



Northwest Iowa
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NEWS RELEASE

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Trends in Alternative Energy Seminar Held at NCC

Northwest Iowa Community College along with Northwest Iowa Development hosted a *Trends in Alternative Energy Seminar* on Tuesday, February 23. The seminar was held on the campus of NCC, Sheldon, and drew people who are interested in alternative energy including ethanol production, wind energy, bio-fuels, and cellulosic ethanol. They talked about where the alternative fuels industry is now and where it's headed in the future.

The seminar featured some of the biggest leaders in ethanol production technology in the United States. Keynote speakers were Bill Northey, John Dunlap, Jim Sturdevant, Kelly Manning, and Kristi Harshbarger.

Bill Northey, a native of Spirit Lake, is Secretary of Agriculture for the state of Iowa. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are advancing the opportunities available through renewable energy, promoting conservation and stewardship, and telling the story of Iowa agriculture.

Northey commented, "Agriculture is a growth industry for our state. According to the state's agricultural census, which is conducted every five years, in 2002 agribusiness was a twelve billion dollar industry in the state. The very next census in 2007 it had grown to a twenty billion dollar industry. When you compare the twenty billion in agribusiness industry to the total state budget for Iowa, which is 5.7 billion, it is obvious how important agribusiness is to the state of Iowa. A large part of that growth is the ethanol industry."

Northey continued, "Ethanol was developed in the 1980's because of all the excess corn. If we stopped the ethanol industry now we would have three billion bushels of corn lying around."

John Dunlap is a Senior Project Engineer with the American Wind Energy Association, the trade association for the U.S. wind energy industry based in Washington DC. He leads AWEA's program to improve the productivity of existing wind farms through efficient and sage operation, maintenance and workforce training, and provides technical information and outreach to organizations. Dunlap spoke about the National Trends in Wind Energy & Technician Training.

Jim Sturdevant of POET, LLC, is the Director of Project Liberty. The goal of Project Liberty is to bring cellulosic ethanol to commercial viability in order to reduce global warming, revitalize the rural economy and lessen our country's dependency on foreign oil. The title for Sturdevant's presentation was, "POET Cellulosic Ethanol: An Update".

Sturdevant commented, "This technology is brand new but our federal and state governments believe it has great potential and it could greatly reduce our dependency on foreign oil. This technology also creates jobs. There are 35-40 new jobs at our plant in Emmetsburg alone. Regionally, jobs are being created: farm equipment sales, labor, seasonal labor, etc. We, with different partners, are now offering several incentives for the fall 2010 harvest to get farmers involved. Cellulosic ethanol represents thousands of green jobs right here at home."

Kelly Manning is the Vice President of Development for Growth Energy. He is responsible for retaining and recruiting Ethanol Plants and Industry partners to invest in Growth Energy. He also is responsible for the management of Growth Force. Growth Force is a grass roots effort launched last year that is currently at 13,000 members and growing. Manning's presentation was about what's ahead for Ethanol.

Manning said, "Growth Energy was created to defend the ethanol industry against the explosion of information that was being circulated in the media."

Kristi Harshbarger is an associate attorney with the Brown Winick Law Firm. Kristi represents renewable fuels clients in various aspects of their business operations including business organization, securities, registration, equity financing, securities compliance, board of director operations, shareholder matters and other various business transactions. She has written articles for The Biodiesel Magazine. Harshbarger spoke about the outlook for Biodiesel in 2010.

The Powerpoint presentations given by John Dunlop, Jim Sturdevant, Kelly Manning and Kristi Harshbarger can be found on NCC's website, www.nwicc.edu. Click on the Business & Industry section and then look in the announcement box.

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