



Northeast
community college

SPOTLIGHT

801 E. Benjamin Ave. Norfolk, NE (800) 348-9033 www.northeastcollege.com

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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TAXPAYERS TO GET LEVY RELIEF AS STATE PROVIDES MORE AID

Taxpayers in the 20-county service area of Northeast Community College will see a reduction in their Northeast property tax levies this year. The reduction comes following a re-write of the community college funding formula by the Nebraska Legislature. This year's tax levy will be \$.08230, compared to last year's \$.090421. This reduction in taxes is the direct result of the new community college funding formula established under LB 342 and the additional \$12,000,000 in state aid the Legislature appropriated to help provide property tax relief across the state. LB 342 was the priority bill of **Senator Pat Engel** of South Sioux City. Under the new formula, Northeast will receive approximately \$3,651,000 in additional state aid, a 45 percent increase over last year. According to **Steve Schram**, vice president of administrative services, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$82.30 per year to support Northeast, compared to \$90.42 last year. The Northeast Board of Governors approved four budgets totaling \$52,907,381 for 2007-2008 (compared to \$48,911,052 last year) at its September Board meeting.

TWO SPECIAL ACTIVITIES MARK OPENING OF NEW UTILITY LINE BUILDING

The new \$2.7 million, 36,800-square-foot Utility Line Building was the site of two special activities in September. Donors, Northeast Board of Governors and Foundation members, retired UL faculty, and industry advisory committee members were special guests at a Dinner and Dedication program at the new building on Thursday, September 13. On Thursday, the 20th, a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors opened the doors for tours for the public. Hundreds toured the facility during the two events.

LATE AL EHLERS PRESENTED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD POSTHUMOUSLY

The late **Al Ehlers** was posthumously awarded the college's Distinguished Service Award recently during the Dedication and Dinner at the new Utility Line Building. Al developed the electrical utility line program when he began employment with the then-Northeast Nebraska Technical College in 1972. Northeast's electrical utility line program began as a two-year program and continues as one of three, associate degree programs in the United States. Al retired from Northeast Technical Community College in January of 1989 and died in May of 2006. His wife, Norma, accepted the award and her gracious comments drew a standing ovation.

NORTHEAST STUDENTS, STAFF ASSIST WITH MISSION OF MERCY

Northeast students and staff assisted recently at the two-day Mission of Mercy in Norfolk. Sponsored by the Nebraska Dental Association and its Foundation, 1,393 patients received \$504,606 in free dental care by 100 dentists, 100 assistants, 50 hygienists, 60 nurses, 80 translators, and over 500 other volunteers. Northeast nursing students, under the direction of **Ann Oertwich**, helped at the clinic while **Sharyn Thomas'** early childhood education students provided child care while parents were being treated. Our men's Hawks basketball team, under **Coach Dan Anderson**, helped with take-down on Sunday morning. Plus, **John Skogstoe's** radio/TV broadcasting students filmed a segment for a newscast. Northeast's media relations coordinator, **Janelle Gerharter**, served as public relations director for the event. Many Northeast students also received free dental care.

NORTHEAST AGAIN EARNS AIPC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

For the second year in a row, Northeast's automotive technology program has received the Automotive Industry Planning Council's Award of Excellence. The honor is based on facilities, instructor qualifications, curriculum, national certification standards, and enrollments. Faculty from the college's automotive technology department will be honored in December at the 2007 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Conference. As recipients of the award last year, Northeast's automotive technology program received \$9,340 in free equipment.

PARAEDUCATORS COHORT HONORED AT RECEPTION

Some 18 Northeast Community College students enrolled in the Pre-Kindergarten to Grade Six Paraprofessional Educators Cohort were invited to a reception on campus recently to meet administrators from Northeast and Wayne State College. The students are part of the paraprofessional educators cohort currently working on their associate of arts degree from Northeast with an emphasis as a paraprofessional. At the completion of their Northeast degree, they will be encouraged to transfer to Wayne State College to continue their studies for a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The students are assisted with their college expenses through a \$99,993 Improving Teacher Quality: State Grants Program award from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE). The goal is to assist bilingual Hispanics interested in careers in the elementary classroom. Wayne State personnel at the reception included **Dr. Anthony Koyzis**, dean of the School of Education and Counseling, and **Dr. Frank Adams**, professor. **Donna Niemeyer**, dean of humanities, arts and social sciences, and **Ted Myers**, multi-cultural advisor/recruiter at Northeast, also attended the reception. For more information about the program, contact **Myers** at (800) 348-9033.

ECONOMICALLY-CHALLENGED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES

About 72 economically-disadvantaged high school students from 22 high schools in our service area are currently enrolled in dual-credit Project Challenge classes thanks to the Access College Early program and funding from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education (CCPE). The students earn both high school and Northeast credits while taking these Project Challenge courses at their local high schools.

CORN MAZE FUN CONTINUES THROUGH FIRST WEEKEND OF OCTOBER

Our five-acre corn maze north of the Northeast campus has drawn incredible media attention, even from a sports columnist from the Los Angeles Times. **T.J. Simers** was here the week before the USC game to taunt Nebraskans and was directed to the maze by **Jeffrey Steffen** of KEXL in Norfolk. He seemed impressed with the maze and found it more difficult than he first anticipated. The maze opened September 15 and will remain open through this weekend. A special Haunted Maze is planned on Friday, the 5th, from 5-10 p.m., and Saturday, the 6th, from 2-10 p.m. The Student Activities Council will man the Haunted Corn Maze on the 5th and 6th. A hay bale maze with prizes is available for younger children. Face painting and plywood cutouts are also available for photos. There is also be a concession stand run by members of the Diversified Ag Club. Members of Northeast's Drafting Club designed the maze while members of the Diversified Ag Club planted the corn. Northeast's utility line and electrical construction and control students provided lighting. The maze is located north of the Ag/Allied Health Building. Most of the proceeds go to NECC scholarships and community service projects.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH NOW IN PROGRESS AT NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Northeast's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month continues now through October 15. The observance began on September 15, Independence Day for Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Students and staff are encouraged to visit http://www.diversityhotwire.com/learning/diversity_quiz.html to learn more about the culture. Other campus activities include a showing of the movie, *Evita*, on September 24, and an International Coffee sponsored by the Multicultural Club on the 25th. Speaker **Ricardo Garcia** will talk about "The Hispanic Roots of the Cowboy Culture," on Monday, October 8, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Center. His presentation is free and open to the public. Northeast's annual salsa-making contest and taste testing is Thursday, October 11, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the cafeteria. Last year's contest drew 20 entries. A special display of Hispanic-related books can be found in the library and faculty are incorporating Hispanic traditions and facts and Spanish words in their classrooms.