



*Your* IMPACT

SPRING 2022

*This* IS WHAT YOUR  
COMMITMENT HAS DONE.

A portrait of Liang Chee Wee, Ph.D., a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned bow tie. He is smiling slightly. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

# Legacy FOR THE FUTURE

Northeast Iowa Community College President Liang Chee Wee's belief in philanthropy and giving stems from his childhood in Singapore and has only grown with the ongoing needs he sees in Iowa.

"My schoolmates and I raised funds for our local American Red Cross in Singapore when I was a child, collecting coins from the people in the neighborhood and surrounding communities. It really adds up over time. The synergistic impact of many individuals giving is an amazing collective effort," he said.

During his tenure as President, Dr. Wee and his wife, Jane, have established scholarships for students in honor of their parents. By creating an endowed scholarship through the NICC Foundation, the funds will support students each year in perpetuity.

"We are very thoughtful of what is important to us, to honor our parents for their lives and gifts to others. We know our contributions, and those of many others, will continue at Northeast Iowa Community College," he expressed.

As Dr. Wee sees his presidency at NICC come to a close this summer, he knows a legacy of giving and service to others lives on.

**LIANG CHEE WEE, PH.D.**  
NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT



**SHAYLEE BRINCKS**  
AGRICULTURE BUSINESS, '20  
BEEF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, '20

## YOU INFLUENCE *Agriculture* IN IOWA

A lifelong farmer, Shaylee Brincks has helped raise beef cattle on her family's farm since she was a young girl. She planned on a future career in agriculture from the very beginning.

Seeing the agriculture programs at the College, the Beef Science Education Center and meeting with faculty influenced her decision to become an NICC student.

"I have been interested in Northeast Iowa Community College my whole life because of its great programs, helpful people and being close to home. Taking classes at NICC helped me because the instructors make students feel comfortable to talk and ask questions," she said.

Shaylee graduated from the Agriculture Business and Beef Science Technology programs in May 2020. The A&J Petersburg Scholarship supported her education, one of the NICC Foundation's largest endowed scholarships that is still being funded and continues to grow.

Shaylee began her career at Lynch Livestock Company and continues to help out on the farm at home.

## YOUR SUPPORT FUNDS

# Critical positions

Many members of her family work in health care, and that's why Taylor Claussen, a senior at New Hampton High School, assumed she too would become a nurse. But as she began working with an NICC College and Career Coach, she realized healthcare wasn't for her.

"My career coach, Holly, is my biggest asset. She connected me with experiences and job shadows that helped me realize the communications industry would be a better fit for me," said Taylor. "Holly helped me learn to write grants, lead business meetings and conduct myself as a professional."

Each year, our College and Career Coaching team supports nearly 3,000 in-district high school students. Services include career advising, work-based learning experiences and college planning. College and Career Coaches are supported by donors through the Fund for Excellence.

"Thanks to Holly, I won't be wasting time and money working towards a career I don't love. I know I am going to be successful," she said.

A portrait of Taylor Claussen, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing an orange top and a necklace. The background is a blurred wall with logos, including a green 'P' and a blue 'NORTH IOWA' logo. A yellow house-shaped graphic is overlaid on the top of the image.

**TAYLOR CLAUSSEN**  
NEW HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



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*“Northeast Iowa Community College is a community of great people who give to others and help. These are career opportunities I can’t pass up. I also love to be working locally, so I can be with my three kids.”*

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**FRANK WASHINGTON**  
COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE, '21

## YOU IMPACT *Lives*

Learning and building relationships are closely tied to our growth as people. It’s an outlook Northeast Iowa Community College graduate Frank Washington embraces every day as the key to advancing his life and career.

“Before I started the Commercial Driver License (CDL) program at the College, I knew nothing about trucking. I grew and learned. Now I’m driving full-time,” Frank said. “That’s what I want to keep doing—developing my skills and knowledge.”

Frank sees opportunities this year to advance his skills further. He plans to enroll in the College’s Heavy Equipment Operator certificate program this summer and, possibly, the Paralegal program next fall.

# YOU IMPACT THE *Workforce*

The desire to help students motivated Roger Simon to create the Simon's Trucking Scholarship for Diesel Mechanics students at the College. Selling raffle tickets for community events, such as a good old-fashioned tractor pull, funds the scholarship. After he passed in July 2020, Roger's family and colleagues knew they needed to keep the fun and the funding alive.

"We want to carry on Roger's philosophy that people should work hard and play hard," said Justin Philipp, Simon's Trucking general manager.

Amidst the current labor shortage, the Simon's Trucking Scholarship fills financial gaps for students and encourages more students to enter the diesel mechanics field.

"Not being able to afford tuition should never be a barrier for people who want to be a diesel mechanic," Justin said. "We shouldn't let the cost of college stop students from receiving good training and having a great career."

NICC Diesel Mechanics student Ethan Daughetee was the first student to receive that scholarship. He will graduate from the program in May 2022.

"This funding is going to help me invest in the specialty tools I'll need to use after graduation. I can't wait to get to work in the diesel industry," said Ethan.



**ETHAN DAUGHETEE**  
DIESEL MECHANICS, '22



**DANIELLE MEYER**  
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS, '15

## YOU IMPACT THE *Future*

While working at Head Start, a preschool program for low-income families, Danielle Meyer noticed a pattern among her young students. After holiday breaks, they always returned to school tired and hungry.

“When students are at school, meals are guaranteed. But many of them don't have that food stability during the nearly two-week Christmas break,” said Danielle.

In 2016, she started collecting food items and placing them in what she calls “Belly Bags.” Danielle sends the bags home with students to help them stay nourished during the holiday break. Each holiday season she fills more than 140 bags with

foods like Easy Mac, soup, granola bars, applesauce, fruit cups, crackers and oatmeal.

“These are foods young children can prepare on their own if they don't have help from an adult,” said Danielle.

Danielle, a Northeast Iowa Community College John and Mabel Heinen Family Endowment Scholarship recipient, earned her Associate of Arts degree from NICC in 2015.

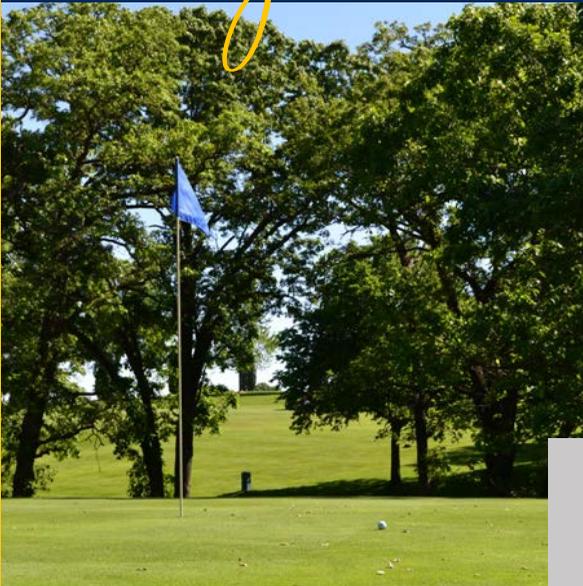
“Northeast Iowa Community College holds a special place in my heart,” said Danielle. “I learned many of my personal values from the instructors at NICC.”



**NORTHEAST IOWA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Advancement

*You* **WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS.**



## **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3**

South Winn Golf & Country Club  
2585 175th St.  
Calmar

**MONDAY, JUNE 20**

Thunder Hills Country Club  
16682 Thunder Hills Drive  
Peosta

» Visit [www.nicc.edu/advancement/events](http://www.nicc.edu/advancement/events) for more info.