

constructing lives

Laying the foundation for a successful future!



2006–2007 Annual Report
Northwest Iowa Community College



The 2006–07 academic year at Northwest Iowa Community College was truly an exciting year at the College. While 2005–06 celebrated the 40th anniversary of NCC as part of the Iowa Community College System and focused on the successes of the past forty years, 2006–07 centered on the future and began by “Laying the Foundation and Construction Plans” for future growth of the College.

As the College proceeded in “building” its new Biotech Lab Technology programs, a partnership developed with ICM, Inc., one of the country’s leaders in ethanol plant design. This partnership resulted in ICM flying NCC faculty and staff to their corporate headquarters and developing a relationship where NCC Biotechnology faculty can actually observe the setting up of a lab at an ethanol plant that is under construction.

The year resulted in a couple of construction projects on the NCC college campus. Final plans were developed for a 45-bed residence facility and in November, construction began on the foundation of Lyon Hall. By spring, the walls were up and we ended the year with Lyon Hall on schedule for full occupancy to begin for the 2007–08 Fall term. Construction began this

past spring on the addition to the Health Occupations Building to house the NCC Radiologic Technology Program. We also remodeled one of our existing classrooms into a state-of-the-art laboratory to fit the needs of our Biotechnology Program.

A highlight of 2006–07 was the graduation of the first NCC Radiologic Technology Program and Construction Technology students. The first “Rad Tech” graduating class realized a 100% pass rate on their boards and all are employed in their field. NCC remains committed to quality healthcare programs.

Yes, 2006–07 truly has been a year of “under construction” for NCC. As we approach 2007–08, we will continue to “Build for the Future” at Northwest Iowa Community College. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call me at 712.324.5061 or email me at william@nwicc.edu.

Dr. Bill Giddings
President, Northwest Iowa Community College

Board of Trustees pictured on next page, first box:

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We will continue to

Build for the Future

at Northwest Iowa Community College.

—Dr. Bill Giddings, NCC President



g r o w t h

Earn Your Degree In One Night A Week

Earn your degree in one night a week? No problem. This is the mantra of a new program designed to fit the lifestyle of today's working professional. The Business Career Advancement Program or B-CAP is designed to help participants earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Management.

B-CAP meets on the NCC campus one evening a week with the courses lasting 5–6 weeks in length. Courses are intended for non-traditional students incorporating 'hybrid courses', which are courses in which some work is done on-line from your home and some time is spent face-to-face in the classroom.

Participants of B-CAP come to NCC from every 'walk of life'—teachers and secretaries, and backgrounds which vary from employees in the banking industry, food service, and manufacturing. Cher Vollink, Secretary and B-CAP participant stated, "I think all of us work full-time and have kids at home. It is challenging to go back to school, but I have found that there is always something different to learn, and I like learning in this type of environment." Cheri Bosman, Hy-Vee employee affirmed, "NCC was very helpful and made my transition into college an easy one. I would recommend the program to anyone who has a strong desire to go back to college no matter what your age."

NCC Assembles Agreement with Bellevue University

NCC and Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska, entered into a partnership designed to benefit students and the community as a whole. The Community College Advantage Partnership Program makes it possible for students to complete their Bachelor's Degree through Bellevue University a year after they complete their two-year Associate's Degree instead of the traditional two years it normally takes.

Dr. Bill Giddings, President of NCC, stated, "This is an important partnership for NCC and one that meets our goal to better prepare the residents and communities in northwest Iowa for the future. This partnership gives our students an opportunity to efficiently and effectively earn a Bachelor's Degree from a credible university while at the same time allowing us to re-engage with our alumni."

According to Dr. Mary Hawkins, Provost of Bellevue University, the partnership recognizes the important role community colleges play in post secondary learning. "Northwest Iowa Community College is responding to important economic and workforce development needs in their community," said Hawkins. "Through this partnership, Bellevue University can support the role Northwest Iowa Community College plays within their community and local organizations with increased services for their students and communities they serve."



The groundbreaking for the new facilities at NCC signify
growth and progress
for the College and the entire area.

—Dr. Bill Giddings, NCC President



expansion

Groundbreaking Ceremonies at NCC

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held this spring on the NCC campus. The ceremony celebrated two new building additions to NCC's campus; Lyon Hall and a new addition to house the Radiologic Technology program.

