Service. Service is at the heart of NCC, and it is our mission. Service to our students, each other, and the communities we serve is the driving force behind all that we do. After all, our middle name is “Community,” and most people who choose the community college to access higher education and workforce training are making a commitment to stay in the community.

As we begin a new semester, it is important that we share our story with you. If you are an alumnus or friend of the college, I am positive you will be as excited as I am about the great things happening at NCC! If you are a community member, it is important for the College to share the impact our students, alumni, and employees make serving your communities. Alumnus, friend, or community member — I invite you to read through this Connection magazine and see what your community college is doing by empowering students to reach their goals through QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, and AFFORDABLE programs.

“Alone we can do so little. TOGETHER we can do so much,” said Helen Keller. This is true for NCC. Our connections to you and your communities enable our success. Please stay connected and visit campus soon. Go Thunder!

In Your Service,

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, President

Contributing Writers
Kristin Kollbaum, Marketing & Communications Director
Morgan Granstra, Foundation & Alumni Relations Coordinator

Designer and Photographer
Lori Richards, Publications/Web/Advertising Coordinator

Editors
Stephanie Peterson, Administrative Assistant
Pamela Lien, Administrative Assistant
Kristin Kollbaum
Lori Richards

Alumni Association
alumni@nwicc.edu
800-352-4907 ext. 230
what’s inside...

On Target
Successful first season of Sports Shooting

Working for the Best
Radiologic Technology alum enjoys career at Mayo Medical Center

50 Years Strong
The history of electrical success at NCC

#1 in the Nation
NCC recognized as #1 online community college in the nation

Top 10 List
NCC’s Transportation Programs Named to Top 10 List

Oh Snap!
Snap-on and NCC form partnership

On the Cover
Coding for Kids! participants get hands-on experience in the electrical lab

Coding for Kids! NCC offers after school coding program

AgriVision Ag Expo
Future Ready Iowa
Alumnus of the Year
Northwest Iowa Community College entered into the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference “on target” last spring! With twelve dedicated students on the first-ever NCC inter-collegiate athletics team, the NCC Thunder had a successful first season with its Sports Shooting debut.

#4 in Iowa
Team Sports Shooting
(first time competing in 2019!)

NCC Sports Shooting Team Members take shooting practice in preparation for a competition
Collegiate sports have been connected to the College’s strategic enrollment plan for several years. Rising enrollments and increases in on-campus living led college officials to take action by exploring the possibilities for collegiate level sports. After an official Athletic Research Committee was formed in the fall of 2016, the committee made the decision that Sports Shooting would be the first-ever collegiate sport offered at NCC. This decision was based on a number of factors. Sports Shooting is the fastest growing sport in the state of Iowa, and in the nation. There is also a tremendous amount of local support in Northwest Iowa. Local Sportsmen clubs, high school teams, coaches and numerous enthusiasts provide a great network for the college. Also, Sports Shooting appeals to a wide variety of students, and both males and females have the ability to participate in this sport.

After the decision was made to start this inter-collegiate activity, it was time to put the plan into action. The first few hurdles would be hiring a coach, meeting safety protocols and finding a suitable practice facility. Brian Lauck began as NCC’s Sports Shooting Coach in March 2019.

Also, because NCC has a “no weapons” policy, safety was another huge factor during discussion. All of the student athletes are required to attend a safety meeting prior to participating in any practices. Athletes are instructed on best practices for proper gun handling and loading, and are required to follow all Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) rules and regulations. Athletes are also instructed on what to do in various scenarios, such as the weapon malfunctioning. The NCC Thunder holds their practices at the Thomas Pits Recreation Area located outside of Ocheyedan, and the storing of all student firearms takes place at a secure, off-campus location.

The spring 2019 semester marked the first competitive season for the NCC Thunder. The first competition was held at Sportsman County Park in Cylinder, IA, against the Iowa Lakes Lakers. The NCC Thunder outshot the Lakers 234 to 225 and took home their first victory! They also debuted a strong start in their first trip to the Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Collegiate Championships in April 2019 in Ackley, IA. In their first state team competition, NCC took home 4th place team honors (out of 11 teams overall) with a team score of 427! A few of NCC’s Sport Shooters even took home individual bragging rights. Levi Henrichs placed 8th overall in the male division out of 82 and Kaitlyn Bechler placed 9th overall in the female division out of 37. The NCC Thunder continues to compete in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) and is a Scholastic Clay Target Program. The ICCAC schedules a fall season (September, October and November) and also a spring season (March and April).

Despite the ICCAC not holding a formal summer season, one of NCC’s Sports Shooters, Levi Henrichs, competed in the Scholastic Action Shooting National Championships held July 13–20, 2019, at the Cardinal Shooting Center near Marengo, OH. Levi participated against 3,000 Sports Shooters from across the United States and shot a 191/200 and 45/50 during his appearance.

Recruiting efforts for the fall 2019 season took place beginning in March 2019. Lauck, the NCC Sports Shooters, and representatives from NCC Admissions actively recruited at high school and college fairs and various Sports Shooting events throughout the spring and summer semesters. Near the end of the summer term, 24 student athletes were interested in joining the team! Lauck explains the benefits of this sport.

**Shooting sports allow the student athletes to bond in a safe, positive atmosphere.**

“Sports shooting is a great sport that allows men, women and individuals with disabilities to compete on equal footing, and the lessons learned in practice and competitions will follow these athletes in all aspects of life.”

