#1 IN THE NATION FOR UPWARD MOBILITY

NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Your success is our story

EDUCATION + MOTIVATION + HARD WORK

THE CONNECTION
Fall 2020

A publication for Alumni and Friends of Northwest Iowa Community College
Greetings,

At the time of this writing (mid-August) everyone at Northwest Iowa Community College is excited for the start of the Fall 2020 semester! It is always a time of great anticipation on campus full of firsts for our students — the first day of college, the first time living away from home in the residence halls, and the first time meeting new lifelong friends.

This time, unlike any other, has presented many firsts for the employees of NCC and me. In my 30 years working in higher education, I have never experienced such dynamic challenges in such a short period of time. We have had to pivot in all aspects of campus life as we redirect efforts in how we teach and how we keep our students, employees, and community as safe as possible. I am very proud of all the hard work and the quick actions our employees have taken over the past months, and undoubtedly they will continue to work hard in order to make sure we are doing everything we can to support the goals of our students and communities.

As everyone is right now, NCC is navigating the new normal. We have researched the best on-campus health practices, talked to other institutions of higher education, and worked with local, state, and federal agencies to make sure we do our part to offer a comfortable and safe learning environment. Our team has worked hard to implement new safety protocols for life at NCC. We are all in this together and understand the uneasiness people may have right now. We encourage everyone to have patience and to show respect, empathy, and grace for one another.

NCC has always taken the health, wellness, and safety of our students very seriously. We earned an A+ in safety from Niche.com and were ranked as the safest college in Iowa by stateuniversity.com. You can find more information about safety at NCC on our website at nwicc.edu/about/safety. For specific information on NCC’s COVID-19 decisions, including the Fall 2020 — Student Plan, please visit our website at nwicc.edu/covid19update. This page will continue to have the most up-to-date information as we progress throughout the year.

Ultimately our mission is to educate all students to the best of our ability, and we have done everything we can to ensure we are providing the optimal learning environment to continue to do that.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any NCC employee at any time if you have questions — we are here for you!

Northwest Iowa Community College — Your Success is Our Story!

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

Contributing Writers: Kristin Kollbaum, Marketing & Communications Director | Morgan Granstra, Foundation & Alumni Relations Coordinator
Kristi Landis, College Advancement Director
Lori Richards, Creative Services Coordinator
Editors: Stephanie Peterson, Administrative Assistant | Pamela Lien, Administrative Assistant | Kristin Kollbaum | Lori Richards
Alumni Association: alumni@nwicc.edu | 800-352-4907 ext. 230
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“Northwest Iowa Community College is a progressive learning college, rapidly responding to the global needs of our changing communities.” One of the numerous ways NCC responds to community needs is training quality healthcare workers to fill various roles in the healthcare system. NCC educates a large number of healthcare professionals in Northwest Iowa. In fact, more than 1,300 nurses have received their education from NCC, many of whom work in clinics, hospitals, nursing homes and various facilities in and around Northwest Iowa. At the time these individuals chose a nursing career, many did not realize they would one day be rapidly responding to the needs of a global pandemic.
By now COVID-19 is beginning to feel like a normal part of daily life. Although the pandemic has had an impact on everyone, touched every industry, and changed the way all of us work, interact with others and live, it has especially affected those in healthcare. We have heard many of these stories from our nursing graduates. **NCC is proud of our numerous alumni** that continue to face the risks and deal with the inconveniences of this disease day in and day out, and we are pleased to highlight a few of our outstanding nursing graduates on the following pages.
Wendy Heickes, a 2008 Associate Degree Nursing graduate, is currently employed as a Registered Nurse at Floyd Valley Hospital. Though she has worked as a nurse for over a decade, Wendy has never had to deal with the amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required or the large increase in restrictions she is required to abide by. Despite these inconveniences, Wendy loves her role as a nurse and is glad she can be there for her patients during these especially difficult times. Wendy’s success is our story!

Sara Steinback, a 2014 Associate Degree Nursing graduate, developed a passion for nursing at an early age. Her grandmother was a nurse for over 30 years and served as Sara’s inspiration to carry on the family legacy. Currently Sara is employed with Nextaff and Favorite Healthcare Staffing and rotates at various healthcare facilities within the region that are not adequately staffed. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Sara has dealt with PPE shortages, “COVID-positive” patients under quarantine and the stress of patients not being able to see a familiar smiling face behind all of the PPE that is required. “Regardless of all of these circumstances, I am very proud to be a nurse and extremely proud to be an NCC alumna,” shared Sara. Sara’s success is our story!

