



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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September 29, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

*May be published
when received.*

NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH HAITIAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

Three representatives from the Eglise Lutherenne d'Haiti (ELH) Vocational Training Center visited Northwest Iowa Community College September, 19 – 23. ELH Vocational Training Center is a new school in Haiti being developed by the Lutheran Church in Haiti with support from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They were in Northwest Iowa to establish a long term partnership with NCC and to model their construction programs after NCC's construction programs.

The representatives from Haiti were: Bernard Gianoli, Haiti Emergency Response Coordinator, and two instructors, Jean Pierre Tommy Galbaud and Joseph Hergo Chavannes. They are civil engineers responsible for developing the construction plans and curriculum for the ELH Vocational Training Center that is being modeled after NCC in Haiti. Their intent was to learn about our Heavy Equipment and Carpentry programs and implement what they have learned in order to improve their methods of educational delivery to their students.

While visiting they toured NCC's Carpentry and Heavy Equipment Programs. They were able to see the different types of classrooms the programs use along with tour the unique "labs" each program uses. For Carpentry it is a 1700 foot home that the Carpentry students build each year. The Heavy Equipment "lab" is their worksite located to the south of Boyden, IA. The program's students are currently doing the "dirt-work" at a new industrial site that the City of Boyden is developing.

Chavannes, stated, "The visit with Ryan [Cannoy, NCC – Instructor, Carpentry/Construction Technology] was most interesting. We were very impressed by the training, curriculum and the particle learning aspect of the program. We will be implementing these techniques with our students in Haiti."

Galbaud, commented, "One of the biggest surprises about this area is the way people know how to work together to accomplish a goal. Everyone who has an interest in a project is consulted and decisions are made from great discussions. Communication, in the large sense, between the private sector, local and state government, and the community college are all key when they are looking at a long term goal and working together to reach that goal. That is the key to their success. That will only bring economic prosperity to this region."

“We are very grateful to the College receiving us the way they have. We will be telling our students what a nice and educational stay we had.” Continued Galbaud, “We will do our best to transmit to the trainees (students) in Haiti what we learned here and we foresee a long term relationship with NCC.”

Frank DeMilia, Executive Director – Economic Development, Continuing Education & Training, said, “This project is important to NCC because it fits our mission statement which in part states that we respond to the needs of our global community. It also aligns with several of our guiding principles including believing in the dignity of all individuals, embracing diversity, and that partnerships are essential. Besides, it’s the right thing to do.”

“This relationship started based on the reputation of our Heavy Equipment program”, DeMilia explained. “Dave Carlson, a contractor in eastern Iowa, heard that the ELCA headquartered in Chicago had purchased heavy equipment and was shipping it to Haiti to help with earthquake recovery. He contacted Roger Solberg [NCC Heavy Equipment Instructor] who then involved me in discussions about possibly doing some training of Haitian operators. What we soon learned was that the long term goal was to establish a vocational training center. We look forward to exploring ways to further collaborate, either in an advisory capacity or a more substantial partnership.”

Some of the possibilities that were discussed include helping the ELH Vocational Training Center staff to develop curriculum, offering them a train the trainer program, sending some of NCC’s instructors and students to Haiti on service learning projects, establishing a distance learning program. Eventually there could even be the possibility of having some of their students attend NCC.

The mission of Northwest Iowa Community College is to be a progressive learning college rapidly responding to the changing needs of our global community. For more information about this story or to find out more about NCC’s over forty programs call 712-324-5061, 1-800-352-4907, or email us at studentservices@nwicc.edu.