



Clovis Community College

SUMMER 2016

Connections

Tying Up Loose Ends

Spotlight on Adult Basic Education

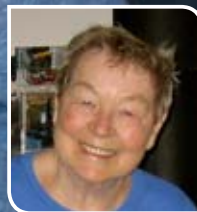


Inside this issue:

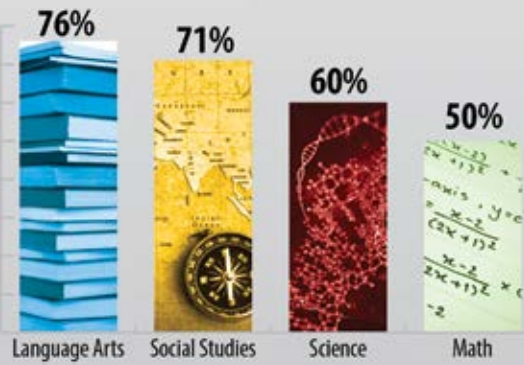
Small Town Beautician Gives Back with Scholarship

Employee Accolades

Senator Martin Heinrich Visits CCC



5



7



8



9

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of CCC,

As our spring semester draws to a close, we celebrate our students' accomplishments with commencement and pinning ceremonies. These festivities allow us to celebrate the most important work that we do as a college: providing an educational environment for our students to achieve their goals either to transfer to a 4-year college or to enter the workforce. We want our students to contribute and to thrive. I thank our faculty and staff for everything they do for our students.

This issue of CCC Connections features programs that have a long history of helping potential college students become CCC students. The Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs at CCC have assisted hundreds of students to attain a high school equivalency credential or to improve their English so that higher education becomes a possibility. Students come to the ABE and ESL programs through a variety of paths. Our ABE and ESL students originate from 10 different countries and range in age from 16 to 60. Many of these students will be eagerly anticipating their own graduation from CCC, an achievement they might not have thought possible before they connected with our ABE program.

As our 2016 graduates prepare to enter a new phase of their lives, I want to again thank our faculty and staff for everything they do for our students. I want to thank our students for choosing Clovis Community College, and I want to thank our donors for choosing to support us and allow our students to succeed.

Becky Rowley, *President*

CCC Connections is a semiannual publication produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement. This issue was written by Kate Frantz and designed by Scott Knauer. For questions or comments, please contact Natalie Daggett at 575.769.4115 or natalie.daggett@clovis.edu.



SMALL TOWN BEAUTICIAN GIVES BACK TO COSMETOLOGISTS SEEKING A SECOND CHANCE

As the onset to Clovis Community College's 2016 – 2017 scholarship cycle swiftly approaches, the CCC Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of the Gertrude M. Rogers Scholarship for Cosmetology in memory of a treasured and talented beautician.

Gertrude Melcher Rogers grew up on a cotton farm in Lubbock, Texas, and had grand dreams at a young age. When Ms. Rogers graduated from high school, she worked on the farm until enough money was saved to move into town and attend cosmetology school. Once she received her cosmetology license, Ms. Rogers moved to Clovis and married. Soon after, Ms. Rogers and her husband moved



to Roswell, where she opened and earned great success with her own "Cut-n-Curl" salon. As she continued to grow her beautician career and new business, Ms. Rogers took accounting and business classes at the local community college to ensure she would be successful in business. In 1977, Ms. Rogers was named

to the state board of cosmetologists by Governor Jerry Apocada and served with distinction until her retirement.

Gertrude Rogers' legacy lives on through her son, Gary Ray Rogers, his wife, Angie King, and now the Gertrude M. Rogers Scholarship. Rogers and King wanted to open this scholarship to honor Gertrude for her dedication to the community and her contributions in helping others. Rogers states that his mother often took in young men and women in need and helped them gain stability. "She was an unofficial foster mom," explains Rogers. That is just what Rogers and King hope to accomplish through this scholarship. The intention of the Gertrude M. Rogers Scholarship is to give an individual a second chance. Whether a survivor of domestic violence, someone looking for a way out of poverty, or someone who has been incarcerated, this opportunity is a beacon of light for success and vast opportunity. Through this substantial gift, tuition and fees are fully funded for a CCC student seeking a degree in cosmetology.



