

EDUCATION

NCC No. 1 in workforce training outcomes



Instructor Nick Shaffer, instructor Orville Van Roekel, instructor Randy Hogan, Jorge Arreola, Chris Hinrichsen, Lloyd Hughes, Louis Napple and Luis De Jesus. (Photos submitted)

SHELDON — Northwest Iowa Community College has earned the distinction of being the top-ranked community college in Iowa for noncredit workforce training outcomes. According to the Iowa Department of Education's report titled Noncredit Program Outcomes: Iowa Community Colleges, Academic Year 2018 to Academic Year 2022, published in September 2024, NCC leads all 15 Iowa community colleges in combined wage gains and employment increases among individuals completing short-term, noncredit training programs.

The annual report serves as a key indicator of how Iowa's community colleges are preparing individuals for the workforce through short-term, employer-aligned training and informs workforce development strategies across the state.

According to the report, NCC ranks: First overall in noncredit workforce training outcomes; fourth in the state for median quarterly wages among completers age 25 and older and third in the state for median quarterly wages among completers under age 25.

The data, which mirrors NCC's credit program placement report, confirms that the college's noncredit programs provide immediate value — preparing Iowans for in-demand careers and improving both earnings and job stability.

Among completers over age 25, median annual wages reached \$58,428, a 7.25% increase from wages one year prior to training. These graduates earned 12.1% more than the statewide average for noncredit completers. Employment also rose from 91.1% to 93.5%.

Among completers under age 25, median annual wages reached \$41,268, a 45% increase from the year prior. These completers earned 43% more than the statewide average for noncredit learners in the same age group. Employment increased from 90.3%



to 95.4%.

"These numbers validate the impact of NCC's workforce training programs," said Jason Anderson, director of workforce and economic development. "Whether someone is launching a career or making a change later in life, our noncredit certificate courses are helping people gain skills, earn more, and find meaningful work. We're proud to help drive that kind of transformation in northwest Iowa."

Anderson noted that for many individuals, these short-term programs are a springboard to further education.

"These courses give people the chance to test the waters of college and build confidence," he said. "Sometimes a certificate is the end goal — but often, it's just the beginning. Once they experience success, many students go on to pursue a degree."

Students and local employers alike affirm the value of NCC's training.

Chris Hinrichsen, maintenance manager for Sig International, completed the Industrial Maintenance course and said, "I took the class to further my knowledge of PLCs, but found every segment to be very informative. I have used the things I've learned almost every day. The problem-solving techniques I learned save significant time in troubleshooting common problems that

come up. I would recommend the course to even the most experienced Maintenance Tech."

Brandon Andersen, technical instructor at Interstates in Sioux Center, who oversaw training for their Applications Programmer Apprenticeship Program, also praised the partnership with NCC.

"The Applications Programmer Training Program elevated our Apprentices from complete novices in the field of Industrial Automation to a level comparable to traditional year-long programs in just three months," Andersen said. "Using their excellent lab equipment and the practical lab exercises designed for that equipment, our participants had the opportunity to test their newly gained knowledge in a practical and engaging way. The program's flexibility allowed the curriculum to directly align with our specific on-the-job training; integrating classroom fundamentals with day-to-day operations, resulting in immediate, impactful skill development catered directly towards our needs."

NCC's noncredit training programs are closely aligned with local industry needs. Programs such as introduction to manufacturing, industrial maintenance, Microsoft Office skills, and commercial driver's license training were all developed in direct response to employer demand across northwest Iowa.

