

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**Fallon Library Celebrates Re-Opening**

The Beck Library at WNC Fallon celebrated a $125,000 renovation that gave the library a whole new look. The renovation included more electronic resources, more public access computers for students, and new furnishings. New paint, furniture and shelving gives the library a fresh, new feel, and it is now easier to use for those who have disabilities.” The Beck Foundation, benefactor of the library, provided for most the renovation.

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2008 Graduate Survey Comments

“My highest compliments go to your counseling and disability support services departments. They were an integral part of my ability to succeed while at WNC.”

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2008-2009 Report to the Community
“Don’t Wait, Graduate!”
Reaching Out to Adults

College student services and marketing offices are reaching out to former students who left the college after completing at least half of their degree. The “Don’t Wait, Graduate” program has seen dozens of students return and several are graduating. The college made contact with students by phone, e-mail, brochures and direct mail, and invited students to come back to college and finish their degree. The college also made arrangements to allow flexible fee payment if needed, to help students receive academic counseling and apply for financial assistance, and has started an adult student support group on campus.

A report by the Lumina Foundation for Education shows that more than 304,000 or nearly 28 percent of working age adults in Nevada have earned college credits, but have not obtained a degree. The “Don’t Wait, Graduate” program is encouraging these adults to come back to college and earn their diploma.

Nevada was one of three pilot states, along with Arkansas and Colorado, to receive a $65,000 Lumina Foundation grant to increase adult learners’ access to and success in postsecondary education. The effort supports Lumina’s goal to increase the higher education attainment rate of the United States to 60 percent by the year 2025.

Teacher Education Partnership Shows Results

Western continues its valuable partnership with Nevada State College to provide a bachelor’s degree in teacher education to residents of its service area. Western began the elementary education program in fall 2003 and a special education program in fall 2006. Students receive the first two years of teacher education at WNC, then access the final two years by enrolling at Nevada State College and attending weekend and evening classes at WNC sites or online. To date, NSC has graduated 38 elementary education majors and three in special education in the WNC service area.

Veterans Coming Home & Heading to College

Thanks to an increase in federal benefits to veterans who have served since 9/11, the doors have been opened to many more servicemen and women to attend college. Western is working to ensure success by counseling veterans on degree programs and the classes that will be eligible for reimbursement, and helping with the adjustments to civilian life. It has also established a veteran’s club in Carson City and Fallon.

Christina Murrow - Iraq
Veteran serving in the Reserves. Attending WNC for a degree in Deaf Studies.

STUDENT SUCCESS – Kudos Corner

Fallon Student Receives Regents Scholar Award
Churchill County High School graduate Amy Ramos was the 2009 recipient of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Scholarship. The $5,000 award is presented to one outstanding student at each NSHE college and university. Amy carried a perfect 4.0 grade point average last year at WNC. She plans to major in psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno, and then pursue a degree in ophthalmology. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and a Millennium Scholar. Her extensive community service includes being a musical director at her church, teaching children to play bass guitar and drums, and traveling to Mexico as a volunteer to build homes for needy residents.

WNC Siblings Earn National Recognition for Service
Two Western Nevada College students, Rachael and John-Henry Lambin of Gardnerville, earned national recognition from the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Rachael was also chosen as one of 250 finalists in the 2008-2009 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Rachael created and leads “Visionary Hands,” a program that uses drawing, painting, sculpting and public speaking to bring people together and promote community service. John-Henry created “Safe Hands,” a program designed to help educate youth about firearm safety.

Student Represents Nevada in National Scholarship Competition
Former construction worker turned nursing student Josh Pierce has overcome adversity in his life, and his education at Western has taken him in a whole new direction. Pierce was chosen the top community college student in Nevada in the All-USA Academic Team sponsored by Coca-Cola and USA Today. The honor carries a $2,000 stipend. Pierce said it was ironic that a downturn in the economy led him to where he is today. “If someone had suggested this to me I would have been afraid to do it. What I’ve done is out of necessity, and it’s worked out better than I imagined.”

