



## DECIDE TODAY!

By now, most New Year's resolutions have been kicked to the curb. In fact, according to US News & World Report, a whopping 80% are in the wind by mid-February. Why is that? Were you really serious about anything you said in the first place, or did you just get caught up in all the hype??

Would you like something different for your life? Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired? Do you want to break the cycle of making promises to yourself that you never keep? Well then it's time to DECIDE. DECIDE what it is you really want in life and what you are willing to do to get it. DECIDE that you are worth it and that you have played small for way too long.

We are already 6 weeks into 2020. If you stay on the course you are currently on, will 2020 end any differently than 2019? Give yourself a reality check. Are you really living up to your potential? Are your excuses bigger than your goals? Change doesn't have to take a lifetime. Change happens in an instant ... the instant we DECIDE we want more and that we are worth it!

"Change doesn't happen when circumstances improve. Change happens when you DECIDE to improve your circumstances." -- *Aldyna Threesya*

## Weekly Updates:

- On Friday, January 31, Admissions in partnership with the Transitions office hosted a second **Latino Thunder Day**. Nineteen high school juniors and seniors attended this event along with other guests. The Thunder Friday format was followed by a panel discussion in which some of our current Latino students shared their experiences at NCC and a next steps college presentation in Spanish by Norma Azpeitia. In addition, lunch was provided from funding via the Guided Pathways Grant. Many thanks to all the instructors and NCC staff who helped with this event. Thanks to your support we had another successful Latino Thunder Day.
- On Tuesday, February 11, Morgan Granstra held an **Alumni Appreciation Event** at Access Energy in Mount Pleasant, IA. Currently, Access Energy employs a total of ten NCC Powerline alumni. Two additional Powerline alums will be joining the Access Energy team soon, making that twelve total NCC alumni at their Mount Pleasant location. Over half of Access Energy's linemen are graduates of NCC! One of these linemen, Bob Ruby, will soon be featured in the next edition of *The Connection* magazine. Watch for the next edition in May 2020! (See photo in attachment.)
- Norma Azpeitia presented to the **Hull Kiwanis** on Thursday, February 13. Norma shared information about NCC programs such as "Juntos" and "Latino Thunder Day" which are offered to outreach and recruit local Latino students and their families. She also spoke about the importance of scholarships such as the multicultural scholarship in the academic development and success of students. Board President, Larry Hoekstra, also attended the meeting.
- NCC's **HIT** program received word on Thursday, February 13, that it is in the Top 10 of this nationwide list!

- <https://www.affordablecolleges.com/rankings/affordable-online-associate-health-information-technology-degrees/>
- Alethea Stubbe attended the **Legislative Forum** with Senator Feenstra and Representative Wheeler at the Sioux Center Pizza Ranch on Friday, February 14.
- The **Foundation Office** is excited to announce three **new scholarship opportunities** will be added to the *NCC Scholarship Opportunities Guide*. The *Den Hartog Industries Scholarship*, *Gary Stuva Memorial Scholarship*, and *Ned DeBoer Memorial Scholarship* are all currently available and have a deadline of March 2, 2020. Full details on each of these awards can be found online at <https://nwicc.edu/tuition-financial-aid/ncc-scholarships/scholarship-list/>.
- The **Alumni Office** is currently seeking nominations for the **2020 NCC Alumnus of the Year**. Do you know of an alum who has done outstanding work in his or her industry? Done exceptional volunteer work? Has contributed to NCC and student success? Received a prestigious award or obtained a notable achievement? If so, we encourage you to nominate this individual! Nominate a friend, a family member, a former student/advisee, or even yourself by visiting [www.nwicc.edu/alumnus-of-the-year/](http://www.nwicc.edu/alumnus-of-the-year/). Nominations are due March 2, 2020. NCC employees are excluded from consideration.
- The **NCC Foundation** is now participating in the **Hy-Vee Giving Tag Program**, which is designed to make it easy for customers of Hy-Vee stores to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment. All you have to do is purchase a \$2.50 **Red My Heart Reusable Bag**, follow the instructions on the attached Giving Tag and the **NCC Foundation** will receive a \$1 donation! This is a great way to support the environment and fundraise for our cause. If every faculty and staff member purchased just ONE bag and directed the \$1 donation to the NCC Foundation, we would receive a donation of approximately \$150. The more people who learn about the program, purchase the **Red My Heart Reusable Bag** and use the attached Giving Tag to direct the donation to the **NCC Foundation**, the more money we will raise. To learn more about this program, please visit <https://hy-vee.bags4mycause.com/>.
- **Student Activities Update:**
  - Students, Faculty, and Staff enjoyed sending **CRUSHES** to their crushes on Valentine's Day! A total of **96 CRUSHES** were sent across campus. Thank you to everyone who participated! 😊 (See photo in attachment.)
- **Building D Construction Update:**
  - The **Open House & Ribbon Cutting** for the new Automotive lab will be held on Monday, February 24, from 4-7 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. (See invitation in attachment.)
- **Continuing Education Information**
  - On Monday, February 24, Ken Fry will be the instructor for the **How do I Use My Digital Camera** class at Centrum Foto Studio in Orange City. For more information and/or to register for this class, please click [here](#).
  - On Tuesday, February 25, Laurie Schroeder will be the instructor for the **Breadmaking 101** class at St. Joseph Parish School in Granville. For more information and/or to register for this class, please click [here](#).
  - On Wednesday, March 4, Ken Fry will be the instructor for **How to Get Great Photos Every Time** class at Centrum Foto Studio in Orange City. For more information and/or to register for this class, please click [here](#).
  - On Wednesday and Thursday, March 4 and 5, Larry Battaglia will be the instructor for **Insurance** continuing education classes at NCC. For more information and/or to register for these classes, please click [here](#).

