



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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NORTHEAST BOARD APPROVES 2005-2006 BUDGET

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors approved the 2005-2006 budgets totaling \$44,000,000 at its September 8th meeting. This represents a 3.9% decrease from the prior year. The General Operating Fund and Capital Improvement Fund budgets approved by the board are supported in part by local property taxes. The tax levy for Northeast's 20-county district will be \$.089622, only fractionally higher than last year's \$.082711. According to **Steve Schram**, vice president of administrative services, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would only pay an additional \$6.91 per year to support Northeast.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS TANN ACADEMY FUNDS TO EXPAND

Northeast Community College in Norfolk has received a \$254,750 award from the National Science Foundation to expand the Technology Academy of Northeast Nebraska (TANN), currently located in the Lifelong Learning Center. The award is for September 1, 2005, through August 31, 2006. Annual extensions of slightly less money are anticipated for the following two years based on fund availability and scientific progress of the project. Now in its third year, the TANN project is a joint effort of Northeast, along with Wayne State College, Battle Creek, Madison, Norfolk Public, Pierce, and Stanton High Schools. Its goal is to provide educational opportunities in advanced areas of information technology (IT) to promote interest in IT careers. With the National Science Foundation Award, TANN will expand its curriculum to include electronics and agriculture technology. Funds will also be used to develop academies at the Northeast Education Centers in O'Neill, West Point, and South Sioux City.

TWO ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO NORTHEAST HALL OF SUCCESS

Alumni **Jodi Ronspies**, Norfolk, and **Karl Hensley**, Elgin, were recently inducted into the Northeast Hall of Success. The honor is bestowed on graduates and former students who have achieved significant success in their professions, exhibited exemplary citizenship qualities, and/or made significant contributions to their communities and/or community affairs. Ronspies graduated from Northeast Technical Community College (NTCC) in 1989 and was employed on the custodial staff at NTCC from 1984-1989. In 1996, she opened Employment Works, Inc., with two employees. Employment Works, now with a staff of 35-40, serves individuals with limitations to employment or independent living and works with state agencies to coordinate benefits and services. She is also an advocate for the disabled. Hensley graduated from NTCC in 1981. In 2003, he was named vice president of agronomy for Central Valley Ag Cooperative in O'Neill. He is now the operations manager for Precision Agronomy LLC, a separate company owned and managed by Central Valley Ag Cooperative. Also a director and founding partner of Nebraska Ag Partners, LLC, he works out of the Elgin administrative office and is responsible for 45 locations and approximately 190 employees.

NORTHEAST STUDENTS, STAFF GIVE TO KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS

The Northeast Student Government Association recently collected \$1,169 to donate to the Orphan Grain Train for relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina. The funds were matched, so the total cash donation was \$2,338. Four boxes of donated goods from campus were also taken to the Orphan Grain Train.

CAREER SERVICES DEPARTMENT HOSTS PART-TIME JOB FAIR

Some 297 Northeast students recently attended the Part-time Job Fair sponsored by the Career Services Department. Director **Rose Ann Rogers** reported that 35 employers were on hand to visit with students about part-time employment opportunities. She said many employers reported they were happy with the student attendance and qualifications of the applicants.

NANCY SCHULTZ NAMED DIRECTOR OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Nancy Schultz, Bloomfield, has begun her new duties as Director of Adult Basic Education (ABE). She will oversee Northeast's Adult Basic Education program in the our 20-county service area. Her responsibilities also include administration of the ABE staff, establishment of ABE sites, management of classroom facilities, and selection of materials. She 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.

FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR JOAN ZANDERS TO BE HONORED WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Northeast Community College financial aid director **Joan Zanders** will be honored in October by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) with its Leadership Award. The award is presented annually to one person from each of the six NASFAA regions of the country. She will be recognized as the honoree from the eight-state Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and will be presented the award at its regional conference in Jackson, Wyo. Zanders has been financial aid director at Northeast since 1997.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVANCE CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER 15TH

The Northeast students, faculty, and staff have had several opportunities to learn more about the Hispanic culture through its observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. Chicano poet **Ricardo Garcia**, an education professor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, kicked off the month-long observance with a Visiting Writers' presentation. He told the audience, "We are more alike than different." A salsa contest and demonstration on making tortillas were held in the cafeteria with 17 different salsa entries and three different kinds of tortillas. A Multicultural Club potluck is planned for Tuesday, October 4th, at 6:30 in the cafeteria. Different Spanish proverbs are also included in the weekly "What's Happening" for students. In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded to a month in 1988 so America can celebrate the culture and traditions of residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

RODEO CLUB MAKES MONEY FOR RODEO SCHOLARSHIP AT LaVITSEF BULL RIDE

The nearly-packed Agriculture Complex saw some great bull-riding action at the 2nd Annual LaVitsef Bull Ride last weekend sponsored by US92 Radio, BankFirst, and the Northeast Community College Rodeo Club. Some \$842 was raised for the Northeast Rodeo Club Scholarship.

WANTED: MORE ADDRESSES FOR NECC "SPOTLIGHT"

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