With admiration, we sometimes refer to him as “the master of them that know.” He was born over 2,400 years ago in Greece. He was the inquisitive son of a court physician, both logical and practical. He excelled as Plato’s most famous pupil, and he tutored Alexander the Great. A prodigious thinker and a prolific writer, he shaped the way we do science and impacted the way we educate our students.

I refer to Aristotle, the paragon of philosophers, the trailblazer of scientists, and the hero of the avidly curious. Aristotle (Ἀριστοτέλης) was interested in the purpose of things, wondered about how things really work, and delved into the recipe for human happiness. Inducted into the Mysteries of his day, Aristotle adhered to the slogan: “Experiencing is learning.”

If he were alive today, I think Aristotle would enjoy teaching at NCC. NCC is noted both for its transfer courses and for its trade and tech programs. NCC offers students both theoretical instruction and practical training. We are all about concepts on one hand, and simulators and internships on the other hand. This is why I can envision our students both walking with Aristotle as he lectured and also watching him demonstrate his lessons in our shops and laboratory settings.

In this issue of The Connection magazine, you will read about our continued efforts to offer our students these kinds of well-rounded learning experiences. You will discover more about our new Industrial Maintenance non-credit training program. You will learn of our efforts to bring technical and transfer instruction to high school students at our future Career Academy site in Sioux Center. You will meet a nursing student and an engineering design alumna. You will get a better picture of our beautiful state-of-the-art Building H and the way it houses simulated hospital settings for nearly-real-life learning experiences. You will celebrate with us as you read about the dedication of the Building H Atrium to the memory of Dr. Alethea Stubbe.

Aristotle’s students could work out in the gymnasium and then take classes under Aristotle’s tutelage—all conveniently located on his Lyceum Campus. At NCC, our students can work out at the LLRC before and after their classes. Plus, we are bringing intercollegiate men’s and women’s soccer to NCC as a co-curricular activity for our student athletes, and this will provide them with another physical education opportunity. The best students are healthy in mind and body, and NCC supports student health.

Aristotle taught that the happiest people are those who think rationally and live virtuously. Right living loomed large in Aristotle’s philosophy. He believed that students learn virtue by the example of their teachers and through their own good habits. Aristotle thought that people are most fulfilled when they consciously and regularly choose to do their best. Again, NCC stands with Aristotle on this point. We agree that the best nurses are knowledgeable and caring, the best power linemen are safe and honorable, and the best diesel mechanics are skilled and truthful. We teach this, and we encourage our graduates to live this.

When we live by our core values, we serve others so that they can succeed. In the end, this makes us better people because a considerate person is better than a selfish person and producing a successful graduate makes everyone happier.

Aristotle thought that potential is made actual through the process of teaching and learning—we agree! Our students come to us full of potential. Our instructors teach, and our students learn. Then, after they graduate, our students are prepared to realize their potential, as they confidently push forward into their promising futures.

More than 2300 years after his death, Aristotle remains one of the most influential people who ever lived, and we align ourselves with some of his educational priorities. You see this in the ways we balance book learning with hands-on instruction. You sense it in the ways we encourage our students and alumni to live healthy and to choose rightly.

I am sure you will enjoy reading through this edition of The Connection magazine. I thank you for standing with us as we seek to do our best in service to others,

—John (Ἰωάννης)

John Hartog III, PhD
President
LIFE IS A JOURNEY
New Health Building Atrium dedicated in honor of Dr. Alethea Stubbe

CLASS MOM
Sara Vaske’s determination pays off with new career following degree completion

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING
NCC’s new Industrial Maintenance training program provides opportunities for companies/individuals

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS
NCC on pace for record enrollments

CAREER ACADEMY
Grant provides funding to begin new career academy in Sioux Center

MAKING MEMORIES
Students participate in a variety of activities, organizations, extra-curricular activities and intercollegiate athletics

ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
Give back by becoming a mentor

FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS
Foundation events fund student scholarships

THIS ISSUE

what’s inside...

