Greetings,

Being asked to reflect upon my career at Northwest Iowa Community College for a story about my retirement in this issue has been a perplexing task. Normally there isn’t time to dwell on past accomplishments at the College during my career — far from it. Driving to and from work or longer trips for meetings are usually filled with thoughts of “what’s next” and “what if”. Thinking ahead is something I’ve done regularly throughout my entire career; thinking back is somewhat bittersweet. One thing I can truthfully say as I reflect — I loved it.

I have truly enjoyed my time at NCC. Together with the dedicated team at NCC, I have loved making a difference in the lives of Northwest Iowans and others from across the country. It is extremely satisfying to see how we have made a difference in people’s lives for the better. It brings me great joy to see high school students taking their first college course and to their delight discovering that they can succeed in college. Or when a hands-on learner in one of our Applied Technology programs discovers that they are a fantastic student — they just needed to be taught in a different way than a traditional classroom setting. Or when the non-traditional student coming back after years in the workforce to enhance their career benefits greatly from the support and resources provided by their community college. Seeing all of these students walk across the stage at graduation to the cheers of their loving children and families is one of life’s greatest rewards. I loved it.

It also gives me immense pleasure to see students participating in personal enrichment classes through our Continuing Education Department, learning English as a Second Language, or taking other short courses through the Adult Literacy program. Also seeing when business and industry partners along with our Workforce Development & Training Department work to create and deliver specialized training. Or when I see individuals meet their wellness goals at the Lifelong Learning & Recreation Center. Strong mind, strong body. I loved it.

Looking back through my 30 years at NCC was a fascinating trip down memory lane that called to mind a multitude of great memories! Recollections from my early career included teaching countless Administrative Secretarial students and expanding that program, attending LINC leadership training which literally changed my world view, and helping the CAO establish NCC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on campus. Inducting 49 charter members into NCC’s chapter, Beta Lambda Pi, in 2002, I continued as a co-advisor from 2002–2011. Active engagement from 1992–2005 in the Iowa Business Education Association (IBEA) earned me the privilege of serving as the statewide President in 2004. I loved it.

Being a member of great teams that worked on the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation visits at NCC, Iowa Department of Education visits, multiple Title III grants, and the improvement of assessment in program education and student learning outcomes gave me great satisfaction. Gratefully I was also part of many technological improvements across campus. NCC has taken great strides with digital technology in classrooms and labs, data management, the incorporation of digital textbooks and content to lower the student’s cost, and even how we market ourselves. I loved it.
Other initiatives on campus during the last ten years were: my President’s Weekly Updates for the entire campus community, the Life sculpture, establishing Core Values of service and success, the rebranding of the NCC logo and branding statement — Your Success is Our Story!, hosting the President’s Tea, Days of Thunder homecoming events, the 50th Anniversary Celebration, partnering with Snap-on Tools, serving on the Sheldon Chamber Development Corporation (SCDC) Board and in the Kiwanis Club, and so much more. I loved it.

The numerous national awards the College has received highlight our students’ success: Aspen Prize — top 1.43% of community colleges in the nation (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021); #1 in the Nation for Middle Class Upward Mobility in Higher Education, Brookings Institute (2020); and many, many other awards. As we look toward the future there is always more work to do, but as we strive for continuous improvement we can take pride in the affirmation of student success and fulfilling our mission that these awards bring to campus. I loved it.

As I conclude, I have to say it one more time — Northwest Iowa Community College is honored to assist in the education and training of Northwest Iowans and others around the country with open access to all students. We fill the skills gap by being responsive to community needs with quality, accessible, and affordable programs and customized training. I loved it.

Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.” As my tenure draws to a close, it is easy to see why NCC is a very special place to me that has provided countless opportunities along with much satisfaction and joy! We are here to do whatever we can to serve you, and we are grateful for your continued support. The future is bright!

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Northwest Iowa Community College extends an invitation to the community for the celebration of the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of NCC’s Diesel Technology and Automotive classrooms and labs and the Educational Partnership with Snap-on Tools, Inc. on September 21, 2021, at 10 am.

On April 3, 2018, the voters in Lyon, O’Brien, Osceola, and Sioux counties, as well as the Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn School District in Cherokee County (Area IV) voted to approve a nearly 14.2 million dollar General Obligation Bond Referendum for Northwest Iowa Community College. The referendum passed close to 74% and ensured NCC’s ability to continue to offer a high-quality, accessible, and affordable education to our community members. This construction is a direct result of the passage of the referendum.

The need to expand Building D’s programs was a necessity for the College. In 1968, when the original building was constructed, having space for 18 students was a great enrollment number to imagine. In 2019 with the current industry demand for more skilled technicians, we needed additional room to educate students effectively and efficiently. For example, in the fall of 2018 NCC had 105 inquiries in the Diesel Technology Program, but only 18 students could be admitted due to the size of the labs. Unfortunately, that meant the local students who wanted training needed to find other learning opportunities outside of the local area and even outside of the state.

With the completed addition and remodel of the Diesel Technology Program area, NCC can now admit more students into the program. Indeed, as of April 19, 2021, the program was full for the fall 2021 semester and even has a waiting list. Given the increased number of students, college administrators anticipate the need to hire a Lab Teaching Assistant at some point in the future.
In the Fall of 2019, NCC became an official Snap-on Tool Educational Partner. Being an educational partner allows every student enrolled in NCC’s Transportation Programs access to a toolbox full of new, high-quality Snap-on tools from day one of their first semester. This allows the student to start their education without the large expense of buying the tools themselves, which has been a financial barrier for many students. When the student graduates, they receive a standard, brand new toolbox and a set of Snap-on Tools to use as automotive professionals. At that time they also have the option of buying additional tools at a significant discount.

Also, as a part of this educational partnership, all of the diagnostic computer technology in NCC’s transportation labs will be updated twice a year to the most current technology available through Snap-on Tools. In addition to the tool and technology aspects of this partnership, NCC students will now have the opportunity to earn nationally recognized Snap-on Tool certificates through the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3).

This partnership journey started four 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. 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. NCC employees found that many students just could not afford that large of an outlay of cash at the beginning of the school year, and since they could not find personal financing, they would drop the program.

Finally, since all of NCC’s Automotive Instructors are nationally certified NC3 Trainers, they can now provide NC3 Certification Training to employees of area businesses when regular classes are not in session. This is the beginning of a new workforce training initiative for NCC’s Workforce and Economic Development Division.

