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Community College

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Northwest Iowa Community College is Named One of the 50 Fastest Growing Community Colleges in the United States**

Community College Week, a biweekly national publication, has named Northwest Iowa Community College one of the 50 fastest growing community colleges with enrollments under 2,500 in the United States. The article, in the November 2010 issue, ranked NCC 20<sup>th</sup> out of the top 50 fastest growing public community colleges.

In the report, the publication used federal enrollment data from the Fall 2008 and fall 2009 academic years to analyze enrollment trends. Based on that data NCC boasted a 29-percent increase in enrollment between that time period.

The current 2010-2011 academic year proves to be the second year in a row of record breaking fall enrollments at Northwest Iowa Community College. Last year NCC had enrolled 1,615 students in the fall, about a 29-percent increase. This year NCC's fall numbers were 1,654 which represents a 2.5-percent increase over last year. This represents about an 84% overall increase in enrollments since fall of 2000 in which NCC had 897 students.

William Giddings, President, attributes the growth to a variety of factors. "Community college enrollment is up nationwide as more people return to school to update their skills during these tough economic times," Giddings said.

"We're also seeing an increase in the number of high school graduates attending NCC to attain their associate's degree or to take transfer courses. More and more students are choosing NCC to complete their associate's degree and possibly transfer to a four-year college to complete their bachelor's degree," Giddings added.

NCC offers a variety of programs that lead to high-wage, high-growth jobs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, business, electrical, and the automotive

industries. The college has developed numerous transfer agreements with four year institutions that enable students to transfer smoothly to a four-year college.

This national recognition also shows that the college is making strides in increasing college degrees and enhancing economic development in the area.

“A major goal of the college is to change lives as well as the educational level of the region,” said Giddings. “Being recognized as one of the fastest growing two-year colleges confirms that we are on the right track to achieve the goal as well to support the economic development work in the region.”

Jan Snyder, Vice President - Institutional Advancement & Enrollment Services, said, “We are proud of our growth and the efforts we have put forth to recruit and retain students. For our service area, an enrollment increase of this size for the reporting period is very significant. I think it speaks to the effective teaching and learning that goes on here.”

Although positive, enrollment growth comes at a price, according to Snyder. “One of our challenges has been to provide the learning spaces we need to accommodate these growing numbers of students,” she said. Snyder noted the college's growth has not been matched by its state appropriation.

“It is significant to note that our growth is possible because of the tremendous support we receive throughout our 5-county service area,” said Snyder. “As always, we will continue to look for new opportunities to provide services and programs that meet the needs of our students, the workforce, as well as the economic needs of the communities we serve.”

To view the entire Community College Weekly story – *Special Report: Fastest-Growing Community Colleges* go to <http://www.ccweek.com/news/articlefiles/2198-CCW112910-AllPages3.pdf>. NCC is listed in the chart on page 8.

**Fall enrollments for NCC since 2000:**

2010...1654  
2009...1615  
2008...1256  
2007... 1288  
2006...1224  
2005...1082

2004...1081  
2003...1079  
2002...1018  
2001...1017  
2000...897