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NICC announces new avionics program for in-demand jobs

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PEOSTA, Iowa (KWWL) — Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) has announced their new Avionics Electronic Technician program coming this fall. The program is pending approval from the Iowa Department of Education.

NICC says this program is one of only two avionics programs in Iowa. Students will be trained in basic electrical and electronics component theory, aircraft wiring, systems testing, avionics troubleshooting and radio systems components and integration.



Mark Gerein, NICC dean of advanced manufacturing, industrial technology and computer science

"We think this is a unique opportunity to partner with local aviation educators and industry experts to provide a niche educational need. The Avionics Electronic Technician program will provide basic electronics component theory and hands-on training to the student passionate about the aviation industry. The program has the potential to be a feeder into other aviation careers. Additionally, the development of electronics could branch to other learning streams for careers in robotics, automotive, transportation, agricultural electronics and drone technology,"

Mark Gerein, NICC dean of advanced manufacturing, industrial technology and computer science

The University of Dubuque (UD) did partner with NICC to develop the curriculum for the new program. Joan Kariuki (UD instructor of aviation, aviation maintenance assistant and serves on the Advisory Board for the program at NICC) had this to say:

"The aviation industry continues to evolve and will see an increased demand for a highly skilled workforce. The University of Dubuque and Northeast Iowa Community College are coming together to ensure that this demand is met locally and beyond the region,"

"This partnership will leverage UD's aviation experience in training professional pilots, teaching courses in aviation management and unmanned aerial systems with the Avionics Electronic Technician program to address the future industry workforce demands."

Joan Kariuki

Tri-state area employers have direct, in-demand needs for trained avionics personnel, added Todd Dalsing, Dubuque Regional Airport director. Dalsing serves as a member on the new program's Advisory Board and provided vital input on the curriculum.

"Now that we are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is increasing demand for aviation jobs due to furloughs, early retirements, previous employees finding other work and other workforce changes. Pilots, ground handlers, aircraft maintenance, avionics technicians and many other skilled professionals are needed to ensure flights proceed as scheduled,"

Todd Dalsing

For more information the program, visit Northeast Iowa Community College's website at www.nicc.edu/avionics.



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