



SPOTLIGHT

801 E. Benjamin Ave. Norfolk, NE (800) 348-9033 www.northeastcollege.com

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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DISTRICT 3 BOARD MEMBER PASSES AWAY

Betty Curry, Newcastle, a member of the Northeast Community College Board of Governors since 1997, passed away on October 13th. She represented District 3 which is made up of Dakota and Dixon Counties and parts of Cedar County. She is survived by her husband, **Darrel**, and two sons and one daughter. Betty had filed for re-election. "Betty's tireless efforts for our students and this institution will be sorely missed," said Dr. Bill Path, president.

NCCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN ANNUAL VISIT

Dennis Baack, executive director of the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA), recently addressed the Board of Governors and shared what he considers the NCCA agenda for next year. "Please, Nebraska legislators, fully fund us," should be the NCCA request of this year's legislature, he said. "In fact, our call should be 'overfund us.'" The state of Nebraska is currently \$22,000,000 short of meeting its 40 percent share of the community college funding formula which is 40 percent state aid, 40 percent local property taxes and 20 percent student tuition and fees. Northeast students currently pay 26 percent, rather than 20 percent. Baack said that if the formula is overfunded, a dollar of property tax relief is provided for every extra dollar of state aid over the formula amount. The NECC bill to allow the Northeast Board of Governors to increase its property tax levy one cent for a four-year period has a good chance of passing this year, Baack also said.

FOUR HONORED AT BOARD OF GOVERNORS' CEREMONY

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors, administration, faculty, and staff honored several individuals recently in a special recognition ceremony. **Richard 'Dick' Uhing, Norfolk**, and **RADM James 'Mac' Gleim, U.S. Navy (Ret.) of Paso Robles, Cal.**, were inducted into the college's Hall of Success while **Dr. James Boullion, Norfolk**, long-time director of instrumental music and music department head at Northeast, was elevated to Emeritus Status. **Lonnie Roth, Wisner** cattle feeder and member of the Northeast Foundation, is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

NORFOLK TRANSMISSION AND MUFFLER DONATES 24 TRANSMISSIONS TO AUTO TECH PROGRAM

Norfolk Transmission and Muffler Inc. recently donated 24 transmissions to the automotive technology program for use by students in their lab work. "Donations like these are vital to the success of our program," said instructor **Cal Lamprecht**. "It is hard to express the gratitude I have for **Ron Lingenfelter** and Norfolk Transmission for all they do for our program."

DID YOU KNOW???????

Some 86 per cent of Northeast Community College graduates stay in the state; 65 percent find jobs in our 20-county service area. The accumulated contribution of past and present instruction adds some \$113 million in annual earnings to our 20-county economy.

Source: CCbenefits Inc. Economic Impact Study

RIDE 'EM COWBOY WAS THE CALL AT 1ST ANNUAL BULL RIDING EVENT RECENTLY

The Northeast Community College Rodeo Team, US92 Radio and BankFirst teamed up during Norfolk's annual LaVitsef to sponsor the 1st Annual LaVitsef Bull Riding Event at the new Agriculture and Technology Education Complex. Some 26 riders competed in the event affiliated with the National Federation of Bull Riders. The event drew some 1,000 people. Northeast's Diversified Ag Club and Horticulture Club also assisted. Proceeds raised by the student groups will go for club activities. Plans are already in the making for next year's event.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

The building construction students of **Mike Frank, Roger Geiger, Clayton McDonald, and Don Burke** often work on community service construction projects as part of their lab work. In addition to a recent project of renovation of shelving at the Norfolk Food Pantry, they are also often involved in construction projects for Habitat for Humanity. Currently they are assisting with finish work on a four-bedroom Habitat for Humanity Home in Norfolk.

SEVERAL FAMILY MEMBERS ATTEND RESIDENCE HALL DEDICATIONS

Northeast's new, \$5.4 million, 147-bed residence hall was recently dedicated Burkhardt Hall after the late **Dr. Allen Burkhardt**. Following a welcome by Northeast president **Dr. Bill Path** and Norfolk mayor **Dr. Gordon Adams, Fiona Mpungu**, an international student, spoke about residence life from a student's perspective. **Grace Gould**, Indianapolis, Ind., daughter of **Dr. and Gertrude Burkhardt**, and her husband, **Gerald**, attended the ceremony and spoke to those in attendance about the great honor her family enjoys with the dedication of Burkhardt Hall. Northeast's original and newly-renovated residence hall was renamed **Simon Hall**. Representatives of the **Hollis Blaine (H.B.) Simon** family in attendance included **Frances Simon Carté**, Central Point, Ore., daughter of H.B. and Iris Simon; **Maggie Carté** of Medford, Ore., a teacher and Simon granddaughter; the Honorable **John Carté** of San Antonio, Texas, a federal immigration judge and Simon grandson, and **Angela Childers**, a teacher in Phoenix, Ariz., and Simon great granddaughter. The family boasts seven generations of educators. On behalf of her entire family, **Maggie Carté** thanked everyone for the red carpet treatment they were given that day.

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INCREASES EVERY YEAR AT NORTHEAST

When **Fiona Mpungu** of Pretoria, South Africa, spoke at the residence hall dedication, she not only represented residence hall residents, she also represented the growing number of international students at Northeast. At this time, Northeast has 45 international credit students and 20 international noncredit students. This does not include those students enrolled in our Adult Basic Education classes. Many are active in extracurricular activities. Currently, our Student Government Association vice president is from West Africa, we have three men's basketball players from the Bahamas, and women's basketball players from Israel, Sweden, and Toronto, Ontario.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT GRANT PROVIDES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELL STUDENTS

A new initiative at Northeast Community College for English Language Learners (ELL) will also assist them with a job preparation/job readiness training program. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Incentive Grant is from the Nebraska Department of Education. Its program goal is to help participants become proficient in both spoken and written English and develop specific job readiness skills to become viable and productive employees. Learners will earn a Certificate of Completion once they have demonstrated mastery of both English and job readiness components. Under the direction of **Sheila Tomjack**, Workforce Investment Act Grant and ESL Coordinator, the program will also partner with a diverse range of employers to provide realistic employment opportunities for those who complete the program. Only two community colleges in the state received the grant, Metro and Northeast.

STUDENTS, INSTRUCTOR HELP WITH SOIL JUDGING CONTEST FOR FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

About 15 Northeast students, led by agriculture instructor **Bernie Thyen**, recently assisted with the Region V Soil-Judging Competition for four-year colleges and universities. A portion of the competition, which attracted seven colleges and 42 students from six states, was held at the Northeast college farm. The soil was judged on nutritious richness, color, texture, structure, and more. Kansas State University won the competition with a score compiled from both individual and team results. South Dakota State University placed second while Iowa State University won third place. All three teams now advance to nationals next April at Auburn University in Alabama.

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