Greg Scholten, a 2016 Associate Degree Nursing graduate, is currently employed at Cherokee Mental Health Institute. Greg began his nursing career later in life when he switched from manufacturing to the healthcare industry. He chose to become a nurse due to the high occupational demand, the job stability and the opportunity to truly help others. Greg feels that the most rewarding part of his role as a nurse in the mental health system is seeing patients come in ill, caring for them and eventually watching them leave as productive members of society. The importance of mental health has gained more attention as of late, and Greg feels fortunate to be able to help his patients during these times of mental unrest. Greg’s success is our story!

Taylor Schettler, a 2019 Associate Degree Nursing graduate, will never forget the first year of her career in the healthcare industry. She was eager to graduate in the spring of 2019, sit for the NCLEX boards and officially begin her role as a Registered Nurse. Little did she know, she would be facing the COVID-19 pandemic less than one year into her career.

Taylor currently serves as a Registered Nurse for Sanford Health in Worthington, MN. Taylor always knew she wanted to pursue a career in nursing. Her sister Kendra, a 2014 graduate of NCC’s Nursing program, served as a great example for Taylor. Kendra’s wonderful experience in the Nursing program at NCC solidified Taylor’s decision of where she would attend. Although her first year working as a Registered Nurse is not at all like she pictured it to be, Taylor is proud to have achieved her dream of becoming a nurse. “I am so proud to be an NCC alum. Without NCC, I would not be doing what I love!” she shared. Taylor’s success is our story!

Information relating to COVID-19 is constantly changing, new requirements and policies are popping up left and right, and there are many unanswered questions revolving around the virus, but one thing is for certain: the nurses trained at Northwest Iowa Community College are passionate, proud of their work and prepared to take on anything life brings their way, including rapidly responding to a global pandemic.
proud alumni

#NCCstrong
START @ NCC.
SAVE $.
THEN TRANSFER.
Transfer Majors are now being offered at Northwest Iowa Community College. Transfer Majors prepare students to seamlessly transfer to one or more of the three Iowa Regent Universities: the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. Students complete their AA/AS Transfer Major degree and can then complete their 4-year degree at the respective Regent University through comprehensive articulation agreements with each regent university. Look for a comprehensive story in the spring 2021 edition of the Connections Magazine (including how these differ from what NCC historically called Pre-Professional Programs). These Transfer Majors do not replace our many other transfer articulation agreements with other higher education institutions, but rather expand our students’ transfer options. They are just another avenue we can offer you for seamless transfer. For quick reference or more information you can visit nwicc.edu/transfer-majors.

There are nineteen Transfer Majors including:

**AGRICULTURE**
- Ag Business (AS)
- Ag Education (AS)
- Agronomy (AS)
- Animal Science (AS)

**ARTS & SCIENCES**
- Biology (AS)
- English (AA)
- History (AA)
- Mathematics (AS)
- Physics (AS)
- Political Science (AA)

**BUSINESS AND HEALTH**
- Business (AA)
- Exercise Science and Kinesiology (AA)

**EDUCATION**
- Early Childhood Teacher Licensure (AA)
- Elementary Education (AA)
- Secondary Education (AA)

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**
- Criminal Justice (AA)
- Psychology (AA)
- Social Work (AA)
- Sociology (AA)

At NCC — Your Success is Our Story!

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

The NCC Foundation offers a scholarship specifically designed for students who begin their education at NCC and transfer to an Iowa Regent University. More information on the NCC/Iowa Regents Transfer Scholarship can be found at [bit.ly/ncc-scholarships](bit.ly/ncc-scholarships).

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**AVERAGE TUITION & FEES at Iowa Institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NCC</th>
<th>4-year public</th>
<th>4-year private</th>
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<td>$6,240</td>
<td>$9,363</td>
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Average Tuition & Fees (2019–2020 Academic Year)
Student Expenses at Iowa Institutions
Source: Iowa College Student Aid Commission
The Brookings Institute is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Their mission is to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level. On their website they explain the reason for the study, “Inequality in the United States has been rising in recent decades, while intergenerational mobility remains low. This means that absolute mobility — the extent to which children are economically better off than their parents — is declining, and intergenerational inequality is increasingly entrenched.” They go on to state, “Our measure is the share of students at a college who come from the middle quintile of the parental income distribution — and move up at least one quintile in adulthood.”

