



### **Trained and ready to respond**

Fred Benzel headed to St. Francis Medical Center last May intending to support the friends of a Meadow Grove firefighter who had collapsed at a Grand Island restaurant. He ended up helping save Adam Wright's life.

Benzel, 27, and fellow firefighter Mark Bonser, both members of the Nebraska Serious Injury and Line of Duty Death Response Team, moved between





He attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln and received an associate's degree in Fire Protection Technology. He worked at MDS Harris Laboratory in Lincoln, the Lancaster County Community Blood Bank and was a medic with Midwest Medical Transport in Lincoln while testing to be a firefighter/paramedic. He also went through a two-year program with time in the classroom, hospital and riding in an ambulance to become a paramedic, the highest ranking in the emergency medical services field. The course required 800 to 900 hours of ride time and 500 to 600 hours of hospital time, he said.

He tested for four or five years, but the field was very competitive. He got discouraged and quit testing for a while before being offered a job in Grand Island in December 2006.

For the first six to eight weeks on the job, he learned firefighting techniques and the department's policies and procedures. He then started working the department's shifts of 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off, but was on probation for six months to a year. "It's the greatest job around," he said. "There's







“There are a lot of things you learn that you don’t get on the job,” Sarber said. “There’s different ways of doing things. Radiology isn’t an exact science because each patient is different. The instructors demonstrated more than one way to image a patient. The program wasn’t overwhelming, but it was challenging.”

Sarber said Buch, former co-chair and distance learning coordinator Bev Harvey, and instructors Brandon Holt and Judy Mieth inspired her to get through the program. She graduated in June 2008.

“I learned so much more going through the program,” Sarber said. “There’s a huge knowledge base you gain going to school as opposed to work. And I really liked my instructors. They were awesome.”

In February 2009, Sarber and her fellow employees will begin work in the new Kiowa County Memorial Hospital. Construction on the new facility began in early 2009. It’s a far cry from the somewhat primitive facility the hospital was forced to use in the aftermath of the tornado.

The initial temporary hospital consisted of nine tents and opened just two weeks after the tornado. By December 2008, patient services and employee staff were moved into temporary modular units, and five tents were taken down. Sarber spent many nights in the tents.

“We had to be staffed 24/7 since there were no hotels and no house,” she said. “You got your sleeping bag and slept in the tent. It was fun. It was an adventure. But hope!





“I always thought I would go to Southeast,” said Stubbendick, a 2000 graduate of Waverly High School. “My sisters (Angie Rosendale-Cech and Tami Roesler) both went to Southeast.”

Interested in both the medical field and computers, Stubbendick combined the two areas by taking SCC’s Office Technology program with a Medical Office focus. After taking full-time hours at SCC her first quarter, she went part-time the rest of the way, all the while working in the drive-thru at the McDonald’s at 27<sup>th</sup> and Superior.

“The staff at SCC was very accommodating,” Stubbendick said. “In some computer







## **NPPD presents scholarships at SCC**

SCC's scholarship fund received a boost when members of Nebraska Public Power District's board presented checks to SCC campus directors. Gary Thompson and Ken Kunze presented checks for \$3,737 each to SCC's three campus directors during the college's board of governors meeting in Lincoln. Bob Morgan, director of distance learning/Beatrice Campus director; Jeanette Volker, vice president for student services/Lincoln Campus director; and Lyle Neal, vice president for





1984: “I was several years out of high school when I realized I needed to pursue a career and not just another unskilled job. The best decision I ever made was taking evening classes at SCC. It was hard work as I also worked full-time during the days. I am currently employed as an Electronics Technician for Kohlman Systems Research, a small company that performs flight testing all over the world. SCC helped me get this job twenty-five years ago!”

Randy Myers, Electronic Technology  
SCC-Lincoln

2005: “I am very happy with my Accountant position with the BryanLGH Heart Institute and would not have qualified for this job without SCC and the wonderful faculty. Susan Pallas was an exceptional instructor! Thanks SCC.”

Samantha Scott, Business Administration  
SCC-Lincoln

2000: “As a chef, you always remember your roots! SCC planted the seed that enabled me to become not only a chef, but a restaurateur in the hospitality industry. I currently work as an Executive Sous Chef at two locations, scape and crepes: etc, within the Maryland Plaza Restaurants in St. Louis, Mo. You can visit the sites at [scapestl.com](http://scapestl.com). The SCC instructors are dedicated to the development of their students from day one.”

Justin Wacker, Food Service/Hospitality  
SCC-Lincoln

