

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO RECEIVE \$1.7 MILLION FROM THE JOHN BILSLAND ESTATE

The Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation announced on Monday, January 23, that it will receive a substantial bequest from the estate of John Bilsland. Valued at nearly \$1.7 million, the Bilsland gift will be the largest in the College's fifty-year history.

Bilsland, an Archer, Iowa, native, passed away in September 2016. During his life, he served in the United States Army, and then worked as a Spanish teacher in various high schools throughout Iowa. Upon retiring from teaching, Bilsland returned to Sheldon to be near his family, and spent much of his free time studying ancient history from around the world and listening to classical music.

Larry Postma, Attorney-at-law and friend of Bilsland, shares that Bilsland always had a passion for lifelong learning and hoped his gift would inspire others to pursue higher education, regardless of their life circumstances. "As John Bilsland's personal attorney and friend for over 25 years, I knew John to be a true gentleman with a love of learning. This love, combined with a desire to help everyone get a great education, no matter what their income, led John to make NCC the beneficiary of his estate."

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, President of Northwest Iowa Community College, is honored to receive such a generous gift on behalf of the College and its Foundation. "To receive a gift as selfless as the one John Bilsland left the College is immeasurable. It goes well beyond the financial impact. It shows that people in the community support the College and its mission, and want to see it grow and thrive. We are truly grateful to receive this transformative gift which will impact thousands of lives in the future. We will strive to use the funds in a way that will honor John and his legacy for years to come."

The sum of the Bilsland estate will go towards the *Everyone Knows Someone Who Chose NCC* capital campaign. Including the Bilsland gift, the new campaign will have raised nearly \$6 million since its inception in 2012. Campaign initiatives include building scholarship endowments, enhancing technology campus wide, and improving facilities and classroom resources.

A formal recognition of Bilsland's gift will be held once it has been designated for a specific project.

Photo: Picture of the late John Bilsland

Photo: Larry Postma (left), Lois Postma (middle), Dr. Alethea Stubbe (right) during the announcement of the Bilsland estate