At the first scheduled meeting of the 2019 season, 22 NCC Sports Shooters discussed the schedule and firearm safety. The team began their fall practices on Tuesday, August 27th and hold two practices each week.

You can catch the NCC Thunder at their upcoming competition on Saturday, October 12th where they will host the Iowa Lakes Lakers at Rock Valley Gun Club!

To keep abreast of all the latest & greatest news on the NCC Thunder Sports Shooting team, visit NCC’s website, www.nwicc.edu.

---

**Fall 2019 Season Update**

**Week 1**
- NCC: 453
- Ellsworth CC: 432

**Week 2**
- Hawkeye CC: 485
- NCC: 462
  (Levi Henrichs, NCC—1st overall)
Working for the BEST

Andrea Steffen
'14 Radiologic Technology
When Andrea Steffen was younger, she never pictured she would be working at the #1 rated hospital in the nation. In fact, she never pictured she would be working in a healthcare setting at all. Andrea was once a girl who would hide in her car in fear of getting booster shots. Overcoming this fear of medical facilities led her to being immersed in the technological medical advances of one of today’s leading hospitals.

After graduating from high school in 2005, Andrea attended La James International College in Cedar Falls, IA. It was during her time there that she met her husband and eventually moved to Northwest Iowa. Upon moving to the area, her cosmetology career didn’t materialize as she had hoped, and decided a change in occupations was necessary.

Andrea decided to learn more about occupations in health care, and began taking pre-requisite and general coursework. She debated between Nursing and Radiology for an extended period of time. After much consideration, she opted for Radiology as she assumed it would offer a better work schedule for their family. Looking back now, Andrea laughs as she is currently on-call a majority of the time!

Andrea was very nervous to begin the program, as she knew it would be no easy task. She recalls the high number of non-traditional students in her class. Coming into the program in her mid-twenties, she anticipated being among the oldest in her class, but she was surprised to find this was not the case. Andrea admits she would not have been ready for x-ray school right out of high school, and she recognizes the Radiologic Technology program as being one of the hardest undertakings she has completed in her life, including marriage and parenting. Passing the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Exam would be her next obstacle.

Because Andrea was pregnant with her second child at the time she graduated, she waited until after he was born to take the ARRT exam. She recalls her anxiety prior to testing, “I was so nervous. I almost talked myself out of taking the test that day.” When Andrea received her results, she was surprised to learn she not only passed, but she excelled on her boards.

My education at NCC definitely prepared me for the National board exam and also prepared me for the discipline of working in a medical environment.

With the hurdle of passing the ARRT exam behind her, Andrea began working as a Radiologic Technologist at an orthopedic clinic. Although she enjoyed the work, she did not see many opportunities for advancement or lifelong learning. Andrea began researching other careers in hopes of finding a position that challenged her. Andrea came across an opening at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She hesitated to apply, assuming her application would not even be selected for an interview. To her surprise, she was not only called in for an interview, but was also offered the position the very same day!

Continued on page 23

Fifteen years ago, the Radiologic Technology program at Northwest Iowa Community College was implemented to fill a gap in the local workforce. Now the Radiology program at NCC is successful in producing quality Radiologic Technologists that fill the competitive gaps in the healthcare industry, even at globally-known hospitals like Mayo Clinic.
50 YEARS
The history of Iowa's Community College system spans back to the early 1940s. Due to post-war economic transformation and the passage of the federal GI Bill, the need for accessible higher education opportunities became more prominent. This sparked the planning for a new educational system in the state of Iowa. The studies conducted and decisions made during this planning period are what led to the formation of Iowa's Community College system today.

Northwest Iowa Community College began as a Vocational High School in 1964 and offered classes in auto mechanics, auto body and fender repair, welding, and eventually office education to area high school students. The passing of the Merged Area Schools Act in 1965 led NCC (then Northwest Iowa Vocational School) to become a community college. During this time, the area workforce was in need of trained individuals in skilled trades. Northwest Iowa Vocational School, or NIVS, helped to fill the skills gaps in the local workforce by offering quality programs that produced skilled workers. One of the first programs developed to help fill the skill gap in the workforce was Electrical Maintenance (now known as Industrial & Commercial Wiring).

The history of NCC’s electrical programs began in 1969 at what alumni and past instructors remember as the “old Ford garage” in downtown Sheldon. This is where Electrical Maintenance Instructor, Bob De Haan, taught his first class of eleven Electrical Maintenance students. The students that completed the eight-quarter program would be prepared for employment in the electrical construction trade and repair industry, in residential and commercial building type wiring, installation, maintenance, and diagnosis of electrical systems. In addition to instructing for NIVS, De Haan was also the owner of his own electrical business. From the beginning, the College brought in only those instructors that could bring real-life experience to the classroom.

The Electro-Specialist program was added to NIVS’s program offerings in 1971. This program was added as an extension to the Electrical Maintenance program. Students that completed this program would be prepared to work with industrial electronics and could seek employment in the complex electro industry of the 1970s. The groups of students from the first two Electrical Maintenance classes joined together and became the first-ever Electro-Specialist graduates from NIVS in 1972.