Latino Club Raises Funds For Scholarships
The Latino Student Club has awarded two scholarships with funds generated through their sale of homemade tamales and through a talent show/dance contest. The funds allowed two local residents to take a college class that will help them gain employment skills — one in computer applications and one in construction technology.

Space Scholar Recipient
WNC student Jeffrey Lambin received a $2,500 scholarship from the Nevada Space Grant Consortium, one of only 23 awards made statewide, funded by NASA.

TOTAL DEGREES & CERTIFICATES AWARDED

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NOTE: The number of degrees/certificates awarded in 2008-2009 is lower, in part because of the decreased instruction in the prison program and the suspension of the surgical technology program, due to budget constraints.

Source: WNC Institutional Research

2008-2009 Report to the Community
Why I Teach

By Mike Sady
Chemistry Professor

Better to ask, “What Keeps Me Here at WNC?” Simply put: a balance between classroom teaching, research and discovery in the field and laboratory, and time dedicated to service in the larger community, all possible in a splendid natural environment. Academic life at the various campuses of Western has provided, and continues to provide me with this crucial balance and locale.

TEACHING

“A wise teacher should not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom, but rather lead you to the threshold of your own mind.”

~Kahlil Gibran on the subject of teaching in his book “The Prophet”

Teaching the same course each year is different and continually interesting because of the human element. It can be said that every teacher must be a student, and every student a teacher, for each to garner a share of the responsibility and excitement of learning.

Truly, my students come from a diverse background of experiences, ages, socio-economics, and career objectives. There are the young high school graduates eager to try something new. But there is also a mix of career changers - lawyers and teachers who wish to study chemistry to become doctors and nurses.

Thus the act of teaching for me is not that of a task- oriented mentor, but rather the reward of witnessing a diverse student population accomplishing in their own conscience more than they set out to discover about their natural world and themselves.

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

“It used to be said now and then that students got a charge out of Ravelstein—that he was funny, a hoot. The charge, however, was only superficially funny or entertaining— a vital force was transmitted; that fed his energy, and this energy was spread, disseminated, bestowed”

~Saul Bellow from his book Ravelstein

As dramatic as I can be, to move students to new ideas and thoughts about their natural world around them, the energy I bring to the classroom, field, and laboratory sessions feeds my desire to reach out and find better ways to express the discipline without sacrificing or diluting the rigor. How this energy is generated from, and toward, my students remains a mystery. Energy in the physical sciences translates to work, which can be interpreted as love made visible. That labor to assist each unique student on the path of discovery (be it phytochemical ecology or analysis of polyphenolic compounds in fruit juice) keeps the thrill, perhaps magic, in teaching for me.

SERVICE

“Expand the scientific literacy of all citizens, and disseminate to them the importance of STEM research and education”

~National Science Foundation 2009

A significant portion of my teaching career has been dedicated to community service - in the classroom of an elementary school, leading a field trip in the spring, or judging a science fair. For me to be able to provide expertise for our community members, especially as a teacher at a publicly funded college, is as important a responsibility as teaching classes.

ENVIRONMENT

“It would be no small advantage if every college were located at the base of a mountain”

~Henry David Thoreau upon visiting Williams College in the Berkshires

Have you ever smelled the rapturous scent of sage and pine after a thunderstorm in the lee of the Sierra Nevada? Gazed upon the azure shore of a Lake Tahoe beach? Skied in alpine-glow as sun sets and rose colors shade the horizon? Looked carefully at the interactions between butterflies and milkweeds in June? Noted in February the new-born calves along the greening pastures?

This natural environment, the seasonal exaggerations, and changing patterns of landscape and wildlife provide a vital ingredient, equal to the human vitality of the students, colleagues, and staff, to keeping me steadfast in my dedication to our teaching mission at WNC, while providing an outdoor classroom for my students.

www.wnc.edu/waterfall/

2008 Graduate Survey Responses

100% would recommend WNC to others
Wildcats Athletes Excel on Diamond, Too

Whether in the classroom or between the base paths, student athletes at Western Nevada College are making a name for themselves and the college. One of the headlines during this year’s Junior College World Series baseball tournament in a local newspaper touted “Those Brainy ‘Cats,” referring to the Wildcats’ team academic grades of “B” or better. Western was the only tournament competitor with a 3.0 team grade point average.

In the national tournament, WNC took home third place, beating three teams, but falling twice to eventual winner Howard College of Big Spring, Texas. Even though Howard had an unprecedented 63-1 season, the tournament showed there is nothing to be taken for granted at this level of baseball. Western took the Hawks to extra innings on the opening day before losing 4-3, and it took Howard 10 innings to defeat Santa Fe of Gainesville, Fla., 7-4, in the championship game.

Baseball coach DJ Whittemore’s efforts were rewarded as he was named a 2009 Diamond Sports Regional Coach of the Year, along with Scenic West Conference coaching honors.

The Wildcat softball team, in its first season of play, also had a cumulative grade point average of “B” or better. Western competed with a team made up almost entirely of freshmen, but recorded wins against two conference rivals. With sophomore and freshman players on the roster this year, interim coach Leah Wentworth plans on being competitive.

Western’s athletic program has always been about scholarship and character, ahead of victories on the field. One of those responsible for helping the students maintain academic progress is the faculty adviser to the teams: Kevin Burns.

“There’s a reason they’re called student athletes,” Burns said. “They are students first.”

2008 Graduate Survey Comments

"The whole school had a community feel rather than individual departments. I definitely enjoyed and felt enriched from my time there."

www.wnc.edu/athletics/
Kevin Burns
Volunteer Keeps Athletes on Track

Kevin Burns is a retired Marine major whose passion is writing. He teaches developmental English as a part-time instructor at the college. He also plays a critical role in the WNC intercollegiate athletics program, volunteering as an academic advisor to student athletes.

“My saw during my first semester that there were many young women not ready for college,” Kevin said. “I met with the head of athletics and the coaches and said that they needed to be helped in some way. I became a volunteer.”

So how does an ex-Marine relate to softball players? “That was one of the benefits of my experience,” Burns said. “I was used to working with 18-year-olds right out of high school.

“You have to take each one individually and find out what motivates them. Sometimes you have to be a gunny sergeant and sometimes it’s something else. There are 17 students on that team, and you need 17 different ways to motivate. It’s really been one of the joys of working here to find out what works for whom.

“I love to see their eyes light up and a big smile on their face if they get an ‘A’ on an English paper or a poly sci exam. It’s rewarding to see their potential realized when they put a little organization and structure into it.”

One of the students Kevin has worked with is sophomore right fielder Kelsie Fahr. In her words: “He helps me get things done, but he’s not mean about it. Talking to him is a whole lot easier than my teachers or my counselor; he pushes me to do better.”

There’s no doubt playing sports and achieving academically is a tall order. Student athletes travel to Twin Falls, Idaho; Ephraim, Utah; and Rangely, Colo. as part of the Scenic West Athletic Conference schedule. Athletes have to be disciplined to study on the road and must maintain good grades to stay on the team. Kevin meets with the teams at the beginning of each semester to explain their responsibilities. He also meets individually with softball players three times a semester. Instructors submit progress reports that Kevin reviews with the women individually. Assistant coaches do the same with baseball players.

Faculty & Staff Who Make A Difference

Outstanding Faculty & Staff
English professors Chad McCully and Dr. Ursula Carlson were chosen academic faculty members of the year. Professor McCully helped organize the first assessment symposium for the college and piloted a new version of an online teaching program. Dr. Carlson is known as a gifted teacher who also works tirelessly outside of the classroom, including several years as co-advisor for Phi Theta Kappa student honor society.

Senior Graphic Designer Michelle Peltier and Dean of Student Services Executive Assistant Lupe Ramirez received top classified employee honors. College Webmaster Kevin Murphy and Financial Assistance Coordinator Laura Whitelaw were honored as administrators of the year.

Each college division also honored an outstanding part-time faculty member: Vance Hughey, Business; Kevin Burns, Communication and Fine Arts; Penny Nicely, Science, Math and Engineering; Dr. Tom Kubistant, Social Science, Education, Humanities and Public Service; and Michael Becker, Technology.