The Cut-n-Curl Salon in Roswell, New Mexico

"She always said, 'you can be anybody you want to be.' That's a little idealistic, but she was an idealistic woman," says Rogers of his mother. "She was a very special woman with a full, successful life, and her getting an education in cosmetology and becoming a beautician made that possible. I want to give that possibility to another young woman or man," adds Rogers.

To contribute to the Gertrude M. Rogers fund directly and to learn more about how you can support the CCC Foundation, contact the executive director, Natalie Daggett, at 575.769.4115 or natalie.daggett@clovis.edu.

The CCC Foundation is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. Students are encouraged to apply at clovis.academicworks.com.

F Clovis Community College
FOUNDATION

Tying Up Loose Ends



The Adult Basic Education program at CCC offers new hope and motivation to a variety of learners.

Clovis Community College's Mabel Lee Hawkins Center for Student Success (CSS) has assisted students of all walks of life in not only preparing to further an education, but also by coaching more than 600 individuals for life's circumstances. CSS offers three derivatives of Adult Basic Education: Free Class Instruction, High School Equivalency Exam (GED®) Preparation, and English as a Second Language (ESL) acquisition.

"In adult basic education at CCC, we really concentrate on meeting the students' needs and their immediate educational needs. We get them in class, show them how to be proficient and come to class everyday, and explain how it's going to reward them when they can sit down with their kids and help them with their homework," states CSS Director, Mona Lee Norman-Armstrong. Norman-Armstrong has been facilitating the education of those who need it most for several years.

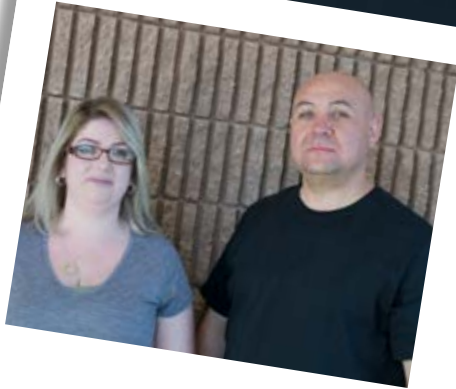
A majority of the students in Adult Basic Education classes are individuals who were not able to complete high school for various reasons. As if opening the books to re-learn four years' worth of scholastic material in a two-month time span would not be intimidating enough, the majority of these men and women have already experienced the workforce environment and are over the age of 20. CSS is not only a mental and physical contest, but it is additionally a very emotional battle for many. Students face the fear of struggle, fear of failing, and the fear of succeeding and not knowing what comes next. "What we want them to see is that this room is made up of a large cross-section of the community. The ages are diverse, the backgrounds are diverse – everything," explains Norman-Armstrong.

Two former CSS students, Rachel Bryant and Joe Garcia, can attest to the success that CSS helped them achieve. Bryant and Garcia have both met their share of struggles in life, which is what originally brought them to CSS.

Rachel Bryant, originally from Ireland, discovered when she moved to the United States that her originally earned high school credit hours were not transferrable between the two countries. Prior to attending CSS, Bryant temporarily worked at a call center in town. "The whole reason I decided to go to school was because everyone was laid off since the center was moving to Panama. Because they were moving out of the country, we were able to get two full years of school paid for by the government," says Bryant. "Once I was let go, I first had to think about what I wanted to do. There were restrictions on what you could do for the program. You had to do something that was going to allow you to get a job – a field that had good job sustainability for the next 10 or 20 years. I thought back to when I was a kid and wanted to be a hairdresser or a mechanic. So I picked the Cosmetology program at CCC," adds Bryant. Because many students who attend CSS have been out of school for extended periods of time, it is easy for individuals to become discouraged and fearful, but Bryant explains that she had an attitude contrary to that. She was often the cheerleader for her peers – pushing them to believe in themselves.

"Rachel demonstrated a leadership within her class. She encouraged her classmates and made sure that others didn't give up. She would find ways to help others where they were struggling. She was very diplomatic and fair. Rachel was very persistent to better herself," says CCC Cosmetology instructor Melanie Lotz.