about the cover

President and Foundation Scholarship recipients gather for a photo on a beautiful Iowa morning. Last year, NCC awarded 515 scholarships totaling $526,110+.
In November, NCC held a dedication ceremony for the atrium of the newly constructed Health Science Building to Dr. Alethea Stubbe, President Emeritus — Northwest Iowa Community College. Dr. Stubbe was the 9th President of NCC. She served in many capacities throughout her 30+ years of service, starting as a secretarial instructor and concluding as President for ten years until she retired in June of 2021.
About 250 people attended the dedication. Many of Stubbe’s former colleagues from NCC (who have retired) as well as past students, community members, current employees, friends, and family members including her husband Jack, her children Jamie and Matt (and their spouses), and her grandchildren gathered to remember Alethea’s service to the College.

Dr. John Hartog, current NCC President, welcomed the visitors and stated how excited Alethea would have been to be a part of the day celebrating the new facilities and the students they will serve. He added that while she would have loved celebrating the new facilities, she would not have been comfortable with any attention on herself. Hartog said, “The construction sounds you hear in the background are truly fitting for this celebration. It is the continuation of her dream of this new facility becoming a reality for the benefit of our students, our partners, and our community members who need access to quality and dependable healthcare. From her time serving as an instructor to when she was President, she always asked herself the question when making a hard decision, ‘Will this be the best thing for the students or future students of NCC?’ I can wholeheartedly say a resounding yes, this is and will be the best thing for our students long into the future!”

Kristi Landis, Director of College Advancement, announced a new scholarship that has been established in Alethea’s name. Landis said, “Right now, the scholarship is sitting at just over $70,000 in local contributions to the fund. That means every year NCC will be able to award $3,500 in scholarships to deserving students.” Landis went on to say that the Foundation is still taking donations for the scholarship fund and to contact her if you are interested in contributing to it. “More contributions mean we can serve more students and help them achieve their academic and career goals,” stated Landis.

Matthew Stubbe, Alethea’s son, said of the scholarship,

“There is nothing more fitting than a scholarship in her [Alethea’s] name at the school she loved so much. Knowing that so many people have given so much in her honor is amazing! I’m glad that future students will benefit from Mom’s legacy.”

...continued on page 19
Sara Vaske
'22' Design Technology
For Sara Vaske, being laid-off from what she thought was her forever job turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

It was June of 2020 and Sara was enjoying her 12-year career in the manufacturing industry as a Quality Engineer. The COVID-19 pandemic was in full-swing, and many manufacturing companies were experiencing layoffs. Unfortunately, Sara was among the employees whose positions were no longer deemed necessary.

During the span of her career in manufacturing, Sara worked in a variety of roles. She began as an operator, inspecting and packing parts, and was promoted multiple times within her first couple of years with the company. She was first promoted to a Shift Lead, then to a position in Quality Assurance, and finally to Quality Manager. During her time as Quality Manager, she was approached by another area company that offered her the position of a Quality Engineer. She accepted, and it was in this position that she discovered her passion for design and project development. Sara thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the manufacturing design process from start to finish.

After being laid-off, Sara jumped right into researching her next move. She decided she had two options: either try to find another job in Quality Engineering or go back to school to further her education in hopes of obtaining a more advanced position in the engineering industry. During her research, she discovered the Design Technology program at Northwest Iowa Community College, and it was exactly what she was looking for. This unique program bridges the gap between production and engineering by creating a well-defined and diversified graduate for the manufacturing industry. Sara met with admissions staff and was surprised to learn the next cohort of classes was beginning the very next day. She would either have to jump in or wait an entire year to begin the program with the next cohort.

Sara decided to jump in. As a non-traditional student, she was nervous to return to school. She focused on the benefits of being non-traditional; her goals were more specific, she was setting an example for her children, and her family was also making sacrifices so she could complete this degree. Another positive thing about the program is the small class sizes. The Design Technology program can accommodate up to 12 students per year. This allowed for a lot of 1:1 time with instructors and classmates while learning new concepts. Her classmates had a lot of respect for her insight and experience in the industry. Since a majority of her classmates were traditional college age, Sara became known as “class mom,” which she took as a compliment. She would encourage her younger classmates and share her personal story, hoping it would keep them motivated to work hard and finish the program as she wished she would have done at their age.

