

# INTOUCH

## NIACC Receives \$1.5 Million Gift for Scholarships

Betty Geer lived modestly and didn't especially like attention. No one suspected that she was capable of giving back to North Iowa in the way that she has following her death in 2001. In her will, Betty left Lee Enterprise stock valued at approximately 1.5 million dollars to the NIACC Foundation. The College announced the gift last fall, following the settlement of her estate.

***"This gift is more than money; it is a large vote of confidence, expressed in a huge planned gift."***



**Betty Geer**

"This gift is more than money; it is a large vote of confidence, expressed in a huge planned gift, from Betty Geer," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

"This is one of the largest single gifts to the College, and it will significantly impact the lives of thousands of students through the life of the scholarship fund. We are very thankful for her thoughtfulness and the sharing of her treasure."

The Mercy Cancer Center received a comparable share of stock, bringing Betty's investment in the North Iowa region to around three million dollars. Her generosity is impressive to say the least.

A native of Mason City, Betty graduated from Mason City High School. She attended Mason City Junior College from 1941 to 1942 and then Cornell College. In 1943 she began working as a bank teller for First National Bank in Mason City and retired after 16 years of service. She was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church and Daughters of the American Revolution. She enjoyed traveling, tending to her yard, and keeping up with the latest news around the nation and the world.

Betty's father, Lowell Geer, who worked many years for the Lee Enterprise-owned *Globe Gazette*, instilled in her a thirst for knowledge. She was keenly aware of the importance of education and knew that many students need financial help. As a result, she wanted to make sure students in the area have the same opportunity she had in pursuing an advanced education close to home.

Betty's longtime friend Nina Pals of Mason City said, "Higher education was a priority in her life. She is resting peacefully knowing her money is being put to use in the manner in which she really wanted it to."

## Supporting Student Scholarships

While nearly 700 people applied for NIACC Foundation scholarships last year, just over 200 scholarship awards were available. For more information on how you can help the College acknowledge deserving students through scholarships, please contact the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

*for alumni  
and friends  
of North  
Iowa Area  
Community  
College*

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## 100% of Nursing Graduates Pass Licensure Exam

Congratulations to the latest class of NIACC nursing graduates who all passed the National Council Licensure Examination! That includes 33 ADN graduates now certified as registered nurses and 18 PN graduates now certified as practical nurses.

## Nursing Shortage Leads to Expansion of Nursing Program

North Iowa Area Community College is known for its progressive partnerships. One of the latest, involving Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa and the Grow Iowa Values Fund, is helping to address the critical shortage of nurses in the region.

Registered nurses (RNs) top the list of occupations with the largest job growth through 2012. Approximately 623,000 new RN jobs are anticipated nationally within the next decade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The need is evident across the country, and North Iowa is no exception.

The partnership has resulted in the expansion of NIACC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program, which individuals complete to become a registered nurse. Nationally, close to 60% of new RNs are educated via associate degree programs.

The pooled resources permitted an additional group of students to begin the NIACC program this year. The College will now graduate nursing students in May and December.

"This program expansion is another example of the ongoing relationship that our Health programs continue to enjoy with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa," said Donna Orton, NIACC Health Division chair and instructor. "Besides the financial support offered by the hospital, additional clinical educators are secured with this agreement. More balanced employment

opportunities offered in a dual entry/dual exit program are beneficial to both our students and future employers."

Nancy Halford, vice president of patient services at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa, said, "Nursing is the core of our business, which is why we are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to further enhance our partnership with NIACC. Allowing students to graduate from the nursing program twice each year will provide a more consistent pool of qualified nurses in our region."

Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, described the joint effort as a great partnership model. "Combining state resources with NIACC and Mercy assets demonstrates that together we can produce

desired outcomes that one entity could not achieve on its own," he said. "Our entire region will be the beneficiary of this partnership."



**An additional 32 students recently began NIACC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. Through a partnership with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa and the Grow Iowa Values Fund, the College will now produce a class of skilled nurses twice a year to address the nursing shortage.**

## NIACC Passes Accreditation Efforts with Flying Colors

North Iowa Area Community College has received maximum accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the Iowa Department of Education. The College has been accredited since 1919.

As part of the process, NIACC staff and faculty completed a three-year comprehensive self-study. It was designed to evaluate the degree to which NIACC is accomplishing its mission and goals and to assess NIACC's ability to meet the national and state standards for accreditation. Consultant-evaluation teams from both accrediting bodies conducted back-to-back campus visits last October.

"This process gives us an opportunity to examine who we are, what we are doing and what we intend to become," said Tucki Folkers, NIACC vice president for academic affairs who led the self-study effort. "It is

**"Along with confirming that NIACC exceeds the highest of standards set by these accrediting organizations, the results demonstrate the truly remarkable treasure we have in our community college."**

one of the most important activities undertaken by the College. Accreditation is essential for NIACC to continue to provide the quality educational offerings on which the College has built its reputation."

Dr. Mark Johnson, who chaired the on-site national evaluation team, said "NIACC is spoiled because it's always received very positive, glowing recommendations..." The team noted various areas of distinction, including exemplary community and business partnerships throughout its service area, excellent internal staff relations, student satisfaction with the College and its services, economic development initiatives, advocacy efforts, attractive and well-maintained facilities and grounds, and remarkable relationships with transfer institutions such as Iowa's three public universities.

The State Department of Education

agreed with the national team's findings, citing many of the same strengths. "The institution presents a confident, calm and mature organization...and academic rigor is valued and supported by an excellent faculty," the team wrote in their summary report. "Everyone at NIACC, both full and part-time, are key contributors to the success of the institution and take personal pride in working there. The students contribute as much as they receive from the College and are proud to be members of the 'NIACC family'."

NIACC's next accreditation visit won't be until the 2013-2014 academic year. "Being granted the full continued accreditation is great news for the College and all its stakeholders," said Kevin Kolbet, president of the NIACC Board of Directors. "Along with confirming that NIACC exceeds the highest of standards set by these accrediting organizations, the results demonstrate the truly remarkable treasure we have in our community college."

## NIACC Receives Authority to Offer All Degrees Online

NIACC has received authority to offer all of its instructional programs via electronic means. The request was granted by the Higher Learning Commission as part of their recent comprehensive evaluation of the College.

In 1998, NIACC became one of the first community colleges in Iowa to offer online credit courses. Today the College has over 60 online offerings, enough for students to earn an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate

of Science-Business (ASB) degree. This latest announcement will permit NIACC to expand its distance education opportunities in the future, giving students more flexibility and options.

Bruce McKee, coordinator of Instructional Technology at NIACC, said this authorization is significant. "As far as we know, we're the first college in Iowa to receive this comprehensive authority for online education," he said. "The online

classes won't replace the traditional classroom course offerings, but they do provide options to those students who have work, family or location challenges that make it difficult to take traditional classes. This is allowing NIACC to provide coursework and degree opportunities for students who might otherwise not have been able to attend college."



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## Rome Around the World

Studying pictures of Michelangelo's famous artwork on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is one thing, seeing his paintings firsthand in the Vatican City is quite another. Several NIACC students will have this opportunity during a nine-day trip immediately following graduation in May. NIACC visual arts instructor Peggy Bang will lead the group of eight on their trip abroad focusing on European artwork and various historical places. She led a similar educational trip to Europe in 2000. Besides Rome, sightseeing stops will include Pompeii, Olympia, Epidauros, and Athens. The fast-paced trip includes an overnight ferry ride from Italy to Greece. "These kinds of travel opportunities really make history come alive," explained Bang. "The students will have a good understanding of the origins of our culture, and they will never look at world events the same again."

## NIACC Celebrates 85th Anniversary in Style

The evening of October 11, 2003, was filled with fine food, music, conversation, gifts, laughter, applause, and lasting memories. Nearly 200 guests attended "NIACC's Night to Shine," a black tie affair hosted by the NIACC Foundation on the NIACC campus to commemorate the College's 85th Anniversary.

The evening began with a social hour and silent auction in the Auditorium Gallery with music provided by Carol Robinson and Bruce Robertson of Charles City.

The remaining activities were held in NIACC's Muse Norris Conference Center, which was transformed by decorating coordinator Mary Pat Cole. Patricia Galasso, a member of the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors, served as emcee, and auctioneers Bob Johnson of Mason City and Jon Witt of Osage conducted the live auction following the gourmet meal.

Guests dined on jumbo shrimp and filet prepared by Consolidated Management (NIACC's food service provider) and served by NIACC students. NIACC staff volunteers also served in various roles throughout the evening. A five-member band treated the audience to a variety of music during the night, including a special tribute to NIACC and the music of the past 85 years.

Another highlight of the evening came when several friends of the College were presented with the NIACC Shining Star Award (see facing page).

A regional planning committee worked for nine months to plan the celebration, which raised \$37,000 for program development and

student scholarships at the College.

"We are deeply honored by the generosity we experienced from individuals and businesses across the region," said Tammy Hove, associate director of Institutional Advancement at NIACC, who coordinated the event. "So many people stepped forward to contribute to its success."

Several area businesses supported the fund-raiser with financial contributions or in-kind gifts and services. Nearly 100 items, from a WWII plane ride to a diamond ring to a year's supply of Krispy Kremes, were donated for the auction.

"They managed to transform the setting into an elegant atmosphere," said Toby VanDenBosch, who attended the event with her husband, Bob, and several friends. "With the addition of wonderful food and great entertainment, it was a fun evening for a worthwhile cause."



Carol Robinson and her son-in-law, Bruce Robertson, of Charles City, entertain guests during the social hour in the Auditorium Gallery.



Tom Jones, a.k.a. Brad Grotewold of Lake Mills, got the crowd groovin' with "It's Not Unusual" and "She's a Lady."



Auctioneers Bob Johnson and Jon Witt know how to keep a live auction lively!



Bidding was competitive during the Silent Auction, which featured 80 different donated products and services. Another dozen items were auctioned live following dinner.



