

WEAREWESTERN

Scholarship

M A G A Z I N E

WNC grads transform
Cellar 8 into
spirited hot spot

2025-26 WNC Foundation
Scholarships and Recipients

Lifelong learner's 'backwards'
degree path fuels career

Family surprises
2006 grad with
heartfelt gifts



Western Nevada College
FOUNDATION



Student government leaders Elena Guzman, Violeta Enriquez and Alessandra Sandoval Orozco have some fun at the 2025 Golf for Education tournament.



Every once in a while, a moment comes along that reminds us why our work truly matters. One of those moments happened this year.

From time to time, the Western Nevada

College Foundation presents small opportunity awards through random drawings as a way to introduce students to WNC. At a recent event, when one student learned she had been selected, she shared something that stayed with me.

She said it was the first time she had ever thought about going to college.

In that moment, the impact of educational support became very real. Sometimes the greatest gift isn't the financial assistance, it's the realization that higher education might actually be within reach.

At Western Nevada College, moments like that happen every day.

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Western Nevada College Foundation awarded \$870,504 in scholarships to 592 students. Behind every one of those scholarships is a story — a student returning to college after years in the workforce, a single parent determined to build a better future, or a first-generation student taking a courageous step into higher education.

Scholarships do more than reduce financial barriers. They create opportunity. They give students the freedom to focus on

learning, complete their programs, and step confidently into careers that strengthen our communities.

Throughout this magazine, you will meet several of these students. You'll read about individuals whose journeys remind us why access to education matters so deeply. From veterans beginning a new chapter to working parents balancing school and family, their determination reflects the spirit of Western Nevada College.

You will also see the impact of an extraordinary community of donors, volunteers, and partners who believe in the promise of our students. Their generosity fuels scholarships, expands programs, and ensures that Western Nevada College continues to serve as a pathway to opportunity for students across our region.

Every scholarship tells a story. Every student represents potential. And every act of generosity helps transform possibility into reality.

We are proud of the students featured in these pages — and deeply grateful to the supporters who make their success possible.

We are Western.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Niki Gladys

Niki Gladys, Executive Director, WNC Foundation & Chief Advancement Officer for Western Nevada College



2025-2026 Academic Year



5,150
students served annually



98% in-state | **1.5%** out-of-state | **.5%** international

16
non-US countries of residence

24% first generation | **15%** students of color

45% male | **55%** female

67% part time | **33%** full time



88% earned credit pass rate | **41%** graduation rate (17% higher than IPEDS cohort)



33% under age 18 | **40%** age 18-24 | **27%** age 25+

IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) is the primary federal data source for ranking and benchmarking community colleges in the U.S.



A Message from **Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President of Western Nevada College**

At Western Nevada College, we believe in the boundless potential of our students and in the power of community to help them achieve it. Each year, the We Are Western Scholarship Magazine celebrates the generosity and commitment of our partners, donors, and Foundation board members whose support makes life-changing opportunities possible for WNC students.

Because of your investment, students across our region can pursue their education with confidence and focus. Scholarships do far more than ease financial burdens — they open doors, expand possibilities, and help students see a future they may not have imagined before. Your partnership

strengthens not only individual lives, but the vitality of our entire region.

As we look ahead, WNC is focused on moving forward with purpose. We are expanding access for adult learners, returning students, and workforce participants while continuing to support recent high school graduates. We are exploring new bachelor's degree pathways that will allow students to stay in northern Nevada while preparing for careers our communities need most. At the same time, we are committed to enhancing the student experience, supporting employee success, maintaining our campuses, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the college.

These goals are ambitious, but they are achievable because of partners like you. Your belief in our mission allows WNC to continue creating opportunity, strengthening our workforce, and building a brighter future for Nevada.

To our donors, leaders, and community advocates — thank you. Your generosity inspires us, and your partnership ensures that our students can start here and go anywhere.

With sincere appreciation,

Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe
President, Western Nevada College

Nursing students are pictured with WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe while volunteering for the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala.



What inspires you to give to WNC?

WNC scholarship donors choose to give for various reasons, and everyone's story is unique. We'd love to hear your story and learn why you've made the choice to make a difference for WNC students. Your story could be featured in next year's Scholarship Celebration magazine.

Niki Gladys
Executive Director, WNC Foundation
(775) 445-3239 • (775) 527-5794 • niki.gladys@wnc.edu

Yes! I want to inspire achievement in students

WNC Foundation makes giving simple:

- Make a donation to support WNC Foundation's mission of inspiring achievement in students.
- Form a restricted scholarship in the amount of your choice; \$4,000 covers one year of tuition, scholarships start at \$500.
- Become a friend of the WNC Foundation by making a 3-year pledge of \$1,000 or more annually for needed student services.
- Establish an endowment account to create continued support for WNC and local students with a minimum and principal donation of \$10,000, held in perpetuity.
- Donate to support your favorite program:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack C. Davis Observatory | <input type="checkbox"/> President's Fund for Excellence | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Start College | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Emergency Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education in Prison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Drivers License (CDL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Resource Center (VRC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health | <input type="checkbox"/> WNC Food Pantry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> WNC Library | |

Scholarships needed:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Education Scholarships | <input type="checkbox"/> Mascot Scholarship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Nursing Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Funding | <input type="checkbox"/> What inspires you: _____ |

Gift amount:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | |
- Please keep my gift anonymous
- Donation in memory of: _____

Payment options:

- Enclosed check Credit Card (select one) ___ Visa ___ AMEX ___ MasterCard ___ Discover

Checks payable to: WNC Foundation	Credit Card # _____ Name on Card _____	Exp. Date _____ Signature _____	CVC _____ Date _____
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The Western Nevada College Foundation is a Nevada corporation and IRS designated 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization formed to strengthen our community through educational scholarships and support for our college. Your generous donation may be tax deductible. Federal Tax # 880283783

Donate Online at wnc.edu/donate



2026 We Are Western

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WNC FOUNDATION MISSION

WNC Foundation develops resources in support of Western Nevada College by creating community partnerships, encouraging philanthropy and strengthening relationships between the college and the communities it serves.

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Cover Photo: Kelsea Claassen

The *Wildcat* Way

WNC separates itself from other colleges in the state by not only making going to college a reality but also helping students reach their potential and providing a vision for their futures during their time at WNC. Over time this has become the Wildcat Way:

WELCOMING: At WNC, we are small enough to know each other's names and to know the names of our students. We welcome all students with open arms and invite them to discover their individual potential at Western.

INNOVATIVE: We are nimble enough to adapt and change to meet the needs of our students and our region. We make big things happen through creative ideas, strategic planning and collaboration.

LEARNING: We care about learning that lasts a lifetime. Whether you're a student attending WNC for the first time or an individual coming back to college to retool for the changing Nevada, Western is the place to help you achieve your goals.

DIVERSE: We embrace diversity. We foster an environment where students from all cultures, orientations and backgrounds can thrive. We promote active student engagement through the Associated Students of Western Nevada, the Latino Leadership Academy, Veterans Resource Center, Disability Support Services and other campus groups.

COMMUNITY: WNC is a fabric of the community we serve. We are committed to making college possible for those in western Nevada. With three campuses in five counties, and multiple online degrees and programs, we offer individuals the opportunity to learn while maintaining commitments to work and family.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Our faculty and staff are among the best. They are highly qualified and deeply committed to student success and achievement.

TRIED AND TRUE: For more than 50 years, WNC has offered affordable and quality education in Nevada. Each year more than 500 students graduate from Western ready to enter the workforce or prepared to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Yes, that spells Wildcat!



Scholarships & Recipients 2025-26

American Association of University Women Scholarship
Jessica Preston

Albert V. Lane Scholarship
Britney Harper
Jocelyn Olvera Cabral
Mya Parker
Lindsey Simon

Andy Butti Scholarship
Matthew Hill
Randall Reeder

Anne & Matt Hansen "You Can Do It" Scholarship
Matthew Hill

Anne G. Berlin Memorial Scholarship
Mackenzi Kerr

Annie Johnson Elliot Scholarship
Mya Parker

Application Support and Development Scholarship
Hope Kilfian

ASWN Carson Scholarship
Coen Adkins
Debbie Stoval

ASWN Fallon Scholarship
Alyssa Ayers

ASWN Rural Scholarship
Emily Kreamer

Bessie C. Gilmer Scholarship
Patricia Albert
Mariah Young

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From College Classrooms to Carson City's Cellar 8: WNC Grads Blend Design, Community and Wine

What began as a shared love of design and storytelling at Western Nevada College has blossomed into a thriving new destination in downtown Carson City.



Cellar 8 Wine Bar General Manager Jessica Brooks graduated from WNC in 2011.



Cellar 8 Wine Bar owner Maxine Holland is a 2022 graduate of Western Nevada College.

WNC graduates Maxine Holland (2022) and Jessica Brooks (2011) are the creative team behind the recently reimagined Cellar 8 Wine Bar, located at 408 N. Carson Street. Since reopening on March 8 — International Women's Day — Cellar 8 has been buzzing with curated wines, a coffee hot spot, engaging events and a warm sense of community.

"We have a passion for wine and a dedication to quality that shines through in every aspect of our shop," said Holland, the wine bar's owner. "We wanted to create a place that reflects our story, honors the culture of wine, and invites people to slow down, connect and enjoy the moment."

Cellar 8 is named after the overriding presence of the No. 8 in Holland's life. The wine bar has 8 in its street address, she was married in the eighth month, her son was born in the eighth month and she moved to the U.S. in 2008 as an 18-year-old.

For Holland, the path to ownership was a mix of design expertise and global perspective. Growing up near South Africa's world-renowned wine country, she developed a lifelong appreciation for the culture of winemaking. At WNC, she earned degrees in Graphic Design and Liberal Arts, later pairing her design skills with her WSET Level 2 wine certification and nearly a decade at Vital Signs, where she learned the ins and outs of running a local business.

Brooks, Cellar 8's general manager, shares that same blend of artistry and hospitality. Holland says that Brooks means so much more to the business: a partner in creativity, vision and wine knowledge.

After completing her Graphic Design studies at WNC and earning her bachelor's degree from University of Nevada, Reno, Brooks shifted into the food and beverage world, where she thrived. With WSET Level 3 certification and training through the Court of Master Sommeliers, Brooks brings deep knowledge of wine and a knack for customer engagement.

"Wine is bottled history," Brooks said.

"Every bottle tells a story — of place, culture, craftsmanship. Our goal is to make those stories accessible and exciting for everyone who walks through our doors."

WNC Professor of Graphic Design Jayna Conkey had the pleasure of teaching both of these enterprising students.

"From the beginning, they consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, exceptional creativity, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in all their projects," Conkey said. "What impressed me most about them were their remarkable ability to balance the demanding responsibilities of school, work and motherhood without ever compromising the quality of their work."

Cellar 8 is already making its mark as more than a wine bar. With trivia nights, bingo, blind tasting challenges, a book club and an exclusive wine club, Holland and Brooks are creating a lively, approachable space for all.

"Western Nevada College is incredibly proud of Maxine Holland and Jessica Brooks for turning their education, creativity and passion into such a vibrant addition to downtown Carson City," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Their success with Cellar 8 is a wonderful example of how WNC graduates use their skills and vision to enrich our community, create opportunities and inspire others to dream big."

While neither Holland nor Brooks imagined this exact path while studying at WNC, they say that their education gave them the foundation to dream boldly.

"Entrepreneurship offers a unique path to creative freedom and personal fulfillment," Holland said. "Starting a business allows you to build something meaningful that reflects your values, vision and skills. Owing a business is a lot of work. You're responsible for everything from financials to cleaning the floor at the end of the night."

Cellar 8 is open at 7 a.m. seven days a week as a coffee shop, then transitions into a wine bar Tuesday through Saturday nights.

WNC Student Finds Joy of Education Following 20-Year Military Career

You get the feeling after talking to Western Nevada College student Rich Tidrick that everyone on campus knows him. His friendly, outgoing personality — and his enthusiasm for learning — make him one of WNC’s most recognizable students.

After serving two decades in the U.S. Navy Seabees, where he helped build infrastructure and provide humanitarian support across the globe, Rich decided to return to school more than 30 years after graduating high school.

“I love being here,” he said. “Age is just a number. No one looks at how old you are — they see someone who wants to learn. It’s the best experience I’ve ever had, and I wish I’d done it sooner.”

Rich is pursuing a degree in Construction Project Management, a program that connects perfectly with his military background.

“Rich represents what’s best about Western Nevada College — the courage to begin again and the drive to keep learning,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “His story shows that education truly has no age limit and that WNC is a place where every student, from every background, can find purpose and belonging. We appreciate our students, and are grateful to our veteran students like Rich for their service and continued contributions to our campus community.”

