

NEWS RELEASE

May be published when received.



January 20, 2016

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

Iowa State Education Association Community Outreach Grant Awarded to Northwest Iowa Community College

Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) has been awarded a \$500.00 Community Outreach Grant from the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) for the Area IV Community College Education Association (AREA4CCEA) Sheldon VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Site Project.

The ISEA is dedicated to promoting quality public education by placing students at the center of everything they do while advocating for education professionals. Finding avenues to impact the communities in which we work and live in positive ways is a large part of their mission. Community Outreach Grants encourage members and/or local associations to collaborate and create opportunities for community service or school projects.

For the past 13 years, NCC has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site. The Accounting Program students (past and present) along with the Administrative Secretarial Program students work together to provide income tax filing assistance. These IRS-certified volunteers provide FREE basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. Those eligible for this service are people with low and/or limited income, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking households, and elderly taxpayers.

The grant funds will be used for the 2016 IRS filing season (tax year 2015). The VITA Site Program will provide training for approximately twenty IRS-certified community college and student volunteers. The purpose of the VITA Site Program is to expand the use of the Earned Income Tax Credit for underserved Iowans by providing FREE tax preparation assistance for low to moderate income Iowans in targeted areas of the State. The funds will help NCC to expand and/or maintain the capacity to provide northwest Iowa communities with FREE tax preparation services.



“We are simply thrilled to receive this grant award from the Iowa State Education Association. This service-learning project is an excellent way to instill in our students the importance of volunteerism. There is much value added through this VITA Site collaboration. The students benefit from the experience of on-the-job training, the needs of the community are supported, and it will have a significant economic impact on this area.”

— Janet Boone, NCC Instructor (ISEA Grant Proposal Author)

Janet Boone, NCC Business Department Instructor, accepts the \$500 ISEA award check from Chuck Ball, NCC Automotive Technology Instructor & Area IV Community College Education Association Treasurer