



*SPOTLIGHT*, an electronic newsletter to the friends and patrons of Northeast Community College, is published nine 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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**TWO ALUMNI HONORED AT NCCA ANNUAL MEETING**

Two graduates of the Norfolk Junior College, now Northeast Community College, were honored with prestigious awards at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) in Lincoln. Long-time Northeast Board of Governors member **Larry Poessnecker** of Atkinson was presented the Governor's Award while **Dr. Donis Petersan**, Columbus, was honored as one of the NCCA's Distinguished Alumni. The Governor's Award is given annually to one of the 66 community college governing board members throughout the state. It is awarded for outstanding leadership and contributions to the college. Poessnecker is now the Nebraska candidate for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Regional Trustee Leadership Award. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is given to one alumnus from each college to recognize career achievement.

**NCCA BOARD AND CEO'S SUPPORT AMENDMENT ONE**

The Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Board of Directors and the NCCA Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) Council have gone on record to support Amendment One, a May 9<sup>th</sup> ballot issue to increase State Senators' salaries from the current \$12,000 to \$21,000. The proposal also includes an annual adjustment based upon the change in the consumer price index, but that adjustment could not increase more than 4% each year. According to **Dennis Baack**, NCCA executive director, our 49 senators' salaries have not been increased since 1988. He said that will hinder new candidates' interest in filling those seats being vacated because of term limits. Baack also said that only eight other states pay their senators less than Nebraska. "Bottom line, it will cost only 16 cents per Nebraskan to pay for this increase," he said.

**NORTHEAST STUDENTS, FACULTY ASSIST WITH HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS**

Northeast's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), electrical construction and control, and building construction students recently fabricated an overseas shipping container for the Orphan Grain Train of Norfolk. What started as a shipping container is now a portable restroom with 12 separate toilet facilities and a laundry room with two washer-dryer combinations. It left the Northeast campus this week to be used by Hurricane Katrina relief workers, many of whom are college students on spring break, at Camp Biloxi, Miss. The students were guided in the project by **Clayton McDonald** and **Mike Frank**, building construction instructors, **Scott Owen**, HVAC instructor, and **Dan Frohberg**, electrical construction instructor. They estimate that a total of 580 man hours went in to the fabrication project.

**COX ACTIVITIES CENTER ALIVE WITH SOUND OF MUSIC**

The 24th Annual Jazz Festival on Tuesday, March 28th, attracted about 3,000 high school and junior high students in 91 swing choir and jazz band ensembles for competition throughout the day. The event was sponsored by Northeast Community College and the Norfolk Area Jazz Ensemble, a group of local and area musicians who perform regionally and raise scholarship funds for Northeast music students. Trophies were awarded to the top four jazz bands and swing/jazz choirs in each of the four levels of competition. Outstanding instrumental soloist and vocal soloist awards were also presented. A sweepstakes trophy was awarded to the top jazz band and swing choir. Northeast's **Linda Boullion** and **Dr. Randall Neuharth** hosted and organized the event.

### **SEVERAL NORTHEAST ATHLETES HONORED WITH POST-SEASON AWARDS**

Although the basketball season may be over for women's coach **Matt Svehla** and men's coach **Dan Anderson**, the post-season awards continue to roll in. With a season record of 25-5, the women's team was again named Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference champs and Svehla was named conference Coach of the Year for the 12th consecutive year. For the second time, Svehla was also named Region IX Coach of the Year. Four Northeast women were named to the All-Conference Team: **Emily Moran, Janae Young, Maria Nilsson, and Angela Long**. Moran and Young were also named to the All-Region Team. The men finished with a record of 18-13. **Cyrus Tate, Jeffrey Henfield, and Limar Wilson** were named to the All-Conference Team and Tate and Henfield made the All-Region IX Team.

### **ANGEL AGUILAR WINS ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP**

Northeast Community College student **Angel Aguilar**, Norfolk, has been honored with another large scholarship, this time a \$6,000 scholarship from the Multicultural Scholarship Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Aguilar earned his high school diploma through Northeast's HEP program in 2003. Now a sophomore agriculture major, he is currently taking 16.5 credit hours, has a grade point average of 3.8, and works 18 hours a week at Michael's Foods in Wakefield. He hopes to work in the food processing industry after earning his UNL bachelor's degree. This January, Aguilar was awarded a \$500 national scholarship from the High School Equivalency (HEP)/College Assisted Migrant Program (CAMP) Association.

### **NORTHEAST OBSERVES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Urban pop singer and African-American feminist **Deidre McCalla**, Atlanta, helped us wrap up Black History Month activities and kicked off Women's History Month in March with a free concert on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Other activities included presentations by visiting book artist and poet **Denise Brady**; the play, *Nebraska Next!*, by **Carson Becker** and the **Angels Theatre Company** of Lincoln, describing the history of the suffrage movement in Nebraska that led to women getting the vote in 1920, and visiting writer and poet, **Marjorie Saiser**, who gave a reading of her works. Norfolk attorney **Jan Einspahr** spoke on "Legal Issues Affecting Women."

### **SNA DONATES BLOOD PRESSURE MACHINE, ACCESSORIES TO CLINIC**

Members of the Student Nurses Association recently donated a blood pressure machine and accessories to the Norfolk Community Health Clinic. Composed of first- and second-year nursing students at Northeast Community College, the group made the donation after learning all patients at the clinic must have their blood pressures recorded in one room before being moved to an exam room. The donation included a blood pressure machine, a wheeled pedestal on which to mount it, and a selection of blood pressure cuffs in different sizes. The clinic serves uninsured individuals meeting low-income guidelines who are not eligible for Medicare/Medicaid or veterans benefits. Instructor **Karen Weidner** is the SNA sponsor.

### **PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS IN RECENT CEREMONY**

Approximately 75 students were eligible to be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Chi chapter, at the spring induction ceremony recently. Nearly 60 of those eligible attended the ceremony. The eligible Northeast students have earned at least 12 credit hours and achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.5 or above out of a 4.0 system. Instructors **Julie Ptacek, Amy Ries, and John Miller** are PTK sponsors.

### **300 SOPHOMORES PARTICIPATE IN ASSESSMENT TESTING**

Campus-wide assessment activities were conducted on Wednesday, March 29th. Some 300 sophomore students enrolled in 10 a.m. classes took the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Examination. Students were tested in the areas of critical thinking, reading, writing, and mathematics. All other students participated in the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory. Results from these two activities will be used to make decisions regarding the improvement of education for students at Northeast Community College.

### **NORTHEAST DIESEL STUDENTS TAKE TOP HONORS IN DIESEL CHALLENGE**

Northeast students **Andrew Lowe**, Carroll, **Brent Jones**, Wayne, and **Brandon Teitz**, Bancroft, won first, second, and third place honors respectively at a Skills USA/Diesel Technology Challenge hosted by Northeast recently. Some 20 secondary and post-secondary students from across the state competed in areas like interview skills, anti-lock brake systems, air conditioning, transmissions, electronic engines, and more. Central and Southeast Community Colleges also participated. Northeast diesel instructors **Craig Evans, Doug McKibbon, and Tony Milenkovich** assisted in the judging.