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, NCC President, commented, “This is why the community college systems were developed across the United States — to provide access to an affordable and high quality education to our community members. In the end, not only do individuals benefit from this process so also do their family members, future family members, and ultimately the communities they live in. It is fundamentally providing access to the American dream — if you work hard you can benefit from that hard work to help yourself, your family, and your community thrive. Everyone wants the next generation to be more successful and this report is one indicator that NCC is helping our community members achieve just that. It’s a wonderful feeling for everyone at the College to be recognized for that contribution to our area and indeed, our state and nation.”

The researchers for The Opportunity Insights Mobility Report Cards used data for this study that built on the College Scorecard Data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education. They also compiled de-identified data from tax returns, linked to information about colleges, to construct this publicly available database for colleges in the United States.

Northwest Iowa Community College has been named as the BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE NATION for colleges that are most associated with upward economic mobility. In a study conducted by the Brookings Institute, Opportunity engines: Middle-Class Mobility in Higher Education, NCC ranked No.1 out of the 2-year schools from across the nation.
TOP 5
2-Year Colleges in the U.S.A

1. Northwest Iowa Community College
2. North Dakota State College of Science
3. Lake Area Technical Institute
4. Linn State Technical College
5. Mitchell Technical Institute

To read the report in its entirety: bit.ly/NCC-mobility
In April of 2018, a few months prior to beginning his classes at NCC, Jarrett received some surprising news… he had been selected as a full-tuition scholarship recipient! He will never forget the day he received this letter. Now much of his hard-earned money could be saved for his sister’s college expenses or go toward his family’s expenses.

During his time at NCC Jarrett worked hard, focused his efforts on his education, continued to save money and gave back to others as much as he could. Jarrett volunteered for numerous NCC Foundation tasks and activities throughout his time at NCC, including sharing his story at College events and assisting with various projects. Jarrett has a strong passion for giving back. One of his more recent goals is to be able to financially support a scholarship for less-fortunate students.

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Currently, Jarrett works as an Apprentice Lineman for Watt’s Electric. Although he spends a majority of his time traveling, staying in hotels and working very hard, he loves the Powerline Industry. He is thankful to have a financially stable position that allows him to live a good life, provide financial support to his grandparents and sister and save for his future. Jarrett has come a long way since his childhood of constantly worrying about finances. Thanks to his extremely good work ethic, the support of his grandparents and the Powerline program at NCC, Jarrett is a prime example of why NCC was ranked as highest in the nation for colleges that are most associated with upward economic mobility.
Rocio Mendez, a 2013 graduate of NCC’s Associate Degree Nursing program, is another great example of upward mobility.

Raised in Mexico, Rocio moved to Iowa later in her life. Her desire to become a Nurse began at just six years old when her father was in the hospital for an extended time. She waited to attend school until her son, who has type 1 diabetes, was old enough to take care of himself. Because English is her second language, she was very nervous to go back to school to obtain her Nursing degree and had to work extremely hard in all of her classes. Although this was a challenge for her, her family’s future was the motivation that kept her going.

Upon graduation, Rocio worked as a Medical-Surgical Nurse. She was then presented with an opportunity to work in the Diabetes Education department with the nurse that assisted her throughout her son’s diabetes care. Rocio is currently employed as a Diabetes Care & Education Specialist at Sioux Center Health and as a Bilingual Family Support Specialist at Community Health Partners, Public Office for Sioux County. Because her son has type 1 diabetes, her current positions give her the opportunity to apply her experiences while continuing to learn about various aspects of diabetes and new research findings. One of her departments’ goals is to provide culturally appropriate knowledge in diabetes education. Rocio loves that she can supply patients and families with culturally appropriate diabetes information. She also has the opportunity to put her bilingual skills to use and assist numerous families in need.

Rocio attaining her Nursing degree has caused a ripple effect for her family. Since Rocio’s graduation, her son, Jesus, has also attended and obtained a degree from NCC. Rocio’s family is a prime example of upward economic mobility caused by an education from NCC.

There are countless examples of upward economic mobility among the NCC alumni community. Obtaining an education from Northwest Iowa Community College not only benefits the individual receiving the degree, it also benefits family members and, ultimately, the communities in which they reside. NCC continues to have an impact on the upward economic mobility of individuals and families every day.