The timing of this partnership was perfect for NCC. The General Obligation Bond Referendum to remodel the space used by these programs had just passed, 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.

Please join us on September 21, 2021, to celebrate the outcomes of this special collaboration between Northwest Iowa Community College, the local community, and Snap-on Tools. In attendance will be the President and members of the Executive Leadership Team from Snap-on Tools. Snap-on Tools has also committed to bring Snap-on Tool sponsored NHRA driver Cruz Pedregon and his car to campus for the September 21 open house.

Let’s celebrate this unique partnership that is beneficial for the region, and indeed, all of Iowa!
The newest construction project on Northwest Iowa Community College’s campus is the renovation and addition to its Health programming facilities. Building H was originally constructed in 2004 with an addition completed in 2008 and is 17,793 square feet. With the remodeling and expansion of the main floor to 34,287 square feet (an additional 16,494 square feet) and the addition of a second floor at 14,005 square feet, the total area of the new Health facilities will be an impressive 48,292 square feet.

The building of the new Health addition is made possible by the passage in 2018 of the nearly 14.2 million dollar General Obligation Bond. Alethea Stubbe, President, commented, "The new Health addition and expansion at Northwest Iowa Community College signifies growth and progress for the College and the entire area. We are grateful to the forward-thinking voters of our community who approved the General Obligation Bond in April 2018. We take the trust the community placed in us seriously. The passage of the General Obligation Bond was an investment in the future of the College and in the future of Northwest Iowa. The funds are enabling NCC to meet our mission as the region’s workforce trainer, career builder, and life changer, making higher education accessible to all.”

Construction began in the spring of 2021 with completion scheduled for December 2022.
KEY FEATURES

**Second Floor**
- 20 offices
- 2 conference rooms
- General workspace
- Future expansion

About ½ of the second floor is dedicated to future expansion. Right now the plans are for 3 additional classrooms and a large open area that can be developed as needed. This space will allow flexibility for future program development and expansion as needed.

**First Floor**
- 2 nursing classrooms
- Student lounge
- Additional restrooms
- Simulation area designed as 4 pods housed around a center nursing station—built to replicate a hospital setting
- Conference room
- Public lounge
- Small study areas
- Dedicated space for CNA to include testing area, classroom space, and a lab teaching area
- Emergency Services’ area will consist of a virtual simulation space as well as dedicated instructional space
- Radiologic Technology x-ray equipment will be repositioned in its own area and will be supported by dedicated classroom space
The ability to relate to people, a capacity for calm and reasoned judgment and a demonstration of commitment to the patient are essential qualities. Communication skills extend to consultative interactions with members of the healthcare team, external relations, customer service and patient education. Laboratory professionals demonstrate ethical and moral attitudes and principles that are necessary for gaining and maintaining the confidence of patients, professional associates, and the community.

This is a hands-on program with learning in different lab environments. Students will perform sample collection, test analysis, principle application, quality control monitoring, use and maintenance of automated and electronic instruments, troubleshooting and problem-solving techniques under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist or pathologist in compliance with safety and governmental regulations.

Medical Lab Technicians are trained to work in multiple settings such as hospitals, physician’s offices, private reference laboratories, research, biotechnology, public health, nonclinical industrial laboratories, and sales or technical services.

This is an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) two year program. Graduates typically start at $41,928 median salary range. There is also a certificate option available after one year.

Upon successful completion of the program the student is eligible to take the national certification exam from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

Contact the Office of Admissions at 712-324-5061 or email admissions@nwicc.edu for more information about this exciting new opportunity at NCC!

NCC Expands Healthcare Program Offerings

For several years leaders at NCC in collaboration with local Healthcare Providers have planned to start a new program within NCC’s Health Division — Medical Laboratory Technology. Beginning in the Fall of 2021, Medical Laboratory Technology will be available through NCC. It will start as a shared program with Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids.

Sharing programs is a common occurrence among Iowa community colleges. For example, NCC began its Nursing Program as a shared agreement with Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City, in 1981. “By partnering with Kirkwood Community College, NCC will be able to offer medical lab technician training in Northwest Iowa. Our partnership means that we can take advantage of Kirkwood’s academic staff and instructional curriculum. We won’t be building the program from scratch; we will be learning from Kirkwood’s program leaders and building upon that knowledge to bring the best program to NCC.

Our region needs medical lab technicians right now, and NCC is rapidly responding to that need with our partnership agreement,” stated Dr. John Hartog, Vice President—Student & Academic Services.

Medical Laboratory Technicians are members of the healthcare and quality teams who perform, evaluate, and assure the accuracy and validity of laboratory test information. They also collaborate in patient diagnosis, treatment and therapy. A student in the program will develop competencies in areas such as chemistry, hematology, blood bank, microbiology, immunology, molecular diagnostics and quality assurance.

NEW

NEW
One of Northwest Iowa Community College’s long-standing healthcare programs is Medical Coding and Health Information Technology. A common phrase used at NCC to explain a career in medical records and health information is “healthcare without the blood”. Many individuals pursue a career in health information technology due to a passion for healthcare, computers or data analysis. A benefit of this career path is involvement in healthcare without working with blood, needles and the other physical interactions healthcare providers have with patients. Another benefit of a career in Health Information is the increasing ability to work from home. Many of these factors are what led Health Information Technology Alumna, Robin Wilson (’99), to pursue a career in this field.

Robin Wilson grew up on a farm in rural Northwest Iowa. After finishing her high school education in 1996, she was undecided about what to do next. Robin enjoyed reading and office work, so she obtained a volunteer position at a local public library. During her time at the library, she received a catalog from NCC and read about a new Medical Records Librarian program, now known as Health Information Technology. Since the NCC Registrar lived across the section from her, she had close connections to the College. Robin scheduled a career assessment at NCC and prepared to begin her education the next fall. Going to NCC would allow her to stay close to family. It was extremely affordable and offered a program she was excited to pursue. Robin knew that NCC was the right fit for her.

Robin enthusiastically started classes at NCC in the fall of 1997. In the beginning, she remembers the program being a challenge and involving a large amount of paper charting, but she loved it from the get-go! The subjects of math and pharmacy terminology challenged Robin the most. To ensure she was successful in these courses, she went through many flashcards and spent a lot of time in NCC’s Learning Center. The Learning Center provided free tutoring services to students and is still a benefit to NCC students today. Robin also had a work-study position with the NCC Financial Aid Office. She spent a lot of time in between classes doing office work and was grateful for the opportunity to gain more experience in an office setting while working toward her degree.