Kevin Hanson, Shannon Hickman, Tina Montealvo, Frankie Winegardner and Andy Buehler entertained guests with an extensive array of music during the dinner program.



Everyone posed for "table pictures." Dining together at this table were (seated) Ann & Byron Beasley, Dianne & Arlo Stoltenberg, and (standing) Gene & Mary Pat Cole and Jayne & Brian Carlson.

Thanks so much to everyone who attended and supported NIACC's Night to Shine! For a complete list of contributors, along with photos from the evening, visit the NIACC website at [www.niacc.edu](http://www.niacc.edu).



Guests make their way from the Auditorium Gallery to the Muse Norris Conference Center for dinner.



Nearly 200 guests attended the celebration, with proceeds going toward program development and student scholarships.



The importance of fund-raising is especially evident to students receiving scholarships. These NIACC students, who served dinner to the guests, were happy to step forward to help make the evening special. It was also an excellent reminder of why we were there!



# Longstanding Friends Honored With Prestigious NIACC Shining Star Award

As North Iowa Area Community College celebrated its 85th anniversary with the “NIACC’s Night To Shine” dinner and auction last fall, the College also honored a number of longtime friends with the NIACC Shining Star Award.

Initial recipients of the prestigious honor included Jim Benjegerdes, the Globe Gazette Muse Norris Charitable Fund, Betty Geer (posthumously), Joyce Hanes, John Hitzhusen, Phyllis Murphy, John Pappajohn and Tom and Linda Schaefer.

Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, introduced the newly-established award and the first class of recipients during the October 11, 2003, anniversary celebration. “By our heritage and choice we honor ‘first among equals’ who made things happen at NIACC! North Iowa has been the great beneficiary of their energy, dedication, servant leadership and/or their treasure,” he said. “These NIACC Shining Stars have lit a bright path for the future of NIACC. Now, we take a bit of their light and rightly reflect it on them.”

**Jim Benjegerdes’** service to NIACC illustrates his unselfish donation of time and energy in an effort to advance the College and the region. A farmer from the Mason City/Manly area, he was elected to the NIACC Board of Directors in 1980 and served for 20 years. He was chosen by his fellow trustees to serve as Board President from 1993 to 1999. A member of the 85th Anniversary Event Planning Committee, Benjegerdes currently serves on the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors. He and his wife, Carolyn, who was the NIACC Vocal Music Department’s accompanist for more than a decade, have demonstrated their support for NIACC time and time again through their gifts and their regular involvement in NIACC activities.



**The Globe Gazette Muse Norris Charitable Fund** has had a tremendous impact on North Iowa in a variety of ways. Without its significant financial support over the years, NIACC would not be what it is today. A member of the NIACC Leadership Society, the Muse Norris Fund enabled the construction of the Muse Norris Conference Center and the introduction of NIACC’s suite of Information Technology programs. In addition, the charitable fund underwrites the NIACC Performing Arts Series and NIACC Leadership Series and has made significant financial commitments for the renovation and improvement of the North Iowa Community Auditorium. In her will, Mrs. Ralph (Elizabeth Muse) Norris also established a well-known scholarship fund in her father’s name which is administered by the NIACC Foundation. The Will F. Muse Scholarship Fund awards over 175 \$1,300 scholarships to college students across North Iowa every year. Howard Query, publisher of the *Globe Gazette* and chairman of the Fund’s screening committee, accepted the NIACC Shining Star Award on behalf of the Globe Gazette Muse Norris Charitable Fund. His leadership and vision have resulted in significant and savvy investments that substantially impact North Iowa.

**Betty Geer** attended Mason City Junior College (NIACC’s predecessor) from 1941 to 1942. A modest woman who didn’t like attention, she surprised many by significantly giving back to North Iowa following her death in 2001. Geer left Lee Enterprise stock valued at approximately 1.5 million dollars to the NIACC Foundation, making her a member of the NIACC Leadership Society. The gift signifies one of the largest single gifts given to NIACC in the history of the College. Because of her generosity, thousands of students will receive scholarships in her name. Including a gift she left to the Mercy Cancer Center, Geer invested 3 million dollars total in the North Iowa region. Accepting the award on Betty’s behalf was her longtime friend, Nina Pals.



**Joyce Hanes** became the first woman elected to the NIACC Board of Directors in 1975. Re-elected time and time again, she served on the Board until 1993 and was Board President from 1986 to 1993. Hanes was honored as the 1990 John Kibbie Outstanding Trustee Award recipient. She and her husband, Joel, a NIACC graduate and member of the NIACC Alumni Advisory Board who has received the NIACC Distinguished Alumni Award, are members of the NIACC Silver Club. Consummate volunteers for a variety of causes, the Hanes are generous with their time, gifts and kindness. NIACC has been the fortunate recipient of all these things. Both of them served on the executive committee for the “Keeping NIACC First” major gifts campaign several years ago, setting the pace by establishing an endowment to ensure their NIACC legacy.



**John Hitzhusen’s** affiliation with the College began almost 70 years ago when he graduated from Mason City Junior College in 1934. A retired dentist, Hitzhusen represented the Charles City area on the NIACC Board of Directors from 1970 to 1993. He joined the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors in 2001 and continues to serve on that Board today. He and his wife, Donna, also support the annual Charles City Gourmet Scholarship Dinner. The Hitzhusens are advocates for the College at every opportunity they encounter, and they have recruited many students to NIACC. In 1998, during the “Keeping NIACC First” major gifts campaign, the Hitzhusens established an endowed scholarship fund in their name which benefits students from Floyd County.



**Phyllis Murphy** and her late husband, David, founder of David Manufacturing Company, both graduated from North Iowa Area Community College. Their generosity enabled the creation of NIACC’s Murphy Manufacturing Technology Center, a world-class learning facility designed to respond to an increasingly



sophisticated manufacturing environment. The 20,000-square-foot high-tech complex opened in 1997 along with several brand new programs at the College. The Murphy Center has produced hundreds of well-prepared, well-paid graduates and is a shining example of the important role that private gifts play at NIACC. Murphy, who has taught piano most of her adult life, is a member of the NIACC Leadership Society and a lifetime member of the NIACC Alumni Association.

**John Pappajohn** graduated from the College in 1948 and has gone on to become one of the greatest benefactors of NIACC and the State of Iowa. The president of Equity Dynamics of Des Moines, Pappajohn is an entrepreneur, philanthropist and venture capitalist. He is also a member of the NIACC Leadership Society and a lifetime member of the NIACC Alumni Association. Since sharing his vision for Iowa to become the “most entrepreneurial state in the nation,” he has financially supported Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers at a handful of colleges, including NIACC. North Iowans of all ages have taken advantage of entrepreneurial programs and services available through NIACC’s Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center since 1997, with over 100 new business starts around the region. John and Mary Pappajohn’s generosity has also resulted in numerous entrepreneurial scholarship awards to NIACC students and the construction of the Pappajohn Business Center, which bears their name. Most recently, Mr. Pappajohn’s efforts and influence have given North Iowa entrepreneurs more access to early stage seed and venture capital than ever before. Through Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s Venture Capital Fund and the North Iowa Venture Capital Fund, LLC, over \$2.75 million is available for new business ventures through NIACC.



**Tom and Linda Schaefer**, who have spent much of their lives in North Iowa, believe in investing in the region. Utilizing each of their strengths, they have contributed to NIACC in countless ways. President of Henkel Construction, Tom serves as a member of the Contractors Advisory Association for NIACC’s Building Trades program. Linda, a NIACC graduate and former teacher, currently serves on the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors. During her tenure on the “Keeping NIACC First” campaign executive committee, the Schaefers set an example for others to follow when they established a sizable endowed fund, propelling them to membership in NIACC’s Platinum Club.



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## Part of Living is Giving

North Iowa Area Community College changes lives every day! Has NIACC made a difference in your life directly or indirectly? We invite you to give back to the College by supporting future NIACC students through a gift to the 2004 Annual Fund. Your generosity directly benefits people’s lives and our communities through student scholarships, strong educational programs, extensive cultural opportunities, fine facilities and much more.

To contribute to the 2004 Annual Fund, just send your check payable to the NIACC Foundation in the reply envelope inserted in this newsletter. Thanks in advance for remembering your roots and helping to ensure the continued value of a NIACC education!

Look for the  
2004 Annual Fund  
envelope enclosed!

The  
NIACC  
Shining  
Star Award  
was established  
to recognize individuals, businesses and  
organizations that have invested significant  
time, energy and/or financial resources in  
North Iowa Area Community  
College. The award is intended  
for those who work to  
advance the institution and  
the region through their  
voluntary support.



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## Still to Come...

NIACC is honored to host Grammy award-winning pianist and composer George Winston on April 23, 2004, as he performs his latest release, *The Night Divides the Day - The Music of the Doors*, along with his many other compositions. Sponsored by Drs. Beck & Lovick, Neurological Surgery, his appearance is part of the NIACC Performing Arts Series. For tickets, call the NIACC Box Office at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188. Per George's request, please bring a donation of non-perishable canned foods to the concert in support of our local food bank.



## Entrepreneurial Studies Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Students at NIACC are showing an increasing interest in entrepreneurial studies. Over 15 students are currently enrolled in the Associate in Science Degree (Business/Entrepreneurship) program introduced by the NIACC Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center last fall.

Overall enrollment in entrepreneurship classes has nearly tripled since last year. The number of Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Scholarships awarded has doubled eight times over from last year as well.

"The increasing numbers of students choosing Entrepreneurial Studies portends well for the future of new business development," said Jamie Zanos, director of the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. "The growth of new businesses as a result of the training provided at NIACC will benefit not only the individuals taking these courses, but also the cities and counties in which they choose to locate their businesses."

Students studying entrepreneurship are exploring business ownership for various types of businesses.

"We are excited by the increasing number of students choosing this area of study and we look forward to many of them opening and locating a business in North Iowa," said Zanos. "We will be here to help them along the way with many services and possibly help direct them to funding opportunities as well."

