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**NSCC RECOGNIZES AWARD OF MERIT AND DISTINGUISHED FACULTY MEMBERS AT LUNCHEON CEREMONY**

*Archbold, Ohio* – Northwest State Community College recently recognized seventeen Award of Merit recipients. For over 25 years, Northwest State has recognized graduates within the degree programs for their academic achievements. Award of Merit recipients are chosen by faculty from the respective divisions based on leadership involvement, special talents or abilities in their academic field, and significant contributions to Northwest State.

Following an open by Dr. Lana Snider, NSCC Vice President for Academics, and a welcome by NSCC Executive Vice President Dr. Albert Lewis, Jr., the recipients were brought to the stage for recognition of their achievements.

**RECOGNIZING STUDENTS, RECOGNIZING FACULTY**

In addition to recognizing the Award of Merit student recipients, the College also nominated eight faculty for Distinguished Faculty status during the ceremony. The award recognizes exemplified excellence in teaching. The list of honorees is as follows:

**Award of Merit recipients:**

--Arts & Sciences division: Kyla Bressler (Napoleon), Jayne Durham (Malinta), Jake Stephens (Defiance), Grace Torres (Defiance)

--Business & Public Services division: Greg Dobson (Defiance), Rheya Drown (Defiance), Megan Hannigan (Risingsun), Luke Leatherman (Liberty Center), Brianne Young (Montpelier)

--Nursing & Allied Health division: Allison Boles (Napoleon), Sarah Breece (Hamler), Kali Heffelfinger (Hicksville), Bethany Klopfenstein (Paulding)

--STEM & Industrial Technologies division: Bradon Beck (Archbold), Chris Dukeshire (Delta), Garrett Sidle (Holgate), Ash Walz (Montpelier)

**Distinguished Faculty nominees:**

--Arts & Sciences division: Thelma Esterline\*, Amy Drees

--Business & Public Services division: Anthony Menna\*, Heather Galbraith

--Nursing & Allied Health division: Heather Fisher\*, Linette Will

--STEM & Industrial Technologies division: Dianne Mott\*, Josh Verhoff

*An asterisk above denotes part-time faculty member*

Linette Will was named the full-time Distinguished Faculty Award recipient, and Anthony Menna received the part-time Distinguished Faculty Award. The College congratulates the students and faculty recognized in the ceremony.

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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.*

Media photo gallery is available at the link below. Note: Not all recipients and nominees were available for photography.

**https://northweststate.smugmug.com/20240429-Award-of-Merit-and-Distinguished-Faculty-MEDIA**