



NEWSLETTER

BY KELSEY MESHELL (PR COORDINATOR)

FALL SEMESTER KICKS OFF ON AUGUST 14TH!

Get ready for an inspiring start to the Fall Semester on August 14th! We're thrilled to welcome all faculty and students back to campus for a semester filled with enriching experiences, engaging courses, and a supportive learning community. Let's make this semester a memorable and successful one together!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



FALL SEMESTER BEGINS





Jayda Spillers
Ed.D.

Welcome back to another sensational academic year. The past seven months have flown by since I became Chancellor, and I wanted to take a moment and share with you so many exciting things that are making a positive impact on our college.

In July, we signed an MOU with AEP SWEPCO to provide basic level training to those interested in pursuing a career in the Powerline industry. NLTC will integrate the SWEPCO Level D (base level) curriculum into the NCCER Power Line Worker Curriculum and spread the training out over three phases that will culminate in 7 industry-based credentials and the opportunity to interview for an internship with SWEPCO upon completion.

In addition to this workforce training, we are gaining momentum with our Workforce Training Alliance (WTA) that was designed to work with the three colleges in the north (Delta, Northwest, and BPCC) to scout out and manage workforce needs within our business and industry communities. Currently, we have training commitments set up for Module X, Integrico, ADA Carbon, and Music Mountain that have the potential to generate revenue over the next year. We are also in the process of creating an MOU with the City of Shreveport's Police Department with our Automotive Department to help service their fleet of police vehicles and to provide an internship opportunity for top-performing students completing their last semester of the program. If this is a success, we will expand the MOU to other departments with the City of Shreveport, so stay tuned!

This past legislative session brought a little anxiety as I worked with our representative in Mansfield to ensure the \$3.5 million expansion to the allied health department on the Mansfield campus pushed through. This was a success, and we are currently in the design process for that building.

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the Shreveport campus, stop by and see the facility improvements taking place. As you are all aware, the campus needed some TLC, and the combination of emergency funding from LCTCS, workforce, and grant funds have helped with renovating floors, painting walls, and replacing the ceiling tile in Buildings C and D. In addition, some roof work, much needed AC replacements, window and door replacements in building A, and bathroom renovations have made a marked improvement on the campus facilities. Though our Minden campus does not need much improvement in the looks area, there are some things needing a little attention, so an MOU with the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office was created to allow the work release prisoners to come to the campus on Fridays to provide that much needed attention.

This past year also saw a marked increase in student credential and industry-based certification completion. This generated \$759,000 in Reboot 2.0 funds that is being utilized to reinvest in building our workforce endeavors. The Work ReadyU department added to that increase and was second in the state in credential generation across the colleges. Our Allied Health department also rose to the challenge and completed a record number of IBC's (credit and non-credit) for our college that generated \$104,000 in Health Care Rapid Response dollars.

Accreditation has been a driving force across our campuses these last couple of years, and we are gearing up for our COE visit in September. Thank you to everyone for your diligence in helping to build the self-study and the evidence crates needed to fulfill the visit requirements. In addition, we heard back from the SACSCOC council, and our initial application was received favorably with revisions to be completed by January so it can be reviewed by the SACSCOC board in June. Upon successful review, they will set up our first SACSCOC visit. That is exciting, but we still have much work to do across all departments to complete the revisions.

Another goal I had when becoming chancellor was to establish a foundation for our college. That is a journey, and the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in October. Upon approval, we will be able to move forward with establishing the 501(c)3 status needed to pursue future grants for our college.

Finally, I've been on the speaking circuit and have been doing everything possible to get the message out to our surrounding communities that NLTC is a major player in the technical community college arena. My presentation includes bragging on the talented faculty and staff that we have and how that translates to quality programs. As you all know, reputation is very important to this chancellor, and that can only be maintained by taking pride in what we do and striving to be the best in the fields in which we teach or in the special role in which we serve on our campuses. You are each here for a reason, and I challenge you to think about the role you play in making our college a success. Recruitment, retention, and placement is everyone's responsibility. Our students are our legacy. How will they remember you and how you supported their journey when they leave NLTC? Their memory of you is what will build your program's and the college's reputation—good or bad! Let each write a history of our service at NLTC this next year that we can look back on and be proud of. Strive to be better each day, and I promise you I will continue to do all that I can to make our college a competitor in the educational choices our prospective students have. Let's take this journey together.

