



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 ADDRESSES TAXPAYER CONCERNS

Northeast President **Dr. Bill Path** recently addressed taxpayer concerns in the western part of Northeast's 20-county service area. The concerns involve Northeast's expansion in South Sioux City and West Point. Plans continue for the proposed NECC-Wayne State College (WSC) College Center in South Sioux City following a 57-acre land donation, valued at approximately \$2.1 million, from the South Sioux City Community Development Agency (CDA). And in West Point, community progress continues on the \$5.4 million, Donald E. Nielsen Community Center. Upon its mid-2008 completion, Northeast will lease the 8,000-square-foot Jake and Shirley Weber Education Center. Construction of NECC's portion of the building is being financed with a \$500,000 grant from the Louis and Abby Faye Dinklage Foundation. "There have been no local property tax increases and will be no local property tax increases as a result of either of these expansions," Dr. Path said. "Northeast will, in fact, be reducing its local property tax levy this year to \$.08230, compared to last year's \$.090421." He also said Northeast will continue to serve the residents of the western service area through its O'Neill Education Center.

FULL-TIME TRAINER, ADDITIONAL TRAINING SPACE ADDED IN SOUTH SIOUX CITY

To meet growing requests for specialized business-industry classes in South Sioux City, Northeast Community College has hired a full-time Business-Industry Trainer and leased additional space. **Russ Peterson** began teaching specialized classes at Northeast's Business and Industry Training Center in early November. The 6,240-square-foot center is north of the Siouxland National Bank, located at 2701 Siouxland Drive. It is equipped with eight welding machines, many of which are interchangeable to meet specific business/industry needs. Several Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machines are also in place in the Training Center. Peterson has been an adjunct instructor for NECC for several years.

PHI THETA KAPPA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Phi Theta Kappa, (PTK), Tau Chi Chapter, added to its numbers recently with a special Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony. **Dr. Karen Severson**, vice president of student services, was the featured speaker at the program that was themed, "Dream Big." Since the installation of Northeast's Tau Chi chapter in 1996, some 1,340 Northeast students have been inducted into the honor society which recognizes academic excellence. The 39 Northeast students who were recently inducted into PTK have earned at least 12 credit hours and achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.5 or above out of a 4.0 system. Phi Theta Kappa sponsors are math instructor **John Miller**, wellness/aerobics instructor **Amy Ries**, and English instructor **Julie Ptacek-Wilkey**.

LYNDA KASSMEIER ON JOB AS NEW LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER COORDINATOR

A graduate of Norfolk Catholic High School has begun her duties as the new Lifelong Learning Center Coordinator. **Lynda (Sock) Kassmeier** is also a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has extensive experience in the marketing and hospitality industry. As the new center coordinator, Kassmeier is the primary liaison between Northeast and the Lifelong Learning Center partners. She is also the contact person for individuals interested in booking a meeting, workshop, seminar, training, or other activities in the Lifelong Learning Center. For more information about the center, contact Kassmeier at (402)844-7246.

NORTHEAST OBSERVES VETERANS' DAY WITH PRESENTATION BY RETIRED NAVY NURSE

Commander Gayle L. Frevert, Nurse Corps, United States Navy (RET.) presented the program, *A Veteran's Day Tribute*, recently at Northeast Community College. The Bloomfield native retired in August 2002 after 25 years 10 months of active duty, primarily as a Navy surgical nurse. She now works at the Faith Regional Surgery Center and provides clinical instruction there for Northeast's second-year associate degree nursing students. A flag raising earlier that day was hosted by the Veterans' Day workgroup of **Les Richmond, Vern Seier, Joe O'Connell, Sarah Dempsey, Gary Mitchell, and Nancy Berney**.

NORTHEAST SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM LOOKS TO NATIONALS IN MARCH

The Northeast Community College Speech and Debate Team, with **Melissa Lemke-Elznic** as coach and **Beth Mohlke**, Norfolk, and **Kelley Nolan** of Bonesteel, S.D., as captains, has the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) next spring as its goal. The team has done extremely well in the Talk of the Tundra Tournament in Fargo, N.D., and Morehead, Minn.; the Creighton University Tournament in Omaha, two tournaments at Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, MO., and the Doane College-University of Nebraska-Omaha Tournament. Other team members include: **Dave Fox, Heath Vogel and Glory Kathurima** of Norfolk; **Brian Robinson** of Wakefield; **Jen Dotson** of Battle Creek, and **Vawn Taylor** of Lead, S.D. According to Lemke-Elznic, the team is well on its way to meeting the rigorous qualifications for nationals.

ANOTHER NORTHEAST STUDENT HONORED AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Northeast elementary education sophomore **Amanda Graham**, Randolph, was awarded the American Degree, the highest level that can be achieved as an FFA member, at the group's 80th national convention this fall in Indianapolis. She competed in speech and dairy judging. Graham is a member of the Randolph High School FFA. After she graduates from Northeast, she plans to transfer to Wayne State College.

MEN'S, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS PROMISE LOTS OF FAST ACTION

Both the men's and women's basketball teams, under Head Coaches **Dan Anderson** and **Matt Svehla** respectively, promise lots of fast action this season. After a month in action, the women stand at 8-2 while the men's record is 6-3. All but one of the losses for each team was by very close margins or in overtime. According to Hawks' Booster Club President **Tom Broekemeier**, both teams show marked improvement over last year even though the women's team has only one returner and the men's team has just three. "It really will be a fun year to watch Hawks' basketball," he said. "Spectators should be prepared for fast action that will thrill fans in the bleachers."

NORTHEAST OBSERVES AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Northeast observed American Indian Heritage Month with a colorful display of American Indian pageantry when the 21-member **Many Moccasins** Dance Troupe from the Winnebago Tribe entertained a standing-room only audience. With its beautiful regalia, precise foot steps and culture, it was an educational experience with a visual impact," said **Carissa Kollath**, student activities coordinator. The troupe's appearance was supported by the Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency that provides matching grants with funding from the Nebraska Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Later in the month, a member of the Osage/Cheyenne Tribe from Plainview, **Jim Horn**, and Northeast's own **Tim Gilfert** spoke at an International Coffee on campus about their experiences with the American Indian culture.

AAWCC HOSTS 7th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES

Hundreds enjoyed Holiday trees, place settings and private collections during the 7th Annual Festival of Trees sponsored by the Northeast chapter of American Association for Women in Community Colleges. Guests were also treated to desserts in a tea room and live entertainment at select times. The event raised nearly \$6,000.

PROFESSIONAL/MANAGERIAL ASSOCIATION COLLECTS SHOES FOR SALVATION ARMY

The Northeast Professional/Managerial Association collected over 1,000 shoes recently for the Salvation Army. The shoes were gathered in strategically-located boxes across campus. The drive was led by **Loretta Brabec, Brandi Rossman, Samantha Wolfe, and Anna Meis**.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM HOSTS 23RD ANNUAL NECC LIVESTOCK CLASSIC

The Northeast Livestock Judging Team, with **Mike Roeber** as coach, hosted the 23rd Annual NECC Livestock Classic over the Thanksgiving weekend. A record number of 392 head were entered in the show by exhibitors from Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois.