



Northwest Iowa  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Northwest Iowa Community College One of Twenty Two Community Colleges to Earn National Accreditation For Concurrent Enrollment Programs**

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) announced recently that Northwest Iowa Community College is one of 22 colleges and universities in Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Utah that have been granted national accreditation for their concurrent enrollment programs. NACEP accreditation validates the quality of college courses offered in high schools and ensures that the course content and student expectations match the standards of the sponsoring post-secondary institution.

Gretchen Bartelson, Dean of Extended Learning Services at Northwest Iowa Community College, said, "The challenge of meeting NACEP standards has made us a better college. The standards set were high, but no higher than they needed to be. We are grateful to all those who worked so hard to help with this accreditation project. It is a great benefit to all the high school students who are enrolled in these classes."

"Iowa community colleges have had quality concurrent enrollment programs for a number of years, but preparing for NACEP accreditation has helped colleges demonstrate to the public that these offerings are of high quality," stated Jeremy Varner, Education Program Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. "The NACEP process has helped concurrent enrollment programs obtain the institutional resources to better involve faculty and provide greater oversight of the programs. I am very pleased with the progress concurrent enrollment programs have made as they worked to obtain accredited status."

NACEP President Lynn Burbank remarked: "Through NACEP's rigorous accreditation peer-review process, each post-secondary institution has demonstrated that it integrates high quality standards-based practices across its concurrent enrollment program. We are pleased to award this prestigious recognition to these twenty-two institutions."

To earn accreditation from NACEP, concurrent enrollment programs conduct a self-study, document how their programs adhere to NACEP's 17 standards, and are evaluated by peer reviewers from NACEP-accredited programs. NACEP's standards were developed and refined over many years, serve as a model for quality standards in 15 states, and are adaptable to a wide range of higher education institutions.

The full listing of 83 programs nationwide currently accredited by NACEP can be found at:  
<http://nacep.org/docs/accreditation/NACEPAccreditedPrograms.pdf>

For more information about NCC's concurrent enrollment programs contact the Admissions Office at [studentservices@nwicc.edu](mailto:studentservices@nwicc.edu), call 712-324-5061, 800-352-4907. Or visit our website at [www.nwicc.edu](http://www.nwicc.edu). At NCC There's a Place For You!