



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Cooperation Pays for NCC

The opportunity to serve as President of Northwest Iowa Community College has given me the chance to return to my roots, so to speak, to northwest Iowa, to work with the students and communities NCC serves. I have also been able to form relationships with other organizations and groups in our area. I believe that the ability of NCC to “partner” with other organizations will bring positive outcomes to NCC and the students and communities we serve in the future.

I was raised in an environment of agricultural cooperatives. My father spent many years as a representative for an ag cooperative, whose slogan, “Cooperation Pays,” was on its corporate headquarters as well as every feed bag, every local elevator, and every pencil I used from grade school through high school.

“Cooperation Pays” is a principle that has guided me in my professional career. It also is one that NCC embraced early in its existence and it can continue to bring many successes for the College and communities in the future.

This past year marked NCC’s 40th Anniversary. Since its inception, NCC has depended on cooperative agreements with local school districts, local communities, and area businesses to serve the residents of our area. NCC actually began in 1965 as a cooperative project between the Iowa Department of Education and the Sheldon Community School District. Over the years these cooperative agreements have grown for the benefit of the students we serve.

In 2000, NCC became a member of Iowa Community College On-line Consortium. Through this cooperative partnership with six other Iowa community colleges, NCC is able to offer an entire associate degree on-line.

More recently, NCC has initiated both nursing programs and a radiologic technology program as a result of cooperative arrangements with local health care providers. Without the cooperative arrangements with area hospitals, NCC could not offer these programs to its students and provide the needed healthcare professionals for our area.

NCC has developed many cooperative relationships with other educational institutions in order to benefit students. Last year NCC and Dordt College established a cooperative relationship to allow NCC technical program graduates to transfer to Dordt’s Bachelors Degree in Engineering Technology. Similar arrangements exist with the University of Northern Iowa and University of Iowa. As NCC plans for the future, I see many more opportunities for cooperative relationships that will benefit our communities, and provide a better education for our students.

I believe that “Cooperation Pays” is a principle that can benefit all of northwest Iowa. Last year the Northwest Iowa Developers Coalition was formed. This coalition is made up of representatives from Cherokee, Plymouth, O’Brien, Osceola, Lyon and Sioux counties to further economic development in northwest Iowa. It is cooperative relationships such as this one that will help our area grow and prosper. NCC and the area’s biotechnology industry are benefiting from a cooperative arrangement with the U.S. Department of Labor. As a result of a Department of Labor grant awarded with the assistance of Senator Grassley’s office, NCC is developing a Biotechnology Lab Assistant program as well as offering higher level science courses to high school students. This will help to provide a needed skilled workforce for the area’s biotech industry.

This week we will have the opportunity to highlight our area’s cooperative efforts when Senator Chuck Grassley visits our area. He will be holding an open meeting on the NCC campus on Tuesday, August 29 at 2:45 p.m. The public is invited to come to NCC’s campus (building “A”) and enjoy some coffee and a great discussion. This forum gives us the opportunity to speak cooperatively with one voice and express a need for northwest Iowa – more skilled workers and a well trained workforce. NCC can be part of this “cooperative solution.”

It has been many years since I worked an Iowa county fair promoting a cooperative and giving out free pencils. “Cooperation Pays” is more relevant today than ever before. Cooperation will benefit this Community College and all of northwest Iowa.