Melissa mentors Arelis on road to success. Read more on page 12.
Dear Friends of the College,

Since 1966, with your support, Northwest Iowa Community College has served our communities and families we call our neighbors by investing in our youth and adults returning to school, creating opportunities for family-sustaining careers, service, and success. Through affordable, accessible, quality education, we are preparing our students for the future, supporting our local industries with a qualified workforce, and saving families money by providing high school students the opportunities to earn college credits.

For some time, we have studied our communities’ critical needs, listened to external and internal focus groups, and heard the increased demand for more job training and re-training programs. We are a community partner in economic development by providing customized training and working with health care, manufacturers, and many other industries to attract and retain skilled workers. Governor Reynolds has made workforce development a top priority for her administration with Future Ready Iowa, and NCC embraces this challenge and willingly steps forward to serve our communities’ needs locally.

The NCC Board of Trustees has approved a plan to seek support from the community for a $14,185,000 bond referendum. With passage, we will expand job training offerings in health care to help fill the shortages of nurses, CNAs, and emergency personnel within our local communities. Currently we average 150 nursing students on campus along with students in other health career programs. Unfortunately we have had to turn away Nursing and Radiological Technology students who wanted to start their careers because the programs are at capacity. We also recognize from our discussions with healthcare providers, there is a huge need for new health programs like Medical Lab Technician, but currently lack the physical space to start new programs. With successful passage, we will also be able to expand agricultural-related job training, especially in the field of ag diesel and precision agriculture, in addition to expanding our job training in manufacturing and transportation sectors.

Through partnerships with local high schools, NCC makes it possible for families to save $7,460 or more every time their high school student completes an entire year’s worth of college credits through dual enrollment programs at NCC — credits completed even before beginning their first semester at a university or private college. We will expand those offerings as part of our overall plan and work with business and industry on expanding internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students.

The vote is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3. At an overall cost of $14,185,000, this bond would cost the average homeowner with an assessed value of $100,000 an extra $1.17 a month in property taxes, which will help Northwest Iowa Community College continue its essential work of job training, expanding high school partnerships, and serving our communities.

Asking for additional tax dollars to support the college’s efforts to expand job training is something we take very seriously, but we know it’s a good investment. Independent studies show that for every tax dollar NCC currently receives, it returns an additional 11 cents to the community (an 11.4% ROI). If voters approve the referendum, you will be helping protect at least 2,202 year-round, local jobs in our four and one-half county service area, and expansion of job training programs will help encourage younger workers and families to stay in our area.

As our communities grow, so do our College’s needs as we continue to serve and equip members of Northwest Iowa for the future. We look forward to further conversations in the coming days as we prepare for this important vote.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alethea Stubbe
Danielle & Ashley’s Success
Radiologic Technology alumnae enjoy working together, learning together and teaching together.

Kurt & David’s Success
Diesel Technology alumni join forces to create successful local business.

Amalia’s Success
NCC and local hospitals create partnerships to fill a need.

Melissa’s Success
Start here, then transfer.

Faith’s Success
Completing college credits in high school jumpstarts promising career.

John’s Success
NCC’s Electrical program is foundation for success.

Did You Know?
Program Updates
ASHLEY’S STORY

Ashley started considering a career in the healthcare field when she was a child, and a few trips to the Emergency Room opened her eyes to the world of Radiologic Technology. “I broke a few bones when I was a kid. Ever since then the whole concept behind X-rays and how they worked fascinated me.” Ashley graduated from Boyden-Hull Community School in 2004, and promptly attended NCC in the Fall. She completed two years of general coursework before she started her Radiologic Technology coursework in the Fall of 2006. “I knew Danielle right away. She was in many of my general classes, and we carpooled and studied together.” Ashley’s first job out of NCC was also at Sanford Rock Rapids in the Radiology department and has been there ever since.
Danielle graduated from George-Little Rock Community School in 1991. Shortly thereafter, she got married and spent the next several years as a stay-at-home mom. She always thought a career in healthcare would be appealing, but wanted something that was “different from nursing.”

