



This is the inaugural issue of *SPOTLIGHT*, an electronic newsletter to the friends and patrons of Northeast Community College. This will be published 10 times a year, with a hard-copy version published twice a year. Please forward it on to your colleagues and neighbors. You are all partners in our efforts to provide quality, affordable, close-to-home educational opportunities to students and training for area businesses, industries, and organizations. Northeast Community College serves residents of 20 counties in northeast Nebraska.

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AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION COMPLEX NOW OPEN

The doors to the new Agriculture and Technology Education Complex opened this spring with approximately 1,000 people attending Grand Opening activities. Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director Merlyn Carlson was at the capital campaign kick-off in September 2002 and returned for Grand Opening activities. The \$2.4 million, 45,000-square-foot facility includes a 550-seat, dirt-floor arena, cattle-handling area, staging area for rodeos and livestock shows and a concession stand. Its four classrooms are named after major contributors, Tyson Foods, Inc., Springdale, Ark., Producers Hybrids, Inc., Battle Creek, PALCO Livestock Equipment, Norfolk, and the City of Norfolk.

NORTHEAST PLANS FOR SOUTH SIOUX CITY CAMPUS CONTINUE

Northeast Community College recently announced plans to build a new comprehensive community college campus in South Sioux City. Dr. Bill Path, president, has initiated a partnership with the City of South Sioux City to identify a site for the 50- to 80-acre campus. The commuter campus will have a full array of lecture and lab classrooms as well as academic support services. The College plans to offer academic transfer and vocational programs, as well as customized training for business and industry.

In explaining the decision to expand into South Sioux City, Dr. Path noted that Dakota County is the fastest-growing county in the college's 20-county service area, and the projected district with the fastest growth through 2020 is expected to be the Dakota, Dixon, and Thurston County area.

Additional Northeast classes will be offered in South Sioux City this fall with tentative plans to offer a full array of classes and services by the Fall of 2007.

For more information, contact **Mary Honke**, executive director of institutional advancement, at (402) 844-7124 or maryh@northeastcollege.com.

WEEKEND COLLEGE A POSSIBILITY AT NORTHEAST

The public is being asked to indicate interest in a Weekend College program at Northeast Community College. Students in the program can earn an associate's degree in business administration or agribusiness by attending classes one weekend a month each semester for seven semesters. The students will earn credit by attending two traditional classes and completing an online class each semester.

To gauge interest in the Weekend College program, two Information Sessions are scheduled in late July. One will be held on Thursday, July 28th, at 7 p.m. in the Maclay Building, Room 100B. Another is planned for Saturday, July 31st, at 10 a.m. in the Maclay Building, Room 134.

For more information, contact **John Blaylock**, dean of business/math/technology, at (402)844-7292. You may also email him at johnb@northeastcollege.com

CURRICULUM CHANGES IN NURSING PROGRAMS GO INTO EFFECT IN AUGUST

A proposal to offer a new curriculum for both the practical and associate degree nursing programs at Northeast has been approved by the Nebraska State Board of Nursing and will go into effect this August.

The proposal eliminates the existing programs of study and creates a new integrated nursing program. Both programs will have the same entrance criteria, require many of the same general education courses, and share the first two semesters. Upon completion of the first two semesters, students are eligible to take the National Council of Licensure Examination (NCLEX-LPNS) to become a licensed practical nurse. Students who hold a 2.7 grade point average in their nursing courses are eligible to complete the last two semesters of the program and take the the National Council of Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) to practice as a licensed registered nurse.

The new nursing program also includes a preprofessional nursing degree option. This expanded major allows current and prospective students not yet enrolled in the nursing program at Northeast to earn an associate of arts or associate of science degree in preprofessional nursing. Students with the degree can transfer to a four-year college to continue their studies for a bachelor's degree in nursing.

For more information, contact **Ann Oertwich**, director of nursing programs, at anno@northeastcollege.com

NEW MOTORCYCLE CLASS HELPS IMPROVE DRIVING SKILLS

Northeast Community College began offering three-day motorcycle training classes this spring to help street motorcyclists develop safe driving skills. The class meets Friday evenings, all day Saturday and all day Sunday with **Roger Nelson** and **Harry Lindner** as instructors. Both completed eight days of intensive training to be certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles.

The college furnishes the 250 CC Suzuki motorcycles for the 1.5-credit-hour class. Six more sessions of the class are planned for August, September, and October.

For more information, call dean of applied technology **Lyle Kathol** at (402)844-7215 or email him at lylek@northeastcollege.com

NORTHEAST STUDENTS COMPLETING COOP INTERNSHIP

Hundreds of Northeast Community College students are currently participating in coop internships. Cooperative education, a partnership between the student, business and industry, and education, provides on-the-job training for students in a position related to their major field of study and career goals.

Some students of horticulture instructor **Andrea Kirchhoff** are currently working in the garden centers at HyVee in Norfolk. HyVee contacted Kirchhoff last winter and asked if her students would be interested in manning the garden centers this spring. HyVee has aggressively promoted the Northeast students' involvement and their expertise in its advertising. "It's great publicity for Northeast's horticulture program," Kirchhoff said.

DAIMLER-CHRYSLER DONATES VEHICLES TO NORTHEAST

DaimlerChrysler recently gave a 1998 Dodge Intrepid and 1994 Dodge 1500 truck to NECC's automotive technology program. "DaimlerChrysler has donated these vehicles so the technicians enrolled at Northeast get all the educational advantages DaimlerChrysler and Northeast offer," said Al Rajae, Cornhusker Auto president.

NORTHEAST FOUNDATION PRO-AM RAISES OVER \$12,000

A record 34 teams competed in the 6th Annual NECC Foundation Pro-Am Golf Tournament recently. The net proceeds of \$12,600 benefit the Foundation, which provides student scholarships and financial assistance to the college. Norfolk Country Club pro Bryan Hughett and Kevin Hall, Brad Ottis, and Mike Siemsglusz won.

NEARLY 100 MORE STUDENTS ATTEND ORIENTATION/REGISTRATION

Summer Orientation/Registration for fall semester attracted 786 students, an increase from last year's number of 676. "It's exciting to see an increase of students attend the Orientation/Registration sessions," said **Maureen Baker**, dean of enrollment management. "We look forward to the upcoming year."

During eight, half-day Orientation/Registration sessions, students heard about Northeast policies and procedures, student services, various student life activities, and financial aid information. They met with their assigned faculty advisor to select classes for the upcoming semester. Parent sessions provided information on instructor expectations and hints to help students make a smooth transition to college life.

WANTED: MORE ADDRESSES

We would love to send this electronic newsletter to as many in our 20-county area as possible. If you want to add someone to the distribution list, please email the name, email and snail mail address to janelle@northeastcollege.com You may also call **Janelle Gerharter** at (402)844-7063 with any comments.