When he first enrolled, he wasn’t sure he’d succeed — but the support he received from professors, Disability and Support Services, and the Veterans Resource Center made all the difference.

“They believed in some 50-year-old guy who hadn’t been to school in 30 years,” Rich said. “They pushed me, and that’s what I needed.”

Now, Rich shares his story to inspire other veterans and adult learners to take that same leap. “I tell them that at WNC, you can learn without being judged,” he said. “You can get a degree or a certificate — and find a new purpose in life.”



Rich Tidrick received the Veteran Student of the Year Award during the ASWN 2025 Awards Ceremony.

Prior to becoming a WNC student, Rich devoted much of his younger years to the military. He served in the United States Seabees, a Navy construction battalion that worked directly with the U.S. Marine Corps so it could complete missions. It often meant building roads, bridges, runways, housing (portable showers and outhouses included), hospital tents and more.

But there was a more appealing side to being a member of the Seabees: humanitarianism. The Seabees would rebuild the infrastructure in villages, making them safer. It meant rebuilding schools, stairs, walls and repairing wiring, and so much more.

“That’s what I joined the military for ... to help people,” he said. “To make a situation better than it was before.”

For that reason, he remained in the military for two decades.

His one tour of duty came in 2003 in Iraq. Although he carried a gun, Rich never had to use it. “That was a blessing for me. I was there to help people,” he said.

For Rich, returning to school isn’t just about earning a diploma — it’s about setting an example for his family and proving that it’s never too late to start again.

“At WNC, you can learn without being judged”

“When I graduate, it will be for myself,” he said. “But I also want to show my family that when you set a goal, you can achieve it.”

To learn more about WNC’s Construction and Construction Project Management programs, contact Nigel Harrison at nigel.harrison@wnc.edu. Veterans can receive information about their education benefits by phoning the WNC’s Veterans Resource Center at 775-445-4248.

WNC CDL/ROADS Grad Sierra Murphy Overcomes Challenges to Achieve

Career Dreams

When Sierra Murphy enrolled in Western Nevada College's Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program, she knew she was taking the first step toward a new career. What she didn't know was just how much resilience, determination and community support it would take to get there.

At first, passing the CDL permit exam proved harder than she expected.

"I had assumed it would come easily, given my confidence and passion for driving," Murphy said.

As a single mother of three, the financial hurdle seemed just as daunting. But that's before she connected with EmployNV and its support team. They, in turn, linked her with Shareena Kaloti, coordinator of WNC's Realizing Opportunities for American Dream to Succeed (ROADS) program.

"Thanks to the incredible support of these dedicated women, I was given the opportunity to pursue my dream," Murphy said.

In the CDL program, Murphy found not only the technical training she needed but also an encouraging mentor in instructor Joe Terry.

"The CDL program was an amazing experience," Murphy said. "I want to especially acknowledge our instructor, Joe Terry, who explained everything so clearly and made the learning process manageable. Thanks to his guidance, my classmates and I were all able to pass."

Even when the coursework felt overwhelming, Murphy stayed committed — and she's already hit the road in her new career. She has already secured a position with the Washoe County School District.



"Thank you to everyone who made this opportunity possible. It has truly been a life-changing experience," she said.

Murphy's story is a testament to the impact of WNC's CDL and ROADS programs, which open doors for Nevadans seeking to build brighter futures.

"Sierra's journey reflects the very heart of WNC's mission — empowering individuals to overcome challenges, gain new skills, and transform their lives," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Her determination, combined with the dedication of our instructors and support programs like ROADS, shows what's possible when education and community come together. We are incredibly proud of Sierra and excited to see her succeed in her new career."

For more information about the ROADS program, visit wnc.edu/roads or call 775-445-3008. For details about WNC's CDL program, go to wnc.edu/cdl or call 775-445-4210.

Scholarships & Recipients

Bessie L Miller Memorial Scholarship
Randall Reeder

Blue Knights NV II Criminal Justice Scholarship
Justin Jacobs
Chaynee Worely

Bonnie Parnell Scholarship for Community and Political Activism
Emma Scott

Bus Scharmann Scholarship
Rosalita Vanroon

Carson City Emblem Club No. 507 Scholarship
Audrey Vanek

Carson Tahoe Health Nursing Scholarship
Natalie Arthurs

Carson Valley Art Association Scholarship
Emma Aynedter
Jacquelyn Kendrick
Lizbeth Medina

Carson Nugget "Always Lost" Veterans Scholarship
William Gosen
Michael Robinson

Carson Valley Quilt Guild Art Scholarship
Emma Aynedter
Jacquelyn Kendrick
Kelsey Smith
MJ Vinson

Catalina Wilson Accounting Scholarship
Cassandra Achenbach
Alyssa Sappa
Mariah Young

Catherine 'Suse' Fitz Scholarship
Mackenzi Kerr

CGI, Inc Scholarship
Coen Adkins
Hunter Adkins
Elias Finley
Kayden Taylor

Charles Pettycrew Memorial Education Scholarship
Eilyn Angulo Maldonado

Graduate Brittney Schell

Reflects on Long Journey Back to WNC to Earn a Bachelor's Degree

With 11 years between her degrees at Western Nevada College, Brittney Schell serves as both an inspiration and reminder to other adults of the rewards of returning or attending college.

Last spring, Brittney Schell graduated from WNC with a Bachelor's degree in Organization Project Management, building on her Associate of Applied Science in General Business, earned in 2014. Her academic journey is one marked by determination, growth and a renewed commitment to achieving her long-term career goals.

"We are incredibly proud of Brittney and all of our graduates," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Brittney's journey is an inspiring example of how adults can return to higher education and achieve their academic and career aspirations, no matter when they start. Her determination reflects the possibilities that education creates for individuals and their families."

Schell initially pursued her associate degree in General Business, gaining a solid foundation in business principles. However, the decision to return to WNC in 2023 was prompted by a unique opportunity — WNC's new online bachelor's program in Organization and Project Management.

"When I saw the flexibility of the online program, I realized it was the perfect time to pursue my degree," Schell explained. "Balancing school, work and life was a challenge, but the program made it possible for me to continue my education without compromising other aspects of my life."

She was more than ready to return to college, according to WNC Professor of Business, Management and Marketing Dr. Robert Whitcomb.



Brittney Schell, a testament to the power of lifelong learning, graduated with honors from WNC's Bachelor's degree program in Organization Project Management last May.

"Although Brittney was a strong student during her associate degree program, she returned a remarkable student in the BAS. She brought unique insights into the classes and her writing skills were graduate level," Dr. Whitcomb said. "In fact, I requested her permission to publish many of her works in multiple classes as examples for future students in the degree program. Her work exhibits a mature understanding of business and management concepts and their application to real world situations."

The affordability and accessibility of WNC were significant factors in her decision to return.

*"If you have a goal,
go for it"*

"The scholarships available through WNC Foundation alleviated the financial burden, making it possible to return to school," she said. "The support system at WNC, combined with the flexibility of the program, helped me achieve a goal I once thought was out of reach. Special thanks to JW Lazzari for how much he helped out with financial aid and guidance through what courses to take when I started, and then just being a support system when I came back and setting me up with the right people to talk to about the degree!"

Throughout her academic journey, Schell found the Organization and Project

Management degree to be an ideal fit for her career ambitions. "The program built upon my business background and equipped me with essential management principles. It's a versatile degree that can be applied across industries," Schell said. "The coursework provided a deep understanding of strategic planning, stakeholder management, risk assessment, and financial modeling — skills that are crucial for effective project management."

Schell also found the structured problem-solving approach taught in the program invaluable.

Looking to the future, Schell's career aspirations are expanding. She is considering careers in environmental stewardship, sustainability, and project management, areas that align with her education and values.

"I'm passionate about making a positive impact through sustainability efforts, and I'm exploring opportunities that combine project management with environmental responsibility," she said. "An MBA is also something I'm considering to continue expanding my leadership and strategic management skills."

Schell's message to others considering going back to school later in life is clear:

"If you have a goal, go for it," she said. "Don't let age or other obstacles hold you back. The journey may not always be easy, but with determination and the right support, you can achieve your dreams."



WNC Alumna and Nurse Alba Morales Honored for Paying It Forward

Alba Morales, a 2024 nursing graduate, proudly displays her Pay It Forward Project Award while pictured with award creator John McDougall, Debbie Dubuc and Ryan Bird.

Alba Morales knows the power of support, and she's returned the favor. A 2024 graduate of Western Nevada College's Nursing program, Morales was recognized with the Pay It Forward Project Award for her generosity and perseverance during the eighth annual Reach for the Stars Gala on Aug. 2 at the Joe Dini Library on WNC's Carson City campus.

Morales' journey to becoming a nurse wasn't easy. Raising two young children (now three) while unemployed, she was determined to change her family's future. With the help of the WNC Foundation and the Realizing the Opportunity for the American Dream to Succeed (ROADS) program, she found a path forward — starting with Certified Nursing Assistant courses that led her into WNC's rigorous nursing program.

She not only graduated but launched her professional career with Carson Tahoe Hospital, then as an emergency room nurse at Renown Health before assuming a position at the South Lake Tahoe Juvenile Treatment Center.

But Morales' story doesn't end with personal success; it begins there. Deeply grateful for the support she received, she established the Next Generation Nursing Scholarship through the Foundation to help aspiring nurses follow in her footsteps. Her scholarship is already inspiring future WNC students and reinforcing the idea that when one student succeeds, others can follow.

"Alba Morales represents the heart of WNC — perseverance, compassion and commitment to community," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Her journey from student to nurse to philanthropist is a powerful reminder of the lasting impact our students can have when we invest in their potential. She is helping to create a legacy that will benefit generations to come."

As WNC celebrates Morales' accomplishments and the lives she's already touched, the Foundation honored her with the Pay It Forward Project Award at the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala. Her story is a shining example of how investing in students creates lasting, generational impact — something truly worth celebrating.

"After receiving Foundation scholarships myself throughout the nursing program, I realized that their help was one of the driving factors of my success because I didn't have to have the weight of financial burden on my shoulders on top of everything else, so I told the WNC Foundation that I was going to start up my own scholarship with some friends once I graduated to also help students like myself who could benefit highly from it," Morales said.

The Pay It Forward Project (PIFP) sponsored the award at the Gala. Started by Carson City resident John McDougall, the project educates and encourages community members and youths to volunteer and make a difference in their communities. McDougall emphasizes the importance of assisting people struggling to get an education who have that ambition. McDougall issued a \$5,000 challenge to attendees of the Gala, which was matched by generous donors at the event, creating funding to continue supporting WNC's mission-critical initiatives such as scholarships, emergency funding and other campus needs.



WNC Expands Nursing Education Across Rural Nevada to Meet Growing Workforce Demand

To address Northern Nevada's growing demand for skilled nurses — particularly in rural communities — Western Nevada College is making significant investments to expand and strengthen its Nursing Program on both the Fallon and Douglas campuses.

Together, the two construction projects represent a coordinated effort to increase access to high-quality healthcare education close to home, reduce barriers for rural students, and build a stronger pipeline of nurses to serve Nevada communities.

Fallon Campus: Expanding Access Close to Home

Construction is underway on the Piñon Building at WNC's Fallon campus, with renovations beginning in February. When complete, the upgraded space will feature modern clinical training areas, advanced simulation labs, and dedicated study and testing rooms, allowing nursing students in Fallon to complete hands-on training without traveling long distances.

Currently, WNC accommodates eight Associate of Applied Science Nursing students in Fallon. Many travel up to 140 miles roundtrip to Carson City to complete required coursework. Once renovations are complete, the Fallon campus will be able to serve 24 first-year and 24 second-year nursing students, dramatically expanding


access to nursing education in Churchill County and surrounding rural areas.

"The goal is for Fallon students to have all required classes held on the Fallon campus," said Dr. Audrey Auer, WNC Nursing and Allied Health Director. "The expansion will provide additional lab and simulation space and open the potential to recruit more students from Fallon and nearby communities."

Clinical partners have also expressed strong support for the expansion.

"In speaking about the expansion at our Advisory Board meetings, our clinical partners are excited about the prospect of educating more nurses in the rural community," Dr. Auer said.

The Fallon renovation is supported by



“Together, we are expanding opportunity and strengthening the healthcare workforce our communities depend on.”

in Minden, with construction beginning in 2026.

Funded through a \$4.392 million HRSA grant, the Douglas campus project will significantly increase access to healthcare education for students in Douglas County and surrounding rural communities, allowing more Nevadans to pursue nursing careers without leaving their region.

The expansion will include a state-of-the-art simulation lab designed to replicate both acute and long-term care environments, along with dedicated testing rooms, technology upgrades, and new instructional equipment to ensure students are prepared for today’s healthcare settings.

Dr. Dana Ryan, WNC Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, emphasized the long-term regional impact of the expansion.

