



WILDCAT ADVANTAGE

NDSCS
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North Dakota State College of Science Academic Services Center (ASC)

Meet Charles Parsons Head Football Coach, Instructor at NDSCS

Charles "Chuck" Parsons hails from Georgetown, South Carolina. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Southwest Minnesota State in Marshall, Minnesota, and his Master's degree in College Teaching, Health and Physical Education, from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Joining the NDSCS staff in July 2003, he has served as the head football coach for the past two-and-a-half years.



Charles Parsons, Head Football Coach

Coach Parsons believes that it is important to focus on the "student" part of student athletes. Academics are very important to him and his staff, and this is stressed to his players. He encourages students to maintain a good balance between football and academics. If his athletes are doing well academically, they bring less stress with them to the football field. He lets his athletes know that the first thing recruiters look at when visiting campus is student transcripts.

Coach Parsons maintains that the Academic Services Center (ASC) is an invaluable asset for the football staff. With limited staff, the coaches depend heavily on the ASC to provide study table assistance, which includes tutoring, building study habits and teaching time management skills. Better study habits lead to success in the classroom. NDSCS's athletic department utilizes the ASC as a recruiting tool when scouting for players.

At the beginning of every semester, Coach Parsons notifies faculty and staff as to what his expectations are of his players. He wants his football players to be identified so that he can be contacted should a situation arise where his assistance is needed. He also indicates that having campus support is vital to student success. Coach Parsons and his staff truly want these student athletes to be successful academically, graduate with a degree, and have success in life, in addition to having success on the football field.

"Coach Parsons is the kind of coach that you want to work hard for, both on and off the field."... Boen Andersen, Freshman Offensive Guard, #57

"When working with Coach P, you have got to learn to block out the pain and keep pushing yourself no matter what." Derek Earls, Freshman Linebacker, #40

Did you know . . . that Coach Parsons' grandfather, Charles Trapp, attended the North Dakota State School of Science in the 1940's and graduated with a two year Radio Trade degree on June 4, 1947? His grandfather also was selected as Alumnus of the Year in 1971!

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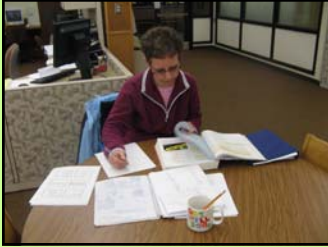
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ASC Director's Note...



One priority of NDSCS is to ensure academic growth leading toward successful graduation and subsequent employment. It is NDSCS's desire not only to admit all students, but also to give all students the opportunity to achieve their goals.

When the Learning Skills Center first opened in 1972 (now the Academic Services Center-ASC), students utilized it for additional help with their studies and enrolled in its courses on a voluntary basis. The numbers of students seeking assistance at the ASC has increased steadily. Students who sought help reported greater academic success than their peers who may also have needed assistance but chose not to use the services available to them. For example, 680 students enrolled in recommended ASC courses in reading, math, and writing in 2003-2004, of which 58.1% returned to NDSCS the following year. Such promising results suggested that if we required students to take developmental courses prior to enrolling in college level courses, the success rate could increase significantly.



ASC Director, Maria Kaduc

In 2004, recommended course placement in developmental courses changed to *required* course placement in the math, reading, and writing areas. Today, the ASC offers five required courses to help students develop better comprehension, critical thinking, writing skills, and math proficiencies. A COMPASS test is used to place students in the appropriate developmental courses. Following required course placement, retention and student success have continued to grow. Last academic year, retention of students enrolled in our courses from fall semester to spring semester was 89 percent, and 68 percent returned to NDSCS in the fall of 2008! Many of the students who did not return were enrolled in one-year programs.

Not only are students taking developmental courses staying in school, but they are experiencing success in their college course work. Of students enrolled in ASC courses in reading and/or writing, 86 percent passed their first English course, and 79 percent earned a grade of C or better. Math students also experienced great success. After successfully completing the ASC math coursework, 76 percent of students passed their higher level math course, with 71 percent earning at least a C. The overall GPA of students who completed ASC courses was 2.44 (4.00 scale).

We believe that all students deserve a chance to pursue their goals through higher education. It is our obligation to make sure they have the tools they need to be successful in college and become valuable members of society.



The Academic Services Center is committed to the philosophy that everyone should have the opportunity to learn and is dedicated to helping students develop academic abilities and discover personal strengths.

NDSCS Adult and Non-Traditional Student Support Group

Many displaced workers and other adults are choosing to return to college for retraining, an additional degree or a change in occupation. Most find the first month or two very stressful because they are dealing with many issues such as keeping up with academics, affording the cost of college, adjusting to multiple schedules with classes, children's schedules, home life and wondering if they will find other people to relate to in college.



The Academic Services Center at North Dakota State College of Science holds weekly support group meetings for this group of students. Currently, the group meets every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:00 a.m. for Coffee and Conversation. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know other students who are experiencing similar issues and concerns. The atmosphere is very supportive and relaxing. Tami Metzen, Adult Learner Specialist, acts as facilitator for these meetings. She sets up meeting times, finds informative speakers, and directs students to appropriate resources.

