



March 2021

GC Alumni Newsletter

Annual Fundraiser: Casino Royale

Mark your calendars for our annual spring fundraising event on Saturday, April 10th! This year's theme will be **Casino Royale**! Try your luck at the gaming tables and you could win a prize! We will also have fantastic silent and live auction items, a wine wall, and jewelry raffles. Interested in sponsoring our event? Check out our website gillettecollegefoundation.org to purchase tickets or sponsorships now.



Scholar Spotlight

Meet Nicole Carstens! She is the recipient of the 'Robert P. McCreery Memorial' scholarship. She is originally from California, and has been in Gillette on and off for the past 19 years. She joined the military at just 17 years old, and is currently in our Industrial Technology program full-time while also working full-time! She is the Vice President of Post 307 here at Gillette College; of which is geared towards helping fellow soldiers in aspects such as VA claims, education benefits, and jobs/career opportunities. In her free time, she enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and trying new things.



When asked about the next step in her education, she is unsure, but knows that she wants to get her Journeyman's Certificate and possibly find an apprenticeship to learn more. In the next 10 years, she hopes to be working for a good company and providing a good life for her children. This scholarship has really helped Nicole with not having to worry about additional expenses for fees, books, etc., and said that it has taken away a lot of stress for her and helped her get back on her feet.

Her time at Gillette College has helped her grow and depend on herself. She mentioned Brian Yeager (Gillette College Veteran's Advisor) as someone who has truly helped her stay on course and take on the challenges she has faced. She added that some classes have been difficult, and he has helped her buckle down and move forward. She also added that she has found more resources here than she ever expected – regarding not just coursework assistance, but also advice, suggestions, and guidance!

Words of advice she has is that if there is a course you feel is above your reach – give it a shot! It may be something you enjoy and you may surprise yourself with what you are capable of!

Nicole's favorite thing about being a Gillette College student has been the great connections she has made with both acquaintances and new friends. She also gave a shout out to Mr. McGee, and said he has been such an awesome professor!

Congratulations, Nicole! The Gillette College Foundation is proud to recognize you as one of our scholarship recipients!



Scholar Spotlight

Meet Reina Cazabal-Boe! She is the recipient of the 'GC Nursing Scholarship' award. She is from Montana and has been a Certified Nursing Assistant for 8 years! She loves to play with her son and two dogs, and loves being outdoors. Reina is currently majoring in nursing and would like to get her LPN and work throughout the summer, with returning to advance towards her RN and Bachelor's Degree. Reina is unsure which specific field of nursing she would like to pursue, but is open to many different options. She knows that she would like to continue school in the next 10 years and obtain her

Master's Degree and become a Nurse Practitioner. She noted that it would be wise for her to get some hands-on experience while attending school, as it is easier to understand certain concepts in that manner.

This award has helped Reina with reducing her student loans. She travels from Montana to come to Gillette every week, and this cost adds up! When asked what her time at Gillette College has taught her, she responded: "To be patient with myself, be kind to myself like I am to others, and to use the community and college resources available to make better connections". Reina also mentioned in specific to these resources our counselor, Susan Serge, and how amazing she has been to her.

Words of advice that she has for other or upcoming students are to be active in your community, whether that be your classroom, sports team, etc., because other people can give you a fresh perspective and help you learn. In addition, others can share what has helped them, of which can in turn help you achieve your own goals! Her favorite thing about being a Gillette College student has been all the resources available to her such as our Pronghorn Center to workout/walk, our mental health services, professors, and other students.

Congratulations, Reina! The Gillette College Foundation is proud to recognize you as one of our scholarship recipients!

Nominations for the 2021 Distinguished Alumni

The Gillette College Alumni Association would like to open nominations for our **2021 Distinguished Alumni Award**. You are invited to place your nomination for a professional and outstanding individual that is a Gillette College Alumni. Please click the button below to place your vote and read additional information at. Our nomination deadline is **Wednesday, March 31st, 2021**.

[Vote Now!](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Meet Desha Matuska! She graduated from Gillette College in 2020 and majored in Business Management. She has two older brothers, loves to learn, read, workout, and travel. Desha has a passion for education, and is currently still attending school while also working for an education company, Peregrine Global Services. She was born and raised here in Gillette, WY, and picked Gillette College because she wanted to stay close to home. Desha also felt that Gillette College has a great selection of degree programs.



When asked about her favorite classes, she mentioned her management class, introduction to literature class, and economics classes. She said both John McGuire and Lisa Arhart were amazing professors. Her next step is to earn her Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Wyoming, and would like to continue working for Peregrine Global Services. In the next 10 years, she hopes to still be working for Peregrine, and possibly relocate to Colorado to be closer to her brother.

Desha states that attending Gillette College enabled her to connect with both other students and her professors. She adds that when she has reached out for help, she would always get a response in a timely manner and that the faculty and staff really show they care. Attending here has also taught her to always make connections and how important it can be for your future. Words of advice she has for upcoming or current students is to always take your hardest classes in the Fall semester, and remember to use the resources around you! Do not be afraid to reach out for help! Desha's favorite thing about being a Gillette College Alumni is that she can see the growth at Gillette College, and loves being able to offer knowledge/advice to others who attend here.

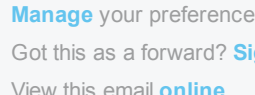
Thank you so much, Desha! The Gillette College Foundation is proud to recognize you as a Gillette College Alumni!

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Gillette College Alumni Newsletter

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