“This project directly responds to the need for skilled healthcare workers in Douglas County, benefits WNC students, and will have a lasting impact on the health and vitality of our entire region,” Ryan said. “It reflects our commitment to preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals for Nevada.”

Project completion for the Douglas campus is expected in September 2027. Aspire Academy, the current tenant of the facility, will conclude its lease on June 30, 2026, allowing renovations to move forward.

A Unified Vision for Rural Healthcare

Together, the Fallon and Douglas campus projects reflect Western Nevada College’s broader commitment to rural access, workforce development, and community health. By expanding nursing education where students live and work, WNC is helping ensure that Nevada’s rural communities are supported by a well-prepared, locally rooted healthcare workforce — now and into the future.

Once the Fallon campus nursing renovation is complete, the campus will be able to serve 24 first-year and 24 second-year nursing students.

funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), along with generous philanthropic investments from the William N. Pennington Foundation and the E.L. Cord Foundation, provided through the WNC Foundation.

“This renovation represents a tremendous investment in the future of healthcare in rural Nevada,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “These organizations recognize how vital it is for local students to access education close to home. Together, we are expanding opportunity and strengthening the healthcare workforce our communities depend on.”

Douglas Campus: A New Hub for Rural Nursing Education

While work progresses in Fallon, WNC is also preparing for a major Nursing Program expansion at its Douglas campus

Scholarships & Recipients

Cherrice Dotson Single Parent Scholarship
Cassandra Achenbach

Clarence & Martha Berger Trust
Angel Ceballos
Trinity Hoffer
Nestor Lopez Noguera
Angela McCarty
Lizbeth Medina
Vivi Mellow
Reyane Murchison
Joanna Ramirez
Tucker Riggins
Shannon Segerer
Noel Sweeney
Rosalita Vanroon
Tristan Wahl
Sarina Welch

Click Bond, Inc, Pioneer Scholarship
Sean Dixon
Pedro Pacheco Graciano
Leo Stancampiano
Ezequiel Varela

Climate Action Travel Scholarship
Laisha Ortiz
Savannah Lagorio

Daniel Plamer Memorial Scholarship
David Ache
Bridgett Tuttle

DAR John C. Freemont Chapter Scholarship
Gabriela Mendez

Daughters of Norway / Queen Maud Scholarship
Brittany St. John

Davison Family Scholarship
Sean Haynes
Rukhsana Khan
Tanner Olsen
Dakota Reed
Leo Stancampiano

Dick Campagni Automotive Scholarship
Michael Brito
Aidan Bullock
Luis Cardona
David King
Nestor Lopez Noguera
Erik Pedraza Lopez
Dakota Reed

WNC Students Awarded Free Admission to Nevada Museum of Art

Being a Western Nevada College student now comes with an inspiring new perk — free admission to the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.

Through the generosity of the late Wayne Prim and his foundation, current and future WNC students joined their peers at the University of Nevada, Reno and Truckee Meadows Community College in enjoying unlimited access to one of the state's premier cultural institutions.

“This partnership gives our students an incredible opportunity to connect with art, history and culture beyond the classroom,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “Nevada Museum of Art offers a space for creative discovery and reflection — experiences that complement the high-quality education our students receive at WNC.”

As a “Museum of Ideas,” the Nevada Museum of Art is celebrated for its thought-provoking exhibitions and vibrant programming. Some exhibitions include “Deep Time: Sea Dragons of Nevada,” “The Art of Judith Lowry,” “Dorothea Lange: Seeing People,” and “When Langston



Hughes Came to Town.”

Beyond full gallery access, students also enjoy free admission to live performances and events, including monthly First Thursday singer/songwriter showcases, Art Bite Fridays, where artists and curators share insights into their creative processes, and access to the Institute for Art + Environment which includes a research library, archives and study spaces.

“We are excited to partner with Western Nevada College to offer students free admission to the Nevada Museum of Art,” said David B. Walker, CEO. “This exciting new partnership reflects our shared commitment to lifelong learning and accessibility — ensuring that students across Northern Nevada have opportunities to engage with art, new ideas and cultural experiences.”

The student access program reflects Prim's lifelong commitment to philanthropy in both the arts and education. A Life Trustee and major donor to the museum, Prim's legacy continues to inspire opportunities that enrich Nevada's communities.

WNC students can simply present their college ID card for free entry at the museum, located at 160 W. Liberty Street in Reno. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed on Mondays.

“This is more than just a free admission,” Dr. Dalpe added. “It's an invitation for our students to explore creativity, think critically and engage with the world through art. We appreciate the Nevada Museum of Art for their partnership to support WNC and its students.”



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Foundation Champions Volunteers with Breakfast Celebration

In December, nearly 100 dedicated volunteers gathered in The Link at Western Nevada College for a heartfelt — and well-deserved — celebration hosted by the Western Nevada College Foundation. The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast honored the individuals whose time, talent and generosity powered the Foundation’s success throughout 2025.

From greeting guests at signature events to reading scholarship essays and helping execute large-scale fundraisers, volunteers were at the heart of it all.

“The WNC Foundation supports student and college success throughout the year, and volunteers play an essential role in making that work possible,” said Chief Advancement Officer and Foundation Executive Director Niki Gladys. “Your time, energy and enthusiasm have created opportunities for WNC students and strengthened our community in countless ways.

“This breakfast is an opportunity to recognize that impact and celebrate the people who help move the mission forward. Whether it was through volunteering, supporting events or being part of the broader WNC community, this is a way to thank you!”

Guests enjoyed a delicious catered breakfast from Villa Basque Café, festive raffle prizes

and a special holiday gift during the Dec. 11 celebration. More importantly, they enjoyed the camaraderie and shared sense of purpose that defines the WNC community.

Throughout the year, volunteers were instrumental in the success of hallmark events such as the Reach for the Stars Fire & Ice Gala, the Golf for Education scramble tournament and the scholarship application essay review process — efforts that directly expand educational access and opportunity for students.

“This is a way to thank you!”

Every hour volunteered translates into greater impact for students pursuing their dreams. Because of these dedicated supporters, the Foundation continues to grow scholarships, strengthen programs and open doors for the next generation.

The Foundation extends sincere gratitude to every volunteer — including WNC students, faculty, staff and Foundation Board members — who make this work possible. Together, they are helping build brighter futures across our region.

Scholarships & Recipients

Dorothy & Rob Ramsdell Scholarship
Chelsea Olvera
Michael Robinson

Douglas County Democratic Women Scholarship
Haley Wilkes

Dr. Eugene Paslov Memorial Scholarship
Chrystal Edith Martinez
Blake Palmer

Drs. Sandra Koch & Tim McFarren STEM Scholarship
Riley Patterson

Drs. Sandra Koch & Tim McFarren Nursing Scholarship
Dana Dickinson
David Satfield

Eaglemark Savings Bank Scholarship
Genaro Davalos Salazar
Conrad Kikuchi
David King
Vielka Lopez Munguia
Hannah Pledger
Karla Rivas

Eugene Paslov Memorial Carson City Democratic Scholarship
Trinity Hoffer

Fallon Montanucci Memorial Scholarship
Brandy Gavenda
Gabriela Mendez
Carmen Spann

Fisker Family Scholarship
Ashley Anderson
Jessica Mendoza Jaramillo
Lucy Pierrot Rayo
Kimberly Rodriguez

Follow Your Path #1
Trinity Hoffer

Follow Your Path #2
Debbie Stoval

Freeman F. & Norma F. Morgan Scholarship
Ryan Miller
Alyssa Partridge

Gardner Family Scholarship
Maycie Davis
Brittni Goins



WNC Students Showcase Hands-On Scientific Research

Western Nevada College students took center stage in December as they presented original scientific research during a poster session in the Aspen Building, highlighting hands-on learning experiences conducted on the Carson City and Fallon campuses and beyond.

Students summarized their research on professional posters and presented their findings to faculty, staff, family members and friends, offering a glimpse into real-world scientific inquiry ranging from environmental microbiology to molecular biology.

“Providing our students with research opportunities complements their education and brings concepts and methods into focus,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “We are really fortunate to have so many faculty members who participate in these projects to make these educational experiences for students truly impactful.”

Students Test the Water at Bridgeport Reservoir

On the Carson City campus, students conducted a study of microbes found in Bridgeport Reservoir in California, gaining valuable experience in field research, laboratory analysis and scientific communication.

Participating students included Nidal Abdelhady, Maddison Fuggles, Christina Sosa, Jose Salinas Aparicio, Aiden Jacklett and Tierra Mackay. The project was led by Dr. Elizabeth Tattersall, professor of biology and chemistry, with additional faculty support from Dr. Christian Copley Salem and Dr. Smriti Bhattarai.

“This year’s research required students to conduct their work during the academic semester due to a temporary pause in grant funding,” Tattersall said. “While that came with challenges, it also allowed students to integrate research directly into their coursework. They learned essential lab skills, how to maintain a lab notebook, how to prepare and present a poster, and — most importantly — what it’s like to do real research when you don’t know the answer in advance.”



WNC student Richard Gomez participates in a molecular biology presentation as part of an INBRE research project.

Fallon Campus Research: Molecular Biology in Action

On the Fallon campus, students worked on a molecular biology project titled “Characterization of Cyclooxygenase-1 and Cyclooxygenase-2 mRNA Splice Variants in Human Macrophages.” All laboratory work was conducted on campus, with a field trip to the University of Nevada, Reno, where students delivered samples for sequencing.

Fallon research students included Eliza Darvo, Richard Gomez, Jilliana Morales and Christina Robinson. The project was led by Dr. Brian Prince, chemistry and biology instructor, with support from Dr. Gary Evett, professor emeritus.

“You never know what you’ll discover about yourself.”

“The benefits to students from this experience are incredible,” Prince said. “Many of them plan to pursue science-related careers, and having this level of research experience so early truly sets them apart. Beyond strengthening their résumés,

they learned fundamental molecular biology techniques and discovered how exciting and rewarding research can be.”

Gomez, who completed his Associate of Science degree in Fall 2025 and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in General Chemistry at UNR, said the experience exceeded his expectations.

“It was fun,” Gomez said. “Once I got into it, I realized how much I enjoyed doing science again. I learned that I’m a lot more organized than I thought I was — especially when it comes to making sure my methods are correct. I’d tell anyone who’s even a little interested in science to give it a try. You never know what you’ll discover about yourself.”

Become Part of a 2026 Research Group

Applications for future student research opportunities will be available around March, with eligibility for students who have taken or are currently enrolled in CHEM 121 or BIOL 190. WNC expects to offer a three-week research program in early summer 2026. For more information about research opportunities at Western Nevada College, contact Dr. Elizabeth Tattersall at elizabeth.tattersall@wnc.edu or Dr. Brian Prince at brian.prince@wnc.edu.

Carson City Climate Lobby Sends Students to D.C.

Western Nevada College students Savannah Lagorio and Laisha Ortiz were awarded the Citizens Climate Lobby Scholarship through WNC Foundation to attend the national conference in Washington, D.C., where they learned about effective, viable climate solutions nationally and internationally.

Dr. Sandra Koch and Dr. Tim McFarren, who are members of the Carson City Citizens' Climate Lobby, are pictured with the students.

The generosity of the Carson City chapter of the Climate Lobby made this memorable educational journey possible for these students.



Scholarships & Recipients

Geology Scholarship

Camila Arechiga

George & Carol Del Carlo Scholarship

Alexia Estrella

Kaylee Lopez Canas

Gerald & Vada Guyer Scholarship

Tahnisha Conway

Harriet L. Crowell Memorial Scholarship

Julia Woodruff

Helen Close Charitable Foundation Scholarship

Cassandra Achenbach

Patricia Albert

Sophia Bottino

Leonardo Garcia Cortes

Justin Jacobs

Emily Jaeger

Destini Johnson

Ethan Nelson

Su Nuttle

Jade Paine

David Penn

Lindsey Simon

Carman Spann

Madison Woodman-Hobbs

Chaynee Worley

Helen Deveraux Memorial Scholarship

Vielka Lopez Munguia

Henker Finish Line Scholarship

Sophia Bottino

Christina Brase

Emily Jaeger

Jocelyn Olvera Cabral

Mya Parker

Rod Patual

Luz Saldana Alamillo

Angelina Stein

Audrey Vanek

Megan Williamson

Industrial Art's Workforce Development Scholarship

Lucia Chavez

Alejandra Garcia Huante

Grace Griswold

Alyssa Partridge

Alexandra Perez Rojas

Kiersten Terry

Kayla Volkov



Foundation Hosts Most Successful Reach for the Stars Gala

Foundation Board of Trustees are pictured with President Dr. J. K. Dalpe during the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala.

