

NEWS RELEASE

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603 West Park Street, Sheldon, Iowa 51201
Phone 712-324-5061 or toll free 1-800-352-4907, Ext. 105

Northwest Iowa Community College Electrical Technology Program Students Finalists in the 2015 Fluke Connect® Student Contest

Fluke Corporation, Everett, Washington, announced this week the finalists in the 2015 Fluke Connect® Student Contest, which tests the skills, innovation, and business application of student teams enrolled in two and four year colleges, universities, trade/tech schools, and apprenticeship programs in the United States. The finalist teams and their selected projects are:

- Northwest Iowa Community College — Trade and Technology team: predictive maintenance applications across process control equipment in ethanol plants;
- Wenatchee Valley College — Environmental Systems and Refrigeration Technology team: building tune-up and diagnostics for colleges and Washington state;
- Western Area Career and Tech Center — Mechatronics team: analyzing power consumption and mapping power distribution system of school administration building;
- Blue Ridge Community and Technical College — Mechatronics team: electrical safety practice/improvements; and
- University of Puerto Rico — Department of Electronics and Instrumentation team: academic buildings' power efficiency.

Project: Preventive Maintenance and Electrical Safety Practice/Improvements

Team Members: Tory Schmidt, West Bend, IA; Joel Groeneweg, Orange City, IA; and Eric Bernier, Hartley, IA.

Adviser: Mark Bohnet

Project Synopsis:

NCC's project idea revolves around the ethanol industry. This industry employs Industrial Electricians, Electrical Technicians, and Instrumentation Technicians, just to name a few. This industry also utilizes a variety of control equipment, some discrete and some analog, all of which will need to be maintained, updated, and loops that will need troubleshooting. In our project, the Electrical Technician plans on troubleshooting a diverter gate which is used in the grain handling system. We also plan on having the Industrial Electrician

troubleshoot a hammer mill, which is a piece of equipment used to pulverize the corn. The Instrumentation Technician will troubleshoot a distillation column, which is having trouble maintaining a temperature. We feel in these three scenarios that we could demonstrate using the Fluke Connect® equipment to measure discrete signals and analog signals commonly found in process control loops.

A panel of six judges evaluated the teams on their technical skills, innovation and creativity, the business value of their projects, and the presentation skills of the team. The judges were: Tom Wilk, chief editor, *Plant Services* magazine; Martin Lorton, blogger, solar power and electronic measurement equipment; Glen Mazur, author, trainer and former department chair of Joliet Jr. College; and three judges from Fluke Corporation: Thomas Anderson, senior software engineer; Leah Friberg, education and public affairs manager; and Melissa Hammerle, mobility solutions business unit manager.

Final projects are due on March 11, 2016 after which they will be evaluated by the same panel of judges and the public, who will be able to vote via the contest website. The winners, who will be announced on March 24, 2016, will be determined by which team made the biggest impact using the Fluke Connect® system, with 75 percent of the decision based on the evaluation by the panel of judges and 25 percent on the public vote.

The first place team and their adviser will receive a paid trip to Fluke headquarters in north Seattle to spend a day meeting with Fluke executive and engineering leadership, tour Fluke engineering and manufacturing, and see the Boeing manufacturing facility and Future of Flight Aviation Center next door. The school's department will win \$1,000 worth of Fluke tools, in addition to the Fluke Connect® tools used in the contest submission, worth approximately \$3,500.

Visit the contest website to view team profiles and follow the contest at:

<http://download.fluke.com/student-contest/EN/USEN/studentcontest.html>.

About NCC's Electrical Technology Program

The Electrical Technology program is a great fit for those who wish to combine electrical wiring skills with industrial electronic fundamentals. Building on the Industrial and Commercial Wiring program, students develop additional skills in industrial controls and will use the latest technologies for electronic motor drives, and plant automation. Further studies include electrical control of temperature, pressure and liquid flow. Upon completion of the Electrical Technology program, graduates are fully prepared to enter today's competitive job market.

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Our graduates have found success as plant maintenance electricians and managers. Job opportunities may also be found in residential, commercial and industrial construction wiring.

This program is one-of-a-kind in Iowa. Graduates receive an Advanced Standing AAS degree. Earning potentials are \$22.50 per hour. Advancement opportunities include supervisor and plant manager.

About Fluke

Founded in 1948, Fluke Corporation is the world leader in compact, professional electronic test tools. Fluke customers are technicians, engineers, electricians, and metrologists who install, troubleshoot and manage industrial, electrical and electronic equipment and calibration processes.

Quick facts about NCC:

- 3rd Best Online College in America for 2015 - *BestColleges.com*
- 7th in the nation for Graduate Success - *CNNMoney.com*
- Top 150 Best Community Colleges in the Nation (4 years in a row) - Aspen Institute
- Highest Graduation/Transfer Rate – *CollegeMeasures.com*
- 11th Best Community College in the Nation – *TheBestSchools.com*
- 15th Best Community College in the Nation - *Createacreaer.com*
- Safest College in Iowa – *StateUniversity.com*

To receive your free copy of the NCC Viewbook or schedule a campus visit, contact the Admissions office at studentservices@nwicc.edu, call 712-324-5061, 800-352-4907. Or visit our website at nwicc.edu. Northwest Iowa Community College – Your Success is Our Story!

Photo (L-R): Mark Bohnet, NCC Electrical Technology Instructor, Tory Schmidt, Joel Groeneweg, Eric Bernier