Over the next three decades, the Electrical Maintenance and Electro-Specialist programs continued to change with the technology of the electrical field. Various concepts, such as the National Electric Code and licensing requirements, were added into the curriculum. As trends in the industry changed and advanced, these changes were reflected in the program’s curriculum and name. One of the most prominent changes in this thirty year span was the addition of the Electrical Technology program in 1989.

Prior to 1989, students pursuing the Electrical programs at NCC were required to choose their educational path right away, whether they wanted to be employed as an Electrician or employed in positions dealing with Industrial Electronics. The addition of the Electrical Technology program added flexibility and opportunity. Through this new program, students could get training in both areas and have expanded career options upon graduation. These career options consisted of Residential & Commercial Electrician, Process Controls Technician, or Plant Maintenance Technician, to name a few.

Over the past 50 years, the Electrical programs at NCC have continued to grow and change along with the highly technical electrical industry. Thanks to support and collaboration from program advisory committee members, internship cooperative sites, alumni, and retirees, the Industrial & Commercial Wiring and Electrical Technology programs continue to be among the most sought after programs offered at NCC today. This contributed to the NCC Electrical programs being recognized as the number one program in the nation in 2018 by bestschools.com!

Since 1969, these programs have produced nearly 1,000 graduates who have gone on to be Residential & Industrial Electricians, Business Owners, Process Controls Technicians, Electrical Maintenance Technicians, Supervisors, Foremen, and Directors of Electrical companies and various departments. Almost every electrical business in Northwest Iowa (and many outside of the region) has a relationship with NCC, whether it’s owned by an alum, employs alumni, or employs current students through internship opportunities. One of those businesses is A&K Electric in Rock Valley, IA, and the history of A&K Electric spans just as far back as the beginning of the electrical programs at NCC.

continued on next page...
Ken Van Oort was raised in Sanborn, IA, by parents involved in the corn shelling business who were not strangers to hard work. After Ken completed high school, his parents encouraged him to continue his education and get trained in a skilled trade. It was the early 1970s and Northwest Iowa Vocational School was beginning various trade programs. One of these programs, Electrical Maintenance, was of interest to Ken. Ken’s main goal in receiving this training was to “get a job and make money”. His decision to attend NIVS started a series of events that would lead to an extensive and lucrative career in the electrical industry, along with a long-standing family business.

Ken began at Northwest Iowa Vocational School in 1970. Given that the Electrical Maintenance program was still very new to NIVS and buildings were still being constructed, the classes were held in downtown Sheldon at what Ken remembers as the “old Ford garage”. Ken was one of 18 students, many of whom were veterans of the Vietnam War who had just returned home to the United States. Ken enjoyed learning the basics from experienced instructors, like Bob De Haan and Bob De Zeeuw. Prior to beginning careers at NIVS, both instructors had unique backgrounds in the Electrical Industry; De Haan gained all of his experience as a member of the Military and De Zeeuw’s experience came from working for NASA on the ground floors of the New Mexico Space Station.

During his first year in the program, Ken felt it would be beneficial to get a job in the electrical field and work while attending school. This led him to begin working for Noack Electric in Sheldon, IA, where he learned more about various advanced electrical concepts such as motor controls and troubleshooting. Those that know Ken can attest that he has always kept himself very busy, and the hard-working mentality of his parents has stuck with him through life. He also deeply values the connections made with other people. These qualities led him to many opportunities and continue to pave Ken’s path today.

Upon completing the Electro-Specialist program, Ken anticipated he would continue working for Noack Electric; however, the owner of Noack Electric encouraged him to move on to something else so that he could gain a broader experience. This led Ken to venture a distance from home for the first time in his life. His first, official job after college was an Electrical Maintenance position at IBP in Dakota City, NE. Though he enjoyed the work and the pay was outstanding, the irregular schedule and dealing with “city folk” heightened his desire to move back to Northwest Iowa.

Luckily, Ken ran into an old classmate who was working in the Electrical Maintenance department at K-Products (now Staples Promotional Products) in Orange City, IA. He encouraged Ken to apply for an open position, which he did, was hired and stayed in for one year. This position at K-Products is what led him to meeting his wife, and it was her job that eventually landed them in Rock Valley, IA. Ken is a firm believer that “everything happens for a reason”, and as Ken’s story continues, this rings true.

Upon moving to Rock Valley, Ken began working for a local electrical business, Fred’s Electric, and was employed there for five years. During that time, he worked on a variety of electrical projects and gained invaluable experiences. Then, in February of 1978, Ken decided to branch out and establish his own electrical business, Ken’s Electric. It was around this same period of time that another electrician, Alan Faber, also began an electrical business in Rock Valley.

During the early years of being in business, both Al and Ken received a request for a bid on a large electrical project in the area. Knowing that they could place a more competitive bid if they worked together, they decided to join forces. Once they finished this initial project, more projects kept coming along. Although the two kept separate garages, they continued to work on numerous projects together, and after approximately five years of doing so, the two men decided to officially join forces and they established A&K Electric.
Al & Ken spent numerous, busy years as the only two employees. As their children became high school age and business continued to grow, Al’s son, Del, joined the family business working part-time and they began hiring other employees. Eventually, Ken’s son, Nathan, also began working for the family business during high school. This is when Nathan found his niche.

