



On-the-Go Training

North Central Kansas Technical College



NCKTC's mobile heavy equipment simulator training helps operators gain new skills.

North Central Kansas Technical College (NCKTC) was established in Beloit, Kansas in 1964 with a second campus established in Hays in 1975. NCKTC is widely recognized as a leader in technical education. The college offers more than 14 one-year certificate programs and nine Associate of Applied Science Degree programs. In addition to on-campus programs, the college came up with a traveling program to help fulfill the need for training heavy equipment operators around the state.

For information on how you can purchase Cat Simulators to train new operators or help experienced operators refine their skill sets, call toll free (877) 434-7467 or write info@catsimulators.com.

Rollin' Along

Being able to travel to current and potential operators provides a great way to bring attention to NCKTC and its heavy equipment training program. Instructors are able to leverage the rig for marketing in several ways.

- By creating an outreach training program for experienced operators via two and three day workshops, the school helps current operators upgrade their skills receive a cost savings.
- Participating in High School Career Days is a way to reach an audience making first-time career choices. High school students have the chance to operate a simulator and find out if operating heavy equipment could be a potential career choice. These are students ripe for the full college heavy equipment program.

- Finally, visiting trade shows with Cat® Simulators allows the college to reach potential non-traditional students to explain the opportunities available at NCKTC.

“When using the trailer for a marketing event, we use a two-minute demonstration version that gives visitors a short trial to see what operating is like. When we use the simulators in the classroom, students go through all the lessons and must achieve a certain skill level.”

—Dave Hughes,

Dean of Student Services, NCKTC

While Cat® Simulators provide a wow factor when making visits, only a short teaser demonstration is used, while the full heavy equipment program that the college offers consists of a well-rounded curriculum that covers safety training, math and reasoning application, effective communication skills, theory courses, simulator training and hands-on instruction of several machine types.

Drawing visitors’ attention is not an issue. The rig is a sight to see. Customizing and outfitting a large trailer and truck took planning and coordination right down to the paint. The trailer is 8’x 28’ and outfitted with three virtual training simulators for demonstration and training. The trailer has heat and air for comfortable training during unpredictable weather. The trailer and pulling pickup is wrapped with a scenic cover, while the tailgate is used for detailing skills records of previous student awards.

The virtual training trailer and pickup is a showpiece for the college. Visitors can easily pick it out through crowds of people, making it a destination at any event.

Training Offerings

Travel training provides the answer to a need for operators who want to refine or upgrade their skills, or for those who want to receive pre-training on specific machine types before training on the actual machines. NCKTC instructors plan training days at several pre-determined locations around the state.

Currently the school targets two types of trainees:

Operator training in the field. Includes a safety focus in the classroom or simulator trailer and hands-on operation instruction of real machines.

Student training. Includes eight hours of training on each simulator, plus 10 hours of safety awareness training on a construction site.



Students train in the North Central Kansas Technical College mobile simulator trailer. The staff travels throughout the state stopping at pre-arranged sites, which allows operators to learn new skills and refine old ones.

NCKTC received a \$40,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce to invest in developing a truck and trailer that could travel to the desired locations. They plan to recoup some of the costs through training charges. This reflects the options of training on a single piece of equipment (e.g. motor grader, excavator). If the student chooses to train on multiple equipment this may be arranged. Safety and OSHA training is also offered to trainees.

Looking Forward

Adding simulators to the NCKTC heavy equipment training program has not only brought recognition to the school, they've also helped cut costs. The students that come into the program with no operating experience are able to gain familiarity of the controls *before* they get on the real equipment, which reduces the college's fuel costs. They also save on the costs of wear-and-tear on the equipment because students

learn the direction of the controls and are able to practice before they get on the real equipment. Administrators estimate approximately 30-40% of NCKTC's enrollees are non-traditional students that have either tried college somewhere else or have been working in other fields. Some students have even worked as construction laborers in other areas and simply want to improve their skills to advance in the construction field.

Because NCKTC has the only heavy equipment training program in Kansas, there is less competition for the jobs available. Contractors and employers visit the college and offer students employment opportunities. NCKTC offers a high chance of placing students after completing their education. Skilled labor is always in demand. With a short-term training program available that includes cutting-edge technology, students can be out earning a good salary in less than nine months.



A special wrapper was added to the outside of the trailer for eye-catching appeal.



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