



for alumni and friends of
North Iowa Area Community College



inTouch

NIACC Partners with Four-Year Schools

During the 2007-2008 academic year, NIACC has announced new partnerships with Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa and Waldorf College.

"NIACC's new partnerships all advance the seamless delivery of higher education opportunities for our students, providing more examples of higher education acting for the public good. The beneficiaries of these programs are our students, their parents/guardians and our entire region," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

New NIACC partnerships include:

ISU-NIACC Admissions Partnership Program

Iowa State University and NIACC have joined forces to make it more convenient for NIACC students who want to earn a bachelor's degree to transfer to Iowa State. Through the Admissions Partnership Program, NIACC students who plan to pursue bachelor's degrees at Iowa State will receive special benefits to help pave the way for academic success at both schools. Students accepted into the Admissions Partnership Program will receive the following benefits while still enrolled at NIACC:

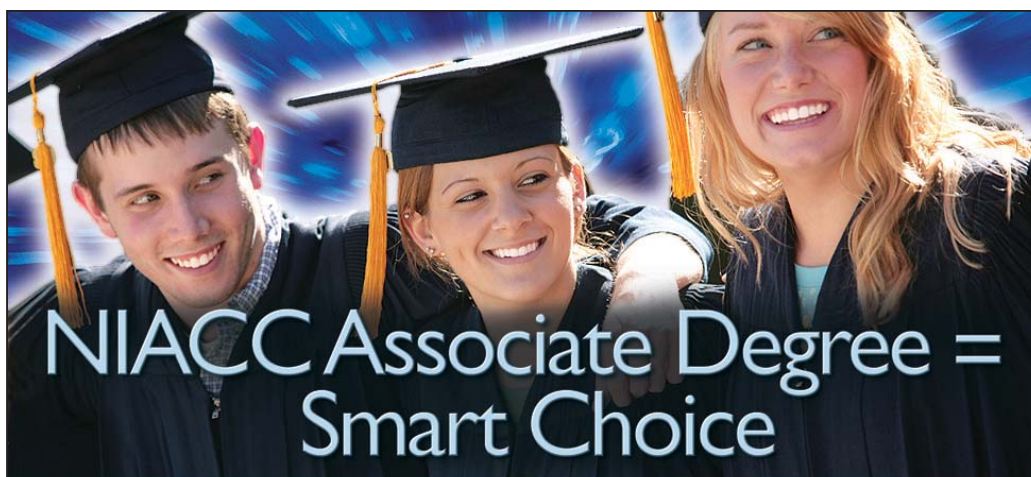
- Advising and guidance from NIACC and Iowa State
- Student services
- Career fairs and career services
- Library facilities
- Extracurricular activities and opportunities
- Recreational facilities and programs
- Athletic events and entertainment events at student prices
- Exhibits and cultural events
- Opportunities to live in ISU housing

"Our Admissions Partnership Program with Iowa's community colleges has been very successful in giving Iowa students more educational benefits and options, and we are delighted to expand this innovative program with the students, faculty and staff of North Iowa Area Community College," said Iowa State University president Gregory L. Geoffroy. "Iowa's community colleges play an important role in educating Iowa students, and we look forward to welcoming many North Iowa Area Community College students into this program, and, in the future, as students at Iowa State."

Students who want to be a part of the Admissions Partnership Program must enroll at North Iowa Area Community College as a degree-seeking student in a program appropriate for transfer. Following admission to NIACC, students will work with their NIACC counselors to complete and submit an Admissions Partnership Program application form. A student who is accepted into the program by Iowa State:

1. Meets with his or her NIACC counselor each semester prior to registration or as required;
2. Consults with an assigned ISU academic adviser to develop a transfer plan and to make any changes to that plan
3. Follows a course of study at NIACC that will meet ISU entrance requirements and fulfill college and program requirements for his or her intended major;
4. Submits an ISU Undergraduate Application for Admission form and pays an application fee to ISU, one semester prior to transferring to Iowa State.

Additional information about the Admissions Partnership Program is available online at



NIACC Associate Degree graduates enjoy proven success at transfer institutions!

Get the perfect fit for your future today!

1-888-GO NIACC



www.niacc.edu

<http://www.admissions.iastate.edu/partnership>, through a NIACC counselor or through an ISU transfer admissions counselor (515 294-9334 or 800-262-3810.). Applications are available now at NIACC. For more information, call 641-422-4245 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC.

University of Iowa-NIACC 2 Plus 2 Transfer Plan

NIACC students can now benefit from the University of Iowa's 2 Plus 2 Guaranteed Graduation Plan.

Under the 2 Plus 2 plan, UI advisors will help NIACC students select the right courses to receive an Associate of Arts degree in two years at NIACC and successfully transfer to Iowa, where they can earn a bachelor's degree in just two more years, guaranteed.

NIACC offers 37 degrees and programs. The 2 Plus 2 plan is currently available to NIACC students in about 15 majors, including business, psychology and sociology.

Earlier this year, the UI also announced a new \$1,000 scholarship for incoming 2 Plus 2 students with the highest grade-point averages. Overall, the 2 Plus 2 program is designed to help ease the transition between schools.

NIACC students are encouraged to enroll in the 2 Plus 2 plan during their first year of community college in order to benefit most from the degree-planning assistance of Iowa's 2 Plus 2 advisors. High school students headed to college also are encouraged to investigate the plan's potential to save them time and money.

In addition to early Iowa advising, 2 Plus 2 participants enjoy access to UI library and career-planning resources and discounted admission to select UI cultural and athletic events with their UI student ID.

For more information about the 2 Plus 2 plan, visit <http://www.uiowa.edu/2plus2/>.

UNI-NIACC Admissions Partnership Program

The University of Northern Iowa and NIACC have partnered to make it more convenient for NIACC students who want to earn a bachelor's degree to transfer to UNI. Through the Admissions Partnership Program, NIACC students who plan to pursue bachelor's degrees at UNI will receive special benefits to help pave the way for academic success at both

schools. Students accepted into the Admissions Partnership Program will receive the following benefits while still enrolled at NIACC:

- Guaranteed admission to UNI, provided all requirements are met. Students are admitted to majors on the same basis as UNI students. Students entering with an AA degree containing a minimum of 60 semester hours of transferable credit will enroll at UNI with junior standing.
- Timely progress toward graduation. With the exception of some UNI programs, participation in the Admissions Partnership Program enables students who stay on track to begin at NIACC and graduate from UNI in a total of 8 semesters.
- Option to lock-in bachelor's degree requirements with the same status as a student who enrolls directly at UNI as an entering student. Students will be held to the graduation requirements in effect at the time the student is admitted by their academic major department to their major program of study.
- Academic advising at both NIACC and UNI from the point of acceptance into the Admissions Partnership Program.
- Early orientation and scheduling for the first semester at UNI.
- Guaranteed placement in UNI housing, provided the student complies with established residence policies and application procedures and deadlines.
- Access to campus and student resources at UNI. Some resources require payment of the student activity and services fee.
- Receipt of updated college materials and information about campus events and opportunities.
- Updated NIACC transcripts sent to UNI automatically at the end of each semester.

"UNI has a long history of working closely with Iowa's community colleges," Dr. Ben Allen, University of Northern Iowa president, said. "Community colleges in general, and NIACC in particular, play an important role in providing higher education to Iowans. With this agreement, we hope to make earning a bachelor's degree a reality for more and more Iowans."

This marks the first Admissions Partnership program of its kind for UNI.

continued on page 2

NIACC PARTNERS continued from page 1

Students who want to be a part of the Admissions Partnership Program must enroll at North Iowa Area Community College as a degree-seeking student in a program appropriate for transfer. Following admission to NIACC, students will work with their NIACC counselors to complete and submit an Admissions Partnership Program application form. A student who is accepted into the program by UNI must:

- Enroll at NIACC in a course of study appropriate for transfer to the desired program at UNI.
- Review courses taken prior to participating in the Admissions Partnership Program with NIACC and UNI advisors to determine how these courses will apply to the UNI curriculum and, if appropriate, apply for the Admissions Partnership Program.
- Once accepted into the program, meet with a NIACC advisor/counselor each semester prior to registration to select coursework that will meet the requirements as indicated in UNI's transfer plan.
- Consult with NIACC and the UNI APP advisors before altering a previously agreed upon course schedule.
- Consult with a UNI advisor each semester of enrollment in the Admissions Partnership Program, prior to transfer.
- Provide a copy of his/her NIACC course schedule to the appropriate advisor at UNI each semester.
- Earn and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in all transferable coursework and meet individual college or degree program requirements. Students planning to transfer with fewer than 24 academic credits must meet UNI freshman

admissions requirements and have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA in all transferable coursework. The 2.0 cumulative GPA transfer policy does not assure acceptance into all programs, a number of which have additional requirements. Other guidelines may apply.

- Complete and submit a UNI Intent to Enroll Form to the UNI Office of Admissions along with official transcripts from all colleges and universities at which the student attempted coursework.

Additional information about the Admissions Partnership Program is available online or through a NIACC counselor or through an UNI transfer admissions counselor. Applications are available now at NIACC. For more information, call 641-422-4245 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC.

Waldorf College-NIACC Joint Admission Program

NIACC and Waldorf College now have a Joint Admission Program between the two colleges that will benefit NIACC and Waldorf students as well as the North Iowa community. Under this agreement, students may apply for and be admitted to NIACC and Waldorf simultaneously.

Students wanting to participate in the program must meet four conditions. First, the student needs to complete the NIACC admissions process and a supplemental form for the Joint Admission Program; second, they must meet the admission requirements of both institutions; third, transfer to Waldorf will be contingent upon the completion of an associate's degree at NIACC, with a minimum GPA of 2.00; and fourth, a student must fulfill the degree requirements of each institution in order to receive an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree.

for alumni and friends of North Iowa Area Community College

In addition to signing to the Joint Admission Program, the two college presidents also signed an A.S.B./Business B.A. Articulation Agreement. This agreement will allow a student completing an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science in Business at NIACC to complete a bachelor's degree in four years of full-time study (the last two years at Waldorf), provided that the student follows guidance from NIACC and Waldorf in the selection of courses.

"The joint admission program and the articulation agreement with our business programs represent an important day for the students of north Iowa," Dr. Richard Hanson, Waldorf president, said. "By working together, Waldorf College and North Iowa Area Community College have provided enhanced services for our students. These agreements are good for both colleges, but more importantly, they represent a willingness to work together for the sake of our students."

As part of this agreement, both NIACC and Waldorf will work to provide students with information about the programs and degree requirements of both institutions. In addition, Waldorf will provide scholarships of \$1,000 each for Joint Admission Program students, upon transfer to Waldorf; offer one free course at Waldorf for each NIACC sophomore in good standing, who is enrolled in the Joint Admissions Program; and provide Joint Admission Program students with a Waldorf student ID card, for participation in activities at Waldorf.

