



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College Receives the Federal TRiO Student Support Services Grant

Through the receipt of a federal grant, Northwest Iowa Community College will continue to have additional opportunities to help insure student success. The College, located in Sheldon, IA, has received the TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Grant for 5 years for a base award of \$249,374 each year. This is the third time NCC has received this grant. The first TRiO Grant was funded in October of 2001 and was for four years.

Through funding administered by the U.S. Department of Education, NCC will be able to provide academic and other support services to low-income, first generation or disabled college students to increase student retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges, and foster an institutional climate supportive of their success.

There are four specific support services outlined in the plan, to include academic counseling, tutoring and developmental education, financial aid counseling, and assistance with the admissions and transfer process to four-year universities.

Each student identified for the program will be given personalized assistance from SSS project staff in developing an individualized academic plan in relation to each of the four components.

Laurie Edwards, Director of the TRiO Program, said "All summer long, we've had students asking if we heard whether or not our grant would be renewed. It's a relief to finally be able to tell them, the TRiO Student Support Services program will continue to offer the services they've come to depend on! In my nine years with the TRiO SSS program at NCC, I've seen hundreds of first-generation, low-income and disabled students succeed in their pursuit of higher education and I believe my staff and the service we provide is part of the reason for that success."

Pauline Keehn, NCC Secretarial Program Alumnus, stated, "Glad to see Senator [Harkin] recognizes one of the most important programs that NCC has to offer. I attribute much of my success at NCC to the wonderful staff members of the TRiO program!"

Northwest Iowa Community College is among a number of Iowa Colleges and Universities who will receive some federal funding to increase college access. Senator Chuck Grassley says that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded 27 competitive grants totaling over \$7 million to Iowa colleges through the Student Support Services Program. Iowa was the only state in the Midwest region that didn't lose any TRiO SSS programs in the competition, but rather added four new ones!