The Western Nevada College Foundation extends its deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the eighth annual Reach for the Stars Gala — “Fire and Ice” — last August in Joe Dini Library. This unforgettable evening was made possible through the collective efforts of our generous sponsors, dedicated attendees, students and a supportive community.

“This was our most successful Reach for the Stars Gala yet, opening even more doors for WNC students through scholarships, emergency student funding, career program support, and other campus services,” said WNC Foundation Executive Director and Chief Advancement Officer Niki Gladys. “The generosity in the room was matched only by the support we felt from across campus.”

The “Fire and Ice” theme presented a dazzling night of contrasts, where bold energy fuses with refined grace for a memorable evening of fine dining, entertainment and heartwarming student stories. The featured live and silent auctions, dinner, dancing and the opportunity to meet two inspiring WNC graduates.

The success of Reach for the Stars is made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors who believe in WNC’s mission to

“The generosity in the room was matched only by the support we felt from across campus.”

build the region’s workforce and empower students through scholarships and career-focused programs. The event’s sponsor lineup shined as brightly as the night itself:

Briggs Electric, Metcalf Builders, Southwest Gas Corporation, Quick Space/United Rentals, Greater Nevada Credit Union, Carson Tahoe Health, Carson Valley Health, Classic Finishes, America First Credit Union, United Federal Credit Union, Comstock Inc., Plumas Bank, 3C House, Pay It Forward Project, Holiday Inn Express and Hometown Health have all stepped up to fuel the future.

Catalina Wilson, a 2025 WNC graduate, reflected on her transformational journey toward higher education, capturing the true purpose behind the gala, and 2024 nursing graduate Alba Morales received a Pay It



Forward award after she started her own scholarship.

“WNC Foundation and volunteers put on an incredible evening of entertainment, fine dining and community engagement — but most of all, it’s for an incredible cause in supporting our students and college,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe.

From showstopping décor to inspiring stories, every element of the gala reflected the Foundation’s mission to open doors of opportunity through access to education. Sponsorships, which ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000, offer businesses and individuals a meaningful way to give back while gaining visibility in front of a committed and engaged audience.

To view a photo gallery from the 2025 gala, go to <https://wnc.edu/news/2025-reach-photo-gallery>.

For more information on how you can help students at WNC, phone the WNC Foundation Office at 775-445-3240.

REACH FOR THE STARS



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Arturo Martell

As part of Click Bond's mission to deepen employee connection to its products, Arturo Martell II helped build this aircraft using Click Bond components, providing firsthand insight into how these parts are applied to real-world aviation systems.

A 20-Year Journey, a Lifetime of Lessons — and a Degree Earned on His Own Terms

When Arturo Martell II walked across the commencement stage as a 2025 Western Nevada College graduate, he didn't look like the typical student — and he had no interest in pretending otherwise.

Arturo's path to an Associate of General Studies degree has been long, winding, "backwards," as he puts it — and exactly what he needed.

For nearly 20 years, the Carson High School Class of 2004 graduate took classes at Western Nevada College, not to earn a degree, but to fuel his evolving career at Click Bond, the Carson City-based aerospace fastener manufacturer he joined in 2006. Certifications, hands-on experience and curiosity were his guiding priorities.

A degree? That could wait.

But when Jennifer Gledhill, director of Supply Chain and Materials Management at Click Bond, encouraged him to finish what he'd unknowingly started, Arturo discovered that the nearly two decades of courses he'd taken had brought him within reach of a formal degree.

"Arturo's accomplishment reflects the spirit of lifelong learning that is at the heart of WNC," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "He returned to complete his degree after many years, bringing with him experience, maturity and an unwavering commitment to bettering himself. His story shows what is possible when perseverance meets opportunity."

Working with WNC Access Program Coordinator Adrian Barrera, he learned that an Associate of General Studies required just a few more classes.

So, after years of building skills, raising a family, and climbing through six different positions at Click Bond, Arturo resumed his college education — older, busier and more focused than ever.

"I'm happy I did things backwards because it gave me a different perspective," Arturo said. "I came into the workforce first and gained years of real-world experience. In class, I could connect the dots. I could apply what I was learning — and I could speak to it."

A journey that started with responsibility — and reinvention

Arturo's adult life began abruptly when, at 18, he learned he was going to be a father.

"I told my dad two things: I got my girlfriend pregnant and I found a job at a factory that makes airplane parts," he recalled. "I got scolded on both of them."

His childhood dream of joining the Air Force — inspired by a summer spent on a base with his older sister Yeri Martell Deluca — suddenly collided with real-life responsibility. College plans were put on hold. Arturo needed steady work, and Click Bond became the place he would grow up, professionally and personally.

He started on the factory floor as a press operator and remained in that role for a decade.

"I used to come out of work every day covered in oil," he said. "Those machines would splash oil all over me, but I loved it and I learned machining, punch-and-die machine setup, and without realizing it at the time, began practicing Root Cause Analysis."

When he completed WNC's Manufacturing Technician (MT1) certification led by instructor Emily Howarth, he became the first Click Bond employee to do so — and

helped bring the program directly to the company.

“That program changed my life,” he said. “Lean manufacturing, visual management, statistical process control — I didn’t know any of that before WNC.”

His first improvement project at Click Bond — installing shadow boards so operators could instantly locate tools — became a turning point. A simple fix eliminated wasted time, raised safety standards and caught the attention of leadership.

“That shadow board got more visibility than I ever expected,” he said. “It opened the door to everything that came next.”

Climbing the ladder, one skill at a time

From that moment on, Arturo’s career became a case study in intentional growth. His résumé reads like a tour through an entire company:

- ICOP (Independent Cam Operated Plunger) Press Operator – 10 years
- Manufacturing Engineering Technician – 2 years
- Continuous Improvement Specialist – 2 years
- Inventory Control Supervisor – 2 years
- Salesforce Administrator & Price Analyst – 2 years
- Inventory and Logistics Manager – 2025

Each role expanded his understanding of aerospace manufacturing — from tooling and automation to pricing and distribution. Along the way, he earned additional certifications, including Lean Green Belt training through the Nevada National Air Guard and University of Nevada, Reno; AS9100 Internal Auditor; and Automated Industrial Technology (AIT) through WNC.

“Arturo has modeled a smart way to pursue one’s future,” said Ryan Costella, Click Bond Vice President of Organizational Development and Strategy. “It makes good sense to join an employer that values learning and has a willingness to make the investment in your growth. That way you can make a living, gain rich experience early on, and fund your education without accumulating debt. Arturo’s story showcases the value of pursuing work experience and education in tandem to achieve a career path rich in options for growth and long-term success.”

He even helped build an airplane for a national STEM program supported by Click Bond — an experience he calls one of the proudest of his career.



A lifelong learner — in more ways than one

Despite his progress, Arturo remained humble about returning to WNC as an adult learner. He embraced being the oldest student in the classroom.

“I liked sharing my experience,” he said. “There’s a misconception that college is only for young people. I met students of all ages who were discovering themselves just like I was.”

His educational roots stretch back even further. Born in Mexico, Arturo immigrated to the U.S. at age 2. His parents held a deep respect for learning and personal growth. His mother was an accountant and his father a banker who was also involved in politics from his passion in civic systems, leadership and a deep desire to serve others.

“My parents always believed in opportunity and took an enormous risk leaving a pretty good life in Mexico and starting over from zero. The language barrier and necessity to survive did not permit their careers to transfer to the U.S., leaving my parents to mainly work in manufacturing and more blue-collar work, which was a shift from their white-collar work in Mexico,” Arturo said. “They were willing to risk their success for their kids.”

Another source of inspiration was his sister, Jassmin Martell-Perez. Like Arturo, she started a family at a young age and entered the workforce out of necessity, beginning as

a front desk clerk at Sierra Nevada Health Center while attending WNC. She earned her Associate of Business degree, and over time worked her way up to become Vice President of Operations for Nevada Health Centers.

Education and aviation weren’t Arturo’s only interests growing up. His first love as a teen was lowriders — customizing interiors and painting (his first class at WNC), a passion his parents didn’t understand but one that taught him engineering concepts long before he realized it.

Setting an example for his family

Now that he and his wife, Yesica, are parents to three children, Arturo sees the impact of every choice he’s made.

“My son and my wife changed my whole life,” he said. “Yesica has been my rock and my inspiration. Her strength, patience and unwavering support have shaped not just our family, but the person I am today. The path we’ve been on has been a whirlwind, but intentional, and I wouldn’t trade a moment of it.”

Arturo II and Arturo III nearly shared the graduation stage last spring. Arturo III took his last class to complete an Associate of Arts degree during fall semester after taking advantage of WNC’s Jump Start program while attending Carson High School.

Discovering what he was meant to do

Today, Arturo has a clearer sense of his calling.

“I really believe my heart is on the shop floor,” he said. “I want to work with people, develop processes, change the perception that manufacturing is a dead-end job. It isn’t. It’s full of opportunity.”

Over time, Arturo has been able to change his parents’ entire perspective on manufacturing. What they saw as limitation was really fear — fear that the work wouldn’t lead anywhere.

“Manufacturing has done so much for me,” Arturo said. “It gave me a solid foundation, opened the door to multiple career paths and ultimately allowed me to directly serve the aerospace industry I once dreamed of joining. That’s why I still have so much passion for the work I do today.”

WNC History Professor Introduces AI to Enhance Student Learning and Critical Thinking

Western Nevada College Professor of History Dr. Amy Ghilieri is embracing innovation in education by incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into her courses, providing students a safe, guided way to engage with technology that's rapidly reshaping the world.

For the Fall 2025 semester, Dr. Ghilieri has been piloting an AI-powered chatbot in her in-person and online Core Humanities classes. The tool, designed to function as a tutor, study coach and course navigator, provides students with support drawn directly from her course materials — lectures, readings, assignments, and the syllabus — rather than from the open internet.

“The chatbot can help students study for exams, work through homework questions or clarify course expectations,” said Dr. Ghilieri. “It’s a way for them to get real-time guidance while reinforcing what they’re learning in class.”

To ensure accuracy and academic integrity, the AI system is “locked down,” meaning it only accesses verified course content. This prevents the kind of misinformation or “hallucinations” that can sometimes occur with general-purpose chatbots.

“Dr. Ghilieri’s course represents an important milestone for WNC as our first AI-assisted class,” said WNC Information and Technology Services Director Troy Wadsworth. “With strong support from our partners at CCO, she has shown how AI tools can enhance student engagement while still keeping faculty at the center of teaching and learning.”

WNC received a \$45,000 grant from Microsoft to support developing AI tools to use for designing individualized career pathways for students. The plan is to initially target 100 students, and

500 students by the project’s fifth year. WNC seeks to empower students to make informed, future-ready career decisions through the AI-Driven Career Pathways Project. The goal is to use artificial intelligence to create personalized career maps based on each student’s interests, knowledge and aptitudes.

“Dr. Ghilieri’s innovative work exemplifies the forward-thinking spirit of Western Nevada College,” said Dr. Dana Ryan, WNC’s Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, who has spearheaded the introduction of AI in the classroom. “By exploring responsible ways to integrate artificial intelligence into the classroom, she’s helping our students develop essential skills for the modern workforce while maintaining the academic integrity and personal connection that define WNC’s teaching approach.”

Implementation of the AI chatbot pilot program was orchestrated by a consultant (CCO), with Wadsworth and his team providing support to Dr. Ghilieri. The project rollout has included four phases: initial planning and design, technical setup and integration, training and best practices, and ongoing support.

Initial planning included discussions about instructional goals and appropriate use of AI and how the chatbot could best support students without replacing faculty interaction, Wadsworth said. With the help of CCO, WNC’s IT team selected and configured the AI tools, integrated the chatbot into Dr. Ghilieri’s online course and ensured that students could access it. With significant support from CCO, guidance was provided on prompt design, safeguards and responsible AI use so the chatbot aligned with WNC’s academic and ethical standards.

Although it’s still early in the experiment,



Dr. Amy Ghilieri is WNC’s new Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness.

Dr. Ghilieri believes that teaching students to use AI responsibly is becoming a necessary part of modern education.

“Students are already engaging with AI, and it’s a little naïve to think we can avoid it,” she said. “The key is to teach them to use it as a tool — not a substitution. They need to understand both how it can help them and where its limits are.”

The integration of AI aligns with Dr. Ghilieri’s broader educational philosophy: helping students become problem solvers and critical thinkers. In her classes, she encourages students to use AI tools to quiz themselves, analyze responses and refine their thinking.

“AI can help students create their own study questions or practice essays, then get feedback and suggestions for improvement,” she said. “But more importantly, it teaches them to ask good questions — and to follow up with even better ones.”

While academia has been cautious about adopting AI, Dr. Ghilieri sees the technology as an opportunity to bridge digital skills with traditional learning. For online learners in particular, the chatbot offers immediate academic support that might otherwise be hard to find outside of class hours.

