



Northwest Iowa
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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College's Industrial Instrumentation & Control Students Win 1st in District Instrumentation Systems & Automation Student Games Competition

Northwest Iowa Community College's Industrial Instrumentation and Control (IIC) students received first place honors at the District 6 Instrumentation Systems and Automation (ISA) Student Games held April 23-24 in Eveleth, MN.

Students on the 1st place team included: Jeremy Ranschau, 2nd year, Newkirk, IA; Eric Van Den Top, 2nd year, Sioux Center, IA; Mike Schrader, 2nd year, Sheldon, IA; and Salvador Valdovinos, 1st year, South Sioux City, NE.

The Student Games are head-to-head competitions between Colleges including technical/ community colleges and Universities in a 6-state area in the field of Instrumentation and Control. The competition consists of a morning hands-on practical exercise working with instrumentation equipment and an afternoon exercise working with electrical control equipment.

There were a total of ten teams from five colleges competing this year. The colleges were: Mesabi Range Tech College, Eveleth, MN; North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, North Dakota; Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Shell Lake, Wisconsin; Bismarck State College, Bismarck, North Dakota; and Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, Iowa.

Schrader said, "It was a great overall experience. Our problem was focused around Open Wave Radar Transmitters. We needed to calibrate it and solve a series of problems relating to the transmitter."

Ranschau added, "It's nice to know we are learning a lot more than students from other colleges. During the competition we would know the answers to the questions before they were even done asking the questions. It was very eye-opening, at least to me, that we are learning a lot in this program as compared to other colleges/programs."

Russ Gaalswyk, Industrial Instrumentation & Control Instructor, said, "I am very proud of my students. I think the students learned a lot and this is a great way for them to judge what they know against other students in the IIC field. I look forward to seeing them graduate and go on to have successful careers." Gaalswyk is the ISA team advisor.

NCC has competed at the district level for fourteen years finishing first eleven times, second one time and third two times. NCC has also gone on to the International Competition four times. They have won seventh, fourth, third (bronze medal), and in 2007 NCC won a second (silver medal) place finish at the International Competition (Some years the International Competition does not take place. 2015 is one of those years.)

The International Society of Automation first conducted the International Student Competition in 1993. The competition provides an opportunity for ISA Student Members worldwide to demonstrate and further their knowledge of automation and control technologies, while enjoying the camaraderie and fun of the competition.

Photo: Left to right: Salvador Valdovinos, 1st year, South Sioux City, NE; Mike Schrader, 2nd year, Sheldon, IA; Jeremy Ranschau, 2nd year, Newkirk, IA; and Eric Van Den Top, 2nd year, Sioux Center, IA