



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WINS AUTOMOTIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, IA, is the 2006 winner of the Automotive Award of Excellence for the state of Iowa. The Automotive Industry Planning Council (AIPC) informed NCC's Automotive Department that it has been selected as the best generic post secondary automotive education program in Iowa by a team of industry representatives following AIPC standards.

Any ASE/NATEF certified automobile technician, automobile collision repair/refinish, diesel medium/heavy duty truck training programs are eligible for this award. The award requires a rigorous application process. Candidates are judged on the quality of their educational program, recruitment methods and activities, entrance requirements, assessment forms and methods, and courses. Entrants submitted marketing/recruitment brochures, examples of assessment plans, planning/budget documents, and expenditures, among other things, to assist in the evaluation.

The Automotive Industry Planning Council is a national advisory group of industry leaders, vocational technical educators, and educational policy makers whose mission is to promote communication, cooperation, and excellence in automotive service training programs. The AIPC is comprised of members from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), Association for Career and Technical Education, and ATech Training Inc.

NCC automotive instructors Rick Cannoy, Mark Doherty and Rex Weber are ASE Certified Automobile Technicians.

NCC's Automotive Service Technology associate degree program, which is ASE Master Certified, focuses on eight instructional areas: engine repair, automotive transmission/transaxle, manual drive train and axles, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating and air conditioning, and engine performance.

Students have an opportunity to earn a diploma after the first year, but most complete the entire program and earn an associate degree. In an agreement with local high schools, students have the opportunity to complete the first year of the automotive program by the time they graduate from high school.

NCC personnel are invited to attend the Association of Career and Technical Education national convention for an awards program in December. The application will be submitted for national competition where a national winner and two runner-ups will be selected.

The NCC Automotive program has been identified as best in the state thirteen times.