NCC President, Dr. Bill Giddings, commented, "The 'ground breaking' for the new facilities at NCC signify growth and progress for the College and the entire area." Giddings continued, "The residence facility will provide opportunities for students to live on campus and take part in campus activities. This facility will also attract new students to NCC that would not have previously considered our College."

Lyon Hall is a new suite style housing complex which will open in August, 2007. The new hall will accommodate a total of 45 students, and most of the suites will consist of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a kitchen/living area holding four students per suite. Lyon Hall will also feature a recreation room with a big screen television and a game check out, computer lab, wireless internet, laundry facilities, and many more amenities. Lyon Hall is the second housing complex on NCC's campus. NCC's first apartment complex, Cherokee Hall, was built in 1992 and accommodates 38 students.

"The Health Science addition will give the College 'state of the art' training facilities for our Radiologic Technology program." Dr. Giddings continued, "This will give NCC students

the learning experience needed for this profession, and hopefully will attract new students to choose the NCC Radiologic Technology Program over others. This will benefit area health care providers by providing them skilled technicians in this field."

Multiple Partnership Opportunity for NCC

When the Orange City Economic Development Group was interested in renting a space to non-profit agencies with similar missions, they contacted Cheryl Heronemus, Sioux County Extension Education Director. Cheryl knew immediately who she wanted to partner with: "NCC and Sioux County Extension serve the same audience-everyone! We have worked together on many projects before, so this was a natural fit for us. By combining our resources, we were able to create a space that neither of us would be able to have on our own. We share a computer lab and classroom between the two of us, plus Iowa Workforce Development."

Currently Woody Grabenbauer, Director of Business and Industry, is working to meet the educational needs of business and industry in the area, continuing education classes are offered via the NCC Orange City Campus, and the new location offers a good opportunity to work with the new immigrant population, as well as the five school districts in the vicinity.

Looking to the future, Cheryl feels, "We will continue to work together with NCC to provide programming to a wide range of audiences. By combining our resources, I think we can better serve our clientele."



NCC is on the

leading edge

of the Biotechnology growth.

—Leshawn Howard, Biotechnology Business and Industry Trainer



development

Biotechnology Continues to Grow

In 2005 NCC was granted a \$1.7 Million Department of Labor Grant that had a three prong approach: Develop 1) a two-year Associate Degree Lab Technician Program for Bioscience/ Biotechnology Careers; 2) a high school pre-training program in science and internships; 3) Business and Industry training for existing employees of businesses to receive updated skill enhancement and certification.

NCC's Biotechnology Lab Technician Program curriculum is designed to meet the increasing demands of businesses and industries seeking skilled lab technicians for employment in laboratory and industrial settings and as quality control assurance technicians. Additionally someone who desires to run their own lab in the future can graduate from the program prior to transferring to a college to study in their field of interest.

Explaining what biotechnology is, where it is going in the future, and providing K-12 teachers with what they need to educate their students about opportunities available was the second focus of the NCC biotechnology instructors. Teacher-training workshops provided updates in the areas of Biotechnology, Bioethics, and Forensic Science and were well attended by teachers from many different schools. These classes were beneficial to teachers because they provided new tools and activities for teachers to take back to their classrooms. Previously this type of Instructional Training was only offered by Iowa State, but now is proudly available on the NCC campus.

NCC's third focus on biotechnology is not confined to the classroom. Leshawn Howard, Biotechnology Business and Industry Trainer, explains the importance of offering Business and Industry further training in the biotechnology field. "There has been a vacuum of bio-tech companies needing science skilled workers, but none were available. Companies have had to adapt by training employees how to physically do a task but not giving the science behind what or why a process has to be done in the manner described. I am able to come in and fill in that knowledge gap. I am also able to teach lab skills and lab equipment operation so the employee can make on-the-line decisions and corrections with less down time."

Several businesses in the area have already taken advantage of the educational opportunities available. "The idea of bringing in Leshawn was to bring a fresh point of view and a new outlook to our business. In my position I have found that the most effective way to train employees and keep them current on safety issues is redundancy and constant reminding," said Dr. George Kraft, Lab Director at Sig International. "Leshawn was a new face reinforcing the same principles and concepts I have been reinforcing. I found Leshawn to have good rapport with those around her, I was pleased with the results of the interactive discussions, and I was very happy with the outcome of our experience."