Danielle vividly remembers a turning point in her life. “I was looking at a newspaper in the Hull Library and there was an article about how NCC was going to start a Radiologic Technology program.”

She hasn’t turned back.

Danielle was in NCC’s first Radiologic Technology class. She will be the first to tell you how scared she was jumping back into school after being out for 13 years, but once she got into the flow of the program, she knew she made the right decision. “Looking back now, I can honestly say that going to NCC was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.” Danielle secured a job at Sanford Rock Rapids while she was still in school and worked there part-time until a full-time position became available. She has been at the Sanford Rock Rapids Radiology Department ever since.

Danielle (Van Roekel) Hrdlicka and Ashley (Koele) Van Engen have a lot in common. THEY BOTH graduated in the early years of NCC’s Radiologic Technology program, grew up in Northwest Iowa, have stayed working in Northwest Iowa, love working in a small hospital, and are lifelong learners.
Danielle and Ashley have been working together, learning together, and teaching together since both completing NCC’s Radiologic Technology program.

When speaking to Danielle and Ashley, the first thing both of them will share is how much they love working at a smaller hospital. “The personal relationships you get with the patients is amazing. You start to know their families and can talk to them about community events while you are working with them. The patients seem more at ease and more trusting when they know you,” shares Danielle.

And although the duo has had similar experiences and philosophies when it comes to educational settings and places to work, the two find they have varied strengths in the field. Danielle says that Ashley is far stronger with trauma situations and thrives on intensity, and Ashley says Danielle is better at working with the families and keeping the patient comfortable and calm. However, both of them say their favorite type of work within Radiologic Technology is CT scans. Actually, the ladies enjoy working with CT scans so much, they both recently sat for and passed the CT certification exam.

Danielle and Ashley have been involved with their alma mater ever since graduation, as both of them have been active with “hosting” clinical students every semester. “We keep a list of all the clinical students that have ever worked here. We are getting close to having 30 on that list,” states Ashley. And both ladies take their connection with the clinical students very seriously. “Of those on that list, we probably keep in touch with almost all of them in some way. We know where most are working and connect with them on social media. In a few cases, we’ve even been invited to their weddings,” says Danielle.

With over a decade of watching future Radiologic Technologist come through their department, they can see a few changes, including more diversity in genders, ethnicity, and hometowns. What used to be predominantly a female program is seeing an influx of males, and they note that many of the new students originate from further away. They also see the abilities of the recent clinical students change. For example, the students are significantly more technologically savvy than they were just a decade ago. This may be partially due to the increased online and hybrid coursework availability offered within the program.

“Economically, you can’t beat a community college for the educational value. I became more aware of that fact as a non-traditional student. NCC offers a far better return-on-investment than a four-year college can when you are looking at a career in Radiologic Technology,” states Danielle.

Both NCC alumnae see great things for the future of NCC’s Radiologic Technology program. “The quality of instruction that the instructors provide has been excellent. We can see it in the caliber of the clinical students. And the Board pass rates speak for themselves,” states Ashley. “The program just continues to get better and stronger. We can’t wait to see where it will go in the future,” shares Danielle.

“Looking back now, I can honestly say that going to NCC was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”
To some people, the smell of diesel fuel is energizing. It stirs something in the soul that makes hearts pump. Two of those people are Kurt Kooima ('01) and David Rozeboom ('99), business partners and co-owners of D & K Repair in Rock Valley, IA. However, the fact that these two diesel lovers are in business together is only half the story. Not only have they built and developed a successful business in diesel repair, but they have expanded and diversified that business to better serve the agricultural community. They have even let their passion for diesel fuel consume their hobbies, including joining the tractor pulling circuit.

continued on next page...
Both David and Kurt are alums of NCC’s Diesel Technology (then Truck & Diesel) program. Both grew up on farms in Northwest Iowa (David is a graduate of Netherlands Reformed High School and Kurt is a graduate of Western Christian High School). David always knew he’d be in an agriculture related field. Kurt originally thought about a career as a physician, but the thought of going to school for decades and not being able to be active with his family farm deterred him. Both David and Kurt were drawn to NCC’s Truck & Diesel program because of its strong reputation and close proximity to home.

