

NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College Receives More National Recognition

Northwest Iowa Community College has received another national recognition. This time the U.S. Department of Education has released a College Scorecard to help students and parents navigate potential schools. The College Scorecard team collected input from students, families, and advisers to gather data on college cost, graduation rates, debt, and salary after graduation and NCC is the only school in Iowa to be listed as one of 45 schools whose graduate's earnings exceed those of the typical two-year college. In fact, NCC is the only school (two or four year) listed in the top tier.

The new Scorecard was announced during President Obama's weekly address, on Sept. 12. The purpose was to connect students and parents to accessible data about college costs. President Obama, said, "College costs and student debt are increasing, and this means everyone should have easy access to easily-understandable data on various aspects of higher education costs, including post-graduation salary and debt rates."

According to ed.gov.blog, "Many two-year community colleges can offer students valuable opportunities to excel in their careers. Depending on the programs that the school offers and excels in, the career ambitions of its students, and the skills that students gain while in school, two-year degrees can provide a great value to students. Here are 45 two-year public colleges across the U.S. at which earnings exceed those of the typical two-year college."

In a story published on E-Campus News' website, "The [College Scorecard site](#) offers a search function, a financial aid breakdown and calculation tool, and also offers a glimpse at schools with low costs that lead to high incomes, low costs and high graduation rates, and more. Two-year community colleges with earnings exceeding the typical two-year college include Scottsdale Community College, Northwest Iowa Community College, Northern Virginia Community College, and Vermont Technical College."

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, president, said, “We are very proud to be notified when we receive national recognition. Student success truly is our story and since recognition like this is based on student outcomes they reaffirm that the College is empowering students to reach their goals through quality, accessible, and affordable programs and customized training. We are proud of our students and their remarkable success, and our employees who partner with them to achieve and consistently improve student success.”

Complete rankings (top forty five) can be found here:

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2015/09/colleges-where-students-earn-high-salaries/> or collegescorecard.ed.gov.

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 3rd Best Online College in the U.S. – *BestColleges.com*, 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:

- 11,500+ College Alumni since 1966, of which over 7,411 live in Iowa
- 100% Placement Rate for College Alumni
- Average first-time wage of our 2013 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*