

1999
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Each year outstanding alumni are recognized for their success in their chosen vocation or profession, community activities and support of Northwest Iowa Community College.

The recipient of the 1999 Alumnus of the Year award is Bonnie Huygens.

Bonnie is a native of Sheldon and graduated from the Office Clerical program of Northwest Iowa Community College in 1974. She was a student senate representative of her class. From 1974 to 1976 she worked as a secretary at Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Des Moines. She started working at K-Products in Orange City in 1976 as a payroll clerk. From that beginning she advanced into positions of increasing responsibility: personnel secretary, personnel assistant, and Manager of Personnel Services. Her current position at American Identity (fka K-Products) is that of Manager of Compensation and Benefits.

Bonnie has attended numerous continuing education seminars and courses throughout her career, including compensation courses, management training, total quality management, team training, and financial management training.

Her professional memberships include the Society for Human Resource Management, the American Compensation Association, and she has been certified as a Senior Professional Human Resource manager.

Bonnie's support of the College is demonstrated by her service on the advisory committee board for the Administrative Secretarial program since 1980. She is a very active and enthusiastic member of this board. She has conducted mock interviews for Northwest Iowa Community College students to provide experience and preparation for job interviews. She has also given presentations to NCC secretarial students about the secretarial profession and further career advancement. Bonnie also was a primary committee member involved with the community college levy vote in Orange City.

Bonnie is active in civic and community events. She was instrumental in starting a day care center in Orange City. For several years she was involved in cub and boy scout leadership. She has served as treasurer of her local golf board, has served on her church library board, and she has assisted with several Orange City Chamber projects.

Bonnie and her husband, Jim, live in Orange City and have two sons, Michael, and Tom. She enjoys golfing, reading and traveling with her family and friends.