



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Two New Programs at Northwest Iowa Community College for the Fall of 2011**

Two new programs have been developed for the fall of 2011 at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, IA. The programs are Pharmacy Technician and Substation & Power Collection Technician.

Pharmacy Technician is a Diploma program but does have a Certificate option available. Pharmacy technicians work under the care of a licensed pharmacist and perform many pharmacy related functions. Job duties include providing medication and other health care products to patients as well as working with third party and doctors' offices in resolving adjudication of patients' insurance or state programs. Pharmacy technicians often do the routine tasks associated with preparing prescribed medication and doctor calls, expense and medication orders, returns and expired credits, and non-licensed pharmacy management.

Effective July 1, 2010, all pharmacy technicians working in Iowa must be nationally certified by an accredited technician certification board approved by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy. This program will assist students in meeting the new requirements that pharmacy technicians successfully complete a certification exam.

Students will focus on classes that provide a background for pharmacy related functions. Students who graduate from the Pharmacy Technician program can expect to find employment in local pharmacies or hospital pharmacies. The expected wage for Pharmacy Technicians is \$9.00 to \$13.00 per hour or \$19,000 to \$28,000 per year.

The Substation & Power Collection Technician program is an Associate of Applied Science degree program. Substation Technicians are individuals who work with an electrical engineer's design to layout, construct, and maintain a substation. Substations are used to collect power at a generation site, connect to a transmission "grid", and download energy to a distribution network where the power is regulated to the consumer. This highly skilled individual may work outdoors in the substation or in climate controlled facilities to help maintain a balanced grid system, electronically known as the "smart grid". In conjunction with hands-on experience in construction, you will be challenged to diagnose problems, outages, and other issues associated with a substation. Theory and lab courses will cover single and three phase metering, transformers, complex relaying, regulators, capacitors, distribution concepts, and other subjects related to this field. Many skills learned will also transfer into other positions related to this field.

Class time will be about one-third lecture, one-third lab, and one-third field/outside time. This program is a one-of-a-kind program in Iowa. It is a combination of Electrical, Electronics and Powerline.

Graduates of the Substation program are in demand by electrical utilities, rural electric cooperatives, municipalities, and construction companies. The employment opportunities for substation technicians are excellent across the country, and those applicants with formal training typically have higher starting salaries and greater opportunity for advancement within the industry. The average starting salary is around \$22.00 per hour.

For more information contact the Admissions Office at [studentservices@nwicc.edu](mailto:studentservices@nwicc.edu) or call 324-5061 or 800-352-4907. Visit our website at [www.nwicc.edu](http://www.nwicc.edu). At NCC There's a Place For You!