Located on the NIACC campus, the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center provides college level courses and degree programs in entrepreneurship, FastTrac classes for aspiring and current business owners, youth entrepreneurial academies, regional venture capital

*"The increasing numbers of students choosing Entrepreneurial Studies portends well for the future of new business development."*

funding information, as well as consulting services for new and existing businesses in the North Iowa region.

For more information, call the Pappajohn Center at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4111.

## More North Iowans Learn about Running a Business

North Iowans continue to learn about running a business through the NIACC Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center's popular FastTrac program. Over 30 people are currently enrolled in the 9-week program which began February 19, and another 18 recently completed the program.

FastTrac participants evaluate and design a business concept and write a feasibility plan. Approaches to marketing, creating a market penetration strategy, understanding the customer, and pricing methods are discussed, along with various other topics.

If you have an innovative idea and are wondering how to turn it into a business opportunity, or you want to take your current business to new levels, call the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4111.



The latest FastTrac graduation class includes (front row) Tony Lenz and Kate Lenz, Osage; Bob Cole, Mason City; Jack Leaman, Mason City; instructor Richard Petersen, director of the area Small Business Development Center, (back row) Brad Franklin, Marble Rock; John Madagan, Marble Rock; John Drury, Swaledale; Carolyn Price, Forest City; Leslie Dornbier, Mason City; Jim Zach, Mason City; Betsy Fickel, Garner; Deann Waitak, Rock Falls; and Melody Stone, Mason City. Other class members not pictured include Bill Acklin, Charles City; Rob Janssen, Clear Lake; Shari Hegland, Mason City; and Joyce Ladehoff and Celeste Thomas, Swaledale.

## NIACC Introduces Women's Cross Country

North Iowa Area Community College now has a new recruiting tool to add to the already lengthy list. This fall, the College will have a women's cross country team ready for intercollegiate competition.

"We are excited to begin another new program here at NIACC," Ryan McGuire, NIACC athletic director, said. "There is a great challenge any time you start something new, but we believe this will put us on the front end of a growing trend in two-year college athletics. Because of the number and high quality of runners in North Iowa, this was a natural step for us."

Initial plans for creating a women's cross country team at NIACC began with conversations of the large number of excellent runners in the North Iowa region. The College wants to provide those runners with an opportunity to continue enjoying the sport and stay in North Iowa after high school.

The athletic department is currently interviewing candidates for the coaching position. "We need someone with a good deal of experience with cross country and the desire to take a fledgling program and help it grow into a high-quality sport on par with each of our other offerings."

Other Iowa community colleges joining the women's cross country race include Iowa

Lakes Community College, Iowa Central Community College and Ellsworth Community College. NIACC will participate in a number of Division III meets with Iowa Conference schools, and there will be a conference community college meet as well.

For more information, call the NIACC Athletic Office at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4344.



## Remarkable Run

The NIACC Lady Trojans basketball team became Region XI Consolation Champions after a remarkable run which included a six-game winning streak and a chance at the title after upsetting the No. 3 seed (Iowa Lakes) and No. 2 seed (DMACC) at the regional tournament.

The NIACC men's team also had a strong showing at the tournament, defeating Iowa Central 77-76 in overtime which placed the Trojans in the region's semifinals for the first time since 2000.





## North Iowans Join NIACC Alumni Board

Announcing our newest Alumni Advisory Board Members!

### Dawn (Dwyer) Southwick

Dawn (Dwyer) Southwick graduated from North Iowa Area Community College and attended the University of Iowa and Rochester Community College. She is currently a homemaker and works part-time as a Mary Kay Cosmetics team leader consultant. While living in Rochester, she was the weekend weather anchor for KTTC-TV and also worked on-air and in advertising sales for KRCH/KWEB Radio. Her main job experiences have centered around the aviation and transportation industry. Formerly a flight attendant for American Airlines, Southwick has worked as a sales and marketing executive for Dwyair Air Charter in Minneapolis and for BAX (Burlington Air Express) Global. She is an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake, PEO and TTT. She has volunteered for the Girl Scout Council of North Iowa, the Clear Lake Yacht Club, the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and is past president of the Mason City Woman’s Club. Dawn and her husband, Douglas, reside in Clear Lake with their three children.



### Tony Coloff

Tony Coloff graduated from Mason City Junior College (NIACC’s predecessor) in 1962 and attended the University of Iowa. He is the president and general manager of Pilot Knob Broadcasting, Inc., known as KLOW Radio, in Forest City. He and his wife, Susan, founded the station 25 years ago. They are also managing partners of Fife Communications Co., LLC, with stations in Cedar Falls and Manchester. The immediate past president of the Iowa Broadcasters Association (IBA), Coloff has worked in radio for more than 40 years. He is president of the Quarton-McElroy IBA Endowment Foundation and serves on the board of directors for the Hancock County Memorial Hospital Foundation, Forest City Puckerbrush Committee, and Forest City Economic Development. He is also a member of St. James Catholic Church and the Forest City Evening Lions Club. The Coloffs have four grown children.



Other members of the NIACC Alumni Advisory Board are **Terry Schumaker** (President), **Cheryl Jahnel** (President-Elect), **Jay Urdahl** (Past President), **Beth Bilyeu-Hesse**, **Debbie Cahalan**, **Michael Grandon**, **Joel Hanes**, **Barbara Kellogg**, **Jerold Magnuson**, **Duane Meyer**, **Gail Meyer**, **Debra Sedars**, **Joan Snell**, **Arlen Throne**, **David Wempen** and **Mary Zishka**.

## NIACC Show Pigs are Something to Squeal About

Next “Pigs in the Purple” Sale is April 8

The NIACC Agriculture Department and its students are proud to be leaders in the production of barrows and gilts for 4-H and FFA youth projects. North Iowa area Community College has produced champion pigs for fairs and swine shows since 1983. The majority of these pigs are sold during the “Pigs in the Purple” sales, now in their 17th year on the NIACC campus.

All pigs have been raised by the NIACC Farm Lab and have been successful at all levels of competition, from local youth shows to national swine shows. NIACC’s reputation for honest, high performing and highest quality show pigs is indisputable, with pigs selling into 11 different states. The majority of pigs in the sale are sired by outstanding boars, including “American Idol” and “Without a Doubt,” which have a history of producing show winners and superior carcasses.

NIACC students work with the agricultural technology staff and swine experts to carefully select sires to be mated to proven sows to produce the pigs for each of these sales. In fact, many of the sows have produced past champions or are littermates to previous show winners.

Sponsored by Agricultural Technology students at NIACC, the “Pigs in the Purple” sales provide 4-H and FFA members the best opportunity to obtain high quality show pigs for youth projects at reasonable prices. The sales also give NIACC students a learning

opportunity to develop marketing skills through their involvement in all phases of planning and executing the sales.

The NIACC Ag Department has produced in excess of 300 swine show champions and class winners over the years. For more information, call Chris Chodur at 641-423-7888 or Larry Eichmeier at 641-422-4225.



Sophia Benjegerdes, 10, works with her four pigs purchased at NIACC’s “Pigs in the Purple Sale” on February 25. She is a member of the Golden Banner 4-H Club and plans to exhibit the pigs at the Worth County Fair in June.



## Celebrating Diversity

International students and others from NIACC’s Multicultural Student Union gathered at the campus OK House for a welcoming picnic hosted by the Global Diversity Committee. Nearly 40 international students are currently attending NIACC. Countries represented include Bosnia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Japan, Mexico, Moldova, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia, Sudan, Tanzania, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Yugoslavia.

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### NIACC Faces

Welcome to our newest employees!

**Paula Cox**  
Disability Program  
Navigator  
Iowa Workforce  
Development

**Shannon Dodd**  
Associate Degree  
Nursing Instructor

**Daniel Erickson**  
Groundskeeper

**Melody Gifford**  
Associate Degree  
Nursing Instructor

**Christopher Hanna**  
Housing Security

**Denny Honnold**  
Housing Security &  
Fitness Center  
Supervisor

**Tracy Purchase**  
Technician Specialist  
Instructor

**Sheila Stoeckel**  
Disability Program  
Navigator  
Iowa Workforce  
Development

Congratulations to our employees with new roles!

**Mindy Eastman**  
Accountant

**Kathy Grove**  
Director of Business  
Services

**Deb Smith**  
Continuing Education  
Secretary & Campus  
Facility/ICN Scheduler



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## Name a Seat

Donations to the NIACC Foundation for the North Iowa Community Auditorium Renovation and Improvement Project are tax-deductible and may be one-time gifts or multi-year pledges. For a minimum gift of \$1,000, we will place your name or the name of someone you wish to memorialize on a seat in the auditorium.

To participate in the Auditorium Renovation Project, call the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

# Renovation Project Will Improve Sight, Sound and

## NIACC Foundation Announces Public Phase of Capital Campaign

The show must go on! The North Iowa Area Community College Foundation has announced a fund-raising campaign for needed renovations to the North Iowa Community Auditorium on the NIACC campus. Appropriately, the announcement was made on the Auditorium stage and involved company representatives and individuals who have already stepped forward with lead gifts.

"This project is about preserving, extending and enhancing the strengths of the Auditorium," said Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, during the January 28th news conference. "As such, the capital campaign is more than bricks and mortar. Above all, it's about preserving and enhancing our strong tradition of offering excellent entertainment and cultural events for the people of North Iowa."

The North Iowa Community Auditorium serves as the only facility of its kind within a 90-mile radius. The closest comparable facilities are in Mankato and Rochester (MN), Sioux City, Ames and Cedar Falls (IA).

Citizens across the region and beyond have repeatedly conveyed their appreciation for the extensive opportunities available at the North Iowa Community Auditorium. In fact, North Iowans place the NIACC Performing Arts & Leadership Series, which brings distinguished speakers and entertainers to the Auditorium every year, among their most valued priorities. In recent town hall meetings around North Iowa, the Series was identified as one of the most important activities to be safeguarded in the years ahead.