Enjoy your year!



OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER:
MELANIE GEOGHAGAN
PRACTICAL NURSING COORDINATOR/INSTRUCTOR
MANSFIELD CAMPUS

Melanie began her nursing career as an RN graduate from Southern University of Shreveport. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Louisiana State University at Alexandria. She has spent a significant portion of her nursing career in the medical-surgical setting. Whether working alongside her colleagues or as a unit manager, Melanie's dedication to guiding and supporting others has always been a guiding principal.

In 2022, Melanie began a new chapter of her career by joining NLTCC as the Practical Nursing Program Coordinator for the Mansfield Campus. Her primary objective is to contribute to the preparation of knowledgeable and skilled nurses who will become the future leaders in their field. Melanie finds immense joy in teaching, sharing her experiences, and providing guidance to students throughout their educational journey, extending her support as they embark on their new careers as Licensed Practical Nurses.



OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER:
KELLY GUILLORY
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
SHREVEPORT CAMPUS

Kelly Guillory has been working for Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) for over 9 years. She began her career at NLTCC as an Accounting Technician and is currently the Director of Student AR. She attended Southwestern Illinois College and received an Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration.

At NLTCC, Kelly has had the pleasure of assisting numerous students from all 3 campuses and finds it rewarding as they accomplish their goals and graduate. She has been blessed to work with a dynamic group of co-workers who share the same vision to assist our students to succeed.

The Guillory family moved to Louisiana in 2012 when her husband, Andrew, was transferred to Barksdale Air Force Base. After being stationed at many different locations, she and her husband decided to settle in Louisiana to be close to family and friends.



**DISTINGUISHED RETIREE:
NINA SMITH
MINDEN CAMPUS**

My name is Nina Smith. It is such an honor to be the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Retiree Award for NLTC. My husband of 15½ years is Greg Smith. We have two sons, Jason Smith, and Kyle Marks. Kyle is married to our daughter-in-law, Sarah. They have three children, Kaden (12), Madeline (10), and Beckett (8). They are all the loves of my life!

My association with NLTC began in 1977 when I was a student in the Office Occupations Department of what was then known as Northwest Louisiana Vocational-Technical School. I earned two diplomas and began working in 1978 for Louisiana State Civil Service in various clerical positions.

I joined the staff of Northwest Tech in 1979 as a Stenographer Clerk III and was later promoted to Account Clerk II. I served at Northwest Tech until 1987 when I left to obtain a Bachelor's Degree at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. I returned to Northwest Tech in 1990 working part-time as Bookstore Manager and teaching night classes. I was hired to teach full-time in the Business Department in 1993, and was named Business Department Head in 2002. I served in that capacity, continuing to teach classes as well, until I retired in February, 2013.

As one can see, my experiences at NLTC involved all aspects of the organization. It comes without saying that many changes took place at the school itself as well as in the vocational-technical education system during my years of service. In the midst of all of those changes, my greatest blessings and rewards came while I was teaching. I found great pleasure and satisfaction in touching the lives of so many students. My hope is that each student with whom I came in contact gained a little knowledge that helped them to be a better person and a more productive member of society. My teaching experiences certainly expanded my horizons and rewarded me far beyond what I could have ever expected. I am extremely blessed to have been a part of NLTC.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the many wonderful people that I worked with for so many years at NLTC and across the State of Louisiana. While I am grateful to be enjoying retirement, it comes with a bit of sadness not being involved with the people that were like extended family for so many years. To everyone with whom I served, you are a blessing to me, and I am grateful that you are part of my life. Since I retired, my husband and I have traveled short distances in our RV and are looking forward to making some longer trips once he retires. Much of the rest of my time is spent caring for my parents and father-in-law, children (when needed), grandchildren, friends, and neighbors. Staying busy has not been a problem!

Thank you so much for presenting me this award.

**OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER:****JONI NELSON**

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION/WORKREADY U

Joni Nelson has been a part of the Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College family for almost ten years. She began her career at NLTC as a Financial Aid Coordinator in 2013 and is currently the Director of WorkReadyU/Adult Education. She is committed to meeting students where they are, addressing their needs and interests, and providing support to them throughout their journey of reaching and exceeding their goals. She received her Master of Arts in Student Affairs in Higher Education in 2019 and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education in Adult Learning and Development from Northwestern State University. Joni and her husband, Shaun, have been married for 22 years and have two daughters and three dogs.

These individuals have been awarded for their outstanding accomplishments. They will represent NLTC at the LCTCS conference in September. Thank you!



TAKING OUR MESSAGE ON THE ROAD: CATCH US ON THE MOVE!



NLTCC STUDENT JOVANNI RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY SCHOLARSHIP



Jovanni Rodriguez, an 18-year-old graduate from Haynesville High, overcame challenges as an English second language learner to become a trailblazer in his family and pursue higher education. As a high school dual enrollment student at NLTCC, he focused on Industrial Maintenance, and will be attending NLTCC full time this Fall. On July 28th, the company awarded Jovanni a well-deserved scholarship in recognition of his hard work. With this support, Jovanni can continue his educational journey and work towards a promising career in the industry known for offering competitive salaries and opportunities for growth. His inspiring journey showcases determination and ambition.

SWEPCO EXPANDS LINEWORKER TALENT PIPELINE WITH LATEST LOUISIANA PARTNERSHIP

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), a unit of American Electric Power, and Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTC) have formed a partnership to create a talent pipeline for lineworkers in Northwest Louisiana. The program will offer a 32-week Lineworker Certification Program with both classroom and hands-on instruction, providing students with the skills needed for employment at SWEPCO. Upon completion, students can interview for lineworker internships at SWEPCO, leading to potential permanent employment. The initiative aims to address the growing demand for lineworkers and prepare the next generation of workers for the field.



The common question that is asked is What is SkillsUSA? When I am asked this, I try to give the most concise answer but a better question to ask is: Why SkillsUSA?

The short answer is that SkillsUSA promotes career and technical education. The long answer is SkillsUSA is a nationally recognized organization that is preparing students to become world class workers and leaders. This is done by use of the SkillsUSA Framework which teaches students personal, workplace and technical skills. Skills that are needed when they enter the workforce and will make them into the model employee and employer. Students can demonstrate their knowledge by participating in competitions. The areas of competition are Leadership Development, Occupationally Related, and lastly Skilled & Technical Sciences. Northwest has programs that fall within each of these competition areas. Why not encourage our students to join an organization that supports our mission and will build on the foundation they started with us.

In April, 10 students represented the college at the SkillsUSA State Conference earning two gold medals in Barbering and Extemporaneous Speaking, one silver medal in Barbering, and one bronze medal in First Aid CPR. In June, the two gold medal winners went on to represent us at the National SkillsUSA Conference where they placed fourth and sixth place in their competitions.

Now we are coming into another membership year. An opportunity for you and your students to become members and gain access to the SkillsUSA resources. An opportunity to enhance your students leadership skills. An opportunity to prepare students for the state competition. An opportunity to bring back to the college more medals. My question for you is when you join SkillsUSA how many of your students will you get to join?



Micheal Fox, Juan Gonzalez, Melanie Geoghagan,
Alena Harris, Kelli Fisher, Lawrence Richardson

Upcoming Important dates:

Membership for the 23-24 year begins on August 1. Sept 27 is Advisor Professional Development in New Orleans. October 20 is the Student Fall Leadership Conference in Lafayette. April 7-9 is the State Leadership and Skills Conference in Alexandria.

MECHELLE HARRIS
BUSINESS INSTRUCTOR



Ms. Harris is an instructor in our Business Office Technology Department. Her primary specialty teaching area is Accounting.

Ms. Harris has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) in Accounting at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, as well as a Master of Business Administration Degree (MBA), and a Masters of Arts in Teaching Degree (MAT), both earned at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston. Ms. Harris is a native of Monroe.

Prior to beginning her teaching career, she established a career in accounting primarily in the healthcare industry where she held various positions including Assistant Controller, Internal Auditor, Financial Analyst, and Accounting Manager.

