



Northwest Iowa
Community College

603 West Park Street
Sheldon, Iowa 51201

Phone 712-324-5061 or
toll free 1-800-352-4907, Ext. 105

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NEWS RELEASE

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Pearce to Retire from Northwest Iowa Community College

For the past 11 years (June, 1999) Steve Pearce has been a mainstay in the classroom at Northwest Iowa Community College. This veteran of the electrical industry will retire at the end of December.

Now a seasoned instructor, Pearce got his start at the young age of 15 frying chicken for Colonel Sanders at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Elkhart, Indiana. Pearce held several jobs through high school including being a janitor at a local hospital and electrician for a mobile home manufacturer. After high school Pearce joined the navy for education and adventure. Following electronic training Pearce served his Country in Okinawa, Japan, and Hawaii, USA.

Pearce then took advantage of the GI Bill to attend Purdue University, Indiana, while serving with the navy reserves. After graduating with his Electrical Engineering degree he attended Officer Candidate School and returned to the navy where he served in Baltimore, MD, and Yokosuka, Japan, where he was assigned to the USS Oldendorf as the Electronic Warfare Officer/Intelligence Officer.

In 1989 Pearce was assigned back to the States in Washington DC where he held a teaching position at the Naval Station DC. He then left active duty and moved back to Indiana to join the reserves while simultaneously teaching at ITT Tech and earning his Masters Degree from Indiana University.

After moving to Hartley, Iowa, he worked part-time at NCC as an adjunct faculty instructor and a business trainer for two years. He started full-time at NCC in June, 2001, as an Electronics Instructor for the Electrical and Instrumentation Programs. He has served in that position for the past 9 years.

Pearce stated, "I have two favorite times at NCC - the SkillsUSA competitions and graduation. Going to SkillsUSA competitions and watching our students compete, and often win medals, is very exciting. I also get a thrill at every graduation. Watching students who you have worked with for two years reach a major milestone in their lives and start their careers, to me, is like going to Cape Canaveral and watching spaceships launch off."

Pearce continued, "My advice (is free and worth every penny) is to treat your students like guests in your classroom. Your students have sacrificed a lot to be there, treat them well. Socrates was a great teacher, he got paid by passing the hat and having the students contribute whatever they thought the lesson was worth. Try to teach as if you are going to get paid for each lesson according to what it is worth."

After retirement Pearce plans to sleep in, travel, make some repairs and improvements around his acreage, catch up on his reading, visit relatives in Indiana, and play with his dog more. When he gets bored with all that he says he may find a part-time job.