"The significance of this Auditorium cannot be underestimated," Morrison said. "It is not only a cultural jewel in our quality of life, but it is also a significant asset for economic development in attracting and retaining quality people and businesses in North Iowa."

The renovations to the Auditorium, which will include sight, sound and staging improvements, are estimated to require an investment of approximately 1.1 million dollars. So far, over \$800,000 has been raised.

The Globe Gazette Muse Norris Charitable Fund led off the donations nearly two years ago with a \$100,000 gift followed this past year with a second \$100,000. The John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation also provided a lead gift of \$100,000 nearly a year ago.

Other initial contributors included the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, the Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation, Curries-Graham, First Citizens National Bank Charitable Foundation, Drs. David Beck and Darren Lovick, Wells Fargo Bank, Mason City Clinic, Dr. Tim Thomsen, Clear Lake Bank and Trust, Community National Bank, Farrer Foundation, Farmers State Bank, NSB Bank, Manufacturers Bank & Trust of Forest City, and First State Bank of Thornton.

"The silent phase of our campaign was met with much success and enthusiasm," said Jamie Zanios, NIACC Institutional Advancement director. "These financial contributions demonstrate a widespread commitment to protect the North Iowa Community Auditorium and to ensure the caliber and variety of entertainment and educational opportunities available there."

"Now, we turn to the general public to help us close the gap between the gifts received so far and the required funds to begin the renovation and improvement project."

## Auditorium Celebrates 25 Years

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the North Iowa Community Auditorium. The performance hall opened its doors on October 6, 1979, coming to be through a partnership between the City of Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, and North Iowa Area Community College. Nearly three

decades ago, the North Iowa Community Auditorium Foundation entered into an agreement with NIACC to build a 1200-seat auditorium on the College campus. The concept was innovative: The Foundation would raise funds to build the Auditorium on land given by the College, and the College would be responsible for management and upkeep once the dream was realized.

A few months later, spurred by significant contributions from the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation and Mrs. Ralph (Elizabeth Muse) Norris, a fund-raising drive was kicked off. Through the generosity of countless businesses, organizations, governmental units and individuals, the \$1.3 million goal was reached by March 1976 and serious planning was underway.

On June 5, 1976, Meredith Willson, the honorary national fund drive chairman, broke ground for the project. Representatives from the College, City and County were appointed to the North Iowa Community Auditorium Agency to oversee the facility, and a Board of Directors was organized.

This community-based group guided the planning efforts for nearly two years before the Auditorium was completed. Construction began in the fall of 1978, and the building was completed prior to the target date at a cost of \$1,830,000.

The North Iowa Community Auditorium Agency functioned for 20 years, at which time ownership and operating responsibility of the facility was transferred to the College.

As part of NIACC, the Auditorium's owners are the citizens of North Iowa.

## An Important Regional Asset

Throughout its history, the North Iowa Community Auditorium has been the setting for countless community events as well as appearances by big name entertainers. It is the primary North Iowa venue for concerts, performances, presentations and productions and host to a variety of other activities including lectures, graduations and conferences.

You will find very few people from the region who haven't enjoyed some type of entertainment or event at the North Iowa Community Auditorium. Schools, businesses and organizations utilize the facility extensively for activities throughout the year. More recently, the Auditorium has become home to the popular NIACC Performing Arts & Leadership Series, further broadening the cultural opportunities available to North Iowans.

The Performing Arts & Leadership Series offers an exciting lineup each year from Broadway musicals and children's productions to hot new artists and Nobel Peace Prize winners – opportunities one typically finds in bigger cities at much steeper prices. (Local private support has kept ticket prices affordable.)

Leveraging the reputation of North Iowa Area Community College, the Auditorium has been graced by the presence of such distinguished guests as Dave Barry, Barbara Bush, Jeff Corwin, Simon Estes, Lou Holtz, Marvin Hamlisch, President F.W. deKlerk, Lorie Line, Rebecca Lobo, James Lovell, Melissa Manchester, Tom Osborne, Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Lou Rawls, Lyn St. James, President Lech Walesa and many more.

Last year, the Performing Arts & Leadership Series attracted people from 244 communities across Iowa, 51 communities in Minnesota, and various other states. Over 7,000 patrons attended Performing Arts Series events at the Auditorium last October alone.

With more than 60,000 patrons attending the Series and other activities at the North Iowa Community Auditorium every year, it has undoubtedly improved the quality of life for North Iowans.



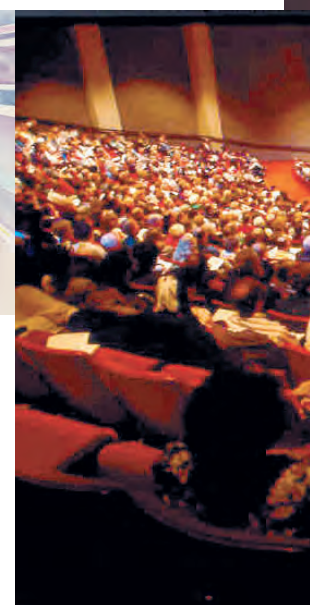
"Over 300 people from the Midwest attend the annual Iowa Choral Director's Summer Convention and Symposium which has been held at NIACC for nearly 30 years. In addition to drawing nationally known choral music clinicians and teachers, our organization has booked major international performing groups to appear at this event. All of this would not be possible were it not for the Auditorium facilities and the most cooperative staff at NIACC."

Millie Youngquist, President, Iowa Choral Directors Association



"The financial contributions thus far demonstrate a widespread commitment to protect the North Iowa Community Auditorium and to ensure the caliber and variety of entertainment and educational opportunities available there."

Jamie T. Zanios, Director of Institutional Advancement



"This facility is an icon in our region, enriching the lives of people across North Iowa and beyond on a daily basis."

O. Jay Tomson, Chairman of the Board, First Citizens National Bank



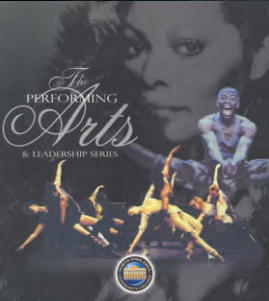


# Staging at the North Iowa Community Auditorium



The North Iowa Community Auditorium has served the region well over the last 25 years. This renovation and improvement project will greatly enhance the experience of performers and patrons alike and ensure the Auditorium's viability for the next 25 years."

Elizabeth Gales, Performing Arts Leadership Series Director/Auditorium Manager



## Examples of the extensive use of the North Iowa Community Auditorium:

**North Iowa Musicians** - The Auditorium is home to many outstanding musical organizations, including the North Iowa Choral Society, North Iowa Concert Band, and North Iowa Symphony.

**Dance Recitals** - Every major dance studio in the area uses the Auditorium for their annual dance recital in May. Each recital attracts a full house of parents, grandparents and friends from across North Iowa. Occasionally, unique opportunities present themselves, such as when 60 local ballerinas had the opportunity to perform in the Nutcracker with the Moscow Ballet.

**Choral Directors** - approximately 250 choral directors from schools across Iowa have convened on the NIACC campus for the state association's summer convention since its inception more than 25 years ago. The group utilizes the Auditorium for performances and lectures throughout the week.

**Barbershop Performances** - Over 2,000 North Iowans attend one of the annual spring performances by the River City Barbershop Chorus composed of 60 members from 30 North Iowa communities. Sweet Adelines, the female version of the "barbershoppers" also calls the Auditorium home for their annual performance.

**D.A.R.E.** - Kids from local schools fill the Auditorium for the annual D.A.R.E. Program sponsored by the Mason City Police Department. NIACC provides free use of the Auditorium for this important event.

**Star Class** - The Globe Gazette and Partners in Education hold their annual Star Class event each May, bringing bright high school students from over 30 area high schools to the Auditorium for a special recognition opportunity.

**KCMR Live** - The local Christian radio station packs the house with their fundraising musical event every Christmas.

**Quodlibet** - The NIACC vocal music department's variety show began in 1975 and has been held in the Auditorium since 1980. The four consecutive shows each April attract big crowds.

**Guest Speakers** - People across North Iowa recognize the unique opportunity to hear national and world leaders in the Auditorium through the Leadership Series.

**Broadway Productions** - The Auditorium typically sells out when the touring companies appear at NIACC as part of the Performing Arts Series.

**Children's Productions** - The annual Performing Arts Series includes at least one children's production which is offered free to area elementary students through private support. Most recently, 2200 elementary students from the region experienced the Reading Rainbow and just as many enjoyed "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" put on by the Minneapolis Children's Theatre.

**Cooking Show** - Radio Park attracts a primarily female audience with this popular event held approximately every other year.

**School Events** - The Mason City Community School District utilizes the facility for numerous activities, including their all-staff meeting each August, the Fifth Grade Music Festival, middle school concerts, high school concerts, their summer musical, and the Mohawk Follies, the high school vocal music department's annual variety show which attracts a full house three consecutive evenings. Nora Springs-Rock Falls High School utilizes the Auditorium for their annual Peace-makers conference, and other area schools use the facility periodically for concerts and the like.

**Theatre** - Patrons fill the Auditorium for special theatre productions, including Mason City Community Theatre's musical every several years and those by the Studio of the Performing Arts Dance Theatre. In addition, local school children are exposed to theatre through the American Theatre Arts for Youth which hosts at least one event annually in the Auditorium.

**Health Conferences** - The Regional Health Education Center, a partnership of Mercy and NIACC, hosts several conferences in the Auditorium each year, including Women's Day which attracts people from across the region.

**Chamber of Commerce** - The Mason City Chamber of Commerce brings North Iowa business leaders together each spring through the Business Bash, which culminates with a keynote presentation in the Auditorium.

**Travel and Adventure Series** - The Kiwanis Club and North Iowa Area Community College take North Iowans around the world through this annual travelogue held in the Auditorium, with proceeds going to Kiwanis charities.