Sara graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Design Technology in May of 2022. During her two years at NCC, she accomplished so much more than earning her degree. Sara graduated with honors as a member of NCC’s Beta Lambda Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, she served as the commencement speaker during her graduation ceremony, and due to her academic achievements, she received numerous scholarship awards to assist in paying for her education.

Today, Sara serves as an Engineering Technician for Sioux County Secondary Roads Department. Her duties include road and bridge construction design and all aspects of project management from start to finish. Sara draws up blueprints and designs the project, works with contractors directly throughout the construction process, serves as a liaison between engineers, oversees all aspects of construction, handles documentation, inspection, payment processing, auditing, and finally, the closing of the project. Her quality engineering background combined with her education from NCC prepared her extremely well for this position. Sara thoroughly enjoys going to work every day and feels that her current position is truly her dream job.

Although she didn’t feel this way three years ago, she now sees being laid-off as a blessing. “I never would have quit my job as a Quality Engineer, but being laid-off forced me to take a different path than I ever anticipated.

I wish I would have completed the Design Technology program at NCC years ago as it led me to my true dream job. The sacrifices my family and I made so I could attend school have come back to benefit us tenfold.”

If you are a non-traditional student like Sara, check out the list of high-demand programs offered at NCC: nwicc.edu/future-ready-iowa. Nearly 25 different programs of study currently qualify for the Future Ready Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship. Iowa needs people like you to fill exciting jobs in growing industries. To help keep Iowa moving forward, you could qualify for free tuition for programs that lead to high-demand jobs and good-paying careers. Schedule a visit with the NCC Admissions Office to get started: nwicc.edu/admissions/visit-ncc
When it comes to manufacturing, down time is revenue lost. Something as simple as a blown fuse due to a poorly working motor can bring production to a complete halt. To avoid such misfortune, skilled technicians need to be able to do preventative maintenance, troubleshoot, and tackle other maintenance issues. The new Industrial Maintenance certification at NCC has been designed to specifically train employees in Northwest Iowa how to be proactive to avoid pitfalls in manufacturing, food, and biofuels processing industries.

“When we would go out and connect with business partners in our manufacturing sector, the lack of employees capable of such skills was a common theme,” shares Jason Anderson, Director of Workforce and Economic Development at NCC.

Andersen did extensive research with industry partners and other educational entities to see what training at NCC might look like. The program needed to be concise because, in many cases, students would be sent to training at NCC through their current employer, meaning they would be away from their usual daily tasks at work. Furthermore, with many aspects of preventative and reactive maintenance available to teach, focusing in on a few would be challenging, but necessary.

A ribbon-cutting for the Industrial Maintenance area was held on January 12, 2023.
Ultimately, the program was created to be a non-credit certification that can hold a maximum of six students. Within the roughly 200-hour training, half is focused on different aspects of electrical troubleshooting and basic knowledge, and the other half relates to mechanical and motor control fundamentals. The first class began training in January, and NCC intends to certify around thirty students by the end of 2023.

Three main industrial partners, as well as a Future Ready Iowa grant, contributed $185,000 toward the cost of equipping the lab space. Students are taught on trainers in concepts such as understanding AC/DC electrical systems, calibrating hydraulic systems, and installing pump processes. And although it’s not exactly set up like the process area they originate from, the skills learned and the ability to troubleshoot teaches the students to look at a problem in a different way in order to find a solution.

Dan Paquin, President of Premium Iowa Pork, was excited to not only be a premier partner in the program, but was also eager to have a full-class of "underemployed" Premium Iowa Pork employees gain skills that help in bettering their abilities at their employer. "It was really exciting for us to partner with NCC, and the folks have been good resources, good partners for us on this project,” said Paquin. "We think it makes a lot of sense. We’re excited about it.