For more information about the Joint Admission Program, contact the Waldorf College Admission Office at 641-585-8112 or the NIACC Admission Office at 641-422-4245 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4245.

Pappajohn Honored with Woodrow Wilson Award

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institution presented the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship to John Pappajohn this fall. Pappajohn was presented with a crystal award from the Center's board chairman, the Honorable Joseph B. Gildenhorn, and associate director, the Honorable Fred Bush.

"John Pappajohn is a leader who truly embodies the spirit of Woodrow Wilson and his ideals of scholarship and public service," Joseph Gildenhorn said. "We are very pleased that the Board of Trustees has decided to honor him with The Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship."

John Pappajohn received The Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship for his corporate accomplishments, community involvement and philanthropic dedication. Currently the president of Equity Dynamics, Pappajohn has enjoyed much success in the corporate world. One of the region's early venture capitalists, he is the founder of Guardsman Insurance Investors, has been involved in over 100 start-up companies and has served as the director of over 40 public companies throughout the United States, leading them all with distinction and skill. Combining excellence in his business with an acute awareness of community needs, he is deeply committed to education in Iowa. As a NIACC alumnus (Pappajohn graduated from Mason City Junio College), John's commitment to education can be seen through the John and Mary Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at NIACC as well as those at various other educational institutions across the state. His active participation with the Horatio Alger Association, the Anatolia College Board of Trustees, the University of Iowa Foundation Board of Trustees and his own John and Mary Pappajohn Higher Education Center demonstrates his commitment and dedication to knowledge and learning.

John and Mary Pappajohn recently

announced the \$20-30 million gift of 16 pieces of outdoor sculpture for the proposed new John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Garden located in the Western Gateway Park. This contribution is believed to be the largest single public gift in the city's history, and exemplifies John's longstanding desire to support the welfare of the community.



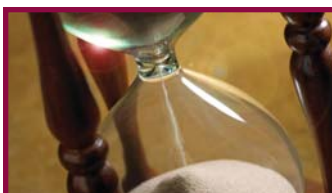
John Pappajohn

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, established by the U.S. Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the living national memorial to the United States' 28th president. The Center is one of the three American institutions (along with the National Gallery of Art and the Kennedy Center) created by congressional statute to perform a national mission within the Smithsonian Institution and is governed by its own Board of Trustees that is appointed by the U.S. President.

Mayer Earns All-American Honor at Cross Country Nationals

North Iowa Area Community College sophomore Dan Mayer, a graduate of West Central Valley High School in Stuart, Iowa, finished 35th overall at cross country nationals and earned U.S. Citizen All-America honors as the NIACC men's cross country team finished 21st overall at the 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association cross country championships.

Mayer ran the 8,000-meter course in a time of 26 minutes, 7 seconds at nationals to finish 17th among American finishers. For more information on NIACC's cross country program, visit www.niacc.edu/athletics.



Where are you now?

We want to know what you've been doing since your days at North Iowa Area Community College or Mason City Junior College!



Check out our website at **www.niacc.edu/alumni** for more information on the Alumni Association and click on "You're Still the One" to update your information.

NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Celebrates Business Incubator with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

NIACC and its John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Business Incubator and Regional Business Information Center on the NIACC campus late this fall. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the facility, meet the new tenant businesses and discover how the NIACC-JPEC can help all businesses achieve more.

The Business Incubator was built through the support of the Small Business Administration and Congressman Tom Latham. This on-campus business incubator represents the first step toward a region-wide business incubation system that supports new start-ups and existing home-based businesses as they transition to full scale operation. The regional business information center provides a tremendous resource to facilitate the growth of existing businesses in the region.

"This is the fulfillment of a three year effort dating back to an early meeting with Congressman Latham where he challenged our original thinking," Jamie Zanios, NIACC JPEC director, said. "He encouraged us to find a way to 'reuse and rehabilitate' existing space rather than build all new space. Heeding his advice and working with our regional partners in economic development, we embraced regional incubation. The hub being opened today is the start, not the finish line. We couldn't be more pleased!"

A business incubator provides the ideal next step for a home-based business that wants to get out of the basement, garage or back bedroom. Unlike new incubators where funding shortages limit the types of services and equipment available, the incubator employs the full assets of the College to help businesses help themselves. The JPEC holds a wealth of business experience, but NIACC also has other things that few can offer: modern manufacturing equipment for prototyping, wet lab space for biotechnology and chemistry, access to

both on and off site research libraries, specialized and general business training, access to different types of debt and equity financing and opportunities to network with other entrepreneurs.

"With the excellent resources available at NIACC, I am optimistic that our incubator will help entrepreneurs be successful and improve both job creation and job retention in North Iowa," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

The Regional Business Information Center provides tenants and other JPEC clients with a variety of resources, including on-site consulting on financial, marketing, domestic/foreign sales, human resources and operational issues, access to the top business research library, a multimedia conference center and promotional activities.

"Many think that the attraction of a business incubator is inexpensive rent, but the real strength of a business incubator is the high survival rate," Mark Olchefske, NIACC regional business development center director, said.

"Because of the intensive consulting services and resources available, companies that have graduated from incubators have a long term survival rate that is twice the national average. Most important, space is still available."

For tenants of the NIACC JPEC Business Incubator, there is a contractual obligation that goes beyond a typical lease. Each business' financials are reviewed monthly and the owners are coached on different aspects of business, especially in areas where there is weakness. The owner owns the business and makes the decisions, but there is a strong, experienced support network.

Plans extend beyond the confines of the campus to embrace the entire nine county area in North Central Iowa. From the outset, the plan was to make NIACC a hub around which several small incubators that are located in the surrounding counties orbit. The satellite incubators will enable new companies to stay close to their local



Sam Jones, State (IA) Small Business Administration Director, spoke at the Business Incubator ribbon cutting.

communities but have access to many of the same services available on campus. The overarching objective is to create a North Iowa Regional Business Incubation System that will maintain a steady stream of new business opportunities for local residents.

For more information on the NIACC JPEC Business Incubator, contact Olchefske at olchemar@niacc.edu or call (641) 422-4191.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the new Business Incubator.

Fergola Earns Coaching Excellence Award

North Iowa Area Community College head wrestling coach Richard Fergola was honored by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) for his work as head coach at Dana College in Nebraska last year.

"We are very proud of Coach Fergola's national recognition for his role in the outstanding academic outcomes that his team experienced last year at Dana College," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

Fergola was honored as The Robert Bubb Coaching Excellence Award Winner for the Division NAIA College Coaches for his work in the 2006-07 season.

"The Robert Bubb Coaching Excellence Award is presented by the NWCA each year to the outstanding coach in each wrestling division for outstanding team academics. In addition, the award winner must also be a coach that epitomizes the qualities and characteristics of a role model and mentor for developing young student-athletes," according to the NWCA.



John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation Donate \$250,000 to NIACC Recreation Center

The NIACC Foundation and Linda Kay, representing the John K. & Luise V. Hanson Foundation, announce a grant of \$125,000 this year as part of a total commitment of \$250,000 from the John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation to the NIACC Foundation in support of the new NIACC recreation center.

"We truly appreciate this great leadership gift and vote of confidence in NIACC by the Hanson Foundation. This gift significantly enhances NIACC's ability to meet the long-term needs of current and future students," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

The Hanson Foundation has a great history of supporting North Iowa and has grown as a benefactor of NIACC over the years. Their last major gift provided for the renovation of the North Iowa Community Auditorium.

"This new recreation center will offer a much-needed recreational facility that will provide a place where the student body can exercise and engage in sports activities.

The new center should also increase retention, is very important for recruitment of new students and will benefit thousands of current and future students, which is part of the Hanson Foundation's guidelines, 'To enhance the quality of life in this North Central Iowa area through activities involving youth, recreation and programs affecting large groups of people,'" Kay said.

The continuing success of the College and its mission rely upon gifts to the NIACC Foundation.

"Gifts to the NIACC Foundation from individuals, institutions and other foundations have played an increasingly important role enabling the NIACC Foundation to meet its mission of support for the College. We hope others will take the time to get to know NIACC and the critical role it plays in North Iowa and also consider following the lead of the Hanson's in providing much needed financial resources to support student activities, enriching the college environment and

experience, providing much needed scholarships, providing enrichment opportunities for valued instructors and much more. If people have an interest, we would welcome their call to visit with us about how we can help match their interest to the important work of the College," Jamie T. Zanios, director of the NIACC Foundation, said.

The NIACC Foundation's mission is to support the College through scholarships, fundraising for special projects, grants for instructor education or other areas of need to help the College work toward its mission. If you have an interest in learning more about the NIACC Foundation or would like to see how you can help secure the future of the College and its excellence through a gift to the NIACC Foundation, please contact us at (641) 422-4386.

NIACC and Mercy Medical Center Foundations Offer Gift Planning Seminar on April 21

Make plans to attend "What's the Plan? A Creative Gift Planning Seminar" on Monday, April 21, in the Muse-Norris Conference Center at NIACC presented by the North Iowa Area Community College Foundation and Mercy Medical Center Foundation. The event will offer current information on planned giving presented in an understandable and entertaining manner as well as continuing education credits.

"I'm pleased Mercy Foundation and NIACC Foundation are able to offer this seminar to help people realize the advantages of estate planning," Scott Smith, executive director of the Mercy Foundation said.

Presenter Pamela Jones Davidson, J.D., has been a nationally recognized speaker in charitable gift planning for over two decades.

"Having seen and heard Pamela Davidson at several national and regional seminars, I can attest to the value of her presentations. We are fortunate to have partnered with the Mercy Foundation to invite her to North Iowa for presentations to donors and planned giving professionals. This is a *'don't miss'* opportunity," Jamie T. Zanos, NIACC Foundation director said.

Davidson serves as president of Davidson Gift Design, a consulting firm specializing in gift planning, planned giving program design and implementation, plus training, which is located in Bloomington, Indiana. From 1985 through 1996, she was with Indiana University Foundation as its executive director of planned giving and associate counsel. She has been an examiner in the Estate and Gift Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service and practiced law with an Indianapolis law firm. Davidson was the 1999 president of the National Committee on Planned Giving after serving on its board in various capacities for six years.

The seminar will consist of three segments. The

morning session (8-10:30 a.m.) will highlight how and why Boards need to encourage gift planning for their organization; the Board's role in supporting a proactive gift planning program; simpler gift plans that further personal planning goals and philanthropy that all donors can consider; how to talk to real people about real gift ideas; and using unproductive assets made productive in a charitable plan.

Next, a luncheon (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) will be held for those people interested in philanthropy and tax strategies to learn "Why Planned Giving is Good for You!" There will be no request for donation to the NIACC or Mercy Foundations; however, information will be provided on tax benefits and strategies on overall benefits of planned giving whether one is considering a gift to any institution or charity or just wanting to learn more about the tax advantages and wealth transfer options. The lunch session will focus on gift ideas at different life stages that often further personal planning goals, like providing income for a surviving spouse and living in a home or on a farm for life. These ideas can be revocable or irrevocable and often use assets that, now or in future, are a problem to dispose of or distribute.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register for the event, please contact the NIACC Foundation office at 1-888-466-4222, ext. 4386; 641-422-4386; or foundation@niacc.edu.