**Clinics and Contests** - Student musicians from across North Iowa and other parts of the state participate in various clinics and contests critiqued or judged by established musicians and directors. Examples include the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA) Piano in December and February; the NIACC Jazz Festival in January; and the North Central Iowa Bandmasters Association (NCIBA) Honor Band Festival held every other year in the Auditorium.

## Planned Improvements

While the North Iowa Community Auditorium has been tenderly cared for and expertly maintained, the demands set upon the facility have outstripped its current capacity to meet the technical needs of artists, entertainers and Broadway shows. The renovation and improvement project is designed to not only correct the technical deficiencies of the Auditorium, but to also make needed improvements to increase its value to the region. The renovations are slated for the summer of 2005.

### Extend the Fly Space

The first task is to literally raise the roof, or at least the ceiling above the stage. This will allow national and local productions to make full use of backdrops, sets and equipment so the audience experiences shows as they were intended. "Increasing the height on our fly loft will allow for more elaborate sets and scenery changes, and audiences will immediately see the pay off for this renovation," explained Elizabeth Gales, who coordinates the Performing Arts & Leadership Series and manages the Auditorium. "This will make our Auditorium a more desirable stop for the touring artists and shows and create more vibrant productions for our customers." In addition, all new rigging (cables, pulleys, counterweights, etc.) will be furnished to fly the sets and equipment.

### Sound

Sound is a key factor in the audience's enjoyment of any event. Another part of the project involves enhancing the facility's acoustics by investing in a high performance full-stage shell system for vocal and instrumental music concerts, and by improving sound reinforcement through amplification. New speakers, installed in strategic locations, and a variety of other acoustical upgrades and replacements are planned to enhance the overall experience of the audience.

### Accommodations for Performers and Storage Space

The final portion of the construction project requires expanding the back stage capacity. An addition to the North is planned in order to provide ample space for performers and storage. Currently, the men's dressing area allows for no privacy and the women's dressing room can comfortably accommodate up to 20 people, which is insufficient for the majority of local and national productions. Additional storage space and a "green room," or holding area for performers waiting to go on stage, will accompany the enlarged dressing rooms.

### Other Improvements

Utilizing a portion of the early donations, a variety of improvements were recently made to the lobby of the Auditorium, which also functions as a meeting space and art gallery. These include resurfaced walls, display cases and enhanced lighting. The Auditorium Gallery will be air-conditioned when the fund-raising is completed and the roof work is begun. New carpeting was also recently installed throughout the Auditorium.

for alumni  
and friends  
of North  
Iowa Area  
Community  
College

## Key Contributors To Date

Drs. David Beck and  
Darren Lovick

Bertha Stebens Charitable  
Foundation

Clear Lake Bank and Trust

Community National Bank

Curries•Graham

Farmers State Bank

Farrer Foundation

First Citizens National Bank  
Charitable Foundation

First Insurance

First State Bank of Thornton

Globe Gazette Muse Norris  
Charitable Fund

John K. and Luise V. Hanson  
Foundation

Kingland Systems  
Corporation

Kinney-Lindstrom  
Foundation

Manufacturers Bank & Trust  
of Forest City

Mason City Clinic

NSB Bank

Schukei Chevrolet

Dr. Tim Thomsen

Wells Fargo Bank



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## ADN Program Earns Prestigious National Accreditation

NIACC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program has received notification of reaccreditation for the maximum period of eight years from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. This elective accreditation process requires compliance with criteria that exceed state nursing board criteria. NIACC received initial accreditation in 1988 with continuing accreditation granted in 1996. Last October, the College completed the latest evaluation cycle, which includes a thorough self-study followed by an on-site visit by a team of evaluators from the commission. NIACC is one of just four community colleges in Iowa to earn this prestigious accreditation.

## Lean Manufacturing Provides Fat Investment in North Iowa

North Iowa Area Community College, in partnership with a number of North Iowa companies, celebrates the success of Lean Manufacturing, a training program for both manufacturing and office settings that focuses on identifying waste, improving efficiencies and boosting profits. Direct and indirect impacts of adopting Lean Manufacturing processes have had an accumulative effect on North Iowa totaling over \$145 million. Costs savings based on those same direct and indirect impacts add up to around \$13 million for regional companies.

**Lean Manufacturing has, conservatively, increased area manufacturers' profitability by \$148 million!**

**Source: Area Manufacturers' Survey, 2003**

"Lean Manufacturing outcomes demonstrate the need to remain competitive in a global economy," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said. "These outcomes strengthen North Iowa's economic foundation, providing greater opportunities for all of our constituents to pursue a better quality of life."

NIACC uses Lean Manufacturing curriculum made available by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) through the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership (IMEP).

According to IMEP, North Iowa was the most active region in the state in Lean Manufacturing. IMEP also noted that Iowa was the most active state in the nation in such training. Of the 225 NIST Lean events held in Iowa in the last fiscal year, NIACC provided the training for 62 percent of them.

Over the past several years, NIACC has offered 382 Lean sessions involving 5,746 participants. NIACC's Lean partners include major employers such as Winnebago Industries, Curries•Graham, Larson Manufacturing, Kiefer Built, Suntron, Advanced Component Technologies, Moore Wallace, Iowa Mold Tooling, and IMI Cornelius.

"I am really excited that industries in North Iowa have recognized the need to implement Lean principles in their daily operations," Jody East, NIACC economic development training coordinator, said. "It does not matter if it is on the shop floor or in office settings, there is waste that needs to be identified and eliminated. North Iowa industries leadership has chosen to prepare their industries and train their employees for success."

Lean Manufacturing takes a look at processes and eliminates anything that adds

cost to the process that a customer is not willing to pay for.

"Winnebago Industries feels strongly that Lean Manufacturing is the wave of the future, enabling us to meet the demands for our products in a growing market," Bob Olson, Winnebago Industries vice president of operations, said. "Due to demographic trends, we have real concerns about labor availability in Iowa. Going forward, Lean Manufacturing is one of the ways we can combat that shortage by eliminating any process that does not add value to our products."

Also, Lean Manufacturing leads to reduced costs, greater throughput, faster speed to market, greater productivity, improved quality, better cash flow and improved employee morale.

"My first introduction to Lean Manufacturing was in 2001 at NIACC," said Andy Hubbard, newly appointed Lean Coordinator for the Curries and Graham Door Group. "After implementing a continuous flow system at Graham, we have seen a 90 percent reduction in manufacturing lead time, we've freed up over 15,000 square

feet of floor space, and our work in process has been reduced from over 7,000 doors to less than 400."

These results translate into better business practices for the companies trained in Lean Manufacturing.

"Managers are always interested in determining return on investment (ROI)," John Schladweiler, NIACC dean of Continuing Education, said. "What's neat about Lean is that ROI is more readily determined than it is in much of the other training that we do."

NIACC currently offers six courses, or modules, in Lean Manufacturing: Lean

Enterprise (Lean 101), 5S System (Visual Workplace), Value Stream Mapping, Setup Reduction, Pull/Kanban Systems, Total Productive Maintenance and Cellular Flow Manufacturing. Lean Manufacturing looks at eight wastes: overproduction, excess inventory, defects, processing waste, waiting, people waste, motion waste and transportation waste.

A new course, Administrative Value Stream Mapping, will be introduced this summer.

For more information about Lean training, call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4218.

**"After implementing a continuous flow system at Graham, we have seen a 90 percent reduction in manufacturing lead time, we've freed up over 15,000 square feet of floor space, and our work in process has been reduced from over 7,000 doors to less than 400."**

**Andy Hubbard, Lean Coordinator, Curries and Graham Door Group**

## NIACC Graduates (and Iowa Employers) Celebrate 96% Placement Rate

NIACC career graduates continue to be in high demand. The North Iowa Career Center has reported that 96 percent of last year's graduates are employed, with 91 percent of them working in Iowa.

The 2003 Career Placement Report study involved 235 graduates of the one- and two-year training programs in the College's Business, Health, Agriculture and Industrial Technology divisions. The survey response rate was 97 percent.

Of 36 career programs at NIACC, 29 experienced 100 percent placement. It is not uncommon for NIACC graduates' starting salaries to compete with experienced level wages across the state and nation. Graduates of NIACC's physical therapist assistant program, for instance, averaged \$15 per hour, which is higher than the experienced median hourly wage of \$13.72 in Iowa.

Some of the other top starting salaries went to NIACC students completing studies in the areas of associate degree nursing (ADN); licensed practical nursing (LPN); information systems technology (IST); e-commerce, web design and development; criminal justice; accounting; and tool and die technology.

NIACC's placement rate has exceeded 90 percent for more than a decade. For more information, call the North Iowa Career Center at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4353.

## Iowa Companies Support No-Till Research Farm at NIACC

Thanks to the generosity of two Iowa companies, students in the NIACC Agriculture Program will have an opportunity to plant the College's 260-acre no-till corn and soybean research farm again this spring with a Kinze 3000 no-till planter pulled by a new MTX tractor from McCormick USA. McCormick is based in Pella, IA and Kinze is a Williamsburg, IA, company. NIACC agriculture department instructors and students conduct an extensive no-till research program for major chemical and seed companies in North Iowa each year. The program helps demonstrate the economic and environmental advantages of no-till crop production to area farmers and input suppliers. Approximately 60 students are studying agriculture at NIACC currently.





## NIACC Students Lobby Legislators



Several NIACC students joined other Iowa Community College students at the State Capitol the end of January during the annual Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Legislature Seminar. Pictured here are (l to r): NIACC Student Senate advisor Catherine Fields, Josh Kalvig, Lindsay Kalvig, Thomas McCulloh, student body president Jourdan Monk, Ryan Tucker and Senator Amanda Ragan.

The event provided an opportunity for students to visit with legislators about the need to adequately fund the Community Colleges of Iowa and to interact with other community college student leaders.

One of the students on the trip, Jourdan Monk, who is president of the NIACC Student Senate, spent time over the holiday break assembling a notebook to show to legislators. It's called "Community Colleges: Key Player in the Revitalization of Iowa's Economy." Monk said proving that to the legislators will be the goal for her and her fellow students.



## Automotive Careers Night

First-year Automotive Service Technology students and their instructor Rob Heimbuch (front center) pose with Ken and Darlene Petersen's 1957 Buick Super Riviera during the 12th annual Automotive Careers Night on February 16. Approximately 115 people attended the event, including 75 students from 13 area high schools. The featured speaker for the evening was Kurt Mitthun, a technical trainer/customer service representative affiliated with Winnebago Industries.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Community Colleges of Iowa currently enroll over 73,000 Iowans in credit programs and over 325,000 students in non-credit programs. They are the largest provider of higher education in Iowa but they receive the lowest per pupil funding and have received the highest proportionate cuts in state funding.

The NIACC Advocacy Team is comprised of friends of North Iowa Area Community College who have stepped forward to help ensure the vitality of the College and the region by advocating for fair and equitable treatment with regard to educational funding. The NIACC Advocacy Team is part of a network of community college advocates involved in a statewide grassroots effort to support the future economic growth of Iowa. If you wish to join the NIACC Advocacy Team, please send your name and information to [hovetamm@niacc.edu](mailto:hovetamm@niacc.edu).

for alumni  
and friends  
of North  
Iowa Area  
Community  
College



## Program Earns ASE Master Certification

NIACC's Automotive Program has been awarded Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Master Certification by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation. Participation in this accreditation is voluntary and highly respected in the automotive industry. The Master Certification awarded to the NIACC program verifies that all eight occupational areas examined and evaluated meet national standards.

## This Mug's For You!

There are two ways you can receive a complimentary stainless steel insulated mug from the NIACC Alumni Association!

### Fill out the online Alumni Update Form

We want to know what you've been doing since your days at NIACC (or MCJC)! Go to our website ([www.niacc.edu/alumni.html](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.html)) and update us on news in your life by completing the online form. At least 50 names will be drawn from the forms submitted, and the lucky winners will receive a complimentary NIACC Alumni Association mug.



### Become a Lifetime Alumni Association Member

As our way of saying thank you, we'd like to send you a complimentary NIACC Alumni Association mug when you become a lifetime member of the NIACC Alumni Association! A single lifetime membership is just \$100 or \$150 for the entire family (one mug per membership please). Membership in the NIACC Alumni Association

supports the annual Pathways to Success student leadership program, student scholarships, the Intouch newsletter, and other alumni activities. To join, send your check (payable to the NIACC Alumni Association) along with your name and information to the NIACC Foundation, 500 College Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401. You will receive your personalized membership card (and your mug) right away!



100% of the 2003 NIACC Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) graduates who took the licensure exam passed on the first attempt. That's three years in a row for a 100% passing record!

**NIACC entrepreneurial students** Kelley Bahl, Tammie Calvert, Heather Neagle and April Ciavarelli presented their business plans recently to John Pappajohn and his Equity Dynamics executive team during the Pappajohn New Venture Business Plan Competition in Des Moines.

Kathie Vix, Cindy Eyberg and Lori Quinlan of NIACC's Learning Support Division decorated a 4-foot NIACC-themed holiday tree donated for Opportunity Village's Festival of Lights fundraiser.

For **Martin Luther King Day**, Hung Lai and Evamaria Malekia, NIACC students from Vietnam and Tanzania, spoke to

children at the local Charlie Brown Day Care Centers about their home countries and their visit to Ecuador along with instructor Charlie Schroeder.

Several teams of area middle school students competed in the 21st annual regional competition of the national **MATHCOUNTS** program hosted recently at NIACC by the North Iowa Chapter of the Iowa Engineering Society.

**NIACC football honors:** B.J. Flowers, a sophomore from Cincinnati, OH, and Clint Sellers, a freshman from Chariton, IA, were named Honorable Mention NJCAA All-Americans. Sellers was also named the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Both of them, along with teammates Groshawn Edwards, and Jermyah Graves, sophomores from Cleveland and Canton, OH, respectively, received first team honors on the Iowa Community College

Athletic Conference All-Region football team.

Through a book sale and raffle, the **NIACC Book Club** raised enough money to provide books for six local children through the United Way's Success By Six Books for Kids program. Special thanks to Jerry Magnuson, Joyce Navratil and Linda See.

**Carol Faber**, NIACC visual arts instructor and gallery director, was the featured artist at an Iowa State University exhibition earlier this year as part of her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Thesis. "Fragments of Nature / Laid to Rest" includes encaustic paintings, drawings and photographs.

NIACC has been selected by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges, to participate in its **Preparing Tomorrow's Science and Mathematics Teachers at Community Colleges project** funded by the National Science Foundation. Representatives from NIACC and the University of Northern Iowa will develop and implement a plan to enhance teacher preparation programs for future K-12 science, mathematics and technology teachers.



for alumni  
and friends  
of North  
Iowa Area  
Community  
College

## Previous NIACC Outstanding Alumni (Pathways to Success) Speakers

**Jerry Currie**  
Class of '65

**Gerri Fiala**  
Class of '67

**Marvin Goldstein**  
Class of '63

**Donovan Haxton Jr.**  
Class of '61

**Glen Haydon,**  
Class of '54

**Dave Johnson**  
Class of '76

**Ann Madden Rice**  
Class of '77

**Melinda Masson**  
Class of '72

**Doug Opheim**  
Class of '78

**John Pappajohn**  
Class of '48

**Paula Statman**  
Class of '73

**Bill Swift**  
Class of '63

**Dan Thomas**  
Class of '79

## Copeland to Speak at 14th Annual Pathways Event

Dan Copeland, an entrepreneur and lobbyist living in Atlanta, GA, will be the honored guest and speaker for this year's Pathways to Success event to be held Thursday, April 29, on the NIACC campus.

The NIACC Alumni Association hosts this annual event to honor a select group of students for their scholarship, leadership and character. An accomplished NIACC graduate is invited back each year to share his or her "pathway to success" with the students and general audience. This person is named NIACC's outstanding alumnus for the year.

Dan Copeland is a profile of hard work, sacrifice and ambition. Growing up in rural Mississippi with 10 siblings, he left the family pig farm at age 18. He attended NIACC from 1979 to 1981, playing football both of his years here.

While living in North Iowa, he was active on campus and in the community. He was involved with the New Bethel Baptist Church in Manly, for example, where he came to know Willis Haddix, who serves on the NIACC Dormitory Board.

"Dan was a fine student and every Sunday he found his way to church," said Haddix. "Afterwards he'd come to our home for lunch. He was just like a son to us."

Copeland stays in touch with Haddix and several other North Iowans, including his former football coach Jerry Dunbar. "Danny was a very talented defensive back and running back. He was definitely one of the top players in the conference," said Dunbar, who is now retired from NIACC. "He's always been a strong citizen and very well liked."

After graduating from NIACC in 1981, Copeland went on to receive a football scholarship from the University of Arizona, where he met personal friend and basketball Hall of Famer Lute Olson. Although he specialized in speech communication, he said he always possessed an interest in politics. After graduation, he went to Canada to play pro football.

His tenacity and capacity for rising up after being knocked down carried over from the football field to business. He started a trucking company in Tucson, Arizona, in 1984 with just \$500.

By 1989, "I had more than 20 employees, 8 trucks and 28 semi trailers, and grew the business to a quarter of a million dollars in sales," recalls Copeland. In 1990, Ernst & Young named him Entrepreneur of the Year.

After eight successful years in the freight industry, Copeland said, "he wanted a change and to make a difference." He moved to Atlanta where he earned a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Morris Brown College. While establishing himself as an independent lobbyist, he founded Copeland & Associates, a public affairs and government relations firm.

Recognized by *Rolling Out* publisher Munson Steed as "The Top African-American Lobbyist in Georgia," Copeland's clients have included the Hospital Corporation of America, Atlanta Neighborhood

Development Partnership, Spelman College, Save the Family Foundation, Johnson Control, Hewlett Packard, and IBM.

Challenged by the dynamics within the political arena, Copeland maintains 10-12 hour days when the Georgia legislature is in session. "I know all 180 members of the House and 56 senators; I have established a strong relationship with all members of the Georgia legislature and traveled to all 187 legislative districts in Georgia," he said.

Copeland considers the defeat of House Bill 99, abolishing affirmative action, to be the most significant recent piece of legislation. "Affirmative action provides an opportunity for advancement in some of the most traditional and elite circles within American society. I believe the policy of affirmative action has been misunderstood, and both women and minorities, myself included, have been able to crack the glass ceiling and create business opportunities thanks to Title 99," he said.

As if keeping up with the names and positions of the newly elected and maintaining dialogue with them were not enough to keep him busy, Copeland embarked on yet another venture. Recognizing the challenges and the need for an organization to promote networking among African-American lobbyists, Copeland conceived and founded The National Black Lobbyists Group (NBLG) Inc. in January 2002.