Nathan Van Oort graduated high school in 1997 and, before graduation, he already knew what his next step would be. He began the Industrial & Commercial Wiring program at NCC that same year. Growing up around the family business, Nathan was exposed to electrical work at a young age. One thing that excited him about this line of work is the constantly changing technology leading Electricians to continually learn new techniques. Having experience in the industry, many of the classes and projects were familiar to Nathan. It helped that, he too, had instructors with various electrical backgrounds. One of these instructors was Bill Noack, who previously worked with his dad at Noack Electric.

Nathan graduated with his Associate of Applied Science degree in 1999. This was the first year that the Electrical program offered a degree rather than a diploma. Since the program curriculum changes along with technology, Nathan learned many concepts during school that his father did not, such as, programmable logic controllers (PLC’s) and variable frequency drives. Upon graduation, he joined his dad and began working full-time for A&K Electric.

One of the unique things about being an Electrician is that there is such a broad array of skills involved. For Nathan, one of his niches was working with advanced electrical concepts. “I have always felt that I inherited my dad’s electrical knowledge, and many things just clicked for me,” shared Nathan. When he began his full-time position, he worked on a variety of large construction projects. Then a project came along where Nathan’s primary role was servicing and setting up the automated processes of the facility. It was apparent that he was very skilled in this area. Ever since, Nathan has morphed into A&K’s “service man” and now spends his time working on projects that involve a variety of advanced, technological concepts. He services many feed mills and pullet barns in the area, assists with all construction projects and solves many technical issues as they arise.

Although A&K Electric started as a two-man business, today they employ 13 individuals and have established great partnerships with other electrical companies in Northwest Iowa. Under the ownership of Al’s son, Del Faber, they take on many large-scale projects, ranging from industrial to educational facilities. Some of the more recent projects they have completed in Northwest Iowa are facilities for Ziegler CAT, Bomgaars, local hospitals and local educational developments. They also stay connected to Northwest Iowa Community College through offering current students part-time positions and internship opportunities.

In 2016, after nearly 40 years, Ken retired from A&K Electric. Throughout the years of working on countless projects, keeping up with technology, equipment and safety standards, and handling all of the other responsibilities that come along with being a business owner, one thing stands out to Ken. “The most important task of being a business owner is getting to know your employees, caring about their families and, when the business has good years, making your employees part of the celebration.” He believes that it is these principles that have made the business successful for so many years.

Although retired, Ken is still used as a resource and often gets called in to assist with projects. Ken now spends much of his time taking care of maintenance needs for the Rock Valley Gun Club and working on various side projects. Both Ken and Nathan serve as volunteer emergency responders, and Nathan also serves as a volunteer firefighter. Ken deeply misses the daily hustle at A&K Electric, but as he begins each day with his early morning coffee, he knows the business is in good hands with individuals like Del, Nathan, and the team of employees that make A&K Electric what it is today.

Over the past 50 years, the electrical programs at NCC have produced nearly 1,000 outstanding alumni like Ken and Nathan Van Oort. The Electrical programs invite you to help celebrate

50 YEARS of success!

Who: Alumni, Retirees, Internship Partners, & Friends of the Electrical Program

What: 50th Anniversary Open House

Where: NCC Campus, Building C

When: Thursday, October 10 from 4:30–7:00PM
#1 online community college in the nation
The College, including the online team, never rests on past achievements. Enhancing accessibility through mobile applications, expanding programs, and improving services is a daily focus for NCC. Last year the College added a new online program in Web and Graphic Design, and in the fall of 2019 students may enroll in another new program: Information Technology Specialist. Starting in the fall of 2020 Virtual Office Assistant and Virtual Office Manager will be offered.

NCC is dedicated to making students successful. At NCC – Your Success is Our Story.

Northwest Iowa Community College has been named as the best Online Community College in the nation by SR Education Group. In their study, NCC ranked No.1 out of 423 qualifying schools offering online education across the nation. Northwest Iowa Community College topped the national list with a score of 96.85%.

SR Education Group, a leading education research publisher founded in 2004, released their first online community college rankings categorized by state and best nationwide. Each community college highlighted on the ranking lists received a score based on several important factors including retention rate, graduation rate, and percentage of online enrollment data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The number of online associate degrees offered was collected from school websites and considered in the ranking score as well. All ranked schools scored 70% or higher.

“With a growing number of these degrees becoming available online, we wanted to let prospective students know about these great, accessible options near them. By providing these resources, we hope to help more people reach their educational and professional goals,” said Sung Rhee, CEO of SR Education Group.

NCC is dedicated to student success in all programs, including those that are online. The College has been delivering online programs since the fall of 2000. Through the decades, the faculty have gained the knowledge and experience needed to teach in the online classroom, and they have had the support of college staff to develop excellent content. Advisors regularly check on students and encourage them to be diligent in completing their online work. Students also benefit from free online tutoring, ADA assistive technologies, integrated library services, and the online bookstore.

Community colleges offer some of the most affordable degrees in the country.

“Community colleges offer some of the most affordable degrees in the country. With a growing number of these degrees becoming available online, we wanted to let prospective students know about these great, accessible options near them. By providing these resources, we hope to help more people reach their educational and professional goals,” said Sung Rhee, CEO of SR Education Group.

NCC is dedicated to student success in all programs, including those that are online. The College has been delivering online programs since the fall of 2000. Through the decades, the faculty have gained the knowledge and experience needed to teach in the online classroom, and they have had the support of college staff to develop excellent content. Advisors regularly check on students and encourage them to be diligent in completing their online work. Students also benefit from free online tutoring, ADA assistive technologies, integrated library services, and the online bookstore.

