



Northeast  
community college

**SPOTLIGHT**

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*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.](#)

### **LB38 ADVANCES TO FINAL READING; IF SUCCESSFUL, GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE IS NEXT**

The three-year effort to correct funding formula inequities appears to be headed to a successful conclusion when LB38 goes through a final reading soon. LB38 was advanced out of the Select File to Final Reading status recently by a 30-8 vote of the Nebraska Legislature. After the anticipated, successful Final Reading, it will await the Governor's signature. LB38 will extend the special tax levying authority of all six Nebraska community colleges and allow for the use of local property taxes to make up for anticipated shortfalls in state aid over the next three years. The bill also authorizes our Board of Governors to increase local property taxes an additional half-cent a year for up to two years. This would result in approximately \$500,000 a year (or \$1 million over two years) for Northeast. The bill also sets up a permanent redistribution of the dollars available to community colleges to ensure that NECC will continue to receive approximately an additional \$1 million each year thereafter. Our special thanks to **Senator Pat Engel** of South Sioux City who prioritized the bill, and co-sponsors **Senators Mike Flood** of Norfolk, **Matt Connealy** of Decatur, and **Doug Cunningham**, Wausa.

### **NUCOR-VULCRAFT AND NORTHEAST PARTNER TO TRAIN STUDENTS FOR DETAILING POSITIONS**

Nucor-Vulcraft Group recently announced that it will open a newly-formed Nucor Detailing Center (NDC) that will create 200-400 new detailing (drafting) jobs in the next 5-10 years. To prepare qualified employees to fill these new positions, Vulcraft has partnered with Northeast Community College to expand Northeast's drafting department. Beginning this fall, Northeast will double its first-year architectural drafting class from 18 students to 36 students to prepare them for possible employment at Nucor-Vulcraft. The announcement was made by **Dirk Petersen**, general manager of Vulcraft, with additional comments by **Dr. Bill Path**, president of Northeast. The availability of a quality workforce in northeast Nebraska and Vulcraft's tremendous past success in recruiting, hiring and retaining quality detailers were key considerations in the decision. Currently nearly 60 percent of Vulcraft-Norfolk detailers are graduates of the Northeast Community College drafting program.

### **STUDENTS HONORED AT PROGRAMS**

Some 246 Northeast students who have excelled in their program of study and college activities were honored with certificates or scholarships at a recent Student Achievement Awards Program on campus. Associate degree nursing students **Minnie Sauser**, Bloomfield, and **Kalli Kosek**, Creighton, were introduced as the Northeast nominees to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Nebraska Academic Team. Sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa and the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA), a special Recognition Day and Luncheon honored Sauser and Kosek and 18 other Nebraska community college students the next day in Lincoln. Sauser spoke at the luncheon. In ceremonies held earlier this spring, 83 students were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Chi chapter. To qualify, students must have earned at least 12 credit hours and a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

### **WANTED: MORE ADDRESSES FOR NECC "SPOTLIGHT"**

Please email the name, email address and postal address to [janelle@northeastcollege.com](mailto:janelle@northeastcollege.com) To remove your name, please email the name, email address and postal address to [janelle@northeastcollege.com](mailto:janelle@northeastcollege.com) with "Unsubscribe" in subject line.