“Communicator of the Year” Honor
Marketing and Information Services Director Anne Hansen was named western region “Communicator of the Year” by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. Hansen leads the college’s Information and Marketing Services team.

2008 Graduate Survey Responses
92% said WNC prepared them for further education

Online Class Schedule Merits National Award
WNCs online class schedule and catalog have won a national silver award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. Webmaster Kevin Murphy said his goal was “putting in all the information anyone could want about a class in one spot, with one easy way to find it.”

Technology Instructor Gets Ink in National Publication
Networking Technologies Instructor Dave Riske is using innovative techniques to help students learn better, and his methods merited mention in the “Community College Times” national newspaper. The techniques help Riske identify student performance goals that meet industry needs.
Part-Time Faculty Play Vital Role

Jill Brugler – Art Instructor

Western Nevada College has always relied on dedicated community professionals to help carry the teaching load as adjunct faculty. Without them, it would be impossible to provide the breadth and number of course sections WNC regularly offers. It also allows students to learn from those who are utilizing the latest technologies and techniques in the workplace.

In 2008-2009, part-time instructors became even more important. All colleges and universities in the Nevada System of Higher Education faced substantial budget cuts, and deficits were filled in part by the early retirements of a number of senior faculty members.

One such dedicated part-time art instructor is Jill Brugler. She can frequently be seen on campus teaching classes in clay sculpture, ceramics and art fundamentals. She is also a lifelong learner, recently enrolled in a college welding class and working on the mixed media of welding and ceramics. You may also see Jill in the three art galleries on the Carson City campus, installing exhibits or hosting an artist’s reception.

A WNC instructor since 2006, Brugler believes in what the college is doing.

Ashlee Negrete

Taking the Fast Track to Success

WNC graduate Ashlee Negrete is one of many successful students who earned an associate degree in 2009 and are ready to move on with their education and life dreams. But Ashlee is only 17 years old and is on track to earn her teaching degree in 2011 at age 19.

A straight-A student at a local private school, she was able to skip her freshman year of high school and become a sophomore at age 14. Unfortunately, her school didn’t have enough students to continue, so Ashlee needed to finish her education elsewhere.

Not wanting to attend a traditional high school, Ashlee received permission to enroll at Western and earned an “A” in sign language, her first college class. She passed her English placement test and later earned a “B+” in Math 120.

After that it was the regular college curriculum of English, math and science.

If Western has given Ashlee an opportunity, Ashlee has given back to the college, serving as vice president of the Associated Students of Western Nevada College. And although she has graduated from WNC, she’s still taking courses here toward her bachelor’s degree.

"Ashlee has been such a wonderful addition to ASWN,” said Katie Leao, who directs student activities. Ashlee introduced more community service and cultural programs this year, she said.

Ashlee is a well-rounded student whose interests are varied. Her first love is musical theater, and she performed in “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.”

“At 5 years old I was the one at birthday parties who would get up on a coffee table and sing,” Ashlee said.

Ashlee’s current schedule is a busy one. In addition to classes and her student government duties, she works as a barista at Starbucks, where her bright smile works wonders with her customers.

“People come in grumpy and leave happy five minutes later.”

As for the future, she would like to work at one of the many Christian schools in the area.

Any advice from someone who has been a high academic achiever?

“I took a speed reading course, even though I didn’t believe it would work. Now I can read about 800 words a minute with excellent comprehension. It’s helpful when you have professors who have you read four chapters of a book in three days.”
GOAL THREE: *One College, Many Communities*

**Partnerships – Growing the Economy**

**Specialty Crop Institute Plants Seeds for Future**

A new community partnership between Western Nevada College and local farmers is sowing seeds of possibilities for expanding and enhancing the Silver State’s agriculture industry. The Specialty Crop Institute was created at WNC in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service to offer new possibilities and techniques for Nevada growers.

