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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Leica Geosystems to Enter into a Multifaceted Partnership with Northwest Iowa Community College's Heavy Equipment Program**

On Wednesday, August 31, at Northwest Iowa Community College's Heavy Equipment Programs work site in Boyden, Iowa, Nick Guadagnoli, Product Marketing Manager, North American Leica Geosystems Machine Control Division, announced that Leica Geosystems will be entering into a multifaceted partnership with NCC. First, Leica Geosystems will be donating a PowerGrade 3D Touch Screen GPS Global Positioning and Guidance System that will enable the Heavy Equipment program students to learn and develop their skills using this technology. It is their hope in the future that every piece of NCC's equipment can be upgraded to have this type of technology.

Secondly, he announced that Leica Geosystems will be partnering with NCC for training of their employees/customers along with NCC being a new product development and testing site. At least once a year they want to hold a big event in which they will bring in both employees and customers to show off their new equipment lines. They want to be able to let their employees and customers try out the newest and best technologies they have to offer. Along with that they will bring employees of Leica Geosystems to NCC two to three times a year in order to use our classrooms, computers and to train their employees on the actual equipment at the Heavy Equipment jobsites.

Guadagnoli commented, "We are really fired-up about partnering with Northwest Iowa Community College's Heavy Equipment Program. This is a win-win situation for both Leica Geosystems and NCC."

Currently a PowerGrade 3D Touch Screen GPS Global Positioning and Guidance System is installed on a Case 850L Bulldozer that Titan Machinery, Sioux City, has donated to the Heavy Equipment Program. The Program's students have been using it to do work at their jobsite in Boyden, Iowa. The City of Boyden has hired the Program to do the "dirt-work" for their new industrial site that is located on the South side of Boyden.

There are many benefits of having the PowerGrade 3D System installed in the machinery: cuts down on training time, drastically reduces rework, saves fuel expenses, saves operator time and saves work time on the machine which reduces wear and tear.

Greg Meendering, Heavy Equipment student; Inwood, Iowa, said, "I like learning with this type of technology. You can complete the job a lot faster. Learning this type of technology will give me an advantage when I need to look for a job. I will be a step ahead of most guys looking for a job. I will have gained knowledge that even some operators who have been in the field for many years may not have and that is definitely an advantage."

"We really appreciate the donations to the Heavy Equipment Program" stated Roger Solberg, NCC Heavy Equipment Instructor. "Direct input, from the donations to the partnerships, from companies that hire our graduates and lead the country in technology for our profession directly affects the quality of our graduates and can only improve the quality of our program. We look forward to developing and expanding the partnerships with Leica Geosystems and Titan Machinery."