

Education

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

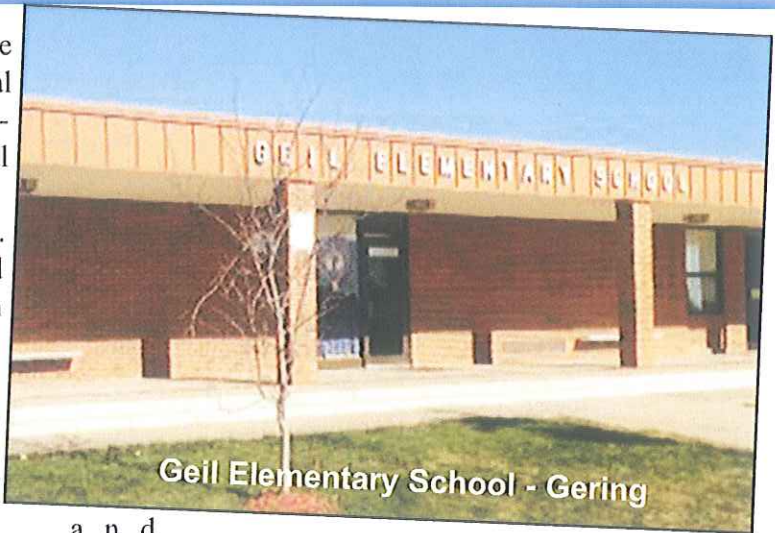
Both Scottsbluff (www.sbps.net) and Gering (www.geringschools.net) school districts are AA accredited by the North Central Accreditation Association. Both schools have Career Academies available for students. Strong college preparatory classes combined with relevant technical programs are the foundation 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.

VALTS is an acronym for **Valley Alternative Learning Transitioning School**. Our alternative school is one which offers the same basic curriculum as the traditional school but uses alternative delivery methods. Just as some of us learn best visually, and others auditory or kinesthetically; student's unique characteristics cause them to learn best in situations which support their individual needs. The following effective characteristics of **VALTS** are: Small size, supportive environment, individual educational planning, well defined standards and rules, accountability and constant evaluation, and a school environment which is safe, disciplined and drug free.

Private schools, like **Community Christian School (CCS, www.ccsneb.com)**, is an interdenominational 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 150 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 been providing services to area school districts for over 50 years. **ESU #13** has its main offices at 4215 Avenue I in Scottsbluff with satellite offices located in Sidney and Chadron. **ESU #13** provides a variety of services to all 21 school districts in the Panhandle including special education support, technology and internet support, instructional materials and coop purchasing, and training programs for teachers and students. **ESU13** now facilitates Head Start/Early Head Start programs .

For 90 years, **Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC, www.wncc.edu)**, has been serving the Nebraska Panhandle by offering quality instruction at an affordable price. **WNCC** is a comprehensive community college committed to fulfilling its mission of assuring learning opportunities for all – enriching lives, invigorating communities, and creating futures. With campus locations in Alliance, Scottsbluff, and Sidney, as well as more than 25 training locations throughout its 12 ½ county service area, **WNCC** provides marketable degrees, diplomas, or certificates – on campus or online.

The Scottsbluff Campus serves as the home for many of the College's programs and services, including Adult Education, Athletics, Business & Community Education, Cougar Den & Bookstore, Learning Resource Center, Military & Veterans Affairs, TRIO Programs, and the **WNCC** Foundation & Alumni Office. The campus is also home to two residence halls and the John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center.

Business & Community Education at WNCC formerly the **Harms Advanced Technology Center** was established to develop skills for the workplace, individuals, and employers through education with no boundaries in response to community and economic needs. We are devoted to progressive thinking, quality instruction, public service, and to promoting the success of a diverse community. Our vision is to be the premiere customer-driven, technology-based workforce skills improvement resource in our region. This division focuses on excellence and innovation in training a world-class workforce for rural America. Courses and services are offered with flexibility of scheduling and delivery – just enough, just in time, and just for you!

Bellevue University is conveniently located on the WNCC Campus or 100% online. We offer more than 40 career-relevant bachelor's degrees and 18 master's degrees that can help you reach your personal and professional goals.

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, and Sidney. Distance learning courses are offered by interactive television, correspondence, and online.

Students enrolled in the Rural Health Opportunities Program 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.

The **University of Nebraska Panhandle Research & Extension Center (PREC)**, www.panhandle.unl.edu is located on the northwest corner of Scottsbluff. The PREC

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.

Scottsbluff is home to **University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing (UNMC-CON)** www.unmc.edu/nursing/. It is one of the 5 campuses in the state. We offer the generic BSN program in 4 semesters as well a year long accelerated second degree program. Students can also obtain a master's or doctorate through our distance education program.

Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center (NP – AHEC) collaborates to recruit, enhance, develop, and maintain the regional health opportunities in Western Nebraska. Science airs, shadowing, interactive presentation and summer camps are activities available for youth. Continuing education (CE) for health professionals and events with current residents are other activities that “Connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health”.

Summit Christian College (SCC), www.summitcc.net, 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.

St. Agnes Catholic School is committed to providing students an opportunity for academic excellence in the Catholic tradition through a partnership with parents and the parish community. There are also a variety of home-schooling options available in our communities.

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



Bluffs Middle School