



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Certified Crane Operator Training Held at Northwest Iowa Community College

Certified Crane Operator training was held at Northwest Iowa Community College March 16–April 2. During the three week class attendees took the written and practical exams for both a thirty ton swing cab crane and fifteen ton fixed cab cranes. Upon completing the course and passing all necessary exams the students will have met all the necessary National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) standards and will be ready to begin a Crane Operator career.

Jason Anderson, Director - Economic Development and Workforce Training, set up the training. “The need is very real. Industry approached us for this training because of the great reputation of our Heavy Equipment & Maintenance program. Crane training is a natural fit for our campus and we have the expertise to provide it to our community. In 2017 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has stated that every crane operator will need to be certified. So, not only are we providing individuals the opportunity for the training, we are also working with industry to provide customized training for their employees in order for them to be compliant with OSHA requirements.”

Matt Fegenbush, President/Trainer Coordinator & Consultant, Pinnacle Training Solutions, who conducted the training said, “There is a very high demand for crane operators and industry is begging for qualified operators. Industries such as wind, building, grain elevators, power plant, and road construction – working on bridges just to name a few.” Fegenbush continued, “You can make from \$50,000 to \$80,000 being a crane operator.”

Nolan Pape, first year NCC Heavy Equipment & Maintenance student, Sioux City, is taking the certification program to enhance his resume. “I like the training. It’s in my field and I will have more options for employment after I graduate. This is a specialized line of work, so there will always be positions available. It’s difficult, but worth it”, he said.

Another student in the Crane Operator class is Fidel Torres from Allen, Nebraska. He commented, “I was looking into getting my CDL and someone brought this program to my attention. I have been a pipe welder for over fourteen years and it’s time for me to go into another trade. I really like the program. It’s an excellent training program.”

Torres is also a GAP Tuition Assistance Program recipient which is a State of Iowa financial aid program for certificate classes that are not eligible for federal aid. The GAP Tuition Assistance Program bridges the funding gap for those students pursuing short-term certificates. Full tuition assistance is available for the Crane Operator training (along with several other certificates NCC offers) to qualifying students through this program.

Torres said, “I love the GAP tuition assistance program. It helps me with my expenses. I don’t know how I would have worked and gone to school. This lets me focus only on my training. This will help me support my family and gives me the opportunity for a good paying job.”

Individuals who would be good at this job need to like being outdoors, have attention to detail, and be safety conscious. You also must enjoy working on something different day-to-day because your work will vary all the time.

If you would like more information on the Crane Operator Training program or are a business that would like specialized crane training, please contact Jason Anderson at janderson@nwicc.edu or 712-324-5061/800-352-4907.