Western is working with both established farmers and those new to the industry to bring high-value, low water use crops to our arid state. A yearlong series of seminars were an unqualified success, attracting hundreds of participants to learn from regional experts and tour local farms that can lead the way to a more prosperous economic future.

Establishing new industries in viticulture and wine making, cut flowers, and sustainable farming will no doubt present challenges. In addition to growing crops in a high desert climate, there is the challenge of finding markets for products, the intricacies of finding new techniques that will work here, and the uncertainties of success. But for those who are willing to make the leap, the rewards can be great.

Several of the most popular seminars were on growing wine grapes. An expert brought in to conduct the seminar was instrumental in the growth of Washington’s wine grape industry that now has 650 wineries and 35,000 acres of grapes. Wine is now a large industry in the state and has boosted Washington’s tourism.

In its first year, the seminars featured organic farming, cut flowers, lavender farms and hoop houses, which are inexpensive greenhouse-type structures that help extend the growing season.

WNC Fallon campus Dean Bus Scharmann has been the guiding force behind the Specialty Crop Institute. He works with project coordinator Ann Louhela of NevadaGrown, which promotes locally grown, sustainable farming, and with the college’s Workforce Development Center creates classes that will draw interest and help educate Nevadans. He said interest for more seminars was so great the Institute has committed to providing additional workshops next year.

“For many years I have discussed with local wine industry leaders the role that the college could play in furthering their cause. I believe we have found it through the Specialty Crop Institute, and I am very pleased that Western Nevada College can assist in the education of current and emerging viticulture farmers.”

**HELPING EMPLOYERS BE SUCCESSFUL**

The value and trust that area employers place in Western Nevada College is evident by the dozens of companies that turn to the college every year for specialized employee training. The college’s Workforce Development Center coordinators in Carson City and Fallon arrange for specialized training in the employer’s field or for general training in safety, first aid, OSHA-required classes, office applications, etc.

Always mindful of the needs of individual businesses, classes are typically held on site at area plants or agencies. Both college credit and non-credit instruction may be offered.

2008-2009 Workforce Development Clients

- American AVK
- Brady Power
- Carson City Chamber of Commerce
- Carson Valley Medical Center
- Churchill Economic Development Authority
- City of Fallon
- CMC Joint
- Desert Rose RV Park
- Excalibur Labs
- Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
- Flowers by Ness
- Golden Predator Mines, Inc.
- Greater Pershing Partnership
- Kennyco Rawhide Mining Company
- Lahontan Conservation District
- Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance
- Nevada Bureau of Health
- Nevada Department of Education
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- Nevada Gaming Control Board
- Niotan
- PPG Architectural Finishes
- Quebecor
- Sherwin Williams
- Sierra Stainless
- Society for Animal Homeopathy
- Southwest Gas
- Sweetwater Plumbing Inc.
- Starbucks
- Triangle 4 Fence Co.
- Walker River Paiute Tribe
- Wallace True Value Hardware

**Donation Benefits Nursing**

A Carson City couple is again helping WNC’s nursing program provide an excellent education to students. Locke and Betty Ray Lesch provided funds for new instructional DVDs and videos in the Associate Degree Nursing Program. Nursing faculty also obtained videos to teach students through simulation experiences. The Lesches are generous donors who have provided WNC with high tech nursing education equipment in the past.
"Always Lost"  
Art Collaboration Explores Impacts of War, Builds Community

The faces of 4,000 American service members who died serving in Iraq were the inspiration for an art exhibit at WNC that brought students, faculty and the community together in an emotional and thought-provoking manner.

"Always Lost" is a unique display of photos, facts, poems and prose about war that was on display during the spring and summer in galleries at the Carson City and Fallon campuses. The exhibit was the result of collaboration between WNC creative writing and sociology students, who combined dozens of personal essays with hundreds of photographs and a series of statistics about the Iraq conflict.

Sociology Professor Don Carlson approached English Professor Marilee Swirczek with an idea to collaborate between his sociology class which would research and quantify the impersonal demographics of the Iraq War, and her creative writing class which would personalize the war through poems and prose.