Howard summed up best the future of NCC and biotechnology by saying, "At this point the field of Biotechnology is just beginning to grow and NCC is on the leading edge of that growth by educating people with the science skills that are needed to move the technology from research and development into a manufacturing setting."



To reap the **recognition** of a successful program requires many duties that extend beyond the classroom.

—Tim Floen, Industrial Instrumentation & Control Program



focus

Faculty and Student Services Partner in Recruitment Effort

Faculty and Enrollment Advisor knowledge coming together to form a partnership was the concept behind Faculty and Student Services joining forces to recruit students.

Lisa Story, Director of Enrollment Management explained, “The partnering of Faculty, those who know the programs of study better than anyone on campus, joining with Enrollment Advisors, those who know most about all other processes and services in becoming a student on campus, became a natural fit this year on the NCC campus.”

Tim Floen, Industrial Instrumentation & Control Instructor acknowledged, “The main hurdle in recruiting is getting the potential student to understand how instrumentation and control is used to manufacture all industrial products. Once they realize that all products they use, eat, or purchase is produced with instrumentation, control, and computer-based automation, then they can grasp what the program is about.”

Industrial & Commercial Wiring/Electrical Technology and Carpentry are other programs of study which have joined forces with Enrollment Advisors in recruiting students for their programs. Lisa Story credited one other component to the success of Faculty and Advisor Recruitment, “There is a 4th component that works very well with this recruiting initiative; having industry involved in the recruiting visit adds one more punch. The students then hear about the program, process the information, and visualize the future after completing the program at NCC.”

“To reap the recognition of a successful program requires more than lecturing in front of a classroom. It requires taking ownership of the program which includes many duties that extend beyond the classroom, such as recruiting, building strong industry relationships, and getting involved in associated professional organizations, to name a few,” Tim added.

NCC Hosts Business and Industry Job Fair

Northwest Iowa Community College, in conjunction with Iowa Workforce Development, hosted a Career/Job Fair. The joint venture was engineered to introduce prospective employees to area businesses and to make local residents aware of the employment opportunities in this region. There was no cost to the businesses that participated in the fair or the public who attended.

Business participants were able to meet with new or experienced job seekers, offering an ideal opportunity for employers to recruit for specific employment needs and to promote their companies. Manufacturing, Health Facilities, Radio Stations, Food Processing, Electrical, Education, Insurance, Publication, and Iowa Workforce were among the 30 businesses represented at the Career/Job Fair.

Woody Grabenbauer, Director of Business and Industry, articulated his feelings on the event, “We were very pleased with the displays, comments, and community people who turned out at the Career/Job Fair. Several young people commented to me during the fair that they were amazed at the variety and types of careers available in northwest Iowa.”



We are all different and come from different
cultures, but we are all the same,
we are all human.

—Tony Chavez, Electrical Technology student



a d v a n c e m e n t

Dialogue Based Multicultural Student Association

Northwest Iowa Community College welcomed a new club to campus this year, the Multicultural Student Association or MSA. The purpose of the Multicultural Student Association was to start dialogue on campus regarding issues of diversity, culture, multiculturalism, discrimination, racism, global citizenship, and many other topics related to cultural diversity.

MSA was a development of a grant which NCC received to increase retention and graduation of underrepresented racial/ethnic minority students. Mallory Forseth, Enrollment Management/Advisor commented, "We felt that the first step in retaining and graduating these students was to create a community among students and an atmosphere of openness, acceptance, integration, and dialogue." Forseth continued by saying, "MSA meets over the lunch hour with the organizational topics being dialogue-based, thus the purpose of each meeting is to create discussion about various topics."

Tony Chavez, an active member of the Multicultural Club, expressed why he became involved, "I joined the Multicultural Club because I wanted to help make people feel more welcome on campus. I understand how intimidating school can be, and I wanted everyone to understand that NCC is trying to accommodate everyone and make everybody feel welcome. We are all different and come from different cultures, but we are all the same, we are all human."