NCC’s Online Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates:
- Accounting (Degree/Diploma)
- Agriculture (Degree)
- Associate of Arts – All (including Pre-Professionals)
- Criminal Justice (Degree)
- Business – All (AA Degree/AAS Degree/Diploma/Certificates)
- Health Information Technology (Degree)
- IT Specialist (Degree/Diploma/Certificates)
- Medical Coding (Diploma)
- Psychology (Degree)
- Virtual Office Assistant (Diploma)*
- Virtual Office Manager (Degree)*
- Web and Graphic Design (Degree/Diploma/Certificates)

*Starting Fall 2020

Note: While the above is a list of degrees, diplomas, and certificates that are offered at NCC, there are over 600 individual classes offered every semester. Many of these classes are transferable to many other institutions and allow students access to quality and affordable classes.

To read more about NCC’s online offerings go to nwicc.edu/academics/online
To read the report in its entirety: bit.ly/NCC-online1
Trade School Future, a nationally known organization that provides aspiring auto mechanics with the resources and information they need to become the next generation of mechanics, has named Northwest Iowa Community College’s (NCC) transportation programs 10th on its National Top 10 list of Best Automotive Trade Schools by Value. The programs taken into consideration were the Automotive & Light Duty Diesel and Diesel Technology.

The primary criteria used to build the rankings were average cost of tuition, typical debt-load of graduates, average early career salary, average mid-career salary, and graduation rate. Also taken into consideration were overall college accreditation and a curriculum that includes Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification.

According to TradeSchoolFuture.com’s website, “These schools are all accredited automotive schools and they will help you get to your dream career as an automotive technician. Along with that, many of these will get you on your way to becoming an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified mechanic which will help you get paid more in your auto mechanic journey.”

Schools from across the nation, including a strong Midwest presence, were included on the Top 10 list:

1. Frontier Community College – Illinois
2. North Central Kansas Technical College – Kansas
3. Lake Area Technical Institute – South Dakota
4. Rosedale Technical College – Pennsylvania
5. Mitchell Technical Institute – South Dakota
7. Salina Area Technical College – Kansas
8. Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology – Pennsylvania
9. State Technical College of Missouri – Missouri

10. Northwest Iowa Community College – Iowa

It is a top priority for NCC’s programs to remain current with industry standards.
Automotive & Light Duty Diesel classes focus about 75% of the time in a hands-on project-based learning environment and the other 25% in the classroom with lecture. In the lab students learn about real world problems and leading-edge equipment used by the industry. All eight ASE areas are taught and students have a summer internship within the two-year program.

Diesel Technology students spend time in the classroom learning theory, work procedures, technical skills, and safety. They take that theory and turn it into reality in our diesel labs. Students are trained on the current technologies. Graduates enter the workforce familiar with Cummins, CAT, Detroit, Eaton, Spicer, Meritor, and others.

Building D Renovation Update

Mark Brown, VP of Operations & Finance, explained, “We are working with some pretty aggressive timelines for this project. We are pleased with the progress thus far. The renovation in Building D is quite remarkable. In the Automotive & Light Duty Diesel Program lab space, all the interior walls have been taken down, which will ultimately allow for one large, open automotive lab. In addition, the entire concrete floor is being replaced along with the installation of 23 in-ground hoists. We are on target for a mid-October opening.”

Brown continued, “The Diesel Technology Program has been relocated to a building in Rock Valley, Iowa (the former Co-op building which has been extensively remodeled) for the 2019–2020 academic year. Much of the old Diesel Technology Building has been demolished, and we are in the process of expanding the footprint of the building to provide a larger learning space and the ability to accommodate larger diesel equipment. We are on target to meet the reopening deadline of the program being back on campus fall semester of 2020.”

Square Footage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automotive Lab</td>
<td>16,440</td>
<td>20,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel Technology Lab</td>
<td>14,592</td>
<td>20,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine and Simulation Lab</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>11,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls/Stairs</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39,132</td>
<td>60,006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn more about the rankings at bit.ly/NCC-top10auto
This fall NCC became an official Snap-on Tool educational partner. What exactly does that mean? The biggest difference you will see in NCC’s Transportation Programs is every student will have access to a new tool box full of new, high quality Snap-on tools from day one of their first semester. This will let the student start their education without the large expense of buying the tools themselves right before school starts. Also, all of the technology in the labs will be updated twice a year to the most current available. Steve Waldstein, Dean of Applied Technology, stated, “On the face of it, I know that doesn’t seem like a big deal if you are not in the industry, but one technology update could change 95,000 different codes. It is essential that our students are taught on the most up-to-date technology we can provide.”

