

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Arnold Students Connecting to Careers

By Diana Coleman
1st in a series

The CAPABLE program of Custer County is providing unique and valuable opportunities to the high school students in Custer County, including Arnold High School, through internships. One of the students that is participating in this real-world experience is senior Lydia Connell.

Lydia is doing her internship with Callaway District Hospital and Medical Clinics. She is interning with nearly all the providers there.

“I’ve always been fascinated by anatomy and chemistry and drawn to pursuing a career in the medical field since I was young, so I wanted to be around it as much as I could to be sure that is what I wanted to pursue after

high school,” she said.

Lydia began her internship in August of 2018 and usually goes to one of the facilities twice a week. She loves how convenient it is, as she works as a CNA at the Good Life Center in Callaway. She can intern, and then head straight to work.

Through her internship, she has been exposed to a variety of diagnoses and procedures. As stated previously, Lydia has been interested in medicine for quite a while. Being able to shadow and now intern in Callaway has solidified her decision to attend medical school. She is continually learning every time she interns.

“My mentors are amazing teachers and have taught me numerous things, from how to interpret EKGs to dosing and prescribing medications,” she said.

Her favorite things are how kind and welcoming everyone was and continues to be towards her. Not only the physicians, but also the nurses and the rest of the staff. They have been integral in building her knowledge about the entire field of health care.

Lydia wouldn’t change a thing about the internship program.

“Everyone involved in setting up my internship has been accommodating and more than happy to answer my questions,” she said.

She would highly encourage the upcoming classes to apply for internships.

“It gives a real view of your future career and has helped me decide my answer to the dreaded question, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’”



Courtesy photo

Arnold senior Lydia Connell (left) with Dr. Chelsea Williams, is currently doing an internship at Callaway Hospital through the Custer CAPABLE program.

reVISION meeting focuses on workforce needs

By Janet Larreau

Arnold Public Schools is on the right path to prepare its students for the workforce and what is needed in this area, through what is called reVISION.

At a meeting held on January 7, a group made up of business members and leaders, school board members, career education teachers, school administration, and a few members from other school districts interested in the process met at the Arnold Community Center for a community engagement meeting.

reVISION is a year-long process that provides Nebraska schools with the opportunity to analyze and transform their current education systems in order to improve their ability to educate a qualified workforce that meets industry needs within an ever-changing economy. Working in collaboration with postsecondary education and regional workforce/economic development leaders, the reVISION process links career educators, school administrators, school counselors and industry professionals.

APS is in the initial phase of the reVISION process, which means they received initial funding to do a critical analysis of their current career education programming by reviewing their current offerings, and if they are meeting current and projected workforce needs for their area. This data is collected by working with the Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska De-

partment of Labor, Nebraska Economic Development, area business and industry leaders, and many more. Once APS has completed the initial year and phase, it will develop an action plan to grow its career education system, along with a grant fund request to assist in the growth and development.

Custer CAPABLE Executive Director Jenny Fox, who presented the PowerPoint program, said Arnold and Sargent have applied for and received the reVISION grant this year. She is assisting in the process in both communities as they see fit.

“The goal of this meeting was community input into what the workforce needs and qualifications are needed in the Arnold Schools area, so who better to ask than the area business leaders?” said Fox.

Suggestions included inviting business owners into school to discuss the skills they need their employees to have, adding some instruction in H3 areas like truck driving and mechanics if possible, expanding and/or requiring internships, and integrating career education related to all subjects into coursework. Some were concerned about the ability of young people today to engage in face to face conversation, communicate without technology, and to make eye contact.

“During the meeting we shared how the process of reVISION works, as it is a grant process that is highly developed and requires a lot of input to create a focused change,” said Fox.

Also discussed was the NDOL data that

was shared with APS leaders at the first meeting which included High Wage, High Demand, and High Skill jobs that are projected in the area over the next five years, as well as why the county is struggling with workforce needs today.

“The number one cause of this is lack of workforce,” said Fox. “Our unemployment rate is very low, but we also discussed the other two major points is that our workforce lacks experience overall as well as specialized skills. Our technical skilled labor force is a very narrow workforce right now, and we need to engage and grow it to meet our consumer needs.”

The group also discussed workforce skill deficiencies and how to address these needs. They include leadership skills, written communication skills,

and critical thinking/problem solving skills. The group then focused on the specific needs in career education at APS. The first discussion item was how to teach career readiness standards and to measure mastery. The second discussion item was using the Career Education Model Wheel and what courses should APS be offering to grow our future workforce. The final discussion item was what strategies should APS use to prepare students for careers in the future economy.

Fox said the information gathered from the meeting will be used to create an Action Plan Grant for APS schools. This action plan will be submitted to NDE for approval and further grant funding to transition the program to what is written in the plan.

District Above State Average in Testing

During the regular Arnold School Board meeting, Principal Morgan reported that the Nebraska Department of Education released the new education profile for each district on December 21. The Arnold School District received an overall AQuESTT classification of “Great”. The elementary and high school received separate ratings of “Great”, while middle school rating was “Good”.

On December 31, the Nebraska Department of Education released the Arnold Public School’s latest NSCAS Performance. As a district, APS was 70% proficient in English Language Arts, 64% proficient in Math, and 73% proficient in Science. These district numbers were all above the state average.

“I am proud of the efforts of our students and teachers. We definitely have room to grow in the future, but we are in a great position. Our hard work is paying off,” said Superintendent Dr. Dawn Lewis.

Peter Sarpy’s Performance Inspires New Geniuses

By Cecilia Wonch

On January 8, 2019, Nebraska history came alive when Arnold Public School was introduced to Peter A. Sarpy, a French American who had witnessed and helped in the development of the state. Darrel Draper played the great Peter A. Sarpy, so he could carry on Sarpy’s legacy.

Peter A. Sarpy was a man of great success, a fur trader and a steamboat owner on the Mississippi River. While entertaining the students, integrated both teens and elementary students as props for his stories. He explained how and why the United States gained the Louisiana Territory from the French, how much fur really cost back then, and shared pioneer stories about crossing the river on his own steamboat!

Sarpy witnessed the pioneers heading on the Oregon Trail, the Mormons, and even the California Gold Rush. He also led the pioneers to safer trails because not all lands are like they appeared, especially in Nebraska.

Keeping the crowd interested with his stories, Darrel Draper did an amazing job representing Peter A. Sarpy.

Questions were soon brought out of the crowd, asking things like, “How much money did you make?” The response was, “Sarpy had \$93,000, when

he died, which would be in today’s money more than \$4,000,000,000.”

Darrel Draper later answered a few of his own questions out of character. After a listener asked what his favorite thing is while playing in character as Peter A. Sarpy, Draper answered, “To see the looks on people’s faces when they heard something they never heard before!”

Growing up in Nebraska, Draper really knew a lot about Nebraska’s past from hearing people telling stories, and he was dedicated to learn more.

Peter A. Sarpy stated, “Big problem comes with big genius!” several times throughout his performance.

The fourth graders performed their own Nebraska biography essays on January 11. Prior to Peter Sarpy’s performance, they already had their papers completed on their famous Nebraskan people, put on their costumes and performed just like Darrel Draper.

Mrs. Crow stated, “I feel that dressing up like their hall of fame member and presenting their essay about them is going to help them remember it and appreciate Nebraska history more.”

The Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment funded Darrel Draper’s visit as Peter Sarpy. Draper donated the portion that wasn’t covered by the grant.



Photo/Cecilia Wonch

Historical re-enactor Darrel Draper, playing Peter Sarpy, demonstrates Spain and Napoleon with the help of Jade Hunt and Morgan Luera.