- Now in its 17th year, the **Sheldon Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site** is **officially** open at Northwest Iowa Community College (Room 220 Building B). Please take a moment to review the details included with the attached news release and flyer.
- Do you have a **piano** at home that's in good condition but no longer gets played? Or, do you know someone who is looking to get rid of their piano that's in quality condition? Jena is seeking to find a piano to put in one of the **residence halls** on campus. Many students have mentioned that they are pianists and find it very relaxing and stress relieving to play on a regular basis. If you have a piano that's no longer gets used, but you would like to see it get used, please let Jena know! Email her at [jjschouten@nwicc.edu](mailto:jjschouten@nwicc.edu). Thank you!

### Upcoming Events:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| ○ February 17 | In-Service Instructional Workday ( <i>no day classes; evening classes held</i> )       |
| ○ February 24 | Bldg D Automotive Open House & Ribbon Cutting ( <i>See invitation in attachment.</i> ) |
| ○ February 24 | Board of Trustees Meeting  |
| ○ February 27 | Heavy Equipment Student Recognition Day  |
| ○ February 28 | Midterm Instructional Workday ( <i>no classes</i> )                                    |
| ○ March 2-6   | Spring Break   |
| ○ March 10    | NCC Job Fair (Applied Tech)  |
| ○ March 11    | NCC Job Fair (ASBH)  |
| ○ March 27    | Summer Powerline Orientation   |

### Happy Birthday!

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| ○ Wednesday, February 19 | Laura Nachtigal |
| ○ Thursday, February 20  | Doug Rodger     |
| ○ Friday, February 21    | Rae Paulson     |

Happy Valentine's Day and weekend!

In your service,

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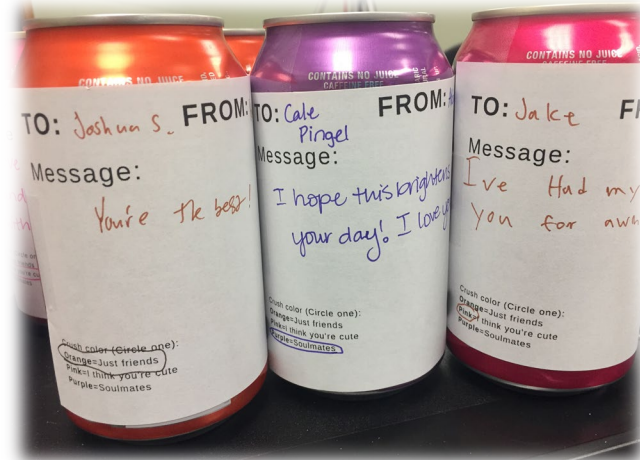


