



Northwest Iowa
Community College

603 West Park Street
Sheldon, Iowa 51201

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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Peterson Contractors Incorporated at NCC to Demonstrate GPS Technology

On February 17 & 18, the first and second year Heavy Equipment Program students at Northwest Iowa Community College had the opportunity to meet with Jason Billerbeck, GPS Technician at Peterson Contractors Incorporated, PCI. The students had one day of classroom training and one day of in-the-field training on the latest technology in GPS positioning technology for Road Graders.

Billerbeck commented, "I enjoy getting out and speaking to college students. It is important for us, as an industry, to get out and show the newest and best practices to the young people who are up and coming in our industry. The fun thing about showing them the techniques of using GPS technology is that most of them will need this information when they get into the workforce."

Billerbeck continued, "The great thing about GPS technology is that it saves time and manpower. Instead of looking at paper plans and coordinating your team you all can have the plans in your machines. GPS technology actually changes and updates information in real time so everyone in the crew is on the same page. Also, if you train the operator how to use this technology you only empower that employee with knowledge that, in the end, will make a better product for the company and the customer. Finally, some other great things about GPS technology is you can double check and verify the groundwork so you know your initial bid is correct. You don't have to rely on old aerial photos or old surveys for your bids. You only need one person at the bid site taking measurements instead of three. What that means is the results are instantaneous so you don't have to wait three days for the results."

Mitchell Treiber, Heavy Equipment student from Ida Grove, Iowa, commented, "It was amazing and very cool to know that kind of technology is coming to the heavy equipment field. I think that type of training is great. It shows the students the "ins-and-outs" of the latest technology. It's very simple and effective measurement technology. With a click of a button you literally measure in seconds what used to take multiple people days to do."

Hud Johnson, Heavy Equipment students from Red Oak Iowa, said "The GPS technology is very operator friendly. Having exposure to this kind of technology will give a person a definite edge when competing for a job"

Roger Solberg, Heavy Equipment Instructor, stated, "When the Advisory Committee for the Heavy Equipment Program met GPS technology was one of the concepts they thought we should be exposing all of our students to. Our students being taught this cutting-edge technology lets them have an advantage over other people going out into the workforce. This is also quite a show of support for NCC's Heavy Equipment Program. PCI brought their staff, road grader and all their GPS equipment to our campus for two days of training. We greatly appreciate the show of support."