GET TO KNOW Adult Basic Education

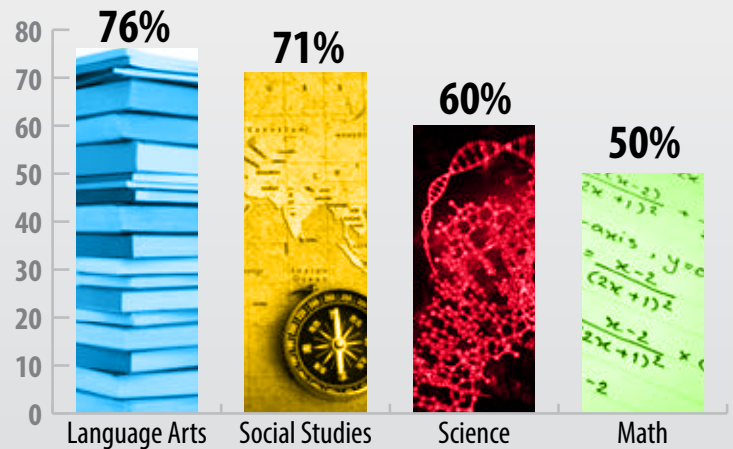


When Joe Garcia decided to seek out CSS to acquire his High School Equivalency credentials, he had fulfilled an education up to the sixth grade. The experience of attending CSS

was much like stepping into the unknown. Garcia faced his fears day in and day out. "It was not easy. I would go to school, then straight to tutoring everyday. The Lord motivated me because that was all I had. That was it. I had to pray going in and pray going out," describes Garcia on his experience attending Adult Basic Education classes in CSS. Having no inclination of which career field he wanted to pursue, Garcia discovered his interest during his time with CSS in the science of cosmetology by taking the journey one day at a time. Garcia maintained an impeccable work ethic to receive his GED® in December 2013.

"Joe is a very compassionate person. He was the only male in a class full of females. He really surprised me with how far he went in this program. He didn't fail to ask questions. He studied hard. He never complained. If all my students had the mentality of Joe, then my job would be much easier. I am very proud of him," says Lotz.

Though Bryant and Garcia were not students in CSS at the same time, the two went through CCC's Cosmetology



64% of all ABE students who tested in the CCC Testing Center passed all four tests.



55% female



**31% worked full time
18% worked part time**



65% earned less than \$5,000 annually or were unemployed. 15% earned \$10,000 to \$19,000 annually.

Source: CCC Testing Center



Employees of CCC's Mable Lee Hawkins Center for Student Success pose for a photograph after their high school equivalency graduation ceremony in May 2015.

program together, where they met and became great friends. The Cosmetology program at CCC is incredibly competitive, requiring not only a great time commitment but financial commitment as well. The four-semester program is a strenuous test of the accuracy, patience, and perseverance that is vital to becoming a cosmetologist. Not only did CSS instill dedication and courage in Bryant and Garcia, but it also prepared them to learn to work in an environment alongside unpredictable individuals.

"There are many different personalities in cosmetology that you must learn to adapt to, and I think that it helps prepare them for the real world of this profession of service. I try and push the limits with all students, and they never gave up with the challenges I presented them," adds Lotz.

Both Bryant and Garcia graduated from the cosmetology program at CCC in December 2015. Bryant now works in CSS, passing along the wisdom and encouragement that was once instilled in her. Garcia works at the Base Exchange salon on Cannon Air Force Base and says it "feels like home."

Adult Basic Education is a critical component of New Mexico's plan to improve the lives of its citizens and families and to increase our competitiveness in the national and global economy. As technology advances, the skills needed to compete in our marketplace continue to increase. ABE is committed to meeting the needs of our workforce – today and beyond. In 25 years, CCC has awarded 2,133 GED® credentials to area students and approximately 60 percent go on to enroll in a degree or certificate program at CCC.

For more information on the Center for Student Success, please contact director, Mona Lee Norman-Armstrong, at 575.769.4094 or norman-armstrongm@clovis.edu.



Clovis Community College's Alumni Association wants to reach out to past students of the College. If you are a CCC alum, please visit www.Clovis.edu/alumni to learn more.

EMPLOYEE *Accolades!*

Faculty Members Honored For Excellence

Four members of the Clovis Community College faculty are recognized as 2016 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Award winners

Paul Blair, Sean Poindexter, VK Bussen, and Aaron Anderson of Clovis Community College (CCC) have been named 2015-2016 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award recipients. NISOD is a membership organization committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges.



