



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 SIGNED BY NORTHEAST, FAITH REGIONAL, AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

During a standing-room-only ceremony in late April on the Northeast Community College campus in Norfolk, officials from the University of Nebraska (UN), University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Faith Regional Health Services and Northeast signed a Letter of Intent for a proposed UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division to be built on the Northeast campus in Norfolk. Those signing the document included UN President **J.B. Milliken**, UNMC Chancellor **Dr. Harold Maurer**, UNMC College of Nursing Dean **Dr. Virginia Tilden**, Faith Regional Health Services CEO **Robert Driewer** and Board chair **Dr. Steffan Lacey**, Northeast Community College President **Dr. Bill Path** and Board of Governors Chairperson **Dr. Don Oelsligle**. Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature **Mike Flood**, Norfolk Mayor **Gordon Adams**, chairman of the Madison County Commissioners **Jerry McCallum**, and Avera St. Anthony's Hospital CEO, **Ron Cork**, O'Neill, also signed the Letter of Intent. The facility, with a tentative opening date of 2010, will house Northeast's basic nurse aide, practical nursing and associate degree nursing programs and UNMC bachelor of science, master of science and doctoral degrees in nursing.

ANOTHER RECORD NUMBER RECEIVES DIPLOMAS, DEGREES IN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Another record number of graduates received a record number of diplomas and degrees in the 34th Annual Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 12th. Some 824 students were awarded 836 degrees or diplomas (12 students received double degrees) and heard Northeast Technical Community College (now Northeast Community College) graduate **Lisa Guill** give the commencement address. A graduate of Northeast's broadcasting program and former member of the Hawks' basketball team, she is general manager of KOLN/KGIN TV, Channels 10/11, Lincoln.

CLARENCE SCHMITT AWARDED HONORARY DEGREE AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

For only the second time in the history of Northeast Community College or any of its predecessor institutions, an honorary Associate of Arts degree was conferred during the recent commencement ceremony. **Clarence Schmitt**, Wisner, a member of the Northeast Community College Board of Governors representing District IV of Stanton, Cuming, Thurston and Burt Counties in their entirety and a portion of Madison County since 1990, received the degree. The late **Arlo Wirth**, Hartington, is the only other recipient of a Northeast honorary degree.

FIVE MARCH INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS IN SOUTH SIOUX CITY

The first students to complete all studies for an associate's degree in our new Education Center in South Sioux City were honored in early May. They are: **Brad Rowe**, **Wendy Winters**, **Jim Jimerson**, and **Randy Goddard**, all of South Sioux City, and **Mike Rush**, Ponca. Rowe, who earned an associate of arts degree in behavioral science, took all his courses at the Northeast Education Center except electives taken at Wayne State College. Winters earned an associate of applied science degree in administrative assistant-medical. Jimerson graduated with an associate of applied science degree in administrative assistant-general and Rush received an associate of arts degree in academic transfer. Goddard earned an associate of arts degree in business administration.

STUDENT NURSES PINNED IN YEAR-END CEREMONY

Some 57 practical nursing students and 63 associate degree nursing students received their nursing pins recently. Three associate degree nursing and three practical nursing students were also presented the prestigious Essence of Nursing Award. **Rhonda Lammers**, Fordyce, **Alicia Parker**, Norfolk, and **Carmen Schmoltdt**, Wisner, were the associate degree nursing students honored with the Essence of Nursing Award while **Jeff Binder**, Spencer, **Tracy Dennis**, Osmond, and **Nancy Nockels**, Norfolk, were the practical nursing students honored with the same award. Lammers was honored last year with the Essence of Nursing Award as a practical nursing student. The students are now eligible to take the National Council of Licensure Exam (RN or PN) to practice as either a licensed registered or practical nurse. Some practical nursing students will continue in Northeast's associate degree nursing program.

SEVERAL STUDENTS FINISH NORTHEAST STUDIES WITH PERFECT 4.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Eighteen students finished their Northeast studies for a diploma or associate's degree with a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA). **Tiffany Mullenhoff**, **Grayson Path**, and **Chelsea Tittel**, all of Norfolk, finished their studies in December. Others finishing with a perfect 4.0 GPA included **Suzanne Schmid**, Dwight; **Rhonda Lammers**, Fordyce; **Corrine Becklun**, Elgin; **Amanda Bayer**, Leigh; **Joy Wedekind**, Lindsay; **Donna Blackburn**, **Kevin Freudenburg**, **Mark Freudenburg**, **Sherry Kraemer**, **Rhonda Steckelberg**, and **John Zimmer V**, all of Norfolk; **Jacob Robertson**, Primrose; **Courtney Leslie**, Spalding; **Jason Longnecker**, Winside; and **Kaela Thayer**, Wheatland, Wyo.

FOUR FACULTY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Four Northeast Community College faculty members were recently honored at a Retirement/Recognition Reception. The four, business/accounting instructor **Lon Behmer**, electronics engineering technology instructor **Linda (Cross) Geiger**, Spanish instructor **Sue Voss**, and administrative assistant instructor **Pat Wade**, will retire, effective June 30th, from Northeast after a combined 97 years of service.

ABE RECOGNITION NIGHT HONORS THIRD LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS IN SERVICE AREA

Some 52 students out of a total of 177 graduates were honored during the 31st Annual Adult Basic Education Recognition Night. The students have completed the requirements to receive a Nebraska High School diploma through the GED (General Educational Development) test administered by Northeast's Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program. The 177 graduates in the class made this graduating class the third largest high school graduating class in Northeast's 20-county service area, according to **Nancy Schultz**, director of Northeast's Adult Basic Education program. She presented the Northeast Board of Governors' Scholarships to **Matthew Carr**, Oakland, and **Sarah Endorf**, **Norma Christiansen**, and **Crystal Strong**, all of Norfolk, during the ceremony. The scholarships will pay half the students' Northeast tuition for four semesters.

NACTA STUDENTS BRING HOME SWEEPSTAKES HARDWARE

Northeast Community College students brought home the sweepstakes hardware from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kan., in April. Northeast was the Sweepstakes Award winner after taking the Community College Division and High Team Overall Award between the Community College and University Division. Over 400 students from 23 two-year community colleges and 15 four-year colleges and universities from 15 states participated in the event. For the fifth consecutive year, the Agribusiness Management Team from Northeast, coached by **Don Benjamin**, won first-place honors.

NORTHEAST STUDENTS, FACULTY ON MAGAZINE COVER

Several Northeast students and faculty members are featured on the cover of the May *Nebraska Trucker Magazine* after a Northeast diesel technology team garnered first-place honors at a Diesel Technology Challenge. Several Northeast students also won top individual awards at the Skills USA/Diesel Technology Challenge. **Tyler Puntney**, O'Neill, won first place at the college level; **Greg Wells, Jr.**, Plainview, won second place, and alternate **Kyle Dobias** of Verdigre garnered third place. **Jason McNare**, Merriman, was also a member of the first-place team. The Diesel Technology Challenge is held in conjunction with the annual Nebraska Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) Contest. Northeast diesel instructors **Doug McKibbon** and **Tony Milenkovich** were team advisors and also assisted with the judging. Northeast instructors **Craig Evans** and **Roy Pribnow** also judged.