Other Recent Awards of Distinction:

#2 in the Nation
Health Information Technology Program
BestHealthDegrees.com
bit.ly/NCC-HIT2

#3 In the Nation
Best Medical Coding program
BestHealthDegrees.com
bit.ly/NCC-medical-coding3

#8 in the Nation
2-Year Colleges with the Best Graduation Rates (65%)
Chronicle of Higher Education, August 2019

#11 in the Nation
Online Associate in Criminal Justice Degree Program
TheBestSchools.org
bit.ly/NCC-criminal-justice

#1 in Iowa
Pharmacy Technician Program
PharmacyTechnicianGuide.com
bit.ly/NCC-pharmacy-tech

#4 in the Nation
Best Community College Overall and
#2 in the Nation
Best for Career Outcomes
WalletHub.com
bit.ly/NCC-wallethub

A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.

— Colin Powell, former U.S. Defense Secretary
The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the $1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation’s signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America’s community colleges. Based on impressive and improving student outcomes — including: learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity—15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize. Dr. Alethea Stubbe, President of NCC, stated, “Out of 1,047 community colleges in the country, NCC is 1 of only 15 colleges that have been recognized as top 150 Aspen colleges all SIX times since the inception of the competition (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021). This places NCC in the top 1.43% of the highest performing colleges in the nation.”

Stubbe continued, “We are grateful for this prestigious recognition, which is so well deserved by our employees who constantly focus on student success. On behalf of all the college employees and our Board of Trustees, we are pleased to contribute to the strength and vitality of Northwest Iowa by providing quality, accessible, and affordable education. We will continue to support our students in order for them to write their own stories of success. At NCC — Your Success is OUR Story!”

The 150 community colleges named as eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges across the nation using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas, serving as few as 500 students and as many as 75,000 students, these colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector.

Data show that over the last two years student retention, graduation rates, and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges.

“Community colleges play a vital role in developing talent and enabling social mobility across the country, and it’s critical for them to get better at what they do,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. “We’re pleased to see evidence that these institutions are improving, that more are delivering on their promise. We’re also pleased to play a role in honoring outstanding community colleges and sharing what works to ensure great outcomes for students—through graduation and beyond.”

A distinguished jury will make award decisions in the spring of 2021.

Previous winners of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence are Miami Dade College (FL) and Indian River State College (FL), 2019; Lake Area Technical College (SD), 2017; Santa Fe College (FL), 2015; Santa Barbara City College (CA) and Walla Walla Community College (WA), 2013; Valencia College (FL), 2011.

For a full list of the top 150 eligible institutions and to read more on the selection process, visit highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize.
Food insecurity is becoming a very real problem for college students throughout the United States. In fact, the College & University Food Bank Alliance estimates that in the United States, 30% of college students are food insecure, and one in five college students are considered “hungry.” Food is as essential to learning as pencils or textbooks. NCC is making strides to ensure that students who are food insecure have resources to help them while pursuing their education.

The Thunder Cupboard is an initiative brought forth by a group of employees who could see the importance of providing assistance to food insecure students. The concept is simple. Students in need can receive a bag of groceries consisting of six items: a box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a jar of jelly, a jar of pasta sauce, a box of noodles, and a tube of toothpaste or a bar of soap. Also within the bag is a flyer that lists many community resources, such as nearby food pantries or housing assistance programs. A $10 grocery gift card to get a loaf of bread, a pound of meat or a gallon of milk is also potentially added in the bag in extreme circumstances. Other food has been generously donated by employees of the college to supplement the bags as available. The hope is the bag of groceries will help the student get through a few days, until he or she is able to access other community resources for assistance.

To be mindful of confidentiality, the Thunder Cupboard is open by appointment only. A student can request assistance by texting or e-mailing the Thunder Cupboard. Once a student requests assistance, someone from the NCC Thunder Cupboard team will discreetly connect with the student to find a time to provide the bag of groceries to the student.

The Sheldon Hy-Vee has partnered with NCC to provide the food items to the needy students. Initiatives like this may seem small, but a kind gesture can be immensely powerful to the recipient, especially if the student is also supporting a family. Students should never have to choose between eating and receiving an education, and NCC is proud to partner with Hy-Vee to help all our students on their academic pursuits!
It’s no secret that Northwest Iowa Community College has earned high rankings when it comes to items like program offerings, educational outcomes, graduation rates and affordability, but it is also an exceptional place to work. Numerous alumni have made the decision to continue their NCC journeys as an employee. In fact, over 1/3 of the current college employees can call themselves a PROUD alumnus.

