



Class of 2025-2026
Commencement

Thursday, May 14, 2026

5 pm

Luther College

Center for Faith & Life, Decorah

NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Celebrate your achievement!

Share your commencement photos on social media and tag @neiowacc.

#niccgrad2026



Scan for a
Digital Program

Order of Ceremony

* Audience Please Stand.

Processional*

Advancement of Colors* _____ American Legion Members

National Anthem* _____ Lucas Wymore
John Deere TECH, '26

Introductions _____ Amy Gaffney
Vice President for Student Services, Northeast Iowa Community College

Welcome _____ Kathy Gunderson
Vice Chair, Northeast Iowa Community College Board of Trustees

Commencement Address _____ Steve Slessor
Chief Administrative Officer, WinnMed

Student Remarks _____ Mallory Mohn
Associate of Science-Agriculture Business Transfer, '26

Presentation of Class _____ Kathleen Nacos-Burds
Vice President of Teaching and Learning, Northeast Iowa Community College

Conferring of Degrees & Diplomas _____ Dave Dahms
President, Northeast Iowa Community College

Recessional*

Guests should remain seated after the ceremony until all students have exited.

Commencement Speakers



Steve Slessor

Chief Administrative Officer, WinnMed

Commencement Address

Steve Slessor serves as Chief Administrative Officer for WinnMed in Decorah. One of the largest rural hospitals in the state, WinnMed has experienced significant growth during Steve's nearly five years with the organization - success he attributes to a strong, dedicated team.

Steve began his career at UnityPoint Health in Waterloo, where he held several leadership roles, including Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Strategic Development. He later served for seven years as CEO of Buchanan County Health Center in Independence. In both organizations, Steve led notable growth initiatives and culture development efforts, two areas he is deeply passionate about.

Active in the communities he has lived and worked in, Steve has served on multiple Chamber of Commerce boards and Rotary clubs. He also gives back to the profession as an Executive in Residence with the University of Iowa's Master of Healthcare Administration program, where he co-teaches Principles of Reimbursement and Value-Based Care. In addition, Steve serves on the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board and several Iowa Hospital Association committees.



Mallory Mohn

Associate of Science-Agriculture Business Transfer, '26

Student Remarks

Mallory earned both an Associate of Science-Agriculture Business transfer degree and a certificate in Agriculture Business-Agriculture Finance at Northeast Iowa Community College, where she built a strong foundation for her future in the livestock and agriculture industries.

Her passion for agriculture has been shaped not only by her coursework but also by her active involvement across campus and within industry organizations.

During her time at NICC, Mallory served as vice president of the Ag Club and was an engaged member of the Iowa Professional Agricultural Student Organization. She earned first place in Dairy Specialist at the Iowa contest and went on to place fourth nationally. Mallory also participated in the Community College Alliance for Agriculture, completing a community-based project and presenting her work to the USDA in Washington D.C.

Her hands-on experience continued through dairy judging at the North American International Livestock Exposition, where she received second-place individual honors in Ayrshires. She also competed in the Midwest Dairy Challenge, further strengthening her technical skills and industry insight. Most recently, Mallory was honored with the Josh Evers Outstanding Agri-Science Student Award.

Mallory will continue her academic journey at Iowa State University, majoring in Animal Science with minors in International Agriculture and Agricultural Communication. Outside the classroom, she enjoys running, traveling and hiking!

Awards Conferred

Associate of Arts (AA)

This degree is issued to a person who completes a course of study designed to prepare the graduate for transfer to a four-year institution. The degree permits completion of the equivalent of the first two years of a baccalaureate degree in numerous institutions.

Associate of Science (AS)

This degree is issued to a person who completes a course of study designed to prepare the graduate for transfer to a four-year institution for the purpose of earning a baccalaureate degree.

Associate of General Studies (AGS)

This degree is issued to a person who completes an individualized course of study primarily designed for acquisition of a broad educational background rather than the pursuit of a specific emphasis in an associate's degree or professional/technical program.

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

This degree is issued to a person who graduates from a two-year technology program which consists of high-quality technical courses supplemented by a transferable core of general studies.

Diploma

A diploma is issued to a person who graduates from a vocational curriculum of at least nine months but less than two years in length, and it specifies the type of curriculum completed.

Certificate

A certificate is issued to a person who completes training in a specific occupational field. Certificate sequences are designed to enhance occupational competencies, employment marketability, specialized knowledge and skills.

2025-26 Graduates

* Graduation Honors, cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher prior to commencement

- Member of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society

Ella Alber

Cresco

Associate of Science, AS

Max Earnest Carl Bailey

Carlisle

John Deere TECH, AAS

Connor D. Allen

Reedsburg, Wis.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Makenzie Bark

Luana

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Rowen Althof

Harpers Ferry

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Shaun Barta

Calmar

Carpentry, Diploma

Brooke J. Amling

Garber

Agriculture Business-Precision Agriculture, Certificate

Conservation Agronomist, AAS

Kyleigh Batterson

Decorah

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Brooklyn N. Amsden*

Elkader

Business Administration, AAS

Michael A. Bax

Oelwein

Associate of General Studies, AGS

Ashley Dallana Anaya Bolanos*

Waterville

Associate of Arts, AA

Sawyer Beatty*

Arlington

Industrial Electrician, AAS

Brady Anderson

Otsego, Minn.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Owen R. Bentley

Castalia

Agriculture Business, AAS

Dairy Science Technology, AAS

Matthias Anderson

Adams, Minn.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Abigail Bergan

Cresco

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Brendon P. Arndorfer*

LeRoy, Minn.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Drew M. Berns*

Decorah

Carpentry, Diploma

Tricia Jean Bacon

McGregor

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Ryleigh S. Bienemann

Waverly

Practical Nursing, Diploma

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Hannah Bogdonovich

McGregor
Associate of Arts, AA

Isabella Adala Bogdonovich

McGregor
Associate of Arts, AA

Tarah Bogdonovich*

McGregor
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Casey John Bohr*

Ossian
Industrial Electrician, AAS

Koby John Bohr*

Postville
Associate of Arts, AA
Sports Administration, Certificate

Mitchell C. Bohr*

Castalia
Agriculture Business, AAS

Brandon Bosma

Worthington, Minn.
John Deere TECH, AAS

Aiden P. Brannon

Lime Springs
Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Mara G. Branum*

Decorah
Associate of Arts, AA

Cadence Brauer

Decorah
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Lauryl Breitsprecher

Calmar
Administrative Office Management, AAS

Jonathan Walker Brewer*

Oxford, N.C.
Agriculture Business, AAS

Emma Lee Brincks

New Hampton
Early Childhood, Diploma
Early Childhood Education, Certificate

Jaden Brincks

Ossian
Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Christine Bronkhorst*

Prescott, Wash.
Agriculture Business, AAS

Myka Brooks

Manchester
Agriculture Business, AAS

Sean Valentin Brumm

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Annika Brynsaas*

Decorah
Agriculture Finance, AAS

Alysa Leann Bublitz*

Waukon
Associate of Arts, AA

Ethan S. Burmeister

Durant
John Deere TECH, AAS

Jaycee Burnikel

Cresco
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Avalea H. Burns

Waukon
Associate of Arts, AA

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Brianna Busta

Lawler

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Alyssa S. Byrnes*

Dorchester

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Hailee Cannon

Hawkeye

Associate of Arts, AA

Chloe Canterbury

Adams, Minn.

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Morgan Carlson

St. Charles, Minn.

Animal Science, Certificate

Beef Science Technology, AAS

Morgan Carlson

St Charles, Minn.

Dairy Science Technology, AAS

Mia Chapman

West Union

Associate of Arts, AA

Darci L. Cline*

West Union

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Alivia Grace Coenen-Sautter

Monona

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Ryan A. Cogil*

Jamaica

John Deere TECH, AAS

Mason Collison

Toledo

John Deere TECH, AAS

Lane Converse**

Sumner

Agriculture Business, AAS

Adele Conway*

Ossian

Associate of Arts, AA

Jacqueline Cornell*

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Halea M. Corwin

Waukon

Social Work, AA

Azlynn M. Cota

Waukon

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Brody Charles Courtney*

Ridgeway

Agriculture Business, AAS

Dairy Science Technology, AAS

Samuel Wayne Cross

Baxter

John Deere TECH, AAS

Bradley Raymond Dahl*

Ridgeway

Carpentry, Diploma

Kinsli Isabelle Dahl

New Hampton

Business Administration, AAS

Business Administration, Certificate

Rachel DeCarlo**

Castalia

Business Administration, AAS

Business Administration, Certificate

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Taylor Jackson DeSloover

Fort Atkinson
Agriculture Business - Precision Agriculture, Certificate

Riley F. Diersen

Caledonia, Minn.
*Agriculture Business, AAS
Beef Science Technology, AAS*

Jack Duehr

Sherrill
John Deere TECH, AAS

Rayna Dunn

Alta Vista
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Tiffany Durr*

Onslow
Business Administration, Certificate

Kiele Anna Eberling

Postville
Agriculture Education, AS

Dylan P. Elsbernd

Decorah
*Business Administration, AAS
Business Administration, Certificate*

Josephine M. Englehardt *

Ridgeway
Associate of Arts, AA

Lainee A. Evanson

Monona
Associate of Arts, AA

Lucas Farber*

Minburn
Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Brandy Feickert

Elkader
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Eric D. Fleming*

Calmar
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Omar Flores-Nava*

Calmar
Computer Science and Security, AAS

Nicole Marie Floyd

Jesup
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Evan Parker Ford

Kanawha
John Deere TECH, AAS

Katrina Ann Friedrich

Riceville
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Aubree L. Fuhrman*

Waukon
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Jenna Jo Funk*■

Elkport
Business Administration, AAS

Lukas Geiser*

Chilton, Wis.
John Deere TECH, AAS

Hunter Gerber*

New Hampton
Associate of Science, AS

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Ben Joseph Gilbert

New Hampton
*Agriculture Business - Agriculture Finance,
Certificate
Agriculture Finance, AAS*

Emma G. Godman**

Cresco
Associate of Arts, AA

Ryleigh A. Goerd*

Elkader
Associate of Arts, AA

Perla L. Gonzalez

Postville
*Accounting Clerk, Diploma
Accounting Specialist, AAS*

Caitlin Rose Graham

Monona
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Olivia Grant

Cedar Falls
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Brock A. Gregor*

New Prague, Minn.
John Deere TECH, AAS

Eric Allen Greve

Ossian
Carpentry, Diploma

Aleyah Renae Griffith

McGregor
Associate of Arts, AA

Jesse Grimes*

West Union
Business Administration, AAS

Brad R. Hackman

Waucoma
*Associate of Arts, AA
Associate of Science, AS*

Haylee Grace Hackman*

Waukon
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Sierra Hackman

New Hampton
Associate of Arts, AA

James K. Hamilton

Dunlap
John Deere TECH, AAS

Ashley M. Hammer*

New Hampton
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Shaina Hansmeier*

Cresco
*Early Childhood, Diploma
Early Childhood Education, Certificate*

Berklee Hanson

Waukon
Associate of Science, AS

Kollin Hanson*

Garner
John Deere TECH, AAS

Lucas Hanson

Saint Lucas
Associate of Science, AS

Maggie Rae Hart

Waverly
Practical Nursing, Diploma

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Hilary Heim

Bondurant

Administrative Office Management, AAS

Sarah Marie Hennessy

Waukon

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Staci Marie Herman*

Littleport

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Janessa Hershberger*

Canton, Minn.

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Justine Hesse

Chariton

Associate of Arts, AA

Eli Higgins

Ossian

Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Holden Hockerman*

Westfield, Wis.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Amber J. Howard

Cresco

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Avery L. Humpal[▮]

Ridgeway

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Benjamin William Jahnke

Osage

John Deere TECH, AAS

Brandon Jahnke*

Spring Grove, Minn.

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Raye B. Jenkins*

Denver

*Production and Companion Animal
Veterinary Technician, AAS*

Alexa Johnson

Rapid City, S.D.

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Brenda Johnson

Elgin

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Christopher K. Johnson*

Dubois, Pa.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Coleen M. Johnson*

Winter, Wis.

Business Administration, AAS

Business Administration, Certificate

Liza J. Johnson

Waukon

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Dean A. Jolly

Pleasantville

John Deere TECH, AAS

Jesse R. Jones

Sumner

John Deere TECH, AAS

Sierra L. Jones*

Osage

Agriculture Business, AAS

Kimberly R. Jordan*

Alta Vista

Beef Science Technology, AAS

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Molly Kann*

Guttenberg
Agriculture Business, AAS

Colby Michael Kempke*

Glenbeulah, Wis.
John Deere TECH, AAS

Gracianna Alise Kennicker

Elkader
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Brooke A. Kerr

West Union
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Kassandra R. Kitching

Houston, Minn.
Associate of Arts, AA

Kristi Kjome-Johnson

Lindstrom, Minn.
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Makaila Klejeski

Elgin, Minn.
Animal Science, Certificate
Beef Science Technology, AAS

McKenna D. Klenk*

Monona
Accounting Specialist, AAS

Olivia Kleppe

West Union
Agriculture Business, AAS
Dairy Science Technology, AAS

Carly Jane Kluesner

Dyersville
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Hunter Kovaloff*

Mandan, N.D.
Agriculture Business, AAS

Dalton Krause

Monona
History, AA

Megan Rose Kremer*

LaMotte
Agriculture Business, AAS
Animal Science, Certificate

Brett P. Kruse*

Farley
Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Devynne R. Kruse*

Waukon
Associate of Arts, AA

Kylie J. Kuhn*

Decorah
Associate of Arts, AA

Caleb Kurtenbach*

Lawler
Business Administration, AAS

Parker Lansing

Ossian
John Deere TECH, AAS

Chris Larson

Decorah
Beef Science Technology, AAS

Angel Lebherz*

Cresco
Associate of Arts, AA

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Keigan T. Leiran*

Waukon

Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

T'laiyah Aja Jai Leiran

Waukon

Associate of Arts, AA

Jenna Katherine Lemke*

Decorah

Accounting Specialist, AAS

Brady Edward Lensing*

Fort Atkinson

Industrial Electrician, AAS

Brooke J. Leverson**

Lime Springs

Business Administration, AAS

Samantha Jane Light

Prairie du Chien, Wis.

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Stephanie R. Link

West Union

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Kennedy Colleen Linkenmeyer*

Riceville

Associate of Arts, AA

Maggie Rae Lovstuen

Decorah

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Natalie R. Lubinski*

Lewiston, Minn.

Elementary Education, AA

Will Ludwig

Elma

Agriculture Business, AAS

Kenneth L. Lueschow

Calmar

Sports Administration, Certificate

Jasmine F. Luong*

Waukon

Associate of Arts, AA

Ayden J. Maassen*

Maurice

Agriculture Business, AAS

Agriculture Business - Precision Agriculture, Certificate

Ava Mahr

New Albin

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Savannah Malli

Elgin

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Lauren Marroquin

McGregor

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Raeman Magdaline Mathis

Waukon

Associate of Arts, AA

Larra McCasland

Decorah

Accounting Specialist, AAS

Wesley A. McElroy*

Newton

John Deere TECH, AAS

Elizabeth Mikaela McMullen**

Anaconda, Mont.

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Adriana Meistad

Sheldon, Wis.

John Deere TECH, AAS

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Devon Emery Meyer

Monona
Associate of Arts, AA

Amber Mezera

Waukon
Business Administration, AAS

Jeffrey Michael Miller

Hammond, Wis.
Agriculture Business, AAS

Chloe Moeller

Postville
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Dominic Moellers

Ridgeway
Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Kenzie A. Moellers*

Cresco
Associate of Science, AS

Mallory Mohn*

Lansing
Agriculture Business, AS
Agriculture Business - Agriculture Finance, Certificate

Eric Mohr*

Memphis, Mo.
John Deere TECH, AAS

Lanie Lee Morris

New Hampton
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Rylan Mulholland

Waukon
Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Gavriel Mulligan

Boulder, Colo.
Associate of Arts, AA

Bowen A. Muzingo**

Fayette
Accounting Clerk, Diploma

Cade Naughton

Fort Dodge
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Melissa Nickerson

Sumner
Income Tax Preparatory, Certificate

Tate Nietfeld

Ericson, Neb.
Agriculture Business, AAS

Lynn J. Ninos

Decorah
Accounting Clerk, Diploma

Gerardo I. Obregon

Kalona
John Deere TECH, AAS

Kerry L. Oldenburger**

New Hampton
Social Work, AA

Erin O'Neill

Waukon
Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Ethan J. Orvis

Lawler
Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Hayden R.S. Palmer*

Waukon
Associate of Arts, AA

Kole Pape*

Luana
Computer Science and Security, AAS

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Trevor Papenfuss

Dakota, Minn.

Commercial-Residential Electrician Diploma

Dakota J. Patee

Nolensville, Tenn.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Beef Science Technology, AAS

Robert Paulsen*

Bellevue

John Deere TECH, AAS

Kendra Elizabeth Paus

Garnavillo

Finance, AAS

Major Peacock

Otsego, Minn.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Jace Pedretti

Cresco

Associate of Arts, AA

Kaitlyn E. Peterson

Decorah

Agriculture Business, AAS

Tyler C. Piquet

Winnemucca, Nev.

Associate of Arts, AA

Kodi Brown Powell*

Chinook, Mont.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Elizabeth Prochaska**

Cresco

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Brianne Ramey

Yreka, Calif.

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Tyler Rathbun*

Waukon

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Jolene M. Reeg

Waukon

Associate of General Studies, AGS

Carter Thomas Reicks*

Lawler

Industrial Electrician, AAS

Trisha A. Reicks

Protivin

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Brayden T. Reiser*

Decorah

Business Administration, AAS

Katherine Reno*

Fredericksburg

Carpentry, Diploma

Construction Business Management, Diploma

Sofia Nicki Rivera*

Waucoma

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Carson Rubischko

Goodridge, Minn.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Sarah Ryan

Waukon

Accounting Specialist, AAS

Lucas M. Sass

West Union

Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Spencer Schaffer

Hokah, Minn.

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Jack Loren James Scherf*

St Olaf

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Billie Jo Schlueter

Strawberry Point

Animal Science, Certificate

Beef Science Technology, AAS

Carrie L. Schluetter

New Hampton

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Angela N. Schmidt*■

Monona

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Ryann Schmitt*

Waucoma

Associate of Science, AS

Cody A. Schmitz*

New Holstein, Wis.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Ryan M. Schneberger*

Decorah

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Joel Schneider*

West Saint Paul, Minn.

John Deere TECH, AAS

Carter Alan Schnell

Arlington

John Deere TECH, AAS

Kayden R. Schnuelle

Castalia

Agriculture Business-Precision Agriculture, Certificate

Landen E. Schnuelle

Ossian

Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Anthony Shea

Cresco

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Wyatt Simons

Atlantic

John Deere TECH, AAS

Theresa Sis Mejia

Postville

Business Administration, AAS

Matthew Smith

Fort Atkinson

John Deere TECH, AAS

Kyrie L. Snitker*

Waukon

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Jacob R. Sowers

Vernon Center, Minn.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Madeline Stahr

West Union

Accounting Clerk, Diploma

Anissa K. Stanley

New Albin

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Paige Steinlage

New Hampton

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Benjamin Stemper

Caledonia, Minn.

Associate of General Studies, AGS

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

Carson Straube

Spillville

Commercial-Residential Electrician, Diploma

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Emma J. Streif*

Maynard
Associate of Arts, AA

Aaron J. Sudtelgte

Iowa Falls
John Deere TECH, AAS

Bryson T. Sukup*

Monona
Industrial Electrician, AAS

Ezra Sweeney

Waukon
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Lucas Tempus*

Winthrop
John Deere TECH, AAS

Jamie Thompson

Cresco
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Kasey Lee Thompson

Decorah
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Averey F. Thornton*

McGregor
Associate of Arts, AA

Karleigh Mae Thorson

Elkader
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Hailey J. Thuyente*

Decorah
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Brody E. Tieskoetter

Ossian
*Production and Companion Animal
Veterinary Technician, AAS*

Zoey Timmerman

Lansing
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Morgan Tobin* ■

Decorah
Practical Nursing, Diploma

Colton Tollefsrud*

Canton, Minn.
John Deere TECH, AAS

Josie Lynn Tollefsrud*

Festina
*Business Administration, AAS
Business Administration, Certificate*

Aubree Topp

Botkins, Ohio
Agriculture Business, AS

Yaqueline Trinidad-Valerio

Elgin
Finance, AAS

Willa J. Troendle

Waukon
Associate of Arts, AA

Kallie Rae Troester*

Waukon
History, AA

Mitchell Vagts

Ossian
*Animal Science, Certificate
Dairy Science Technology, AAS*

Emmet Dean Van Zante*

Fremont
John Deere TECH, AAS

GRADUATES

Class of 2025-2026

Angela Villarreal

Waukon

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Jaylee M. Vobr*

Cresco

Associate of Arts, AA

Hunter Wagner

Spillville

Early Childhood Education, Certificate

Isaiah H. Wagner

Lansing

Associate of Arts, AA

Jessica D. Wagner*

Clermont

Accounting Clerk, Diploma

Matison Hayes Walsh

Decorah

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Bo Wangsness

Nordness

Agriculture Business, AAS

Animal Science, Certificate

Dairy Science Technology, AAS

Jillianne V. Wangsness

Ossian

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Kayla Waskow

Decorah

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Grace Anna Watson

Columbus Junction

Associate Degree Nursing, AAS

Tonita L. Weatherspoon

Cresco

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Austin Wemark

Fort Atkinson

Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Kinsey L. White*

Decorah

Early Childhood, Diploma

Early Childhood Education, Certificate

Taylor R. Wilcox*

Colby, Kan.

Agriculture Business, AAS

Jaron Wille*

Monona

Commercial-Residential Electrician Diploma

Henry Willey

Ossian

Automotive Mechanics, Diploma

Lydia Ann Williams**

Cresco

Associate of Science, AS

Reagan L. Wymer

West Union

Practical Nursing, Diploma

Lucas J. Wymore*

Marshalltown

John Deere TECH, AAS

Sarah E. Zirkelbach

Bay Minette, Ala.

Agriculture Finance, AAS

Commencement History and Tradition

The commencement ceremony is one of the most formal ceremonies in an academic institution, involving traditions that have their roots in medieval secular and religious institutions. It is also a time to celebrate the accomplishments and academic successes of our degree candidates. The caps, gowns and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students of that time wore them to keep warm in the damp, drafty halls of learning. From these practical origins they have developed into the acceptable ceremonial attire, which symbolizes scholarly achievement.

Gowns

Gowns for associate's and bachelor's degrees are black with unadorned pointed sleeves. The master's degree gown is also black with an oblong sleeve, square-cut at the rear with an arc cut-away at the front. Doctoral gowns have bell-shaped sleeves that are allowed three bars of velvet, while a five-inch velvet trim of the appropriate color adorns the front. The word "regalia" means decorations or insignia indicative of an office; in academia, the more color, ropes, sashes or velvet on the gowns, the higher the academic degree.

Hoods

The hood gives color and meaning to the academic attire. Its silk lining bears the color of the institution conferring the degree. The hood is bordered with velvet of a prescribed width and color to indicate the field of learning to which the degree pertains. The velvet edging of two, three or five inches designate the bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree respectively. Hood lengths also vary from three-feet (bachelor's), three and a half feet (master's) and four feet (doctoral). The longer the hood, the higher the degree.

Caps

Mortarboards or caps are usually square with a tassel attached to the middle point of the top of the cap. Tassels may be black, colored to indicate the discipline in which the degree was earned, or gold in the case of the doctoral cap or tam. At commencement, graduates wear the tassel on the right side, moving it to the left when their degree is conferred. Faculty and staff participating in the ceremony wear the tassel to the left throughout the proceedings.

Cords

Students who qualify for an honors distinction are to be highly commended for their academic achievements. They are recognized in the commencement program and by the gold cords or sashes they wear over their gowns. Graduating veterans and military members are recognized for their distinguished service with a red, white and blue regalia cord. The cord colors replicate those of our nation's flag to denote the valor, excellence and sacrifice these individuals have exemplified in their service to the United States Armed Forces. Graduating TRIO Student Support Services participants are recognized by wearing a red, black and white cord.

Military Challenge Coins

Veterans and active duty students graduating from Northeast Iowa Community College are awarded a commemorative Challenge Coin. Challenge Coins are pocket-sized medallions rooted in military tradition. Commanders use these types of coins to honor service members for their hard work, dedication and achievement. The College is proud to present a Challenge Coin to graduates in the military to acknowledge their service and commitment to our country.

Northeast Iowa Community College History

In 1966, the State Board of Education approved the formation of the Area I – Vocational-Technical School with Calmar as its administrative headquarters. This included the public school districts in Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties, as well as sections of Bremer, Buchanan and Mitchell counties.

On September 5, 1967, career education programs in Calmar began with 170 students enrolled in 12 programs. The school also broke ground on construction of college facilities on the 210-acre Calmar campus, which now includes the Darwin L. Schrage Administration Building, Max Clark Hall, Wilder Business Center, Industrial Technologies, Student Center, Agricultural Technologies, Child Development Center and Iowa's Dairy Center, a \$4.1 million dairy education center and applied research laboratory built in 2000.

The merged Area I Vocational-Technical School was enlarged in 1970 to include the public school districts in Dubuque and Delaware counties and sections of Jones and Jackson counties. In 1971, career education programs in Dubuque began at several locations throughout the city, including the Roshek building.

In April 1979, the Area I Vocational-Technical School changed its name to Northeast Iowa Technical Institute. This same year, the Peosta campus was established. The Peosta campus currently includes the main building, the Gas Utilities and Construction building, a child development center, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, and most recently, the Industrial Technologies building, which opened in August 2010.

In 1988, the College was authorized by the Iowa Board of Education to award the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees, as well as diplomas and certificates. The College also changed its name from Northeast Iowa Technical Institute to Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC).

NICC has since expanded to include service locations in Cresco, Dubuque, New Hampton, Manchester, Oelwein and Waukon. The purpose of these locations is to bring education and training to students where they live and to serve as a catalyst for economic development. In 2008, the Town Clock Business Center in Dubuque was expanded to include a one-stop center with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA).

In December 2007, taxpayers across the district approved, by a supermajority vote, a \$35 million renovation and construction bond levy for NICC. These funds supported construction and renovation of the industrial technologies buildings and health and science labs on each campus; renovations to the student center and Darwin L. Schrage Administration Building on the Calmar campus; a new library on the Peosta campus; and renovation of the Calmar campus Wilder Business Center, which opened in January 2013.

In fall 2011, the Aspen Institute Community College Excellence Program named NICC to the top 10 of community colleges in the nation for the College's successful graduate outcomes, academic excellence and community impact.

Northeast Iowa Community College district voters approved a continuation of a \$39 million bond levy in September 2018. The funding supported renovations to the Main Building on the Peosta campus and Max Clark Hall on the Calmar campus, and updates to educational programming and services, infrastructure, security and technology.



Mission

Northeast Iowa Community College empowers learners and strengthens communities through accessible, high-quality, innovative education and training.



Vision

Northeast Iowa Community College will lead with intention and be forward-thinking in shaping and delivering education and workforce solutions.

Values

Respect

We value diverse perspectives and demonstrate consideration for one another, fostering trust, collaboration and accountability.

Innovate

We embrace creative solutions and forward-thinking strategies to excel in a changing world.

Serve

We listen and engage across our College and community, addressing needs and expectations while committing to sustainability in environmental, social and economic practices.

Engage

We prioritize clarity and open communication to build trust and foster meaningful connections.

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Thank You!

The success of Northeast Iowa Community College students and graduates depends on the support of many individuals, donors, community organizations and business and industry partners throughout the year. By creating scholarships for students, providing input on academic programs as advisors, donating equipment to the College for training purposes and enhancing our students' learning experiences, community members make a difference in our graduates' future careers. Northeast Iowa Community College also expresses its gratitude to the families of students for providing the critical support they need while earning their college degrees and diplomas.

Celebrate your achievement!

Share your commencement photos on social media and tag @neiowacc.

#niccgrad2026



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