Once a month, this group meets with experts who provide information on a variety of topics. Beth Schlepp, an OTA instructor, who directs the Prior Learning Credit program (the use of experience to build a portfolio, which may be considered for college credit), spoke to the group last fall. The group has met with a representative from Enrollment Services, who shared information on financial aid. There have been classes on writing skills and APA format along with a trip to the Blikre Activity Center for a visit to the fitness center. The group always welcomes new students who are interested in finding a supportive network of friends on campus and who want to share information and concerns with others.



COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM - SUMMER 2009

The Academic Services Center is offering individuals ages 16 and over, and those returning to a college setting, an opportunity to increase their chances for success in college and beyond. The College Prep Program is designed to help students - attending any college or university in the fall - transition into college and develop academic skills and self-confidence.

College Prep offers a combination of preparatory courses in reading, writing, computer skills, and basic math skills. The study skills course addresses time management, note taking, test taking, and other necessary learning skills.

The format for this summer provides flexibility for employed students. Classes will be offered for eight weeks, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The College Prep Program will begin on June 2nd and end on July 24th. Food service and housing are available during the summer session.

For more information OR to register, contact Joy Eichhorn at 1-800-342-4325 (ext. 3-2623) or (701) 671-2623. Registrations will be taken through June 2nd.

Pathway program update...

Pathway is proving to be a great way for students to achieve their educational goals. Of the fall Pathway students, eight were able to successfully transition full time to NDSU after only one semester of academic readiness classes combined with college-level courses. An additional twelve students transitioned to NDSU as their home campus but are finishing one academic readiness course with NDSCS spring semester. Also, ten students are enrolled in the Pathway program this semester as NDSCS students. Of these, three students began college spring semester.

At this time, twenty-one students have chosen the Pathway program as their opportunity to attend NDSU next fall, and the number of students is increasing each week. Students who are interested in Pathway apply to NDSU and may be invited to participate in the Pathway program. To obtain more information, call Pathway Coordinator, Florence Johnson, at 701-231-6925, or the Director of Admissions at NDSU, Jobey Lichtblau, at 701-231-9581.

Former NDSCS student, James Eayrs, receives postseason honors...

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee juniors Tone Boyle and James Eayrs have been honored as the Horizon League released its 2009 postseason awards. Boyle earned a spot on the All-Horizon League Second Team, with both he and Eayrs capturing spots on the all-newcomer team. The two junior-college transfers have combined to contribute almost 25 points and nine rebounds per game for the Panthers (16-13, 11-7 Horizon), who will open up play in the Speedway Horizon League Men's Basketball Championship Tuesday night against Loyola. This is just the second time in school history the Panthers have landed two players on the league's all-newcomer team. Eayrs has moved up to third on the team in scoring with a stellar run in February. In fact, since moving to the starting lineup Feb. 7, the forward is averaging 17.1 points and 7.0 rebounds per game. He now has a total of 16 double-figure point outings, including four 20-point games, and he has tallied three double-doubles. He earned Horizon League Player of the Week honors in mid-January after 20-point efforts against SIU Edwardsville and Cleveland State.



"Hi Linda.....tell Maria I said hi as well. I wouldn't be here today if I didn't get help from you guys. Thank you so much for everything." James Eayrs, former student and basketball player at NDSCS, March 2009



Kara Gruenberg

Long-time ASC & Electrical instructor continuing her education...

Kara Gruenberg began work this fall on her Masters of Education, with a concentration in Technology Education, at Valley City State University, Valley City, North Dakota. Kara has been teaching mathematics at the ASC and for the Electrical department for many years and began her employment on campus in 1992. She also serves as a math tutor in the ASC. Kara has a BS in Math Education from Moorhead State University. Best wishes Kara!

NDSCS

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NDSCS

Visit us on the web.
<http://www.ndscs.edu/asc/index.jsp>

Early Advantage Program Scheduled to Begin March 30th

The Early Advantage Program will be held this spring on March 30th, April 2nd, and April 3rd.

The Early Advantage Program offers an opportunity for high school students to visit campus early. Students are selected based on their ACT scores and are determined to be at-risk academically. Attending Early Advantage enables students, and their parents, time to make appropriate academic decisions and to find out about campus services and programs.

Students will begin their afternoons at Enrollment Services, then proceed to the Academic Services Center for student and parent orientation and, in some cases, COMPASS testing. They will leave campus with a summer and/or fall schedule in hand.

The Early Advantage (formerly Early Alert) Program began in 2000 and is held on campus every spring semester.

TAKE ADVANTAGE!

Where all students are welcome!

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Maria Kaduc, ASC Director
Linda Fink, FLEXTIME/SI/Testing
Priscilla Frank, Administrative Assistant
Karen Dahlgren, Test Center Supervisor
Joy Eichhorn, Disability Services Coordinator
Lisa Schumacher, Reading Lab Instructor
Suzanne Hagelstrom, Writing Lab Instructor
Tamara Metzen, Tutor, Science Lab
Jennifer Roos, Reading/Writing Lab Instructor
Kara Gruenberg, Math Lab Instructor
Janie Anderson, Math Lab Instructor
Florence Johnson, Pathway Coordinator

