



Northwest Iowa

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NEWS

RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College Students Win Ford/AAA Auto Skills State Championship

Two of Northwest Iowa Community College's High School Automotive Technology students along with their NCC instructor, Mark Steinle, took home Iowa State Championship honors after competing as a team in the Ford/AAA Auto Skills contest held May 10 at Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, Iowa. Ryan Mordick, Sheldon, and Dylan Niswander, Ocheyedan have now earned the right to compete at the Ford/AAA Auto Skills National Championship to be held at the Ford Motor Company Headquarters, Dearborn, MI and compete against teams from all 50 states.

In February high school students enrolled in NCC's Automotive Technology Career Academy from Sibley, Sheldon, Spalding Catholic, Western Christian, MOC-Floyd Valley, Boyden-Hull and H-M-S took an online qualifying exam. Only the ten highest scoring two-person teams from across the state were selected to advance onto the state finals, with only one team eligible per instructor. At the state finals, teams raced against the clock to correctly diagnose and repair a deliberately "bugged" 2012 Ford Mustang placed by Ford engineers. A combination of the online exam and hands-on competition scores determined each state's championship team.

Mordick and Niswander were the 2nd team to complete their task. They finished in seventy two minutes giving them eighteen minutes to spare. The judges noted that they had fixed all the problems in the Mustang, but had forgotten to put a rain flap for the fuse box back in place, so they were given one demerit. All ten teams were able to get their hoods closed and go through the judging area.

After all the scores were tabulated from the written and the hands-on test Mordick and Niswander were announced as the 2011 Iowa State Champions. They, along with their instructor, have now earned an all expenses paid trip by Ford and AAA to the National Championships.

The 50 state championship teams will now compete in Dearborn, Michigan June 12-14, for the National Title. After taking a 100-question written exam, the teams will face off in

a timed competition during which they will diagnose and repair a different set of “bugs” in a Ford model car. (The model of car is yet to be announced.) The National Title will go to the team with the best combined scores from the written test and hands-on competition.

This year, nearly 10,500 high school juniors and seniors competed in the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills competition representing more than 958 automotive technology programs from all 50 states.

To prepare for the competition Northwest Iowa Community College partnered with local Ford Dealers. Mark Steinle, Automotive Instructor, stated, “The students knew they were going to be “debugging” a 2012 Mustang, so Rick Cannoy (another NCC Automotive Instructor) and I contacted the local Ford Dealerships, Drenkow Motors and Jeddelloh Ford, and asked if they could bring a Mustang to NCC for the students to familiarize themselves with it. Drenkow Motors had a Shelby Mustang and even though it wasn’t the exact model they were going to be tested on, it was a great help to the students for them to familiarize themselves with the car before the competition. We would like to thank Drenkow Motors and Jeddelloh Ford for supporting NCC’s automotive programs.”

Niswander commented, “It feels really cool to be representing Iowa at the national competition. I want to bring home a win and represent Iowa, NCC, and Ocheyedan well. I didn’t know a lot about the automotive field when I started taking classes at NCC. NCC has taught me the procedures of diagnostics and narrowing down a problem to get at the real issue.”

Mordick followed-up Niswander’s comments by saying, “This is a once in a lifetime chance for us. We are kind of pioneers in this competition. This is the first time NCC has competed and we won first place. It puts NCC on the map. This competition is a great opportunity. It doesn’t cost anything to enter and if you win you have the pride of representing your state, college, and hometown at the national level. You also receive a lot of scholarships and a free trip!”

Steinle said, “I am confident Dylan and Ryan will make NCC and the state of Iowa proud, as they have done at the state finals. This is such a great opportunity for them and gives them a great experience. They were able to work on cars in a real world experience. They also have made a lot of friends. One of the biggest advantages is they are showed a lot of careers in the automotive field that they might not have considered. There are careers they hadn’t even thought of pursuing because they had

never been exposed to them. This gives them a lot to think about as they plan for their futures.”

Mordick and Niswander are attending NCC and are earning college credit through a new dual enrollment program called Automotive Technology High School Career Academy. This is a new program stated this past fall. The program is a partnership between NCC and their high schools. NCC has a strong history of working with school districts to provide opportunities for high school students to earn college credit while still in high school. NCC truly values our high school students, and believes that these courses can be a benefit to students. Some of the main reasons are: students get a head start on college, they save money – joint enrollment classes are generally free to the student, they gain college experience, and expand the course opportunities for high school students in both college transfer and career and technical programs.

Mordick commented, “Taking college classes in high school is a huge advantage. I have half of the Automotive Program done without having to pay for it. You save a lot of money and about a year of schooling. I have taken a lot of classes at NCC while in high school. In addition to my automotive classes I have taken Western Civilization, Speech and a few more.”

For more information on NCC’s Automotive Technology High School Career Academy or to find out more about any of NCC’s more than forty programs of study contact the Admissions Office at studentservices@nwicc.edu , call 800-352-4907 or 324-5061, or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu. At NCC There’s a Place For You!

