



Northwest Iowa
Community College

603 West Park Street
Sheldon, Iowa 51201
Phone 712-324-5061 or
toll free 1-800-352-4907, Ext. 105

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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College's Professional Photography Program Students Win State Photography Awards

Northwest Iowa Community College's Professional Photography Program students attended the Professional Photographers of Iowa Association (PPIA) annual conference February 5-9 in Des Moines, Iowa.

The conference includes both educational sessions and a photography competition. This is the first year the Professional Photography Program students have attended and competed at the state convention.

Michelle Davis, NCC Professional Photography Instructor, stated, "Going to the PPIA annual conference is a great opportunity for our students to see the best photographs in the industry, meet working photographers from all over the state, and find potential job opportunities. In the photography competition all the entries are put into one group so both students and professionals are competing against each other. It was great for our students to see their work is equal to and exceeding among the best photographers from across the state. They did a great job and we are very proud of them."

Kaitlyn Vander Broek, Professional Photography student, said, "The conference was different than what I thought it would be. I learned a lot at one of the seminars the first day. Jen Helinga, a photographer from Minneapolis, spoke about how she started her business from the ground up. It was really interesting and informative. I also spent eleven hours watching the print judging. I really learned what the public wants and what makes a picture sellable. The most exciting thing was winning the awards. Winning the awards was the most crazy and exciting thing in the whole wide world! "

Dustie Bakker, Professional Photography student, commented, "It was a great experience. I've never been to anything like it. One of my prints scored an 80! That was very exciting. I also learned what the judges at the state level are looking for. I think it will help me when I am photographing a person or object. For example, maybe I won't use a soft focus on everything. If anyone has the chance to go I would highly recommend it. I will definitely go next year!"

All of the photographs are on display in the NCC Library. The public is invited to view the display. NCC's Library hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30am – 8pm and Friday 7:30am – 4:30pm. During Spring Break, March 4-12, hours may vary. Please call 324-5061 or 800-352-4907 for more information.

First Year Students:

Kaitlyn Vander Broek - 1st Place Finished Product, 4 Honorable Mentions
Jeanna Bennet - 2 Honorable Mentions

Second Year Students:

Adam Wittrock – 1 Merit Print 80 points, 3 Honorable Mentions
Dustie Bakker – 1 Merit Print 80 Points, 2 Honorable Mentions
Kay Hoting- 3 Honorable Mentions
Jackie White – 2 Honorable Mentions
Hannah Altena – 1 Honorable Mention

Instructor

Mike Davis, Instructor – 1 Merit Print 80 Points, 3 Honorable Mentions