



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College Receives the Federal TRIO Student Support Services Grant

Through the receipt of a federal grant, Northwest Iowa Community College will continue to have additional opportunities to help insure student success. The College, located in Sheldon, IA, has been awarded the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Grant to continue its services for the next five years (through 2020). This represents a base award of \$241,643 each year for a total of \$1,208,215.

This is the fourth time NCC has received this grant. The first TRIO SSS Grant was funded in September of 2001 and was for four years. Since 2001 NCC's TRIO SSS program has helped 2,240 students with their educational needs and has awarded over \$150,000+ in Grant Aid scholarships.

Through funding administered by the U.S. Department of Education, NCC will be able to continue to provide academic and other support services to low-income, first generation and disabled college students to increase student retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges, and foster an institutional climate supportive of their success.

There are four specific support services outlined in the plan, to include academic counseling, tutoring and developmental education, financial aid counseling, and assistance with the admissions and transfer process to four-year universities. Each student identified for the program will be given personalized assistance from grant staff in developing an individualized academic plan in relation to each of the four components.

Laurie Edwards, Director of the TRIO SSS Program, said "All summer long, we've had students asking if we heard whether or not our grant would be renewed. It's a relief to finally be able to tell them, the TRIO SSS program will continue to offer the services they've come to depend on! For a lot of our students, their parents haven't gone to college," Edwards said. "They don't know quite how to navigate the system, and that's what we're here for. Provide support services. In my fourteen years with the TRIO SSS program at NCC,

I've seen hundreds of first-generation, low-income and disabled students succeed in their pursuit of higher education and I believe my staff and the service we provide is part of the reason for that success."

Northwest Iowa Community College is among a number of Iowa Colleges and Universities who will receive some federal funding to increase college access.