



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

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**October 9, 2013**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*May be published  
when received.*

### **Welding Sculpture to Be Unveiled on October 23 at Northwest Iowa Community College**

Northwest Iowa Community College was in need of something to call their own. The campus needed a signature “something” that students and faculty alike could recognize and appreciate. And now, that “something” is here. NCC is proud to announce that it now has its first sculpture on campus. And even better, it was made right here too, by NCC welding students.

The welding sculpture will be revealed on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:45 am outside between Buildings H & C on the campus of NCC. This unveiling will be a featured event during NCC’s Manufacturing Day, and as part of NCC’s “Days of Thunder” weeklong homecoming type celebration. Community members, alumni and friends of NCC are invited to attend the Welding Sculpture unveiling and all of the “Days of Thunder” events throughout the week.

The idea started out simply. Welding students Justin VandenBurg, Kyle Reitsma, Michael Swank, and instructor Robert Hoting were working in the welding shop when VandenBurg was finished with his work. He was looking for something else to build, and found an image online that sparked his interest. He started working on the design, only his original project was much smaller than the one to be displayed on campus. When he was done, it was decided that this work would be put in one of the display cases around the college. The welding students all liked it, but they never guessed the number of people who would stop to admire it, and the number of people who thought it should be made on a much larger scale.

The idea was brought to President Alethea Stubbe to make this small piece of work into a large sculpture to be placed on NCC’s campus. She loved the idea, and the project was set in motion. They had the idea for a while, but the welding students only took two weeks to put together the finished project. It was fun for them, but challenging at the same time. “The hardest part was the sheer weight of the sculpture, and remembering that everything had to be perfectly square. Our original mini sculpture could have errors, but this one had to be perfect,” VandenBurg said. Hoting commented that, “It’s rewarding for me to see students take an image online and make it into something that will be on campus for a while.”

All four of the welders agreed that they hope more sculptures come out of this first one. Reitsma said, “We would like to start a competition somehow with the other applied technology programs (carpentry, etc.) to add more sculptures on campus.” Everyone agreed. Hoting added, “It’s an honor for the welding department to start a tradition of sculptures here at NCC.”

President Stubbe had this to say about the sculpture: “This student project is representative of the skilled workers our college trains and will invoke creative thoughts and ideas as a conversation piece, a meeting destination, or any type of icon that our visitors, students, and staff can envision. To me this full-scale piece of artwork illustrates lifelong learning – an educational journey that begins and takes many sharp turns but never ends.”

To learn more about NCC’s Manufacturing Programs or to receive your free copy of the NCC Viewbook, contact the Admissions office at [studentservices@nwicc.edu](mailto:studentservices@nwicc.edu), call 324-5061, 800-352-4907 or text THUNDER to 82942. Or visit our website at [www.nwicc.edu](http://www.nwicc.edu).  
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