



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. DENNIS BRANDT REPORTS TO BOARD ON NORTHEAST SUCCESSES**

**Dr. Dennis Brandt**, director of assessment and institutional research, gave his report, *Core Indicators of Institutional Effectiveness, 2006-2007*, to the Northeast Board of Governors recently. His report showed that Northeast's freshman 2005-to-sophomore 2006 retention rate of 71 percent was far higher than the average 54 percent of other Nebraska community colleges. He also said Northeast boasts the highest graduation rates among Nebraska community colleges. Northeast's 2004 graduation rate of 53.6 percent compared favorably to other community college's average of 27.1 percent and the University of Nebraska's graduation rate of 55 percent. He also said that 98 percent of the 708 graduates surveyed from the Class of 2006 found employment or continued their education. He also noted that Northeast graduates who continue their educations at the University of Nebraska do as well as or better than native UN-L or other transfer students. In a separate Student Satisfaction Survey, the highest ratings were reserved for quality of instruction, faculty availability, and faculty knowledge in their subject areas.

**PTA PROGRAM GRADUATES 14 IN AUGUST CEREMONY**

Fourteen Northeast Community College students recently completed the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program and were recognized at a special graduation ceremony. The graduates included **Jennifer Dutton**, Alliance; **Suzanne Schmid**, Dwight; **Courtney Sheffield** and **Tammy (Mrs. Matt) Wagner**, both of Grand Island; **Daniel Kern**, Scotia; **Mallory (Mrs. Knud) Elting**, Shickley; **Katie Stone**, Newman Grove; **Rhonda Steckelberg**, Norfolk; **Brianna Tonjes**, Pender; **Jan Wragge**, Pierce; **Laci Sahlfeld**, South Sioux City; **Melenda (Mrs. Leigh) Rexus**, Spencer; **Kelsey Kienow**, Winnetoon, and **Andrea Jongewaard**, Wood, S. D. The graduates must now pass a national PTA examination, required in all but a handful of states, before beginning employment as a PTA. Northeast's placement rate for its PTA graduates is 100 percent.

**NEW FACULTY WELCOMED AT NORTHEAST IN-SERVICE**

Several new faculty and staff members were introduced at the Fall In-service, including these new full-time faculty members: **Sara Barritt**, business/accounting; **Lynette Finley**, administrative assistant-medical; **Ryan Hobza**, CAD/drafting instructor; **Kevin Kock**, agriculture; **Inga Lindholm**, Spanish, and **Bill Marx**, diesel technology. Other staff members introduced included **Mary Louise Foster**, director of library services, and **Russ Peterson**, business industry trainer in South Sioux City.

**DR. MARK TAYLOR PRESENTS AT IN-SERVICE**

Little Rock, Ark., psychotherapist **Dr. Mark Taylor** presented a powerful message to the entire Northeast faculty and staff in a Fall In-service program. His presentation, titled "Generation NeXt Comes To College," described the strengths and challenges of the 18-24-year-old student. He also emphasized that every Northeast employee, faculty or non-faculty, can make a difference in a student's life and encouraged all employees to reach out to students. Dr. Taylor also presented to the Northeast faculty in an afternoon session.

### **CAREER SERVICES DEPARTMENT HOSTS PART-TIME JOB FAIR**

The Northeast Career Services Department recently hosted the annual fall Part-time Job Fair at the Lifelong Learning Center. The fair is designed to match employers with Northeast students seeking part-time employment. Some 60 representatives of 30 different businesses visited with 197 students at this year's Job Fair. Nine Northeast faculty and staff members also attended. **Rose Ann Rogers** is Career Services director. She is assisted by **Amy Koehler**.

### **ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO GROW AT SOUTH SIOUX CITY EDUCATION CENTER**

Preliminary figures show that credit enrollment at our South Sioux City Education Center is projected to increase by 18 percent from last fall semester. Currently the 10,000-square-foot Northeast Education Center is located at 3309 Daniels Lane in the Westside Business Park. Plans continue for the proposed, joint Northeast Community College-Wayne State College Center there.

### **UTILITY LINE STUDENTS WELCOMED IN NEW FACILITY**

Some 76 utility line students and six professional truck driver training students began the fall semester in the new, state-of-the-art Utility Line Building. Located east of campus at 1601 E. Benjamin Avenue, the 36,800-square-foot, \$2.7 million facility includes nine new classrooms/labs, six offices, and two mechanic's bays. The facility can accommodate over 100 full-time UL students on a daily basis and up to 48 truck driving students per year. A Ribbon Cutting and Open House is planned for the public on Thursday, September 20th, beginning at 4 p.m. Northeast's UL program is one of three, two-year programs in the United States.

### **STUDENTS WELCOMED WITH FULL SLATE OF ACTIVITIES**

Students were welcomed to their first week of classes with lots of fun after-hours activities. Some 80 students saw the weekly Monday Night at the Movies while another 189 students attended a dance the same evening in the Lifelong Learning Center. Another 400 students, faculty, staff and their families enjoyed a Welcome Back Picnic, hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA). Held indoors because of inclement weather, the meal was served to guests by Northeast administrators and SGA members. Following the meal, the Student Activities Council (SAC) hosted two games, "NECC Feud" (based on TV's "Family Feud") featuring Northeast faculty/staff against NECC students and "The Price Is Right" with students as the competitors. A Cheers To Leadership Root Beer Keggar and Club Fair Wednesday evening attracted 147. **Lisa Reifenrath** and **Carissa Kollath** are SGA co-advisors while Kollath is the Student Activities Coordinator. In other student life news, some 361 students are housed on-campus in Simon and Burkhardt Halls and the Student Apartments.

### **HAWKS LANDING EXPRESS OPENS ON SECOND FLOOR OF STUDENT CENTER**

The First Choice Food Service Deli, now called the Hawks Landing Express, opened in new quarters on the second floor of the Student Center in August. The deli features breakfasts, one or two daily homestyle, entrees, made-to-order burgers and sandwiches, and soups for eat-in or take-out. The all-you-can-eat meals for eat-in only continues in the cafeteria on the first floor of the Student Center.

### **NORTHEAST FACULTY/STAFF PARTICIPATE IN PAPER RECYCLING PROJECT**

The Green Hawk, a paper recycling project on the campus in Norfolk, got underway in mid-August when the faculty returned to campus. Green recycling bins are located strategically across the campus. Northeast faculty and staff recycled 1.38 tons through the end of the month. The effort is led by Northeast's **Roger Gipson, Stacy Strawn, Jason Elznic, and Joan Kollars**.