



From left, Sheridan College President Dr. Paul Young, SC students Brice Tucker, Matthew Prusak, and Cody Jones, Director of Construction Technology Josh Michelena, and machine tool instructor Randy Whyte pose with a ceremonial mace and chain at the college Thursday. The students made the mace and chain for use at SC graduation ceremonies. Graduation at SC is May 7 on campus.

Students make mace, chain to be used at SC graduation

By Carrie Haderlie

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Several students from Sheridan College's machine tool and construction technology departments have handcrafted a traditional ceremonial mace and chain to be used in college graduations. "The ceremonial mace, a symbol of university scholarship and integrity since the 11th century, is used to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonial occasions, signifying the importance of the event and the conformation of the academic process," explained Josh Michelena, director of construction technology at the college.

The "chain of office," he continued, is designed to honor the highest officials in education. The SC chain was crafted to display the Northern Wyoming Community College District seal, encircled by four sterling silver banners representing the four core values of NWCCD: respect, integrity, excellence and learning.

SC President Dr. Paul Young will wear the chain, and the grand marshal will carry the mace in the students' procession during Sheridan College graduation ceremonies at 1 p.m. May 7 in the Golden Dome.

Students Cody Jones, Matthew Prusak and Brice Tucker crafted the mace and chain with Michelena and machine tool instructor Randy Whyte. Jones is a welding technology student from Sheridan with a degree in machine tool technology from Sheridan College. Prusak is from Clearmont and will be graduating with degrees in diesel technology and machine tool technology this spring.

Tucker, from Hulett, is president of the machine tool club. He will graduate in the fall with a degree in machine tool technology.

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