The afternoon session (1:30-5 p.m.) will consist of continuing education for attorneys, accountants, insurance professionals and professional financial advisors. Participants will learn about charitable plans and techniques, life or term income plans, simple gift planning options and ethics in charitable planning. For professionals participating in the afternoon session, three hours of CLE credits have been approved. Three hours of

life/health insurance continuing education credits have also been approved.

"What's the Plan? A Creative Gift Planning Seminar" afternoon session costs \$50 per person on or before April 11 and \$75 per person after April 11, and pre-registration is requested. To register, call the NIACC Continuing Education office at 1-888-466-4222, ext. 4358 or 641-422-4358, and mention course reference number 57389. Credit cards and checks are accepted.



Pamela Jones Davidson, J.D.

NIACC (and Iowa Employers) Celebrate 99% Placement Rate

North Iowa Area Community College celebrates a 99 percent placement rate as reported in the 2007 Career Placement Report.

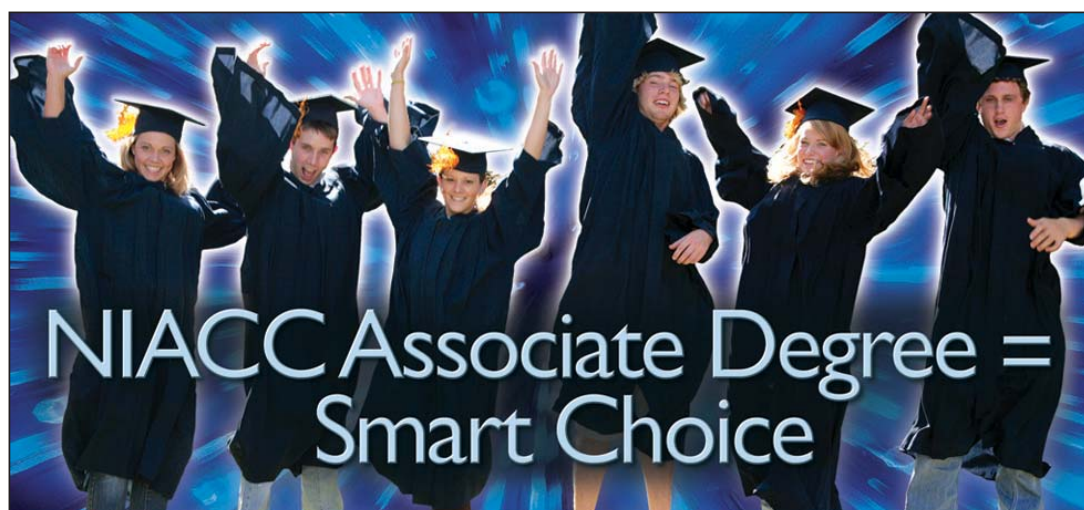
The 2007 Career Placement Report study, conducted by the NIACC Career Center, involved 220 graduates of the one- and two-year training programs in the College's Business, Health, Agriculture and Industrial Technology divisions. The survey response rate was 89 percent.

"The College serves area residents by providing training opportunities for high demand careers with attractive wages, and serves our business community by developing a well-trained workforce," said Terry Schumaker, NIACC Career and Internship Center director, noting that NIACC's placement rate has exceeded 90 percent for more than a decade. "At a time when Iowa faces population declines and predicted workforce shortages, it is important that our skilled graduates are staying in Iowa."

Of 34 career programs with graduates in 2007 at NIACC, 31 experienced 100 percent placement. It is not uncommon for NIACC graduates' starting salaries to compete with experienced level wages across the state and nation. Some of the top starting salaries went to NIACC students completing studies in the areas of associate degree nursing (ADN); licensed practical nursing (LPN); physical therapist assistant (PTA); information systems technology; agricultural sales and service; climate control technology; tool and die technology; and automotive service technology.

The Career Center provides services for businesses, NIACC students and NIACC alumni. The Center conducts job fairs and career/college days, works with students on choosing a major, conducting a job search and partners with Iowa Workforce Development to match up businesses with qualified job seekers.

For more information, contact the Career Center at 641-422-4170 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4170.



75% of jobs in the workforce will require more than a high school education and less than a 4-year degree.

Get the perfect fit for your future today!

1-888-GO NIACC



www.niacc.edu

THE STRATEGIC VALUE continued from front cover

graduate with a baccalaureate degree from the Regents' institutions (UNI, ISU and UI).

Native Regents students experience an average 62-64% graduation rate. (This comparison isn't totally an 'apples to apples comparison.' NIACC is sending its very best to the Regents. On the other hand, the Regents by law accepted the top fifty percent of the high school graduation class. The bottom line is that our students perform exceptionally well at the Regents' institutions.) This acceleration effect is vital to compete in a global economy where innovation, creativity and adaptation favor those who are prepared to compete.

95-100. Ninety-five to one hundred percent of our career graduates enjoy placement in their chosen field. In fact, 32 of 37 of our career programs enjoyed a 100% placement rate last year! A GIS analysis of NIACC alumni

reveals that 71% live in Iowa. These facts serve as obvious strategic workforce advantages.

21.7. Harvey Siegelman, former economist for the State of Iowa, and Dan Otto, professor of economics at ISU, studied the benefits of community college acceleration programs across the state. Specifically, they found that due to students earning early college credits while in high school, it saved the State of Iowa \$21.7M in state general aid to more expensive educational institutions. This is a yearly savings! Improved efficiencies are one way to compete in a global economy!

30.7. Siegelman and Otto likewise determined that acceleration saved students and parents \$30.7M in future college related educational expenses. Again, these are yearly savings! Siegelman and Otto estimate that the total return on investment for community college acceleration programs is 535%. These savings are becoming more

important for our society as the increasing costs of higher education become an access barrier. By saving students and their families a considerable amount of money, acceleration improves access and, as we have seen, graduation rates.

In summary, acceleration is a win-win-win program. It's a vital strategic asset in our arsenal to ameliorate the adverse effects of the perfect storms.

My hat is off to the educational leaders throughout Iowa who have made this initiative such a successful outcome. I also commend progressive legislators who years ago established incentives for community colleges and high schools to work together to foster a more seamless and efficient educational system. It's working!

Dr. Michael C. Morrison is President of North Iowa Area Community College.

Entrepreneur for a Day Program Partners with RSVP of North Central Iowa

Entrepreneur for a Day (E4D), the entrepreneurship education program created by North Iowa Area Community College's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, announces a partnership with RSVP of North Central Iowa. Volunteers from RSVP of North Central Iowa will serve as instructors for classes in the Entrepreneur for a Day program.

"Entrepreneur for a Day is a wonderful way to teach North Iowa fifth graders about entrepreneurship and creativity. We are looking forward to this new partnership with RSVP. The combination of NIACC instructors and RSVP volunteers will enrich the educational experience for students," Dr. Mark Johnson, NIACC vice president for academic affairs, said.

The two-day class introduces students to entrepreneurship and provides them with the idea that they can become job creators. With activities in Central Springs, Forest City, Mason City, Newman Catholic and on the NIACC campus, students learn the definition of an entrepreneur and what important resources an entrepreneur needs as well as team work on selecting a product, taking a loan from a bank, buying resources and selling the product to determine whether their company made a profit. Students complete the Entrepreneur for a Day program with an understanding of the difficulties of running their own business and the rewards of being their own boss.

"RSVP is pleased to be partnering with the Pappajohn Center and the Entrepreneur for the Day program. This leading edge, exciting program fits well with the RSVP mission and vision. It brings together young people with

hopes, dreams, ideas and visions for the future and pairs them with adults who know how to instill this entrepreneurial spirit. RSVP volunteers or 'facilitators' will fill an important role by supporting and guiding students in the E4D program. Students will benefit by working with people who have experienced risk-taking, used critical thinking skills and made their dreams come true!" Elaine Hanson, RSVP executive director, said.

"The RSVP volunteers bring with them a wealth of knowledge and a strong desire to want to make a difference with these young students. Combining RSVP programs with a program that the kids really love will make this an even better program," Tim Putnam, NIACC JPEC associate director, said.

An entrepreneurial national service program, RSVP of North Central Iowa has been sponsored by Waldorf College for 10 years. The partnership is characterized by a strong, dynamic and vibrant relationship, sharing parallel missions and values of "reaching out in service to others." RSVP volunteers model this ethic of service as they serve in RSVP programs such as Academic Coaches, Reading Coaches, Reading Buddies, Breakfast Buddies and Conversation Partners.

For more information on the Entrepreneur for a Day program, contact Tammi Heard at 641-422-4234 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4234 or email heardtam@niacc.edu.

For more information on RSVP of North Central Iowa, contact Hanson at 641-585-8294.



Students from Central Springs participate in the Entrepreneur for a Day program.

Davis Joins College Board

Robert Davis of Mason City has joined the NIACC Board of Directors. Retired in 2001, Davis served as NIACC vocal music instructor/director for 26 years. Davis earned his Bachelor's in music education from Parsons College and his Master's in music education from Drake University. He and his wife, Eloise, have three children (all NIACC graduates), Paul, Kristin and Andrea, and four grandchildren. Davis has been involved with Trinity Lutheran church volunteer activities.



NIACC Sets Record for Spring Enrollment

North Iowa Area Community College's five percent enrollment increase translates to a record 3,180 students attending the College this spring.

North Iowa Family Health Care, Matthew & Nicolle Amos Receive Funding from NIACC JPEC Revolving Loan Fund

North Iowa Area Community College's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (NIACC JPEC) announced that Matthew and Nicolle Amos, of North Iowa Family Health Care, received \$20,000 in funding from the NIACC JPEC Revolving Loan Fund.

North Iowa Family Health Care, P.L.C. (NIFHC) is the culmination of a long-held dream of its sole provider, Nicolle Amos, ARNP; her vision is providing healthcare based on a model where a patient can expect to be treated with care and compassion, and given the time and attention needed to address their individual healthcare needs at each visit. The clinic is located at 100 1st St. NW in Mason City, Iowa.

"The health care industry is in a constant state of change and the time required to submit the necessary reporting was taking away from the time we had available to see patients. Since we've received this loan, we've been able to order new computers and software, hire additional help, and see more patients every day," explained Matt Amos, general business manager.

The NIACC JPEC received a \$99,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development to establish the Revolving Loan Fund. Revolving Loan Funds will assist businesses with the acquisition and development of land, easements and rights-of-way; construction, conversion, enlargement, repairs or modernization of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities and pollution control and abatement facilities; startup operating costs and working capital; and technical assistance for private business enterprises.

NIACC Instructor Peggy Bang Selected 2007 Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator

Peggy Bang, NIACC Visual Arts instructor, has been selected as the 2007 Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator by the Art Educators of Iowa (AEI).

