



Northeast
community college

SPOTLIGHT

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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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DR. PATH VISITS EVERY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN NORTHEAST'S 20-COUNTY SERVICE AREA

Northeast President **Dr. Bill Path** has been on the road this summer, speaking at County Commissioner/Supervisor meetings in all 20 counties of Northeast's service area. Dr. Path has been updating the commissioners/supervisors on Northeast's efforts to partner with Faith Regional Health Services of Norfolk and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to build a facility on campus to house Northeast's basic nurse aide, licensed practical nursing and associate degree nursing programs and the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division. UNMC would offer its bachelor's, master's and doctorate-level nursing programs in the facility. UNMC currently has nursing divisions in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney and Scottsbluff. The 35,000-square-foot structure, with a cost of \$10.7 million, would be financed with both public and private funds. The Clements Group of Salt Lake City, Utah, recently concluded a feasibility study in the 20-county service area to see if there was sufficient support for the project. Watch for results of that study in a future edition of SPOTLIGHT.

PLANS CONTINUE FOR NECC-WSC COLLEGE CENTER AFTER FUNDING BILL IS SIGNED

Plans continue for the joint Northeast Community College-Wayne State College College Center in South Sioux City after **Gov. Dave Heineman** signed a \$3.5-million-appropriations bill for Wayne State's share of the facility. The facility was the only brick-and-mortar project for any four-year institutions to make it out of committee this Legislative session. When the Center opens, tentatively in 2010, place-bound students will take their freshman and sophomore courses from Northeast and then take junior and senior or graduate courses from Wayne State College, all in the same facility. The 44,520-square-foot building will be built on 57 acres of land donated by the South Sioux City Community Development Association (CDA). Anticipated cost is \$14,619,087, including the \$2.1 million land donation. The Clements Group will soon begin a feasibility study to measure area support for a capital campaign to assist with construction costs.

COURTNEY KLEIN-FAUST IS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Battle Creek native **Courtney Klein-Faust** is the new Executive Director of Development at Northeast. In that position, she will direct, plan and execute development-related activities of the college and the foundation. She will also work with major gifts, planned giving, capital drives, and annual campaigns. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. Since January 2005, she has been an associate at the law firm of Fitzgerald, Vetter and Temple, Norfolk. She replaces **Angie McLean**.

RENEWABLE FUELS PROGRAM EARNS CCPE APPROVAL

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) recently gave Northeast the green light to begin offering the state's first renewable fuels training program this fall semester. The CCPE unanimously approved the curriculum for an associate of applied science (AAS) degree in Renewable Fuels Technology. With **Randy Sigle** as Statewide Ethanol Training Project Coordinator, Northeast's first classes in the 63-credit-hour AAS Renewable Fuels Technology program will focus on curriculum that teaches ethanol production processes. The program is partially funded with a grant of \$1,999,999 through the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants (CBJT) program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

NORTHEAST'S SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM FINISHES SEASON ON HIGH NOTE

The 2007-2008 Northeast Community College Speech and Debate Team has its work cut out for it to match the successes of the previous year. The 2006-2007 team of eight students earned over 80 awards, including two tournament sweepstakes trophies. The students attended some 16 individual events tournaments and six debate tournaments. Students who qualify for the capstone event of the season, the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament, must have advanced to the final round at a minimum of three tournaments during the regular season. Northeast's **Kevin Freudenburg** and **John Zimmer** qualified for the premiere event. At a recent National Tournament, Northeast's Speech and Debate Team was the fourth-ranked community college team in the nation. **Melissa Lemke-Elznic** is the coach. Congratulations to that team and good luck to next year's team.

SUMMER ORIENTATION/REGISTRATION DRAWS OVER 700 STUDENTS

Some 759 students went through the Orientation/Registration process in early June. The four-day event drew 39 more students than last year's event. Students planning to take more than six credit hours must attend an Orientation/Registration session before classes begin on Monday, August 20th.

NORTHEAST IS SITE OF SUMMER CAMPS

Northeast Community College is the site of several camps for elementary and secondary education students during the summer. Basketball coaches **Matt Svehla** and **Dan Anderson** host several basketball camps for area youth each summer. In early June, some 50 high school women from Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska attended the 13th Annual Career Camp, directed by **Shelley Lammers**. During the three-day camp, the students explored career opportunities in fields traditionally considered male-dominated fields. Northeast Community College and the Northern Nebraska Area Health Education Center sponsored a five-day exploration of careers in the health care field for 18 high school students in late June. Northeast's Director of Allied Health Services **Keith Neal** spearheaded Northeast's efforts. In July, the Technology Academies of Northeast Nebraska (TANN) hosted the First Annual Teen Technology Camp for 8th and 9th graders. Students were introduced to current and cutting-edge technology in the five-day camp supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DUE-0501876. The 8th and 9th graders could attend one session or all five TANN sessions of the camp co-directed by **Connie Kube** and **Nancy Mawson**.

10th BIENNIAL POWER EQUIPMENT SHOW WRAPS UP FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS

Some 375 owners, managers, and employees in the electrical utility industry saw over 80 product lines and visited with exhibitors from 10 different states during the 10th Biennial Power Equipment Show at Northeast Community College recently. The Show was co-sponsored by Northeast, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Suppliers Group, Nebraska Rural Electric Association Utility Section, and League of Nebraska Municipalities.

K AND B TRUCKING, EATON TRANSMISSION, FORD MOTORS MAKE GENEROUS DONATIONS

K and B Trucking of South Sioux City and Eaton Transmission Corporation have donated five new, over-the-road transmissions, valued at \$34,500, for use as training tools in Northeast's Diesel Technology Program. The Ford Motor Company recently donated a new Ford Crown Victoria, with a value of \$28,970, and a new Ford Focus, valued at \$17,780, to the Northeast automotive technology program. Many thanks to K and B Trucking, Eaton Transmission, and the Ford Motor Company for their generosity. Donations such as these are essential for state-of-the-art instruction for our students.

NORTHEAST FACULTY MEMBER HAS WORKED PUBLISHED, DISPLAYED

English instructor **Julie Ptacek-Wilkey** has been notified that one of her original poems will be published in October by Western Reading Services, Denver. The poem, "Welcoming the Dead," will be published in an anthology, *In Other Words: An Anthology of American Poetry*. She also had a photo titled "Passages" on display at the Norfolk Arts Center this summer. Her photo was one of 25 pieces selected for the juried exhibit entitled *Bridges*.

REMODELED STUDENT CENTER CAFETERIA TO WELCOME STUDENTS

Returning students will find the Student Center Cafeteria has undergone a major renovation during the summer months. The deli side of the cafeteria has been relocated to the second floor of the student center to allow for additional seating in the cafeteria and a separate dining area for those wishing to eat deli style.