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NEWS RELEASE

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NCC Heavy Equipment Program Receives Donation

On March 8 the Northwest Iowa Community College Heavy Equipment Program received a donation of a new piece of equipment, a GPS Survey Rover, with the Iowa Real Time Network (RTN), from Titan Machinery, Sioux City, Iowa, and Leica Geosystems, Atlanta, Georgia. The donation is for the use of a brand new GPS Survey Rover for one year. After the term of one year has elapsed, the Program will have the opportunity to purchase the Survey Rover at a large discount.

A GPS Survey Rover, with RTN, uses cell phone towers in conjunction with State owned and managed base stations to give you the most accurate mapping. Mark Pritts, NCC Heavy Equipment Instructor, stated, "The great thing about GPS technology is that it saves time and manpower. Instead of looking at paper plans and coordinating your team you all can have the plans in your machines. GPS technology actually changes and updates information in real time so everyone in the crew is on the same page. Also, if you train the operator how to use this technology you only empower that employee with knowledge that, in the end, will make a better product for the company and the customer. Finally, some other great things about GPS technology is you can double check and verify the groundwork so you know your initial bid is correct. You don't have to rely on old aerial photos or old surveys for your bids. You only need one person at the bid site taking measurements instead of three. What that means is the results are instantaneous so you don't have to wait three days for the results."

Mitchell Treiber, Heavy Equipment student from Ida Grove, Iowa, commented, "It was amazing and very cool to know that kind of technology is coming to the heavy equipment field and that I will learn on it. I think that type of training is great. It shows the students the "ins-and-outs" of the latest technology. It's very simple and effective measurement technology. With a click of a button you literally measure in seconds what used to take multiple people days to do."

Hud Johnson, Heavy Equipment student from Red Oak Iowa, said "The GPS technology is very operator friendly. Having exposure to this kind of technology will give a person a definite edge when competing for a job."

Pritts, said, "When the Advisory Committee for the Heavy Equipment Program met last this was one of the concepts/pieces of technology they thought we should be exposing all of our students to. This is cutting-edge technology that lets our students have an advantage over other people going out into the workforce."

"We are really excited about the GPS Survey Rover", continued Pritts. "This equipment will enable our students to extract accurate information from imagery directly into a geospatial database and create and maintain highly accurate GIS data and information to use for analysis,

digital mapping and visualization. NCC's Heavy Equipment Program is designed for students to acquire the skills and knowledge needed by the industry through on-the-job learning experiences. Therefore, the program is dependent on having equipment and technology representative of the industry. NCC has over 45 pieces of heavy equipment and the latest in technology supporting this learning process."

On April 8 students from the Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance Program from NCC went to Titan Machinery for a field day to learn more about the GPS Survey Rover and to learn more about surveying/grade control systems. They also picked up NCC's GPS Rover.

Pritts concluded, "If we would have bought this piece of technology directly from the dealer it would have cost NCC approximately \$13,000. The donation of the use of this equipment will help us to take a step forward with industry requested curriculum, as well as student learning. The investment in the Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance Program by Titan Machinery and Leica Geosystems is monumental. We look forward to working with both of these companies as we progress through the years ahead."

Pictured standing on the ground, left to right: Ben McClarren, Sam Stoller, Wyatt Wirtz, Tom Even, Mitch Treiber, Darrin Pry, Nick Reis, Matt Andera, Bentley Bihrer, Curtis Murphy, and Justin Ridder

Pictured on the trailer, from left to right: Darren Brown, Logan Leuders, and Jordan Benz

Pictured on the machine, from left to right: Ryan Williamson, Jacob Hassing, and Mike Schrage