“I remember how knowledgeable the instructors were. I was very impressed with how much they knew and how well they taught,” shares David. He vividly remembers being taught by Jeff Ruth, Rex Weber and Mark Doherty for the general automotive coursework and Denny Wallace as the subject matter expert for the diesel component. “That program is why we are where we are today,” states Kurt.

Both David and Kurt started their diesel careers as a mechanic at Town and Country Implement in Rock Valley. They both agree that this experience taught them how to work efficiently and instilled in them the basics of customer service. It also offered diversity in the different types of equipment and an opportunity to gain experience in a variety of mechanical problems that would be seen in a diesel setting. After a number of years at Town and Country, they were ready to take the next step.

“I wanted to be back on the farm more, but I wanted to do some sideline stuff with diesel. Dave and I had been talking about maybe going on our own and doing some diesel work on the side of our other farm projects,” shares Kurt. And that is just what they did. In 2003, Kurt built a shop on his parents’ farm to do the diesel work at the newly established D & K Repair. Kurt also worked on the farm with his cattle and crop land, while Dave started custom bailing.

“On our first day in business, we only had enough work lined up to keep us busy for 2 ½ weeks,” remembers Kurt. Fortunately, the work kept rolling in and the business steadily grew from that point on.

The duo set a goal—to have enough work to hire one full-time employee by the time D & K had been in business for ten years. They met that goal by 2005 (their second year in business). By 2007 they were up to four employees, and Kurt started to take a more “hands-off” approach to the business, which allowed him more time to work on the family farm. He was still working with customers and finding ways to grow the business, but D & K had grown enough that his employees were able to keep up with the daily mechanical work. Dave was always on hand to manage what went on in the shop. They were finding projects that ranged from agricultural equipment to 18-wheelers, and they were even starting to sell used farm equipment to diversify.

2007— Around this time, Dave and Kurt began to venture into the competitive tractor pulling circuit. These two enthusiasts became co-owners of “Red Rock Pulling” with another friend from the area. Their tractor, which is a 9200 lb. Super Farm, competes with the Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pull Association at the “Super Farm Class.” Between the three co-owners, Red Rock Pulling competes in approximately 25 pulls a year. Each of the three owners take turns driving the Red Rock, and the maintenance and upkeep is shared among the team. Red Rock was even able to nab a victory over 30 other competitors in their class at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, KY, in 2014. Plus, their interest in tractor pulls has led them to be part of the committee that organizes the annual Thunder in the Valley Outlaw Tractor Pull in Rock Valley. The pull is a huge tourist event for the town, bringing in approximately 135 competitors from roughly a dozen states. Last year, over 13,000 spectators showed up for the two day event. (refer to photo on next page)
I remember how knowledgeable the instructors were and how well they taught.

By 2010, D & K had outgrown the original shop, so they built a new structure within eyesight of the original shop on the Kooima farm. With this new shop, they also had an opportunity to expand and hire more employees, bringing the total count to seven.

In 2015, at the suggestion of a customer, D & K Repair ventured into EkoTuning. EkoTuning is a way of “remapping the software” of the engine control unit within a diesel engine, which gives diesel engines more power using less fuel. There are very few businesses in the area that do EkoTuning, and with this unique skill, Dave and Kurt have tapped into a new customer base that extends hours away from Rock Valley. It has even brought them to remote parts of South Dakota. The main customers for this type of service are farmers looking to get more efficiency with their farm equipment.

There are no signs of slowing down for this busy crew. In 2017, D & K expanded their shop area again to facilitate more repairs and sales of diesel equipment. D & K Repair is now eight employees strong, with over 11,600 square feet of shop space.

What began as two NCC alums looking for a way to use their diesel knowledge while still being able to be active with family farming operations has turned into a progressive and ever-changing company with a bright future. Dave still tends to oversee daily activities at the shop, while Kurt is more prone to be out and about with customer relations and checking out new business opportunities for expansion. And as the world of diesel engines continues to evolve, there is no doubt that these two entrepreneurs will embrace the changes head-on.

“The Thunder in the Valley committee began a new scholarship in 2017 to assist with the needs of NCC students that are enrolled in the Automotive, Diesel, Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance, and Manufacturing programs. 50% of the proceeds from a calcutta raffle held during their annual Thunder in the Valley event will help fund thousands of dollars in scholarships. Kurt and Dave were instrumental in the creation of this scholarship. Pictured L to R: Roger Solberg, Heavy Equipment instructor; Kristi Landis, Foundation/Alumni Relations Coordinator; Wade Gort, NCC Foundation Board member; Rich Rozeboom, President of the Valley Pullers, Inc.
The most rewarding thing is spending time with the residents and really getting to know them. The appreciation and love that I receive from the residents is something money can’t buy.
Creating Partnerships.

One of NCC’s missions is to offer localized training responding specifically to industry needs. In 2015 the collective healthcare industry was facing a growing shortage of workers. One component of the industry, CNAs, are a vital link in the healthcare field, providing crucial hands-on care for patients and residents. Annual job openings for Certified Nurse Aides alone are projected to increase at a far greater rate than the number of new qualified workers entering the workforce.

The training program that was developed in partnership with the Sioux Center Hospital was to address the need for CNA training and credentialed employees. For these reasons, a partnership was formed between Sioux Center Health and Northwest Iowa Community College in an attempt to increase community awareness of the role of CNAs in the medical field as well as to provide training and job placement for candidates. A full marketing campaign utilizing newspaper, radio, and the internet was launched. An informational meeting was held at Royale Meadows so that all those who were interested could have their questions answered, tour the facility, and begin the hiring process. A Pre-CNA option was available to any student who felt that he or she may need additional support with the English language and/or medical terminology.

Seventeen interested candidates attended the informational meeting, and an additional four showed interest afterwards for a total of twenty-one candidates. Due to the high level of interest, it was decided to offer both a daytime and an evening class. Six students chose to participate in the daytime class, and nine students chose the evening option. All classes and clinical rotations were held at Royale Meadows to help give students a sense of “on-the-job” training. Of the students who completed the CNA course, at least six were hired by Sioux Center Health to work at their long-term care facility, Royale Meadows.

Amalia Feliciano, Sioux Center, Iowa, was one of the students who participated in the daytime class in 2015. She was working as a housekeeper at Royale Meadows when the CNA opportunity was presented to her, but prior to that she worked at a local grocery store and focused on being a mom to her two young girls. Amalia stated that she always liked to help people and loves the medical profession, but she might not have been able to pursue a career as a Certified Nurse Aide if not for the partnership between NCC and Sioux Center Health.
There is no doubt in Melissa (Scheuring) Wenthe’s mind that she found her calling in life. When you speak to her about what she does, the look of pride and the true sense of commitment to her students shines through. One of the first things you’ll notice about Melissa is how little she talks about herself and how much she talks about her students.

Melissa is the current Spanish Teacher/ESL instructor at the Sheldon Community High School. But teacher isn’t a strong enough word to explain her role. She is also an advocate, a resource, and a friendly face to her students.

Melissa’s story starts in the small community of Defiance, IA. She graduated from Harlan Community High School in 2002 and knew she wanted to begin at a community college. She was undecided for her long-term future career plans, and logistically, NCC was the perfect distance from home. “NCC was close enough that I could drive home easily for a day, but I wasn’t so close that I couldn’t have a little freedom. Plus, when I really crunched the numbers of all my collegiate options and factored in the scholarships I got from NCC, it was by far the most affordable.”

Spanish was always an interest of Melissa’s. As a matter of fact, she took four years of it in high school. And when her NCC advisor told her she needed to take some humanities credits, Melissa eagerly jumped at the opportunity to take more Spanish.

But Melissa’s “Aha” moment happened while she was part of the TRIO program at NCC. “I can remember Laurie Edwards and Lucy Penner approaching me about becoming a tutor to help some fellow TRIO students out with the Spanish class. I absolutely loved tutoring. It was that experience that opened my eyes to becoming a Spanish teacher.”

By May of 2004, Melissa graduated with her Associate of Arts degree from Northwest Iowa Community College, and she went on to get her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. While she completed her Bachelor’s Degree, she was active in Enlaces en Cristo (Enlaced in Christ), a collegiate club focused on Hispanic outreach. Through this organization, Melissa got experience from a different angle, teaching native Spanish speakers how to speak English through ESL courses.

Upon completing her Bachelor’s degree in 2007, Melissa began her teaching career at the MOC-FV school district as an ESL teacher for the elementary and middle school students. She also began coursework toward a Master’s in Education Degree through Morningside College, with an ESL teaching endorsement. She completed her Master’s Degree in 2014.

By 2009, Melissa changed positions to teach both Spanish and ESL at the Sheldon High School. Therefore, on any given day, Melissa teaches Spanish to native English speakers, and English to those who have Spanish or another foreign language as their native language. She loves the diversity in her day-to-day work and really loves learning and teaching about other cultures.

But teaching Spanish and English to her students is only a portion of her job. “A large part of what I do is advocacy. Many of my students come into my classroom unable to speak English, have families who don’t speak English, and are just trying to survive in our culture. A lot of my job also entails helping families find the resources available to them to help them find a job, start the citizenship process, or even find community services. It is so inspiring to see a student who may come to your class not knowing any English as a freshman grow over their high school career. They learn English, find jobs, and some even go on to college. It’s a great feeling to know you helped them achieve their dream.”

Beyond that, Melissa loves educating students who have never been outside of the United States about the rest of the world. One of her job duties...
When I crunched the numbers and factored in the scholarships, NCC was by far the most affordable.

as Spanish Club advisor is taking groups of high school students to foreign Spanish-speaking countries like Nicaragua and Guatemala every two to three years. In June of 2018, she will be taking a group of 22 Sheldon High School students to Costa Rica for a week. During their time there they live with host families, go to conversational Spanish classes, take cooking lessons and even do service learning projects to familiarize themselves with the culture. “It is an awesome experience to see our students change over the course of a week. It’s like they understand how much bigger the world is. They usually come back very reflective and humbled.”

Melissa can look back at her journey and easily see how NCC was the starting point of a very rewarding career. As the culture of Northwest Iowa continues to evolve, there is no doubt that Melissa will be there, ready to assist English-speaking and non-English speaking students in achieving their goals and dreams.
Faith Vander Voort firmly believes that without NCC, her life would be entirely different. And she believes the impact of her decision to attend NCC while still going to high school was a nearly $80,000 investment.

Faith, a native of Orange City, IA, had decided early in life that her dream job was to work in the entertainment industry, with a journalism background steering her projects. She wanted to attain that goal through attending Azusa Pacific University (APU), a private Christian University located near Los Angeles, CA. When the opportunity arose in her junior year of high school to take concurrent enrollment courses through her local community college, Faith had no reservations and went full steam ahead, knowing it would help her along her path to Azusa Pacific.

By the time Faith stepped foot on the Azusa Pacific campus, she had 27 college credits completed through Northwest Iowa Community College. And although she had a fantastic experience at APU, she realizes the doors that have opened for her happened in part because of the college credits she obtained while in high school.

Faith graduated from APU in May 2017, completing her bachelor’s degree in three years. During her time at APU, she was able to get a front-line look at politics. This exposure lead her to change her career goal from acting to politics, and her background in journalism would be beneficial to aid with the media component of her new vocation. Faith had an internship with Congressman Steve King, and even did an exchange program with Georgetown University in Washington DC while completing her degree through APU.

Upon completion of her internship, a door opened for her to work as a Press Secretary for Congressman Paul Gosar of Arizona. Faith now lives in Washington D.C., where she is the spokesperson for Congressman Gosar, with daily tasks including speech writing, media communications, social media strategizing and general public outreach for the congressman. In addition to her work with Rep. Gosar, she has taken on the additional job of Digital Adviser for the Republican Study Committee.

In Faith’s eyes, NCC was the conduit that allowed her to graduate in three years (saving the cost of a year of private college) and made her available to start her new dream career a year earlier, thus allowing her to start making a good wage sooner than her other classmates. These factors equate to a nearly $80,000 investment in Faith’s eyes. She says that without the decision to take NCC’s concurrent enrollment courses, life would be dramatically different for her. Faith is thrilled with the direction life has taken her so far.
Area HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS are taking college credits through NCC this semester*

Cherokee 24
Cleghorn 4
Marcus 18
Meriden 2
Lyon 117
Doon 10
George 20
Inwood 12
Larchwood 8
Lester 2
Little Rock 14
Rock Rapids 51

Osceola 51
Ashton 5
Sibley 42
Osheyedan 4
Sioux 365
Alton 14
Hawarden 38
Orange City 79
Boyden 22
Hospers 8
Hull 43
Matlock 4
Rock Valley 77
Sioux Center 80

Area EMERGENCY SERVICES & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS took classes through NCC last year*

Cherokee 330
Lyon 1,262
O’Brien 1,388
Osceola 552
Sioux 3,124

Area residents took a CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASS through NCC last year*

Cherokee 389
Lyon 1,854
O’Brien 2,838
Osceola 1,002
Sioux 5,214

NCC ALUMNI live in northwest Iowa*

Cherokee 100
Lyon 627
O’Brien 1,098
Osceola 438
Sioux 2,068

*Spring Semester 2018 Non-Duplicate Head Count
*August 1, 2016–July 31, 2017 Duplicate Head Count
*Spring 2018
*Spring 2018

688
6,656
11,297
4,331

If you’ve been through Hull on Highway 18 lately, you likely noticed a new building constructed on the southwest side of town with the logo JElectric on it. And if you haven’t been through Hull to see the building, you’ve likely seen service vehicles with JElectric’s logo on it. JElectric is booming, and the success of this business is due to the ambition and vision of John Emerick. John is a 2003 alumnus of Northwest Iowa Community College’s Industrial and Commercial Wiring program.

John’s story begins in Rochester, MN, where he graduated from high school. During his junior and senior years he took some college-level courses in guitar repair at his local community college. However, he knew that guitar repair was more of a hobby, and not something he wished to pursue for a career. His parents encouraged him to consider a career as an electrician. If John was going to get into the electrical field, though, he wanted to make sure he went to the best school for training Electricians that he could find. So he and his parents began to do some research.

“It came down to two colleges that had the best programs to become an electrician—one in Sheldon, Iowa, and one in Green Bay, Wisconsin. After touring NCC, the choice was obvious.”

As John thinks back to his time at NCC, he credits his instructors (Bill Noack, Scott Abbott, Mark Bohnet, and Mike Pedersen) for being great mentors. He knows their knowledge and teaching skills made all the difference in his ability to become proficient in the electrical field. “The electrical program was as fun as school could be. It makes a huge difference when you love the subject you are being taught and you can apply it hands-on.” John also appreciated how diverse the content of the program was. “The program prepares you for a lot of different occupations within the electrical field.”

John worked at Interstates Electric for the required internship within the Industrial and Commercial Wiring program, and he continued to work there beyond graduation. By the time John ventured out to start JElectric, he had over ten years of experience with Interstates. While he was there, he gained familiarity with a number of different electrical-related projects, including location work at ethanol plants in Brewster, MN, and Ashton, IA, and managing the pre-fab location in Hull. During this time, he began to get an itch to break off and start his own electrical company. And by 2012, JElectric was created.

The company started with very bare bones, with John working out of his garage and service van. During his first year he hired a few students who were in NCC’s Industrial and Commercial Wiring program to work for him part-time. These two employees turned into full-time employees upon graduating from NCC and are still with JElectric today.

JElectric has steadily been gaining ground in the electrical industry ever since. It has outgrown a few locations, and is now located in a 9,600 square foot building on the southwest side of Hull. The business currently employs 12 people, from electricians to office help and beyond. “A majority of my employees have been through NCC or intend to go through NCC for their schooling,” shares John.

John still loves going out on job sites and being directly involved in smaller projects and service calls, but lately he tends to spend most of his time helping layout projects, coordinating job sites, and checking out new business development ideas. He says he never intended to become an entrepreneur and that the ability to manage a business and lead employees is something instilled in him by his parents and his past work experience at Interstates. John is also quick to acknowledge that surrounding himself with great employees who genuinely care about what they do is huge for the success of his business.

And as for that background in guitar repair—well, it still lies within John. There are musical instruments located in remote parts of the shop that may get played from time to time when John needs a change of pace or to clear his head.
A majority of my employees have been through NCC or intend to go through NCC for their schooling.
Coming in Fall 2018

NCC is excited to offer our new Web and Graphic Design program starting in Fall 2018. Combining artistic skills with the latest technological applications, the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree will prepare students to design and manage a web presence, including web page and digital image design. Students will work toward a diploma during their first year of study and complete their AAS in the second year with an emphasis in either web development or graphic design.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Now in its 15th year, the Sheldon Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site is officially open at Northwest Iowa Community College. This FREE service is available to people who generally make $54,000 or less a year, persons with disabilities, and the elderly who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. IRS VITA return preparation sites are operated by certified student/alumni volunteers from the Accounting and Administrative Secretarial programs at NCC. Instructors Sheila Drenkow and Janet Boone are serving as the VITA Site Coordinators. To schedule an income tax appointment with the NCC VITA Site, please call 712-324-5061, ext. 272. In 2017, 257 individuals and families utilized the NCC VITA site, and over 914 volunteer hours were logged by our students and NCC staff.

New Software in the Engineering Design/Design Technology Program

In the Fall of 2017, the Engineering Design/Design Technology Programs switched CAD software to incorporate Solidworks into the curriculum. The students have successfully completed their first 42-day course with the new software. While learning the software, the students also designed and manufactured the Arbor Press, pictured below. The project’s individual parts were modeled and assembled as 3D-parts in Solidworks. The yellow and blue parts were converted to be printed on the program’s 3D-Printers. The black parts are purchased parts (fasteners) that hold the arbor press together. The clear part on the front of the arbor press was converted to a 2D drawing, and laser cut out of acrylic. And last but not least, the white part was molded out of a casting resin. The students utilized Solidworks to create the two mold halves, applying draft angles and radiuses to complete the process. At the end of all of their hard work, the students had not only gained the knowledge of their new software, but also received a working Arbor Press.

Heavy Equipment Simulators Get State-Wide Use

In addition to NCC’s existing Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance degree, Northwest Iowa Community College, in conjunction with Hawkeye Community College, now offers a Basic Equipment Operator certificate. This program is unique, as it can actually be taught at any of Iowa’s 14 other community colleges. The certification is ten days in length. The first five days is classroom instruction, followed by five days of hands-on training and simulator exposure by NCC’s and Hawkeye’s Heavy Equipment Instructors. To date, roughly ten of these courses have been offered state-wide, with another five scheduled in 2018. Upon completion of the training, the students receive not only the Basic Equipment Operation certificate, but also their OSHA 10-Hour certification and Forklift Safety certification.

The simulators have also been getting use for company training opportunities offered through NCC’s Workforce and Economic Development department. Training that used to be segmented into lecture time and hands-on application within the equipment is now more integrated. Lecture time carries over into simulator experience, which then leads to a more fluid transition into actual heavy equipment machinery. Implementing training in this manner has been very successful, as the students are more competent and confident in their abilities by the time they work directly with large dirt-moving equipment.

Student Legislative Seminar

Four students and several NCC staff and board members attended the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Student Legislative Seminar held on January 24–25, 2018 in Des Moines. This event is in its 30th year, and is a great opportunity for community college students from around Iowa to meet with our legislators. The event has two benefits: community college students learn more about the governmental strategies and how they affect education, and the legislators learn more about the students that the community college serves. This year, about 220 students from all the Iowa community colleges attended. Governor Kim Reynolds told her story during the Opening General Session, followed by student break-out sessions, including dialogues with legislators (Senators Ragan, Sinclair, Hart, and Representative Hinson). At one time, the NCC students were able to join with students from Iowa Lakes Community College to meet in a more private session with their local legislators, including Senator David Johnson and Representatives Wills, Wheeler, and Sexton.
"It was really good and helped a lot of us. It was a very nice class. I didn’t have to travel for my education, so I could easily keep attending. Sometimes you don’t have the money to go to school or even the money to find a way to get there. Please keep doing this for people like me. People who this was the only way you can make it work," said Amalia.

