



*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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**NORTHEAST RECEIVES LARGEST GRANT IN HISTORY FOR ETHANOL TRAINING**

Northeast Community College received word in December that it has received two substantial grants for ethanol training. Northeast was awarded a \$1,999,999 grant through the President's Community-Based Job Training (CBJT) program to assist in the development and implementation of ethanol training throughout the Nebraska community college system. Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, this grant is the largest ever awarded to Northeast or any of its predecessor institutions. Another award, a \$60,000 grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development's Value-Added Agricultural (VAA) grant program, will also be used to develop curriculum and courses leading to an associate's degree or certificate in ethanol production and management.

**CCPE APPROVES NORTHEAST-WSC FUNDING REQUEST**

Another early holiday gift came when the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education approved a capital construction funding request for our proposed Northeast Community College-Wayne State College College Center in South Sioux City. The proposed center is a 44,530-square-foot structure on 57 acres of land (with a value of \$2.1 million) donated to Northeast by the South Sioux City Community Development Agency (CDA). The funding request will now be presented to the Nebraska Legislature.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS; WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER**

At the January meeting of the Northeast Community College Board of Governors, **Jack Warrick**, Meadow Grove, passed the gavel to **Dr. Don Oelsigle**, Tilden, who will serve as Board of Governors' chairperson in 2007. Other newly-installed officers are **Keith Harvey**, Creighton, vice chairperson, and **Nanci Lingenfelter**, Plainview, secretary. Also at that meeting, Norfolk native and businessman **Marlin Meisinger** was sworn in as a new Board member-at-large to fill the unexpired term of **J. Paul McIntosh**, Norfolk. Meisinger's term will expire in December of 2008.

**McINTOSH HONORED AT RETIREMENT RECEPTION**

**J. Paul McIntosh**, Norfolk, was honored for his 19 years of service on the Board of Governors at a recent reception. He served as board chairperson in 1993 and 2000. He also served as board chairperson of the Nebraska Community College Association in 2001 and was honored with its Governor's Award for Exemplary Service in 2002. In 2002, J. Paul and his family established the McIntosh Legacy Scholarship program with a donation of \$500,000. Through additional contributions and phases of the program, it has now grown to \$1,346,000.

**NORTHEAST STUDENTS EXCEL ACADEMICALLY**

Some 139 full-time (academic load of 12 credit hours or more) students were named to the President's Honor List at semester's end for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Another 88 part-time students (at least six credit hours) also made the President's List with their perfect 4.0. Another 194 full-time students were named to the Deans' List for earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above while 34 part-time students were named to the Deans' List.

### **LARRY ARENS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF SUCCESS**

**Larry Arens**, Norfolk, was inducted into the Northeast Community College Hall of Success in a special luncheon ceremony recently. The Hall of Success Award is presented to 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. Arens graduated from the utility line program at Northeast Technical Community College (now Northeast Community College) in 1980. He started his career with NPPD in 1980 in York. After holding several NPPD positions in Osceola, Oshkosh, Dodge, Exeter, Seward and Columbus, he was promoted to account manager in Norfolk in 2000.

### **BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVE UNMC NURSING DIVISION ON NORTHEAST CAMPUS**

A proposed new University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) nursing division on the campus of Northeast Community College in Norfolk received unanimous support of the Board of Regents recently. With Northeast and Faith Regional Health Services of Norfolk as partners, the new division will house the associate degree nursing program offered by Northeast and bachelor's, master's and doctoral nursing programs from the UNMC College of Nursing. The proposed division will be housed in a 35,000-square-foot facility with an estimated cost of \$10.8 million, funded with public and private monies. Initial staff needs are 10 faculty and an assistant dean. UNMC now has nursing divisions in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, and Scottsbluff.

### **NORTHEAST STAFFERS HONORED WITH US BANK AWARDS**

Several Northeast staffers were honored at our Spring In-Service with the US Bank Awards. Agriculture instructor **Michael Lechner** was honored with the US Bank Teaching Excellence Award-Full-Time Faculty, while **Janet Schwager**, Ewing, received the Teaching Excellence Award-Part-Time Faculty. **Sandy Hilliges**, student information specialist, received the US Bank Great Performer-Classified Staff Award, while **Coleen Bressler**, director of accounting services, was honored with the Great Performer-Professional/Managerial Staff Award. **Nick Leuschen**, president of US Bank, presented the awards.

### **NORTHEAST'S DR. PATH WATCHES LEGISLATION BEFORE UNICAMERAL**

Northeast President **Dr. Bill Path** is closely watching Legislation before the Nebraska Unicameral. **LB 342** follows a funding distribution study by the Nebraska community college CEO's. That study showed that the funding distribution has grown rather disproportionate. Pending full restoration of state aid dollars to the funding formula, LB 342 would permanently shift \$2.25 million from Western Nebraska Community College and redistribute this annual base award to the other five community colleges depending on actual student enrollments; Northeast's portion would be \$750,000 annually. **LB 409** would increase the capital levy authority for each community college from one cent to two cents per \$100 valuation. **LB 238**, which was killed in committee Wednesday on a 6-1 vote, called for elimination of property tax levying authority and local governance by establishing a statewide board of community college trustees. The lost local control is at the heart of Northeast's ability to rapidly respond to the needs of local business and industry and constituents. A similar bill, **LB 366**, eliminates all property taxing authority for community colleges but leaves the governance structure in place. Dr. Path said bills such as **LB 238** and **LB 366** would force the community colleges to compete directly for state appropriations with the state college and university systems. Unique in their missions, community colleges offer labor-intensive remedial education and costly vocational training for the state of Nebraska. Plus, a low student-to-teacher ratio comes with a higher price tag. In states where community colleges compete for funding with other sectors of higher education, the community colleges are forced to offer fewer vocational options and raise tuition. Both access and affordability suffer.

### **AUTO TECH PROGRAM HONORED AS TOP PROGRAM IN STATE**

Northeast's automotive technology program was selected as the top program in the Post-Secondary, Non-Manufacturer Affiliated Education category in the State of Nebraska for 2006 by the Automotive Industry Planning Council (AIPC). The award included educational equipment valued at \$9,340 for the program. Northeast freshman instructors **Bowdie Otte** and **Roger Carnell** traveled to Atlanta to accept the award at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Conference. Sophomore instructors are **Alan Darnall** and **Cal Lamprecht**.

### **ANOTHER UTILITY LINE INSTRUCTOR COMPLETES EXTENSIVE INTERNSHIP**

**Carlos Flores**, utility line job training and safety instructor based in Sidney, recently completed an internship in electric utility safety and loss control offered by the National Rural Electric Association and the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association.