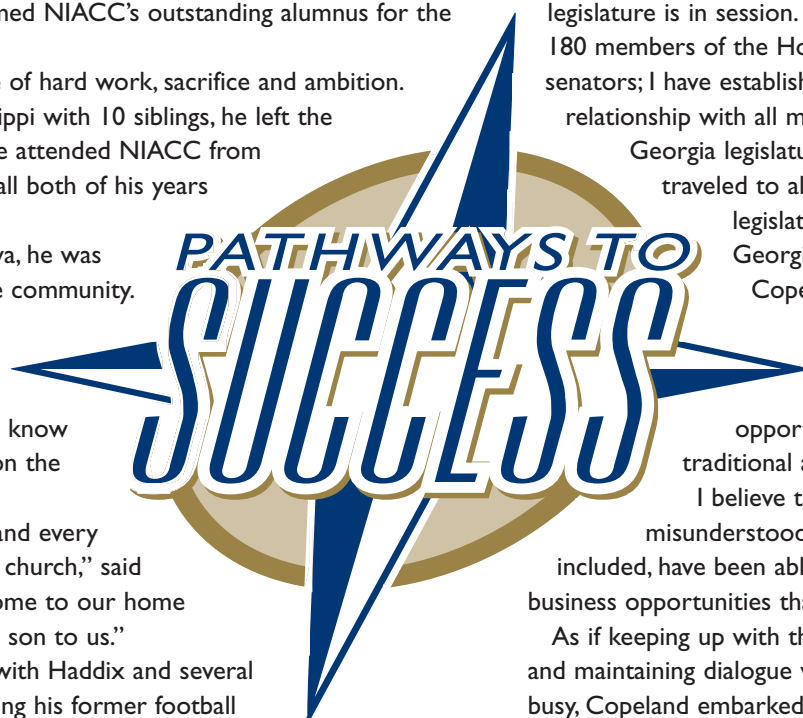
The diversity of voices within public policy is inherent to the NBLG, Inc., so named for founder's ethnicity, and reflecting an identity of a significant group often overlooked by the present political power structure. Committed to staying "in the loop and out of the dark," Copeland's golf game, his son and two daughters often must compete for his precious leisure time.

Copeland's future plans include organizing political events and conducting a speaking circuit. With dreams of public office, Copeland said, "My ultimate ambition is to be Chief of Staff for the President of the United States."

His advice for entrepreneurs and others includes being willing to take risks, make commitments and sacrifices, stay honest, keep your moral standards, and believe in yourself. "I've lost more than I've won, but I keep the faith," he said. "I love making a difference."



**Dan Copeland**



### Pathways to Success Luncheon

**April 29, 2004 ~ 11:30 a.m.**

**Muse Norris Conference Center  
NIACC Campus**

Tickets are \$7.50 and include lunch.

**Call 641-422-4188 or  
1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188**

## NIACC Enrollment Jumps Another 6%

Spring 2004 enrollment reports show a six percent increase in enrollment in credit programs at North Iowa Area Community College. NIACC students total 2,767 this spring, which means 164 more students are enrolled than last spring.

"That's incredible," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC President, said. "It shows that more and more people are taking advantage of the low-cost, high-quality education and college experience that NIACC offers. We're thrilled that we can provide the people of North Iowa with such a valuable service as a great education."

Morrison describes enrollment as a moving target. Along with the traditional 16-week face-to-face classes on the NIACC campus, the College also has classes in communities throughout North Iowa, open entry/open exit classes, eight-week classes, classes in partnership with area high schools and the hospital, classes over the Iowa Communications Network and classes online.



## Business & Education Succeed Together (BEST)

North Iowa Area Community College hosted area educators and businesses during the Business & Education Succeed Together (BEST) partners luncheon on February 17. Panelists included (l to r) John Winter of John Deere in Waterloo; Heidi Willrett of Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City; Dan Schriever of Fleetguard, Inc. in Lake Mills; and Jim Scholbrock, Principal at Lake Mills High School. The event was sponsored by the Perkins and Tech Prep Consortium, AEA 267-Clear Lake Region, NIACC and the Career Readiness Council.



ALUMNIALMANAC

**Forrest E. Gorkowski** '56 of Toledo, OH, works in the financial services industry. His firm is Gorkowski, Decker & Associates. He and his wife, Sharon, have three grown children.

**Don Avise** '60 of Newton, IA, works as a pharmacist. He is also on the Board of Directors of NADA, which publishes "Blue Book" for car values.

**Leslie F. Rogers** '71 of Kansas City, MO, works as an operating room nurse for the Research Medical Center.

**James F. Bush II** '72 of Greeley, CO, is the global customs operations manager for Hewlett Packard in Fort Collins.

**Dale E. Greimann** '74 is the superintendent of schools in the East Buchanan school district. He and his wife, **Peggy J. (James) Greimann** '75, who is a nursing home administrator, live in Independence, IA.

**Maggie (Rops) Schmitz** '74 of Cedar Falls, IA, is employed as an orthodontic technician for Dr. Michael C. Hollen.

**Russ E. Holmes** '75 of Nevada, IA, works as an attorney for a nonprofit agency.

**David C. Pederson** '76 of Carroll, IA, received the Alice Magaw Outstanding Clinical Practitioner Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. He is employed as a staff anesthetist at St. Anthony Regional Hospital.

**Becky S. Ziesmer** '77 and her husband, **David J. Ziesmer**, of Belmond, IA, both work for Belmond-Klemme Schools. She is the jr. high/high school counselor, along with the PSEO and Tech Prep liaison, and he is the high school principal.

**Danella (Rooney) Johnson** '79 of Mason City, IA, works as a medical assistant at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa.

**Eileen A. (Swanson) Mediger** '79 is a teacher in Waterville, MN.

**Jeannette E. Gehrke** '80 of Audubon, IA, works as a registered nurse for Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic.

**Scott Youngstrom** '80 of Deephaven, MN, is the vice president of finance and CFO for Compex Technologies, Inc. in New Brighton.

**William D. Zook** '80 is the store manager of Target Stores in Ankeny, IA.

**Kristin L. Aasheim** '83 of Cheney, WA, works as a medical transcriptionist for Sacred Heart Medical Center.

**Joel Whitehurst** '83 is the superintendent of schools for WEM Schools in Waterville, MN.

**James R. Clapsaddle** '84 of Alexandria, VA, is a congressional affairs officer serving as a liaison between the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Congress. He was selected for promotion to Lt. Colonel and will pin on April 1 at the Pentagon.

**Patricia L. Carroll** '85 of Grimes, IA, works at Principal Financial Group.

**Jeff E. Becker** '89 of Cincinnati, OH, works as a third grade teacher and head baseball coach for Western Hills High School. He was inducted into the High School Sports Hall of Fame last year for his accomplishments in football and baseball.

**Tom R. Meyer** '90 of Mason City, IA, is the new attorney for the City of Mason City.

**Brad L. McKenzie** '91 of Charles City, IA, recently graduated from the Iowa School of Banking. He works as the network administrator for First Security Bank & Trust.

**Bradley J. Neal** '92 of Alpine, TX, is employed by the U.S. Border Patrol as a senior border patrol agent. He also works as a Federal Law Enforcement Training Center firearms instructor.

**Michaelle R. Bahnsen** '93 of Des Moines, IA, writes quality care reviews for Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

**Shawn (Brogan) Diddy** '93 of Nashville, TN, works as a television show host for Shop at Home. In her free time, she is a freelance speaker, author, and country music singer-songwriter.

**Jessica K. French** '93 of Franklin, VA, works as a clinical social worker supervisor for the Southampton Correctional Center.

**Julia Deets** '94 of Mason City, IA, leads and manages all marketing functions for Metalcraft, Inc.

**Jami (Peterson) Maifeld** '94 is the multimedia marketing coordinator for Iowa Farm Bureau in West Des Moines, IA.

**Malinda K. Meier** '94 is employed as service manager II at Wells Fargo Bank of Mason City, IA.

**Kimberly C. Ostrander** '95 of Mason City, IA, works as an accountant for Henkel Construction Company.

**Travis Waldstein** '96 and **Amy (Tolke) Waldstein** '95 live in Shelby, IA. He works as an estimator and salesman for Aircad Inc. of Omaha, NE. She is employed at Jennie Edmondsen as a registered nurse in Council Bluffs, IA.

**Jeffrey A. Fahrmann** '97 is a bank examiner for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Hiawatha, IA.

**Christine (Braun) Gardner** '97 of Duluth, MN, works as an occupational therapist for St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic.

**Tricia (Koster) Krueger** '97 of Montevideo, MN, is a patient care technician for Davita Dialysis.

**Tadd Reilly** '97 of Jefferson, IA, is employed at American Athletic Inc. as a national account manager.

**Michael J. Frelund** '98 is the restaurant manager of Chili's Grill and Bar in Burnsville, MN.

**Brian O. Glenn** '99 of Columbus, OH, works as an underwriter for Nationwide Insurance. He played on NIACC's 1998 Pepsi Cola Bowl championship football team.

**Dawn Inman** '00 of Kasson, MN, is a registered nurse at Mayo Medical Center.

**Carol Pahl** '00 is the intranet specialist for Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City, IA.

**Elizabeth Palmer** '00 of Waukon, IA, works as an abstractor for Allamakee County and is working on her real estate license.

**Tracie J. Walser** '00 is a travel nurse in Memphis, TN.

**Clint D. Hinderaker** '01 is employed at First Heartland Financial Group in West Des Moines as a financial advisor.

**Greg Humpal** '02 of Mason City, IA, works as the MIS director for Metalcraft, Inc.

**Lori L. Willert** '02 is featured in the April 2004 issue of *Midwest Living* for her revitalization of Bolan, IA. She runs the town's lone business and began the annual Bolan Bike Ride and Fall Festival which drew 300 visitors last year.

**Lori Caspers** '03 has joined Pella in Clear Lake, IA, as planner I for the materials and scheduling team after working for 13 years at Kraft Foods of Mason City.

for alumni  
and friends  
of North  
Iowa Area  
Community  
College

Nominations  
Sought for NIACC  
Distinguished  
Alumni Award

The North Iowa Area Community College Alumni Association invites nominations for the NIACC Distinguished Alumni Award. This recognition honors individuals who have attended North Iowa Area Community College or Mason City Junior College and are making notable contributions to the College and/or their communities.

Typically, the NIACC Alumni Advisory Board selects two to three recipients each year. Honorees are recognized during the annual Pathways to Success Leadership Luncheon hosted by the NIACC Alumni Association in April.