"I'm excited and honored to be recognized for this honor by my peers," Bang said.

Bang has been an instructor at North Iowa Area Community College in the Visual Arts Department since 1985. This December, Bang will celebrate 35 years as an art educator.



Click and give today!

Now you can make a tax-deductible gift to the NIACC Foundation easily from home! Online donations are accepted using your Discover, MasterCard or Visa, and you may stipulate how the gift should be used.

The secure site is accessible from the NIACC Foundation homepage at: www.niacc.edu/foundation



Former NFL Player and NIACC Alum Shawn Harper Shares His Message by Jarrod Tell

A white station wagon pulls to the side of the road in between two cornfields near Mason City, Iowa. Shawn Harper, a recently recruited offensive lineman from Columbus, Ohio, gets out of the car. He looks at his mom, who came with him from Columbus just the day before. His mom, still in the car, looks at him and says, "This is it, son, sink or swim." And with those seven words she leaves Harper in the middle of those two cornfields.

"And the rest is history," says Harper.

Shawn Harper is the only NIACC football player in the NJCAA Hall of Fame, as well as one of the few to ever play in the NFL. Until Marshall Yanda was drafted by Baltimore in the third round of 2007, Harper was the highest drafted football player to have ever attended NIACC. In his seven-year NFL career, Harper played in Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Houston, and NFL Europe. While at NIACC, Harper honed his skills in football, and took steps to overcome a stuttering problem to become a motivational speaker after his NFL playing days.

Looking back, Harper says NIACC was a big part of his journey, and through his experiences here, he learned a lot about people and their cultures.

"I had an absolute blast at NIACC," Harper said. "Some of my experiences were hanging out at Clear Lake and traveling to the other small towns just to experience the culture, the people, being introduced to things like Iowa chops. But one of my greatest experiences is learning that people are people where ever you go."

During his short stay at NIACC, Harper had to grow up fast. While in high school, he graduated with a 1.62 cumulative GPA, last in his high school class. On his final day, he had no idea what he was going to be doing for the rest of his life. However, NIACC head coach Dick Ramsey, who was recruiting in Ohio, got a recommendation from Harper's high school coach. The unexpected phone call from Ramsey didn't seem like much at the time, but it proved to be a turning point in Harper's life.

"Coach Ramsey called me and he invited me up, and I said, 'You know what, I'm not doing anything else. I'll go,'" Harper said.

After accepting the offer, Harper loaded up the family station wagon with his mom, and drove to Mason City. When they reached Mason City, his mom helped with a loan and financial aid, and on the second day told Shawn to "sink or swim."

To keep his head above water, Harper grew fast to keep up with the new things being thrown at him on the field, in the classroom and in life.

"I think the biggest change was there was an increased level of competition (on the field), but



Shawn Harper played for teams like the Indianapolis Colts.

now all the responsibility is directed upon you," said Harper. "You've got to take responsibility for your decisions now. If you don't show up, you don't show up. If you're not going to study, you're not going to study. My situation was worse because I had no support system. I couldn't drive home on weekends and get a pep talk from my mom and dad. I'm twelve hours away. All that responsibility was being thrust upon me at once."

Since he was so far away from home, he rarely got back home and remained on campus to get extra help for classes during the summer. That decision became a defining moment, says Harper, and former NIACC football assistant coach John Oertel agrees.

"Staying here during the summer is what really opened the door for him to become the football player he was and make it to the NFL," Oertel said. "He knew what he had to do, and he was willing to make the sacrifice academically and in the weight room."

But Harper said he did go home every once in a while, like the time Harper and three other players hopped into a Saab and drove the twelve hours home to stay for two days and to get a home made meal. Most of the time, he didn't have to go nearly as far for a home-made meal: "In my second year, there were two professors--Mr. Snyder and Mr. Love; those guys every once in a while would make a meal for us or invite us over."



NIACC 2007-2008 Athletic Update

The 2007-2008 academic year has produced some great moments as the current group of Trojan Athletes added their chapter to the storied history on North Iowa Area Community College Athletics.

Volleyball

The Lady Trojan Volleyball Team posted a 13-23 record. Freshman Middle- Hitter, Sarah Heineman (Garrison/ Vinton- Shellsburg) led the team in kills and solo blocks. Heineman was rewarded by being selected to the second Team All – Region XI squad.

Football

Third year Coach Scott Strohmeier and his Trojan squad had another tremendous season. The 7-4 campaign was highlighted by a return trip to the Graphic Edge Bowl. The squad was led by All-Americans Lorenzo Brown (So. Bristol, CT/ Eastern HS) and Kyle Staudt (So. Charles City HS).

Staudt and Brown were among eight Trojans that were selected to the All Region Team.

Wrestling

NIACC made a return to the mat in the 2007 season, reinstating the wrestling program that had been out of action since the 1976 season. Coach Richard Fergola and the Trojans returned with a vengeance, placing fourth in the nation. Three NIACC wrestlers were crowned National Champions at the NJCAA National Tournament in February. Trojan Champions were Albert White (Harvey, IL/ St. Rita HS, DeVaughn Perkins (Omaha, NE/ North) and Glenn Rhees (Atascadero, CA).

Cross Country

Coach Cu... women's Cr... productive... NJCAA nati... The men'... country and... Mayer. May... selected to... Team.

The wom... the best sch...

NIACC was also a spring board for the playing field. Harper never played in his first year, but through his work, he became a key offensive lineman for the Trojans during sophomore year.

"He was a young man who had tremendous potential physically just because he was so big," Oertel said. "But he had some problems, like his flat feet. They made him kind of slow, but he overcame that with the tenacity to do the things he was going to be asked to do."

Coach Mark Tigges, Harper's offensive line coach, agrees with Oertel about Harper's potential.

"He came in as a big guy who was really raw," Tigges said. "You could tell he had talent, he just needed to develop it, and that was the biggest thing with Shawn, getting his skills developed to the next level. He was always a strong kid, it was just his feet were a little slow."

Harper's NIACC moment came against Ellsworth, in what he believes was one of the best games he ever had. An offensive lineman doesn't get glamorous stats, his name in the paper all that often, nor receive very much credit outside the locker room. But it was this game and the compliments afterwards that sent Harper to the next level and beyond.

"It was at that moment I began to realize that I had a potential to play Division I and possibly NFL football," Harper said. "At the end of the game I remember Coach Ramsey, Coach Oertel, and a couple of other coaches congratulating me, and it was how they were congratulating me, and it gave me that spark. I had never really started in high school football. I had no honorable mentions, no all-conference, no nothing. In the first year I never stepped on the field on play. I began to realize, and people began to realize, 'Hey, you have something.' That game changed my life."

Harper received another unexpected phone call that year from an Indiana University scout. Harper, as mentioned before, an Ohio native, had one thing on his mind when it came to Indiana football, and he didn't need much convincing to become a Hoosier.

"All I was thinking about was Big-10 football," Harper said. "So when he called me from Indiana University, I was like, 'I'm there. No other team in the country has a chance, it's a done deal.'"

Harper took more than just the teachings he received at NIACC, he also took the positive experiences he had valued over the past two years that he would use for the rest of his life.

"NIACC prepared me just by being in a different environment. It allowed me to transfer and cope a lot easier when I got to Indiana University. The education (at NIACC) is top notch, and that is what helped me the most."

Harper went for a visit when the Indiana football team was practicing and noticed right away what he was in for. Harper says the fact everybody at that level was All-American or All-State was intimidating, but he worked through the ranks. But it was off of the field Harper

found his most lasting experience, his relationship with head coach Bill Mallory.

"He was a great coach," said Harper. "He was a father to me. He showed how a man is supposed to live. He showed me integrity. He showed me to stand by my word. I knew he loved me more than just a player, he loved me as a person. The guys were great, football was awesome. But my greatest experience was playing for a legend like Bill Mallory."

Harper was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in the 4th round of the 1992 NFL Draft. During his career, Harper played for the Rams, the Houston Oilers, the Indianapolis Colts, and three years in NFL Europe with the Amsterdam Admirals and Frankfurt Galaxy. He played on the same teams as future Hall of Fame running backs Marshall Faulk in Indianapolis and Jerome Bettis in Los Angeles, Hall of Fame lineman Bruce Mathews in Houston, and Hall of Fame lineman Jackie Slater in Los Angeles.

Harper sums up the NFL in two words, fast and blessing. Everything about the level was quick, but he says it was one of the hugest blessings of his life to play.

"It was a blessing to play with that elite fraternity of men, to play at that level, to be recognized at that level as being the best of the best is absolutely amazing," Harper said. "One of the best experiences of my life and I will always cherish it and carry it."

After retiring from the NFL, Harper became a motivational/inspirational speaker. Harper stuttered while he was growing up, and he says it didn't really improve until he got to college. One day he was in a sociology class, he finally found the catalyst that unlocked his speaking abilities.

"I was speaking and this girl said to me, 'Shawn, do you notice how people listen to you when you talk?' I was like 'No,' and she said 'Pay attention next time.' With that spark, I noticed people are listening to me, and I began to build confidence."

"When the football season ended, they would ask people to come in and speak for charities

and groups. I was thinking when football was over the opportunities would happen diminish, but the opposite happened and people kept calling me and calling me and calling me."

The opportunity has given Harper the chance to travel all over the country as well as the world. He has spoken in Egypt, Swaziland, South Africa, Australia, and all over Europe.

Harper was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame while playing at Indiana, and even though the honor was unexpected, it's still an honor that Harper takes very seriously.

"I was incredibly honored," said Harper. "I didn't know I made such an impact to the game, but I was blessed to have an honor, and I also realize that honor came with a responsibility to hold up the integrity of the game. I carry it with honor but know it comes with a responsibility."

But Harper still brings credit back to that small community college surrounded by a sea of cornfields on the eastern edge of Mason City, where he chose to swim rather than sink.

"But what is so amazing is, it all began with one phone call," Harper said, pausing to gather his thoughts for the next sentence. "It all started with a phone call from Richard Ramsey that I almost didn't accept. And the rest is history."

Harper has some food-for-thought he would like to pass on to all student-athletes:

"Recognize the moment. Most people miss it in life because they miss opportunities. Right now is one of the greatest opportunities in your life, and you have to be able to recognize the moment and to recognize the opportunity and to capitalize on it. You have a chance to put yourself on a platform to Division I, II, and III schools. This is a very important opportunity, and if you get distracted you will miss it."

"Recognize the moment, because in two years, it is gone," he continued. "Remember this: always start with the end in mind; it all comes down to the power of choice. You aren't born winners or losers; you're all born choosers."

Jarrod Tell is a NIACC student intern for NIACC Athletics.



Shawn Harper talks with NIACC baseball player and Logos student newspaper reporter Matt Borgford.

country

Artis Vais and the men's and cross country teams finished a season by competing in the national meet this past fall.

The team finished 21st in the and were led by sophomore Dan er placed 35th overall and was the U.S. Citizen All- American

en placed 28th, posted some of school times in recent history.