"Technical jobs, skilled jobs where you have to work with your hands are critical to a lot of industries, not just mine but everybody else’s, so we are proud to be part of it.”

Maynor Ramirez Chilel, one of the current students in the program, volunteered for the opportunity to be part of the initial class. He shared that he enjoys working at Premium Iowa Pork and saw this training as an opportunity to grow in his skills within the company.

Brandon McClellan, General Manager from POET, says, "Educational programs like this create rewarding professional opportunities, which benefits communities like ours. POET is passionate about making the future of rural communities better, and this is a great opportunity to do that. As the other industry representatives said, this is a great way for our current team members to gain some electrical and mechanical skills and helps with their growth and development. This partnership shares our drive and creates new opportunities to make the world a better place.”

Another unique aspect of the Industrial Maintenance certification is that, eventually, it will be offered to any interested individual who wants a quick course in these necessary skills. "Currently, the plan is to offer classes for employees with our three corporate sponsors (Premium Iowa Pork, POET, and Pella Corp.) After these trainings, we will offer trainings for companies who may not be able to fill a full class—basically offering a cohort training with one or two from various industries to fill a class of six. Additionally, we will open the courses for individuals who want to come in without an employer backing them, so they can get enhanced training, making them more marketable for these skilled positions,” states Anderson.

The program trainers, Nick Shaffer and Orville Van Roekel, are excited about the opportunity to build this program, knowing that each group that cycles through will come with new pre-established skills, and they will have to adapt teaching skills and their specific workplace needs. “Even in our first group, we see different ages and skill sets, and we are adapting our lesson plans to meet the needs of our students. It’s a fun challenge to work through,” says Shaffer.

For more information on the Industrial Maintenance program offering at Northwest Iowa Community College, contact Jason Anderson at janderson@nwicc.edu or call 800-352-4907 ext. 194.
SOARING to new heights

Northwest Iowa Community College’s 2022-2023 Overall Enrollments On Track for Largest in School History — Spring 2023 Enrollments are Largest in School History

1,811
Fall 2022

1,716
Fall 2021

1,666
Fall 2020
Enrollments for the 2022–2023 academic year are looking high for Northwest Iowa Community College. In the first two semesters of the academic year, the College is on pace for a record enrollment year.

The Fall of 2022 saw the largest fall class in the school’s history, dating back to 1966. The 1,811 enrolled students represent about a 5.54% increase from Fall 2021 when the headcount was 1,716. The previous record was in the Fall of 2019 when enrollments were 1,777 students.

The enrollments for Spring 2023 follow in a similar trajectory, topping all previous enrollment numbers with a record setting 1,850. This represents a 3.64% increase over last year’s enrollments of 1,785.

NCC has multiple terms and start dates throughout the year, and so the Fall and Spring enrollment numbers are just two data points that NCC records over the course of the year. Another strong indicator is the summer semester enrollments. Beth Sibenaller-Woodall, NCC Registrar, said, “Summer enrollments are looking strong, but there won’t be an accurate count until the official count day, which is 10 days after the start of the semester. We are on track for a record-breaking year.”

“At the end of our 2021–2022 academic year (August 6, 2022) NCC had taught 2,701 different students in its credit programs. We are excited to see what our year-end numbers will be this coming August,” said John Hartog, College president.

What do these numbers mean? The numbers reflect our brand statement, Your Success is Our Story, and how every employee at NCC embraces a culture of success for our students. Students are choosing NCC because they have access to one of the best community colleges in the country, quality instruction, a culture of student success, and relevant programs that mean something to Northwest Iowans because they can find jobs after graduation.

Kristin Kollbaum, Director of Marketing & Communications, said, “We are very happy with the record spring enrollment number. Over the last ten years our enrollment numbers have been steadily increasing year-over-year, aside from a little hiccup at the start of the pandemic. This reflects NCC’s strong commitment to ensuring our programs are high quality, affordable, and accessible. We want our program offerings to align with the industry and learning needs of Northwest Iowans.”

