



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Nine Students Graduate from NCC's Professional Driver Prep Program

Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA, in partnership with Northland CDL Training of Mason City, has completed its first professional driver prep program. This class was made possible by CSBG/ARRA funding through Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. To qualify, participants needed to live in UDMO's 12 county service area and meet income guidelines.

The NCC Professional Driver Prep Program, an intense three-week program, consists of a total of 160 hours of instruction; 40 in the classroom and 120 either behind the wheel or observing in a tractor-trailer commercial vehicle. This training meets or exceeds the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations for entry-level driver training. The graduates demonstrate the knowledge and skills required by the Iowa Department of Motor Vehicles, Drivers Licensing Division, to obtain a Class A Commercial Drivers License.

Students were trained using the Master Driver Program and successfully tested over the following areas:

- a. General Commercial Motor Vehicle Knowledge & Safety
- b. Air Brakes & Skid Prevention
- c. Coupling & Uncoupling of single and twin trailers
- d. Emergency Maneuvers
- e. Right Turns, Left Turns, Intersections
- f. Backing Maneuvers
- g. The Hazard Perception Challenge
- h. Hours of Service – Log Books
- i. Heavy Straight Truck Skills Practice

During the hours of practice range and road driving, the student drivers have been exposed to numerous driving, backing, docking, loading/unloading and even D.O.T. scale situations. The equipment driven by students includes late model 10-speed manual transmission sleeper cab tractors and 53-ft. van trailers. These van trailers are pulled both empty and with loads.

The entire class is to be commended on demonstrating the enthusiasm and work ethic it takes to complete an intense three-week program of this nature. Most graduates have been pre-hired by major transportation companies and are able to begin employment, some within the next few days.