If there's a will, there's a way.

Many alumni and friends of NIACC have supported the College through a bequest.

If you plan to include NIACC in your will, the preferred legal bequest language for the NIACC Foundation is: *"I bequeath to the North Iowa Area Community College Foundation, EIN 23-7023677, presently at 500 College Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401, (written amount or percentage or fraction of estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use."*



Directed bequests and other requests are always welcome.

For more information, visit www.niacc.edu/foundation or call the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

North Iowa's Regional Economic Groups Announce Results of North Central Iowa Laborshed Study

Few things are more important for the quality of life in North Iowa than progressive economic development. For the second time in two years, North Iowa's key economic development stakeholders have come together to conduct an important study – a regional Laborshed Analysis. Eleven North Iowa economic development groups worked with North Iowa Area Community College and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) to complete the study and are now pleased to share the results with North Iowa.

"The significance of this study is found in both the content derived from the analyses and, perhaps more importantly, the willingness of economic development organizations to work together on a regional basis to advance our prospects for a better quality of life," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said. "Hats off to our economic development and business partners for working together for a common goal. Working together is working smarter."

Iowa's Laborshed studies provide the North Central Iowa region and communities within the region the ability to document and illustrate the characteristics of their labor force.

Information found in the Laborshed report consists of commuting patterns, current and desired wages/salaries, available labor, workforce skills and employment numbers/percentages by industry in the Laborshed area.

As part of the full-fledged regional report, there are also 11 individual community reports for Belmond, Britt, Charles City, Clear Lake,

Forest City, Hampton, Lake Mills, Mason City, New Hampton, Northwood and Osage. These communities will be able to use their local reports as well as the North Iowa regional report information.

The new Laborshed study shows that 83.1 percent of people in the region are employed, 5.5 percent are unemployed, 5.8 percent are homemakers and 5.6 percent are retired. Of the homemakers, 32.4 percent are willing to re-enter the workforce. Of the retirees, 16.8 percent are willing to re-enter the workforce.

Laborshed results also show that 28.9 percent of individuals in the region would be interested in operating their own business, and 65.5 percent of people in the area have some education/training beyond high school.

The industry composition of North Central Iowa, according to the Laborshed, is 20.7 percent manufacturing, 16.4 percent health care and social services, 11.9 percent education, and 10.4 percent wholesale and retail.

"By performing Laborshed studies through a regional effort, communities are able to share in the expense associated with the studies (economy of scale). The North Central Iowa Regional Study is comprised of 2,447 surveys which gives the region a wealth of information when it comes to identifying the strengths of the labor force," Paula Nissen, IWD project manager, said.

The North Central Iowa Laborshed is a result of the cooperative effort between many economic development groups.

The groups of North Central Iowa that

partnered on these studies include Charles City Area Development Corporation, Clear Lake Economic Development Corporation, Forest City Economic Development, Franklin County Development Association, Hancock County Development, Lake Mills Chamber Development Corporation, Mason City Economic Development Corporation, Mitchell County Economic Development Committee, New Hampton Economic Development Corporation, North Iowa Area Community College, Winn-Worth BETCO and Wright County Development Corporation.

"As a result of the updated laborshed study, the North Iowa region continues to possess an excellent economic development tool to use for the betterment of our existing industry base as well as to help us recruit the appropriate types of businesses to North Iowa," Terry Schumaker, NIACC and IWD economic development director, said. "The collaborative effort of the economic development groups of North Iowa both financially and time-wise was the key component in making these studies a reality. NIACC was pleased to have the opportunity to lead and coordinate the overall effort."

The Laborshed study for North Central Iowa was sponsored in partnership with Alliant Energy, Aquila, Butler County REC, Iowa Telecom, Iowa Workforce Development, MidAmerican Energy, North Central Iowa Alliance, NIACC, and Prairie Energy Cooperative on behalf of the cities of Britt and Garner.

New NIACC Foundation Board of Directors

The NIACC Foundation elected three North Iowans to its Board of Directors Jesús Avilés of Mason City, Bill Cooney of Clear Lake and Cathy Rottinghaus of Charles City joined the NIACC Foundation Board in 2008.

Jesús Avilés of Mason City has been in the gaming business for 34 years and is currently the General Manager at Diamond Jo Casino in Northwood. He graduated from Briar Cliff University with a business degree and has worked to complete his MBA. He has served as Chairman of the Iowa Gaming Association and Treasurer of the Missouri Gaming Association. He has also served on the Boards of NPR; KWIT 90 in Sioux City; Sioux City Chamber of Commerce; Big Brothers Big Sisters; New Perspective Initiative; and the United Way. He is a Rotarian and a Trustee of the Boy Scouts of America and is currently serving on the Mason City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Jesús and his wife, Aida, have two daughters and one granddaughter.

Bill Cooney of Clear Lake graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1978. He is currently an Investment Management Consultant at Raymond James & Associates, Inc. in Mason City and previously worked for Piper Jaffray. Cooney is a member of the Raymond James Institute of Investment Management Consulting. He has taught several finance classes for Buena Vista University. His community involvements include the Mason City Masonic Temple, Mason City Elks Club, treasurer for the North Iowa Tennis Club and former president of the Clear Lake Booster Club. Bill and his wife, Julie, have three sons, one daughter and two grandchildren.

Cathy Rottinghaus of Charles City is the Community President at First Citizens National Bank in Charles City, where she has been employed for 22 years. She earned her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University. Rottinghaus is the secretary/treasurer of The Learning Center in Charles City, vice president of the Charles City Area Development Corporation and co-chair of the Capital Fund Drive for the YMCA of Charles City. She is the former treasurer of the YMCA of Charles City and has served on various committees of the Charles City Area Chamber of Commerce. Cathy and her husband, Clair, have three sons and one daughter.



NIACC Instructor Mosiman Honored at Cisco Networking Academy 10-Year Anniversary Salute



North Iowa Area Community College information technology program leader and instructor Mary Mosiman, along with 102 instructors and alumni from across the nation, help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cisco Networking Academy.

"We are pleased to acknowledge a select group of Cisco Networking Academy alumni and instructors at the 10-year anniversary salute," said Gene Longo, senior manager of the Cisco Networking Academy U.S. Field Operations.



NIACC JPEC Selected As One of Four Targeted Small Business Advocate Service Providers in Iowa

North Iowa Area Community College's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center has been selected as one of four Targeted Small Business Advocate Service Providers in the state by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

The Targeted Small Business (TSB) program is designed to help individuals that have historically been underrepresented as business owners; specifically women, minorities and people with disabilities. Other than being 'full-time, for profit,' there are very few limitations on business type, so retailers are eligible for assistance. Eligible companies may receive financial assistance in the form of low interest loans or loan guarantees. The NIACC JPEC provides technical assistance to help improve each business' chances for long term success.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to expand this unique and innovative state program throughout North Central Iowa," noted Mark Olchefske, NIACC JPEC Incubator/Accelerator director. "Helping businesses grow is a team sport; the local economic development agencies, schools and colleges, Small Business Development Center, Iowa Workforce Development, local governments and all of North Iowa have a vested interest in the ongoing success of these enterprises. Polk County alone has over four times the number of targeted small businesses that North Iowa has in NIACC's entire nine county service area. Together, we can do a better job of promoting and utilizing this program to help North Iowa businesses. This is a great program and one of the few that retailers are eligible for also. Let's make it really work for North Iowa!"

Students, Alumni to be Honored at 18th Annual Pathways to Success

The public is invited to attend the NIACC Alumni Association’s 18th Annual Pathways to Success luncheon on Thursday, April 10, 2008. The event is scheduled over the noon hour in the Muse Norris Conference Center on campus.

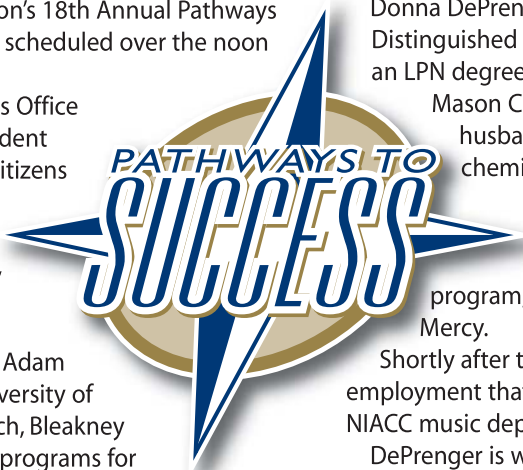
Tickets are available for \$11.00 through the NIACC Business Office (1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188). Sponsors include the NIACC Student Senate, Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors, and First Citizens National Bank.

During the program, more than 50 current students will be recognized for their scholarship, leadership and character, and two alumni will be honored for their accomplishments.

Adam Bleakney, Class of 1997, is the keynote speaker and NIACC’s Outstanding Alumnus for 2008. A Mason City native, Adam currently lives in Savoy, IL, where he is head coach of the University of Illinois wheelchair track and road racing squad. As head coach, Bleakney develops individualized and comprehensive annual training programs for student athletes as well as serving as the lead track instructor for numerous community based and national level sports clinics.

Bleakney also works as a free-lance web and print designer for Free-lance Creative Development in Champaign, Illinois. He develops and deploys full-scale web sites from design to programming.

Adam is currently training for the Beijing 2008 Paralympics. Adam and his wife, Laura, have one son.



Donna DePrenger, of Mason City, will be named 2008 NIACC Distinguished Alumna. She graduated from NIACC in 1967 with an LPN degree and in 1969 with an Associates of Arts degree.

Mason City Junior College is what brought Donna and her husband Don to the Mason City area. Don was hired as a chemistry instructor in 1965. Donna was working as the supervisor for the Candy Strippers at Mercy Hospital when she decided to pursue a LPN degree. Following her completion of that

program, Donna worked as an LPN at Park Hospital and was then assigned to Mercy.

Shortly after that Donna pursued an Associates of Arts degree, which led her to employment that reflected one of her passions. Donna was hired as an assistant in the NIACC music department. She served as a piano instructor at NIACC for 16 years.

DePrenger is widely known throughout Mason City for her community involvements including her current contributions to the Mason City Foundation, Community Kitchen, Chautauqua Circuit, Matinee Musical, Monday Club and Order of the Eastern Star. She is also the director of the hand bell choir at First Presbyterian Church in Mason City. Several other community groups have benefited from her membership over the years.