Ultimately, Dr. Ghilieri believes that adapting to new technologies isn’t optional — it’s essential.

“You basically can’t teach the way you used to,” she said. “Our job as educators is to prepare students for the world they’re entering — and AI is going to be part of that world.”

27 WNC Students Recognized for Completing Certified Nursing Assistant Training

Western Nevada College's Nursing and Allied Health program recognized 27 students for completing Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) fall semester training during a ceremony last December in Carson Nugget Hall.

Students who were honored included Alyss Ayers, Autumn Baltazar, Wesley Bass, Aley Berger, Jessica Bohan, Mary Coker, Ashlynn Farmer, Lucas Grasso, Sean Haynes, Valeria Herrera, Bailey Holst, Ashlyn Jimenez, Corey Jones, Kaia Kottmeier, Sarah Kottmeier, Adriana Landa, Ashley Mattson, Katalina McAtee, Cayla Morton, Blaize North, Jocelyne Palomera, Kenia Rojas, Caily Romo, Isaiah Salazar, Yadira Rivera Saucedo, Kaelyn Spriggs and Emilee Watson.

"These students have completed one of the most rigorous and essential healthcare training programs in our region," said WNC Nursing Instructor Amber Price. "Congratulations to the WNC Carson, Fallon and Douglas CNA Class of 2025. We are incredibly proud of you and excited for the difference you will make in the lives of others."

Bass, Bohan, Holst and Rojas were also honored for Clinical Excellence.

The students' dedication and commitment to completing the 16-week program included attending four hours of lecture and four hours of hands-on lab each week, as well as fulfilling 40 hours of clinical experience in local healthcare facilities.

"Congratulations to our 27 CNA graduates," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle

Dalpe. "Your commitment to serving others and meeting Nevada's critical healthcare needs is truly inspiring. You represent the best of WNC, and we are proud to see you take this important step into a career that changes lives."

Their mastery of the subject was also important, requiring them to maintain a course average of 80 percent and earn at least 80 percent on their final exam.

"Nevada is in critical need of compassionate, skilled caregivers, and this class has demonstrated exactly what it means to answer that call," Price said. "Their dedication, resilience and heart reflect the true spirit of the CNA profession."

The Fall 2025 cohort began testing for their state certification in January, "and we look forward to seeing them start meaningful, rewarding careers in healthcare," Price said.

"We are incredibly grateful to the team who made this CNA cohort such a success," said WNC Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Audrey Auer. "I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Amber Price for her leadership in launching this program and ensuring our students received exceptional instruction from day one. I also want to recognize Kathy Cocking for her dedicated work as our CNA coordinator with the Nevada State Board of Nursing — her guidance and support have been vital to this program's growth."

To learn more about WNC's CNA program, phone 775-445-4423 or email nursing.alliedhealth@wnc.edu.

Scholarships & Recipients

Insurance Agents & Brokers Scholarship of Nevada
Tahnisha Conway
Genaro Davalos Salazar
Alexis Mendoza-Reyes
Alan Mondragon Rosas
Haley Wilkes

Jack C. Davis Memorial Scholarship
Vivi Mellow

Jack C. Davis Scholarship
Veany Cruzaley

Jack L Davis Memorial Scholarship
Deisei Pacheco

Jack L Davis Memorial Science Scholarship
Aidan Jacklett
Max Rizzo

Jason Bertocchi Memorial Scholarship
Angela McCarty
Mackenzie Tackett

John & Nancy Gaskill Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Jocelyn Olvera Cabral

John H. Sheldon Scholarship
Callen Broadhurst
Lebron Dennis
Alejandra Garcia Huante
Charles Rodriguez

John McDougall's Pay it Forward #1 Project
Leah Turner

John McDougall's Pay it Forward #2 Project
Sadie Jessee

Kanago Family Aspirational Scholarship
Dominic Santiago

Kandee Ann Kahn Memorial Scholarship for Public Safety
Carman Spann

Karen Priest Memorial Scholarship
Kelsie Nickerson
Hailey Reynolds



The 27 graduates of the Certified Nursing Assistant program for fall semester made it through one of the most rigorous and essential healthcare training programs in the region.

WNC Professor Recognized as Community Hero



Community heroes don't come more qualified than Nigel Harrison, a Construction Project Management professor at Western Nevada College.

Harrison was recently recognized as a Community Hero by Greater Nevada Credit Union, which honors local heroes in education, first response, law enforcement, health care and military.

"It's amazing to be recognized for this honor," Harrison said.

Besides educating students to work professionally in Northern Nevada, Harrison has served in the military for nearly 30 years, including multiple deployments; volunteered as a youth sports coach as a father of eight children and repeatedly given up his own time to help people in the community.

"We are extremely proud of Nigel for receiving this honor from Greater Nevada Credit Union," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Not only has Nigel worked tirelessly for our students, but he has continually given back to this country and our community."



WNC Professor Nigel Harrison shares a snack with his daughter, Scarlett, in Dini Student Center.

In February 2025, Harrison and his students assisted senior residents at Carson Solista with repairs and installations to their apartments. They are planning to return to the senior living facility this March to provide the same volunteer work.

Harrison and another group of students volunteered on a Saturday last spring

WNC Construction Project Management Professor Nigel Harrison works with students as they make plans to assemble a storage shed for a college fundraiser.

to build an office wall for Genoa City Manager Jody Brunz in the city building. His students also built a storage shed that was donating to Healing Arenas in Gardnerville.

As a Community Hero, Harrison was recognized at the Reno Aces game in May. He also received an Aces' jersey and four tickets to that day's game.

Greater Nevada Credit Union thanks each Community Hero for making communities safer, smarter and greater.

"Your actions matter — the big ones and the small daily moments when you help someone else Live Greater. In the face of chaos, you have cared for our loved ones, protected our communities, and kept doors to knowledge open. We stand with you."

Harrison earned a bachelor's degree in construction project management from WNC and a master's degree in education from the University of Nevada, Reno. He earned tenure at WNC in 2024.

"Thank you for the generous Unger Diamond Memorial Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I am currently majoring in Construction Management and am working to complete my bachelor's degree. I was inspired to pursue this field after getting my foot in the door as a project coordinator for a construction company back in 2019. I excelled at my job, and it sounded logical to return to school and get my degree. I hope to become a mentor to someone one day. After completing the program, I hope to become a project manager, and I hope to stay local and serve the community of Reno as it has grown a lot over the years. I want to thank you again for making this scholarship possible and for your generosity. I am a single mom, and my educational journey has theretofore not been easy lately. Your scholarship, however, gives me the confidence I need to continue in my endeavors and takes so much pressure off my shoulders when it comes to affording my schooling. Your generosity has inspired me, and I hope that one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me." – WNC Student

A Community Tradition with Lasting Impact



Michelle Ketten, Chair, Western Nevada College Foundation Board of Trustees

When the Western Nevada College Foundation first began discussing the idea of hosting a gala fundraiser in 2016, I'm not sure any of us fully realized what it would become.

What started as a simple idea — to bring our community together to support students at Western Nevada College — has grown into one of the Foundation's most meaningful traditions. Today, Reach for the Stars is a celebration of education, community, and opportunity.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of seeing firsthand the extraordinary commitment it takes to make this event happen. Our Foundation board members, the WNC staff, and many volunteers dedicate countless hours to planning and preparing for the evening. The college itself is incredibly supportive, and year after year our community shows remarkable generosity.

One moment from last year's gala stands out to me. During the evening, I had the honor of presenting the Pay It Forward Project Award to nursing graduate Alba Morales. As Alba stood on stage, I was reminded of how powerful the ripple effect of generosity can be.

Not long ago, Alba herself was a WNC nursing student receiving scholarship support. After graduating and beginning her career, she returned to establish her own scholarship to help future students pursue the same dream.

Standing on stage with Alba was a powerful reminder of why this work matters. What began as support for one student had come full circle, creating opportunity for many more.

Because of the generosity of our community, the Reach for the Stars Gala continues to make a real difference. Scholarships are funded, emergency resources are available to help students facing unexpected challenges, and the Foundation has been able to build a reserve fund that helps the college respond to emerging needs.

As we enter our ninth year of Reach for the Stars, I feel incredibly grateful for everyone who has helped make this event possible.

Together, we are creating opportunities that change lives.

"To the donors of the WNC Student Leadership Scholarship, I would like to express my gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of your scholarship. Receiving this award is truly incredible and will have a lasting impact on my future. I am currently enrolled in the nursing program and I am pursuing my goal of becoming a registered nurse. Alongside my education, I work part time as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Carson Tahoe Hospital. I absolutely love my position as it provides me with valuable hands-on experience that aligns with my education and deepens my understanding of patient care. Balancing a full-time academic schedule with part-time work can be challenging, and my opportunities of work are limited by the demands of the nursing program. This scholarship has helped alleviate much of the financial strain associated with my education, allowing me to stay focused on my studies and continue moving toward my dream care in healthcare. Thank you again for your generosity and for investing in students like me who are dedicated to serving others through healthcare. Your support truly has made the difference." – WNC Student

Scholarships & Recipients

Keep Calm & Carry On Nursing Scholarship in Honor of Sherry Neil-Urban
Emily Jaeger
Ethan Nelson

Kit Carson Toastmasters Club Memorial Scholarship
Joshua Bowen
Micaela Golden

Korean War Veterans Carson City Chpt. 305 Nursing Scholarship
Kimduong Duong

Lesch Nursing Scholarship Endowment Fund
Su Nuttle
Angelina Stein

Marcia Deerfield Trades Scholarship
Alexis Mendoza-Reyes

Margaret Hoffman Memorial Scholarship
Christina Brase
Ronald Lagat

Marilee Swirczek Memorial Scholarship
Georgiana Radu

Michael & Ginny Dugan Memorial Scholarship
Aidan Bullock

Mike Pintar Memorial Scholarship
Eilyn Angulo Maldonado

Miller-Nevertt Scholarship
Angielina Rodriguez

Minden RV & Boat Storage LLC Scholarship
Holly Vanden Brink

Nancy Conkey Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Jim Conkey
Jacob Groce
Paul Rama

Nancy Mattinson Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Kottmeier

Native First Scholarship
Veronica Burson
Shane Hunt
Emily Jaeger
Robert Jones

Campagni Auto Group and Carson City Toyota Accelerate Career Pathways for WNC Students

Strong partnerships between education and industry are helping students at Western Nevada College turn career dreams into reality. Among the college's most impactful community partners is Campagni Auto Group, including Carson City Toyota, whose continued support is creating meaningful opportunities for aspiring automotive technicians.

Through its ongoing commitment to workforce development and student success, the Campagni Auto Group recently awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to Western Nevada College students pursuing associate degrees and careers in automotive mechanics. The scholarships help remove financial barriers and allow students to focus on building the technical knowledge and hands-on experience needed to thrive in today's automotive industry.

WNC President J. Kyle Dalpe said the partnership highlights the powerful role local businesses can play in strengthening education and the regional workforce.

"Campagni Auto Group has been a tremendous champion for Western Nevada College and for the students we serve," Dr. Dalpe said. "Their generosity not only helps students stay focused on their education, it also strengthens the workforce pipeline for our region. When community partners invest in education, the impact reaches far beyond the classroom."

For many students, scholarships like these make the difference between delaying college and pursuing their goals today. Some recipients rely on the support to begin their education, while others are able to reduce work hours and devote more time to their studies.

Jeff Campagni, general manager of the Campagni Auto Group, said supporting students who want to build careers in their home communities is a natural fit for the company.

"We believe in investing in the people who make our communities strong," Campagni

said. "Western Nevada College is preparing students with real-world skills that lead to meaningful careers. If we can help remove a financial barrier and give someone the opportunity to pursue that path, that's something we're proud to support."

The 2025–26 Dick Campagni Automotive Scholarship recipients are Michael Brito, Aidan Bullock, Luis Cardona, David King, Nestor Lopez, Erik Pedraza and Dakota Reed.

Campagni Auto Group's support extends well beyond scholarships. Several years ago, the company partnered with WNC and the Nevada Department of Corrections to launch an automotive mechanics training program at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center. The program welcomed its first students in Fall 2023 through an Introduction to General Mechanics course, creating new opportunities for incarcerated individuals preparing to reenter the workforce. Campagni Auto Group also funds scholarships supporting WNC's Higher Education in Prison program.

Their commitment to students continues through additional support of WNC initiatives, including the annual WNC Golf for Education Tournament, where the company donates hole-in-one prizes — including a \$10,000 grand prize.

According to Niki Gladys, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of the Western Nevada College Foundation, partnerships like this demonstrate how community investment transforms student lives.

"Campagni Auto Group has created opportunities that extend far beyond a single scholarship," Gladys said. "Their commitment to workforce education and student success continues to open doors for WNC students who are building meaningful careers and contributing to the future of our communities."