The tool program is not the only benefit this partnership provides to the students. NCC students will now have the opportunity to earn nationally recognized Snap-on certificates through the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3). According to the NC3 website, “NC3 certifications are designed to be integrated into an existing technical program to enhance what was already being taught. By integrating industry certifications into an academic course it combines the best of both worlds by upskilling the teacher, providing the professional development technical educators look for, and providing students with more opportunities and relevant job-ready skills.” All of NCC’s instructors are currently in the process of being trained in the NC3 curriculum so they can provide this training to NCC’s students. National certifications will be available in:

- Transportation
- Automotive Diagnostics
- Precision Measuring Instruments
- Torque Fundamentals
- Wheel Service & Alignment
- Battery Starting and Charging
- Multimeter
- Diesel Diagnostics
- Off-Road Diesel Technologies
- Tool Safety

This partnership journey started three years ago during the College’s strategic planning process. One of the strategies identified for completion in 2020 was the recognition of specific barriers that students face in order to attain a quality, accessible education. The goal was to develop solutions to those barriers. One of the barriers identified was the large, up-front cost of tools within the transportation programs. On average, students needed to buy about $5,000–$6,000 worth of tools just to start the program. Since Federal and State financial aid money cannot be used for tool purchases, the students had a large outlaying of money at the beginning of their education. “Many times, students just couldn’t afford that large of an outlay of cash at the beginning of the school year, and couldn’t find financing, so they would drop the program. It was frustrating, and at times heartbreaking, because we just couldn’t figure out a way for some students to get over that financial hurdle,” explained Waldstein.

“We don’t want to turn away any student because they can’t afford the tools to get started in their careers.”
After looking for alternative funding sources and doing a lot of research, a group of NCC representatives decided to travel to Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Waldstein explained, “We had discovered that they had an educational partnership with Snap-on Tools, and we wanted to see exactly how it worked — to see the big picture. We wanted to talk to the college’s administration and faculty, and most importantly, talk to their students to get a feel for how the partnership was working.” Waldstein continued, “What we saw was an amazing partnership. The learning environments they had created were organized for optimal learning, the students were being taught on state-of-the-art technology, and the check-out tool boxes worked well. It was really exciting to talk to everyone and especially to hear the students’ stories of success. I think all of the NCC representatives saw a huge potential for NCC, its students, and for all of Northwest Iowa.”

What is in a Snap-on Classroom?
- Tool Boxes
- Tools
- 19 Challenger EV1020 in-ground hoists that have a 10,000 pound lifting capacity
- 4 Challenger EV1220 in-ground hoists that have a 12,000 pound lifting capacity.
- Tire Changers
- Alignment Racks
- Parts Room — Organization and Shelving
- Classroom — Desks and Seating
- Smart Classroom Design — a car can be driven into the classroom and the instructor can put it on a hoist and use new instructional video technology to make sure everyone in the classroom can see what he is doing from every angle.
- NC3 Curriculum for national certifications

Northwest Iowa Community College has long championed a progressive vision of the role technical education can play in critical American industries. NCC’s investment in Snap-on tools, custom tool storage, garage equipment, and Snap-on product certification programs gives area students and industry a path forward to making this vision a reality. Snap-on is proud to be counted as a partner of Northwest Iowa Community College. We look forward to providing NCC, its students, and industry in Northwest Iowa with the tools and skills needed for technical and industrial leadership.

Earl Bailey
Snap-on National Education Partnerships Manager

continued on page 23
Computer coding classes — for kids? For some adults the thought of coding a computer or writing code to develop an app for a phone or computer program would be considered very difficult — like trying to learn a foreign language, but to kids it is just part of their everyday life. “Kids are really flexible in their learning and love technology,” stated Megan Dieken, NCC Youth Programming Event Planner. “Kids grow up understanding technology, and they are naturally curious and want to know how it works. We wanted to encourage that curiosity and help them understand there might be a potential career behind the fancy technology.”

NCC hosted free Coding for Kids computer coding classes for about 100 children in kindergarten through 8th grade, February – May 2019. The classes were age appropriate for the grade level of each student. Students used familiar characters from video games to learn critical thinking and problem solving skills while acquiring basic computer coding abilities. Dieken explained, “This after-school coding program for students used familiar characters like Angry Birds & Minecraft to explore how computers, video game systems and more work. Professionals who use coding in their everyday jobs presented about the importance of learning coding skills, so students could see the real world value in what they were learning.”

A natural question is, “Why is NCC holding classes for kids?” Dieken explained, “One goal from the College’s strategic plan was to offer more classes to young people with a focus on career exploration, specifically for children in the elementary grades through high school. This goal also aligns with the State of Iowa’s program from the Future Ready Iowa Alliance called Future Ready Iowa, in which Iowa is to have 70 percent of its workforce with education or training beyond high school by the year 2025.” Dieken continued, “We are the community’s college and we want to serve all of our community — including the kids. This was a perfect way to align the college’s goal of serving our community to fit that demographic.”

With that in mind, Dieken and others on campus began developing a plan for the spring of 2019. Dieken explained, “We chose coding because in our work with industry and what we’ve been reading and hearing is how our world is shifting towards robotics and automation. Then we were hearing from schools that they want more robotic classes, and we saw a gap in learning where the students weren’t being exposed to coding or programming on a large scale. So that’s where we came in and offered this after school coding program. Hopefully we are assisting the schools in filling a need and exposing students to a whole new subject they never knew they loved!”

Dr. Beth Frankenstein, Director—Student Development, Secondary Programs, & Transitions, said, “We were excited with how many students signed up for Coding for Kids. We initially thought we would have around 40 students. When over 100 registered we had to quickly expand the program so we could accommodate everyone. We didn’t want to turn anyone away from this opportunity.” Frankenstein continued, “We are proud to have served the youth of our area with this program. We are hopeful to find more opportunities to expand and grow our K-12 programming, especially in the high interest areas of STEM and Computer Science programs.”
PARKER PEELON Age 9

This was really fun. I liked to work on the computers and code characters and games. I also really liked the dance party and the snacks! I would definitely do this again. I will tell all my friends, and I will be back next year!

