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Twenty four Residents Receive Corridor Achievement Award

NORTH IOWA – The North Iowa Corridor honored recipients of the Corridor Achievement award on Monday, February 03 at their office in Mason City. In partnership with ITC and IowaWORKS, the Corridor developed a reward- underwritten by a grant from ITC- for any Cerro Gordo County resident who achieved platinum or gold certifications upon the completion of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) assessment available throughout the region. NCRC is a credential recognized across the country that demonstrates achievement and workplace employability skills in Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. The initiative is being put to use by workforce and economic development groups throughout the region with an eye toward North Iowa in becoming one of the first certified work-ready regions in the state.

The Corridor Achievement Award offered \$100 to any Cerro Gordo County resident who achieves a top score of platinum and \$25 to any county resident who achieved a gold score between October 01 and December 31. A total of 24 residents tested at gold level.

“We want to congratulate all residents who took advantage the Corridor Achievement Award program,” said Rachel Bailey, Marketing and Administrative Specialist for the North Iowa Corridor. “The Skilled Iowa Initiative works to increase skill levels of Iowa’s workforce. As more and more of the Corridor workforce pool receive NCRC certification, we are increasingly able to market our region as a work-ready community to firms considering investing here.”

“ITC believes in the residents of North Iowa and recognition of individuals who achieve such a difficult task of gold and platinum levels should be an honor,” said Lori Broghammer, Area Manager for ITC Midwest, adding “the NCRC’s measurements of skills are those critical to job success and will ultimately enrich the community and offer new opportunities for economic development.”

Residents interested in taking the NCRC assessments can learn more by visiting www.skillediowa.org and can preregister by calling Iowa Workforce Development at (641) 422-1521. Encouraging Iowans to earn the National Career Readiness Certificate is a goal of Iowa Workforce Development’s Skilled Iowa Initiative. The credential is recommended by over 7,000 businesses statewide. The program uses a standardized testing system that rates the skills and abilities of Iowa’s workforce, assisting businesses in

evaluation of an individual worker's skills, and allowing for a more accurate matching of skill sets with those required by the job. There is no cost to Iowa businesses to use NCRC assessments as part of their hiring process, nor is there a cost to Iowa residents who elect to take the exam.

For questions, contact Willett at 641-423-0315 or bwillett@northiowacorridor.com.

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