



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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BestColleges.com Names Northwest Iowa Community College Third Best of Online Colleges in America for 2015

BestColleges.com, a college planning resource, recently published its list of the top 50 schools offering online undergraduate degree programs and has named Northwest Iowa Community College third in the nation. Twenty-five accredited schools made the list, and all offer at least three full-time, 100% online programs.

The most recent data shows the number of online programs available has increased year to year by over 30%. It's expected this trend will continue. With so many choices available, many students look to reliable, fact-based rankings to help narrow their choices. Using data collected from the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) BestColleges.com included admissions, enrollment, retention, and graduation rates to rank the top schools accordingly.

"There's a lot of conflicting information out there about online programs. Are they legitimate? Are they effective?" said Stephanie Snider, Product Manager of BestColleges.com. "Online learning has gone mainstream, and our goal is to help students find a reputable, accredited program that meets their needs."

According to the Best Colleges website, "Most colleges and universities now offer some level of online coursework, but not every online program is as rigorous as its on-campus equivalent. The BestColleges.com list of the top online degree programs works for students because the highest-quality online programs aren't always obvious."

Below are the top five Best Online Schools of 2015 as ranked by BestColleges.com:

1. Mitchell Technical Institute
2. Alexandria Technical & Community College
3. Northwest Iowa Community College
4. Foothill College
5. Moraine Park Technical College

Complete rankings (top twenty-five) can be found here:

<http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-schools/#online-associate-degree-programs>

You can find NCC's Online Associate Degree Programs at: <http://bit.ly/ncc-online>

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, NCC President, commented, "Our reputation for high-quality teaching and our outstanding student support services appeals to a broad scope of students, so extending the access online is a natural part of our mission as a progressive learning college. There is nothing more satisfying than empowering students to reach their goals through quality, accessible, and affordable programs available in a flexible environment wherever they live."

NCC has been the recipient of several national awards over the past several years. In 2014, 2012 and 2011 NCC was recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the Best 120 Community Colleges in the nation. Other recent honors have been 7th in the nation for Graduate Success - *CNNMoney.com*; 11th Best Community College in the Nation – *theBestSchools.com*; and Top 4 Automotive Program in the Nation - *Tomorrow's Tech 2013 School of the Year* Contest, sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts and WIX Filters; Highest Graduation/Transfer Rate – *CollegeMeasures.com*; and Safest College in Iowa – *StateUniversity.com*.

Quick facts about NCC:

- 11,000+ College Alumni since 1966, of which over 4,000 live in the 4 ½ county area NCC serves
- 97% Placement Rate for College Alumni
- Average first-time wage of our 2012 graduates was \$17.45/hour
- Many seamless transfer agreements with Colleges and Universities
- 40+ Programs of study including career & transfer and applied technology

- Have served 800,000 + students taught through the Continuing Education and Business & Industry Departments
- Spending by NCC and its students adds an estimated \$24.2 million in economic output to the region, 372 jobs and increased tax revenues of \$1.4 million*

**Source: 2011 NCC Economic Impact Report —A study completed by Iowa Workforce Development and the Iowa Department of Education*

To find out more call 800-352-4907, email studentservices@nwicc.edu, or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu. At NCC There's a Place For You!