For more information about the Western Nevada College Foundation or to establish a scholarship, contact the Foundation at 775-445-3240 or foundation@wnc.edu.



From left, Western Nevada College President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe; Jeff Campagni, General Manager of the Dick Campagni Auto Group; and Niki Gladys, WNC Chief Advancement Officer and Foundation Executive Director. Campagni visited the college's Automotive Mechanics shop last spring.

2024-25 ASWN President Wilson Overcame Challenges to Flourish at WNC

Like many students who are new to college, Catalina Wilson was frightened.

“I didn’t know anyone, I had no support system, no friends to lean on,” she said.

A sense of belonging, however, formed when she joined Western Nevada College’s First Year Experience program.

“That decision changed everything. I met lifelong friends, joined clubs and found a community that understood what I was going through,” Catalina said. “Together we lifted each other up and reminded each other that we weren’t alone.”

To accelerate her development as a college student and commitment to WNC, Catalina challenged herself by joining student government — the Associated Students of Western Nevada (better known as ASWN). While ASWN taught her many aspects of becoming a leader, it manifested the power of the student voice.

Through confidence, determination and growth, Catalina ascended to ASWN president and graduated last spring with Associate of Business and Associate of

“There were days where I didn’t think I could keep going, but I pushed through because I knew how much it mattered.”



2025 WNC graduate Catalina Wilson served as the 2024-25 Associated Students of Western Nevada president.

General Studies degrees and an academic standing of Magna Cum Laude.

Catalina’s inspirational success story has led to her selection as the student speaker for the WNC Foundation’s 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala last August in Joe Dini Library.

“Catalina’s story is not just inspiring — it’s transformational,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “She represents the very best of WNC: a student who embraced challenge, uplifted others and never lost sight of her purpose. We are incredibly proud to see her lead and succeed, both at WNC and in the next chapter of her academic journey.”

Academic and college success didn’t come easily to Catalina.

“College has been a privilege for me, one that didn’t come without struggle,” she said. “I’ve worked two jobs, taken on a full course load and managed responsibilities outside of school just to stay afloat. There were days where I didn’t think I could keep going, but

I pushed through because I knew how much it mattered.”

One person she could count day after day is her mother, Jennifer, who raised her as a single parent.

“Someone who has been my quiet strength through it all has been my mom. Thanks to her for being my biggest support system throughout, especially through the moments no one else saw,” Catalina said. “She carried so much behind the scenes so I could keep moving forward. I know the sacrifices she has made, often without recognition. Every step I’ve taken to get here was built on her love, patience and belief in me.”

Catalina is continuing her education this year at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in accounting. She also has remained connected to the college. Between classes and her studies, Catalina can be found working the front desk in Student Life.



Area Employers Help Students Prepare for Careers

Western Nevada College's Fall Career Fair brought together students and more than 30 area employers to The Link and the Bristlecone Spine.

Thirty-plus area employers joined Western Nevada College for its Fall Career Fair on Oct. 14 at the Link: the Community, Career & Employer Center in the Aspen Building on the Carson City campus!

Students explored opportunities in healthcare, law enforcement, logistics, finance, education, and more — connecting with local and regional partners ready to hire.

Participating employers included Bank of America, Carson City, Carson City EmployNV Business/Career Hub, Carson City Juvenile Services Juvenile Probation/

Detention and Outreach, Carson City Sheriff's Office, Carson Tahoe Health, Chromalloy, City of Fernley, Consumer Direct Care Network of Nevada, Edustaff, El Dorado County Probation, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Elevate Addiction Services, Enterprise Mobility, Fastenal, Holiday Inn Club Vacations, HR Block, Impact Leadership Network, ITS Logistics, LifeSkills Unlimited, Manpower, Mt. Grant General Hospital, Nevada Air National Guard, Nevada Department of Corrections, NV Medtech, Inc., Plumas Bank, REDCO, Reno Police Department, Robert Half, Skiing is Believing, State of Nevada Rural Clinics, State of Nevada Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources, Switch, LTD, United Federal Credit Union, UPS and Western Nevada College ROADS program.

Presented by WNC's College and Career Readiness program, the event provided an invaluable opportunity for students to explore employment options, engage with industry professionals and build meaningful connections for their future careers.

For more information about WNC and career transition options, please phone 775-445-4452.

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WNC Celebrates First Cohort of Community Health Workers

Western Nevada College Continuing Education proudly celebrated the graduation of its first-ever Community Health Worker (CHW) cohort, with 13 employment-ready students completing the 40-hour training program.

The Community Health Worker program prepares students for immediate employment in healthcare, social services, nonprofit organizations, and community-based agencies. Coursework focuses on essential, real-world skills such as navigating health systems, effective communication, cultural responsiveness, advocacy, and connecting individuals to critical resources. Graduates are eligible to apply for certification as a Community Health Worker in Nevada.

“CHWs are trusted connectors within their communities,” said WNC Continuing Education Manager Lauren Slemenda Moore. “They help individuals access health and social services, navigate complex systems and overcome barriers to care — ultimately improving outcomes for Nevada families and strengthening community well-being.”

A second cohort of CHW training began in March. Scholarship funding became available for more than two dozen students through the generous support of the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, significantly reducing out-of-pocket costs and opening doors for aspiring healthcare professionals across the region.

“At Western Nevada College, we believe expense and experience should never stand in the way of a student’s goals,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “Our Community Health Worker program is designed to help motivated students step confidently into the healthcare field with practical training, strong support and scholarship funding to make it possible. This is about opening doors to meaningful careers that make a real difference in our communities. With the generous support of the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, we are able to offer this training with scholarship funding for our students.”

Learn more or register by calling (775) 445-4210.

“Thank you for selecting me to receive the Robert and Joy Pease Memorial Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year; I am grateful for your generosity. I am a nursing student. Your generosity helps cover tuition, books, uniforms and clinical expenses, so I can focus on studying, skills practice and patient care during clinical rotations, rather than adding extra work hours. This support lowers my financial stress and helps me stay present in the classroom and at the bedside. My goal is to become a registered nurse who serves our community with safe, respectful and compassionate care grounded in evidence-based practice and cultural humility. After graduation and licensure, I plan to continue my education to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I hope to begin on a medical-surgical unit and grow into roles that include patient education, health promotion and safety. Your support brings these goals within reach. I will work to honor the legacy of Robert and Joy Pease and to reflect your generosity in the way I care for every patient. Thank you again for believing in me and investing in my education. –WNC Student

Scholarships & Recipients

Nerd Herd Scholarship

Cintia Morales Mata

Nevada CPA Society Scholarship

Wanda Campbell
Diana Mendoza Gonzalez
Mariah Young

New Beginnings Nursing Scholarship

Luz Saldana Alamillo

Next Generation Nursing Scholarship

Megan Williamson

NV Energy Foundation Scholarship

David Ache
Emily Kreamer
Ariel Lester
Jordan Mize
Mariah Young

Paul Cirac Scholarship

Jacquelyn Kendrick

Paul Laxalt Scholarship

Lahaina Cyrille Estomin
Madelin Rivera

PEO Sisterhood Chpt. AN Scholarship

Sydney Silva

PEO Sisterhood Scholarship

Alexis Mendoza-Reyes
Kelsie Nickerson

Quick Space Organizational Scholarship

Jarek Pasek

Quick Space Scholarship

Aidan Bullock
Jeremie Dangtran

Robert Bush Memorial Scholarship

Britney Harper
Rosalba Martinez
Lindsey Simon

Robert & Joy Pease Memorial Scholarship

Veronica Davis
Johnnaton Lamar
Dario Loli
Logan Van Winkle
Marjorie Ann Yagin

Rotary Club of Carson City Scholarship

Madison Woodman-Hobbs

William N. Pennington Foundation Career and Technical Education Scholarships

In recognition of the shortage of skilled labor within the local workforce, the William N. Pennington Foundation offers this generous scholarship for students pursuing certificates or degrees related to fields of study that are in high demand with local employers including welding, automotive mechanics, computer information technology, commercial driver license, construction management, healthcare, manufacturing and machining. This scholarship aims to improve the well-being of our community by offering students with financial need the opportunity to redefine their careers and ultimately their lives by learning the skills necessary to obtain meaningful employment.

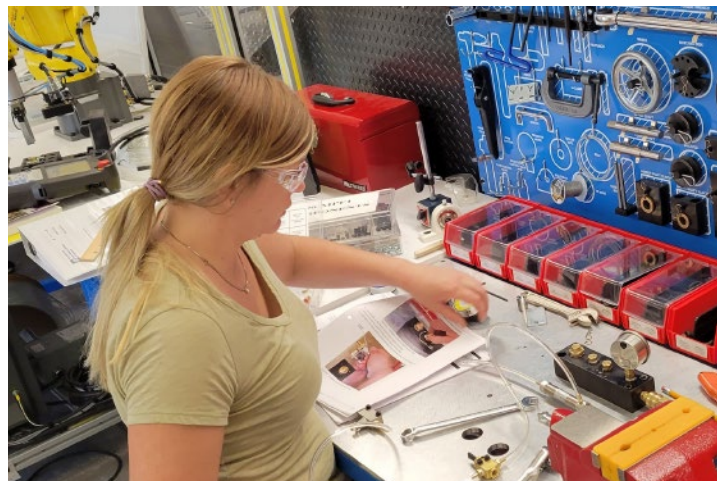
David Ache
Hunter Adkins
Coen Adkins
Zachary Affeldt
Trenton Aldrich
Shelby Arnaud
Jazmin Arroyo
Alyssa Ayers
Wesley Bass
Robert Berger
Kyle Bevers
Logan Bevins
Kenneth Bogle
Jessica Bohan
Siena Brimm
Michael Brito
Cody Brooks
David Brown
Luis Cardona
Jhan Carlo
Alvaro Carrillo-roque
Nathan Castillo
Helery Cervantes
Gabriel Clayson
Rylee Clement
Mary Coker
Amara Colonna
Jose Contreras
Jairo Davalos

James Dehaven
Jeramie Dennis
Desiree Diaz
Sean Dixon
Megan Dowd
John Escobedo
Emmett Esnard
Ashlynn Farmer
Rebekah Fillippini
Gavin Fylstra
Michael Gilbert
Kincaid Gill
Ronald Gomez
Lucas Grasso
Emily Gschwind
Cody Harp
Jack Harrison
Sean Haynes
Nelleh Hellen
Yahir Hernandez
Jose Hernandez
Valeria Herrera
Jacob Hicks
Matthew Hill
Steven Hirsch
Bailey Holst
Paul Honeycutt
Alexis Hyde
Sean Interrante

Julian Jenks
Jessie Jim
Matthew Jimenez
Seth Johnson
Talon Johnson
Corey Jones
Tristan Karkheck
Jacob Kemp
David King
William Kirst
Xander Kobberstad
Kaia Kottmeier
Adriana Landa
Carissa Lauffenburger
Jake Lazzarino
Zachary Leblanc
Nestor Lopez
Uriel Lopez
Evonna Loya
Charlie Loya
Asher Lucas
Anthony Luna
Kevin Marriott
Cristian Martinez
Aiden Martinez
Axel Martinez
Ashley Mattson
Timothy Mccandlish
Megan Mellum

Joshua Mendoza
Ty Mendoza
Tiffany Montero
Timothy Murphy
Marcos Navarrete
Blaize North
Rene Olivieri
Dakota Pacheco-sexton
Alyssa Partridge
Karely Pearson
Jakson Perry
Burch Perry
Dianna Piedra
Grace Pinto
Henry Porter
Juan Ramirez
Ronald Raygal
Randall Reeder
Ruben Renteria
Brooklyn Rice
Yadira Rivera
Dylan Robson
Kenia Rojas
Uriel Romero
Dustin Rose
Kai Rose
Eddie Rose
Marina Ruelas
Sebastian Ruffo

Joseph Runge
Urieluis Sanchez
Juan Sanchez-ayala
Anaili Sandoval
Cristian Sandoval
Bradley Schmidt
Joshua Silva
Christian Smith
William Snider
Jose Soto
Kaelyn Sprigs
Adrian Stewart
Deborah Stovall
Laura Studer
Nicholas Teeters
Kaylee Thompson
Bridget Tuttle
Evan Valdez
Ezequiel Varela
James Vaughn
Lucas Vincent
Annalee Waggoner
William Walker
Emilee Watson
Heather Williams
Samuel Williams
Christopher Winter
Yair Zarate





WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe is interviewed by New 4 Multimedia Journalist Sophie Lincoln for a report about the college receiving funding to create a workforce training hub in Fernley.

Governor's Office Awards WNC \$600K for Workforce Training Hub in Fernley

In August 2025, wonderful news came from the state pertaining to Western Nevada College's workforce development efforts in Northern Nevada.

