

# RAMS Ratio

A Publication of News and Events for the Regional Academy for Math and Science

Fall | 2011

**EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT NICC AND THE RAMS CENTER!**

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL FAIR

**Friday, Nov. 18  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Attend the NICC Career and Technical Fair Program at the **Calmar campus** on Friday, November 18. Learn about technical careers and transfer degrees as you meet faculty and experience a hands-on introduction to various degree programs. *\*See your high school counselor for registration details.*



[www.go2rams.org](http://www.go2rams.org)

## NEW CHEMICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) established a new Chemical Technician AAS degree program this fall at the Calmar campus, including a new state-of-the-art science lab and classroom addition at the NICC Dairy Center. The Chem Tech program prepares students to use chemical lab instrumentation to learn routine to complex chemical laboratory procedures and processes. High school chemistry and a desire to do hands-on learning are the stepping stones to this exciting career program.

This two-year program will provide employment opportunities in high demand careers in food safety industries, ethanol/biodiesel industries, and pharmaceutical companies. Student internships will be available with local and regional industry partners, offering job opportunities close to home or around the state/nation.

RAMS science, math, and other general education coursework presently meet several program requirements, giving

students a jump-start on this degree while in high school. The program offers nontraditional students an opportunity to begin a new career with promising local and regional employment upon graduation. Students may also apply the coursework toward an AS degree for transfer to a 4-year degree program.

For more information on this new degree, contact Gordy Hunter, NICC Chemistry instructor at 563.534.9957, ext.127 at the Calmar campus. Interested students are encouraged to schedule a tour of the Chemical Tech labs and discuss the degree program in more detail.



## TUITION ADVANTAGE

\$22,751 Iowa Private College/University tuition\*

\$7,141 Iowa Public University Tuition\*

\$4,500 NICC Tuition\*

*\*Based on 30 credit hours at 2010-2011 tuition rates*

Source: Iowa College Student Aid Commission Annual Student Budget Survey

In Partnership with Northeast Iowa Community College

## MEET NICC OELWEIN CENTER/RAMS COORDINATOR



Terri Rubner

Terri Rubner is the new Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Oelwein Center/RAMS Coordinator. She began her duties on August 16, 2011. Terri comes to NICC from Iowa Workforce Development and had been responsible for leading operations in a workforce development center. She also worked at the Mental Health Institute and in private business. She has strong experience in staffing, center facilities, operations, human resources, programming and marketing. Terri has also been very successful in providing outreach to business and community leaders. Her references highlighted her strong customer service skills, attention to detail, ability to learn quickly and her ability to work well with teams. Please welcome Terri to NICC and the Continuing Education and Economic Development divisions.

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## RAMS SUMMER CAMP 2011

Thirty-three students, grades 5-9 participated in another successful camp at the RAMS Center August 1-5. Ride the Waves science camp was taught by Jill Kelly, Oelwein Schools and Pat Huntsberger, North-Fayette Schools. Twenty-three students enjoyed many hands-on physical science lab experiments based on principles of fluid flow and waves. A field trip to **Lost Island** waterpark in Waterloo reinforced the concepts learned during the week-long camp.

Cain Cushion, Oelwein Industrial Technology/Project Lead the Way instructor facilitated the Gateway Academy engineering camp which emphasized engineering principles taught in the *Project Lead the Way* program. Ten students learned to problem-solve while using engineering technologies.

Others who assisted with the camp include the following: Jamie Greeley (Associate), Deb Thomas (Associate), Courtney Gilson (Lab Asst.), C.J. Winters (Lab Assistant), Eileen Koob (Oelwein Center Receptionist),

Gail Heying (NICC Dean of Arts & Sciences Administrative Assistant), Kim Bosworth (NICC Dean of Arts & Sciences), and Chad Kohagen (Oelwein High School Principal).

Besides a small registration fee, the RAMS summer camps received funding support through Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation of Oelwein, Nor-Plex Micarta Company of Postville, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Oelwein Community Schools. Funding covered staff costs, materials and supplies, snacks, camp t-shirts, and field trip expenses. Information on RAMS Summer Camp 2012 will be available in early spring 2012.



