NCC ALUMNA receives top airman status

Electrical programs ranked #1 IN THE NATION

UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP creates opportunities for area high school students
The pace of knowledge, information, and change continues to increase. For NCC and Northwest Iowa to thrive in the future, we must be bold and embrace change. In this edition, changes bring energy and new ideas into NCC’s emergency services, CDL training, and unique partnerships. However, our focus on service and success has NOT changed, but has accelerated with Forbes’ recognition as #12 of The Top 25 Two-Year Trade Schools in the nation: Colleges That Can Solve the Skills Gap; #1 Electrical Programs in the U.S. by Schools.com; the fifth Aspen Institute College of Excellence award; and many others! Please stay connected and share your success as we meet our communities’ needs for the future. Your success is our story!

Alethea Stubbe, Ph.D.
President, Northwest Iowa Community College

“The only thing constant is change.” —Heraclitus

Changes are EVERYWHERE at NCC. Among the many program changes and facility upgrades happening around campus, I am also in the midst of a change. Effective June 1, I became the Director of College Advancement at NCC, and I couldn’t be more excited to take on the challenge. Although I will miss getting to work directly with NCC’s alumni on a daily basis, I know that the opportunity to see and work with NCC’s alumni is everywhere.

I am happy to share that Morgan Granstra has transitioned into the role of Foundation Coordinator and Alumni Relations. Be looking for her out and about, as she is eager to get out and see our alumni in action. Don’t be bashful...share your NCC story. Morgan will love to hear each of them!

And as I venture into my new role, you will continue to see me out as I visit with businesses, health care facilities, service groups, friends of the College, etc., to find new ways the College can partner and be the best it can be for Northwest Iowa and beyond. The possibilities are endless, and with new opportunities comes more exciting CHANGES!

Kristi Landis
Director of College Advancement

As an alum myself, I can say with confidence that NCC is truly Northwest Iowa’s hidden gem. Whether you are the student looking to receive required training for that dream career, the undecided student beginning their college education, or the adult worker desiring continuing education, you can’t go wrong by choosing NCC. Today’s endless options make the college decision far from easy, but it didn’t take me long to realize that attending Northwest Iowa Community College was a no-brainer! As a student, I witnessed many examples of staff and faculty working hard to ensure a quality, affordable, and attainable education for all students. Witnessing these examples also made the decision to begin my career at NCC a no-brainer!

In beginning my new role as Foundation Coordinator & Alumni Relations, I am eager to hear your success stories! These first four years working at NCC have flown by! During this time I have made numerous connections, heard countless student and community success stories, and witnessed many awards received. I know exciting times are ahead, and I can’t wait to see what the next four years bring!

Morgan Granstra
Foundation Coordinator and Alumni Relations
**Coming Full Circle**
Grandfather and granddaughter share special bond

**Above All**
Susanna Schriever receives Top Airman Status

**Unique Partnership**
NCC and Interstates, along with three local K–12 school districts, create unique educational partnership

**Second to None**
NCC receives numerous state & national recognitions

**Meet Kevin**
NCC hires new Emergency Services Coordinator

**Gear Up**
New CDL Train & Test program up and running

**Program Updates**
Alumnus of the Year
May 11, 2018, was a joyful day for Chuck Van Ness. He was able to see his granddaughter graduate. But that is only a small part of the story.

Chuck Van Ness grew up in Rock Valley, Iowa, and chose to attend NCC for Powerline after his brother, Perry, started with Powerline classes at NCC. However, a few weeks after classes began, Chuck had a motorcycle accident that forced him to withdraw from the program. After a few years of healing and working construction jobs, Chuck decided to go back to NCC for a degree in Electro-Specialist (now known as Industrial & Commercial Wiring). He recalls hours of code class, lots of hands-on lab activity within his classes, and a fun camaraderie within his class of about thirty other students. After graduation in 1978, Chuck had little concern about finding a job. He knew the reputation of the College. “If you went to Sheldon, an employer would hire you. Had I not had my degree from NCC, they probably wouldn’t have given me the time of day.”

Chuck worked at the Georgia-Pacific Sheetrock plant in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and at Ranco in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, before he started his thirty-five year career with Lawrence Paper Company in Lawrence, Kansas. Chuck started at Lawrence as a machinist and then moved up to technician. He worked long hours, many times working 70 hours a week for weeks on end, but he loved every minute of it because of the challenge the job provided. Chuck has now been retired for a couple years, and he enjoys visiting family and volunteering a few afternoons a week at a local nursing home, calling BINGO numbers for the residents.

Mikayla Landsness knew at an early age that she wanted to be a nurse. She frequently assisted with the medical care of an elderly family member. Upon graduating from Sioux Central High School in 2015, Mikayla went to another community college to get her prerequisites completed before setting her sights on Northwest Iowa Community College. “I started researching nearby nursing schools, and chose NCC because of its excellent nursing program and its reputation. What really caught my eye was the board pass rate. NCC has a great reputation for excellent board pass rates, and employers seem to like hiring NCC nursing grads.”

Mikayla describes her NCC experience as “fun and busy.” She recalls spending her first year trying to figure out her nursing coursework and working. She worked as many as four jobs at one time, including being a Resident Assistant at NCC’s housing complex. She loved meeting new people and forming relationships with her fellow classmates and her instructors, and she fondly remembers playing educational games in class to help learn the curriculum. She also became active in NCC’s Student Government Association, serving as President during her second year at NCC. She even spearheaded numerous fundraising efforts on campus for nonprofit organizations in the area, such as food drives and bake sales.

While she was still a student at NCC, she started working as a Practical Nurse at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake, a job which has evolved since completing her Associate Degree in Nursing. “I love working at Methodist Manor. It comes with a new set of challenges. A lot of what I do is similar to the types of medical treatments I helped with as a child.” She speaks affectionately of the residents she cares for, acknowledging...
how they are more than patients to her. Her bond with the residents of Methodist Manor feels more like extended family.

And it was Mikayla’s drive and her natural leadership abilities that made her the recipient of NCC’s 2018 Student Leadership Award. This award is bestowed on a graduating student each year at commencement, and came as a total surprise to her and her family.

Therefore, May 11, 2018, was an extra special day for Chuck. Aside from seeing his granddaughter graduate from the same institution where he graduated exactly forty years prior, he got to see her publicly recognized for her hard work and character. He is exceptionally proud of Mikayla, and hopes her post-NCC story is as prosperous as his was.

**Chuck and Mikayla’s Success is our Story.**
Susanna Schriever '17 alumna Receives Top Airman Status
If the name Susanna Schriever sounds familiar to you, it’s because her success story continues to unfold.

Susanna was previously featured in the Fall 2016 Connections magazine, sharing her story about her aspirations to work as a nurse in India after completing her Associate Degree in Nursing at Northwest Iowa Community College.

However, Susanna’s life took an unexpected turn, and India is no longer in her immediate plans. Susanna believes that was the way it was meant to be, mostly because her new plan gives her even more relevant experience so that someday she can become an outstanding nurse in remote countries.

“The Nurse Practitioner that I wanted to work with in India left his position, so I needed to look for a new plan. After a lot of thinking and praying, joining the Air Force seemed logical,” states Susanna.

Susanna graduated with her Associate Degree in Nursing in May 2017, passed her RN boards in June, and began her Air Force basic training in November 2017. Stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, it didn’t take long for Susanna to show leadership potential among her fellow cadets.

“I was made Element Leader within the first 48 hours of me being at Basic Training.” This leadership position made her the liaison between the other forty recruits within her flight and the Sergeants that oversee them.

Training went well for Susanna. She excelled with the physical challenges and was able to grow her leadership skills. In January 2018, Susanna was scheduled to graduate from Basic Training. She had no idea going into graduation what kind of merits would be coming her way.

On the Thursday of graduation week, a special ceremony was held to mark the transition of the recruits into Airman status. This ceremony, called the Coin Ceremony, traditionally has about 700 graduates, and the top ten percent are recognized as “honor graduates.” To be an honor graduate, a student must show abilities that far exceed the required scores in physical and written exams, while having never received a negative mark in inspections or written evaluations.