After two challenging, but enjoyable years, Robin completed her degree in Health Information Technology. She finished her coursework in May of 1999. In order to officially graduate, she also had to complete a required 200-hour practicum experience. Laurie Ness, her former NCC Instructor, had notified Robin of an opening at Pipestone County Medical Center (PCMC) and encouraged her to apply. Robin planned to complete her practicum experience at PCMC, so she decided to apply for the full-time opening. Robin finished her practicum experience on July 5 and was an official, full-time employee by July 6!

Robin moved to Pipestone, MN, eager to begin work as PCMC’s newest Medical Coding Specialist. Pipestone was close enough that she could frequently visit family, but far enough away to give her a new experience. As a Medical Coder, Robin’s primary responsibility was translating medical information into billing language to ensure patients were billed correctly for various medical services. There is typically confusion surrounding exactly what Medical Coders & Billers do. Robin likes to think of herself as an interpreter. In summary, she takes the clinical notes from nurses, doctors and other healthcare providers, translates the information into numbers and correct codes, and passes the information on to the billing department for processing.

In October of 1999, Robin took the Registered Health Information Technician, or RHIT, exam. NCC’s program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, or CAHIIM. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the national certification examination leading to the RHIT credential. This credential helps NCC graduates stand out and prove that they are well prepared for a career in Health Information Technology. Robin passed the exam on her first attempt and earned her RHIT credential, which she still holds today.

Continued on next page...
After 10 years with PCMC, Robin was presented with the opportunity to work from home. Her responsibilities would remain the same, but she would be able to set up a home office and move back to Northwest Iowa. Robin had many close relationships with her co-workers, but she was extremely excited to be close to her family once again. In October of 2009, Robin made the transition to begin working from her home located nearly two hours from PCMC. She jokes that the hardest adjustments to working from home were training her family to understand that she is not available during her working hours and eliminating distractions. When making the transition, Robin was apprehensive to leave her co-workers and the office environment. Although she considers herself an introvert, she thrives on a daily dose of interaction with people. Robin is still required to visit PCMC as needed and at minimum, on a quarterly basis, but works the remainder of the time from her home office. When the Covid-19 pandemic began in the spring of 2020, Robin felt extremely fortunate to have a job that was secure and allowed her to work from home.

Robin is celebrating 22 years as a Health Information Coding Specialist with Pipestone County Medical Center, having been in her home office for nearly twelve of those years. A typical day for Robin includes coding for a variety of healthcare services. Her day begins with Home Health & Hospice Coding and then transitions to a variety of other services such as Inpatient and Outpatient procedures, ER, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, Obstetrics, and various lab and x-ray services. One of her favorite things is the ability to learn about and be involved in a variety of healthcare services. Robin considers herself a lifelong learner, and her position allows her to learn new things every single day. Other items on Robin’s typical agenda are dealing with insurance company claims, verifying physician credentials, assisting clinic billers and helping train new staff members.

As Robin looks ahead to the future of the health information field, she anticipates continued technological advancements and privacy/security laws continuing to change. Computer Assisted Coding is a hot topic in the Health Information field. This type of coding will have an impact on Medical Coders and Health Information Technologists, as it changes their role from interpreting to editing.

Robin is an advocate for the Health Information field and encourages individuals to pursue a career in it. She stays involved in the industry outside of work as well, serving as a member of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) in the Minnesota Chapter (MNHIMA). The career is quite unknown, but there is an increasing need for Medical Coders and Billers. When asked what advice she has for someone entering the Health Information Technology program at NCC, Robin said, “If you have a passion for healthcare, love working with computers and enjoy learning new things every day, you will love being a Medical Coder.”

Robin continued, “You need to stay curious, be willing to continue learning and be flexible. Regulations and technology are constantly changing, which means we have to adapt and change the way we do things.”

When she landed her first job after college in 1999, Robin never imagined she would be working for the same healthcare facility today. She is grateful to have found the program, obtained her position at PCMC, and the flexibility to work from home and remain close to her family. After 22 years in the industry, Robin can truly say she loves her job and is excited to see the changes in store for the Health Information field in the coming years.

Much like a career in this field, students have the ability to complete NCC’s Health Information Technology program from off campus. The program is now completed entirely online and is a great option for students that enjoy online learning or need a flexible class schedule. As Northwest Iowa Community College plans for the future, health facilities and health program offerings will be expanded. The need for Health Information Technologists is high and is projected to remain so for years to come. Robin’s story is an outstanding example of the success NCC Health Information Technology graduates experience. Robin’s success is our story!
It has been an honor to work with dedicated faculty and staff whose contributions make a huge difference for our students and Northwest Iowa through providing quality, accessible, and affordable education and a skilled workforce.

—Alethea F. Stubbe, PhD

AFTER 30 YEARS

THE TIME IS RIGHT
Dr. Alethea Stubbe, President of Northwest Iowa Community College, has announced her intentions to retire June 30, 2021. Dr. Stubbe submitted a formal request of retirement to the Board of Trustees at a Board meeting held January 11.

Dr. Stubbe stated, “After much forethought and planning with the Board of Trustees, I have decided to retire effective June 30, 2021. It has been an honor to work with dedicated faculty and staff whose contributions make a huge difference for our students and Northwest Iowa through providing quality, accessible, and affordable education and a skilled workforce. I love NCC but after over 30 years in higher education—nearly 30 years at NCC and 10 years as of May 1, 2021, as President—the time is right for me to spend more time with my family and do other things, and it is the right time for the College with the opportunity for a new President to build a new leadership team. The dedication, resilience, and commitment of the faculty and staff to student success has shown brightly throughout the years, but especially during this pandemic, and I know the future is very bright for NCC!”

Dr. Stubbe started her service to NCC as an Administrative Secretarial program faculty member from 1991–2003. When asked about this time, the first thing Stubbe said was, “I loved teaching. I have always considered myself a teacher, no matter what position I held. Whether teaching students in class or our community about the College, I’ve tried to educate and mentor others my entire career.”

Stubbe reflected on some differences between teaching now versus the early 1990s. “When I first started teaching, NCC was still using the quarter system. It wasn’t changed to the semester system until the mid-1990s. That was a huge undertaking for NCC.” Stubbe continued, “Technology also has advanced dramatically over the last 30 years. I remember teaching how to use mimeographs and overheads, how to write in shorthand and speed writing, and how to use the old-fashioned manual typewriters — we do not teach any of that today.” Stubbe continued with a smile, “In my early years of teaching I integrated the Microsoft Office certifications into the Secretarial program. It was just me setting up six shared computers for about 24 students because NCC did not have an IT person at that time, much less the five-person IT department that we have now!”