AROUND CAMPUS

ESTHERVILLE — Iowa Lakes Community College recognizes the outstanding academic accomplishments of students this spring. The list includes 141 students earned a place on the president's list, 242 students were honored on the dean's list. The president's list celebrates students who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA while enrolled full-time in 12 or more graded credit hours. The dean's list acknowledges full-time students who earned a GPA of 3.25 or higher with a minimum of 12 graded credits completed. Locals include: Albert City: Keyla Molina, dean's list; Armstrong: Teagon Fothergill, dean's list, Kaden Laabs, dean's list and Kadin Walter, president's list; Arnolds Park: Adam Miller, president's list; Ayrrshire: Josi Reiman, president's list; Curlew: Clayton Rubel, dean's list; Cylinder: Esben Enriquez, dean's list and Erika Thompson, president's list; Dickens: Shayla Sanderson, dean's list; Emmetsburg: Tanner Beals, dean's list, Faith Biddle, dean's list, Ava Dietrich, president's list, Addison Fehr-Opheim, dean's list, Kaitlyn Hember, president's list, Grant Householder, dean's list, Tate Joyce, dean's list, Morgan Kaneer, president's list, Mia Knudsen, dean's list, Emma Krause, president's list, Kalen Law, dean's list, Ava Leth-Faulkner, dean's list, Alexander Meyer, dean's list, Katherine Nelson, dean's list, Romona Ontiri, president's list, Ashleigh Petersen, dean's list, Tanner Reinholdt, president's list, Delmy Salazar, dean's list, Ava Schulz, dean's list, August Weiland, president's list, Lincoln Wilcoxon, dean's list and Morgan Williams, dean's list; Everly: Ava Buum, dean's list; Greenville: Gensley Ball, president's list; Lake Park: Ryan Bensley, dean's list, Kimberly Martinez, dean's list, Daniel Prevot, dean's list and Rylie Wittrock, dean's list; Mallard: Logan Treiber, dean's list and Patience Wiita, dean's list; Milford: Gabriel Brackett, dean's list, Leila Dirks, dean's list, Karli Fife, dean's list, Grace Fisher, president's list, Breanna Furman, dean's list, Maggie Herr, dean's list, Caleb Hodge, president's list, Cambrie Kleckner, dean's list, Scott Newell, dean's list, Calan Peters, president's list, Harper Rabel, president's list and Parker Westerman, dean's list; Newell: Trevor Johnson, dean's list; Okoboji: Leah Wallin, dean's list; Ringsted: Mande Luy, dean's list, Gavyn Morphew, president's list and Hannah Morphew, dean's list; Royal: Lillian Gross, president's list and William Werts, president's list; Sioux Rapids: Arianna Barglof, dean's list and Anastasiia Makarenko, dean's list; Spencer: Melissa Agustin-Sebastian, president's list, Caden Atherton, president's list, Chance Barber, dean's list, Alex Baldwin, president's list, Kelly Baldwin, dean's list, Dena Birchard, president's list, Emily Boelter, dean's list, Tobias Bozarth, dean's list, Caden Brosam, dean's list, Trevor Cookinham, dean's list, Monroe Daniels, dean's list, Tristan Decker, president's list, Liliana Dotson, president's list, Blaine Erdman, president's list, Ryonna Faulkender, president's list, Kelsi Hansen, president's list, Millie Hemann, dean's list, Shainee Henely, dean's list, Addison Hoben, president's list, Stephanie Holliman, dean's list, Elijah Hookfin, dean's list, Micah Iedema, dean's list, Morgan Irvine, president's list, Kailey Krull, president's list, Molly Moser, president's list, Ana Ortega Rivera, president's list, Valerie Rodriguez-Gutierrez, dean's list, Mariana Rosales, dean's list, Sylvia Ruden, dean's list, Mallory Salton, dean's list, Corey Shields, president's list, Latasha Smith, dean's list, Carys Whitaker, president's list, Cayley Winters, president's list, Isabelle Young, dean's list; Spirit Lake: Aidan Bramblett, dean's list, Ashley Egan, dean's list, Patrick Folan, dean's list, Bailey Hansen, dean's list, Alaina Hinders, dean's list, Oona

Hinders, dean's list, Lindsey Johnson, president's list, Jonathan Jones, dean's list, Elizabeth Land, president's list, Talen Leiss, dean's list, Christopher Lopez-Rodriguez, dean's list, Ireland Mitchell, president's list, Parker Partello, dean's list, Cale Quiring, dean's list, John Reekers, dean's list, Gracie Relp, president's list, Riley Sorenson, president's list, Taylor Tungland, dean's list and Dani Winkel, dean's list; Terril: Taylor Kloucek, dean's list; Wallingford: Thomas Pickar, president's list; and Webb: Cole Knudtson, dean's list.

IOWA CITY — More than 1,250 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the president's list for the 2025 spring semester. Locals include: Carly Borth and Stella Gerlock — both of Spencer

NEWBERG, Ore. — Nicholas Sysum, of Spirit Lake, was among the undergraduate, accelerated online degree and graduate-level students who received diplomas from George Fox University at its spring graduation ceremony in May 2025. Sysum earned a bachelor of science in biochemistry.