Ms. Harris began her teaching career at Louisiana Technical College in Shreveport (now known as NLTCC - Shreveport Campus). She taught in the business department and served as department head. Later, she joined the faculty at Bossier Parish Community College teaching as an accounting instructor. Additionally, she taught for several years as a business education teacher in the Bossier Parish School System, most recently, Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning. Ms. Harris is the parent of two children. DJ is a psychologist, working and living in Guatemala, Central America with his wife and two-year-old daughter. Tia is a marketing communications specialist. She lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

About the Business Office Technology Program:

Our program prepares students to acquire the education needed to establish careers in business office administration and management. Students completing our programs may earn the Associates of Applied Science Degree or a Technical Diploma. These programs are offered 100% online. The specialty areas are Accounting Office Specialist, Internet Business Specialist, and Medical Office Specialist. Please contact us for more details. Our faculty and staff are committed and willing to prepare our students with a well-rounded business education which includes training in: Computer Software Applications, Customer Service, Accounting, Management, Medical Office Administration, Other business training.

For more information related to our programs, please contact our campuses in Minden, Shreveport, or Mansfield. You may enroll for these programs at any campus. Our website is www.nltcc.edu.

DANNA SPIRES

DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Danna Spires has spent nearly 20 years in education and is a strong supporter of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for students. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Louisiana State University and a Master's in Leadership and Supervision from Northwestern State University.

Danna began her professional journey as a secondary science teacher for 12 years, where she earned a Supervision of Student Teachers Certification from Louisiana Tech University. She then shifted from teaching to assisting in the Professional Development Department at Caddo Parish Public Schools.

After one year in the Professional Development Department, Danna assumed the role of Career and Technical Education Supervisor for Caddo Parish Public Schools, which she held for six years. In this capacity, she developed the district's CTE strategic plan, managed funding, guided the creation of programs aligned with regional workforce requirements, and supervised the Perkins V Grant. Within this period, Danna introduced the Jump Start Summer program, enabling high school students to earn industry credentials, Carnegie credits, and stipends. She also participated in Louisiana's inaugural Career and Technical Education Leadership Academy and successfully completed the National Institute for School Leadership Executive Development Program.

In February, Danna came to work for Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTC) and is currently the Director of Institutional Advancement, where she manages the Carl Perkins Grant. In this role, she also identifies and utilizes various funding sources, including federal, state, foundation, and local grants. She also plays a key role in setting up the NLTC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that ensures ongoing support for both students and the institution.

Danna firmly believes CTE transforms students' lives. She promotes technical skills, academic excellence, and job readiness for all, ensuring graduates secure well-paying jobs in Northwest Louisiana.

Danna is happily married to Dennis Spires, who works as the assistant principal of instruction at Northwood High School. Her daughter, Dr. Paylor Sachtleben, is currently finishing her general surgery residency at Baylor, Scott and White in Temple, Texas. During her free time, Danna and Dennis travel and experience things they're passionate about, such as PGA golf tournaments, SEC football, and music festivals.

JULY 2023

DR. JAYDA SPILLERS RECEIVES WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

Chancellor Dr. Jayda Spillers receives recognition at the Girl Scouts of Louisiana - Pines to the Gulf's Women of Distinction event on July 27th. Her remarkable advocacy for education in Louisiana was celebrated, highlighting her significant contributions to the community.



COE REAFFIRMATION

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College is applying for reaffirmation of accreditation with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education.

Persons wishing to make comments should either write to the Executive Director of the Commission, Council on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, Georgia 30350, or submit their comments through the Council's website (www.council.org).

NEWSFLASH: MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

KELSEY MESHELL HYPES UP FALL ENROLLMENT ON KTAL'S LOVING LIVING LOCAL SEGMENT



HYPERTHERM ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2023 SPARK SOMETHING GREAT EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

Hypertherm, a manufacturer of industrial cutting systems and software, has announced the recipients of its 2023 Spark Something Great educational grants. Twelve programs were selected from a pool of 104 applications representing public schools, vocational schools, and colleges from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Each of the 12 schools will receive a Hypertherm Powermax45 XP plasma system and in-person training from a Hypertherm industrial cutting expert.

NLTCC MANSFIELD CAMPUS GETS NEW INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FALL 2023!