Stubbe then served as the Vice President of Administration from 2003–2007. One of the biggest undertakings during that time period was the implementation of Datatel, an Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) suite of products still used today that allows the College to organize and maintain student, employee, and financial data. This time period was also marked by facility growth in the construction of the 2004 and 2008 Health additions for the Nursing and Radiologic Technology programs. Student housing was expanded with the addition of Lyon Hall (2007).

Also, during this time period Stubbe had her first experience with the President’s role. She was named Interim President for NCC when Dr. Andrew Matonak left as president in 2005 and before Dr. William Giddings started later that same year.

From 2007–2011 Stubbe served as Chief Academic Officer and had numerous accomplishments during that time. For instance, she helped to expand the Powerline program during that time to double the number of students in the summer start option. The Department of Labor Biotechnology grant enabled a facility addition of a state-of-the-art science laboratory, classroom, computer lab, and offices. Health programs saw significant growth during that time period with the development of the Extended Associate Degree Nursing program. Other accomplishments include transfer agreements with the three Regent Universities, the building of O’Brien Hall (2009), and receiving the $1.8 million dollar Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant (2008–2013) which Stubbe co-authored. Stubbe led the grant initiative to strengthen student learning through outcomes assessment, active learning strategies, and new program development.

2008 also marked an important achievement in Stubbe’s career. She earned her Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D., Educational Leadership) from Iowa State University, Ames, IA, in May 2008. Her dissertation was titled, “The community college presidency in the new millennium: Gender differences in leadership preparation.” (Stubbe was among one of the first three female Vice Presidents named at Northwest Iowa Community College in 2003, and the first female to hold the position of President.)

Dr. Stubbe succeeded Dr. William Giddings as the 9th President of Northwest Iowa Community College in May 2011. Stubbe started her presidency with the ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration of the Lifelong Learning & Recreation Center (LLRC) in 2011. “The LLRC had been a longtime strategic goal for the College. It was such a great day celebrating the opening of that community facility on campus. Without the cooperation of our partners like the City of Sheldon, Sanford Sheldon, and all five of the counties we serve (Sioux, Osceola, O’Brien, Lyon, and Cherokee) that dream of a community wellness facility wouldn’t have happened. It was a special day!” exclaimed Stubbe. “Another highlight for the LLRC that year was the first graduation ceremony held there on May 13, 2011 — then Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds was the honored graduation speaker.”

Continued on next page...
One of the major events during her presidency to affect the long-range future of Northwest Iowa Community College, according to Stubbe, was the passage of the General Obligation Bond on April 3, 2018. The voters in Lyon, O’Brien, Osceola, and Sioux counties, as well as the Marcus-Meriden-Cloethorn School District in Cherokee County (Area IV), voted to approve a nearly 14.2 million dollar referendum for NCC. The referendum passed by close to 74% and ensured NCC’s ability to continue to offer a high quality, accessible, and affordable education to our community members. Stubbe reflected, “I think the passing of the General Obligation Bond changed the future trajectory of NCC. Because of the confidence of the voters throughout our local communities, we are able to expand our facilities which will allow the College to increase the number of students we can educate for our community partners in Northwest Iowa. The General Obligation Bond affects all of the future students we will educate at NCC, but it specifically impacts the industries of welding, automotive, diesel, nursing, radiology, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). The funding also enables NCC to increase partnerships with local high schools and renovate student service areas for today’s students. When I stop and think about the implications of the General Obligation Bond and what it will allow the College to do, the ramifications of all the things that have happened at NCC during my career, I think this particular event will have the largest impact overall to the College and Northwest Iowa.”

The biggest changes at NCC over the last 30 years have been the use and development of technology. Stubbe stated, “The introduction of online learning, technology in the classrooms, digital textbooks, and our virtual front door to the NCC website and social media is staggering when you think about it. The digital impact on education and industry is significant, and I am happy to say we have excelled in being on the forefront of the technological revolution.” Stubbe reflected that when she started teaching, the College didn’t even have email,

“...and today we have been recognized as the best in the nation for providing online learning. We have been at the forefront of online learning, and it shows in how well our students perform and the recognitions we have received.

The Life Sculpture was another addition to the campus, with the dedication held in October 2013. Stubbe talked about the sculpture and what it means to her, “I loved the entire process of the creation of the Life sculpture. It started with an idea from our welding students and progressed throughout the campus with instructors, programs, and employees all working together to achieve a beautiful addition to our campus.” Stubbe continued, “In the end, the philosophy behind the Life sculpture is such a great statement for NCC. Life is a journey with twists and turns and new beginnings that happen throughout people’s lives. It represents a life-long journey of education and learning opportunities.”

Some other accomplishments of note: establishing Core Values (2015); rebranding the College with a new logo and branding statement — Your Success is our Story! (2015); joining Home Base Iowa Certified Higher Academic Military Partner (CHAMP) Program (2015); Athletics Exploration 2016–2017 and the beginning of Sports Shooting (2017); Osceola Hall (2018); Aspen Prize — top 1.43% of community colleges in the nation (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021); #1 in the Nation for Middle Class Upward Mobility in Higher Education, Brookings Institute (2020); and the Everybody Knows Somebody Who Chose NCC — the largest major capital campaign in NCC history.

Finally, as we have taken a brief look at Stubbe’s career, we need to consider the events of 2020 and the pandemic. “I never would have expected to be leading a college through a pandemic, but here we are. The hardest part was that things kept changing, and changing quickly. It was a lot of pressure for everyone on campus because we all wanted to do the right thing, and there wasn’t a ‘pandemic handbook’ to guide you. There was a lot of research and a few educated guesses that we hoped were right.”

NCC’s first goal was to continue to operate, but we wanted to keep people safe. The question then became — how do we continue learning and what does that look like at NCC during this time? Stubbe stated, “We were fortunate that we had invested so much in technology over the years. That made the transition to online learning something we could manage.”

