



*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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**ANOTHER RECORD NUMBER RECEIVE DIPLOMAS, DEGREES**

Another record-setting number of graduates received diplomas and degrees at our May Commencement Ceremonies. Some 747 diplomas and degrees were awarded. This included diplomas and degrees for 660 students who finished with course work in May and 87 who finished courses in December of 2005. The program included a Student Welcome by **Stephanie Alvarez**, Norfolk, a Student Address by **Brent Nollette**, Nenzel, and the Faculty Address by biology instructor **Roger Gipson**. Governor Dave Heineman was the keynote speaker.

**ABE/GED RECOGNITION NIGHT HONORS 175 WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS**

A total of 175 graduates were honored recently during the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Adult Basic Education Recognition Night for completing the requirements for a Nebraska High School diploma through the GED (General Educational Development) test administered by Northeast's Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program. **Tyre J. McDowell, Jr.**, director of the Clyde Malone Community Center in Lincoln, spoke. Board of Governors' Scholarship (half tuition at Northeast for four semesters) recipients were **Jacinta Klabenes** of Inman, **Alex Ebmeier** of Laurel, **Meghan Leary** of Norfolk, and **Petra Falcon** of Tilden.

**NURSING STUDENTS PINNED IN SPECIAL CEREMONY**

Some 45 associate degree nursing students and 60 licensed practical nursing students were eligible to receive their nursing pins in a special ceremony in May. They are now eligible to take national licensure exams to practice as either licensed registered nurses or licensed practical nurses. Also during the ceremony, associate degree nursing students **Nicole Huffman**, Burwell, and **Mia Bergman**, Orchard, were honored with the Essence of Nursing Award while **Rhonda Wilson**, Norfolk, and **Rhonda Lammers**, Fordyce, were the practical nursing students honored with the same award.

**NORTHEAST GRADUATES ARE FIRST IN STATEWIDE LTA PROGRAM**

Three Northeast Community College students marched into the history books at graduation ceremonies recently when they became the first three graduates of the Nebraska Community College system's new Library Technical Assistant (LTA) Program. They are **Lynn Hans** and **Lori Juhlin**, both of Norfolk, and **Jed Miller**, Neligh. Northeast student **Peggy Leiting**, Randolph, has completed the core coursework for the LTA degree.

**DEMPSAY, PTAK JOIN STAFF THIS MONTH**

An educator from Tucson, Ariz., and a Norfolk native will begin their duties as administrators at Northeast Community College this month. **Sarah J. Dempsey**, formerly assistant vice chancellor of academic services at Pima Community College District office, has been hired as the new vice president of educational services. Norfolk attorney **David H. Ptak** will fill the position of executive director of human resources and general counsel. Dempsey will supervise all Northeast areas relating to instruction and instructional support services. She will administer both credit and non-credit educational programs at Northeast, including on- and off-campus, telecourses, on-line and distance learning courses. Ptak will develop and lead the college's area-wide human resources services, systems, and policies and provide general legal assistance to the Board and administrators.

### **LONG-TIME STAFF MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT RETIREMENT RECEPTION**

Three Northeast Community College staff members were recently honored at a Retirement/Recognition Reception on the campus in Norfolk. The three, human resources director **Margy Ehrenfried**, administrative assistant instructor **Carol Morse**, and architectural drafting instructor **Gary Parker** will retire, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, from Northeast after a combined 88 years of service to Northeast or one of its predecessor institutions.

### **BIDS LET ON NEW UTILITY LINE BUILDING; GROUNDBREAKING SET**

One of Northeast Community College's premiere programs of study is one step closer to a new facility following recent Board of Governors' acceptance of a construction bid of \$2,668,496 from Crafts, Inc., of Norfolk. The bid was among six bids submitted for construction of the new Utility Line-Professional Truck Driver Training building east of the intersection of Victory Road and Benjamin Avenue. Beringer Ciaccio Dennell Mabrey of Omaha is the architect/structural engineer. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new UL-Professional Truck Driver Training building is set for Thursday, June 8th, at 3:30 p.m. at 1601 East Benjamin Avenue. The public is invited.

### **STUDENTS EXCEL DURING SPRING SEMESTER**

Our students continue to excel academically and the recent release of the President's and Dean's Lists shows it. Some 162 students made the President's Honor List this spring semester for earning a perfect grade point average of 4.0 on at least 12 credit hours. Another 131 students were named to the President's Part-Time List for a 4.0 grade point average on at least six credit hours. Another 205 students were named to the Dean's Honor List for earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above while enrolled for at least 12 credit hours. Thirty-four students were named to the Dean's Part-Time List for a grade point average of 3.75 or above on at least six credit hours.

### **NORTHEAST'S ALVAREZ, NOLLETTE ON ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM**

Northeast students **Stephanie M. Alvarez, Norfolk**, and **Brent N. Nollette, Nenzel**, were among 26 Nebraska community college students honored this spring at the Phi Theta Kappa All-Nebraska Academic Team Recognition Day ceremonies in the Warner Legislative Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln. Additionally, Alvarez was honored at the annual meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in Long Beach, Cal., as a New Century Scholar. She received a \$2,000 scholarship from AACC, the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and Phi Theta Kappa (international academic honor society for two-year colleges) because she received the highest All-USA Academic Team application score of any member of the Nebraska All-State Team. Alvarez received her Northeast diploma in licensed practical nursing this spring and will continue studying for her associate degree nursing. Nollette received his associate of science degree in ag transfer and will study agriculture education at the University of Nebraska this fall. Faculty sponsors are **John Miller, Amy Ries, and Julie Ptacek**.

### **CYRUS TATE HONORED BY NJCAA**

Recent Northeast Community College graduate and University of Iowa-recruit **Cyrus Tate** of Chicago, Ill., has been honored by the National Junior College Athletic Association as a Third Team All-American. The 6'9" forward averaged 19.8 points and 10.6 rebounds per game while playing one season at Northeast.

### **INTER-HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC CONTEST**

Another late-spring activity, the 23rd Annual Inter-High School Scholastic Contest, drew 1,100 students from 42 area Class C and D high schools to campus. Wayne High School garnered first-place honors in the Class C contest while Pierce High School won second place and Crofton High School took third place in the Class C. In the Class D contest, Stuart High School again won first place, Wausa High School repeated as second-place winner, and Bloomfield High School again took home third-place honors. The Quiz Bowl was won by Wisner-Pilger High School with Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk, taking second-place honors.

### **TWO STUDENT-BUILT HOMES TO BE AUCTIONED THIS MONTH**

Two new homes designed and built by Northeast Community College building construction students will be sold at public auction on Saturday, June 3rd, at 10 a.m. at the college. Both are 1,500-square-foot, two-bedroom homes with many great features. Buyers must pay 20 percent 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. Building construction instructors are **Roger Geiger, Mike Frank, and Clayton McDonald**.