What began as a consideration of the distant effects of the Iraq War on the U.S. population evolved into a powerful meditation on the personal effects of war on the individual. Some of the photos were taken by WNC students who are Iraq War veterans. The exhibit offered a space in which visitors could contemplate the impersonal demographics and personal costs of the conflict, while participating in a powerful communal experience about this war and wars in general.

“We didn’t have a political point to make,” Swirczek said. “We wanted to think about all aspects of war, from the mother waiting at home to the soldier in the trenches.”

The exhibit drew so much attention and emotion that it has been requested by several other colleges and universities, leading Swirczek to write a grant that could fund the cost of packaging the show for shipping and display at other venues.

AT&T PARTNERSHIP  
Ninth Graders Get a Taste of College

Serving the higher education needs of nearly 200,000 residents living throughout 18,000 square miles of Nevada requires creativity and tenacity. Western serves seven counties with three campuses and five education centers. More than that, the college encourages education by reaching out to the public from pre-kindergarten to senior citizens with innovative programs and opportunities.

WNC stirred the imaginations of ninth grade girls from area high schools with "Women in Non-Traditional Careers Day," a daylong event on campus that highlighted the college experience, charting new courses for life, and what can be accomplished with hard work and pursuit of excellence. The day was made possible by a $10,000 grant from AT&T.

COMMUNITY LECTURES  
NASA Scientist Helps Celebrate Astronomy

Western celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Jack C. Davis Observatory with a star party and free lecture by a NASA scientist on the Carson City campus. The annual Harlow Shapley Lecture, offered by the American Astronomical Society, featured Dr. Dana Bachman, who spoke about how planets are formed.

The college also participated in the global celebration of 2009 as the "International Year of Astronomy." Davis Observatory Director Robert Collier lectured at the Nevada State Museum, and the observatory released numerous space photos taken at the Davis Observatory to area media.

2008 Graduate Survey Comments

"The teaching style at WNC set you up for success – willing to help at any time. I loved attending WNC!!"
WEB ENROLLMENT BY SEMESTER
2008-2009 Annualized Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2002-Spring 2003</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2003-Spring 2004</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2004-Spring 2005</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2005-Spring 2006</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2006-Spring 2007</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2007-Spring 2008</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2008-Spring 2009</td>
<td>1219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENTS BY AGE
2008-2009 Annualized Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Headcount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 &amp; Under</td>
<td>1064</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>1186</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 64</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5308</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WNC Institutional Research

STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY
2008-2009 Annualized Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Headcount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Alien</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>3748</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Totals do not include "unknown.
Source: WNC Institutional Research

2008 Graduate Survey Comments

"My experience at WNC was a very good one! I really liked the individual attention I received throughout my experience! I’ve had great professors also! They were always very helpful and they really wanted you to succeed."
FINANCIAL REPORT
2008-2009 Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Appropriations w/COLA</td>
<td>$19,956,417</td>
<td>85.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees</td>
<td>$3,182,227</td>
<td>13.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-resident Fees</td>
<td>$203,302</td>
<td>0.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Student Fees</td>
<td>$16,654</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Capital Investment</td>
<td>$11,611</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Funded Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,370,211</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2008-2009 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$9,698,435</td>
<td>41.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support</td>
<td>$2,179,618</td>
<td>9.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>$2,137,409</td>
<td>9.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution Support</td>
<td>$5,029,636</td>
<td>21.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O&amp;M Plant</td>
<td>$3,947,768*</td>
<td>16.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$377,345</td>
<td>1.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Funded Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,370,211</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE*: Includes one-time reallocation of $1M to replace the Bristlecone Building air-handling system.

ASSOCIATE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES AWARDED 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate of Arts</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate of Applied Science</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate of General Studies</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate of Science</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Awards</strong></td>
<td><strong>385</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WNC Institutional Research

FINANCIAL AID DOLLARS AWARDED TO STUDENTS
Dollars ($1000s) in Awards by Award Year

![Graph showing financial aid dollars awarded to students from 1998 to 2008.]