Diversity Grant Builds Bridges for Bilingual Nursing Assistants

Offering free courses, which were funded by a Health Diversity Grant, allowing flexibility and accommodation in scheduling, along with providing daycare services has proven to be a win-win situation for students in the Hawarden, Sheldon, and Sioux Center areas and northwest Iowa communities.

Mallory Forseth, NCC Enrollment Management/Advisor, commented, "The students I tutored were extremely grateful for the opportunity to better their English language skills and gain valuable job-related skills at the same time. They were ecstatic after passing the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistants) Certification Exam and I believe their success in this course was a great boost to their self-esteem and their confidence in their abilities to function within northwest Iowa business and cultural systems." Forseth went on to say, "While traditional ESL courses are certainly necessary, they are often extremely simplistic and not designed for adults who have basic control of the English language but need work on specific vocabulary sets related to employment or life skills."

Several courses were offered during the duration of this grant with the last of the courses assisting interested adults in becoming Bilingual Certified Nursing Assistants.



When students feel connected and comfortable, they can jump into their education without fear and really **learn about themselves.**

—Amy Jurrens, Communications/Learning Community Instructor



progress

NCC Learning Community, Linked Courses with Integrative Seminar

NCC set out to improve student retention, effectively help students to earn better grades, and to inherently better the experience of students on the NCC campus. Students attend classes which integrate assignments between the disciplines to answer a question, assignment, or complete a paper.

The model designed by NCC has become a leader in the concept of Learning Communities and has become a prototype used by other community colleges. Convenient scheduling, or taking three classes at the best times with the same group of classmates, is the premise behind the idea.

Amy Jurrens, Communications/Learning Community Instructor acknowledged, "The Learning Community is about more than making connections between *courses*. It is about making connections between *people*. The students were able to connect with each other and with us, the faculty, in ways I rarely see on such a large scale in other transfer courses. When students feel connected and comfortable, they can jump into their education without fear and really learn about themselves."

Construction Challenge Pays Off

The Construction Technology and Carpentry programs faced a challenging but surprisingly wonderful end to a year. These two programs, which are relatively new programs to NCC, faced the challenge of integrating the part time schedule of high school students with the full time schedule of college students.

In the end the perseverance and hard work displayed by both the students and instructor paid off with a little help from a friend. Each year the programs construct a beautiful home which up until this year had been sold by silent bids. This year with a little help from Vander Werff Auctioneers, the house that NCC built was auctioned off and brought the highest bid in NCC history. The 2006–07 NCC Carpentry/Construction house sold for a record \$101,000. Dr. Bill Giddings, President of NCC proclaimed, "It was a challenging year ending with a beautiful house that brought an outstanding price."

WebAdvisor "Goes Live"

WebAdvisor is a web-based portal that displays current "real-time" information directly from the NCC Database and was installed and configured for operation with the Datatel system. WebAdvisor offers many options to students, staff, employees, and the community by simply selecting a port of entry.

All instructors now enter grades using WebAdvisor and are able to view class rosters. Employees can use the portal to access budgets, leave time, and many other databases. Students now have the ability to view final grades, transcript, grade point average, financial aid information, billing information and more.

Beth Sibenaller-Woodall, NCC Academic Advisor/Registrar noted, "Interestingly, this fall we had a past student who is now serving in the military in Iraq, using WebAdvisor to get a copy of his transcript. As long as a student has access to the Internet, they can go to WebAdvisor. The completion of the WebAdvisor project is another way NCC is working to ensure the communication needs of students are being met."



I think the reason this program does so well in the competition is because we don't just learn about what we might encounter in the field; we learn how to **solve problems.**

—Micah Vogel, Industrial Instrumentation & Control student



s u c c e s s

Creating a Winning Team—ISA Teams place 1st in District and 4th in World Competitions

Industrial Instrumentation and Control (IIC), students took home 1st place at the District 6 Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation (ISA) Student Games on April 13, 2007. The competition was held in the Wisconsin Dells. NCC has competed at the district level for six years and won 1st place five years. They compete against other United States teams as well as teams from Canada and as far away as Russia. The four member NCC team received a 4th place at the International Competition.

The Student Games are head-to-head competitions between Technical/Community Colleges and Universities in a six-state area in the field of Instrumentation and Control. The competition consists of a morning hands-on practical exercise working with instrumentation equipment and an afternoon exercise working with electrical control equipment.