NCC brought employees and students in the Applied Technology and nursing programs back to campus in May of 2020 with new safety precautions in place. Associate of Arts students continued throughout the summer with online learning. NCC was one of the first community colleges in Iowa to bring employees and students back to campus. Stubbe said, “I was very pleased we were able to do that, but it was only possible because our employees care so much about our students. They knew how important it was for students to continue with their hands-on learning. I am very proud of the faculty, staff, and students and how they all dug in and accepted the challenge. Everyone knew what was on the line, and they were committed to making it work.”

Stubbe wrapped things up by saying, “There have been many changes at Northwest Iowa Community College during the past 30 years. Serving in many different capacities on campus during my time with the College has been a fantastic experience. No one person does anything alone. All of the achievements we talked about are because NCC has such dedicated employees who are determined to make NCC the best community college in the nation. I have been honored to serve with so many wonderful people over my tenure. The College even survived and thrived during a pandemic — the future is bright for NCC. We have students to educate, business employees to train, and so many exciting initiatives to implement for our community. I am truly blessed to have been able to contribute to the success of NCC. I am positive the College will continue to be very successful in fulfilling its worthwhile mission!”
To formally recognize Alethea Stubbe, Ph. D. on her thirty years of dedicated service to Northwest Iowa Community College, including ten years as College President, the Board of Trustees is recommending the following acknowledgment of appreciation:

Because Dr. Stubbe’s retirement coincides with the current This is NCC fundraising campaign, the Board of Trustees has determined that a Stubbe Fund should be established to honor Alethea. The Stubbe Fund will have a goal of $500,000 and once reached, will be used for campus improvements, including facility improvements and necessary equipment purchases. Additionally, a tribute to Dr. Stubbe will be created and have a permanent location in the lobby of our newly renovated health facility, which will be known as the Stubbe Lobby.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2000 Faculty of the Year
2015 Legends Honoring Iowa’s Manufacturing Leaders—Elevate Advanced Manufacturing (Iowa Association of Business and Industry)
2016 Iowa Outstanding Chief Administrator Award
2019 Iowa Outstanding Diversity/Equity Award

All of the achievements we talked about are because NCC has such dedicated employees who are determined to make NCC the best community college in the nation.
Since the institution’s founding in 1966, Northwest Iowa Community College has been the college of choice for various lifelong learning opportunities. A large milestone in NCC’s history was the establishment of the Associate of Arts program and college transfer options in 1987. The addition of this program led the institution to become a comprehensive community college and change its name from Northwest Iowa Technical College to Northwest Iowa Community College. Today, NCC continues to be the college of choice for preparing students to enter in-demand occupations, explore career options and manage the rigor of a bachelor’s degree. At NCC, the educational opportunities are truly endless. Whether prospective students want a fast track to the workforce, to transfer to another college, or to obtain a general college degree, NCC has an option for everyone.

The Associate of Arts, AA+ and Transfer Major programs make up NCC’s current general education and transfer degree options. Each of these programs offers a unique route to degree completion depending on the student’s goals. These programs acquaint students with many fields of study and offer a smooth transition from the associate degree to a baccalaureate course of study. NCC also offers a number of Associate of Science degrees that allow students to study a designated specialty for the purpose of entering a specific career field. A key benefit of NCC’s many program options is that they provide flexible opportunities not only for high school students entering college, but also for non-traditional students looking to make a career change or simply reach their goal of completing a degree. Corey Elgersma and Joseph Fisher are two examples of the many non-traditional students who have achieved their goals through an education at NCC.

If you asked Corey Elgersma twenty years ago what he would be doing at this point in his life, a successful career in Real Estate would be the last thing he would have told you. Today Corey leads a booming real estate business in Northwest Iowa, and it all started with a goal to set a good example for his daughters by completing a degree at NCC. Corey Elgersma did not take the “traditional” route to college. Upon graduating high school in 1995, Corey immediately entered the workforce. In 2000, he began working at Pella Windows in Sioux Center, Iowa, as one of the first twelve employees hired at the company’s Sioux Center location. Corey had never been a stranger to working hard and his strong work ethic propelled him up the ladder at Pella Windows. He started on one of the production lines and quickly worked his way up to a Management position. Corey enjoyed his work at Pella and experienced a lot of success during his first few years with the company.

Although Corey was experiencing a rewarding and successful career, he had a desire to set an example for his children. His oldest daughter was approaching high school age and Corey began to realize that in a few short years they would begin exploring college options for her. Corey constantly told his children that not going to college was not an option for them. He did not feel right telling his children this and not having a college education himself. It was around this time that Corey began to contemplate going back to school to complete his college degree.

Corey looked into a variety of programs at NCC. He was seeking an option that would not interfere with his work schedule. At the time, NCC was offering a Business Career Advancement Program (B-CAP). The program was designed for one cohort of working individuals to take the same schedule of general education and business courses in a hybrid method. The hybrid delivery method allowed the courses to be mostly online with one night per week of face-to-face instruction. Due to the flexibility of the schedule, the program’s emphasis in business, and the support from NCC staff, Corey applied to begin the program in the fall of 2009.
During his time at NCC, Corey poured himself into his coursework. He was committed to excelling in his classes and setting a good example for his daughters. Even though Corey was working and attending classes full-time and had a family to care for at home, he received all “As” his first semester and a nearly perfect record throughout his entire time at NCC. One of Corey’s fondest memories was during his online Public Speaking course. It was required that he film his speeches in front of an audience, which for him consisted of his wife and daughters. Corey enjoyed getting his family involved in his educational journey and this memory continues to stand out to all of them today. Corey continued to work hard and excel in his courses for the duration of the two years it took him to complete his degree, and this did not go unnoticed by his daughters.

Upon his graduation from NCC in 2011, Corey was unsure of what his next step would be. He intended to continue working at Pella Windows and possibly receive another promotion. One area he did have an interest in was Real Estate, which led him to his next goal of obtaining his Realtor’s License. In 2012, he began working as a part-time Realtor for Elgersma Agency in Sanborn, Iowa, while continuing to work full-time at Pella Windows. He loved both jobs and felt he was getting the best of both worlds—continuing the job he loved at Pella while also putting his degree and passion for Real Estate to use!

In 2014, Corey was approached with an opportunity to bring his Real Estate expertise to his hometown of Sheldon, Iowa. ISB (Iowa State Bank) Services had been in business since 1994, with locations in other Northwest Iowa communities, and was looking to expand real estate services to Sheldon. After much contemplation, Corey accepted this full-time position and established the ISB Services Sheldon Branch.