She also stated that she learned a lot through the CNA class and has grown into a more independent person who is fulfilled by her career. “The most rewarding thing is spending time with the residents and really getting to know them. They have great stories to share and you learn a lot listening and talking with them,” said Amalia.

She said that she might go back to school for nursing in the future, but for now she is very proud of herself for showing her daughters that she could do it!

Fast forward to the present — 2018. We were curious how Amalia was doing. Did she still live in the area? Was she still employed at Royale Meadows? Had she continued her education? We met with Amalia on a cold January day at Royale Meadows, Sioux Center, where we are thrilled to report Amalia is still very happily employed as a CNA.

Along with Amalia, Krystal Vander Pol, Marketing Public Relations Specialist for the Hospital joined the conversation and said, "Our facilities are diverse and well rounded. It is hard to keep young employees long-term. It is an honor that Amalia is working here and she contributes a lot to our residents. We love partnering with NCC. The more Sioux Center Health and NCC can partner together the better. NCC has the graduates and we have the jobs – it's a win/win situation!"

NCC: It is great that you are still employed at Royale Meadows as a CNA. Now that you have been a CNA for three years what do you think of the training that was provided?
Amalia: It improved my life. I am a single mom of two young girls and this gives me a better income than what I had before the training. I continue to learn every day. I have really enjoyed my job. I like that I can choose the schedule I work. Mornings are best for me because then my kids are at school when I am at work.

NCC: You have been here three years. You must really like working here.
Amalia: I love to work here. I am really attached to the residents. When a resident says thank you, what they are really saying is thank you for taking care of me. The appreciation and love that I receive from the residents is something money can’t buy.

NCC: Have you been able to go back to school for nursing?
Amalia: No, I haven’t yet, but I still want to. Maybe in two years when my girls are a little older. I just love health care and I love helping people. I’m a people person and I think nursing is really interesting.

NCC: What do your kids think of you reaching your goal of being a CNA?
Amalia: I loved teaching my kids to be responsible. They see how much I love my job. My girls saw me go to school as an adult and can see the benefits that came with it. It will definitely encourage them to continue with their educations after high school. They have seen the difference it has made in our lives. I am still really proud I passed the training and that I am a CNA.

NCC: Do you think NCC and the hospital should offer more training?
Amalia: I think they should offer it more often. I didn’t have the money for the training. I really appreciated it. You don’t know who is out there and how you can change their lives.

NCC: What would you tell people who are considering training to be a CNA?
Amalia: You really end up being part of the resident’s family. If you have a compassionate heart and want to help people, this job is for you.
Enjoying this publication? Want to know more NCC news? NCC’s Alumni Office offers quarterly e-newsletters. These quick reads will keep you abreast on alumni relevant information. To make sure NCC has your e-mail address so you can get e-newsletters and other alumni relevant information, e-mail alumni@nwicc.edu or call 800-352-4907 ext. 164.

EVENTS

- **Bond Referendum**
  - April 3

- **Spring Commencement**
  - 1:30PM | Friday, May 11

- **Summer Classes**
  - Afternoon & Evening classes begin May 23
  - Hybrid 7x7 classes begin May 14, 15, 17, 18

- **Fall Classes**
  - Get registered!
  - Classes start August 20, 2018

Non-discrimination in Education

It is the policy of Northwest Iowa Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.6 and 216.9, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d and 2000e, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 2000e, et seq., Title IV (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 - 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.), and all other applicable federal and state laws, regulations and orders. The Board of Trustees shall monitor progress on this policy through the President’s appointed Affirmative Action/Equity Coordinator(s).

If you have any questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy, please contact the Equity Coordinators, Sandy Bruns, Northwest Iowa Community College, 603 West Park Street, Sheldon, Iowa, phone number 712-324-5061, extension 113, fax 712-324-6138, email sandy@nwicc.edu; or Beth Frankenstein, phone number 712-324-5061, extension 242, fax 712-324-6138, email bfrankenstein@nwicc.edu; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60606, phone number 312-730-1560, fax 312-730-1576.