Western Nevada College was awarded \$600,000 from the Governor's Office of Economic Development's (GOED) WINN fund to create a workforce training hub in the Victory Logistics District in Fernley. Workforce training to help WNC's industry partners recycle lithium batteries will be one of the primary objectives of the new hub.

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) community colleges secured funding to expand workforce training programs aimed at meeting Nevada's demand for skilled workers in mining, manufacturing, healthcare, and more. Total funding from GOED was nearly \$2.7 million.

"This \$2.7 million investment represents a strategic partnership that directly addresses Nevada's workforce challenges," said Board of Regents Chair Byron Brooks. "These expanded training programs will not only help fill critical skills gaps in mining, manufacturing, and healthcare,

but will also create pathways for Nevadans to access high-wage careers right here at home. We're grateful for GOED's continued partnership in building a workforce that meets both today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities."

WNC's workforce hub in Fernley will also expand access to training for dual enrollment students, adult learners, and English language learners, and provide certifications that lead to high-wage careers in these growing sectors.

"These investments help to make sure Nevadans have access to the skills needed for careers that support our state's economic growth," said Board of Regents Workforce Committee Chair Heather Brown. "Our community colleges are playing an important role in bridging the skills gap and building a more skilled workforce for Nevada's future."

Added NSHE Chancellor Matt McNair, "We're proud to be part of the solution to Nevada's workforce challenges. These programs give students in high-demand fields the tools they need to succeed, whether they're just starting out or advancing their careers."

Scholarships & Recipients

Rotary Club of Carson City Tech Scholarship
Zachary Affeldt
Jordan Duncan

Single Parent Scholarship
Michaela Golden
Corey Jones
Rodney Ricks
Alyssa Sappa
Shannon Segerer

Soroptimist Education Scholarship
Mesa Zimmerman

Soroptimist Nursing Scholarship
Sophia Bottino

Soroptimist Trade Scholarship
Haley Wilkes

Student Ability Scholarship
Kuleani Fulton

Taylor Bushek Memorial Scholarship
Adkins Hunter

Teichert Foundation Construction Scholarship
Jessica Arellano
Tristan Davis
Ruben Renteria
Michael Robinson
Alexandra Tucker

Testolin Pieretti Family Scholarship
Mariana Flores
Makenna Potter
Madelin Rivera
Samantha Saint
Christie Sanchez

Unger Diamond Memorial Scholarship
Jessica Arellano
Ariel Lester

United Methodist Men's Scholarship
Britney Harper
Ethan Nelson

VFW Auxiliary Kit Carson Post 3726 Scholarship
Stephen Goerzen

Visiting Angels Nursing Excellence
Anthony Detorres

New WNC Foundation Scholarships

The WNC Foundation is proud to announce the addition of several new scholarships, generously donated by businesses, private foundations, and community members. These scholarships are designed to expand opportunities, remove financial barriers, and invest in the future of Western Nevada College students.

If you are interested in starting a scholarship in memory of a loved one, recognizing the accomplishments of a community member, or expanding education within our community, please contact the WNC Foundation at (775) 445-3240.

“I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me the \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of my academic achievements at WNC. Your support has meant more than words can express — not just financially, but as a vote of confidence in my journey as an aspiring educator.

Thanks to your generosity, I’ve been able to complete all of the courses available to me at WNC that align with my degree path. Thank you for believing in me. I’m excited to keep making you proud.” – WNC Student

Single Parent Scholarship

Established by James and Sandy Foley, the Single Parent Scholarship was created to uplift and support single parents who are working hard to build a brighter future through education. Recognizing the unique challenges that single parents often face while balancing family, work and school, this scholarship celebrates their resilience and determination. Through their generosity, the Foleys hope to help ease financial burdens and encourage these students to continue pursuing their educational and career goals.

Charles Pettycrew Education Scholarship

Established by Daphne Gammell on behalf of the Retired School Employees Association, the Charles Pettycrew Education Scholarship honors the lasting impact that educators have on their communities. This scholarship supports students pursuing careers in education, helping to inspire the next generation of teachers and educational leaders. Through this gift, the association continues its commitment to strengthening the future of education and investing in students who are passionate about guiding and inspiring others.



Bus Scharmamm Scholarship

The Bus Scharmamm Scholarship was created by Western Nevada College with the support of Joel and Terri Fairfield to honor the remarkable life and accomplishments of Mr. Scharmamm. Following his passing, members of the community came together to contribute to this scholarship as a way to celebrate his legacy and the many lives he touched. This award reflects the community’s appreciation for his contributions and continues his spirit of generosity by supporting students as they pursue their educational goals.

Douglas Family Scholarship

Established by William and Ana Douglas, the Douglas Family Scholarship reflects a powerful belief in second chances and the transformative power of education. This scholarship supports students who are currently incarcerated but working toward a better future as they prepare for reentry into their communities. By investing in education and opportunity, the Douglas family hopes to empower individuals to build new pathways going forward and create meaningful change in their lives.

PEO Sisterhood Chapter AN Scholarship

The PEO Sisterhood Chapter AN Scholarship was established by members of PEO, an international organization dedicated to supporting students through education. This scholarship provides meaningful assistance to those who are working to advance their academic and professional aspirations. Through their generosity and commitment to empowering students, Chapter AN continues a long tradition of helping them pursue education, achieve independence and make a positive impact in their communities.

The Fisker Family Scholarship

Created by Ann and Poul Fisker, the Fisker Family Scholarship supports students pursuing careers that strengthen and uplift the community. With a focus on fields that serve and support others, such as healthcare, technical education, and skilled trades, this scholarship reflects the Fisker family’s belief in the power of education to build stronger communities. Their generosity helps students gain the knowledge and skills needed to make meaningful contributions to the region.

Kit Carson Toastmasters Club Memorial Scholarship

Established by the Kit Carson Toastmasters Club, this scholarship reflects the organization’s commitment to personal growth, leadership and communication. Toastmasters are known worldwide for helping individuals develop confidence and public speaking skills. This scholarship supports students who are continuing their education, often while balancing work and other responsibilities, and encourages them to pursue opportunities for personal and professional development.

Teichert Foundation Construction Scholarship

The Teichert Foundation Construction Scholarship supports students pursuing careers in construction and related fields while strengthening workforce development across Northern Nevada. The Teichert Foundation has long been committed to investing in communities and supporting education in industries that build and sustain our region. This scholarship helps prepare the next generation of skilled professionals who will shape and grow the communities they serve.

Catalina Wilson Accounting Scholarship

Established by the Davison Family, the Catalina Wilson Accounting Scholarship honors the determination and dedication of Catalina Wilson, an inspiring Western Nevada College graduate. As an accounting student and the student speaker at the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala, Catalina exemplified perseverance and commitment to academic success. This scholarship supports students pursuing accounting careers, particularly adult learners working to advance their professional opportunities, while celebrating Catalina's lasting impact on the WNC community.

The Geology Scholarship

The Geology Scholarship was created by Professor Dr. Winnie Kortemeier to support students who share a passion for geology and earth sciences. Funding for this scholarship comes from rock sales organized by Professor Kortemeier and her students, making it a truly community-driven effort. This unique scholarship reflects a love of science, hands-on learning, and the desire to inspire curiosity about the natural world while supporting students pursuing careers in earth sciences.

Redfield Foundation Healthcare Scholarship

Established by the Redfield Foundation, this scholarship supports students enrolled in short-term healthcare training programs such as phlebotomy, CNA, medical assisting and community health work. By helping students gain critical healthcare skills, the foundation is investing in both individual opportunity and the well-being of the broader community. This scholarship helps students take important steps toward building meaningful and rewarding careers in healthcare.

Northern Nevada Antique Power Club Branch 132 Scholarship

The Northern Nevada Antique Power Club Branch 132 Scholarship reflects the club's passion for preserving mechanical history and supporting the next generation of skilled trades professionals. The club is made up of enthusiasts who restore and maintain antique tractors and engines, celebrating the craftsmanship and engineering of the past. Through this scholarship, members are proud to support students pursuing careers in welding, machining and automotive technology — fields that keep these traditions of skill and innovation alive.

The Sage Brim Scholarship

The Sage Brim Scholarship was established by Molly Blanchette and her family in celebration of Molly's doctoral graduation and her lifelong commitment to helping others. As a proud Western Nevada College graduate, Molly understands the impact that education and support can have on a person's journey. This scholarship assists students pursuing careers in helping professions such as social work, counseling, behavioral health, education, nursing and psychology — fields dedicated to supporting individuals and strengthening communities.

Rick Fields Trade Scholarship

The Rick Fields Trade Scholarship was established by his wife and daughters to honor the 30-year career Rick built as a contract plumber serving Carson City and Northern Nevada. This scholarship is dedicated to supporting the next generation of professionals pursuing a career in the trades — including automotive technology, welding, manufacturing and machine tool technology. It will be awarded based on work ethic, a spirit of innovation, and a commitment to learning. It is through this scholarship that we celebrate Rick's legacy, honoring the vital journey of trade education.



Scholarships & Recipients

Vivian Wilde-Mellow Memorial Scholarship

Sophia Bottino
Su Nuttle
Rod Patual
Angelina Stein

Walter Dillard Memorial Scholarship

Avaline Reardon

Warde H. Dixon Memorial Scholarship

Zachary Affeldt
Rezsia Berger
Ruby Gutierrez
Keaolohinani Kukonu
Rod Patual
Deborah Stovall
Cynthia Vega

Wildcat Mascot Scholarship

Maximum Dillwith

William N. Pennington Nursing Scholarship Class of 2026

Daniel Beauchamp
Sarah Bens
Rachel Cho
Cheyenne Clayson
Hailey Coe
Alycia Cupp
Guadalupe De Santiago
Kiarra DePaz
Shannon Gillham
Aubrey Glazner
Grant Gomes
Romney Hickman
Elzbieta Hildebrandt
Maggie Kleine
Gracie Konrad
Taylor Linfoord
Jennifer Lombardo
Edrid Marsh
Shaila Moe
Nancy Navarrete Ramirez
Avarie Ramsey-Kruse
Heidi Salamanca
Briana Sanchez
Hannah Seibel
Ashlynn Shehorn
Brittany St. John
Dajah Stallings
Cynthia Vega
Melanie Weston
Austin Zivkovic

William N. Pennington Nursing Scholarship Class of 2027

William Antonitsch
Shivani Bhakta
Veronica Burson
Julia Cruz Garcia
Cecilia Diarte

A Scholarship from the Heart: Family Honors Dr. Blanchette's Bond to WNC

At Western Nevada College Foundation, generosity often comes full circle. For Dr. Molly Blanchette, that circle has come back to the place where her own academic journey began — Western Nevada College.

Blanchette's family members recently surprised her with a deeply personal gift during a January trip to Florida for her Ph.D. graduation from Walden University: They established a scholarship in her honor at WNC. What began as a celebration of her academic milestone has now grown into something even more meaningful — the launch of the Sage Brim Scholarship, which Blanchette hopes will become an annual award supporting students pursuing their education at WNC.

"I received the scholarship as a gift from my family for completing my Ph.D.," Blanchette shared. "They had already reached out to start the process and started it in my name. I got to name the scholarship and define its purpose. I loved this gift.

"I want this scholarship to help those who are restarting their lives in recovery (as defined by them) and who want to go into a helping profession."

Blanchette said that the name for her scholarship emanated from her head attire when she was a college student.

"I got myself into recovery at 21, and I would wear a green hat, way down low over my eyes," she said. "It's sort of a memory my friends and family had and watched me become who I am. Although a green hat is less cool than sage brim."

For Blanchette, education has always been transformative. She attended Western Nevada Community College — as WNC was known at the time — earning her associate degree in 2006 before transferring to the University of Nevada, Reno to complete her bachelor's degree. She continued at UNR to earn her Master of Social Work, and during her graduate studies completed an internship in WNC's counseling office, working closely with nontraditional students to help them succeed.

"Education changed my life," she said. "I love the idea of helping a student work



Dr. Molly Blanchette graduated with an associate degree from WNC in 2006. She is pictured with Teri Zutter, then the director of the GED and English Second Language program.

through coursework at WNC. I believe in education and what it can do for your life. I love that WNC is part of our community."

Her connection to the college didn't end there. From 2011 to 2014, Blanchette returned to WNC as an instructor, teaching Social Work 101 and Social Work 250 in Carson City and Douglas County. She also taught distance learners in Fallon — back when courses were delivered via televised broadcasts.

The scholarship's creation was a true family effort. Nine adults and nine children contributed to establishing the Sage Brim Scholarship, turning what began as a graduation celebration into a lasting legacy of support for future students.

For Blanchette, the gesture reflects the values that shaped her own journey — hard work, service and belief in the power of education. Now, thanks to the generosity of her family and her enduring commitment to WNC, that belief will help open doors for students for years to come.