### **NACTA JUDGING CONFERENCE HERE A HUGE SUCCESS**

The recent North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture judging conference at Northeast was a huge success. Over 450 students from 39 two- and four-year colleges in 17 states competed in the 11 different contests. Notes of thanks/congratulations on the successful event have been received from Purdue University, Kansas State, Iowa State, Pratt Community College of Pratt, Kan., and many more. First-place honors in the two-year-college division went to Northeast's Agriculture Business Management team (for the third consecutive year), Horticulture team, Agriculture Computers team and Ag Power and Machinery and Welding team. Members of the Agriculture Business Management team included **Kurt Potts**, Fordyce, **Andy Durner**, McCook, **Carl Hoffman**, Osmond, and **Jason Wachter**, Pierce. Horticulture team members were **Jim Laycock**, Plainview, **Brian Munk**, Newport, **Sheila Abler**, Pierce, and **Rachael Barlow**, Ewing. **Sarah Nelson**, Newman Grove, **Kara Hensley**, Elgin, **Becky Foster**, Plainview, and **Kally Neben**, Thedford, were on the Agriculture Computers team. The Ag Power and Machinery and Welding team included **Nicholas Gubbels**, Randolph, **A.J. Jacobson**, Newman Grove, **Aaron Going**, Lyons, and **Jarrold Brozek**, Plainview.

### **OTHER NORTHEAST DIESEL, UTILITY LINE STUDENTS EARN AWARDS IN COMPETITION**

Two diesel technology students recently won individual awards from the Nebraska Diesel Technology Challenge, held in conjunction with the annual Nebraska Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) Contest. **Shane Connell** of Ainsworth won first place at the college level and received a \$300 gift certificate from Snap-On Tools. **Kelly Myers**, Stuart, won third place at the college level and earned a \$100 gift certificate from Snap-On. A four-man team of utility line sophomores including **Tommy Wemhoff**, Coleridge, **Robert Miller** of Cambridge, **Jeremy Jones** of Eddyville, and **Dustin Hemmingsen** of Primrose recently brought home 14 trophies after placing third at a Utility Line Rodeo at Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kan. Wemhoff broke the rodeo record for speed climb with a time of 19.2 seconds.

### **GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT SHOWS GRADUATES CONTINUE TO STAY IN STATE**

The recent release of the 2004 Graduate Employment Report again shows that most Northeast Community College graduates stay in the state. According to **Rose Ann Rogers**, director of Career Services, 90 percent of Northeast 2004 graduates stayed in Nebraska to work. Some 64 percent are employed in our 20-county service area. Of the 191 graduates continuing their education, 86 percent chose a Nebraska college with the majority (72) choosing to study at Wayne State College. The survey covered 640 of 648 graduates.

### **DR. PATH, KEN ECHTENKAMP PRESENTED CERTIFICATES AT GOVERNOR'S DAY LUNCHEON**

Northeast president **Dr. Bill Path**, Board of Governors chair **Ken Echtenkamp**, and Wayne State College director of continuing education **Roger Feuerbacher**, were recently presented Certificates of Appreciation at a Governor's Day luncheon in Lincoln sponsored by South Sioux City and Dakota County governmental entities. The certificates were presented for the ongoing plans for a NECC/WSC campus in South Sioux City. **Gov. Dave Heineman** was presented a basket of NECC/WSC mementos at the luncheon.

### **KIRCHHOFF, RADENZ RECEIVE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR AWARDS**

NECC horticulture instructor **Andrea Kirchoff** and horticulturist/arboretum curator **Kim Radenz** were recently presented the Nebraska Forest Service's Community Educator Award at the annual Nebraska Community Conference and Tree City USA Ceremony in Lincoln. **John 'Chip' Morrow** of the Forest Service said, "Andrea and Kim have a wonderful, educational relationship with the students about the benefit of trees, and all plants in their environment. They have taken the school grounds from an expanse of public buildings and turf to an attractive and educational, young community forest."

### **SEVERAL WIA STUDENTS HONORED AT COMPLETION CEREMONY**

Thirty students from seven different countries were honored recently for completion of intensive four-month classes to improve their English skills. Funded with a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant, along with Norfolk area business partners, the four-hour class sessions met in the morning or evening. Purpose of the instruction was to help students become proficient in both spoken and written English and develop specific job readiness skills. During the WIA Recognition Ceremony, Mexico-native and WIA-grant student **Antonio Rosales** sang the American National Anthem and led the American Pledge of Allegiance. In his remarks that followed, Northeast president **Dr. Bill Path** said he had never heard a more moving rendition of our National Anthem than that sung by Rosales.