Donna and her late husband, Don, have two children, Dan and Annie, who are also NIACC graduates, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



ALUMNI ALMANAC • **1960s** • Alumni Almanac • **Dick Hayes ’66** was selected to be part of an all-star panel of Iowa Realty brokers and owners. He is recognized as a leader in the Iowa Realty statewide network. • **Russell Bieri ’67** is a retired COL from the Iowa National Guard. He lives in Ankeny, IA. • **1970s** • **Connie Schmidt ’71** is employed as a Registered Representative by Vanguard in Scottsdale, AZ. She lives in Mesa, AZ. • **Mike Romig ’72** was inaugurated as 2008 president at the Iowa Association of Realtors annual convention. He has been a member since 1987 and holds a GRI Realtor designation. • **Denise Schaefer ’72** has been promoted to assistant manager of client services at The Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA. • **Cindy (Ostrander) Christensen ’75** is employed as a Media Associate for Cedar Falls Schools. She lives in Cedar Falls, IA with her husband, Doug. • **1980s** • **Julie (Harris) Hupp ’81** is employed with Rockwell Collins, Inc. in Cedar Rapids, IA as the Manager of Internal Audit. She lives in Ely, IA with her husband, Evan and three boys. • **Lauri Nelson ’83** is employed with Curries Manufacturing in Mason City, IA as staff accountant. • **Doug Rurup ’83** is licensed in home, auto and commercial business insurance and is employed by Edwards-Brandt Insurance Agency in Mason City, IA. He lives in Clear Lake, IA with his son, Austin. • **Amy (Pascoe) Simpson ’86** is employed with the Mason City Human Rights Commission. She lives in Mason City, IA with her husband, Robert. • **Mark Sinnwell ’86** is the owner of Catherine Doyles Pub in Waterloo, IA. He lives in Waterloo with his wife, Beth and two girls. • **Sandra (Heinemann) Muzzey ’87** is a Vocal Music Instructor for Eagle Grove Schools. She lives in Eagle Grove, IA with her husband, David. • **Bill Byerly ’88** is the Administrator at the Nora Springs Care Center. He lives in Mason City, IA with his wife, Katie and son. • **Sue Heston ’88** is the Operations Manager at Armour-Eckrich Meats, LLC in Mason City, IA • **Marty Goepel ’89** is employed with Curries Manufacturing in Mason City, IA as Director of Order Systems. • **Domenie LaGue ’89** is employed by The Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA as a Senior Client Implementation Manager. • **John Laughlin ’89** is employed as an archaeologist with the State of Wyoming. He lives in Laramie, WY. • **1990s** • **Craig McLaughlin ’91** is employed as a master claims representative for Allied Insurance. He lives in Huxley, IA with his wife, Susan. • **Matt Faltis ’92** is employed as a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Hedges Realty. He lives in Cedar Rapids, IA. • **Matt Ritter ’92** is employed as Vice President and Cashier of Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co. in Clear Lake, IA. He lives in Clear Lake with his wife, Renee. • **Quint Askildson ’93** is the production coordinator at American Crane in Garner, IA. • **Sharon Johnson ’93** lives in Nashville, TN and is employed as an RN at the Vanderbilt Heart Institute in Nashville. • **Dustin Petersen ’93** is a partner with McGladrey & Pullen, LLP. He lives in Ankeny, IA with his wife, Nicole and three children. • **Laura Werstein ’93** is employed as a Physical Therapy Assistant with Iowa Health Systems in Des Moines, IA. She lives in West Des Moines with her husband, Mark and two children. • **Doreen (Hubka) Dohlman ’94** is employed with Jaspersen Insurance and Real Estate as an Agent and Customer Service Representative. She lives in Sheffield, IA with her husband, Doug and family. • **Dan Franks ’94** has received the American Towman ACE Award for achievement in service performance. He is employed with Franks Repair in Clear Lake, IA. • **Keith Richardson ’94** is employed with Plymouth Rock Assurance Co. in Boston, MA. He lives in Medford, MA with his wife, Pamela. • **Heather (Grimm) Wright ’94** is the Workforce Program Supervisor for the Workforce Development Partnership between North Iowa Area Community College and the Iowa Workforce Development Center. She lives in Osage, IA with her husband, Glen and two sons. • **Lisa (Downing) Stahl ’95** is employed with Castle & Cooke as a Property Manager. She lives in Wausau, WI with her two children. • **Carol (Clarke) Weber ’95** is employed by Larson Storm Doors in Clear Lake, IA. She lives in Osage, IA with her husband, Darrell. • **Emile (Meyer) Wegner ’95** is a Food Safety Specialist for the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals. She lives in Clive, IA with her husband, Jason and daughter, Madigan. • **Melissa (Hanson) Schoneberg ’96** is the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa. • **Christine (Goodnow) Collins ’97** is employed at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette, CO. She lives in Northglenn, CO with her husband, Richard. • **Jacob Mertz ’97** is employed with Faro Technologies, Inc., in Kennett Square, PA. He lives in Glen Mills, PA with his wife, Katie. • **Melissa (Papouchis) Sedgwick ’97** is employed with the Davenport Community School District. She lives in Davenport, IA with her husband, Brian. • **Danielle (Welsh) Howe ’98** is employed as the Quality Outcomes Coordinator at T.A.S.C. in Waukon, IA. She lives in Waukon with her husband, Jason and boys. • **Randy Martinson ’98** is employed by Culligan Water of Mason City, IA as a household sales representative. He lives in Garner, IA with his wife, Sarah and three children. • **Brian Sedgwick ’98** is employed with the Davenport Community School District. He lives in Davenport, IA with his wife, Melissa. • **Amanda (Wrage) Stayner ’98** is employed with Curries Manufacturing in Mason City, IA as a Technical Support Manager, overseeing the Curries drafting department. • **Keith Stough ’98** is employed by Tom Rouse State Farm Insurance in Charles City, IA. He is licensed in all lines of insurance and securities. • **Chris Dobel ’99** is employed by Hogan-Hansen P.C. as an accountant in Mason City, IA. • **2000s** • **Jennifer (Bugge) Fleis ’00** is employed with Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse, WI as a Registered Nurse. She lives in Onalaska, WI with her husband, Adam. • **Jeffrey Gansen ’00** is employed by KIMT-TV in Mason City, IA as the marketing director. He lives in Mason City with his family. • **Jared Kellar ’00** graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in May 2007 and has opened his own practice, Clear View Eye in Mason City, IA. • **Kevin Knudson ’00** is employed with the

City of Mason City. He lives in Clear Lake, IA with his wife, Nicole. • **Joshua Paul ’00** is employed with the U.S.A.A. Bank in San Antonio, TX. He lives in San Antonio with his wife, Vanessa. • **Stanley Schultz II ’00** is employed with SLS Enterprises in Mason City, IA. He lives in Clear Lake, IA with his wife, Sheyanne. • **Adam Steenblock ’00** is employed by Monat Financial Services in Waterloo, IA and has earned the designation of investment adviser representative. • **Abby (Keppler) Cline ’01** is a Captain with the Iowa National Guard. She is also employed with the USPS as a Rural Carrier Associate and with Keppler Custom Hire as a Heavy Equipment Operator. She lives in Decorah, IA with her husband, Nathan. • **Jason Zirbel ’01** is employed at Texas Roadhouse in Cedar Falls, IA. He lives in Waterloo, IA with his wife, Amber. • **Jessica Baade ’02** graduated from Des Moines University in May 2007 with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She is a Physical Therapist with Mercy Clinics in Ankeny, IA. • **Holly (Goll) Brink ’02** is employed as a Social Worker at Oakwood Care Center in Clear Lake, IA. She lives in Clear Lake with her husband, Brandon. • **Miranda (Stark) Eilders ’02** and her husband, James, are the new owners of the Nora Inn restaurant in Nora Springs, IA. • **Andrew Helgeson ’02** is employed as a loan officer at the Pocahontas State Bank in Pocahontas, IA. He lives in Pocahontas with his wife, Amber. • **Nicole (Meyer) Knudson ’02** is employed with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City, IA and lives in Clear Lake, IA with her husband, Kevin. • **Kristin (Caspersen) Schwarcz ’02** is employed by Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa in Mason City, IA. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Jordan. • **Holly (Winter) Friederich ’03** is employed at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City, IA. She lives in Iowa City with her husband, Ryan. • **Anthony Gulick ’03** is employed with Hed in Mason City, IA. He lives in Mason City with his wife, Danielle. • **Jeff Myhre ’03** is employed with AgVantage FS in Lyle, MN. He lives in St. Ansgar, IA with his wife, Brittany. • **Rosie Perez ’03** passed the American Association of Medical Assistant's CMA certification/recertification for medical assistants, earning the CMA credential. She is employed by Mercy Dermatology with Dr. Joseph Plank in Mason City, IA. • **Todd York ’03** is employed with Orchard Place in Des Moines, IA. He lives in Johnston, IA with his wife, Shanna. • **Melissa Ansley ’04** is employed as a Corporate Paralegal with Williams Mullen in Richmond, VA. • **Megan (Hatzky) Hummel ’04** is employed with North Iowa Oral Surgery in Mason City, IA. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Nathan. • **Tyler Jansen ’04** is employed by West Hancock Schools in Britt, IA. He lives in Clear Lake, IA with his wife, Kelly. • **Adam Oppermann ’04** is employed by The Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA. He lives in Clear Lake, IA with his wife, Mallory. • **Kimberly (Jass) Upmeyer ’04** is employed with Dr. Pat Carney, DDS, in Clear Lake, IA. She lives in Garner, IA with her husband, Nicholas. • **Sheyanne (Oudekerk) Schultz ’04** is employed in the critical care unit at Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa in Mason City, IA. She lives in Clear Lake, IA with her husband, Stanley. • **Nicholas Upmeyer ’04** is employed with Brakke Implement in Mason City, IA. He lives in Garner, IA with his wife, Kimberly. • **Sarah Gress ’05** currently works in the office at C.W. Beamgard's Co. Inc. in Atwood, KS. She lives in Trenton, NE and is attending the University of Nebraska - Kearney. • **Ara (Rumeliote) Servantez ’05** is employed with Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa in Mason City, IA as an RN. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Brad and two children. • **Sarah (Larkin) Dunning ’06** is employed as an RN at Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa in Mason City, IA. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Scott. • **Derek Engh ’06** and his wife, Lizanne have purchased the Britt Lumber Co. in Britt, IA. They live in Kanawha, IA. • **Laura (Fullerton) Howe ’06** is employed at The Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA. She lives in Nora Springs, IA with her husband, Dustin. • **Kelly (Ihrke) Jansen ’06** is employed with Eastern Iowa Therapeutics. She lives in Clear Lake, IA with her husband, Tyler.

Send us YOUR update by visiting the NIACC website at
www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm
and choosing “I Wanna Talk About Me.” We look forward to hearing from you!

