



## NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

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By NCTA News Weekly

### **Meet Ashley Connell, NCTA Student Spotlight**

A native of Newport, Nebraska, and NCTA Resident Assistant in 2019-2020 is our final Aggie Student Spotlight for the year.

#### **Where did you attend high school?**

I went to high school at Keya Paha County High School in Springview, Nebraska

#### **What prompted you to attend NCTA?**

I didn't visit any other colleges and I had been here before for livestock judging camp, so I just went with it. I didn't really care where I went. Looking back, I'm glad I did choose NCTA as it was here that I met some of my best friends, went on amazing adventures, was challenged to step outside my comfort zone, and grew in my faith.

#### **Year in school and major(s)?**

I was supposed to walk for graduation last May and be done in August 2020, but plans change and I had to push that to later. So, I guess I'm a third year, but I don't want to be considered that because I don't want people to think I was a delinquent and couldn't finish a two-year degree in two years.

#### **Where did you serve your internship experience?**

I did my veterinary technology internship at Pine Ridge Equine Hospital in Glenpool, Oklahoma. It's a five-doctor practice with two intern vets. They have two board surgeons, whom I got to tech many surgeries for while I was there.

We worked with all different breeds, disciplines, and types of horses and clients. In my very minimal time off, I went on a few day-road trips to see more of the country. The whole crew down there was amazing, and I was honored to get to work with them for 8 weeks and to be offered a job. However, I had to keep on rolling as I wanted to experience more of the world. I know I've always got friends down in Oklahoma.



*Ashley Connell is a veterinary technician graduate and the foaling manager of a horse ranch in South Dakota.*

**What are your plans after completing your degree at NCTA?**

I am currently working as the foaling manager at Webb Ranch in Isabel, South Dakota. After foaling here is completed, I plan on returning home to our family ranch in Keya Paha County while further pursuing my interest in equine health.

**What organizations, clubs, and teams or jobs have you been involved with at NCTA?**

Phewtas, a lot! I think being involved is an important part of developing a connection with the community; and not just the immediate community around you. College kids -- I think it's important to be engaged with people older than you and younger than you as each person has something to help you grow.

My first year, I was in Stock Dog, however even though I loved it, it interfered with my academic goals. I was then involved in STVMA, Collegiate Cattlemen, and Women in Ag. My second year I became a Resident Assistant, a position I absolutely loved. Throughout college, I also attended the Berean Church, went to the Lonestar Cowboy Church weekly Bible study, and held a weekly Bible study in the dorm. I volunteered at local food drives and the town movie theater on my own volition, not for service points for anything. Additionally, I tutored in a few classes.

**What did you want to be when you were 10 years old?**

When I was 10, I wanted to train horses.

**What is your proudest moment? Either in life or at NCTA.**

My proudest moment at NCTA was during my second year in my position as an RA. I sat down with the Resident Life Manager and I was quizzed on which resident lived in what room. I could fill the whole map out without even pausing to think because I had thoroughly gotten to know every individual living in my dorm. I knew their name and their major and their interests. I said hi to them in passing. I know the value of someone knowing your name when you feel like no one does.



Ashley Connell at NCTA a year ago before holiday break.