Aaron Dvorak, Instructor—Powerline
Aimee Jaynes, Administrative Assistant—Learning Center/Alt HS
Allie Mouw, Coordinator—Learning Intermediary Network
Andrew Koenen, Instructor—Heavy Equipment
Angie Shilling, Instructor—Nursing
April Klein, Administrative Assistant—TRIO Student Support Services
Ben DeWit, Maintenance Technician
Bryce Anderson, Instructor—Powerline
Byron Krull, Instructor—Electrical
Chuck Ball, Instructor—Automotive
Doug Rodger, Director—Physical Facilities
Eric Ortner, Network Administrator
Gladys Kroeze, Accounts Payable/Production Technician
Henry Keizer, Custodian
Jacob Laubach, Supervisor—Custodial
Janet Boone, Instructor—Administrative Office Management
Jennifer Dukter, Administrative Assistant—Applied Technology
Kari Spanjer, Parts/Service Store Associate
Kelsey Van Beek, Instructor—Radiologic Technology
Kelsie Rieck, Coordinator—Simulation
Ken Kramer, Instructor—Diesel Technology
Kevin Connor, Custodian
Laura Nachtigal, Executive Assistant & Board Secretary
Logan VanDenBerg, Computer Support Technician
Mark Bohnet, Instructor—Electrical
Brian Lauck, Coach—Sports Shooting
Megan Lovan, Administrative Assistant—Continuing Education & Business Services
Michael Oldenkamp, Director—Technology & Information Services
Miet Kracht, Instructor—Powerline
Morgan Granstra, Coordinator—Foundation & Alumni Relations
Nate Engelkes, Instructor—Diesel Technology
Phil Louters, Instructor—Electrical
Rachel Van Briesen, Instructor—Nursing
Rae Paulson, Systems Integration Specialist
Rebecca Stofferan, Instructor—Nursing
Robbie Jungers, Accounts Payable/Production Technician
Robert Hoting, Instructor—Welding
Russ Gaalswyk, Instructor—Industrial Instrumentation & Control
Ryan Steffen, Instructor—Engineering Design
Samson Nyambati, TRIO Student Support Services Multicultural Leader
Sarah Fykstra, Administrative Assistant—Registrar
Sharon Schneidermann, Administrative Assistant—Healthcare Programs
Sheila Drenkow, Instructor—Accounting
Sheila Van Engen, Administrative Assistant—Institutional Adv & External Affairs
Sonia Garza, Data Entry Specialist
Stephanie Peterson, Administrative Assistant—Arts & Sciences/Bus & Health
Steve VanDenBerg, Custodian
Tara Fjeld, Administrative Assistant—Registrar
Tracy Gorter, Coordinator—TRIO Student Support Services
Troy Klein, Instructor—Electrical
Twyla Vogel, Coordinator—Continuing Education, Help Desk
Willis Radtke, Instructor—Design Technology
The variety of programs offered at NCC allow for diverse employment opportunities. You will find alumni serving as faculty members, student services staff, administrative office professionals, maintenance and custodial staff, IT staff, department directors, coordinators of various campus departments and more.

These employees have firsthand knowledge of being a student at NCC. When asked to identify their favorite part about working for their alma mater, many similarities arose. Responses included, the excitement on the first day of the term, the fact that close bonds are formed—whether attending or working at NCC you belong to a family—having access to lifelong learning opportunities, being presented with new opportunities and challenges, having access to the latest technology and state of the art facilities, and overall, no matter what department you work in, having the same unifying goal of NCC student success.

Long-time Welding faculty member and alumnus Robert Hoting obviously has a passion for teaching welding processes and techniques, but working at NCC fulfills other passions of his as well. Hoting said, “What I love the most about my position as Welding Instructor is meeting new students each semester, working with them and expanding their knowledge to a point where they are a viable part of society as welders.”

Long-time staff member and alumna Twyla Vogel shared, “Working in Continuing Education is very rewarding. My favorite part of my job as Coordinator is helping students of all ages and backgrounds gain confidence and knowledge so they can be more proficient and efficient in their educational journey, their career or life in general.” Vogel has worked for nearly a decade in the Continuing Education Department at the College. The department’s philosophy is, “School ends, but learning never does.”