Now, after nearly 8 successful years of experience at ISB Services, Corey is well known in Northwest Iowa for being a personable, trustworthy and passionate Realtor. When asked what his favorite part about working in Real Estate is, he stated, “Working with first time homebuyers is at the top of the list. Typically, for the Realtor, this means more work and less money, but it is extremely gratifying to see the happiness and excitement that comes with the purchase of a first home, and that is what it’s all about.”

Corey not only accomplished his goal of obtaining a college degree, but he continues to be able to work in an industry he is passionate about. More importantly, he continues to set an example for his daughters that it is never too late and you are never too busy to achieve your goals. Corey credits his success to his experiences at Pella Windows and his degree from NCC. Corey’s success is our story!

**Joseph Fisher’s** success story is another example of a non-traditional student achieving his goals through a degree earned at NCC. During his time as a Staff Writer for the *N’West Iowa REVIEW*, Joe wrote an article regarding his experience as a non-traditional college student. The central theme of his article is that not all hope is lost if one does not enroll in college directly after high school, and Joe’s success story proves this. His decision to attend NCC as an undecided, non-traditional student ultimately led to his successful career in Journalism.

Joe, a 2004 graduate of Sheldon High School, entered the workforce immediately following graduation. He was not fond of sitting in class or completing homework assignments and, frankly, had hoped that his high school graduation meant never having to do those things again. Joe spent nearly a decade in the workforce performing various jobs such as power washing, underground utility work and cutting meat at a local butcher shop. One day, while exhausted and covered in dirt, Joe experienced a feeling that he needed to do something different with his life. The same day, he made a call to the Enrollment Office at Northwest Iowa Community College in hopes of going back to school. He had no idea of what he was hoping to do, but he remembers being excited and having a strong desire to make his parents proud. He arranged a meeting with the NCC Enrollment Office and did not look back.

As Joe prepared for going to college as a 28-year old freshman, he was more focused and committed than he would have been at the age of 18. He anticipated that it would be odd sharing the classroom with people nearly a decade younger than himself, but he soon realized he was one of many non-traditional students on campus. Although he had no idea what field he wanted to study, he did his best to sit in the front row, keep engaged with all of his classes and stay organized. From his first day on campus, Joe was impressed with the resources available to students. He spent many hours in the Learning Center and working with his Academic Advisor.

One resource for undecided students is the opportunity to join NCC’s Learning Community. Being involved in the Learning Community is one of Joe’s fondest memories from his time at NCC and is ultimately what led him to Journalism. NCC’s Learning Community allows students to enroll in three courses with the same cohort of classmates. The courses are Composition I, Introduction to Psychology and the College Experience. The homework assignments required for all of the courses align with one another, so papers written for Composition also count for Psychology, and vice versa. The College Experience course allows

Continued on next page...
students to explore various career fields, personal interests and program options. This combination makes the Learning Community the perfect option for undecided students.

After handing in his first written assignment, Joe was told by his Psychology Instructor, Stephen Gibbons, how natural and talented of a writer he was. It was not often that Joe received such positive feedback on his schoolwork. Receiving this response inspired Joe to look at career fields in writing, and he even hung the comment by his bed to fuel his inspiration!

Near the beginning of his second year, Joe set a goal to transfer to the University of Iowa to study Journalism and Mass Communications. Joe graduated with his Associate of Arts degree in May of 2015 and immediately continued his education at the University of Iowa. Having regular contact with his Transfer Advisor at NCC helped tremendously as all 60 of his completed credits seamlessly transferred to the University of Iowa.

Joe began his studies at the University of Iowa and, again, realized he was not the only individual to trade in a shovel for pushing a pencil at this stage in life. Joe credits his education at NCC for preparing him for his courses at Iowa. He stated, “My education at NCC definitely prepared me by improving my work ethic, time management, and organizational skills.”

Along with his course requirements at Iowa, Joe had the opportunity to work for the Big 10 Network Student U. He performed various tasks including sports broadcasting and video production. One piece of advice Joe has for any college student is to take a variety of courses and participate in activities during college. “If you are brave enough to step outside of your comfort zone, you will find a lot of things you surprisingly enjoy and meet great people along the way,” he stated.

Upon his graduation from the University of Iowa, Joe moved back to Northwest Iowa in hopes of finding a job. Joe returned home excited at having reached his goal, but he was also dealing with the traumatic experience of his father’s passing. His role model and the individual he had hoped would be there as he obtained his first job in journalism was not physically there to celebrate this accomplishment with him, and that was extremely difficult. Joe moved into his father’s home and began reconnecting with individuals in Northwest Iowa. He heard of an opportunity at the N’West Iowa REVIEW, or Iowa Information Publications, in Sheldon, Iowa. Joe landed a News & Sports Staff Writer position and began in August of 2017. He was grateful to work for a company that had received so many prestigious awards, and he gained a lot of great experience during his two years there.

Currently Joe serves as a Staff Writer and City Reporter for the Times Republican in Marshalltown, Iowa. He spends his days covering various City Council items and other area happenings. Joe has found that he loves learning new things and that he may be a lifelong learner after all! His favorite part about journalism is that every day means covering a new story or researching a new topic. One day he is reporting on new partnerships between the Police Department & Youth Shelter Services, and the next he is interviewing a local muralist. He also does freelance writing in his spare time. Joe is happy he decided to trade in his shovel for a pencil and enjoys that he is able to employ his natural writing ability through his journalism career.

Joe reflected on his educational journey and provided advice to those beginning college. He stated, “Remember that it is okay to get wrapped up in goals, education and work, but while you are focusing intently on one goal, everything else continues to change around you. The hard work and accomplishments mean a lot less when those you did it for are not there to share it with you. Stay focused on your goals, but don’t get so caught up in trying to get ahead that you leave things behind you can’t live without. As a college student, you are often broke, busy and stressed, but remember to stay present and enjoy the little moments as you experience them.”

It was an inspirational feeling that pushed Joe to go to college, an inspiring piece of feedback from his Psychology Instructor that encouraged him to look into writing as a career, and the desire to make his parents proud that fueled his motivation to finish his degree. It all started with one phone call to NCC. Joe’s success is our story!

Many non-traditional students like Corey and Joe have accomplished their goals through Northwest Iowa Community College. What could your NCC success story look like?
Northwest Iowa Community College is sad to announce that former NCC President, Andrew “Drew” Matonak, passed away last fall after a courageous battle with cancer. Drew passed away on Saturday, November 7, 2020. He is remembered as the seventh President of NCC, serving from 2002 to 2005. Drew was in attendance for NCC’s 50th Anniversary celebration in April of 2016, which was his final visit to campus.

