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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College's Automotive Program Voted One of the Top 4 in the Nation by *Tomorrow's Tech* 2013 School of the Year Contest

Northwest Iowa Community College's Automotive Program has been voted one of the top 4 Automotive Programs in the nation by the *Tomorrow's Tech* 2013 School of the Year Contest, sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts and WIX Filters. This honor recognizes NCC's Automotive Program as being part of an elite group of automotive programs in the United States.

The Top 4 Finalists in the 2013 School of the Year competition were named last Friday by a group of judges from *Tomorrow's Tech* magazine, **O'Reilly Auto Parts** and **WIX Filters**. Narrowed from the list of Top 20 schools that were named in September, the regional finalists are:

- Region 1:** Sinclair Community College – Dayton, Ohio
- Region 2:** Northwest Iowa Community College – Sheldon, Iowa
- Region 3:** Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center – Choctaw, Okla.
- Region 4:** Salt Lake Community College – Salt Lake City, Utah

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, President, said, "Automotive training was one of the College's first programs, and it just gets better every year! Our instructors are all Master ASE certified and train students for the workforce of tomorrow using technology-rich instruction, industry software, and internships. Our students get great jobs and become great citizens—giving back to their communities while in college through our nationally recognized Charitable Chariots program and other service projects as they enter the workforce. We are proud to be recognized as a Top 4 finalist and proud to represent the communities we serve nationally."

"We are very pleased to be considered among the top 4 in the nation, stated Chuck Ball, NCC Automotive Instructor. "It is great to know that a small rural college like NCC can directly compete with much larger schools from across the nation. It's nice to know we are developing curriculum and ultimately graduating automotive technicians that can compete within the workforce to find great jobs. We are very proud residents of our communities can take advantage of the service we provide."

Ball continued, “It is a great award just to be in the top 4, but we are slightly competitive in nature, so we are hoping for a strong finish. We look forward to hearing the results in a couple of weeks, but for now it’s just business as usual.”

Ed Sunkin, editor of *Tomorrow’s Tech*, said picking four finalists from the list of nominated schools was an incredible process. “All of the high schools, colleges and career centers that entered should be proud of their accomplishments,” he said.

Judging was based on the schools’ initial online entry, websites of the auto programs and a video submitted by each school’s automotive students and instructors.

“We want to thank all of the students and teachers that took the time to submit nominations for School of the Year, said Sunkin. “Watching these classroom videos, it’s very inspiring to see what students are learning in today’s automotive technical schools and the hands-on training they are receiving that will make them ready for the workforce when they graduate.”

Auto program videos from the four regional finalists, as well as all the schools that submitted a video this year, can be viewed on the Tomorrow’s Tech You Tube Channel:

<http://bit.ly/1bEOL8R>

Instructors for NCC’s Automotive Programs are: Mark Steinle, Spirit Lake, IA; Chuck Ball, Sheldon, IA; and James Gaard, Ashton, IA.

The **2013 School of the Year** will be selected from the four finalists in the next few weeks and will be featured in the November issue of *Tomorrow’s Tech*. You can find *Tomorrow’s Tech* magazine online at tomorrowstechnician.com.