



SPOTLIGHT, an electronic newsletter to the friends and patrons of Northeast Community College, will be published 10 times a year, with a hard-copy version published twice a year. Please forward it 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 north-east Nebraska.

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ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY RESULTS RELEASED BY CCBENEFITS, INC.

Northeast Community College puts more money back into the local and state treasury than it takes out according to an Economic Impact Study conducted by CCBenefits, Inc., of Moscow, Idaho. CCBenefits conducted a study of the economic impact of all six Nebraska community colleges in 2002 and then did an individual study for each community college. Results were released recently at a press conference in Lincoln.

According to the study, Northeast Community College paid nearly \$15,000,000 in direct faculty and staff wages, salaries and benefits to its 226 full-time and 330 part-time faculty and staff in 2002. Using a multiplier effect, these wages and salaries added another \$6,000,000 worth of income as they were spent in the 20-county region. With a total operating budget of \$18,000,000 obtained from state aid, local property taxes, and tuition and fees, Northeast accounts for nearly \$21,000,000 of annual income within the 20-county area.

The study also showed that for every \$1 a student invests in Northeast Community College, he or she will receive a cumulative \$6.67 in higher future earnings over the next 30 years.

"We've always known this, but it is now a documented fact that Northeast Community College is a good investment for northeast Nebraska and its residents," said **Dr. Bill Path**, Northeast president.

CCBenefits, Inc. provides individual community and technical colleges a generic and low-cost, yet comprehensive, tool to estimate the economic benefits accrued by students and taxpayers as a result of the higher education achieved. The company's economic impact model has been tested at some 350 community colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

Watch for other data from the study in future editions of *SPOTLIGHT*.

NORTHEAST'S CHUCK POHLMAN RECEIVES AWARD FOR SERVICE

Chuck Pohlman, dean of agriculture, health and sciences division at Northeast Community College, was honored recently with an Outstanding Contributions to Northeast Nebraska Agriculture Award. Co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska Lincoln-Northeast Research and Extension Center and the Northeast Nebraska Experimental Farm Association, the award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to northeast Nebraska agriculture over a sustained period of time. Pohlman has been on the faculty of Northeast since 1972 when he began its agriculture program with three students. He was a 2003 inductee into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement and was honored in 2001 by the Nebraska Community College Association as its Outstanding Community College Administrator of the Year.

HUSBAND WATCHES FROM IRAQ AS HIS WIFE RECEIVES HER NURSING PIN

Twenty-three students were honored at a special pinning ceremony recently for completing the licensed practical nursing (LPN) program. They are now each eligible to take the the National Council of Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) to practice as licensed practical nurses.

A special feature of the ceremony was an Internet video conference that enabled **SGT. Gabriel Synovec**, stationed in Iraq, to watch his wife, **Kim**, receive her pin. The conference was arranged by Freedom Calls Foundation of Brooklyn, N.Y., with assistance from Connecting Point Computer Center of Norfolk.

This is the first time Freedom Calls Foundation video conferenced such an event at the collegiate level.

For more information on the nursing program, contact **Ann Oertwich**, director of nursing programs.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM GRADUATES ELEVEN STUDENTS

Eleven Northeast Community College students recently completed the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program and were recognized at a special graduation ceremony. Featured speaker at the graduation was **Tony Hall**, physical therapist assistant at Grand Island Physical Therapy. The program concluded with a video produced by class president **Kendra Atwood**.

Successful completion of the national PTA examination is required by law before the graduates can begin employment as a physical therapist assistant.

For more information on the PTA program, contact director **Jodie Aller**.

ENROLLMENT FIGURES UP

More and more students are making Northeast Community College their collegiate choice. Summer Session B enrollment was up nine percent. Preliminary enrollment figures for Fall 2004 also show a healthy increase.

HAWKS BASKETBALL TEAM NAMED ACADEMIC TEAM OF YEAR

The 2003-2004 Hawks women's basketball squad has been named an Academic Team of the Year by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

Minimum grade point average to be named an Academic Team of the Year is 3.0 out of a 4.0 system. Some 32 junior and community college squads from throughout the country qualified for the honor. The Northeast Community College Hawks squad had a 3.09 grade point average last semester.

The Hawks are coached by **Matt Svehla**, Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference (NCCAC) Coach of the Year. He has been head women's basketball coach at Northeast for 10 years and has been named the NCCAC Coach of the Year for 10 consecutive years. Svehla was assisted by **Dr. Mike Cooper**.

WEEKEND COLLEGE A GO AT NORTHEAST

John Blaylock, dean of the business, math and technology program, reports that there is sufficient interest to begin the Weekend College program at Northeast. On Friday, August 27th, 10 new students began their business administration or agribusiness degree programs with no college background while another 15 students came to the program with some previously-earned college credits. First semester classes for the Weekend College initiative include Fundamentals of Data Processing, Business Law, and English Composition 1. All classes in the first semester of the Weekend College program end December 5th.

NATIVE AMERICAN POET AND ESSAYIST TO BE FIRST VISITING WRITER FOR FALL

Ron Welburn, a Native American poet and essayist, will open the Visiting Writers Series this fall at Northeast Community College with a reading of his works on Thursday, September 9th, at 7 p.m., in the Cox Activities Center Theater.

Welburn's most recent books include a book of poetry entitled, *Coming Through Smoke and the Dreaming*, published in 2000 by Greenfield Press Review, and a book of essays entitled *Roanoke and Wampum: Topics in Native American Heritage and Literature*, published by Peter Lang Publishing in 2001. He was named the 2002 Wordcraft Circle Writer of the Year in Creative Prose: Non-Fiction for *Roanoke and Wampum: Topics in Native American Heritage and Literature*.

The Visiting Writers Series is hosted by the Northeast English Department. All readings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact coordinator **Neil Harrison**.

STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF TO ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

At the students' request, Northeast students, faculty and staff will roll up their sleeves for a Red Cross Blood Drive one more time this year than last, according to **Rick Goblen**, student activities coordinator. Blood drives are scheduled on campus on Wednesdays, October 6th, December 1st, February 9th, and April 13th. Goal for each blood drive is 150 productive units. Individuals from the community are welcome to come to the Lifelong Learning Center to donate blood between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. according to Goblen. To reserve your time, please call (402)844-7159 to set up an appointment.

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