



□ *Editor's note: This is one of a series of stories concerning students utilizing the Imperial campus of Mid-Plains Community College to obtain a degree and further their education.*

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC) has advised and helped transfer credits from other community colleges for Amy Straub, enabling her to reach for an Associates of Arts degree in May 2011.

Straub, 36, moved to Wauneta in June 2009 with husband Robert and family. She wants to be a special education teacher.

Straub began taking classes one at a time about 2000. She had attended college following high school, but those credits didn't count after awhile.

She attended Sheridan Community College and Casper Community College, both in Wyoming. She also worked for eight years in Wyoming schools as a para-educator in K-12.

The Casey, Wyo., native has taken classes through distance learning, onsite with local educators in Imperial, and online. Straub is also performing a work study in the MPCC Imperial office.

She wants to be a special education teacher, she said, because, "That's where I worked, and where my heart's at." Straub plans to attend Chadron State College following graduation from MPCC.

The hardest part about continuing her education is juggling time with her family, being available for everything, and the time constraints.

The Straub family includes Kaleb, 17; William, 13; Seth, 11 and Kaden, five.

What she likes most about MPCC, she said, is "just learning more and more." Straub also enjoys taking classes at the Imperial campus and being with other students, as opposed to taking online classes by herself.