



*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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**LETTERS OF INTENT APPROVED BY NORTHEAST, FAITH REGIONAL, AND UNMC BOARDS**

The road map that will lead to the establishment of a northern division of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing on the Northeast Community College campus was approved by Northeast's Board of Governors at its monthly meeting in March. **Bob Barte**, vice chancellor for external affairs at UNMC, described the approved Letter of Intent as a road map on how to help improve health care in northeast and north central Nebraska. With Northeast Community College, Faith Regional Health Services, and the UNMC College of Nursing as partners, a similar document was approved by Faith Regional's Board of Directors and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents recently. Students will be able to earn an NECC associate's degree in nursing or a UNMC bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree in nursing at the facility when completed.

**NORTHEAST ADMINISTRATOR, ALUMNUS HONORED BY NCCA**

A Northeast Community College administrator and alumnus were honored with prestigious awards at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) in Lincoln recently. **Mary Honke**, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at Northeast, was honored with the NCCA Administrator's Award while **RADM James "Mac" Gleim, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, received an NCCA Distinguished Alumni Award. Every year, each of the six Nebraska community colleges honors one former student with a Distinguished Alumni Award for career achievement. Honke has held several positions at Northeast since beginning as an adjunct instructor in 1981. RADM Gleim earned an associate's degree in business administration from the Norfolk Junior College (now Northeast Community College) in 1953.

**FIVE NORTHEAST FACULTY MEMBERS TO BE HONORED AS OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS**

Five members of the Northeast Community College faculty will be honored in May by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) for their outstanding job performance. The faculty members are agriculture instructors **Michael Lechner** and **Mike Roeber**, building construction instructor **Mike Frank**, criminal justice instructor **Matt McCarthy**, and director of nursing programs **Ann Oertwich**. Northeast's academic deans nominated the faculty members for the NISOD Awards. According to the NISOD webpage, these Excellence Awards honor the world's best in higher education.

**RANDALL SIGLE TO BEGIN DUTIES AS ETHANOL PROJECT TRAINING COORDINATOR**

**Randall Sigle**, currently general manager of Creative Technologies, Inc., in Lincoln, has been named statewide ethanol training project coordinator and will begin his duties on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. As the statewide ethanol training project coordinator, Sigle will help manage the three-year, \$1,999,999 Community-Based Job Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The funds will be used to assist in the development and implementation of ethanol training programs throughout the Nebraska community college system. Training options will include a dual-credit program for high school students, a two-year associate of applied science degree for ethanol production and management (which could be applied to a bachelor's degree from a four-year college), and several short-term training courses for current ethanol employees. **Chuck Pohlman**, Northeast dean of agriculture, health and sciences, is project director.

### **NORTHEAST'S DR. PATH VISITS AREA COMMUNITIES WITH NEWS OF NECC PROJECTS**

Northeast Community College President **Dr. Bill Path** visited the communities of Pender, Oakland, West Point, Neligh, and Tilden to inform residents about exciting new initiatives in the works at the college. In addition to the UNMC nursing partnership and statewide ethanol training project, Dr. Path explained the new rural agribanking option in the business program and the new community journalism program. The two-year, 68-credit-hour rural agribanking program is designed for those students interested in seeking employment immediately after graduating from Northeast rather than transferring to another four-year institution. According to **John Blaylock**, dean of business, math and technology, this agribanking option was added to Northeast's curriculum to meet a need now being faced in small, rural banks as many experienced loan officers are at or nearing retirement age. The community journalism program is also being established to meet a need in small weekly and daily newspapers as many of its owners/publishers/editors face retirement age. Dr. Path plans other community visits this spring in Northeast's 20-county service area.

### **NORTHEAST IS SITE OF 25TH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Some 3,000 junior and senior high school students from Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota competed in the Silver Anniversary edition of the Northeast Community College Jazz Festival recently. The students made up about 85 different performing groups. "We are one of the few jazz festivals in the Midwest that is approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals for high school and junior high school participation," said **Linda Boullion**, department chair and festival manager. "We see some incredibly talented young musicians at our festival every year." The event was expanded to two days this year.

### **NEW REINKE PIVOT ERECTED AT NORTHEAST**

In preparation of expanded irrigation technology programming, a new Reinke center pivot irrigation system was recently erected on the college farm by irrigation technology and utility line students. With a retail value of nearly \$59,000, Reinke offered the new pivot to Northeast at greatly-reduced prices.

### **NORTHEAST'S NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRAM RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION IN COMPETITION**

The New Beginnings Program at Northeast Community College recently received word that it had won an Honorable Mention Award in the third annual competition called "Programs and Practices That Work: Preparing Students for Non-traditional Careers Project." The competition was sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium, Association for Career and Technical Education, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, and the National's Women's Law Center. The honor was given for the New Beginnings' mentoring program that matches a second-year, non-traditional student with a freshman student at Northeast. The New Beginnings Program helps male and female single parents, single pregnant women, displaced homemakers (widowed, divorced, or separated men and women), and non-traditional students (students in programs that have 25 percent or fewer students of one gender in the program). **Brandi Rossman** is the New Beginnings director.

### **SNA COMPLETES AWARD-WINNING FITNESS PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**

Members of the Student Nurses Association (SNA) recently wrapped up their Kids Fitting It All Together program with an awards ceremony at the Lifelong Learning Center. The program, specially designed to help area 4th and 5th graders learn more about physical fitness and health, won the Group Community Health Award at the Nebraska State Student Nurses Association Convention. **Rhonda Wilson**, SNA community outreach chair, received the Individual Community Health Award for her leadership on the project. Some 52 percent of the students who started the 10-week program in January finished. First-place winner was **Gladys Aldana** and she won a membership to the Norfolk Family YMCA. Second-place winner was **Malia Gass** and third-place finisher was **Courtney Cowling**. Malia and Courtney won bicycles for their efforts.

### **CURRICULUM TO EXPAND AT SOUTH SIOUX CITY THIS FALL**

As the first six students to complete their studies at the Northeast Education Center in South Sioux City make plans for graduation, plans also continue for expanded programming there. Three new, complete associate of arts degree options will be offered in the Fall 2007 semester in South Sioux City. They are a criminal justice-corrections, elementary education, and behavioral science. Instruction will be delivered in a combination of on-site classes, distance learning classes, telecourses or online classes," said **Donna Niemeyer**, dean of humanities, arts and social sciences.