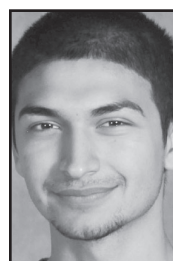


Automotive Technology students reflect on school choice

Editor's note: The following short articles were written as memos for a writing assignment for Leland Williams, technical writing instructor at Northwest Kansas Technical College. This is the first of a series of these short articles split up by program at the college. The memos are from automotive technology.



Highberger



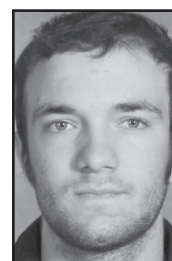
Medrano



Millam



McIntyre



Kreie



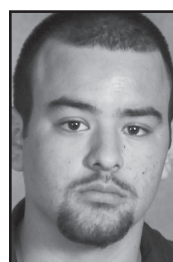
Wright



Henry



Kersley



Romero



Neterval



Cadena



West



Tipton



Scollard

From: Broderick Highberger

It was an easy choice. I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College over any others such as Wyotech because it was close to home and I have always wanted to come here.

When I was in grade school, we came on a visit to the college and that's when I knew this is where I wanted to be. One of the main reasons I came was because it's all hands-on learning so I can learn as I do the job and not just out of the book.

So far, it's been a good choice. I have learned so much in the short time that I have been here. My instructor is one of the best because he always tries to make himself available and he knows how to get the job done right.

From: Cisco Medrano

The main reason I choose to attend NWKTC was to expand my personal knowledge about automotive mechanics. Since I was a child, I have been curious about what makes a car have so much more, technically, it's advancement for the year before.

Since my first day I have learned plenty more than I would have even thought I would. My instructor has a good method of teaching and he simplifies it to where even the most inexperienced could understand. It's been a joy learning new things in the classroom and in the shop. I really like that we can talk about it in the classroom and then have a real life job waiting for our attention. It's a great hands on experience and I believe it's the best way to teach anyone who wants to learn. I'm dedicated to succeed to the best of my abilities to learn whatever I can to accomplish my goals here at NWKTC.

I am surprised to know that our college has been selected as one of the best colleges in the nation to attend, by Tomorrow's Technician magazine. It feels good to know that, because it kind of guarantees that I'm getting my money's worth out of this education. I have decided I will continue to practice Auto Tech throughout my lifetime all thanks to Northwest Kansas Technical College.

From: Cory Millam

The reason I chose Northwest Tech was because it is a good school in a nice small community. But the biggest reason I chose Northwest Tech is because it was in my hometown that I've lived in all my life. I had always heard good things about the school from everyone that has been a student there and also from the people in town.

While looking for a college to attend, I wanted it to have few things such as it had to be in a small town with a good automotive program. I had toured this college many times throughout high school, and the more I toured it, the more I started to like it. Everyone wants to leave the small town and go to a big college in the city, but I didn't. All I wanted

was a good program not far from home and not in a huge city.

I think I made a great decision to attend Northwest Tech. I have definitely bettered myself by coming here. The greatest thing about attending Northwest Tech is it's in my hometown and a lot of my friends have also made the decision to attend here.

From: Dennis McIntyre

I chose to attend the automotive tech program at Northwest Tech because of the good reputation that the school has.

The instructors do a wonderful job teaching with the space and materials that they have. The instructors know the automotive industry very well and have taught me a lot. I feel that with what I have learned so far in the program, I will be able to get a great job as an automotive technician; the automotive technician program is excellent. I would recommend this school to others.

In conclusion, this is a great school to attend. When I graduate I will be able to get a great job in the automotive industry.

From: Devin Kreie

I chose to come to Northwest Kansas Technical College (NWKTC) to study automotive technology for a variety of reasons.

One of my many reasons for choosing NWKTC was because it was far from home. I had a good home life with supportive parents, but I wanted to be more on my own. NWKTC is also ranked within the top twenty technical colleges in the nation. My uncle Dwayne from Colby, Kansas, was the man who recommended the school to me.

After looking into the school a little more, I took a day to come check out the campus with my parents. No one I talked to was pushy or tried to shove it down my throat to come here, which was really a relief. They made me feel like if I came here they would make it worth my while, or if I chose to go somewhere else, they would be ok with that decision. It gave me the sense of having options.

I chose NWKTC over North Central Kansas Technical College (NCKTC) in Beloit, Kansas. Like I said before, I wanted to be on my own away from home, and I didn't really care for the way the shop was set up compared to NWKTC. When I visited NWKTC the atmosphere just had that positive pull to it as Dr. Mills calls it "Maverick Magic!"

To this day I have not regretted coming to this college. Goodland has quickly become my home. I

hope more people will come to this college and experience what I have.

From: Douglas Wright

Northwest Kansas Technical College Automotive Technology is a really strong program that reaches to people in the tri-state area that helps the community with automotive problems. Northwest Tech Automotive Technology supports local economy by spending its wealth throughout the dealerships and local parts dealers and local shops.

We also have a wide variety of students and staff to help with everyone's unique problems and differences. The college is the strongest technical college that I have ever been to.

I chose Northwest Kansas Technical Automotive Technology for the strength and skill of the instructors and also for the background of the school. I've learned a lot just in the few months that I have been here because my instructor, Jim Kennedy, is really smart and knows what he is teaching and does a good job teaching it. We technicians are in high demand across the United States even in the military you can be a mechanic and repair just about any automotive related problems in any vehicle.

The program has so much to offer in everyone's interest. On campus you have three main automotive programs, Automotive, Diesel, and Collision Repair.

From: Drake Henry

I chose this school because I came here in sixth grade and throughout the years I have listened to the other colleges when they came to my home town. I liked the way this school was hands on and the students got to work on the public's vehicles.

Wyotech would cost an arm and a leg just to go there, and they don't even work on real vehicles. They just work on the same thing every year and they are in the class room a lot. At NWKTC you have half a day in the class room then the rest of the day in the shop. This school I way more hands on then a lot of other schools.

Northwest Tech is the best school in many miles, that's why I suggest this school to anyone who is looking for a good school to attend.

From: Dylan Kersley

Northwest Kansas Technical College Automotive Technology is a very strong willed program that reaches out to the local community to help the community with auto-

motive troubles. Northwest Tech Automotive Technology supports the local economy by spending it's wealth throughout the dealerships and local parts dealers. The local shops also help us in return with donations and vehicles for our educational purpose.

We also have a wide variety of students and staff to help with everyone's unique problems and differences. This college in, my opinion, is one of the greater, stronger technical colleges in the state of Kansas.

I have chosen Northwest Kansas Technical College Automotive for the strength and skill of the instructors, also for the background of the school. There is so much to learn in the automotive field and so many opportunities for future technicians in the field. We technicians are in high demand across the United States; even in the military you can be a mechanic and repair anything in the military's branch of land vehicles.

The program has so much to offer in everyone's interest. On campus you have three main automotive programs, Automotive, Diesel, and Collision Repair.

From: Guillermo Romero

The honest reason why I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College NWKTC was because my grandpa's said it was a good school. I had never heard of (NWKTC) before but I took my grandpas word and looked up the college. I soon found out that NWKTC was one of the best technical schools in the country.

I wanted many things from the college I chose. I wanted the college to be in a small town. I also wanted a college that was one of the best in Automotive Technology. Northwest Kansas Technical College has both of those and more.

I was going to keep working instead of further advancing my education, but my grandpa talked me out of it, and now I'm attending NWKTC. I am very happy with the choice I have made. I now realize what a bad decision I was going to make but I am thankful for my grandpa's words of wisdom and for NWKTC being the right college for me.

From: Jeffrey Neterval

Northwest Technical College is a great school because of all the experience from the instructors and the real world settings in the shop. I chose this school because it was a tech school, and I would have a greater chance of landing a better

job when I graduate.

First of all, there's lots of hands-on work, meaning that we gain experience and at the same time we get knowledge about what we are doing. In addition, we also help out community members by fixing their cars for a cheaper price than the normal auto shop.

Second of all, we also have some very good instructors who are very knowledgeable and have a good understanding of how to teach the students what they need to know with the best methods possible.

I feel that Northwest Kansas Technical College is a great school, and when I graduate, I should have a great understanding of what I am working on and how to apply my skills in the field.

From: Jose Caden

I came to college to become one of the best auto technicians. I grew up around cars my whole life. My grandpa used to tell me how he fixed cars in the past. Nowadays, a whole lot more technology is required than he was used to, but in my eyes he is still the best auto technician.

I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College because a cousin of mine came and graduated from here, and now he works for Chevrolet in Colorado Springs. My program from Northwest Tech is excellent. The shop itself is just super clean, not like some shops you will see in other places. The instructor I have this year is Mr. Kennedy. He shows us all about brakes, routers, electrical. The second year instructor, Mr. Goodwin, shows his students about engines and transmissions.

What helps me a lot is having a small class so that the teacher could help everybody in class who needs help. Mostly, we need to search the procedure first as in real life. Mr. Kennedy is showing us how to actually work in a real life shop because we can't just be asking someone for help on everything we don't know.

I'm glad that I chose Northwest Kansas Technical College to continue my education.

From: Kyle West

When I was thinking about going to college for automotive technology, I was considering coming to Northwest Kansas Technical College (NWKTC) because it was close to home.

I wanted to get a higher education so I can get a higher paying job and succeed in my life. I came here when I was in middle school for a visit to see all the different programs and I liked what I saw when I was in the auto tech class. Also my brother

came here when he graduated from high school, and he recommended that I should come here also.

My decision was also helped because my grandpa was a mechanic, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I could only think of coming to Goodland because the rest of my options were too far from home, and I wanted to stay close to home to help my parents.

I hope you enjoyed reading my article, and I hope to reach out to the readers with a positive outlook on the college.

From: Rhonda Hernandez

I am attending Northwest Kansas Technical College. I am in the Auto-Tech course, and I chose this course because I really like to work on cars.

I have chosen this course to better my life and hopefully open my own shop in the future. I have two children, and I want to set a good example for them. This is a very good school for anyone to go to.

They have very good teachers who spend a lot of time with the students. The school has a lot of good opportunities to choose from like being a carpenter, electrician, cosmetologist, and auto body technician. When I am done with my course, I plan to move to Brownsville, Texas, and work at a dealership, then open my own shop.

From: Travis Scollard

While attending Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, KS I found that smaller classes give a more hands-on and individual training in the trade of choice. I am currently in Electrical Technology; my instructor, Rob Loftin, knows exactly what he is talking about and has a good way of showing and explaining what he is trying to instruct.

My degree is very important to me and is a necessity in the electrical trades; without a journeyman's license, it would be hard to get a steady full-time job, and I am grateful I was given the opportunity to be a part of this particular college. As of this first semester, I am getting all of my Gen Ed's out of my way before I hit the field work. The anticipation is killer, and I cannot wait to actually start working on circuitry.

Northwest Tech has been on the top 20 list of top technical schools in the country. I would love to see this school, even though I am not in the automotive field and instead chose to study Electrical Technology, be the "School of the Year" choice for Tomorrow's Technician.

From: Tyler Tipton

When I was thinking about getting an automotive degree, I first chose North Central Kansas Technical College in Hays, KS, but then transferred to Northwest Kansas Technical College because it was closer to home and had a better shop and classroom area.

I chose NWKTC because it's in a great community and surrounding. Here at Northwest Tech, you get more hands-on work, and as a student that helps out a lot because you learn how things work and function.

After I complete my program, I plan to get a job in Automotive Technology as a technician and work in Northwest Kansas.

