



Northwest Iowa  
Community College

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Rich Morgan Northwest Iowa Community College's 2010 Alumnus of the Year**

Each year, one outstanding graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College is recognized for his or her success in their chosen profession and support of NCC. The recipient of the 2010 Alumnus of the Year Award is Rich Morgan.

Morgan earned his degree from (what NCC was first called, Northwest Iowa Vocational School) in 1975 in Auto Body. He has successfully built a business that utilized the skills learned in college, and is the owner of Morgan Collision and Tire in Sheldon and Collision Masters in Spirit Lake.

He attended NCC during his junior and senior years in high school. After graduating from high school in the spring of 1975 he finished his degree during the summer and graduated from the Auto Body Program at the end of the summer in 1975. He immediately started working at Brands Body Shop. He eventually purchased the business in 1979. He moved his business to its current location, 210 West Park Street, in 1992 and changed the name to Morgan Collision Center & Tire, Inc. At that time he expanded the business to include mechanical repair and tires. They service everything from cars to heavy duty trucks.

In 2006 he opened Collision Masters in Spirit Lake which strictly does body work.

Morgan has played many roles at the College. He has been a substitute teacher in Collision Repair & Refinishing, Career Day presenter, SkillsUSA Technical Committee Chair-twice, member of the Collision Repair & Refinishing Advisory Committee, he has provided internships to NCC students, and taught EMS courses for the Continuing Education Department at NCC.

Rich Morgan is a true advocate of Northwest Iowa Community College. Seven of his nine employees have graduated from NCC. One employee graduated from the Accounting Program, two graduated from the Automotive Technology Program, and four graduated from the Collision Repair & Refinishing Program. Three of his children have also attended NCC. His daughter, Steph, graduated from the Secretarial Program and his other daughters, Sarah and Sonya, have taken transfer classes at NCC as they pursue their bachelor's degrees at the University of Iowa.

"We are fortunate to have Northwest Iowa Community College in this area. What they have to offer is a great asset to our community. Even though a lot of my employees have graduated from NCC I still encourage them to take Continuing Education Classes to upgrade and refine their skills. The mechanical/technical area of the College has always gone out of their way to help shops in this area. When we have needed training they have found the accredited instructors to teach the programs we need."

Morgan continued, "I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't gone to NCC. I had two different instructors that were so much more than instructors to me. Wayne Suiter and Ron Van't Hof were more like fathers. I was working part-time in an auto body shop while I attended school. I would work late at night and if I ran into a problem I knew I could always call them no matter what time it was. If we couldn't get it figured out on the phone I would actually take the project to class the next day and they would help me work on it in class."

"It's a huge honor to be selected NCC's Alumnus of the Year. I didn't ever expect to be selected for this award. There are thousands who have done more than what I have done. I hope someday I can contribute even more."

Rich and his wife, Paula, have five children and are residents of Sheldon.