“NCC has been the recipient of a number of national recognitions over the past several months:

• Top 10 Community Colleges in the Nation, Aspen Institute
• #2 in the Nation for Best Overall Community College, WalletHub.com
• #2 in the Nation for Career Outcomes, WalletHub.com
• Top 10 Associate-Granting Public Institutions in the US by Median Lifetime Return on Investment (ROI), Bipartisan Policy Center
• Top 10 Higher Education Institutions in Iowa by Median Lifetime Return on Investment (ROI), Bipartisan Policy Center

Higher numbers mean more students are entering the workforce and transferring to four-year institutions with advanced standing credits.”

NCC has a proven track record of providing access and quality instruction, as shown by the success of our alumni in Northwest Iowa. NCC’s Graduation Rate is the best in Iowa and one of the best in the country at 60.3% (compared with a national graduation rate of 22% and the state average in Iowa of 39.1%). NCC students’ Success Rates are the best in the state at 67.8% (the state average is 49.7%), our combined credit and non-credit penetration rate is 3rd best in the state at 14.1%, and students’ federal loan default rates are the lowest in Iowa at 2.8% (Iowa Department of Education Profile Report, 2021).
Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) and 3 other Iowa community colleges each received a $1 million dollar grant through the Career Academy Incentive Fund to prepare more high school students for success in college, postsecondary training, and the workforce. The goal of the grant is to increase access to career academy programs in high-demand fields through new regional centers. Students will benefit from industry partnerships, earn high school and college credit, and gain technical and traditional academic skills offered through career and technical education (CTE) programs.

In a press release, Governor Reynolds stated, “Expanding career academies develops our workforce talent pipeline and provides high school students with opportunities to gain valuable experience, connect with local employers and earn industry credentials and college credit.”

NCC is allocating this grant award toward the purchase of the Northwest AEA’s property and two buildings in Sioux Center for the new Career Academy location. The rest of the purchase price will be funded through Accelerated Career Education (ACE) infrastructure dollars allocated from the State of Iowa. Iowa code limits expenditure of these dollars for facility expansion or improvements in order to increase programming offerings or enrollments at Iowa’s Community Colleges.

The property is ideally situated near industry partners like Interstates, Link Manufacturing, Smithfield Foods, and Pella Windows. The site will provide another center from which the College will serve the entire area’s industries better. In addition, it is also located only a couple of blocks west of the new Sioux Center High School.

I commend Iowa Central, North Scott Community School District, NCC and SWCC for their dedication and leadership in growing career academies that prepare students for high-skill, high-demand careers available here in Iowa.”
NCC will work with area school districts to establish the new Career Academy. College President, Dr. John Hartog, said, “NCC intends to make the most of this facility by offering classes to high school students during the daytime. There will be four career pathways that we will offer to high school students: Engineering Design, Production Welding, Healthcare, and Education (tied to the para-educator grant project). Additionally, in the evenings, we eventually hope to offer adult basic education (ABE) classes and English as a second language (ESL) classes. We also intend to rent space back to the Northwest AEA so that the Agency can maintain its services to Northwest Iowans. This will make for a win-win for taxpayers, educators, and students.”

Current plans for maximizing usage of the facilities include offering additional non-credit industry and for-credit college programming in the facility throughout the day—especially in the areas of operational technology (OT) and information technology (IT). These particular career fields are part of NCC’s strategic plan for Industry 4.0 with the pressing need for skilled workers in the areas of data analytics, automation, and cyber-security.

Hartog finished with, “This is just the start of a wonderful endeavor. It will take a number of years of hard work and partner participation in order for the Career Academy to be utilized to its full potential. We believe good learning will take place in this future educational facility.

Industry partners will support this promising endeavor since it is mission-centric, builds tomorrow’s workforce, and improves the lives of Northwest Iowans. Together we will fulfill NCC’s Strategic Plan to ‘Care for People, Strengthen Partnerships, Build to Serve, Open Doors of Opportunity, and Empower Learning.’

