



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ken Van Oort Recognized as Northwest Iowa Community College 2004 Alumnus of the Year

Ken Van Oort was recognized during the July Commencement at Northwest Iowa Community College as the 2004 Alumnus of the Year. This award was presented to Van Oort for his success in his profession and for his support of his alma mater.

Ken earned his degree from (what the College was first called, Northwest Iowa Vocational School) in 1972 in Electrical Technology. He successfully built a business that utilizes the skills learned in college, and is the owner/partner of A&K Electric in Rock Valley.

After graduating from the 2-year program, of which the first year was held downtown Sheldon, Ken worked for longtime NCC instructor Bill Noack, at Noack Electric in Sheldon. He then worked for IBP in Dakota City in electrical maintenance. Ken worked for KProducts, and then for an electrician in Rock Valley before starting his own company (A&K Electric) in 1978 with Al Faber.

Ken Van Oort readily volunteers or lends his expertise to those activities at the College that are important to us. He has served as a member of the Electrical program advisory committee for many years, currently employs two of our graduates and is a sponsor for the electrical program summer co-op program. (NCC student Nate Harmsen is currently doing his co-op with A&K Electric.)

To Ken and his wife, Nattalee, Northwest Iowa Community College has become a family tradition. Their son, Nathan, is an NCC Industrial & Commercial Wiring graduate. Nathan now works for his dad's business. Their daughter, Rebecca, is currently attending the Administrative Office Management program while fulfilling duties as a work study student in the Student Services office.