



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Northwest Iowa Community College Industrial Instrumentation & Control Students Win 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in District ISA Competition**

Northwest Iowa Community College's Industrial Instrumentation and Control (IIC) students took home first and sixth places at the District 6 International Society of Automation (ISA) Student Games held in the Wisconsin Dells, April 9.

The 1<sup>st</sup> place team included: Jacob Vander Stoep, Maurice; Marshal Dreessen, Sibley; Luke De Jong, Hospers; and Cody Petersen, Sibley.

Students on the 6<sup>th</sup> place team were: Bobby Dahm, Mason City; Michael Westphalen, Sheldon; Michael Brown, Missouri Valley; and Kenneth O'Callaghan, Blair, 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 thirteen teams from six colleges competing this year. The colleges were: Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, Eveleth, MN; Mitchell Technical Institute, Mitchell, SD; North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, ND; Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL; Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Shell Lake, WI; and Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA.

Tim Floen, Industrial Instrumentation & Control Instructor, said, "Year after year we have the fortune of enrolling students that have qualities you can not teach such as work ethic and competitiveness. Adding those qualities to an excellent education in the Instrumentation and Control field creates success in competitions as well as their careers. I feel very privileged to be a part of this process."

Bud DeGraaf, District #6, ISA Omaha Section, Vice-President, commented, "Please accept our congratulations on NCC's 1st and 6th place finishes. I am beginning to think "Dynasty" is appropriate as a descriptor for NCC's Student Section. Your Omaha Section takes pride in your accomplishments. Our sincere congratulations to all at NCC for another great win."

NCC has competed at district level for ten years finishing first eight times and second one time. This is the fifth year in a row winning first place at the district level. 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. Winning the district level competition qualifies the team for international competition which is held annually if funding is available to host the competition. As with last year, NCC has qualified for internationals but there is not enough ISA funding at the national level to host the international competition at the international convention in Houston, TX.

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.

Tim Floen, Industrial Instrumentation & Control Instructor and Mark Bohnet, Electrical Technology Instructor, are the ISA team advisors.