Note: The Career Academy Incentive Fund was established by a 2019 law that extends a statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure, called Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE), through January 2051.
The primary purpose of Iowa’s Community Colleges is to train Iowa’s current and future workforce. Northwest Iowa Community College has a reputation for offering high-demand, quality, affordable and accessible educational opportunities for members of its service territory—and beyond.

Today’s prospective college student has thousands of options when considering their next step after high school graduation. Students are looking to check multiple boxes during their college visits, and NCC is able to fulfill a number of requirements:

- High-demand programs ✓
- Quality education ✓
- Affordable tuition & numerous scholarship opportunities ✓
- Excellent graduation, transfer and career placement rates ✓
- Safety - NCC is among the safest community colleges in Iowa ✓

Another item that is typically toward the top of a student's checklist is campus life. Since officially becoming a comprehensive community college in 1993, offerings outside of the classroom have continued to adapt and change with the student population. NCC offers a variety of student activities, organizations, extra-curricular activities and intercollegiate athletics—and within the next couple of years, these offerings will expand even further.

Student activities at NCC are free, or at a very small cost, for participating students, and there are numerous activities available. Housing & Student Activities Coordinator, Jena Schouten, said, "One great thing about student activities here at NCC is that offerings change from year to year. Activities are planned based on current student interests and requests, so if students’ requests are reasonable, I do my absolute best to make it happen."

For example, we recently took a trip to the Black Hills, South Dakota, which we had never done before."

One annual week-long activity that is a favorite among students and employees is Days of Thunder, which serves as the College’s homecoming week. Held annually in the fall semester, the week typically begins with free donuts and commences with the NCC Thunder Sports Shooting competition on their home range. Other activities that take place throughout the week include offerings such as Pickleball, Dodgeball, Basketball and Video Game tournaments, Puppy Therapy, Mini-Golf, Goat Yoga, Tug-of-War, Family Day and more. Programs and departments compete to accumulate points by participating in activities throughout the week. The program that racks up the most points is named the winner of NCC’s infamous “Steal Your Thunder” Trophy and gets to display the trophy in their classroom or lab throughout the academic year.

Another component to campus life is the Lifelong Learning & Recreation center, or LLRC. The LLRC has aided in giving the campus a more collegiate feel. The facility was established in 2011 through a partnership between the College, the City of Sheldon, and Sanford Sheldon. The LLRC houses an indoor track, recreational courts, cardio equipment and a weight room for both collegiate and community use. NCC students receive a free membership to the facility, which also includes access to unlimited group fitness classes. The facility offers students an opportunity to work on not only their physical health, but also their mental health. According to a study completed by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, campus recreation participation strengthens student engagement and results in positive academic outcomes. Participants report a higher sense of belonging, improved feelings of well-being, more positive psychological outcomes, higher cumulative grade point averages, and higher levels of physical health and quality of life compared to non-participants.

Greta Giese serves as the Director of the LLRC and has seen many lifelong and unexpected friendships formed under the LLRC’s roof. Giese has witnessed college students, area high school students and community members come together for various activities. Giese stated, "Individuals visit the LLRC to work on their physical health, not realizing that they are working on so much more than that. It is gratifying to see all of the connections made and lifelong friendships established under our facilities’ roof. The LLRC creates even more connections between the College and the Community, and both students and community members benefit greatly from this."
Along with student activities and the LLRC, the final component that has further enhanced campus life is the addition of intercollegiate athletics. Since August of 2019, NCC has offered Sports Shooting, which has been a great addition to student life. In their first state team competition during the Fall of 2019, the team took home 4th place team honors. Also in 2019, two of NCC’s athletes finished in the top 10 at the Iowa Scholastic Clay Target College Championships, and three others finished in the top 20. In the Fall of 2021, the team took home 6th place in the Scholastic Clay Target Program, or SCTP, Collegiate Trap Championship. Most recently, in the fall of 2022, the team took 7th place overall out of 16 two- and four-year colleges at the SCTP Iowa Collegiate Championships.

