

1998
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Each year outstanding alumni are recognized for their success in their chosen vocation or profession, community activities and support of Northwest Iowa Community College.

The recipient for 1998 is Doug Von Arb.

Doug is a native of Alton and graduated from Northwest Iowa Community College in 1980 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electro Mechanical Technology. From 1980 until 1993 he was employed at EMW Groschopp, Inc., Sioux Center, entering as machine technician. At Groschopp, he was promoted to engineering lab technician, quality assurance engineer, and finally quality assurance manager. Since 1993 Doug has been employed with Solar Plastics, Inc. in Sioux City, which manufactures rotational molded fuel tanks, agricultural tanks and miscellaneous enclosures. He began there as quality assurance manager. Then in March 1997 Doug was promoted to Plant Manager and is responsible for all functions in the manufacturing facility.

Doug has attended numerous continuing education seminars and courses throughout his career, including quality enhancement and improvement workshops, internal auditor training, ISO 9000, SPC course, and design of experiments.

Doug's support of the College is demonstrated by his past service on the Electro Mechanical program advisory committee.

Doug also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Northwest Iowa Community College from 1988 until 1997. From 1992 to 1994 he served as Vice Chairman and from 1994 through 1996 Doug served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has worked several times on behalf of the College with legislators at both the state and national level. In 1995, Doug delivered a presentation for the College at the regional Association of Community College Trustees conference.

Doug is active in civic and community events. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton and a former member of the Alton Jaycees. He and his wife, Wendy, live on an acreage south of Alton and are expecting their first child in November.