Micah Vogel, member of the first place team, commented, "I think the reason this program does so well in the competition is because we don't just learn about what we might encounter in the field; we learn how to solve problems."

"The results of the ISA Competition speak very loudly for the integrity of the Instrumentation Program," commented Tim Floen, Industrial Instrumentation & Control Instructor.

17 NCC SkillsUSA State Champions Compete at National Contest

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school, college students, and professional members who are enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations. Each year SkillsUSA holds a competition to determine the "best" students in a given industry.

This, the 43rd season of SkillsUSA competition, also marked one of the "best" showings for NCC. Seventeen SkillsUSA participants representing NCC were determined to be among the "best", earning them the right to compete in the National Competition, which was held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Participation in SkillsUSA is not only designed to see who the "best" in each category may be, but it also teaches ethics, camaraderie, community involvement, and leadership skills. In order to compete in SkillsUSA a student must sign a code of ethics, which throughout the competition they are required to uphold, even after hours, thus ensuring each participant meets the requirements of restraint and discipline. If at any time during the competition a student fails to meet any part of the code of ethics, they will be eliminated from the SkillsUSA Tournament.

This year also marks the last year the SkillsUSA State contest will be traveling to a different college within Iowa. Each year the SkillsUSA competition has traveled to a different community college throughout Iowa. NCC hosted the last of the traveling tournaments, and next year the competition will be moved to a permanent location in Des Moines, Iowa.



By knowing more about the experiences students are having, we can concentrate on making learning **more effective.**

—Laura Cruse, Communications Instructor



quality

Continuous Improvement

A commitment to quality remains a priority at Northwest Iowa Community College. Two teams of faculty and academic administrators attended a conference sponsored by the Higher Learning Commission. The Commission encourages member colleges and universities to continue internal conversations on student learning outcomes with regards to appropriate evidence, analysis and evaluation.

NCC has restructured its quality improvement strategies with renewed energy. The College Improvement Team created an institutional model that identifies two areas to address continuous improvement—assessment and evaluation. Assessment addresses student learning by course, program, and general education competencies while evaluation assesses the processes driven by other areas of the College that indirectly support student learning.

Survey Provides Insight into Student Engagement

Community College Survey of Student Engagement or CCSSE, as it is better known, provides a tool for assessing quality in community college education. The survey asks questions about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention. In order to implement the survey a CCSSE committee was developed from volunteers representing all areas of the campus.

Judy Nieuwenhuis, Practical Nursing Instructor, CCSSE Committee Member commented, “The survey will help instructors be aware of what type of students are in their

classes and what type of issues or challenges the students have going on in their lives.” Laura Cruse, Communication Instructor concurred, “By knowing more about the experiences students are having in and out of classes, we can concentrate on making learning more effective, more relevant to students’ current lives and future needs, and we can make education more manageable with schedules and lifestyles.”

Market Research Completed

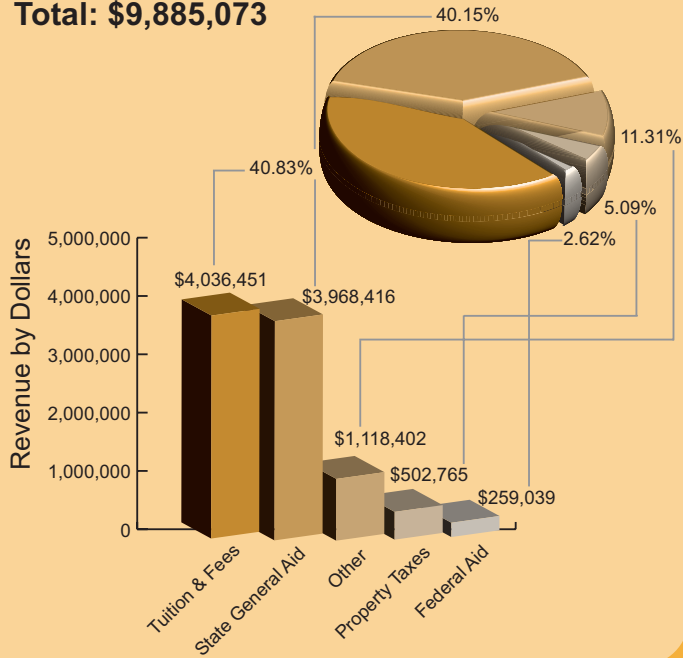
Northwest Iowa Community College teamed with the CLARUS Corporation to conduct market research that will fuel enrollment management conversations in the future. Dr. Jan Snyder, Vice President of Institutional Advancement & Enrollment Services confirmed, “We know that we have to step back and review processes, especially when the processes are significantly linked to enrollment growth”. The College assisted CLARUS in conducting a Customer Service Scan and Market Scan. The Customer Service Scan involved reviewing and evaluating communication processes while the Market Scan involved reviewing and evaluating enrollment management processes.

