



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Mari Culver, Iowa's First Lady, Visits Northwest Iowa Community College**

On February 18, Mari Culver, Iowa's First Lady, visited Northwest Iowa Community College Accounting and Administrative Secretarial program students who are helping northwest Iowans to file their tax returns.

Culver spoke to a room of about forty students, staff and community members about the importance of the Earned Income Tax Credit. She stressed the importance of educating fellow Iowans about the Earned Income Tax Credit and what a great program Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is to Iowans.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row the Accounting program students and the Administrative Secretarial program students are working with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. The students are working together to provide free income tax filing assistance for basic tax returns for people with low and limited income, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking, and elderly taxpayers. Low and limited income is defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as \$49,000 per household.

Culver stated, "VITA is a wonderful program. In these difficult economic times Iowans really need their tax refunds. Hopefully, with programs like VITA it will encourage more people to file their returns and put more money back into the pockets of Iowans. The fact that there are sixteen students working for the VITA program is phenomenal! It's a very large number of people volunteering for a VITA site. It's one of the largest number of volunteers I have seen in any city in Iowa, including the largest cities in the state. I have visited VITA sites from across the state and you can see the gratitude of the citizens of Iowa for this service!"

Culver continued, "College students can get so busy with their lives it's great to see them get involved in their community."

The Administrative Secretarial program students are making all the appointments for the Accounting students in order to make sure everyone is kept busy and no one is double booked.

Jessica Aguirre, Accounting program student, stated, "It gives you the actual experience and the hands-on knowledge so you know what an accountant does. It prepares you for your job after you graduate."

The Administrative Secretarial students added jointly, "The VITA site project has been a rewarding opportunity not only to obtain insight into what is expected in our future work responsibilities, but also to experience the satisfaction of helping others. The challenging and

fast-paced atmosphere of the project has helped us to learn what will be required of us as administrative professionals.”

Janice Sage, Paullina, Iowa, said “I came in today to get help with my taxes. I think this is a great service to the community that NCC students are providing. They are able to learn and help people who can’t afford to get it done any other way. I really appreciate it.”

Sue Behrens, NCC Accounting Instructor, stated, “It is a great service and learning project for our students. Not only are they gaining valuable work experience we are also providing a great service to the community.”

The Northwest Iowa Community College Accounting program students will be doing free federal and state tax e-filing. Appointments can be made Fridays: February 26, March 19 and 26 from 10:10 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. Remember there is no charge for this service.

For more information or to schedule an appointment contact Northwest Iowa Community College at 712- 324-5061 or 800-352-4907, extension 331.

**The Accounting students are preparing:**

Form 982 – Reduction of Tax Attributes Due to Discharge of Indebtedness

Form 1040EZ

Form 1040A with

- ✓ Schedule 1 – Interest and Ordinary Dividends
- ✓ Schedule 2 – Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- ✓ Schedule 3 – Credit for the Elderly or Disabled

Form 1040 with

- ✓ Schedule A – Itemized Deductions
- ✓ Schedule B – Interest and Ordinary Dividends
- ✓ EIC – Earned Income Credit
- ✓ Schedule R – Credit for Elderly or Disabled

Form 1040-V – Payment Voucher

Form 1040-ES – Estimated Tax for Individuals

Form 2441 – Child and Dependent Care Credit

Form 5405 – First-Time Homebuyer Credit and Repayment of the Credit

Form 8812 – Additional Child Tax Credit

Form 8863- Education Credits

Form 8888 – Direct Deposit