NOTE: Totals may fluctuate as awards are made throughout the year. Source: WNC Institutional Research

2008 Graduate Survey Comments

"My experience at WNC was great and has given me an excellent education in my chosen career field."

GRADUATION RATE
First-Time, Full-Time Degree Seekers

![Graduation rate chart showing percentages for different cohorts.]

* Based on graduate rate at a two year college
* Based on graduate rate at a four year college
Four-Year Average Student Right-to-Know Completion/Graduation Rates
Source: IPEDS report; WNC Institutional Research

2008-2009 Report to the Community
Every two years, the Western Nevada College Foundation elects a new chair and this year, it is my honor to serve. I was preceded by many excellent leaders: Shelly Aldean, Steve Lewis, Tom Metcalf and recently, Roger Williams, to name a few.

When Roger began his chairmanship, the stock market was hovering around 15,000 and just about everyone was feeling good financially. To make a long story short, the stock market hit 6,500, 12 percent of the American working force became unemployed and people didn’t feel that optimistic any more. Inspiring people to donate is always a difficult proposition during good times; in tough economic times it is exponentially harder.

A funny thing happened though, during this time. The number of people donating to the college through the WNC Foundation actually went up. The total dollar amount was down slightly, but a larger number of people thought that Western and the foundation were worthy of their hard earned money.

With a reduction in state funding and an increase in student enrollment, there has never been a more important time to be part of the foundation. There will be challenges ahead, but I am optimistic because of the great community that Western serves.

Northern Nevada is very well positioned for the paradigm shift in energy that is sweeping the country. We have wide-open spaces, sun, wind, very bright students and a college that can give them the education and tools to succeed. With these opportunities, for the first time in a long time, we have the ability not only to train and teach our best and brightest, but to also keep them in our state after college.

With all of this in mind, the foundation will be rolling out some new, exciting programs to help the college and the community meet their needs. Stay tuned!

Donal Hummer Jr.

**MISSION** – The Western Nevada College Foundation exists to maintain and enhance the quality of life in western Nevada by developing friends and funds for support of the educational, cultural, and service goals of Western Nevada College. The WNC Foundation supports the entire college family in its overall pursuit of excellence.

**VISION** – The Western Nevada College Foundation seeks to create the finest college in the nation.

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- Robin Williamson, Secretary-Treasurer
- Roger Williams, Immediate Past Chair

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- **Visorany of the College**
  - $50,000 - $99,000
  - Banner Churchill Community Hospital

- **Distinguished Benefactor of the College**
  - $25,000 - $49,999
  - Bette & Carl Dodge Trust

- **Benefactor of the College**
  - $10,000 - $24,999
  - AT&T Foundation
  - Custom Stamping, Inc.
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  - $5,000 - $9,999
  - Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare Auxiliary
  - Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare
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  - Orthopro of Carson City, Inc.
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  - Dorothy & Rob Ramsdell
  - LeAnn & Scott Rasner
  - Cole W. Rohrbough
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- **Visionary of the College**
  - American Legion Auxiliary #4
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  - Carson City Emblem Club No. 507
  - Carson City Natives & Newcomers Club
  - Carson Valley Quilt Guild, Inc.
  - CGI, Inc.
  - City National Bank
  - Claire & Jim Clift
  - CMC Joint & Deck
  - Dave Friedrich - Hampton Inn & Suites
  - Nancy & Sean Davison
  - Barbara A. Day
  - Dennis Banks Construction
  - Four Ace’s Drywall Inc.
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  - Kennemetal Foundation
  - Korean War Veterans
  - Michele & Steve Lewis
  - Mary & Joe Lushina
  - Kevin Joseph Marcella
  - Maupin, Cox & Legoy Law Firm
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  - JoAnn & Gary Sheerin
  - Sierra Nevada Soccer Club
  - Ann D. Silver

**www.wnc.edu/foundation/**

2008-2009 Report to the Community
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Vice President of Development & External Affairs – Helaine Jesse
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Vice President of Human Resources & General Counsel – Mark Ghan, J.D.
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CHANCELLOR
Daniel Klaich

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