Nominations for the NIACC Distinguished Alumni Award may be submitted electronically throughout the year by visiting the NIACC website at [www.niacc.edu/alumni.html](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.html) and choosing the "Distinguished Alumni" link.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFETIME MEMBERS

**Dixie Aeling** 1955  
Denver, CO

**John Aeling** 1956  
Denver, CO

**Gene Albers** 1957  
Pleasant Hill, IA

**Richard Angell** 1963  
Charlotte, NC

**Iola Bakken** 1953  
Northwood, IA

**Michael Bastian** 1962  
Long Beach, CA

**Dave Batten** 1975  
Apple Valley, MN

**Aaron Bender**  
Rudd, IA

**Bonnie Bergman** 1976  
Mason City, IA

**James Best** 1950  
Ridgefield, CT

**Nick Bjelica** 1972  
Charles City, IA

**Dennis Bryant** 1956  
Mason City, IA

**Debra Cahalan** 1972  
Mason City, IA

**Donald Cahalan** 1985  
West Des Moines, IA

**Jodi Cahalan** 1987  
West Des Moines, IA

**Jim Challas** 1941  
Gold Canyon, AZ

**Leon Christianson** 1977  
Lake Mills, IA

**Dan Copeland** 1981  
Atlanta, GA

**Kathryn Cordova** 1991  
Oro Valley, AZ

**Rodney Coyan** 1982  
Sammamish, WA

**Nellie Crafton** 1956  
Denver, CO

**Margaret Crawford** 1971  
Mason City, IA

**Jerry Currie** 1965  
Mason City, IA

**Susan Currie** 1964  
Mason City, IA

**Marian Dickinson** 1939  
Mason City, IA

**David Donaldson** 1964  
Stanhope, NJ

**Toni Downey** 1976  
Scotch Plains, NJ

**Janice Evans** 1977  
Windsor Heights, IA

**Norma Everest** 1958  
Dubuque, IA

**Darrell Fisher** 1955  
Mason City, IA

**James Friest** 1959  
Decorah, IA

**James Fullerton** 1975  
Mason City, IA

**Mary Nell Fullerton**  
Mason City, IA

**Mary Gallagher** 1941  
Rockwell, IA

**Lois Gallope** 1992  
Dumont, IA

**Jeffrey Gobel** 1982  
Houston, TX

**Michael Grandon** 1964  
Clear Lake, IA

**Jeffrey Greiman** 1981  
Boulston, MA

**Dean Haaland** 1977  
Perry, IA

**Jean Hagen** 1972  
Iowa City, IA

**Richard Halsor** 1949  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Carmen Hamilton** 1977  
Eden Prairie, MN

**Edward Hanes** 1952  
Clear Lake, IA

**Joel Hanes** 1949  
Mason City, IA

**Joyce Hanes**  
Mason City, IA

**Sally Hansen** 1963  
Tucson, AZ

**Donovan Haxton, Jr.** 1961  
Laurel, MD

**Glen Haydon** 1954  
West Des Moines, IA

**James Heddens** 1946  
Titusville, FL

**Dana Heimbuch** 1996  
Mason City, IA

**Robert Heimbuch** 1996  
Mason City, IA

**Denise Held** 1972  
Everett, WA

**John Hitzhusen** 1934  
Charles City, IA

**Donna Hitzhusen**  
Charles City, IA

**Daryle Holbrook**  
Jacksonville, FL

**Shawna Holbrook**  
Portland, OR

**Tammy Hove** 1986  
Charles City, IA

**Rodney Hungerford** 1970  
West Chester, PA

**Marilyn Johanns** 1995  
Osage, IA

**Dave Johnson** 1976  
Moorpark, CA

**Barbara Kellogg** 1970  
Mason City, IA

**Abby Keppler** 2001  
West Union, IA

**James Kranz** 1971  
Grover, MO

**Virginia Kriechel** 1946  
Albuquerque, NM

**Barbara Kulik**  
Lawrence, CA

**Kevin Lange** 1976  
Waterloo, IA

**Vikki Lansing**  
Sioux Falls, SD

**Harvey Leberman** 1957  
Newton, PA

**Steven Lind** 1982  
Cedar Falls, IA

**Nancy Lind** 1983  
Cedar Falls, IA

**Daryl Long** 1959  
Peru, NE

**David MacMillan** 1963  
Waverly, IA

**Barbara MacMillan**  
Waverly, IA

**Dames Marinis** 1953  
San Bernardino, CA

**Melinda Masson** 1972  
Laguna Beach, CA

**Barbara McMurchy** 1990  
Floyd, IA

**Julie Merfeld** 1984  
Dike, IA

**Patrick Merfeld** 1985  
Dike, IA

**Gail Meyer** 1977  
Clear Lake, IA

**Lothar Meyer** 1971  
Clear Lake, IA

**Timothy Meyer** 1979  
Clear Lake, IA

**Ruth Miller** 1973  
Mason City, IA

**Mildred Milligan** 1947  
Mason City, IA

**Mary Montgomery** 1992  
Moston City, IA

**Mary Morris** 1989  
Mason City, IA

**Marilyn Murphy** 1974  
San Antonio, TX

**Phyllis Murphy** 1950  
Mason City, IA

**Alan Opheim** 1974  
Iowa City, IA

**John Pappajohn** 1948  
Des Moines, IA

**Mary Pappajohn**  
Des Moines, IA

**Tel Pappajohn** 1949  
Mason City, IA

**Kary Paulson** 1967  
Northwood, IA

**Gene Payne** 1941  
Mason City, IA

**Stephen Perry** 1972  
Mason City, IA

**Max Peters** 1950  
Clear Lake, IA

**Robert Peterson** 1967  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Stephen Peterson** 1981  
Panora, IA

**Larry Phillips** 1965  
Tapoco, NC

**Richard Pitman** 1963  
Columbus, IN

**Julie Reed** 1986  
Ames, IA

**Dalton Reineking** 1971  
Mason City, IA

**Larry Rhutasel** 1960  
Freeburg, IL

**Jayson Ryner** 1991  
Nora Springs, IA

**Meredith Saunders** 1949  
Urbandale, IA

**Linda Schaefer** 1970  
Mason City, IA

**Dennis Schoenwetter** 1966  
Forest City, IA

**Terry Schumaker** 1994  
Mason City, IA

**Mark Schuver** 1967  
Lafayette, IN

**Debra Sedars** 1971  
Clear Lake, IA

**Jerry Sedars** 1971  
Clear Lake, IA

**Anthony Slinger** 1989  
Charles City, IA

**Joan Snell** 1965  
Mason City, IA

**Wendy Snelling**  
Clear Lake, IA

**Paula Statman** 1973  
Oakland, CA

**Kent Stevens** 1984  
Decorah, IA

**Derek Steveson** 1989  
Phoenix, AZ

**Mary Stibal** 1969  
Boston, MA

**Valerie Stratton** 1980  
Ankeny, IA

**Thomas Swanson** 1962  
Nora Springs, IA

**William Swift** 1963  
Traverse City, MI

**Jay Urdahl** 1973  
Mason City, IA

**Kristine Urdahl**  
Mason City, IA

**Roberta VanDeWalker** 1957  
Mason City, IA

**Richard Vogel** 1977  
Marshalltown, IA

**Gloria Walker** 1952  
Cincinnati, OH

**Esther Walls** 1946  
New York, NY

**Roger Watson** 1961  
Tucson, AZ

**Leah Weber** 1987  
Charles City, IA

**Quinn Weber**  
Charles City, IA

**Dennis Webner** 1963  
Sergeant Bluff, IA

**David Wempen** 1989  
Hampton, IA

**Robert Wilkinson** 1952  
Honolulu, HI

**Bryan Williams** 1995  
Clear Lake, IA

**Toni Williams** 1984  
Clear Lake, IA

**Thomas Wilson** 1980  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Linda Wright** 1966  
Alexandria, VA

**Barbara Yankey** 1993  
Mason City, IA

**Jon Yankey**  
Mason City, IA

**Tiena Zbornik**  
Charles City, IA

**Rose Zemanek** 1957  
Davenport, IA

**Shannon Zimmerli**  
Chariton, IA

**Mary Zishka** 1988  
Mason City, IA

IN MEMORY

*Alumni (by class)*

**Viola M. Stricker** '92

October 2, 2003

**Meta Weber** '90

November 30, 2003

**Byron J. Pommrehn** '89

December 7, 2003

**Scott Woodruff** '89

February 10, 2004

**Paul C. Van Ness** '88

November 8, 2003

**Robert L. Olson** '88

November 29, 2003

**Susan J. Dietz** '88

December 26, 2003

**Thad A. Abele** '87

**David P. Gatton** '83

September 8, 2003

**Ellen K. Morehouse** '83

October 20, 2003

**Jerry L. Stufflebeam** '83

December 13, 2003

**Kirby L. Thompson** '83

August 7, 2003

**Marcus B. Kopps** '80

December 18, 2003

**LeRoy H. Weitzel** '77

August 25, 2003

**Kevin G. Schachterle** '76

February 1, 2004

**Randall L. Hoy** '76



# Business Bash 2004

The Mason City Chamber of Commerce and the North Iowa Area Community College Career Center have joined forces to offer a great



opportunity for businesses to connect with potential employees and customers. Business Bash 2004, scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, brings together the annual North Iowa Business Expo and the Campus Job Fair.

NIACC students and the general public are invited to meet with business representatives in the exhibit hall (gymnasium) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no admission charge. The exhibit hall will be closed between 11:30-1:00 for the luncheon speaker in the Muse Norris Conference Center. Tickets to hear State Budget Director Randy Bauer are \$15 and include lunch.

The Business Bash will culminate with an appearance by Larry Winget at 7 p.m. in the North Iowa Community Auditorium as part of the NIACC Leadership Series. One of

the country's leading business speakers, Winget is a philosopher of success and failure who just happens to be hilarious. Tickets are \$15 in advance.

For tickets, please call the Mason City Chamber of Commerce at 641-423-5724.



**Larry Winget**, known as the "pit bull of personal development," will appear at NIACC on April 6 for Business Bash 2004. He delivers key insights about how to thrive in today's changing world and make a difference in our professional and personal lives.

## NIACC

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