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**NSCC FALL Commencement Ceremony AWARDS 106 DEGREES/CERTIFICATES**

*ARCHBOLD, OHIO –* Northwest State Community College celebrated the December 2022 graduating class at their fall ceremony last evening, held as an in-person ceremony in the Voinovich Auditorium. The ceremony recognized the awarding of 106 degrees and/or certificates to 103 students from the divisions of Arts & Sciences; Business & Public Services; Nursing and Allied Health; and Science, Technology, Engineering Technology & Math (STEM) and Industrial Technologies.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez announced the President’s Outstanding Student: Eric Shininger. Shininger graduates with an Associate Degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering, after previously completing an Associate Degree in Network and Cyber Security one year after his high school graduation. Lana Snider, NSCC Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs followed Dr. Hernandez, and provided a statistical snapshot of the graduating class. Snider noted that 83% of the graduating class lives in the College’s six-county service area (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert and Williams counties), the average age of the graduates is 27, and the grade point average of the class is 3.25.

**BREAKOUT OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

Of the 106 awards, 83 were associate degrees and 23 were certificates. Awards by academic division included Arts & Sciences (9), Business & Public Services (25), STEM & Industrial Technologies (46) and Nursing & Allied Health (26).

**STUDENT SPEAKER: NATALIE MEYER**

The student speaker for this year’s commencement ceremony was Natalie Meyer of Hamler. Meyer began taking College Credit Plus classes at NSCC in 2019 while attending Patrick Henry High School. Meyer received a Presidential and Francis O. Fackler Scholarships, and is President of the NSCC Alpha Delta Nu Chapter (Nursing honor society). “I can proudly say that I truly feel that I am set up for success because of NSCC. I loved to volunteer and help others before NSCC, now I am even more eager to serve my community. Northwest State allowed me to not only continue the activities that I already do in the community but inspired and pushed me to want to do even more,” Meyer remarked.

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: SHIRLEY WAGNER**

The keynote speaker for this year’s commencement ceremony was Shirley Wagner, Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer in the State of Ohio (and 2012 Northwest State alum). In 2019, Wagner turned her attention to child advocacy, and she volunteers her time as a mentor and as a promoter of children’s issues, including speaking before the Ohio House of Representatives to encourage adoption and foster care reform. “I never expected for my education to lead me to where I am today. I stand here before you as a living, breathing testimony of what you can do armed with a quality education received here combined with a resolution to succeed,” Wagner said in her address to the students.

**EMERITUS STATUS HONOREE RECOGNIZED**

The College also recognized one individual that was awarded Emeritus status, an honorary title awarded for distinguished service to the academic community. The lone recipient was Pam Donaldson, who was awarded Emeritus Status posthumously.

Donaldson began teaching at NSCC in 1994, and was instrumental in building and providing professional guidelines for learners entering the Human Services program. Donaldson also served as an instructor for Sociology, Cultural Diversity, and Abnormal Psychology. In addition to her instructor role, she served as a leader in the State of Ohio’s curriculum and transfer initiatives, and served as faculty representative to the NSCC Education Association.

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*Northwest State Community College is an accredited two-year, state-assisted institution of higher education that has served northwest Ohio since 1969. Northwest State is committed to providing a quality, affordable education with personal attention and small class sizes. The College offers associate degrees with numerous transfer options, short-term certificate programs, and workforce training programs designed to meet the needs of local businesses and industries. For more information, visit NorthwestState.edu or call 419.267.5511.*

***Photography note: a Media-Only gallery is available at***

[*https://northweststate.smugmug.com/20221219-Fall-Commencement-MEDIA/*](https://northweststate.smugmug.com/20221219-Fall-Commencement-MEDIA/)