Paul Blair, *Automotive Technology*

Automotive program instructor and certified hot-air balloon pilot Paul Blair has been teaching at CCC for over 15 years. Paul's passion for cars is cultivated from his grandfather, who collected and restored antique cars, as well as his father, who was an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force. "No matter what you do in your field or career as an educator, if you do it in the best interest of the student, things like this just come naturally," reasons

Blair on receiving the NISOD award. "Paul's commitment to ensuring quality instruction is evident in his continuous improvement of the curriculum, program assessment, and overall dedication to helping students succeed both in the classroom and beyond," says Robin Kuykendall, division chair for the occupational technology department. "He is extremely knowledgeable in the automotive industry as evidenced by his master ASE certifications, and his students clearly show a strong respect for him," she adds.

"Sometimes in life a simple pat on the back can be all that is needed to give you some self-worth and pride in knowing what you are doing is good and appreciated," explains

welding instructor, Sean Poindexter, who has been teaching for 7 years. "You may go for years and years and possibly your entire career without any awards or pats on the back but never give up trying to be the best you can be and do the best job you possibly can do," he encourages. The welding program at the College has been completely restructured by Poindexter. "Sean was a pivotal part of the welding expansion project that took place last year. He continuously evaluates and improves curriculum to ensure that he is providing the best level of education possible for the students," states Robin Kuykendall.



Sean Poindexter, *Welding*

Mathematics instructor VK Bussen has been teaching for 19 years, with experience at CCC, Eastern New Mexico University, and Butler County Community College. Bussen explains that having become grateful throughout the years has shaped her both personally and professionally. "I'm thankful everyday that I get to work at something I really like and work alongside people who also enjoy teaching," comments Bussen. Todd Kuykendall, CCC math and science division chair speaks highly of Bussen's initiative and work ethic. In addition to



VK Bussen, *Mathematics*

her regular teaching schedule, VK also teaches a math for general education class at Choices High School, the Clovis Municipal Schools alternative high school program. “VK is consistently working to improve her courses, and her

student evaluations point to an instructor of high quality,” adds Kuykendall.

Aaron Anderson has been teaching several different courses of history at CCC and Alcorn State University over the past 7 years. As a graduate student at the University of Southern Mississippi, Anderson was a student teacher as well.

“I am absolutely thrilled (to receive this award), but I also am very honored to have been chosen among the fine faculty we have at



Dr. Aaron Anderson, History

High School Students Master the Arts

Exceptionally talented students of Clovis High School and the CHS Freshman Academy shine through the 2016 Young Masters Juried Student Art Show. The opening reception and awards took place on Tuesday, May 10, at the Eula Mae Edwards Museum and Gallery, located at Clovis Community College. The show is presented by the Clovis Education Foundation, Clovis Municipal Schools, and Clovis Community College.

The Young Masters art show is highly competitive – of approximately 125 submissions, only 56 entries were selected to be exhibited in this year’s show. The process all starts in the young students’ art classroom. The annual Young Masters Juried Student Art Show showcases the talents of aspiring artists in grades 9-12. Participating students submit their choice of original artwork to their school’s art teacher in late April. The work may range from sculpture to photography and drawing and then is narrowed down to showcase by the Young Masters committee. During the reception, awards are presented to “Best of Show,” 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, six honorable mentions, and a “Fan Favorite,” voted by reception attendees.

The intention of the Young Masters program is to reinvent a strong presence of art in the Clovis and Portales community, and introduce high school students to art exhibitions. “By exposing students to different things in the art world, they can discover their creative side and really see what they are capable of. This show is a great starting point

CCC,” says Anderson. English instructor and colleague Gina Hochhalter affirms Anderson’s ambition and leadership as an educator: “He is a joy to talk with because he is filled with energy and ideas. He is also the first to come forward with questions when an initiative has been presented, which builds a solid foundation for growth and change.” Anderson seeks improvement and opportunity with enthusiasm, and his love of teaching is evident to his students and peers.

The NISOD Excellence Award presented to the four deserving faculty members signifies that these individuals have exceeded the standards of higher education and recognizes their contributions and achievements. Award recipients serve as marshalls for the College’s graduation in May and are also eligible to attend the NISOD conference this summer in Austin. The award is highly esteemed and coveted among community and technical college educators.



Learn more at NISOD.org!



Harrison Rikel, winner of this year’s “Best of Show” award

for all the growing and newly discovered talent in our kids. I enjoy seeing all of the work put into the show and hope the students can have an appreciation for it as well,” affirms Freshman Academy art teacher, J.T. Berry.