College administration will utilize the results of both scans to continue to position the college for future growth. Snyder summed up the results of the market research by stating, “Northwest Iowa Community College will utilize the results of the market research to continue our strong history of providing quality learning experiences to the residents of northwest Iowa and beyond. We will remain true to our vision—**Northwest Iowa Community College is driven to be the community college of choice for learning.**”

financials

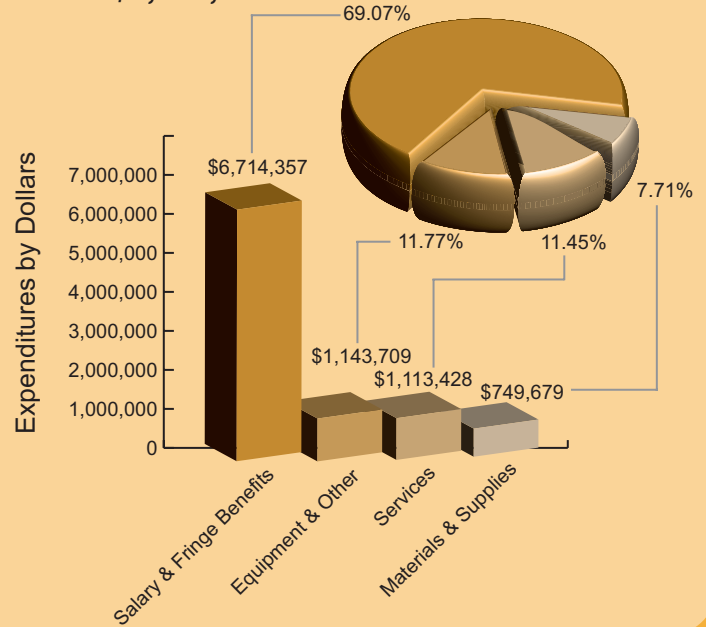
Revenues

Total: \$9,885,073



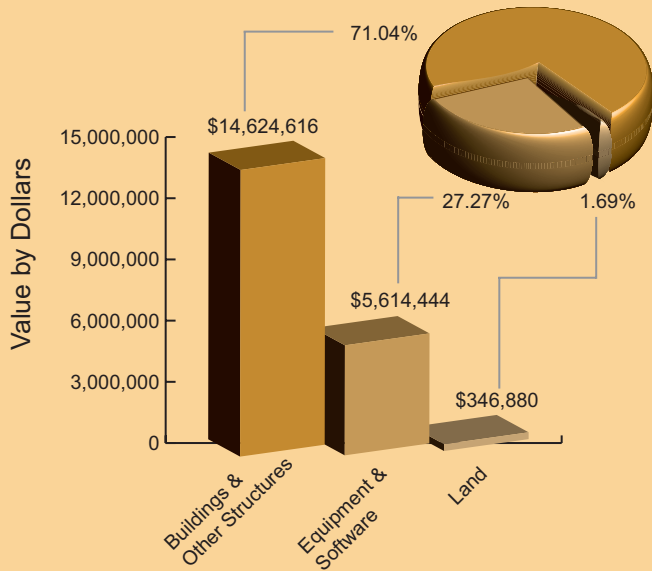
Expenditures—by category

Total: \$9,721,173

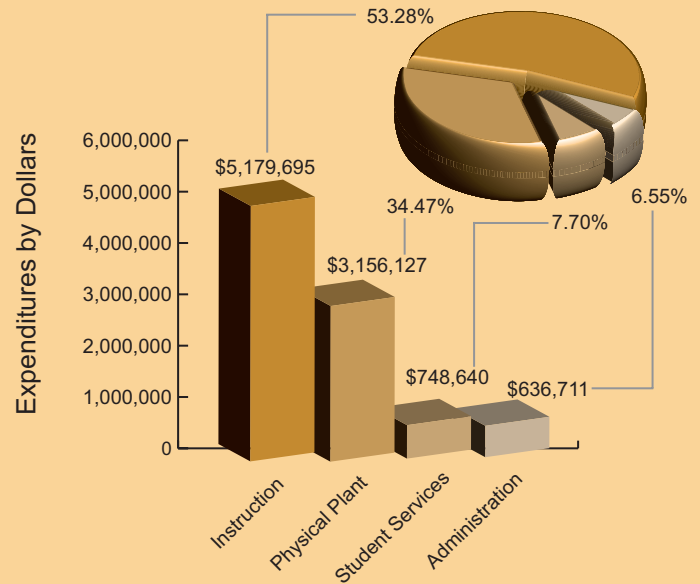


Fixed Assets