NCC’s Sports Shooting athletes have not only found success on the shooting range, but also in the classroom. Over 80% of NCC Sports Shooting Team members were selected as Academic All-Region Performers in the ICCAC Fall 2022 Academic All-Region. To be selected for this recognition, individuals must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above. One NCC athlete who received this recognition was Skyler Mullinix. Skyler has been competing with the NCC Sports Shooting Team since he began at NCC in the Fall of 2022. He is pursuing the Associate of Arts, or college transfer, program with a goal to transfer and pursue a degree in Chemistry. Being a local resident from the College’s service territory, Skyler chose not to live on campus while attending college. “Being an Associate of Arts student that does not live on campus can make it more difficult to meet people, since all of your classes are with different groups of students.

In the Fall of 2024, NCC will add onto its roster of athletic offerings by beginning a men’s and women’s soccer program. The College will compete with the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference as a Division 2 program. Beginning another successful athletic program requires a lot of moving parts to come together. The College is thankful for its partnership with the Sheldon Community School District and the City of Sheldon on the turf field and digital scoreboard. College officials are also currently planning for the construction of another on-campus housing facility to be completed by Fall of 2024. Subcommittee work is currently taking place on a variety of other items such as athletic scholarship procedures, conference affiliation paperwork, hiring an athletic director and coaching staff, and athletic recruitment.

Campus life offerings will continue to adapt and change with NCC’s evolving student population.

As a member of the Sports Shooting team, I have been able to make friends with students from other programs and more connections at NCC.

I love the camaraderie on the team and how accessible it is to participate,” he stated. Skyler has enjoyed his experience on the team so far, and looks forward to future opportunities that will arise through his involvement.
Upon joining, you will be paired with a current NCC student from your program area (or a similar field of study). You will serve as the student's mentor for the duration of their program and assist them in setting goals, making connections within their future industry, and guiding them toward a successful future following their graduation from NCC. You do not need to live in close proximity to participate as meetings can take place via Zoom, phone, or other meeting platforms.

Clayton Peterson and Scott Meinecke participated in the program during the Spring 2023 semester and had a great experience.

Clayton is a recent graduate of the Powerline program. He enjoyed his experience in NCC’s Alumni Mentorship program and is confident that he and Scott will continue to keep in touch long into the future. Clayton’s favorite part about being involved in the program was learning more about Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives and having the opportunity to make more connections within the electrical industry. “Scott is such a wealth of knowledge, having been involved in the electrical industry for a long time. I was lucky to get paired with him as my mentor, as he helped me make numerous connections within the industry and assisted me in learning even more about the history of the electrical field,” stated Clayton.

Scott is an alumnus of the Powerline Program, class of 1984. He currently serves as the Director of Safety and Loss Control for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Having served as an instructor at NCC for a number of years, Scott has a passion for helping aspiring linemen. When asked to participate in the cohort group for the NCC Alumni Mentorship program, he jumped at the opportunity. Scott had this to say about his time in the program, “Clayton is a great student and, honestly, didn’t need much help from me when it came to academics. I am glad to have been able to help him make connections within our industry. Having served as a Powerline Instructor at NCC for a number of years, it is great to be able to stay connected to the College and its students."

NCC has the potential to change lives, and I am honored to be able to continue being a part of that.”

If you have an interest in joining future cohorts of the NCC Alumni Mentorship Network, contact Morgan Granstra alumni@nwicc.edu (800) 352-4907 ext. 230 The next cohort will begin in August of 2023.
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. One way the Foundation is able to fulfill all components of its mission is through fundraising events.

The NCC Foundation hosts multiple fundraising events each year, all with a main purpose of raising funds for Foundation-administered scholarship opportunities. Scholarships are crucial to student success, as they make the cost of college more attainable, and they also increase a student’s odds of graduation.

Fundraising events hosted by the NCC Foundation help to fund a variety of scholarship opportunities for students each year. On an annual basis, approximately $170,000 of Foundation funds are budgeted for scholarship opportunities. Foundation staff work hard to ensure that scholarships continue to be offered, and fundraising events are one of the funding streams that help make this possible.

