



Northwest Iowa
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NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE INVEST IN THE DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS AND MACHINISTS OF THE FUTURE

Northwest Iowa Community College Manufacturing Technology department is improving their shop class by investing in the Tormach PCNC milling machine. The students will now use vertical machining centers, welding machines and CNC lathes alongside the new Tormach milling machine to create their original designs using 3-D modeling software and basic design principles.

The department bought the machines so the students could program, set-up and operate machinery, putting their ideas into prototypes.

“I want my students to have the best chance of learning,” said Manufacturing Technology instructor, Brian Busch at Northwest Iowa Community College. “Buying this machine, as well as the other equipment in our shop will help them with designing and building anything. They will now learn tooling selection, work holding, fixturing, programming, set-up and operation and maintenance. It just helps in putting their ideas into practice.”

He added, “Tormach had the best machine at the best price. As for putting it to use, I already have the students designing a controller arm for the machine. Other than that the plans are for them to make whatever they can come up with that will fit within the parameters of the machine. And we are trying to find new ways within our curriculum to allow the students to design and build projects.”

Clayton Buckley, Manufacturing Technology program, said, “The new equipment has a lot of conversational programming. They are small machines but they do the same work as the big machines. They still give you the manufacturing knowledge so you will learn what companies use in factories.”

Jeremiah Nelson, Design Technology program, said, “The new machines are really great. They have the G and M programming and are very visual and user friendly. They are great to use as a learning tool!”

President of Tormach, a milling machine production company based in Waunakee, Greg Jackson, said, “It’s great that Northwest Iowa Community College is able to make use of our machines. We’ve made them to be affordable and used by enthusiasts, hobbyists and, obviously in this case, those in education. We hope the students will learn the machine quickly and make some great parts for their projects. Hopefully they will make use of this technology in their careers or hobbies. We will also support the college whenever they need our advice.”