



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

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**September 17, 2008**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*May be published  
when received.*

### **Damstra Named Northwest Iowa Community College's 2008 Alumnus of the Year**

Ron Damstra, a 1966 graduate of the inaugural Business Program at Northwest Iowa Community College, was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award during the regularly scheduled Board meeting held August 18 at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA.

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 1965, Damstra was one of the 20 plus students to attend NCC's first Business Program. Ron began this program in the fall of 1965 and completed it in the spring of 1966. He had been drafted into the Army in December 1965, but elected to take a deferment, so he could complete his college year.

Damstra is a big advocate for community colleges. He said, "I can thank NCC for how my life took direction. I count it as an honor to be a pioneer of NCC and its first class of business graduates."

Damstra continued, "I wanted to get the best job I could and NCC gave me the impetus to do just that. NCC got me on the right track with a work-study job at the Boyden Cooperative Elevator and when I came back from serving my country in the Army I took a full time job at the Elevator. After managing the Elevator I decided to move on to Demco Manufacturing to become the purchasing Department Manager. I retired this past May from Demco Manufacturing after working there for almost 32 years."

Damstra volunteers within his community. He has been a member of the Boyden Fire and Ambulance Team, the Boyden City Council, co-chair of the Boyden Centennial Committee, board member of Otter Valley Country Club, Boyden Community Club, charter member of Boyden-Hull Community School Advisory Board, Love Inc. Board and Sioux County Board of Health. He has held many offices in the various organizations that he has served.

He has also been active in his church, serving as deacon, elder, Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and Catechism Teacher.

Dr. Giddings, President of NCC, stated, “Demco Manufacturing, where Mr. Damstra has been very instrumental in its operations and financing, has pledged over \$70,000 to NCC throughout the past years. Demco has also regularly donated equipment over the years to help support NCC’s programs of study. This type of leadership demonstrates that Mr. Damstra is an unwavering ambassador for Northwest Iowa Community College.”

Damstra and his wife, Gayle, reside in Boyden.