

Education

Lifelong learning is a community priority for the cities of Scottsbluff, Gering and Terrytown. Formal educational opportunities begin with a variety of preschool programs in the area and culminate with doctoral programs offered by distance learning.

Public education is provided by seven elementary schools, a middle school (Scottsbluff), a junior high (Gering) and two high schools. Both Scottsbluff (www.sbps.net) and Gering (www.geringschools.net) school districts are AA accredited by the North

Central Accreditation Association. Strong college preparatory classes combined with relevant technical programs are the foundation for school curricula.

Extracurricular activities abound in these schools with a plethora of music and arts programs, a variety of student organizations and strong athletic programs. Scottsbluff and Gering engage in a friendly, yet intense, rivalry in many arts and athletic venues.

The **Valley Alternative Learning and Transitioning School (VALTS)** is an interlocal high school program for at-risk students. Primary education with gifted programs, vocational courses and service to students with disabilities assures that a full array of needs is met.

Private schools, like **Community Christian School (CCS)**, (www.ccsneb.com), is an interdenomi-



national school that provides an excellent educational option to the parents of the Platte Valley. CCS started in 1988 with 26 students; we now enroll over 200 students, Pre-School thru eighth grade.

The school is committed to a Christian Philosophy of education which includes hiring Christian teachers, using Christian curriculum, daily Bible classes and integrating Christian character across the curriculum. CCS is approved under Rule 14 of the State Department of Education, therefore, it teaches all the core subjects of a typical school. All teachers are certified by the State of Nebraska. Other activities include band, sports (football, volleyball, and boys and girls basketball and track,) choir, speech and math competition.

Educational Service Unit #13 (ESU, www.esu13.org) has partnered with 15 Panhandle schools districts to establish a distance learning system. Each school is connected to the pod with interactive video-conferencing equipment. This equipment delivers and receives high school courses as well as professional development programs for educators.

Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC, www.wncc.net) is located in northeast Scottsbluff, with Centers in Alliance and Sidney. This community college serves almost 2,000 full-time and over 6,000 credit part-time students. WNCC provides 47 Associate Degree programs that can be used as transfer programs to help students pursue additional degrees. In addition, 18 different occupational degrees



Community Christian School

or certification programs are offered. WNCC provides distance learning degree programs through its Distance Learning System and through web-based delivery to off-site learners.

The **Harms Advanced Technology Center (HATC)** provides technical programs customized to support business and industry workforce training, as well as specific offerings including A+, Novell and CISCO certification programs. Community education programs provide a variety of interesting experiences for noncredit learners.

Chadron State College (CSC) (www.csc.edu) is located 100 miles north of Scottsbluff but provides degree programs to learners across the region. In addition to extensive on-campus offerings, convenient undergraduate and graduate distance learning programs are offered in Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney and North Platte. Distance learning courses are offered by interactive television, correspondence, and online.

Students enrolled in the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) through CSC are automatically pre-admitted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center following completion of their prerequisites. This program provides needed health care professionals for the Panhandle region.

Located on the northwest corner of Scottsbluff is the **University of Nebraska Panhandle Research & Extension Center** (www.panhandle.unl.edu). The UNL Panhandle Research & Extension Center staff consists of research specialists conducting scientific studies in agricultural and natural resources. Research information is shared with ag producers, agribusiness and consultants through crop management workshops, field days and other venues designed to address the complex issues of modern agricultural production.

Annually, over 50 students graduate from the **University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing** (www.unmc.edu/nursing/) which is housed at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center.



Degree programs include Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing and preparation for Nurse Practitioner certification. Over 80% of nursing graduates find employment in the immediate region.

Summit Christian College (SCC) (www.summitcc.net) is located on 2025 21st Street in Gering. SCC has been offering excellence in higher Christian education since 1951. SCC educates men and women for Christian leadership and offers an Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree in ministry for traditional students.



Summit also offers an adult degree completion program for nontraditional students who wish to finish a Bachelor's degree in less than two years with majors in Management and Ethics and in Leadership and Ministry.

Fullen's School of Hair Design is located in downtown Scottsbluff. This is a complete school of cosmetology. They offer a complete curriculum with a hands-on approach in addition to lectures and demonstrations.

It is clear that residents can participate in a rich milieu of educational opportunities to enhance their knowledge base, career opportunities and technical skills.

St. Agnes School is a Catholic School committed to providing students an opportunity for academic excellence in the Catholic tradition through a partnership with parents and the parish community. As a Catholic faith-centered community, they commit to help students develop their potential as conscious and responsible leaders, empowering them to live the Gospel values of love, peace, respect, and service in their every day lives.