Artist and “Best of Show” winner, Harrison Rikel, describes his winning piece as something of a happy accident, which he created at a CCC workshop. “Receiving this award means that my name is out there now, so

that’s really cool,” describes Rikel on being awarded “Best of Show.” Rikel’s piece resembled an intriguing bird-like shape comprised of CD fragments and scissor components.

Clovis Education Foundation Executive Director Jan Cox’s aunt was the first president of the Abilene Education Foundation, and it was from her that Cox developed zeal in bringing the Young Masters program to Clovis. “I’m so proud of the Young Masters program because it encourages and recognizes the artistic talents of our high school artists. It provides one of the few venues that emphasizes the importance of the visual arts at the high school level. Our community is a richer place to live because of programs like the Young Masters,” says Cox.

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich Visits Clovis Community College

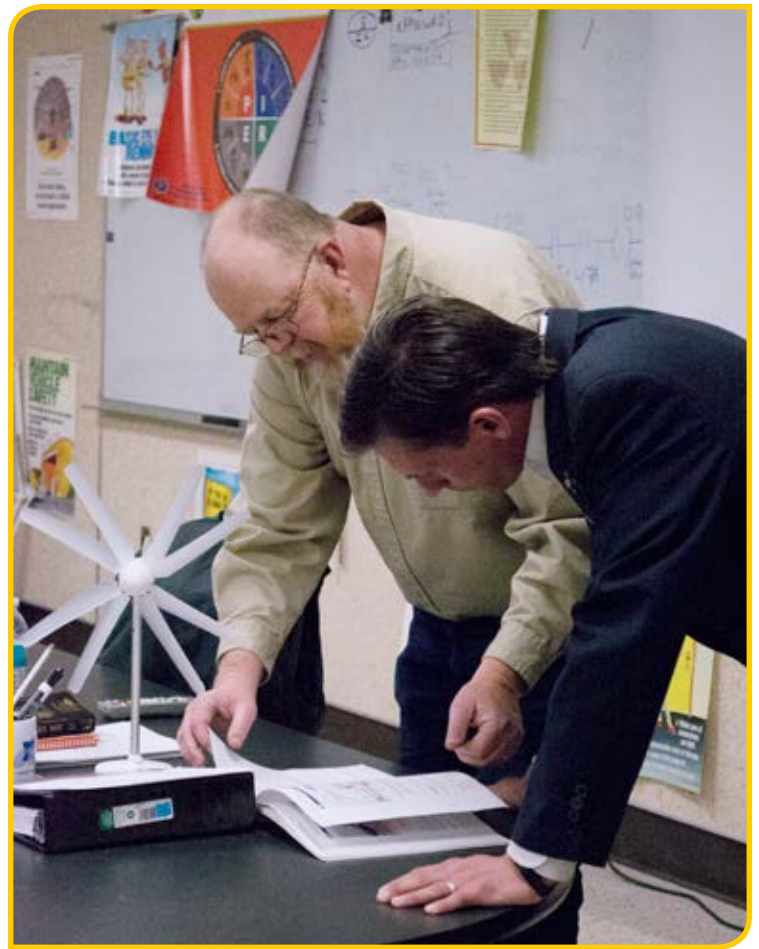
U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (Democrat – N.M.) visited Clovis Community College for the first time on March 24, 2016, to discuss and further explore solutions for college affordability, job creation in a rural area, healthcare programs, and occupational technology training programs.

The visit initiated with an open student forum. Senator Heinrich met with students from various fields of study as well as the College's administrative staff: President, Dr. Becky Rowley; Executive Vice President, Dr. Robin Jones; Vice President for Administration and Government Relations, Tom Drake; Chief Information Officer, Norman Kia; Chief Financial Officer, John Rush; Director of Extended Learning and Division Chair for Occupational Technology, Robin Kuykendall; and Director of Financial Aid, April Chavez.

Senator Heinrich invited students to voice their challenges, inputting which opportunities have benefitted them and which have not. "I thought it was a really great opportunity for our students to be able to really engage with a United States senator," stated Dr. Rowley following the Senator's visit. "He was very open and approachable. I think they liked that he was interested in what their struggles were and what their stories are," adds Rowley. Students in attendance ranged from single mothers to individuals paying out of state college tuition.