VERMILLION, S.D. — Locals named to the University of South Dakota's spring dean's list include: Kelsey Elizabeth Erlandson, of Aurelia; Sam Issac Jordan, of Cherokee; Shalaki Maries Soukup, Zoey L. Zeller, Kai Li Dong, Izzy May Stevens and Caidynce Jessica Wopdley — all of Emmetsburg; Gabe Raymond Bronstad, Brooklyn Kay Heneman and JP Mutombo — all of Hartley; Grace Ann Booth, Kaylarr Rae Ortman and Morgan Elizabeth — all of Milford; Kenna Marie Bauer and Riley Marie Draper — both of Paullina; Brooklyn Marie Edwards, Willa Caitlin Sickleka and Mason LeRoy and Warnke — all of Primghar; Zoe Grace Carlson, Mallory Sage Graves, Jackson E. Schultz and Charles Steele — all of Spencer; and Jenna Kaye Merten, of Storm Lake.

VERMILLION, S.D. — Locals named to the University of South Dakota's spring academic recognition include: Elle Renee Geisinger, of Estherville; and Kaiden Elizabeth Woodall, of Spencer.

SHELDON — Northwest Iowa Community College announced the spring honors list. Locals on the list include: Derrick Hughes, Kristina Keleher and Luke Rosentrater — all of Cherokee; Mckayla Burt and Sean Kenneth Europa — both of Emmetsburg; Owen Haspels, Cherrylynne Hibbing, Brennan Stoltz, Kirsten Vander bStoep and Taylor Webster — all of Hartley; Logan M. Duvall, of Milford; Natasha Adrian, of Paullina; Braden Schwartz and Kayla Weishuhn — both of Primghar; Emily Dress, of Rembrandt; Taylan Elwood, Delaney Murphy and Lonah Nyamwange; Issac Dean and Kaitlyn King — both of Spencer; and Emily Hess-Frederick and Averie Lambertus.

ESTHERVILLE — Iowa Lakes athletes were recently honored by the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference for academic achievements for the spring semester of 2025. Every sport is recognized each semester. Academic All-Region First Team 3.5-4.0 GPA — women's golf: Ines Balaghni, Claudia Beaujon Pabon, Miu Kamei, Caitlin Mann, Stina Mathews, Amelie Prie, Cayley Winters and Ana Zamorano; Abby Burgess, Brooklyn Bode, Alexis Cullinane, Kaitlyn Duchateau, Kassy Elkins, Morgan Fine, Morgan Kolodzienski, Macy Pickett and Bailey Smith; and men's sports shooting: Caleb Hodge and Joseph Perrigo

SPENCER SUMMER MEALS

Free breakfast and lunch offered for all students ages 18 and under. Meals will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY	SPENCER YMCA	SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL	WEEKEND PICKUP SITES
• 1508 Fifth Ave. E. • Monday through Friday • 10:45 a.m. to noon: In-person Lunch with Breakfast Grab N Go June 2-27 July 7 to Aug. 8	• 1001 11th Ave. W. • Monday through Friday • 11 a.m. to noon: In-person Lunch with Breakfast Grab N Go June 2-27 July 7 to Aug. 8	• 800 E. Third St. • Monday through Friday • 6:45-9 a.m.: Grab N Go Breakfast and Lunch Only June 2-27 July 7 to Aug. 8	SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL • 800 E. Third St. June 6, 13, 20, 27 July 11, 18, 25 Aug. 1, 8

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

The contents of this publication are copyrighted under U.S. law. Use of the contents without permission is a violation of federal regulations. Please note that some third party operators may be attempting to use our content on the products they sell or the platforms they provide. This is a violation of federal law. If you are approached by such a company, please obtain the information and forward it to the publisher at publisher@algona.com or publisher@spencerdailyreporter.com.



Stay informed Stay empowered

IOWA
IPN PUBLIC NOTICES
IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

iowapublicnotices.com

When Does Your Subscription Expire?

Check the date on your address
on each issue!

Example Shown in Yellow

*****CAR-RT LOT**B 001
4189 01-11-23 C00IA87 63B 34T
SPENCER REPORTER **B001
PO BOX 197
SPENCER IA 51301-0197

Question? Call us at 712-262-6610

PROVIDING YOU WITH ALL THE BEST IN NEWS,
SPORTS, CLASSIFIEDS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND **MORE!**

712.262.6610 FOR THE SPENCER REPORTER OR 712.336.1211 FOR THE DCN

CALL TODAY TO SUBSCRIBE!

Subscribe Today for EXCELLENT COVERAGE, YEAR ROUND