The longest standing and most profitable fundraising event hosted by the NCC Foundation is the Golf Classic. The Foundation will host its 38th Annual NCC Foundation Golf Classic on Monday, June 5th. Golf outings are a common event for non-profit organizations across the United States, and the NCC Foundation has been able to host a successful outing for nearly four decades. Hosting 144 participants, The Classic is held annually on the first Monday in June at Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort. Since its inception, the event has raised over $575,000. Over the past 5 years, annual event proceeds have averaged over $35,000, all of which has been used to fund scholarships for students at NCC.

Reds, Whites & Women is another long-standing event hosted by the NCC Foundation. This year will mark the event’s 10th anniversary. Held annually in the fall, the event is exclusive to women with a focus fermentation, friends, food, and fun. Since its inception in 2013, the event has been hosted at Calico Skies Vineyard & Winery (the only winery with an event space located in NCC’s service territory). It draws a crowd of between 120–140 women annually and has averaged over $6,500 in annual event proceeds over the past 5 years. Overall, the event has raised more than $50,000 since its inception.
Between these two events, the Foundation averages over $40,000 per year to assist in funding Foundation-administered scholarships. The awards that are funded through these proceeds are the President’s (full-tuition), Foundation ($2,500/year), Next Step, and Multicultural Scholarships. On average, the Foundation spends approximately $170,000 annually to fund these four scholarships alone. Although the Foundation has other avenues of revenue to assist in funding these awards, it would not be possible to spread the wealth to such a variety of students if not for the proceeds from these events.

With increasing enrollments and the need for scholarships in other areas, the Foundation is eager to announce another fundraising event that will be added to its annual line-up. The 1st Annual “Shoot for Success” Sports Shooting Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, August 26 at the Rock Valley Gun Club. Since the addition of an intercollegiate sports shooting team in 2019, the College has been looking to implement fundraising strategies tailored specifically for college athletes. The goal for the proceeds from this event are to offer scholarship opportunities for these individuals. On average, NCC’s Sports Shooting roster is made up of 15 athletes per year. Currently, these 15 individuals compete for one—$1,000 scholarship offered to shooting participants. The Foundation is hopeful that this additional fundraising event will assist in offering scholarship opportunities to our collegiate athletes.

The Foundation is extremely thankful for the support from our event participants, business and industry sponsors, donors, committee members, volunteers, and everyone else that assists in making our fundraising events a success!

If you are interested in getting involved with current and future fundraising events hosted by the NCC Foundation and contributing to student success in Northwest Iowa, you can find more information at: www.nwicc.edu/foundationevents.

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After the ceremony was over, Jamie Stubbe, Alethea’s daughter, said, “The Open House was a beautiful, fitting tribute to Mom that truly captured her vision for NCC and the new Health Sciences building. It was humbling to hear just how many people have been impacted by her work. It’s a true reflection of her dedication to lifelong learning and the College’s motto, your success is our story. She was truly devoted to the students and this building, and the beautiful atrium dedicated in her honor will continue to serve generations to come.”

When asked if the family had any idea of the impact Alethea had on the College and the community, Jamie said, “It’s been truly humbling to see just how much of an impact she made at NCC. I think we knew how much her work at the College meant to her, but to see so many come forward with their own stories of how she impacted them and led the College has been truly humbling.”

Matthew followed up with, “A huge thank you to everyone at the College, on the board, in the surrounding communities. Your outpouring of love and kindness has been amazing to experience. The school was Mom’s second home, second family, really, and to see how much you all loved her knowing how much she loved you is awesome. I’d also like to give our condolences to those of you who knew Mom. Losing her has been your loss, too. I just know we appreciate everything you’ve done and continue to do in her honor.”

Sadly, Dr. Stubbe passed away in June of 2022. At one of her last public events for NCC, Alethea lead the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Health Sciences Building. Stubbe said, “It [the Health Sciences Building] will truly be a beacon of hope for the future as we prepare even more healthcare workers for the surrounding communities.

Of course, we could not do this alone, without our health partners: hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, individuals. This project is indeed a dream come true with all of your help.”
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