"What makes the Sage Brim Scholarship so special is the heart behind it," said WNC Foundation Executive Director Niki Gladly, who also serves as the college's Chief Advancement Officer. "This was a family's way of celebrating Dr. Blanchette's incredible achievement, but it's also a powerful investment in the future of WNC students. When families choose to honor someone they love by creating opportunities for others, it speaks volumes about their shared commitment to education and community."



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WNC Jump Start Student, ASWN Leader Alyssa Ayers Receives Sam Lieberman Regents' Scholar Award

Western Nevada College is proud to announce that Alyssa Ayers has been named a recipient of the prestigious Sam Lieberman Regents' Scholar Award, recognizing her academic excellence, leadership and commitment to service.

"I am incredibly grateful to those who nominated me and to the committee members who took the time to listen to my story and believe in my goals," she said. "I'm also deeply thankful for my WNC family and the support they've given me throughout my time at Western Nevada College. To receive a scholarship in the name of someone who dedicated so much to others is both humbling and deeply meaningful. I hope to carry forward that same spirit of service as I continue my education and future career."

A high school senior and Jump Start student, Ayers is concurrently earning her Associate of Science degree at WNC — a milestone that reflects not only academic achievement, but remarkable perseverance.

Ayers' life has been shaped by resilience, responsibility and a deep desire to serve others. As the eldest of five siblings, she often stepped into roles many people her age never face — serving as caregiver, organizer and steady source of support to help keep her family moving forward.

While those experiences brought challenges, they also fostered independence, empathy and determination — qualities that continue to guide her academic and professional goals.

At WNC, Ayers balances rigorous college coursework with leadership and extracurricular involvement. She serves as a senator for the Associated Students of Western Nevada and as historian for her National Honor Society chapter. She also has served as Oasis Academy's class



president through student council and captain of the lacrosse team, strengthening her leadership skills while giving back to her school community.

"As ASWN advisor, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the leadership, compassion and determination Alyssa brings to WNC through her service as an ASWN Senator representing the Fallon campus," said WNC Student Life Coordinator Heather Rikalo.

WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe praised Ayers for her determination and heart for service.

"Alyssa Ayers represents the very best of Western Nevada College," Dr. Dalpe said. "Her resilience, leadership and commitment to serving others embody the spirit of the Regents' Scholar Award. She has overcome challenges with grace and determination, and we are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and excited for the impact she will make in our communities."

Ayers plans to pursue a career in healthcare, with a particular interest in emergency medicine and rural patient care. Inspired by medical professionals in her life and the needs she has witnessed firsthand in her community, she is working toward becoming a physician assistant who serves underserved and rural populations.

"This scholarship will go directly toward pursuing my bachelor's degree in public health at the University of Nevada, Reno," Ayers said. "I'm excited to continue working toward my goal of becoming a rural healthcare provider and giving back to the Nevada communities that need it most."

At 18 years old, Ayers' story is already defined by ambition, compassion and strength. Each challenge she has faced has shaped her into someone who works hard, cares deeply and strives to make a positive difference.

Scholarships & Recipients

William N. Pennington Nursing Scholarship Class of 2027, continued

Jennifer Dwyer
Nallely Gomez
Tara Gregory
Briana Haase
Gregory Holmes
Lillian Howell
Matthew Howser
Abigail Hryczyk
Savannah Kelley
Nani Kukonu
Stephanie Larsen
Kaylee Miller
Taleah Moe
Erin Peterson
Grace Plummer
Vanessa Poppenga
Vanessa Rojas
Maria Shelton
Audrey Short
Brooklin Shultz
Kayley Sullivan
Amy Velez
Javier Venegas
Reyna Villagrana
Johnny Zuniga-Santander

WNC Leadership Scholarship

Patricia Albert
Haylee Hulme
Keileene Kato
Reyane Murchison
Alexandra Perez Rojas
Lucy Pierrot Rayo
Ronin Rubke
Kayla Volkov
Laporsha Warren
Sarina Welch

Women in STEM Scholarship

Veaney Cruzaley
Laisha Ortiz

"Thank you for the Warde H. Dixon Scholarship! Words do not express my heartfelt gratitude for this amazing scholarship. This is truly a blessing and an answered prayer! This gift is helping me accomplish my goals and gives me hope. God bless and a huge thank you. Your generosity is so appreciated."
– WNC Student

A Masterclass in Being Wrong (and Grateful for It)



Sean Davison, WNC Foundation
Board Member and Past Chair

Several years ago, I was in São Paulo, Brazil, working with Harley-Davidson's banking partner, Bradesco Financiamentos. We were deep in a meeting about how to improve consumer loan payment performance — because nothing says excitement like delinquency rates in Portuguese.

One of the reasons borrowers weren't paying, I was told, was: "No recibo el carnê."

Wanting to show off my rapidly improving Portuguese skills, I calmly repeated, "So ... I didn't receive the meat?"

The room immediately erupted in laughter. This was not a polite chuckle. This was not a "haha, cute American" laugh. This was a we will never let you forget this laugh.

Bradesco's brilliant financial analyst, Rogerio, kindly explained that the accent mark made it "statement," not "meat." Turns out borrowers were missing paperwork — not picanha. It was a paperwork issue, not a protein deficiency. Thank goodness for people who are willing to take the time to teach you new things.

Not long after that, Rogerio got married, and my wife, Nancy, and I served as two of his padrinhos — yet another learning experience, because nothing humbles you quite like realizing you've agreed to an important role in a Brazilian wedding without fully understanding what it entails.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

So, here's the real question: Who has sharpened you? And maybe more importantly: Who are you sharpening?

When the Students Start Teaching the Teacher

Last year, while teaching an accounting course at Western Nevada College, I asked my students for feedback on the course design and my teaching effectiveness. This is a bold move when grades are still pending — roughly the academic equivalent of asking for restaurant reviews before the food arrives.

Two students, Catalina and Osvaldo, rose to the challenge. They offered thoughtful, constructive feedback that made me rethink my entire approach to teaching. Not surprisingly, both are now in the accounting program at the University of Nevada, Reno — clearly proof that honesty does not, in fact, derail your future.

Their message was simple: treat WNC's business education more like a business, starting with access and affordability as foundational principles. Since affordability is one of the biggest barriers to higher education, Catalina challenged me directly to help improve scholarship funding for business students at WNC. Nothing keeps you up at night like a smart student politely daring you to do better.

Challenge accepted.

Paying It Forward (No Portuguese Required)

This year, Nancy and I are proud sponsors of the Catalina Wilson Accounting Scholarship. Catalina wasn't just a great student — she was active in student government, worked several jobs, and took the bus. She represents the American Dream in its most honest form: hustle, sacrifice, and Excel spreadsheets.

We're honored to play a small role in helping others pursue that same dream, ideally with fewer bus transfers.

So, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect:

Who are you sharpening? And how might your time, talent, or treasure help someone else succeed? Is there a scholarship you'd like to fund that could change a student's life? Could you mentor a Nevada Promise Scholar? Recruit a veteran into your business?

Or — at the very least — gently correct an old guy the next time his translations are just a little bit off.

Trust me. He'll thank you later.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to further my education through the support of the Dr. Walter L. Dillard Memorial Scholarship. I am close to completing my Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees, marking the first major step toward my educational and career goals. In the future, I hope to continue my education and earn a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and potentially a Master's in Bioengineering. My goal is to contribute to the world's understanding of genetics and lead innovation toward a path of making meaningful and life-altering discoveries. The Dr. Walter L. Dillard Memorial Scholarship has given me the ability to dedicate more time to my coursework, academic programs, and excel in my studies. This support has allowed me to worry less about how I will cover the cost of my classes and focus more on succeeding in my education. It brings me one step closer to achieving my goals, something that would not be possible without the generous support from the Dr. Walter L. Dillard Memorial Scholarship. For that, I am truly grateful. – WNC Student

Golf *for* Education

Supporting Workforce Development in the Sierra Region

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Shotgun Scramble 9:00am, Toiyabe Golf Club



Western Nevada College
FOUNDATION



TO REGISTER: Scan the QR code, contact the WNC Foundation Office at 775-445-3240
or register online at wnc.edu/foundation/golf-classic

WNC Professor's Book Sheds Light on the Hidden Dangers of Synthetic Food Dyes

Western Nevada College Psychology Professor Dr. Rebecca Bevans has raised awareness about the perils of synthetic food dyes through a TEDx Talk video on YouTube, media interviews and as source for the “To Dye For” documentary. Now, she and renowned cancer researcher Dr. Lorne Hofseth have released a book, delivering a comprehensive, science-supported guide on one of the most overlooked public health topics in the U.S. food system.

“Everything You Need to Know About Synthetic Food Dyes” synthesizes more than 170 scientific studies and serves as one of the most comprehensive public resources on the topic to date. Dr. Bevans’ combination of scientific grounding, public education, policy focus and personal experiences makes her a highly respected and influential voice in the growing movement to eliminate synthetic food dyes from food, drinks, medications and consumer products.

The book opens with a deeply personal story as Dr. Bevans recounts when her son, Alex, became suicidal at 7 after exhibiting a variety of neurobehavioral symptoms from ingesting food dyes.

Fortunately, Dr. Bevans and her husband, Eric, looked beyond his occasional ADHD symptoms and discovered the connection between food dyes and his behavior. While eventually solving her son’s problem with various food dyes, Dr. Bevans was determined to help other parents and their children by sharing her experiences and knowledge.

“Dr. Bevans exemplifies what it means to be a scholar-advocate. Her tireless research, combined with deeply personal experience, is making a real difference for families, educators and healthcare providers. We’re proud that this kind of impactful work is coming out of Western Nevada College,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe.

This project’s collaboration came together after Bevans reached out to Hofseth in 2024 about a research article he wrote. The two quickly realized how aligned their interests and missions were since the co-authors have four children between them.



Western Nevada College Geosciences Professor Dr. Rebecca Bevans is pictured with the book she co-authored with Dr. Lorne Hofseth: “Everything You Need to Know About Synthetic Food Dyes”.

“I have always wanted to write a book, but it seemed extremely overwhelming to me,” Dr. Bevans said. “Honestly, I’m much better as a team player. Dr. Hofseth is an amazing scientist and researcher (with over 100 published research articles) and comes from a very different background and expertise than I come from. I am on the psychology side, and he is on the cancer research, physiology side.”

Weekly Zoom meetings turned into a full-fledged partnership, and after nearly a year of paragraph-by-paragraph collaboration, their book was born — designed to serve everyone from concerned parents and teachers to policymakers, doctors and scientists.

What is inside the book? The title isn’t deceptive — this really is everything you need to know about synthetic food dyes. Backed by a review of 173 scientific articles, the book dives deep into the history of artificial food colors; the chemical structure of each major dye (including Red 40, Yellow 5 and 6, Blue 1 and 2, and more); short- and long-term health effects, including behavioral concerns, hyperactivity, rashes, cancer, reproductive toxicity, DNA damage

and inflammation; global policies and how other countries regulate synthetic dyes compared to the U.S.; and a powerful final section on policy trends and where the U.S. stands on removing dyes from the food supply.

With public awareness growing and media headlines calling out synthetic dyes more frequently, Dr. Bevans and Dr. Hofseth hope their book can help move the conversation from confusion to clarity — and from passive concern to informed action.

“There’s so much misinformation out there,” Dr. Bevans said. “Our food supply is filled with chemicals that offer no nutritional value — only cosmetic appeal. We believe people deserve to know the facts and make choices that support their well-being.”

“Everything You Need to Know About Synthetic Food Dyes” is now available on Amazon and will be available in some stores. To learn more about the dangers of synthetic food dyes or if you have questions about them, email rebecca.bevans@wnc.edu.

Western Nevada College Foundation 2025-26 Event Highlights



Kimberly Estee, Mark Estee, Elena Bubnova and WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe are pictured at the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala.



WNC Foundation Board Chair Michelle Ketten and WNC Foundation Executive Director Niki Gladys pose for a photo at the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala.



Senator Michele Cruz-Crawford, Regent Heather Brown, WNC grad Catalina Wilson, President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe and Regent Carol Del Carlo share a lighthearted moment at the 2025 Reach for the Stars Gala.



WNC's Executive Team of Coral Lopez, Tracy Mendibles, Melody Duley, Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, Dr. Dana Ryan and Niki Gladys are photographed during the eighth annual Reach for the Stars Gala.



The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 401 foursome of Jacob Haas, Matt Henderson, Todd Davis and Mike Fleiner won the 2025 Golf for Education tournament title.



Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, Gina Kaskie Davis, Stephanie Arrigotti and Niki Gladys at the opening of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof."



The WNC Foundation Board of Trustees is pictured during its 2026 retreat to the Nevada State Legislative Building.



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