



Northeast
community college

SPOTLIGHT

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SPOTLIGHT, an electronic newsletter to the friends and patrons of Northeast Community College, is published 10 times 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 northeast Nebraska.

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GOVERNOR HEINEMAN SIGNS LB38

Much to the relief of everyone associated with Northeast Community College, **Governor Dave Heineman** signed LB 38 recently. The first part of LB 38 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 shortfalls in state aid over the next three years. Part two of LB 38 allows the Northeast 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 approximately \$1 million over two years) for Northeast. More importantly, the bill allows the tax dollars raised from the half-cent to be replaced by state-aid dollars in subsequent years so that NECC will receive an additional \$1,000,000 in state aid beginning in 2007-08 and each year thereafter.

RECORD NUMBER GRADUATES FROM NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A record number of 702 graduates recently was bestowed diplomas or degrees in a ceremony that featured District 38 **Senator Mike Flood**, Norfolk, as the commencement speaker. "You are now role models," he told the graduates. "You have a college degree and not many can say that." Nine students finished their Northeast studies with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Eight of those earned an associate's degree while one earned a one-year diploma. **Jessica Clarkson**, Wausa, entered the record books when she graduated with an associate of applied science degree in utility line. She is the first woman to graduate from the utility line program in 22 years and only the second female to graduate from the program in its entire 33-year history.

NORTHEAST NURSING STUDENTS PINNED IN FIRST-EVER COMBINED CEREMONY

In the first combined ceremony ever held, both associate degree nursing and licensed practical nursing students were honored in a special pinning ceremony in May. Some 25 associate degree nursing (ADN) students and 47 practical nursing students have completed their studies and were pinned. They are now eligible to take the national licensure exams to practice as either a registered or practical nurse. Those earning the practical nursing pin may also continue on and complete the ADN program at Northeast. Five individuals were also honored with the Essence of Nursing Awards for their consistent academic efforts, caring actions, positive motivation toward classroom learning and clinical experience, and professional behaviors. **Cali (Keating) Correa**, Norfolk, and **Courtney Schumacher**, Winside, were the ADN students honored while **Kendra Livgren**, Clay Center, **Rachelle Lyons**, Page, and **David Ridder**, West Point, were the practical nursing students honored with the award.

NORTHEAST ABE/GED PROGRAM HOSTS RECOGNITION NIGHT

A total of 132 students successfully completed the requirements to receive a Nebraska High School diploma through the GED (General Educational Development) test administered by Northeast's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program in the past year. Several were honored at the 29th Annual Adult Basic Education Recognition Night in May. **Alvaro Archundia-Nava**, Madison; **Annette Werner**, Pierce; **Jeremiah Harder**, Neligh, and **Mountha Soundara**, South Sioux City, were awarded Board of Governors' scholarships (one-half tuition at Northeast for four semesters). **Larry Schomaker**, Norfolk, received a \$500 Adult Basic Education Scholarship.

FOUNDATION RAISES APPROXIMATELY \$13,000 IN PRO-AM

The 7th Annual Northeast Community College Foundation Pro Am Golf Tournament at Eldorado Hills Golf Club in Norfolk raised approximately \$13,000 for scholarships to students and financial assistance to the college. A total of 34 teams competed. **Chris Wiemers** of Eagle Run Golf Course, Omaha, won the pro purse with a score of 67, and the team of pro **Jim White**, Wilderness Ridge Golf Course, Lincoln, **Bob Hupp**, **Stephanie Hupp**, and **Jeff McKeown** won the team competition with a score of 57. Northeast Foundation staffers **Angie McLean**, **Connie Sixta**, and **Chris McKibbon** organized the event.

TWO MORE STUDENT-BUILT HOMES ON AUCTION BLOCK

Two quality, student-built homes will be sold at a public auction on Saturday, June 4th, at 10 a.m., at the college. Both are 1,500-square-foot, two-bedroom homes with double, attached garages and many custom features. Both homes include all water, supply and vent lines extended to floor-joist level for ease of hook-up and 2 x 6-inch stud walls with cellulose insulation. According to dean of applied technology, **Lyle Kathol**, these homes meet or exceed local and state building codes. Buyers must pay 20 per cent down the day of the sale and the balance when the home is moved at buyer's expense within 60 days. A sales tax of 7% will be collected at final closing. "These are exceptionally well-built homes for the right buyer," Kathol said.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) GRANT STAFF BEGINS LEVEL III ESL CLASS

Twelve students who have completed two levels of Workforce Investment Act grant, English-As-A- Second Language (ESL) classes to improve their written and spoken skills have been invited to participate in a Level III class now underway by instructor **Bill Woepfel**. This class at the Villa Inn is for students who have not yet taken their General Educational Development (GED) test to earn a Nebraska high school diploma.

NORTHEAST WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM EARNS ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The 2004-2005 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. The Hawks squad had a 3.207 grade point average last semester. **Matt Svehla** is head coach and **Dr. Mike Cooper** is the assistant coach.

STAFF CHANGES ANNOUNCED AT NORTHEAST

Dr. William Giddings, vice president of educational services, recently announced that he has accepted a position as president of Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. He has been at Northeast for one year. **Mary Honke**, executive director of institutional advancement, will assume his Northeast responsibilities until a replacement is found.

In addition to Dr. Giddings departure, Northeast Community College will be without the services of four faculty members with a combined 98 years of service to the institution when the new academic term begins in August. They are: communication arts instructor **Jean Dederman**, diesel technology instructor **Tim Werlinger**, and nursing instructors **Judy Armbruster** and **Ann Witkowski**.

NORFOLK POLICE CAPTAIN COMMENTS ON MOTORCYCLE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The popular Motorcycle Rider Education Course at Northeast Community College in Norfolk has been praised by a Norfolk police captain. In a recent letter to instructor **Roger Nelson**, Norfolk Police Division captain **Steve Hecker** said the course exceeded his expectations. "I would highly recommend the course for riders who already have their motorcycle endorsement and those planning on obtaining their motorcycle license," he said. The 1.5-credit-hour, week-end course, offered twice a month from April through September and once in October, is also taught by **Harry Lindner**. Both are certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. The next open class is June 24th-26th.

VIEWPOINT AGAIN EARNS HONORS IN NATIONAL CONTEST

For the ninth consecutive year, Northeast's student newspaper, the *Viewpoint*, received first-place honors in a national competition sponsored by the American Scholastic Press Association. The *Viewpoint's* highest scores came in layout, art, and advertising. **J.B. Tyson** has been the advisor the past three years.

WANTED: MORE ADDRESSES FOR NECC "SPOTLIGHT"

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