CALISTA FRANKENSTEIN Age 8

This was really fun. This is all brand new. I would love to do it again. I never really thought about coding as a job, but I might do this when I grow up.
Northwest Iowa Community College and AgriVision Equipment Group, a John Deere Equipment Dealer, held the 1st Annual AgriVision Equipment Group Precision Ag Expo on Monday, July 15, from 9am–3pm on the campus of NCC. About 40 students from across Northwest Iowa participated in the event.

Industry leading experts were on campus to educate the students about the new equipment and technologies that are on the market today. NCC reserved the main parking lot on campus and AgriVision Equipment brought the latest in farming equipment and precision agricultural technologies. All of the learning opportunities for the day were centered on the students experiencing hands-on learning. For example, the students participated in a drone scavenger hunt and won prizes for their FFA programs.

Mark Ford, AgriVision Equipment Director of Organizational Development, stated, “The key to this day is the hands-on component. We wanted the participants to drive the self-guided tractors, see the advanced data collection methods, create a map on the computer and actually see what the yield data would look like. We wanted them to go back to their school or go back home or go back to their FFA Chapter and share their hands on experiences with others who didn’t have a chance to be here. Hopefully they will come next year and eventually work in the agricultural industry!”

Derek Goth, Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn-Remsen-Union (MMCRU) FFA student, said about the day, “It was really fun. Farming is what I have grown up with and what I love, so I wanted to come here to learn more about farming.”

I’m ready for next year!

Another exciting component of this Expo was that the FFA leaders could earn Professional Development dollars, have individual time with tech experts on how to integrate this technology into their local chapter, and enter their group for cool prizes that they could use for later projects.

Dan Lucas, AgriVision Equipment Precision Agronomist, commented, “The purpose of this event was to get high school students excited about the awesome industry of agriculture and maybe help some of them choose to be involved in this great industry in the future.”

Topics included:
- Auto-Guidance Systems
- GPS
- Precision Application
- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Systems
- Data Collection/Management

Hands-on opportunities with equipment:
- Combine: S770
- Tractor: 8400R
- Planter: 1775NT 24R30
- Sprayer: R4045
The new Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship, signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds on June 1st, was available to qualified students at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) for the 2019–20 academic year. The state of Iowa made a total of 13 million dollars available to community college students from across Iowa for qualified programs of study. The Future Ready Iowa goal is that 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce (ages 25–64) have education and training beyond high school by 2025.

The Last-Dollar Scholarship is intended to cover tuition for students in programs that lead to high-demand jobs in Iowa. If other state and federal programs do not cover the entire cost of tuition for a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or associate degree, the Last-Dollar Scholarship will fill the gap. Education and training beyond high school is the new minimum in today's technology-driven, knowledge economy. By 2025, 68 percent of Iowa jobs are expected to require postsecondary education.

Alethea Stubbe, NCC President, commented, “There is nothing more satisfying than empowering students to reach their goals through QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, and AFFORDABLE programs. This is a unique two-step approach the State of Iowa has developed. It will aid students in achieving their educational goals by helping to alleviate the ever-increasing burden of student debt.”

It will also help our area businesses by providing a larger qualified workforce in high-demand career fields.

To be eligible, new high school graduates must enroll as a full-time student. Adult learners may enroll full- or part-time. All students must file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), attend orientation, meet with an advisor, remain continuously enrolled, and make satisfactory academic progress. Students can receive the Last-Dollar Scholarship for up to five full-time semesters or eight part-time semesters. Qualified students will need to reapply each year.

Karna Hofmeyer, NCC Financial Aid Director, reported, “As of the beginning of August, we have awarded 205 students $744,557 of Last Dollar Scholarship awards for the 2019–2020 year. I do expect that number to go up before the start of the school year. We have some students who are still turning in documents and may yet be eligible for the funds.”

Editor’s Note: As of 9-23-19 the number of anticipated scholarships for the ’19-’20 academic year: 235 students — $823,900.
Each year, one outstanding graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College is recognized for his or her accomplishments. The recipient of the 2019 Alumnus of the Year award is David Taylor of Rock Valley. David is a 2000 Industrial & Commercial Wiring graduate and is currently employed as the Director of Planning & Prefabrication at Interstates in Sioux Center, IA. The 2019 Alumnus of the Year recognition was held in conjunction with the College’s July Commencement exercises on July 19, 2019.

David Taylor grew up in Sioux Center, IA, and began NCC’s Industrial & Commercial Wiring program in the fall of 1998. Upon completion of the program, David began as an Electrician for Interstates with his first project being at Anheuser Busch in Ft. Collins, CO. David and his family resided in Colorado for seven years, and during this time David completed projects across various states, including California, Wyoming, Arizona, and Minnesota.

In 2007 David received a promotion and was relocated to Interstates’s Sioux Center location. David spent the next several years leading the Planning Team at Interstates. During this time, David focused on areas of project planning, leading crews and evolving processes. David’s team created a system that is now used company-wide on all projects, and Interstates field leaders claim they would not be able to do their jobs without it.

In 2014 David was promoted to the Director of Planning & Prefabrication and now leads a team of 45 individuals. He spends much of his time on jobsite visits, coaching project leaders, establishing goals, ensuring adherence to company standards and formulating new methods to ensure safety, quality and productivity on all Interstates projects.

