



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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Daniel P. Tracy Named 2006 NCC Alumnus of the Year

Daniel P. Tracy, a 1999 graduate of the Northwest Iowa Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program, was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award during Commencement ceremonies held at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA, on July 28th.

Each year, an outstanding graduate of NCC is recognized for his or her success in a chosen vocation or profession, involvement in community activities and support of the College.

In 1985 Daniel married Marcia Slykhuis of Ashton, IA, daughter of Dale and Marlene of Ashton. Daniel and Marcia had 3 children Maggie, Matt, and John. After 14 years of battling cancer, Marcia died in 2003. Since then Daniel married Cheryl Nieuwendorp (VerSteeg) of Sheldon, IA. She has 4 children Nathan, Andrew, Shanell, and Luke.

Following his graduation from NCC in 1999, Dan worked in the Burn Unit at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In 2001, Dan was approached by the Vice President of the Heart Hospital (his previous boss at McKennan), who encouraged him to apply for a position at the Heart Hospital. Dan is currently employed as a Critical Care Nurse, since 2001, in the Heart Catheterization Lab at Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

His additional duties at the Avera Heart Hospital include the following:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor – Teaches CPR to medical personnel as well as non-medical
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Instructor – Certifies nurses, paramedics, and doctors in advanced cardiac care
- Medication Improvement Committee Member – Reviews and makes suggestions when medical errors occur
- Mentor for New Nurses – Provides orientation and training for new Registered Nurses

Daniel commented about becoming a nurse, “One of the reasons I choose to be a nurse is that it gives me the opportunities to show God’s love to others especially in their time of need. A

highlight in my nursing career so far has been the opportunities I've had to pray with people before and after surgery.”

In 2004, Daniel also founded the Marcia Tracy Memorial Nursing Scholarship after his late wife. The Marcia Tracy Memorial Nursing Scholarship recognizes individuals who have a sincere passion for the Nursing profession and have the potential to become an exceptional nurse.

Janet M. Boone, Administrative Secretarial Instructor, nominated Daniel. In her nomination letter Boone stated, “Most of his humanitarian efforts go unnoticed because he is so very humble; however, he has made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals. It is simply remarkable what an impact he has had throughout his entire career. This type of leadership demonstrates that he is an unwavering ambassador for Northwest Iowa Community College.”

Daniel also serves on the NCC Nursing Program Advisory Board. Tracy and his family reside in Orange City.