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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Loren Vogel Named 2007 NCC Alumnus of the Year**

Loren Vogel, a 1992 graduate of the Northwest Iowa Community College Industrial Instrumentation and Control Program (IIC), was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award during Commencement ceremonies held at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA, on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Each year, an outstanding graduate of NCC is recognized for his or her success in a chosen vocation or profession, involvement in community activities and support of the College.

Deciding to quit his full time job (with insurance benefits, etc.) and go back to school was a very scary decision for Loren Vogel, but that's exactly what he did. "I knew I wasn't using my full potential and wanted to continue my education in a technical field," Loren stated. He chose the Industrial Instrumentation & Control program at NCC and found the instructors were very sensitive to his anxieties about returning to the classroom and were encouraging as he adjusted to school again. Loren encourages others, "Don't let your age difference with the younger students in your class hold you back. I found most of them to be very accepting and helpful."

Loren chose the IIC Program because, "I knew that I wanted to go back to school. I had an aptitude for computers and I was looking for a better paying job. I knew in order to accomplish these goals, I would need to further my education." Loren continued, "I originally went for Robotics, but changed to IIC because I found it offered a career more what I was looking for. Going back to school as an older student gave me the ability to know what I was looking for in the workplace and at the time I felt there were more potential jobs in this area in IIC."

"I appreciate the education I received at NCC. The instructors were very helpful to me as a non-traditional student. There is a tremendous need in Iowa for employees in the Industrial Instrumentation & Control field. Northwest Iowa is very fortunate to have a program like this in the area." Loren offers this advice to anyone considering a career in IIC. "If you enjoy challenges and like variety it is such a good field to get into. There are a lot of different avenues of work available to IIC graduates."

Tim Floen, Industrial Instrumentation and Control Instructor, nominated Loren. In his nomination letter Floen stated, “Loren Vogel is very worthy of the Alumnus of the Year award for many reasons. Loren has achieved great success in his career in Industrial Instrumentation and Control. Loren graduated in 1992 and was employed with Wells Blue Bunny in Le Mars. Loren was the first “true” Instrumentation employee at Wells’ and “led the charge” to establish an instrumentation and control group for Wells’. This group now employs as many as a dozen IIC graduates in this division at Wells’ as well as part time work for current students.”

Floen concluded, “Loren’s participation and support through the Business and Education Partnership Group exhibits his positive role in promoting NCC as well as the IIC Program in many communities and high schools. Loren has volunteered his time to make high school recruiting visits (with NCC instructors) to promote the instrumentation and control field as well as a career choice.”

Since graduating from NCC Loren has been with Wells Dairy, Le Mars, IA 1993-1998; Interstates Control Systems, Sioux Center, IA, 1998-2006; and Wells Dairy 2006 to present as a Process Control Technician. Micah Vogel, one of Loren’s sons, just graduated from the IIC program at NCC as well, and is employed at UNICCO in Blair, NE.

Loren also serves on the NCC Industrial Instrumentation and Control Program Advisory Board. Loren and his wife, Linda, reside in Orange City.