Although Susanna knew that she was going to be identified as an honor graduate, minutes before the ceremony she found out that more accolades were about to come her way. “I found out just moments before the ceremony that I would be receiving the Top Airman Award at graduation. And the only reason I found out at that time was so I could be instructed on the correct procedures of how to receive the award as it was being awarded. It really didn’t sink in at first.”

“ I found out just moments before the ceremony that I would be receiving the Top Airman Award at graduation. "

Continued on page 18
Northwest Iowa Community College and Interstates, along with three local K–12 school districts, have created a unique educational partnership to benefit all of Northwest Iowa. The partnership was created with the intent to expose local junior and senior high school students to high demand careers in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

“Students will find long term success by exploring careers, finding something they are passionate about, and developing the skills to be great at it.”
I heard about the program last year and was eager to sign up for it. I am really interested in the Powerline Program, so I thought this would give me a good jump on my college classes. I like that I can get a start on my college classes and I don’t have to pay for it. I really enjoy the hands-on training. Learning without the hands-on approach hasn’t always worked out for me so this is great!

—Logan Kruid  
Senior, Sioux Center High School  
Sioux Center

I like this program because it gives me the opportunity to learn more about careers I am interested in. I think this program will help me figure out if I want to be an electrician or an engineer. We will see which direction catches my interest.

—Adam Mohning  
Junior, Sioux Center High School  
Sioux Center

I want to be an electrician. I was looking at going to college for that after I graduate from high school. This is basically the first year of the program so it helps that I won’t have to pay for it. Also, I will graduate from college sooner because I will have the first year done.

—Logan Koedam  
Senior, West Sioux High School  
Hawarden

I was planning on going into the electrical field, so this gives me a jumpstart on college. I think electricity is really cool and I want to learn more about it.

—Cole Rensink  
Senior, Boyden-Hull High School  
Boyden

Scott Peterson, President of Interstates, approached college leaders in January of 2018 and challenged them to create a program that would be taught on Interstates’ campus in Sioux Center, Iowa, with the intention of career exploration in the electrical and instrumentation and control fields for high school students. Peterson’s goal was to create an educational partnership program that would benefit all of Northwest Iowa by creating interest at the high school level in career fields where there is currently a lack of a trained/skilled workforce in the area.

Peterson said, “The purpose of this project is to help students make educated career decisions. The way they will find long term success is by exploring careers, finding something they are passionate about, and developing the skills to be great at it. This program allows students to explore the electrical industry and learn about its opportunities. If they enjoy the experience offered within this partnership, they may choose it for a potential career.”

Following the initial meeting, college leaders with support from Interstates approached Sioux Center High School and Boyden-Hull High School about joining together to build this educational opportunity. Later West Sioux High School joined the endeavor.

In this unique program, students can earn up to 22 credit hours total in the fall and spring semester. If taken for two years (junior and senior year) a student could earn a total of 44 college credits completed while in high school. This would help a student to be well on his or her way to earning the 85 credits needed for the two-year Industrial Instrumentation & Control degree at NCC. This new program could potentially save a student up to $2,000 per semester in college tuition. If the entire 4 semesters are taken, it would save the student about $7,500 in tuition costs.

Gary McEldowney, Sioux Center High School Superintendent said, “We are passionate about finding opportunities for all our students. Being able to collaborate with other educational entities and industry partners to provide more opportunities for students will benefit Northwest Iowa as a whole. This is a tremendous area to live in, and we want to do everything we can to continue to grow our communities. The best way to do that is to create a good workforce.”

Interstates is investing in this educational partnership by building a new Career and Technical Education facility covering 17,000 square feet at its Sioux Center location. High school students who are enrolled in the program receive instruction at Interstates Monday–Friday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. using NCC’s curriculum and taught by NCC’s instructors.

Continued on page 18
Northwest Iowa Community College’s Electrical Programs have been selected as the best Electrical Programs in the United States by Schools.com. In their study, NCC ranked #1 out of 198 total schools offering electrical degrees across the nation. Out of all those schools, they only featured the top 10 on their website.

Brad Bennion, Schools.com Editor, stated, “Based on our analysis of several metrics, Northwest Iowa Community College was the strongest player across the board. NCC ranked very highly in areas such as graduation rate, flexibility and the number of electrical degrees that were awarded. Schools.com is pleased to feature NCC as the top school for electrical degrees.”

Northwest Iowa Community College Electrical Programs Ranked #1 in the Nation

NCC’s Electrical Programs considered were:
- Electrical Technology
- Industrial and Commercial Wiring
- Industrial Instrumentation and Control
- Powerline Technology

According to the Schools.com website, “Northwest Iowa Community College heads this list of best colleges for electrical degree programs based on a combination of factors. It had the third-highest graduation rate, a favorable open admissions policy, and it was second for the number of electrical-related degrees awarded. As a member of the Iowa Community College Online Consortium, students enrolled at NCC have the option of completing some of their general education and elective requirements online.” For a complete listing of the top 10 schools in the nation or to view the methodology of the study go to www.schools.com/programs/electrician.

Mark Bohnet, NCC Electrical Instructor, stated, “I am somewhat surprised by the award. It seems to me that the electrical instructors are simply doing their job, which is to provide technical training on foundational principles found in the electrical field. I am not sure how this translates into the award,
but I do know that the electrical instructors at NCC are all excited about the electrical field, are all supportive of the Community College system, and are all highly concerned about student success. Maybe this is what makes the difference."

“This is a great testimony to our faculty who are committed to providing the highest quality education to our students,” said Steve Waldstein, Dean—Applied Technology & Workforce. “Our alumni have a proven track record of excellence in the field, and because of this they find great jobs with family-sustaining and livable incomes. We are happy to be training second or even third generation Electricians and Powerline workers. NCC is committed to providing a high quality, skilled workforce for Northwest Iowa.”

To see the latest information on NCC’s electrical programs, including videos of alumni, student quotes, and curriculum, visit nwicc.edu.

bit.ly/NCC-bestelectrical

Our alumni have a proven track record of excellence in the field, and because of this they find great jobs with family-sustaining and livable incomes.
Northwest Iowa Community College has recently been notified of several national and state recognitions from organizations across the country.

 Ranked 12th in the Nation in The Top 25 Two-Year Trade Schools: Colleges That Can Solve The Skills Gap

FORBES

 Ranked #6 in the Nation and #1 in Iowa as The Best Junior College For Employment

ZIPPIA

 Zippia.com’s website states, “The national rankings were achieved by using the Department of Education’s College Scorecard data and data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), we searched for the junior college in each state with the highest listed job placement ratings, looking specifically at employment levels at year 10 after students start.” McLeod Brown, Content Strategist for Zippia.com, stated in an email to NCC, “NCC’s strong showing on this list reflects, among other things, a strong employment rate for graduates 10 years after entry.”

 bit.ly/NCC-Zippia

 TheBestSchools.org has recognized NCC for several National Awards including:

• Ranked #11
  50 Best Community Colleges in the United States
  bit.ly/NCC-bestschools

• Ranked #3
  Associate in Human Services Degree Programs
  bit.ly/NCC-besths

• Ranked #9
  Health Information Technology Degree Program
  bit.ly/NCC-bestHIT

• Ranked #24
  Online Accounting Degree Program
  bit.ly/NCC-bestaccounting
Kevin Miller is the new Emergency Services Education Coordinator for Northwest Iowa Community College. He replaced Evan Bensley who recently retired and who had served in that position for 21 years, since November 13, 1996. Kevin is settling into his new role that he started in June 2018. He is in the process of planning for the future of NCC’s Emergency Services and what it will look like in the coming years.

“I want to bring more training, ideas, and resources to our rural areas and increase the networking opportunities within our communities,” stated Miller. “My first goal is to continue to foster our communities’ current Emergency Services Systems.”

His philosophy is that everyone should be involved with EMS and public safety. “Emergency health services and public safety affect everyone within a community. It really should be a community effort to support these systems. NCC is devoted to helping our local communities recruit potential employees, provide mentorship, and help with administrative strategies.”

Miller is excited to begin integrating more simulation into NCC’s non-credit health training programs, including his Emergency Services classes. Miller explained, “We do a great job at our college of integrating simulation into the curriculum within the credit health programs. I want to bring that important training to the Emergency Training classes as well. With the use of simulation we can provide a more holistic approach to our training and prepare emergency workers far better for the field and entry level competencies.”

Miller also wants to capitalize on the knowledge and experience of the current EMS Advisory Committee and add a Firefighter Advisory Committee. “Advisory Committees add a depth of knowledge and are very strategic to keeping our training current. The professionals who are working in the field are crucial in the development of our current and future programs.”
Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) is now offering on-campus customized Commercial Driver’s License Training, more commonly known as CDL Training.

Previously, NCC had subcontracted with an outside vendor to provide training, but with an increase in demand for training and a need for increased flexibility in scheduling, NCC now offers CDL training taught by full-time NCC employees. NCC’s CDL Train & Test started serving the region (including neighboring states) in February of 2018 and continues to provide multiple offerings each month.

Sawyer Wieseler, Coordinator—Workforce Development & Training, was hired in 2017, and one of her first projects was to set up the CDL Train & Test program. “Currently we have two employees that have finished their DOT certified examination training and one who is almost finished. Having NCC trainers and DOT licensed examiners is a great benefit to the community, because we now have more control over the scheduling of when we offer CDL training and exams.” Wieseler continued, “We are also in the process of hiring a full time Transportation Program Coordinator. This person will be responsible for coordination and instruction of all Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) trainings. The program has grown very fast. The local need has surpassed even our expectations, such that this program needs a full-time coordinator to better serve our constituents.”
I have really liked the program so far. The instructor shows you everything you need to know, and they explain things really well. I need my CDL for farming.
— Alex Kruse, Little Rock, IA Farmer

I wanted to get my CDL because of my job. You get better benefits—like a raise—if you have your CDL. I have liked the class so far. I am new to trucking, but the instructor is very understandable and explains everything really well, and I am learning a lot. It is nice, because my employer is paying my tuition.
— Matt Osterkamp, Ireton, IA C & R Gravel, Hudson, SD

Right now the CDL Train & Test program is set up with the understanding that a person training has prior knowledge of driving with some type of trailer. This might include experience with backing up a boat or camper, or using equipment around the farm. In the future, with the addition of a full-time coordinator, NCC officials hope to offer classes for people with absolutely no prior trailer experience.

One of the benefits for students of the CDL Train & Test program is the ability to use NCC’s equipment. “A student can use NCC’s semi-truck and trailer which has passed all DOT inspections. What you are training and learning on is the same equipment you eventually test on. That can be very helpful,” commented Wieseler.

On-campus classes are typically offered on Mondays and Tuesdays. The training covers pre-trip inspections, skills (three back-up maneuvers), and practice on a DOT approved driving/testing route. The participant must have a Commercial Learner’s Permit for 15 days prior to starting the training.

You must be 18 to get a CDL in Iowa (note: if a person is 18–21, they can only drive in their state of residence).

NCC’s CDL Train & Test program is offered to individuals and companies alike. Custom group training is also available to elevators, trucking companies, construction companies, etc., by calling NCC. NCC offers the only training program in their 4 ½ county service area.

Wieseler summed things up by saying, “We are directly meeting the needs of our community, and we look forward to continuing to do so through growth and customized opportunities.”

To find out more about NCC’s CDL Training, go to our website at nwicc.edu, or call Sawyer Wieseler, Coordinator—Workforce Development & Training, at 712-324-5061 ext. 104.
Accounting
The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) service project completed 275 tax returns last year. Students became certified with the federal government to complete tax returns for the low income and elderly. The site is set up exactly like a tax office. Clients schedule appointments, students complete a pretax interview and collect all the necessary documents, and finally, the students complete the tax return. The tax returns are finalized in tax software by the interviewer and checked by a certified student. The client then returns to review their tax return with an additional student. When completed, the client receives a copy of their return and the return is e-filed. Talk about real-life, hands-on experience!

Administrative Office Assistant/ Administrative Office Management
The Administrative Office Assistant/Management programs continue to provide its students with an edge that sets them apart in today’s highly competitive job market! Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification is a global phenomenon! Students, including dual-enrolled high school students, are prepared for a successful future through earning their MOS certifications. The Microsoft Imagine Academy at NCC (leading to MOS certification), is designed to help students develop essential real-world skills, boost their workforce résumé, achieve industry-recognized certification, and open doors to career opportunities! Following in the footsteps of highly successful program alum, current students can seize this unique training opportunity and imagine the career possibilities!

Associate of Arts
The new Learning Management System, CANVAS, has been implemented! CANVAS has improved the accessibility of online courses on mobile devices, like cell phones and tablets. CANVAS has bridged the gap for communication between students, instructors, and academic advisors. It is simple to use, provides 24/7 support, and has some very cool features, including Smart Tutor Thinking. Students receive 15 hours of free 24/7 tutoring they can access from any location!

Automotive & Light Duty Diesel Technology
The Automotive & Light Duty Diesel program is in the first year of the new curriculum. Things are going very well! Numbers are above capacity for the first year class, and the high school section also has a large number of students. The program received a new Duramax engine trainer and is also currently awaiting delivery of a Cummins engine trainer. The program purchased a 2016 Ford F250 with a Powerstroke engine that will double as a shop truck and trainer for lab. The faculty are already seeing the difference the new curriculum has made!

Business
The Business, Accounting, and Administrative Office Assistant programs will hold their annual Business Etiquette Expo again this year! Area high school students are invited to NCC’s campus to attend this event which consists of a meal, fashion show, and business panel. During the meal, students are taught proper business dining etiquette. The fashion show displays outfits ranging from business casual to professional. The business panel consists of various business and industry partners answering student questions. The goal of this event is to teach students the soft skills necessary in today’s business world!

Carpentry/Construction Technology
The 2017–2018 Carpentry class recently completed and sold the annual Student Project Home. This year’s home was a 1,600 square-foot ranch style home featuring knotty alder woodwork and cabinetry, much of which was supplied by Shane Roth of Heartland Millwork in Larchwood and Gered De Hoogh of G&E Cabinetry in Sheldon (both graduates of the Carpentry program)! The home featured a custom onyx walk-in shower, which the students had the opportunity to install. Six students worked to construct the home that sold for $127,000. The home was moved to its new location in Rock Rapids, IA.

Computer Science/Computer & Network Security
Welcome to Jared Bowlsby, the new Coordinator for Computer Science Programs! Jared has a bachelor’s degree in IT with an emphasis in Security. He studied at Western Iowa Tech Community College and Western Governor’s University. He most recently has worked in the IT department at Diamond Vogel and Quatro Composite’s. We are excited for the bright ideas Jared is bringing to NCC!

Design Technology/Engineering Design
The programs made a switch from requiring the students to purchase laptops to installing new computer towers in the labs and classrooms. This will add huge cost savings for the students! The program has also recently acquired some new equipment: a plastic Injection Molder, a Markforged 3D Printer which is capable of printing Carbon Fiber, and a Wazer Water Jet which is capable of cutting steel with a water and granule mixture. These purchases provide continuous technological improvement to the programs. Students also participated in the SkillsUSA State Conference. One student, Sarah Nibbelink, placed third in Technical Drafting at the Conference.
Diesel Technology
Instructors Nate Engelkes and Ken Kramer, survived their first year teaching the new stand-alone Diesel Technology curriculum! They are excited to begin teaching the 2nd year of the new curriculum this fall. Also, Hy-Vee graciously donated an International truck from their fleet! The Diesel Technology instructors will work to incorporate this donation into lab instruction.

Health Information Technology/Medical Coding
Earning the #9 HIT Program in the nation by TheBestSchools.org was a highlight! Our HIT faculty continue to fine tune online courses within the new learning management software (LMS), which the program switched to last year. The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM) will be coming to campus for an on-site accreditation visit within the next two years. Be watching for future information on this review process. Program faculty will continue to discuss, plan, and move forward with the changes in curriculum and program requirements as recently released in the HIM Reimagined documents.

Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance
Welcome to Greg Meendering. Heavy Equipment instructor! He graduated in 2012 from the Heavy Equipment program. Greg has worked for Titan Machinery and GNR Plumbing & Heating since his graduation. The program purchased some new equipment this year, a New Holland Tractor and a CAT 323 Excavator with 2D sensor technology! The program simulators have been used for 5-day trainings across the state. Heavy Equipment instructor, Roger Solberg, has been actively involved in CDL trainings for Business & Industry. The students and instructors recently donated a large amount of their time working on a community service project for the city of Boyden. They worked together to repair and replace plaque memorials for war veterans. The program is finishing up the housing development site in Rock Valley. They will soon be moving to Rock Rapids where they will begin constructing a Sports Complex site.

Industrial & Commercial Wiring/Electrical Technology
Earning the rating of #1 electrical program in the nation isn’t the only exciting news for Industrial & Commercial Wiring/Electrical Technology! Employment opportunities remain plentiful and strong with companies reaching out from as far away as Colorado. The faculty and students continue to take annual field trips to companies like Wells, Cargill, and other local industries. These trips are designed for students to begin making connections and also to keep them motivated about the various job opportunities available to them.

Industrial Instrumentation & Control
Earning the rating of #1 electrical program in the nation isn’t the only exciting news for the IIC program! The IIC students recently traveled to Emerson’s facility in Rosemont, MN, where the students learned about new technology trends, including incorporating smartphone technology into the world of instrumentation!

Nursing
Welcome to Rebecca Stofferan, new NCC Nursing faculty! Rebecca is an NCC alumna of the Nursing program. After graduating from NCC, she completed her BSN at the University of Sioux Falls. Rebecca previously worked for Osceola County Hospital as a nurse for 11 ½ years. The campus simulation lab also has a new member...Sim Jr. is the most recent addition to the simulation lab area! Sim Jr. is an interactive pediatric simulator designed to meet the education and training needs of our students. Sim Jr. is approximately the size of a six year old child and can represent a wide range of conditions from a healthy, talking child to a nonresponsive, critical patient. Besides being the size and shape of a child, Sim Jr. also adds diversity to our simulation lab’s patient lineup with its brown skin and ability to respond to students in languages other than English!

Radiologic Technology
New equipment for Fall 2018! Computer radiography and digital radiography (CR/DR) equipment is being used in classroom instruction! Also, the Radiologic Technology program is looking into a portable x-ray machine. This machine will be used to promote interdisciplinary simulation in the field!

Web & Graphic Design
In August 2018, NCC launched its newest program: Web and Graphic Design! Combining artistic skills with the latest technology, the online Associate of Applied Science degree in Web and Graphic Design will help students launch their career in the fast-growing field of web design and digital graphics. The program is customizable and can be tailored to each student's interests, exploring both web and graphic design in their first year of study. They then have the flexibility to choose from a number of hands-on courses in one or both fields in the second year. This program is offered completely online, making it a great option for those in the workforce. In addition to the AAS degree, students can also earn a one-year diploma or choose from a number of certificate options.

Welding
The new manifold system is now in place and is already improving lab efficiency! The system helps to reduce the number of gas cylinders used for the welders, thus decreasing the number of tank changes that need to be completed during lab work. This eliminates the amount of time students and faculty spend changing tanks, therefore increasing their time spent on projects!
Being named Top Airman is a very rare honor. In short, Top Airman means being the best of the best in the graduating class of 712 graduates. Susanna also received the Commander’s Coin the next day. The Commander’s Coin is a recognition bestowed on airmen who a direct commander recognizes as outstanding. They are given out by choice of the commander. Susanna’s commander has only given out nine Commander’s Coins in his extensive career.

Since graduating from the Air Force, Susanna has had the opportunity to receive more nursing training and medic training at Fort Sam Houston. She acknowledges that having her RN degree gave her a huge advantage over the other recruits. After twelve weeks at Fort Sam Houston, Susanna again graduated at the top of her class and was named an honor graduate at her commencement ceremony on May 7, 2018. Thereafter, she spent six weeks at Eglin Air Force Base in Destin, Florida, where she was placed in a base hospital and worked in a variety of capacities as both a medic and a nurse.

“My time at Destin gave me exposure to a lot of different medical procedures, but ER work is still my favorite,” shares Susanna.

As for her next destination, Susanna has a long-term placement at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, where she will work predominantly in a military Women’s Health Center.

“I am a history buff, so to be stationed so close to Washington, D.C., while still getting to expand my nursing knowledge is an awesome experience for me.”

And as Susanna reflects on her past experiences and dreams of future opportunities, she acknowledges that although her initial plan of going to India to practice medicine is a bit delayed, she knows she will eventually get there. And when she does, her military training will make her all the more prepared for the experience.

**Susanna’s CONTINUED success is our story.**
MEET JOHN

2018 Alumnus of the Year

Each year, one outstanding graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College is recognized for his or her accomplishments. The recipient of the 2018 Alumnus of the Year is John Dvorak of Ankeny. John is a 1975 Powerline graduate from Northwest Iowa Community College and is currently employed as the Safety Director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The Alumnus of the Year recognition was held in conjunction with the College’s May Commencement exercises on May 11, 2018.

John Dvorak grew up in Van Horne, Iowa and began at NCC in the summer of 1974. Upon completion of his program, John moved to Albia, Iowa, where he worked as an apprentice lineman at Chariton Valley REC. John worked there as a lineman and foreman for 25 years, and then spent the next 8 years in the role of superintendent.

In 2007, John took a position with Musco Sports Lighting. During his time with Musco, John traveled with a small crew to set up portable lighting at many cultural and sporting events. Some of John’s projects included setting up lighting for NASCAR races, the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, the X-games in Aspen, cricket competitions in the United Kingdom, and race tracks in Abu Dhabi. John was also part of a team that set up lighting at Grant Park in Chicago on Barack Obama’s Election Night in 2008.

In 2009, John became a trainer with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, where he traveled the state of Iowa doing training and crew inspections for local REC’s. A few years after working as a trainer, John became Safety Director for the organization. Since taking on this role, John has rebuilt the program, and his changes have led to the national recognition of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives’ Safety program.

He is not only reviewing current class offerings at NCC, but is also already making plans for additional programs and classes for the future. One possible program he is currently researching is the addition of law enforcement classes to support training of local police officers. “I am looking at the possibility of law enforcement training that would be conducted in cooperation with different federal and state law enforcement agencies like the FBI, DCI, and the Iowa State Patrol. Eventually, I would like to offer an Officer Reserve Training program at NCC. I also want to have more advanced paramedic and EMT classes on our schedule.”

Currently there is a Hybrid EMS class running (this means part of the class is held online and part of the class is held in a traditional classroom) and an on campus EMT class. Both of these classes will run again starting in January of 2019. This winter Firefighter I and II classes will begin. These classes are being offered in Marcus, Rock Rapids, Orange City, and potentially Primghar. Miller is also looking to add a Hybrid EMT class and Firefighter I class to the summer schedule.

If you would like more information on these classes or would like to talk to Kevin you can call him at (712) 324-5061, Ext. 231 or email him at kmiller@nwicc.edu.

John’s family includes his wife of 43 years, Linda, their two grown children, and two grandchildren.
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.

Thunder Fridays
Juniors & Seniors, schedule your campus visit on a Thunder Friday and receive $100 in Thunder Cash!
Register online at nwicc.edu

Nov 9 | Nov 30 | Dec 14 | Jan 18 | Feb 8 | March 15 | March 29 | April 26

Fall Commencement
6PM | Wednesday, Dec. 19

Holiday Classes
Holiday 7x7 Classes begin Dec. 20
Online Winterim Classes begin Dec. 21
Holiday FastTrack Hybrid classes begin Dec. 26

Spring Classes
Get registered!
Classes start January 3, 2019

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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 federal and state civil rights statutes 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 one of the Equity Coordinators at Northwest Iowa Community College, 603 West Park Street, Sheldon, Iowa, room D403b or room A101D, email equity@nwicc.edu, phone number 712-324-5061, extension 113 or extension 242, fax 712-324-4136; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, phone number 312-730-1560, fax 312-730-1576.
For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at www.nwicc.edu/compliance.