



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.

TO ACCESS : [HAWKNET FOR APPLICATION/REGISTRATION INFORMATION OR CLASS LISTINGS.](#)
[FACULTY/STAFF DIRECTORY.](#)

NORTHEAST OFFICIALS ANXIOUSLY LOOK TO LEGISLATURE FOR RELIEF

Northeast Community College officials are carefully watching the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and its scheduled hearings on LB 38, LB 113, and LB 353 on this Thursday, February 3rd.

LB 38 would allow a three-year extension of LB 540 that lapses this year. This is the provision that authorized community college Boards to increase local property taxes in years when the State cannot fully fund their portion of the community college funding formula. With the on-going difficulties that the State of Nebraska is having with its revenue stream, this bill is absolutely essential for the continued financial well-being of all six Nebraska community colleges.

LB 113. This bill has been written specifically for Northeast Community College and would authorize the Board of Governors an additional one-cent levying authority for four years to offset inequities that have occurred within the funding formula adopted in 1997-98. When the Nebraska Community College Funding Formula was created by LB 269, it assumed the base year (1997-98) was a typical tax levy year for each community college. NECC, however, had experienced rapid enrollment increases the previous year and had not yet adjusted its local property taxes to compensate for the increased student enrollment.

Studies have shown that the effects of this formula inequity on NECC has become more exaggerated each year by comparison to other Nebraska community colleges. NECC has one of the lowest amounts of state aid per student, the highest tuition and mandatory fee rates, and one of the lowest salary/staffing levels. NECC's ability to attract and retain quality faculty and staff, ability to stay current with technology, and ability to meet the demands of students and business/industry has been greatly impacted by the formula inequity.

LB 113 would allow Northeast to exceed the current six-cents lid limit and levy seven-cents within the 20-county service area for college operations over the next four consecutive years. This additional taxing authority could mean, roughly, an additional one million operational dollars a year for Northeast for programs that would generate new enrollment growth. **Senator Pat Engel** has identified LB 113 as his priority bill.

LB 353. Nebraska community colleges could double their current capital levy authority from one-cent to two-cents per \$100 valuation. Capital levy dollars can only be used for building projects and facilities maintenance. If enacted, LB 353 would raise an additional one million dollars a year for Northeast (approximate).

Again, the Revenue Committee will hold hearings on these bills this Thursday. Show your support by contacting your state legislator. Thank you very much.

KEN ECHTENKAMP SWORN IN AS BOARD CHAIRMAN

For the third time since he began serving on the Northeast Board of Governors in 1979, **Ken Echtenkamp**, West Point, has been sworn in as Board chairman for 2005. **Jack Warrick** of Meadow Grove is the new vice chairperson while **Don Oelsliger** of Tilden is the secretary. **Keith Harvey** of Creighton and **Oelsliger** were selected to the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Board. Also appointed were **Diane Reikofski** of Tilden as recording secretary and **Steve Schram** as Board treasurer.

BANK AWARDS PRESENTED AT SPRING IN-SERVICE

Two faculty members and two staff members were honored recently by US Bank president **Nick Leuschen** with US Bank awards for outstanding service. During the spring in-service, **Sharon Samuelson**, executive assistant to the vice president of educational service, was presented the US Bank Great Performer, Classified Staff, Award. Registrar **Kathy Stover** was presented the US Bank Great Performer, Professional/Managerial Staff, Award. **Corinne Morris**, speech/debate instructor, was presented the US Bank Full-Time Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, while **Melissa Elznic**, adjunct instructor for speech and forensics, was honored with the Part-time Credit/Noncredit Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. The awards include an engraved clock and cash gift. US Bank has presented the awards annually since 1993.

WIA GRANT CLASSES BEGIN AT NORFOLK RAMADA INN

Some 35 non-English-speaking students are being helped to a brighter future through a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant of \$69,000 that provides classes to help them become proficient in both spoken and written English and develop specific job readiness skills to become better employees. Those improved skills lead to job readiness or a job promotion, and can lead to a high school diploma through Northeast's General Education Development (GED) program or college credit classes. The four-hour classes are taught in morning and evening sessions at the Norfolk Ramada Inn. Business/industry partners include Tyson Foods, Affiliated Foods Midwest, Country Kitchen, Greenfiber Industries, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Faith Regional Health Services, Menards, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Ramada Inn, and Northeast Community College. The partners work to provide realistic employment opportunities for those who complete the program. "These partners have also asked us to provide exceptional employees to fill those opportunities," said **Sheila Tomjack**, WIA Grant and ESL Coordinator, said. "That is our goal."

DAN JONES NAMED DIRECTOR OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Daniel R. Jones, Norfolk, has begun his new duties as Director of Adult Basic Education (ABE). He will oversee Northeast's Adult Basic Education program in the our 20-county service area. His responsibilities also include administration of the ABE staff, establishment of ABE sites, management of classroom facilities, and selection of materials. He will also be responsible for financial accountability for the disposition of federal funds, initiation of grant proposals, and state reports. Other duties include supervision of all GED testing and all non-credit English As A Second Language (ESL) classes in Northeast's 20-county area.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST HELD IN NEW AGRICULTURE COMPLEX FOR FIRST TIME

Some 375 students from 30 northeast Nebraska high schools recently competed in the District III, IV and V Livestock Judging Contest at Northeast's Agriculture Complex. This was the first time the event was held in the new complex and from all reports, students and sponsors were impressed with the new facility.

EXPLORE NORTHEAST-WEEKEND EDITION IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

Prospective students, their parents or guests are invited to a fun, informative day of exploration at Northeast Community College's **Explore Northeast-Weekend Edition** on Saturday, February 26th, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Activities begin in the Cox Activities Center with a welcome by Northeast President **Dr. Bill Path** in the theatre and break-out sessions in Cox Activities Center, Maclay Building or the Library. Visitors may also choose to visit academic programs of their choice or go on walking tours of campus led by faculty, students or staff. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria from 11:15-12:45 and a panel discussion by current students and parents is planned in the Cox Activities Center theatre at 12:45. Pre-registration is required. Register by February 18th at www.northeastcollege.com and click on the Explore Northeast-Weekend Edition link. Or you may call 800-348-9033-Ext. 7280 or 844-7280. Snow date is Saturday, March 19th.

DID YOU KNOW???????

On average, annual earnings of an individual with an associate's degree from Northeast is \$38,026 or 35 per cent more than an individual with a high school diploma.

Source: CCbenefits Inc Economic Impact Study

WANTED: MORE ADDRESSES FOR NECC "SPOTLIGHT"

Please email the name, email address and postal address to janelle@northeastcollege.com To remove your name from the distribution lists, please email your name, email address and postal address to janelle@northeastcollege.com with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.