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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Drew Fish Named Northwest Iowa Community College's 2013 Alumnus of the Year**

Each year, one outstanding graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College is recognized for his or her success in their chosen profession and support of NCC.

The recipient of the 2013 Alumnus of the Year Award is Drew Fish, Vinton, Iowa.

Fish is a 2006 graduate of the Industrial Instrumentation & Control (IIC) Program. Since then he has been employed as a Controls Technician with General Mills Inc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. While being employed at General Mills for the past seven years he has had the opportunity to travel all over the world with his job, five different countries, and has been recognized with many other awards and accolades.

While Fish was a student at NCC he competed in the Instrumentation Systems and Automation (ISA) Student Games at the District level as well as the International level, winning first place at Districts and placing fourth at the International Competition.

Fish was a non-traditional student when he started at NCC. Directly after high school he spent a few years working as a Breaker Technician and had various farm jobs. Fish said, "I have so many great memories of my time at NCC. Like my scariest moment - wondering if I would be able to get back into the whole school thing. To my "ah-ha" moment - the day Tim Floen told our class this wasn't just college. We needed to think of this as our JOB. Or my best moment - the day I realized my dreams were becoming my reality. NCC made the transition back to school easy, everyone is very professional."

Fish continued, "I chose the IIC Program after meeting the instructors and touring the labs. I knew it was the best fit for me. I always recommend NCC to other people because of the Program's hands-on learning, it's like no other. The College/Program will prepare you for the real world. I felt very qualified and ready for my job after I graduated."

Since his graduation he has contributed to the Advanced Technology Division of the College and specifically to the IIC program. Fish has secured equipment donations for the College, hosted tours of General Mills, Inc. for students in several NCC programs, serves on the IIC Advisory Committee, and assisted the Enrollment Office and faculty with recruiting efforts within the Cedar Rapids area.

Tim Floen, Instructor – Instrumentation & Control, and Lisa Story, Director of Enrollment Management, stated in their nomination letter, “Drew’s dedication and commitment to NCC are definitely above and beyond what we expected. Drew always is willing to share of his time and resources. He is a great asset for students, instructors, the Enrollment Office and NCC.”

Fish commented, “I was very excited to hear I had been chosen for the Alumnus of the Year award. Thanks to everyone at the College for changing my life and the lives of others one day at a time! You all are truly great people that invest a lot of time to help others grow in life and in the world!”

Fish and his wife, Jennie, reside in Vinton, Iowa.

We are pleased to present Drew Fish the 2013 Alumnus of the Year Award.