# Alumni Appreciation





Happy   
Valentine's  
Day





# Building D Automotive Lab Open House & Ribbon Cutting



Alumni & Community Members  
please join us at an

## OPEN HOUSE & RIBBON-CUTTING

Showcasing the  
remodeled Building D  
Automotive Labs

**Monday, February 24  
4-7PM**

5:30PM Ribbon-Cutting  
Tours Available

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# IT'S TAX TIME

## INCOME TAX PREPARATION OFFERED FREE AT NCC

Now in its 17th year, the Sheldon Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site is officially open at Northwest Iowa Community College (Building B—Room 220). The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program at Northwest Iowa Community College offers FREE tax help to people who generally make \$56,000 or less, persons with disabilities, limited English-speaking taxpayers, and the elderly who need assistance in preparing and filing their 2019 tax returns. Our trained, IRS-certified volunteers will provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

**NOTE:** This year again, clients will be scheduled for an initial 15-minute INTAKE/interview appointment, which will then be followed up with a *separate* 15-minute final review/OUTTAKE appointment. The appointment schedule includes various time slots available on the following Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout February and March and the first week in April. Instructors Sheila Drenkow and Janet Boone are serving as the VITA Site Coordinators.

### FEBRUARY 2020 APPOINTMENT DATES/TIMES:

Monday, February 10, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.]  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]  
Friday, February 14, 2020 [10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.]  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]  
Friday, February 21, 2020 [10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.]  
Monday, February 24, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.]  
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]

### MARCH 2020 APPOINTMENT DATES/TIMES:

Monday, March 9, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.]  
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]  
Friday, March 13, 2020 [10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.]  
Monday, March 16, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.]  
Wednesday, March 18, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]  
Friday, March 20, 2020 [10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.]  
Monday, March 23, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.]  
Wednesday, March 25, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]  
Friday, March 27, 2020 [10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.]  
Monday, March 30, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.]

### APRIL 2020 APPOINTMENT DATES:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 [1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.]  
Friday, April 3, 2020 -- OUTTAKE Appointments ONLY  
[10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.]

Make your appointment ASAP, as times fill up fast—the earlier the better! To schedule an appointment or for more information, please call 712-324-5061, EXT. 272. Leave a message with your name and telephone number. Keep in mind that our student volunteers will return phone calls only on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (as limited to their scheduled classes). Upon scheduling an appointment, a confirmation postcard along with a list of “What to Bring” will be mailed to you.

**NOTE:** Income tax appointments will NOT be scheduled during Spring Break (March 2–6). In addition to the Spring Break dates, NCC classes will not be in session on February 17 (Monday) nor on February 28 (Friday). In the event of inclement weather situations, tax appointments may need to be re-scheduled.

NCC sponsors this Sheldon Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the Iowa Center for Economic Success. We look forward to serving our community throughout the upcoming tax season!



# Happy “NCC” Anniversary



## February

- 2-1-16 Leah Murphy
- 2-1-18 Judith Hilbelink
- 2-1-19 Godfrey Twinamatsiko
- 2-3-03 Twyla Vogel
- 2-8-16 Sonia Garza
- 2-10-98 MariBeth Schneider
- 2-12-18 Alex Sietstra
- 2-13-17 Julie Paulsen
- 2-19-18 Megan Lovan
- 2-27-17 Dan Cline
- 2-28-11 Pamela Lien



Thank you for your  
“service” to NCC!



# Important Dates to Remember



## Spring 2020

*\*All-College Meeting date is TBD – will perhaps be held in virtual format.*

January 2 & 3	Faculty Instructional Work Days	-----
January 6	Spring Semester Classes Begin	-----
January 10	Your Future at Work Day	No classes
January 13	Spring Online Classes Begin	-----
February 17	In-Service Instructional Workday	No day classes, evening classes held
February 28	Midterm Instructional Workday	No classes
March 2-6	Spring Break	No classes
April 10 & 13	College Closed – Easter Holiday	No classes
April 17	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day	No classes
April 22	Graduation Prep 8:30/9:30/10:30 a.m.	Mandatory meeting for all spring graduates. Students are required to attend one of the three meetings.
May 3	Spring Online Classes End	-----
May 8	Spring Semester Ends	-----
May 8	Spring Commencement	-----



Juniors and Seniors...join us for

# THUNDER FRIDAYS



2019-2020

- ~~October 25th~~
- ~~November 1st~~
- ~~November 8th~~
- ~~December 6th~~
- ~~January 24th~~
- ~~February 14th~~
- ~~March 13th~~
- ~~March 20th~~
- ~~April 3rd~~

▶ NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE