



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

603 West Park Street  
Sheldon, Iowa 51201

Phone 712-324-5061 or  
toll free 1-800-352-4907, Ext. 105

**April 20, 2011**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*May be published  
when received.*

### **Eighth Grade Career Day at Northwest Iowa Community College**

On Friday, April 15, 1,200 area eighth graders from twenty seven northwest Iowa schools attended Eighth Grade Career Day at Northwest Iowa Community College. The main purpose of the event was career exploration for students who are just starting the process of choosing their future careers. Students attended three breakout sessions featuring speakers from different career fields and heard the main speaker, award winning youth speaker, Jeff Yalden.

There were a total of forty two different career choice breakout sessions for the eighth graders to attend. The sessions featured everything from careers like: engineering, automotive, forensic science, photography and culinary arts.

The students picked three possible careers they would like to know more about. NCC hosted professionals from across northwest Iowa to speak to the students for about twenty minutes. They explained what they do in a normal day, what kind of educational choices a person should be making when pursuing their particular career and what some of the benefits of that career are (such as monetary benefits, etc.) There was also plenty of time for the students to ask questions.

The students also attended a motivational speaker. This year the main speaker for the day was Jeff Yalden. Yalden has spent the last fifteen years touring the world, coaching and delivering his highly motivational speech to youth, educators and parents to make better life, family choices and to find a purpose bigger than themselves in their journey. "You can't be angry about yesterday's circumstances. However, you can choose to accept the past and make better choices today to make the circumstances of tomorrow more fulfilling, meaningful, and rewarding," Yalden states. More information about Jeff can be found at his website at [www.jeffyalden.com](http://www.jeffyalden.com)

Donna Ascherl, Coordinator of Secondary Programs, said, "I am proud to be a part of the tradition Northwest Iowa Community College started in 1997 when they began hosting Career Day for 8th Graders. The reason we invite eighth graders to attend Career Day is to help the students evaluate which classes to take as they prepare for high school and beyond. Eighth Grade Career Day actually gives them an opportunity to think a little deeper about which career field is right for them by listening to and talking with individuals who are currently working in a career or field of study students are interested in. The students can ask questions and get real answers about careers they are thinking about pursuing. At the same time it allows the students an opportunity to hear about careers they have not yet considered."

Ascherl continued. "I feel a day like this is important because it allows students to begin doing career exploration in a comfortable relaxed atmosphere. It inspires and motivates them to begin looking at careers and the opportunities they provide. Our goal is to make this a rewarding experience and a defining moment for those who are participating."



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### **Schools Attending the Eighth Grade Career Day at Northwest Iowa Community College**

Akron Westfield Community School  
Boyden-Hull Community School  
Central Lyon Community School  
Cherokee Community School  
Clay Central Everly Community School  
Doon Christian School  
George-Little Rock Community School  
Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Community School  
Hull Christian School  
Inwood Christian School  
Ireton Christian School  
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn Community School  
MOC-Floyd Valley Community School  
Netherlands Reformed Christian School  
Remsen St. Mary's School  
Remsen-Union Community School  
Rock Valley Christian School  
Rock Valley Community School  
Sanborn Christian School  
Sheldon Community School  
Sheldon Christian School  
Sheldon St Patrick's School  
Sibley-Ocheyedan Community School  
Sioux Center Community School  
South-O'Brien Community School  
Spalding-Catholic School  
Spencer Community School