Total: \$20,585,940

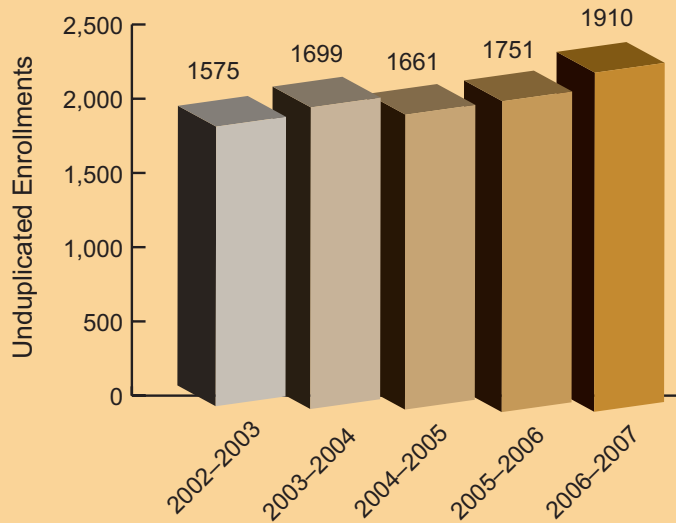


Expenditures—by function



Credit Enrollments

Total: 1910



*Academic Year is counted as Fall, Spring & Summer Terms

Student Characteristics

98% of graduates are employed
77% of graduates are employed in Iowa

44% received financial aid

44% Male
56% Female

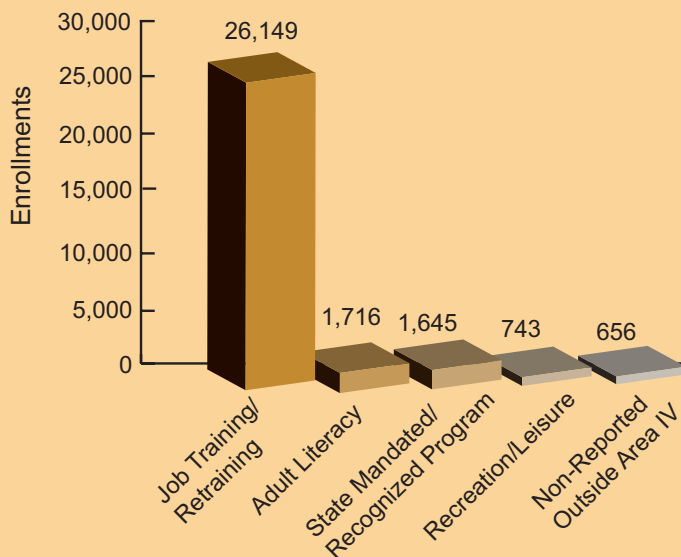
74% were 22 years of age or younger
23% were 23 years of age or older
(3% unknown)

87% worked while in college

308 graduates

Non-Credit Course Enrollments

Total: 30,909



enrollments

NCC has the blueprints for their **dreams!**



**Northwest Iowa
Community College**
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Sheldon, IA 51201

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