David has been a part of the Interstates Excellence in Leadership program since 2005. Through this program, he has served as a mentor for others within the company, assisting them with career goals, mission statements and helping them get on a good path. David has stayed heavily involved with his community and also with NCC.

David’s story is a perfect example that many unforeseen opportunities may be waiting around the corner. He credits NCC, his family, Interstates and his mentors for making these opportunities possible.

David’s family includes his wife, Samantha, and their two children, Jaxon and Elias.

David’s success is our story!
MAYO

Within her first month working at Mayo Clinic, Andrea was presented with a huge learning opportunity. It was required that she achieve her Interventional Radiology (IR) Board Certification. Although unfamiliar with IR at that time, Andrea was excited to take on the challenge of learning and becoming proficient in this unique healthcare niche. In her first few months on the job, Andrea was not only learning the equipment, schedule and various duties of her position, but was also studying for the IR test. She recalls feeling nervous and overwhelmed for nearly the first four months on the job, but it was all worth it. “My team is immersed in the latest & greatest technological advances in the medical field. We see various, rare diseases and treatments because we are at the forefront of medical research. To be part of this is extremely gratifying,” shared Steffen.

Andrea’s role in Mayo Clinic’s Interventional Radiology Department consists of various complex tasks. Some of these tasks include controlling the position of the C-arm machine during procedures, acting as a circulator in the operating room, prepping patients for procedures, notifying physicians of limits on patient exposure to radiation, and completing code compressions when necessary. Depending on the severity of the situation, Andrea’s department is the next stop from the Emergency Room for many cases. Her department sees everything. From strokes, GI bleeds, ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms, port placements, and other emergent scenarios, Andrea gets to experience it all first-hand.

Coming into a large, globally known hospital was extremely intimidating for Andrea—not only due to the technology and rare diagnoses that Mayo specializes in, but also the culture. She learned quickly her co-workers and work environment would be phenomenal. Her department spends so much time together they consider themselves family. Working alongside Andrea are about 35 other Radiologic Technologists and Certified Surgical Technologists. This team of individuals works together to cover nine IR suites at St. Mary’s Hospital, three operating rooms and two suites at Mayo Clinic’s Gonda Building downtown Rochester.

Andrea’s favorite part about her position at Mayo Clinic is the instant gratification her team receives after helping a patient. Not only does Andrea get to experience this feeling every day, but she also has the luxury of being immersed in the culture, innovative research, and deep history of the #1 rated hospital in our Nation today.

Equipment Update

The Radiologic Technology program at NCC is able to produce quality alumni like Andrea due to extremely rigorous curriculum, real-life clinical experiences, and the exposure and ability to practice on various technology and equipment on campus. This ability to practice technique and procedure in the comfort of the student’s on-campus lab setting puts the student steps ahead in knowledge and application when going out to clinical practice. The Radiologic Technology program is constantly seeking new equipment for the student lab. This past summer, they were able to add two pieces of equipment to the lab, a GE Portable X-Ray machine and a GE Fluoroscopy Table, both donated by Sanford Rock Rapids Hospital.

SNAP-ON

Students will pay an equipment fee each semester. When they successfully complete the program they receive a brand new Snap-on toolbox with approximately $5,000 worth of new tools. They also have the option of buying more tools at that time at a significantly reduced cost. The semester equipment fee covers not only their walk-away set of tools and toolbox at graduation, but also all their equipment usage during their years of schooling at NCC. Students cannot opt out, but if they do not graduate or complete, they can pay the balance of what they would owe in order to purchase their tool box.

Waldstein commented, “Nationwide there are Snap-on Tool partner schools, but very few at this level of partnership. There are no others in the state of Iowa that I’m aware of. The timing was perfect for us. We just passed the General Obligation Bond to remodel the space used by these programs, so NCC had the money to invest in the infrastructure to get this partnership off the ground in the right way. It was the right time and Snap-on was the right partner.”

Waldstein finished the interview with a story from this summer’s Transportation orientation. “I had a mother of a student come up to me in tears after the session in which I had explained the new partnership. She said the tool program had taken a huge burden off their family. They were unsure where they were going to find the money for their son’s tool purchase. If they somehow found the money, there wasn’t any way they were going to be able to afford such nice quality tools as Snap-on. Now she knew her son could go to school, receive the education he needed, and get the quality tools he needed for his career. To help our students succeed and discover who they are meant to be—that’s why I work at NCC. I don’t want finances to ever be a barrier to a student’s career goals!”

Diesel Technology students’ tools will be handled similarly beginning in the fall of 2020.
Nondiscrimination 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 mental 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, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Clippinger Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60601, 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.

You’re Invited!
Help celebrate 50 YEARS of success of the Industrial & Commercial Wiring and Electrical Technology programs!

Thursday, October 10, 2019
4:30–7:00PM
Alumni, Instructors, and Retirees are invited back to campus for tours, a meal, class photos, and more!

JOIN THE NCC ALUMNI FACEBOOK GROUP!
Are you a Facebook user? Be sure to join the Northwest Iowa Community College Alumni Group! The group was created with the intention to highlight various alumni achievements, enlighten you with a random throw-back photo, throw an occasional alumni contest, and to broaden the connection with all of our outstanding alums!