## Continuing Education

*Whether you are interested in building workplace skills or just something for fun, we have the course that fits your schedule. **Northeast Iowa Community College Continuing Education** provides innovative learning opportunities that are convenient and affordable to meet your needs.*

**Here is a sampling of Spring 2012 course offerings at the NICC Oelwein/RAMS Center:**

- Basket Weaving
- Computers for the Adult Learner MS2010-Level 1
- Creative Cupcakes, Cake Balls & Cake Pops
- Digital Scrapbooking
- Enjoying Herbs-The Series
- Fundamentals of Golf
- Leap Into Spring: Fresh Flower Basket Arrangement
- Learn MS Word 2010 in One Day-Level 1

Visit [www.nicc.edu/continuinged](http://www.nicc.edu/continuinged) – you can now search, register and pay for courses online!



## DID YOU KNOW...?

**626 college credits were earned by the 2011 graduates of Oelwein Community School District, Oelwein High School and RAMS for a cost savings to families of \$98,908 dollars in tuition.**

**Spring 2011 graduates of Starmont Community School District earned a total of 343 credits through courses offered at Starmont and RAMS, for a total cost savings to families of \$54,194 dollars in tuition.**

**2011 graduates of West Central Community Schools earned a total of 404 college credits through courses at West Central, RAMS and through their Charter with NICC for a total cost savings of \$63,832 in tuition to students and families.**

**Did you know that Iowa's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) occupational groups experience greater job growth and pay than the combined total of all occupations?**

**The 2008-2018 projections for job growth by STEM group are as follows:**

Computer & Mathematical Occupations – 21.3%  
Architecture & Engineering Occupations – 11.8%  
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations – 13.8%  
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations – 19.9%  
Total, STEM Occupations Composite – 18.6%  
Total, All Occupations – 9.8%

Source: Iowa Workforce Development 2008-2018 Iowa Occupational Projections

**2011 Mean Wage by STEM group:**

Computer & Mathematical Occupations – \$31.48  
Architecture & Engineering Occupations – \$31.17  
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations – \$26.57  
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations – \$28.55  
Total, STEM Occupations Composite – \$29.32  
Total, All Occupations – \$18.50

Source: Iowa Workforce Development 2011 Iowa Wage Survey

## INTERESTED IN SPRING 2012 CLASSES? CHECK THESE OUT...

Below are some classes being offered at the RAMS Center next Spring. You can find these classes as well as those being offered at other NICC locations by visiting [www.nicc.edu/courses](http://www.nicc.edu/courses) then searching by term and location.

Principles of  
Microeconomics

Cultural Diversity/  
Identity

Prealgebra

Intermediate Algebra

Physical Geology

College Physics

Intro. to Psychology

Social Problems

Human Anatomy/  
Physiology I

World Civilization II

U.S. History to 1877

Elementary Algebra

Math for Liberal Arts

Composition I

## EXPANDED COLLEGE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT RAMS

Students from Oelwein, Starmont, Wapsie Valley and West-Central High Schools currently have **free access** to several transfer level college courses at RAMS this year. In addition to meeting Northeast Iowa Community College degree program requirements, these courses **transfer** to most 4-year public and private colleges and universities, including Upper Iowa University, University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa.

### Courses include the following:

Pre-calculus, Calculus, Statistics, General Biology I & II, Intro. to Bio-science Technology, Anatomy and Physiology I & Lab, Survey of Physics, College Physics I, Intro. to Chemistry & Lab, Composition I & II, Public Speaking, Intro. to Psychology, Cultural Diversity & Identity.

Technical courses in agriculture and computer science as well as *Project Lead the Way* engineering courses are offered at the RAMS center. Various methods of course delivery are used including online, hybrid, face-to-face and ICN.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR NICC RAMS SCIENCE INSTRUCTORS



### Linnae Scheffel

MS, Biology, University of Northern Iowa  
Teaches Introduction to Bio-science Technology and Anatomy & Physiology I.



### Dr. Scott Miller

Ph.D., Biology, Iowa State University  
Teaches General Biology I & II.



### Nate Quarderer

MS, Physics, University of Iowa  
Teaches Survey of Physics and College Physics I.



### Gordy Hunter

MS, Chemistry, University of Iowa and  
University of Northern Iowa  
Teaches Introduction to Chemistry.

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