

BRITTANY KAY JONES



Honors Courses:

American History Before 1877

Art Appreciation

Sociology

Graduation

Graduating Spring 2025 Associates of Applied Science in Healthcare Studies.

Planning to continue at NWACC in the Nursing program Summer of 2025.

COMMUNITY, CURIOSITY, AND DIVERSITY

When I first joined Honors, while I was excited about the academic opportunities I was also concerned that I wouldn't fit in or be accepted by my peers. As a non-traditional student who had been out of college for eight years before returning, I had been feeling as though I was in a very different place than most of the students I was taking classes with at the time. Nonetheless, I feel like I found my place in the Honors program. Because the program promotes diversity, everyone comes from different backgrounds, but we all connected with a strong drive for success and a true interest in the pursuit of knowledge. Even when I had to bring my oldest child to class and meetings with me, we were accepted with open arms. Being a part of Honors has impacted not only myself but my whole family in a positive way. Being a first-generation student in this welcoming environment was a great way to engage in a community of learning while also showing my children that curiosity is a valuable thing and something they never have to grow out of. Pictured on the right are myself and my oldest son Nile (age five) in the NWACC parking lot before an Honors game night meeting.





Another way the Honors Program has helped encourage community engagement for me personally was to encourage participation in service learning. As part of my honors American History Before 1877 class, we were asked to participate in the NWACC service learning program. I chose to participate in the Women's Service Learning Project. For this project we learned more about period poverty, organized and ran a menstrual product drive we called The Flow Forward Project, and learned about resources in our community that help those affected by this issue. We donated over one hundred and seventy period product kits to both the NWACC food pantry and Feed479 (a local food pantry that serves over 200,000 families in northwest Arkansas). Pictured on the top left is myself dropping off donations to Katie who coordinates community donations for Feed479. On the bottom left is a photo of all the donations we were able to collect. The experience helped me to discover fresh perspectives, fostering a deeper connection within our community.

It also empowered me to emerge as a leader within our project, guiding and inspiring fellow students with confidence and competency. Taking on these leadership roles not only elevated my public speaking skills but also honed my organizational abilities through managing and coordinating team meetings effectively.

Without the encouragement of the Honors Program I might never would have participated in service learning.

EXPERIENCES IN HONORS

I have had so many wonderful experiences with the Honors Program that it is hard to choose some to display here. As a non-traditional student, I don't always have the easiest time being social on campus and have really enjoyed chatting with friends in the Honors Hub. My favorite experience must have been attending the 2025 Great Plains Honors Conference in Denton, Texas at the University of North Texas. It was a great opportunity to bond with my fellow students, learn more about undergraduate research, and explore a new place. One of the excursion opportunities on this trip was to go to Meow Wolf in Grapevine, Texas. This fascinating walk-through interactive art installation not only wowed us with its mesmerizing display of creativity but also provided a platform for local artists to showcase their talents. The art pieces, crafted through a diverse range



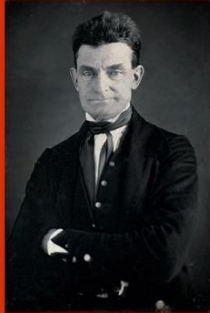
of mediums encompassing physical elements, mesmerizing music, and dazzling lighting effects, offered a comprehensive sensory experience that left a lasting impression. This was also a wonderful opportunity to practice some of the techniques I learned in Art Appreciation during the Fall 2024 semester. I am pictured here on the right in one of the interdimensional-themed rooms within the exhibit.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

My honors classes helped me enhance a number of skills that are valuable not only within the confines of academia but also in various professional and personal spheres. Through these classes, I have had the opportunity to develop my skills in public speaking, leadership, writing, and research. Practicing with these skills has also increased my confidence in them and in myself. To the right is a screenshot of my most extensive research project that I completed for my Honors American History Before 1877 class along with fellow honors student Ethan Peterson. This project was entitled “Insurrection in the Eye of the Beholder: Nat Turner and John Brown as Patriotic

Revolutionaries”. My part of this project focused on John Brown who had a reputation as a madman as a white man who was willing to go to lengths including violence to stand up against slavery. Although history has never been a subject that I have been intensely interested in, my experience in this particular class has sparked a newfound appreciation for the subject, and it was good practice to research a topic that I am in no way familiar with.

Brittany McLaughlin
Ethan Peterson
Fall 2024



John Brown

Madman or Martyr?

- Born May 9, 1800 in Torrington, Connecticut and spent most of his childhood in Hudson, Ohio where his family home was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Initially pursued a career as a tanner but later became deeply involved in the abolitionist movement.
- Outside of the impact that his father Owen Brown and his involvement in helping fugitive slaves had on Brown the murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy in 1837 inspired Brown. Lovejoy was a minister and anti-slavery activist. After his death Brown declared war on slavery.
- John Brown believed that slavery could only be ended through armed insurrection and acted on what he believed.

Brittany McLaughlin
Ethan Peterson
Fall 2024

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Here, before God, in the presence of these witnesses, form this time, I consecrate my life to the destruction of slavery!

- John Brown after the death of Elijah P. Lovejoy



Another great part of the Great Plains Honors Conference was seeing student research celebrated in a new light. Recognizing this appreciation for student research has helped me to see how the research and writing skills I have learned and practiced in my honors classes will serve me both in continuing my education beyond this degree as well as in my career in healthcare. These skills will help

me to explore new evidence-based treatment options and provide better care to my future patients. Pictured on the left, are myself with several other NWACC students who attended the conference in front of the University of North Texas. During the conference, we had the opportunity to engage with an array of thought-provoking research projects, both through detailed posters and insightful presentations. These projects delved into a diverse range of intriguing topics, from exploring health disparities and new technologies to shedding light on crucial aspects of at-risk populations. All this new information will also be useful to me in my future career. This has inspired me to pay more attention to research opportunities that are afforded to me in the future.

ADVICE

Taking into consideration all of my experiences with the Honors Program, the number one piece of advice I have for all future students including future Honors Program participants is this: Get **i**nvolved.

NWACC offers so many amazing opportunities and such great support for its students, it is a tragedy when students don't get involved. Everything from the Honors Program and Student Government to Career Pathways and the NWACC Food pantry, free tutoring and library workshops, service learning, mental health counseling with the wellness center, and help with financial aid. New programs and services are coming to NWACC all the time and the more students get involved the more they will benefit from this community so don't be afraid to engage and participate in everything that interests you! The only thing I would have changed about my experience with Honors is that I wish I had joined sooner.