Drew experienced a successful career in higher education spanning over 40 years. He most recently served as the sixth President of Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) in Troy, New York, until his retirement in 2018. Prior to his time at HVCC, he served as the President of Northwest Iowa Community College, and also held leadership positions at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio; Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Conway, South Carolina; the University of Houston in Houston, Texas; Lee College in Baytown, Texas and the Eastern Iowa Community College District.

Drew’s lasting journey in higher education began with an associate degree earned at Butler Community College in Butler, Pennsylvania. His time at Butler Community College was an experience that shaped his personal and professional life. He earned his bachelor’s degree at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, continued on to a master’s degree earned from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, and earned his Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from The University of Houston in Houston, Texas. Drew had a lifelong passion for higher education and made lasting impacts on colleges and universities across the nation.

The list of Drew’s accomplishments during his time in higher education is extensive. One especially remarkable moment of his career was a visit to the campus of HVCC by United States President Barack Obama and Dr. Jill Biden in 2009.

Drew touched the lives of many NCC employees, alumni and friends of the college. He is remembered as a genuine, optimistic, caring and compassionate leader, mentor and friend.

The mission of the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation is to attract and manage financial resources, enhance awareness of the college and support access to lifelong learning opportunities. Each year, the Foundation is able to assist hundreds of students through scholarships because of the generosity of individuals and businesses like you.

You are invited to make an investment in the future of Northwest Iowa Community College students. Making a charitable gift is an important and personal decision, and it is fulfilling to know that you have invested in the lives of individuals and organizations that benefit from NCC. There are a number of ways you can pay it forward to make a difference in the lives of our students.

• Would you like to make a one-time gift or set up an extended pledge? Gifts can be paid in the form of cash, check or credit card. The NCC Foundation accepts pledges up to five years in length. Contact the NCC Foundation to make your gift!

• Are you thinking about your legacy? Creating an endowed scholarship is a great option to consider. The NCC Foundation works with families, individuals, businesses and alumni in establishing memorial and honorary scholarship opportunities.

• Are you a frequent Amazon user? Consider purchasing your items through Amazon Smile instead, and a portion of the sale goes to the charity of your choice. It’s the same Amazon selection and price, just with the added benefit of helping a non-profit, like the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation.

• Are you a Thrivent Financial member? If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to distribute, the NCC Foundation is a Thrivent Choice Charitable Organization. Speak with your Thrivent agent about contributing your Choice Dollars to the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation.

Gifts to the NCC Foundation can be tax deductible and can come in many forms, including cash, materials, supplies, equipment, services, securities, real property or deferred gifts.

Contact the NCC Foundation today to discuss how you can make a difference!
(800) 352-4907
nccfoundation@nwicc.edu
www.nwicc.edu/alumni-foundation/

Thank you!
Agriculture
The Agriculture program at NCC is designed to be extremely flexible in the fact that all courses are delivered via the internet. Students study a broad foundation of agriculture topics, but they also have the ability to study interest areas in depth through the selection of a variety of program electives. The program’s popularity and enrollment have increased significantly over the past few years. As of May 1, 23 students from 11 states were accepted to begin the fall 2021 program.

Automotive & Light Duty Diesel Technology
The Automotive program is now a Ford Tech Automotive Career Exploration (ACE) program. This is a large benefit to Automotive students as they have access to Ford’s service literature, web curriculum and training materials. Students also have the chance to earn Ford training credentials required for Ford dealer technician certifications. NCC Automotive students are receiving these dealership level trainings as part of the program curriculum. Also, the first round of new student Snap-on toolboxes arrived to campus in May of 2021. This is part of the new partnership with Snap-on Tools where Automotive students have the opportunity to receive a brand new, fully stocked Snap-on toolbox upon their graduation.

Diesel Technology
The Diesel Technology program has undergone numerous exciting changes over the past couple of years. Along with the new shop space, Diesel students now have access to leading edge equipment used in industry. The College’s partnership with Snap-on Tools brought two PKS drive-on platform lifts to the shop. These lifts are 48 ft. in length and can hold up to 80,000 lbs. These lifts are unique as they are the only two currently in the United States. The shop also has two independent two-ton overhead cranes. The cranes can be linked together to lift a capacity of up to four tons. Another bonus is that the new shop space is climate controlled, so working in the shop is always comfortable no matter the time of year.

PROGRAM UPDATE
Check out the latest updates from around campus!

Engineering Design/Design Technology
In 2020, the program added on a few new pieces of equipment. Two new Dremel 3D40 3D Printers and a Dremel Laser cutter/engraver were purchased for the classroom. All three of these pieces are capable of being mobile units as they are benchtop machines. The Engineering Design program also combined with the Production Welding Program to offer another degree option (Advanced Welding Technology). A student may begin in either program and finish with the Advanced Welding Technology Degree. This degree allows the student to be knowledgeable in multiple areas such as design/drafting, machining and welding.

Heavy Equipment
The Heavy Equipment students moved over 80,000 cubic yards of material during the summer of 2020. The current jobs are underground pipe work in Rock Valley and a pit at Inspiration Hills. In the spring of 2021, Soukup Construction of Sioux Falls, SD, donated a 2006 Mack Truck to the Heavy Equipment program. This truck is a great addition to the program’s fleet as older trucks are being phased out.
Industrial & Commercial Wiring
The Industrial & Commercial Wiring (ICW) program graduated its 1,000th alumnus during the May 2021 Commencement ceremony. The Electrical programs at NCC continue to be among the best in the state and Nation, and the program enrollments prove this. The ICW program is at capacity for the fall 2021 semester.

Industrial Instrumentation & Control
The Industrial Instrumentation & Control (IIC) Advisory Committee met in the spring of 2021 to discuss current trends in the industry. Due to its close link with technology, the automation industry is constantly changing. This causes the need for frequent curriculum and equipment updates so that IIC students are learning the appropriate knowledge and skills to apply out in industry. Graduates of the IIC program continue to be highly sought after with many having multiple job offers after graduation. NCC is thankful for all of our program advisory committees as they keep our programs in line with industry and NCC graduates in high demand.

Information Technology Specialist
Launched in the fall of 2019, NCC’s newest online program is training the next generation of IT Specialists. It is NCC’s goal to see a face-to-face or hybrid option of the ITS–AAS program in the coming years, to offer online computer science programming as a concurrent enrollment opportunity for area high school students, and to offer an online Computer Science Transfer Major. Stay tuned for more information on the state of NCC’s computer science programs.

Nursing
The NCC Nursing program has gained new equipment over the past year. In the spring of 2021, Cherokee Regional Medical Center donated two OB beds to the Nursing program. With the addition of these beds, our students will have even more exposure to equipment they will encounter in actual hospital settings. The Nursing Program appreciates local health facilities reaching out to NCC to repurpose hospital equipment.

Powerline
The NCC Powerline program, in partnership with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, hosted the 3rd Annual Powerline Safety Training & Conference at NCC on Thursday, May 6, 2021. The event was limited to 40 attendees. Break-out sessions included Underground Cable and Fault Locating presented by Moehn Sales and Rear Lot Machines presented by EZ Spot Ur.

Radiologic Technology
Many exciting things have happened for the Radiologic Technology program over the past year. First, the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT), the accrediting organization for the Radiologic Technology program, visited campus in early June to do a face-to-face review of the program. Also, students attended the first virtual Iowa Society of Radiologic Technologists (ISRT) student seminar to help review for their national boards. Lastly, Sioux Center Health donated an X-ray machine that will help facilitate an energized lab in the future.

Web & Graphic Design
The Web & Graphic Design program is now in its third year with ten students accepted to begin the program in the fall of 2021. This online program offers diploma and degree options in web design and graphic design, and offers certificate options in Adobe’s Creative Cloud, designing a web page and scripting for web developers. Due to its online format, the program continues to attract a variety of students from in and out of state.

Welding
The Northwest Iowa Best Welding Apprenticeship is now available for Area IV high school students. The Area IV high schools, the Northwest Iowa Manufacturing Sector and NCC have been working together to establish this apprenticeship option for Area IV high school students. Over the next decade, 3.5 million U.S. manufacturing jobs need to be filled, and the current skills gap will impact the ability to meet customer demand and implement new technology. This apprenticeship option will more efficiently prepare the workforce to fill skilled manufacturing jobs. Students will complete coursework at NCC, work at a local manufacturing employer and attend required high school coursework for the duration of the junior and senior years. The benefits for students interested in the manufacturing field are extensive. More information is available through NCC’s Secondary Programs Department or any Area IV high school.
Janet Boone
30 Years at NCC
Instructor—Administrative Office Assistant/Management

Employment History:
Began as the Administrative Assistant to the President and Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees. During that time she was also a Part-Time Instructor for Microsoft Office Software Classes. In 2003 she was hired as Full time Faculty in the Arts & Science, Business and Health Division.

Retirement Plans:
As a lifelong learner, Microsoft Office Specialist Master Instructor and Certified Trainer, Janet is passionate about all things related to Microsoft Office software applications. Janet hopes to seize another opportunity to apply her skills, share her expertise with others and ultimately capture her dream job!

“I have enjoyed educating, training and empowering students to become Future Ready in the 21st Century Workforce.”

Dr. Rhonda Pennings
29 Years at NCC
Dean—Arts & Sciences/ Business & Health

Employment History:
Served as a Continuing Education Instructor 1991–1999; part-time Adjunct Instructor 1992–present; full-time Grant Coordinator 1999–2004; Distance Learning Director, 2004–2007; and was named the Distance Learning Dean, 2007–present.

Retirement Plans:
Continuing to teach online and traveling with her husband.

“I have enjoyed working with all my students and the faculty and staff over the years.”

Dr. Alethea Stubbe
30 Years at NCC
President

Gretchen Bartelson
22 Years at NCC
Dean—Center for Teaching & Learning/ICCOC Sibley

Employment History:
Served as an Adjunct Instructor 1994–1999; full-time Faculty in the Arts & Science, Business and Health Division in August 1994. During her tenure, Grapevine was awarded the NCC Outstanding Faculty of the Year in 1997–1998 and 2014–2015.

Retirement Plans:
Continuing to teach online and traveling with her husband.

“Work is a really good thing, and doing it with joy and in service to others makes it all a pleasure. I look forward to seeking new opportunities to serve others and travel in the future.”

Sue Grapevine
26 Years at NCC
Instructor—Math
Arnolds Park

Dr. Twyla Vogel
18 Years at NCC
Coordinator—Continuing Education, Help Desk

Thank you!
Robbi Hoekstra
16 Years at NCC
Coordinator—College Store
Sheldon

Employment History:
Began as the Assistant—College Store and in June 2018 was promoted to her current position.

Retirement Plans:
Spending time with her grandchildren, camping and traveling with her husband and “Living the Dream!”

“I have enjoyed developing relationships with the students, so much that some even called me ‘Mom.’ I have also enjoyed meeting the parents of the students that I ‘took care of’ here at NCC.”

Mark Brown
13 Years at NCC
Vice President—Operations & Finance
Sheldon

Employment History:
CFO at Foreign Candy Company, Audit Manager at Cain Ellsworth & Co. LLP and Assistant Administrator at Sanford Sheldon before being hired as the Vice President of Operations & Finance at NCC.

Retirement Plans:
Traveling, reading, and volunteering.

“My favorite moments at NCC were the graduation ceremonies; knowing the students crossing the stage to receive their diploma or certificate were well equipped to have successful careers. I will forever remember what a great organization this was to work for.”

Sheila Drenkow
12 Years at NCC
Instructor—Business
Sheldon

Employment History:
Before coming to NCC, Drenkow managed the Sheldon Health Clinic. In 2003 she began working as an accountant at a local accounting firm and teaching accounting courses at NCC both as an adjunct faculty and in the continuing education department.

Retirement Plans:
Working as a CPA at a local accounting firm.

“My favorite moments at NCC were getting to know my coworkers and helping my students understand accounting.”

Doug Rodger
10 Years at NCC
Director—Physical Facilities
Sheldon

Employment History:
He was the fourth generation to join his family’s Sheldon business, serving as president and owner of Rodger’s Plumbing & Heating, Inc., for 23 years before becoming the Director of Physical Facilities at NCC. Also served in the US Army and with the Iowa Army National Guard for over 24 years, deploying to two different combat theaters.

Retirement Plans:
Working in Iowa City managing the service department of a heating and cooling business.

“My favorite moment at NCC was the day I was hired.”

Doug Hoaglund
13 Years at NCC
Maintenance Technician

These NCC employees have dedicated a combined total of 219 YEARS to the College and community and we wish them well in their future plans!
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!