IN MEMORY • **Alumni (by class)** • 1934 Jane D. (Williams) Davison, 93 • Ruth P. (Grupp) Snyder, 91 • 1938 Lenore C. Clifford, 93 • 1940 Lloyd L. Fairbanks, 88 • 1941 Thomas R. Colloton, 86 • Virgil L. Pederson, 86 • Willis L. ‘Bill’ Thompson, 86 • 1960 Norman D. ‘Boppa’ McClaskey, 71 • 1961 Raymond G. Gardner, 68 • 1967 Edna R. Eden, 89 • 1970 Michael S. Barron, 57 • 1974 Mark D. Dockwell, 53 • 1979 Richard L. Overturf, 48 • 1986 Darla C (Trampel) Reed, 41 • 1988 Tom E. Coyle, 46 • 1992 Dianne F. Ott, 63 • 1993 Valera ‘Val’ A. (Rooks) Hovelson, 64 • 1994 Julie R. Eskildsen, 52 • **Other NIACC Friends** • David J. Abell, 46 • Gladys M. Adams, 82 • Margaret E. Aspenson, 79 • Esther V. Basinger, 83 • Warren H. Baskerville, 60 • Robert A. Brown, 87 • Leta E. Bryant, 79 • Darlene ‘Dolly’ Butner, 70 • Merlyn D. ‘Mike’ Byington, 77 • Vickie J. Dockwell, 56 • Barbara G. Dutcher, 73 • Sue E. Eckenrod, 42 • Dan N. Frudden, 80 • Atlo H. Grelk, 98 • Arnold P. Hogen, 85 • Lenore Huber, 81 • Harold C. Mead, 88 • Keith S. Noah, 87 • Alf H. Oines, 85 • Jarrod J. Opkis, 38 • Alf Oswald, 79 • Lillian E. Owen, 90 • Allen ‘Al’ W. Rannals, 74 • Joyce M. Sanchez, 59 • Dorothy M. Sawyer, 91 • Steven R. Schnell, 50 • Mary M. Smith, 92 • Charlotte Swartz, 96 • Darlys F. Vlantes, 52 • George E. Woekle, 71 • Luella I. Yakel, 82 • Patricia L. Yount, 48

The Alcorn Alumni: A Father and Son Story

Kit Alcorn and his father, Terry, have carefully navigated the path to entrepreneurship and created a successful family business operation, Quality Pump and Control, located in Mason City. NIACC has been one of the stops they both shared along the route taken to develop this partnership. Terry graduated from Mason City Junior College, the predecessor to NIACC, with an AA degree in 1961 and Kit earned his degree in 1997. When Kit and Terry discussed the concept of forming a business partnership, they returned to NIACC as a team and participated in the FastTrac program.

When asked what he remembers about his time spent getting his AA degree at Mason City Junior College, Terry recalls "the friends made and the ease of moving on from high school – there was a very caring faculty at the college." After receiving his AA degree, Terry served in the Army before pursuing a career in sales and marketing. It was during his sales career that Terry discovered the company which would become the vehicle for a business partnership with his son, Kit.

Kit graduated from Sac City High School in 1995. "I chose NIACC first, graduating in 1997, and then I earned my BA from UNI in 1999." Kit appreciated the small class size at NIACC and the one-on-one assistance from the teachers. He was also active with campus activities such as Student Senate and President Clinton's visit to the NIACC campus. After receiving his BA degree, Kit worked in law enforcement for three years before moving back to the Mason City area.

"We never anticipated being in business together, but it has worked out very well," stated Terry. Kit agrees, "Terry brought the sales relationships and I brought the youthful determination which have combined to make our partnership a success." Since the service territory for their company covers both Iowa and Nebraska, and includes a majority of the rural water organizations and municipalities in that territory, Terry's relationship skills have opened doors and Kit's youthful energy has brought the determination to achieve any goal. The company does have one additional employee, Jason Rosauer, who works as the service technician for the two-state area.

At the recommendation of their banker to develop a business plan, Kit and Terry chose NIACC and FastTrac as the resource to help them create the business plan. "Our lending institution recommended that for us to get our business partnership from a dream to reality we should check out the FastTrac program," stated Kit. The resources offered at NIACC, from the Small Business Development Center to the FastTrac program, were the right type of help for the Alcorn team. Mariann Alcorn, Terry's wife, joined the father/son team in the FastTrac program and is a strong supporter of their partnership.

When asked their impressions of the NIACC campus during their FastTrac course, Terry claimed it looked more like a university than a junior college. Kit had experienced most of the physical growth of the college but was impressed with the expanded courses offered for business. Both agree that NIACC gave them the skills to begin their careers in sales and marketing. "Along with the FastTrac New Venture course from NIACC, we then had all the knowledge and confidence to start our own successful business, Quality Pump and Control, in January, 2002."

For the immediate future, Terry is making plans to retire from the business in the next year or two. Kit has plans to continue growing the company and Terry is sure that Kit will "take the company in the direction he feels he needs to in order to keep it viable."



Terry Alcorn and Kit Alcorn at Quality Pump and Control.

MicroBusinesses Bank on NanoLoans

How many times have you met with a would-be entrepreneur or new start up business that had a good business concept, solid work ethic and no money? For the staff at North Iowa Area Community College's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (NIACC JPEC), that frequent occurrence stimulated them to try and come up with a solution for these pre-bankable companies. Inspired by Nobel Prize winner Muhamed Yunis' work in microcredit, the JPEC staff pursued \$25,000 in seed money to see whether modest loans would be enough to move microbusinesses to the next level.

Dubbed NanoLoans, they are a North Iowa derivative of the microloan programs used successfully for several decades in Africa and India to stimulate small business development. Many of those loans are for only one hundred or two hundred dollars, but have had phenomenal social impact by enabling sustainable businesses. In its North Iowa version, loans up to \$2,500 can be used to move a business model farther along in its development by paying for prototype development, patents, equipment, working capital and other start up costs.

"Making a series of small, uncollateralized loans at the prime interest rate to new entrepreneurs without many assets is not considered a solid growth strategy in the banking industry, so the program was initially greeted with a certain amount of skepticism," observed Ted Bair, Small Business Development Center Director. "To be successful without collateral, we had to find different C's to focus on. We chose Character, Concept and Commitment."

"A significant part of my job is working with new businesses and new businesspeople. As their concept unfolds and they begin developing their business plan, I am in a perfect position to see if they are a good NanoLoan candidate. A part of their NanoLoan commitment, they are required to take the FastTrac® NewVenture™ course. We call it a ten week 'business boot camp,' but you cannot argue with the results; 78% of the over 200 businesses started the last seven years by a graduate of NIACC's FastTrac® NewVenture™ course is still in business. Compare that to an average failure rate of 60%! Of equal importance, we have had a loan default rate of 0.0%. In fact, two became so successful that they paid off their loans early."

"The impact of the NIACC JPEC NanoLoan program in North Iowa has been exciting and surprising," said Jamie T. Zanios NIACC JPEC Director. "Now we have multiple funding opportunities for the smallest organization up through the largest companies in the region, available in one spot. We can help create the business plan, help source different financial resources and offer ongoing

consultation and support to help new businesses become successful. But a more significant measure of the program's success is in the businesses that NanoLoans have helped."

Michael Groesbeck has a powerful vision; linking diverse home based businesses in North Iowa together in a comprehensive website that is more attractive to search engines. The NIACC NanoLoan program helped him make that vision, www.iowahomebusinessexchange.com, a reality.

"Every business and their brother are on the Web. The challenge for a small home-based business is to break free of the clutter and get your products or services noticed for a reasonable cost. Most struggle with a lack of tech support and money to create a presence on the web. I can come in, create a storefront for them that includes high quality photographs and integrate everything into a web-based community where their goods and services can be found- without breaking the bank," Groesbeck said. "If it hadn't been for the NanoLoan program, I would have probably delayed things to put together enough money to 'bootstrap' the start up. Because NIACC and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center put this together to help entrepreneurs, I can pursue my dream right away."

Anne Anderson is the owner and creative force behind Interwoven: Textiles for Spirit and Space www.interwovenstudio.com. Anderson received a \$2,500 NanoLoan for building improvements, marketing, materials and supplies.

Anderson designs and creates custom, hand-made paraments and banners for megachurches and vestments for pastors serving congregations in the Midwest. Over the past 10 years, Anderson has been involved in the creation of religious paraments and vestments on a part-time basis as a hobby. With the help of the Small Business Development Center and the NIACC JPEC NanoLoan, Anderson is now able to operate as a sole proprietorship full-time.

"My products provide a vibrant, visual focus that reflects the vitality of a congregation and supports the teachings of the church and its greater mission," Anderson said. "The SBDC at the NIACC JPEC is so easy to work with and provides a wealth of resources for people both starting business as well as those who are already in business."

Cleo Martinez has 29 years of restaurant experience to invest in Maria's Kitchen TexMex. Martinez received a \$2,500 NanoLoan to help launch her TexMex cuisine carryout business in Mason City.

For more information on the NIACC JPEC NanoLoan program, call (641) 422-4342 or visit www.niacc.edu/pappajohn.

Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees!



Stan Emerson
Grounds
Maintenance
23 years of service



Marty Lundberg
Evening Dean
19 years of service



Mike Morrison
President
19 years of service



Paul Nagy
Communication
Skills Instructor
36 years of service



Cliff Salmons
Electromechanical
Systems
Technology
Instructor
27 years of service



Linda See
Assistant to the
President
39 years of service

NIACC Student Newspaper Receives Journalism Awards

Members of North Iowa Area Community College's Logos student newspaper staff were honored with numerous awards at the 2008 Iowa College Media Association (ICMA)/Iowa Newspaper Association (INA) Convention in Des Moines.

Jarrod Tell was awarded second place in the Best Explanatory or Interpretive News Story category for his article, "Spam poses challenge to college e-mail system."

Anna Seibert was awarded third place in the Best Explanatory or Interpretive News Story category for her article, "State bumps cost to smoke."

Lindsay Rice earned an honorable mention in the Best Explanatory or Interpretive News Story category for her story, "Many factors influence cost of books." Rice also placed third in the Best Series category for her story, "Trans fats may be cheap."

Monica Kiley earned second place in the Best Series category for her story, "Up in smoke..."

Matthew Smith placed third in the Best Profile Story category for his story, "A new beginning..."

Amy Degen earned an honorable mention in the Best Feature Story category for her story, "Plunkett discovers grandfather's past."

John Schnackenberg earned an honorable mention in the Best Editorial Leadership category for his story, "Country needs shield law."

Logos is a student-published, award-winning publication released every other week at NIACC. The adviser is Paul Peterson.



North Iowa Venture Capital Fund II Impacts Iowa

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center announced the formation of a second venture capital fund. The North Iowa Venture Capital Fund II is comprised of 67 investors from 20 cities across North Iowa and is funded at \$2,210,000, eclipsing the first fund's \$1,670,000. This makes it the largest community based venture capital fund in the state of Iowa. Taken together, the two funds have provided nearly \$4 million in capital to help start and grow business in North Iowa and throughout the state.

"The launching of second North Iowa Venture Capital Fund is an important demonstration to entrepreneurs and business owners that North Iowa is a business friendly and supportive region of the state and indeed the entire Midwest," Jamie T. Zanos, director of the NIACC JPEC, said. "Local investors are excited for this opportunity which is evident by the support we've received from communities including Mason City, Clear Lake, Lake Mills, Osage, Cresco, Chester, Cedar Falls, Charles City, Sheffield, Nora Springs, St. Ansgar, Forest City, Titonka, Thornton, Hampton, Britt, Ventura, Garner, Belmond and West Des Moines. Having venture capital funding available is a critical component of establishing and nurturing an entrepreneurial economy. This fund along with revolving loan funds, nanoloan funds, state and local economic development monies that are available throughout North Iowa through local communities and economic development corporations in most of our cities, as well as

through the Iowa Department of Economic Development, help make North Iowa an attractive place to start and to grow a business."