Tara Fjeld, Administrative Assistant–Student Services & Registrar’s Office, also has decades of experience as a staff member and alumna. Tara’s favorite part about coming to work every day is assisting students with their various needs. Each day is different in that a typical day consists of working with a wide range of student needs. Tara may start the day in her Academic Advising role and assist students in getting registered for classes. Then she may move on to assisting alumni in obtaining a transcript to transfer to another college or apply for a job. What Tara loves most is working for an institution that offers a variety of options for a diverse body of students. She shared, “NCC allows our students the opportunity to get a great job immediately after college, like myself, or allows our students to transfer to another institution. NCC saves students time and money, and it is rewarding to see the numerous alumni success stories as a result of that.”

“As an alumna working for my alma mater, I can personally attest that it is a special and unique experience, especially when my position directly involves working with all NCC alumni, both internal and external. My favorite part about serving as the Foundation & Alumni Relations Coordinator is witnessing future alumni success stories in action every day on campus, meeting numerous alumni from a variety of backgrounds who are doing great things in their respective industries, and witnessing our outstanding alumni right here on campus to assist our future alumni on their path to success. Here at NCC, we are fortunate to have a large amount of faculty and staff that have chosen to continue their NCC journey as employees, and their success is our story!” added Morgan Granstra, Foundation & Alumni Relations Coordinator.

It makes me very proud as an instructor when students come back and share their success stories.”

Are you an NCC Alumnus who would like to work for your alma mater? NCC loves to hire our own, and we offer various career opportunities. You can view available positions at:

nwic.edu/employment-opportunities
The year 2020 has brought numerous changes to the campus of Northwest Iowa Community College. Course delivery formats, the ability to offer activities for students and the way students and faculty interact with one another are just a few examples of these changes. This year has also brought changes to the faces of a few of NCC’s well-known programs. Following the retirements and departures of a handful of long-standing College Faculty members, three campus programs added new faces to their instructional staff. The Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance, Powerline and Associate of Arts programs welcomed new faculty members this year. The Faculty members at NCC play a leading role in the success of these programs, their students and the future of the industries in which they teach.

**Milet Kracht, Powerline Instructor**  
**Started at NCC:** February of 2020  
**Experience:** 2003 alumnus of NCC’s Powerline program. His prior experience includes serving as the lead lineman for the City of Paullina for three years and, most recently, the lead lineman for the City of Hartley for fifteen years.  
Milet is excited about working at NCC because he is a big believer in hands-on education. He loves working in the field doing hands-on projects alongside his students.

**Jeff Soole, Powerline Instructor**  
**Started at NCC:** April of 2020  
**Experience:** Jeff’s career in the Powerline industry began at the Port Neal Power Plant in 2010, and he did his apprenticeship training with MidAmerican Energy in 2011. Jeff’s experience includes working as a lineman in Las Vegas, Nevada, for three years, and Brighton, Colorado, for two years. Most recently, he was an instructor at Northwest Lineman College in Oroville, California.  
Jeff thoroughly enjoys sharing his industry and previous educational experiences with his students.

**Eric Starn, Heavy Equipment Operation & Maint. Instructor**  
**Started at NCC:** May of 2020  
**Experience:** 20+ years in the heavy equipment industry, most recently working as a Project Manager at Boomerang Excavation in Eastern Iowa.  
Eric is excited to share his wealth of industry experience with students. Eric predominantly teaches NCC’s second year Heavy Equipment students and enjoys spending much of his time on live job sites with students.

**Tadd Knobloch, Science Instructor**  
**Started at NCC:** August of 2020  
**Experience:** Tadd has served as an adjunct instructor for NCC for over 12 years and also holds over 24 years of healthcare experience as a Chiropractor.  
Tadd is excited to continue to show his students their potential and build their confidence to succeed in their courses. While much of his previous experience with students was in a part-time capacity, Tadd is enjoying the ability to work with students in a face-to-face setting full-time on campus.
student life [snapshot]

*Some photos taken prior to COVID social distancing guidelines
What are YOU up to?

We love to connect with alums and want to hear your stories of success! Email alumni@nwicc.edu or go to nwicc.edu/alumni-foundation/what-are-you-doing to share your latest update! Your success is our story!

Pictured: Glen Van Wyk, Residential Electrician Alumnus, Class of ’82 and his wife Karen