



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Mark Nilles Named 2009 NCC Alumnus of the Year

Mark Nilles, a 1989 graduate of the Northwest Iowa Community College Marketing/Management Program, was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award during commencement ceremonies held at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA, on July 24.

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

Following his graduation in 1989, Nilles started at Demco Printing in the Bindery Department. Later he was trained to operate some of the equipment. Eventually, he worked into sales and customer service spending about half the time on the road and half in the office. The business started growing and the need for more management was also growing. In 1996 Nilles was promoted to Assistant Manager. Finally, in 2001 Nilles was promoted to General Manager of Demco Printing.

Nilles recalls the encouragement he received as a student, especially “the one-on-one meetings with my instructor, and making the decision to go the extra mile and get my degree.”

“Finishing my degree was very important. Some of the kids I went to school with took the basics and then cut out and looked for a job. I feel staying in school and gaining the experience I did before I graduated was a definite advantage. A lot of what I learned during my time at NCC I use in my management style to this day.”

Nilles continued, “I recommend NCC all the time. Whether it is for generals or the other courses NCC has to offer.”

Ron Plum, retired Business Instructor and current Director of the Foundation, nominated Nilles. In his nomination letter Plum stated, “When Mark was a student at NCC, I was always impressed with his work ethic. He was not only an excellent student, his part-time job evaluations while in the program always included glowing comments from his employer. In addition, Mark helped his brother with farm work when he had some extra time.”

Plum continued, “Mark has always been involved in community activities. He has been very active in leadership roles in our church, particularly in the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization. Over the last several years, Mark has supported the NCC Foundation by providing invitations to our Symphony Dinner and Dinner Theatre at no cost.”

Nilles also serves on the NCC Advisory Committee for the Associate of Science Business Programs. Nilles and his wife Paula reside in Boyden.