PIONEER PROFILES



IMAGE: MCC CDL Instructor Shannon Waldie

Pioneer Profiles: Meet Shannon Waldie

MILES CITY, MONTANA: Originally from Buffalo, Wyoming, Shannon Waldie has always been open to new experiences and opportunities. From her first job as a hostess at a ski resort to her current role as the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Instructor at Miles Community College, her career has taken her in different directions, each offering opportunities to learn and grow.

Almost a year into her role at MCC, Shannon enjoys helping students develop the skills and confidence needed to pursue new career opportunities. Whether guiding students through their training or celebrating their accomplishments, she finds satisfaction in watching them take the next step toward their future.

Shannon's days are filled with a variety of responsibilities that keep the CDL program running smoothly. From teaching classroom lessons on safety regulations and monitoring student progress to maintaining training records and coordinating requirements for incoming students, her role involves much more than instruction. She also answers questions from prospective students and continually looks for ways to strengthen and expand the program.

At the heart of it all is the opportunity to work directly with students as they progress through their training.

"Most of all, I enjoy watching our students throughout their journey—from where they begin to the moment they earn their CDL," Shannon shares. "Seeing the pride and excitement on their faces when they complete the program and knowing they are walking away with new skills, opportunities, and a path toward their future is truly the most rewarding part of what I do."

While the technical aspects of CDL training are essential, Shannon appreciates how the different components of the program work together. Rather than having one favorite area to teach, she enjoys seeing how each part of the curriculum complements the others to prepare students for success.

She also credits the people around her for making her experience at MCC so positive. The encouragement and teamwork she has found among her colleagues have made her transition into the role especially rewarding. For Shannon, that sense of support reflects the family atmosphere that makes MCC a special place to work.

Shannon describes herself as thoughtful, patient, open-minded, adaptable, and genuine. Those qualities are reflected in her approach to both teaching and personal growth. When asked about her greatest career achievement, she points not to a single accomplishment, but to the confidence and skills she has gained by embracing new experiences and challenges.

Each opportunity, she says, has helped her grow professionally and personally, teaching her to work effectively with others while becoming more confident in her abilities.

Her advice to others is simple: "Ask the questions, there is no stupid question. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone."

Outside of work, Shannon enjoys camping and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Being a grandma, or "Nana," as she affectionately calls herself, is one of her favorite roles. She also volunteers with the Sheriff's Department as a reserve deputy officer, an experience she finds particularly rewarding.

If she weren't working at MCC, Shannon imagines she might be spending even more time enjoying life as Nana or possibly doing some driving for her family's trucking company.

Although she enjoys her time close to home, Shannon has a couple of international destinations on her wish list. She hopes to someday travel to Norway and Scotland, exploring places she has yet to experience.

For Shannon, working at Miles Community College is about more than teaching students how to earn a commercial driver's license. It's about helping them recognize their potential, develop valuable skills, and move forward with confidence. Whether answering a prospective student's first questions or celebrating a graduate's accomplishment, she takes pride in being part of the journey that helps students build a brighter future.

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