Local guardsmen say goodbye to families at Sunday ceremony

CEREMONY, from Page 1

months of training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, Miss. The unit has been in Salina during the last two weeks for annual routine training at the Great Plains Regional Training Center.

A deployment ceremony for the unit was staged at 9 a.m. Sunday in Hangar 600 at the Salina Airport Authority, 2720 Arnold.

Joining the soldiers, their commanders and family and friends at the ceremony were members of the American Legion Riders, who honored the soldiers with a flag line, and Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran and Kansas Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, each of whom made remarks to the departing unit.

"I'm joining all of you today to wish these soldiers well," Moran told the several hundred people gathered for the ceremony. "It's amazing to me that throughout the history of the nation, we have individuals willing to raise to the needs of their nation. Too often our political leaders get bogged down in unimportant

ant matters. We all have a responsibility to do good for our country."

Colyer said the National Guard in Kansas has had a great impact on the state in their critical commitment to American security overseas.

"As Kansans, we support every soldier's sacrifice—they provide freedom for us and most of the rest of the world," he said. "There are millions of Kansans, and these are among our very best. On behalf of Gov. Brownback, I want to thank everyone in this unit for your service and to thank all of your families for the sacrifices they have made and will make to support you through the next year."

The 170th was among the first units to be deployed during the first Gulf War more than 20 years ago, said Major General Lee Tafanelli, the Adjutant General of Kansas, and this is their first deployment since then.

"You made us proud then and you make us proud today," he said. "The National Guard is critical to our nation's security. We have strong leadership in this unit, who have worked hard and diligently for this mission. I know you are ready."

Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Maintenance Company, had a direct message to the families and friends of the departing unit.

"I ask that you love them, support them and believe in them," he said. "This is a great company. They will be well-trained in the task ahead of them. They'll make you proud."

The unit will be able to spend a few days with their families before leaving for Mississippi, which Sgt. Cody Breon plans to enjoy to the fullest.

Breon, a Phillipsburg native now living in Abilene, has been a member of the National Guard for seven years. Like Jermarck, Breon also did a tour of duty in Iraq.

"It was a good experience for me to get over there and see it firsthand," he said.

Breon said he's glad to be going to Kuwait with the men and women of the 170th.

"This was my original unit when I joined," he said. "There's a lot of support and camaraderie in the unit. We train well together, and we look out for each other."

Brewster fire contract under review by counties

CONTRACT, from Page 1

\$268,000 worth of equipment housed in Brewster used and maintained by the district. Crumrine said the district takes in about \$7,000 a year from a 1.418-mill property-tax levy, and pays Sherman County \$5,000 a year to help provide equipment and protection to people in the district. The \$5,000 payment falls short of Sherman County's operating costs for the district, he said, adding that it costs about \$9,500 a year for fuel, salaries and training.

Sherman County wants the district to take over operations and buy the equipment from the county, the men said. Instead of the district paying \$5,000, Sherman would pay the district \$10,000 a year to operate and provide protection. The city provides the building.

"I don't know if we can generate enough money to own the equipment, run it appropriately and update it, too," Crumrine said. "They (Sherman County) do a phenomenal job, and I don't think people realize that they've been getting by on a song for the last 20 years."

Sherman County has a mill levy of 4.552 mills that covers the entire county, which takes in much more than the district could.

"Instead of giving them \$5,000 a year, we ought to be giving them more like \$15,000."

Commissioner Ken Christiansen asked if a different approach would solve the problem.

"We need to ensure people are protected on the west side," he said, "and it seems like it has been a good fit of collaboration. So, what if we proposed to leave the agreement exactly as it is but up the lease rate to \$15,000 a year. Do you think they'd go for that?"

Jamison said he and Crumrine would propose the idea to the their board to see how the members feel about it before reporting back to the commissioners.

"I applaud you guys for providing service and for finding a creative way to cooperate with other agencies to get the job done in the best and most affordable way possible," said Commissioner Paul Steele. "And, it's up to you to negotiate and do your best to get a fair deal."