The first North Iowa Venture Capital Fund was established in the fall of 2003 and is just over four years old. Out of nearly 140 applications, the first fund has invested in 11 companies to date, with over half of the money invested in North Iowa businesses and the balance elsewhere in Iowa.

The new fund, like the first fund, is a for-profit fund and the investors themselves make the determination as to where they invest their money, with an eye on investing locally if possible. Investments will be equity investments and not loans. The investors believe that economic development can be a by-product of their successful investing. Along with equity investment from the fund, businesses recipients also benefit from expertise and advice from the investors in the fund that will help new start-up companies succeed.

"The development and implementation of the North Iowa Venture Capital Fund II represents another example of NIACC's strategic importance in the region, working with our partners to create a better way of life for all our constituents," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC President, said. "Few things are more important right now than growing our economy."

A great deal of support has come from

throughout the North Iowa region for efforts such as venture capital funds to grow the economy.

"Speaking on behalf of the other owner-investors in the North Iowa Venture Capital Fund II, this investment is truly a two-fold investment. First, those of us investing in the fund are interested in seeing a profit develop from our investment; but secondly, we are all interested in expanding and supporting business growth in North Iowa. We believe this fund can help do both," Dave Kingland, president MBT Bank in Forest City and newly elected president of the North Iowa Venture Capital Fund II, said.

The North Iowa Venture Capital Fund II will not typically invest in retail or professional services businesses. Full information on companies or entrepreneurs seeking equity partner investments and applications can be found on line at www.niacc.edu/pappajohn or by calling the NIACC JPEC at 641-422-4111 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4111.

Other funds are available through application at the NIACC JPEC, including revolving loans and NanoLoans. Also available is direct venture funding through a Wellmark Venture Capital Program administered by the JPEC's across the state including the NIACC JPEC. Funding is also available through the Farm Bureau's Renew Iowa program. For information on any of these funding options, please check the website listed above or call the NIACC JPEC.

Notable Contributions to the NIACC Foundation...

Gordon and Johanna Anderson, of Osage, recently named the NIACC Foundation a beneficiary on a *Charitable Remainder Unitrust*. The current value of the Anderson's gift is in excess of \$40,000.

Gordon and Johanna wanted to give something back to Mason City Junior College (NIACC's predecessor), the place where they started their college education and, consequently, where they met. Both understand the value of an education. According to Gordon, "Education improves one's standard of living. The best way to invest in society is to invest in its young people, specifically to invest in their education." The Andersons encourage others to consider including the NIACC Foundation in their estate planning by talking to their tax advisors.

This particular type of planned giving provides benefits to the donor and the College. A Charitable Remainder Unitrust planned giving vehicle minimizes the taxes on capital gains for the donor from appreciated assets and allows tax deductible donations to be made from the fund. A Charitable Remainder

Unitrust can pay out a variable income to the donors based upon the mortality tables and their age at the time of the gift, with the remainder given to the charities of their choosing upon their death. There are many planned giving options available and additional information can be found on the NIACC Foundation website (www.niacc.edu/foundation, click on "Planned Giving")

Metalcraft, a Mason City business that designs and manufactures durable and reusable ID products has set up the *Metalcraft Scholarship*, an annual scholarship fund to benefit local students. Recipients of the scholarship must be nominated by an employee of Metalcraft and will be selected based on a review of the nomination and scholarship application by Metalcraft's CEO and President. Metalcraft is excited to provide this opportunity to deserving local students who want to further their education at NIACC.

The **family of George Weber** established the *George A. Weber Memorial Scholarship* in October 2007. At the age of 40, George made a

career move and returned to school as a full-time student. In 1971, he began his teaching career at NIACC as an instructor in the Business Division. George remained committed to teaching NIACC students until his retirement in 1988. This scholarship is restricted to a non-traditional student, in memory of George's own educational experience.

Dick and Rita Wempen created the *Wempen Family Scholarship* to acknowledge their family's relationship with NIACC and an overall appreciation of education. Dick and Rita made careers in education, as Dick was a counselor at NIACC for 32 years, and Rita taught elementary music in Clear Lake. The Wempen's three children graduated from Clear Lake High School and NIACC and pursued professional careers in education and law enforcement. This endowed scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduate of Clear Lake High School. Applicants must be in the top half of their class. Preference is given to students majoring in education or law enforcement and students who are involved in extra-curricular activities.

NIACC Faces

North Iowa Area Community College welcomes the following individuals who have recently joined the NIACC team of employees!

Molly Andereg has joined NIACC again as our Fund Development Specialist/ Grant Writer. She previously served as a Workforce Advisor and a Tech Prep Coordinator at NIACC. Before returning to NIACC, Molly worked for the Stoney Creek Hospitality Corporation. Molly earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa.



Cheryl Jahnel is our new Marketing and Community Relations Assistant coming to us from Evans Publishing and Printing in LeRoy, MN. Cheryl earned her A.A. at NIACC and her bachelor's from UNI. She is currently working on her master's at UNI.



Daniel Juhl is NIACC's Security-Student Housing person. Daniel also serves as a resident assistant and is currently working towards his A.A. in Criminal Justice at NIACC.



Dena Ketelsen is the new Continuing Education Office Assistant. She previously served as the Administrative Assistant to the principal of Osage High School. She received her paraeducator training from Hawkeye Community College.



Deborah Kolb-Jackson is the new Library Circulation Assistant and most recently worked as a librarian at the St. Francis Indian School in South Dakota. She earned a bachelor's degree from Mankato State College.



NIACC also recognizes the following employees who have new or additional roles at the College.

Ronda Smith will take over as the Assistant to the President. Ronda is currently the Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Academic Affairs.



Terry Schumaker will assume the title of NIACC Career and Internship Center Director along with his duties as Director of Economic Development/ Special Projects.



NIACC Places Fourth at NJCAA Wrestling Championships, Three Individuals Win Titles

Three North Iowa Area Community College wrestlers won national titles individually and the Trojans finished fourth as a team at the 2008 National Junior College Athletic Association Wrestling Championships in Rochester, MN.

"Our guys peaked at the right time! I am so proud of their performance this weekend and for the overall season!" Richard Fergola, NIACC wrestling head coach, said.

Six NIACC wrestlers earned All-American (top eight) status during the two-day tournament, the first the Trojans had participated in since the program disbanded in 1976. NIACC's wrestling program was officially reinstated in November 2006 and head coach Richard Fergola was hired as head coach in March 2007.

"Last year at this time we didn't have a wrestling mat, a wrestling room or coaches. We've come a long way in a short period of time thanks to the efforts of Dan Mason (Athletic Director), Rich Fergola (Head Coach), Chad Vance (Assistant Coach), T.J. Sebolt (Assistant Coach) and Josh Byrnes (Volunteer Coach/Director of Wrestling Operations). I am exceptionally proud of our program and student-athletes," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said. NIACC was among 36 schools represented at nationals and the team's 109 points trailed only Iowa Central Community College (138), St. Louis-Meramac in Missouri (117.5) and Labette Community College of Kansas (111). Freshman Albert White (Harvey, IL/St. Rita) finished his season 31-3 overall, beating T.J. Hepburn of Colby Community

College (KS) 3-2 in 149-pound finals.

Freshman DaVaughn Perkins (Omaha, NE/North) completed a 39-5 season with a 9-8 decision over Highline Community College (WA) in the 157-pound championship.

Sophomore Glenn Rhees (Atascadero, CA/HS) topped off a 26-3 campaign by defeating Neosho County Community College (KS) wrestler Jason Green 7-3 in the 174-pound finals.

Three other NIACC wrestlers earned All-American honors in the meet, which included competitors from 36 schools: T.J. Moen (Des Moines/Saydel) finished third at 141 pounds while Cody Hogan (Richmond, MO/HS) placed seventh at 133 pounds and

Beau Tudor (Camp Verde, AZ/HS) placed eighth in the 285-pound classification.

Others competing for NIACC at the national meet included: Brad Theilen (Nashua/Nashua-Plainfield) at 197 pounds, Jordan Bartoszak (Mason City/HS) at 125 pounds and Tyler Hancock (Camp Verde, AZ/HS) at 165 pounds.

Along with his national title on the mat, Rhees earned Academic All-American status (3.0 grade-point average or above in the past semester), as did NIACC teammate Jason Schweer (Waverly/Waverly-Shell Rock).

For more information on NIACC wrestling, visit www.niacc.edu/athletics.



NIACC wrestling team celebrates a 4th place finish at the NJCAA National Tournament.

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The Strategic Value That 18, 61, 72, 21.7, 30.7 and 95-100 Hold for Business, Parents/Students & Iowa

by Dr. Michael C. Morrison

Hopefully the title of this article has caught your attention. Permit me an opportunity to explain. All of the above

numbers are related to the strategic benefits derived from a partnership program with regional high schools to offer early college credit to qualified high school students. These "acceleration programs" offer many strategic benefits to business/industry, parents/students and Iowa.

Before we turn to the benefits of acceleration, we must understand the context in which acceleration programs affect the strategic interests of Iowa. Four adverse, perfect storms are looming in Iowa which require the mobilization of strategic assets to ward off their unfavorable effects. These storms are:

1. **Workforce shortage storm** - difficult workforce shortages are already here!
2. **Educational attainment storm** - lower levels of educational achievement are forecasted for those who will replace the "baby boomers" in the workplace;
3. **Global competition storm** – higher levels of education are required in a global economy;

4. **Economic system storm** – our economic system is losing ground in the world's economy.
Acceleration serves as one of Iowa's

strategic assets to win the battle against the perfect storms:

18. Eighteen percent more students matriculate to NIACC due to our acceleration program. This proves vitally important for Iowa and our region when one considers that there will be a projected skilled workforce shortage in Iowa of 150,000 to 200,000 workers in the near future. Almost all of the 18% gain in matriculation comes from first generation students so it represents a tremendous improvement to the workforce pipeline.

61. Accelerated students improved their odds of graduation by 61% compared to non-accelerated students after controlling for high school GPA, motivation to graduate (measured by first term credits and first term GPA) and gender. In addition, acceleration improves the graduation probabilities (total effects) and marginal effects for students across entire student quartile ranges.

These findings, which used sophisticated logistic regression tools, are extremely important in a future workforce environment which is projected to experience an educational attainment gap in desired workforce credentials. These outcomes occur at a time when it's estimated that two-thirds of the future workforce will require more than a high

school degree and less than a baccalaureate degree.

72. Seventy-two percent of NIACC associate degree graduates successfully

continued on page 4

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for alumni and friends of
North Iowa Area Community College

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