During the forum, Senator Heinrich addressed the evolution of the Pell Grant and the benefit of offering it to students during the summer semester, in addition to fall and spring semesters. "Extending the Pell Grant and making students eligible to receive it in the summer is a good first step. I think that's going to be important. One of the things that might also be helpful is if there was more flexibility in finding scholarship money and funding money for military dependents," says Rowley. Being a member of the military affairs committee, Senator Heinrich has experience with matters related to such legislation and has conveyed interest in sustaining benefits and developing further affordable options for military as well.

Senator Heinrich has served in office since 2013 and openly supports raising minimum wage, creating new jobs, and advocating for the use of wind and solar power. Therefore, his visit was an ideal opportunity for the College's industrial technology instructor, Jim Mitchell, to examine together the options and possibilities for maximizing the use of wind power in Eastern New Mexico. "He expressed interest in looking into the possibilities of funding a wind turbine here at the College," says Mitchell. "It seems like he is an advocate of green energy and wants



Senator Heinrich chats with CCC Industrial Technology instructor Jim Mitchell during his campus visit in March. The senator toured the College's various programs and spoke of his interest in green energy technology.

to move forward with it. That is very important, especially with the industrial technology program." The Senator explained that promoting education and creating job opportunities are vital for development in the area.

The tour advanced with visits to Tax Help New Mexico business administration instructors, Melissa Reed and Monica Sanchez; Physical Therapist Assistant program director, Brandi Varnado, and instructor, Robin Broom; Radiologic Technology program director, Melissa Ham; and Nursing program director and division chair for Allied Health, Shawna McGill. "I was really glad that he got to see our facilities, and he could see what we're doing and what we're able to offer students," says Rowley. Senator Heinrich complimented each program's curriculum and job placement rates within the region.

Community involvement in the growth of CCC has thrived since the very beginning and only continues to strengthen over time.



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

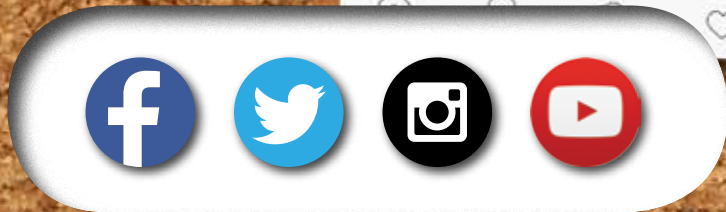
Never miss a beat with what's happening at CCC. We invite you to join us on social media for updates on what's happening on our campus, our involvement in the community, and a look at our programs and classes!

Links to our profiles can be found at: www.Clovis.edu/social





visits CCC's Allied Health Building



Connections

SUMMER 2016



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and so much more!*

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[YouTube.com/ClovisCommCollege](https://www.youtube.com/ClovisCommCollege)

CCC Radiologic Technology students recognized as New Mexico All- State Academic Team Members

Radiologic Technology students, Chekesa Brashear and Adam Jackson, met on February 4, 2016, at the state capitol building in Santa Fe to receive recognition for their academic excellence.

The students were recognized as members of the All-State Academic Team by CCC's very own president, Dr. Becky Rowley. "I got to chat with both students about what they are going to do in the future, and they have big plans," said Rowley. Brashear currently lives in Clovis and is planning to stay in the area for the next couple of years to gain experience locally before branching out to larger cities. Jackson plans to move to Albuquerque and work in the radiologic technology field while continuing to pursue his bachelor's degree. "After I have my bachelor's degree and have gained experience while working in the radiologic technology field, I would like to eventually cross-train into different modalities, such as CT or MRI," explains Jackson.

Brashear and Jackson were 2 of 32 students named team members for New Mexico. The team is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), a two-year national honor society comprised of community colleges. Students who are

members of PTK compete for a membership on the All-State Academic Team, with scholarship opportunities then to follow.

The recognition ceremony took place in Santa Fe during the legislative session and acknowledged

all of the nominees from New Mexico as members of the All-New Mexico Academic Team. Team members were given a tour of the State Capitol, recognized in the House of Representatives and State Senate, and invited to a formal awards ceremony. Additionally, members received medallions and certificates and thereafter advanced to contend for a national scholarship opportunity.

"I was originally on the fence about going through with getting my bachelor degree. With this scholarship opportunity, I feel it's entirely possible and I can really do that while I'm gaining experience in the field of radiologic technology. It's very gratifying that I was able to achieve that," says Chekesa Brashear.



**Chekesa Brashear and Adam
Jackson, 2016 graduates of CCC's
Radiologic Technology program**