



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 PRESENTS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUSES IN D.C.**

Northeast Community College President **Dr. Bill Path** was one of three invited panelists to speak in front of both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate Community College Caucuses in Washington, D.C., in December. The three were asked to detail how their respective institutions are using grants awarded through the President's Community-Based Job Training Grant program. Northeast received a \$1,999,999 grant to establish a statewide renewable fuels technology program. **Dr. Karen Stout** of Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA., and **Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis** of the Community College of Baltimore County, MD., were the other panelists.

**NORTHEAST STUDENTS NAMED TO HONORS LIST**

Some 160 full-time (academic load of 12 credit hours or more) students were named to the President's Honor List at semester's end for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Another 123 part-time students (at least six credit hours) also made the President's List with their perfect 4.0. Another 193 full-time students were named to the Deans' List for earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above while 37 part-time students were named to the Deans' List.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS**

At the January meeting of the Northeast Community College Board of Governors, **Dr. Don Oelsligle**, Tilden, passed the gavel to Keith Harvey, Creighton, who will serve as Board of Governors' chairperson in 2008. Other newly-installed officers are **Nanci Lingenfelter**, Plainview, vice chairperson, and **John Winkleblack**, Tilden, secretary. **Larry Poessnecker**, Atkinson, and **Dr. Don Oelsligle**, Tilden, were selected as representatives to the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Board.

**FORMER UTILITY LINE BUILDING RENAMED**

In special ceremonies in January, the former Utility Line Building was renamed the **Arlo Wirth** Building in honor of the late Hartington man who represented District III (Dakota and Dixon Counties and a portion of Cedar County) on our Board of Governors from 1970-1997. **Steve Anderson**, Concord, now represents District III.

**NORTHEAST'S RENEWABLE FUELS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM EARNS FINALIST AWARD**

Northeast's Renewable Fuels Technology program was recognized as a finalist at the prestigious Bellwether Award competition at the Futures Assembly earlier this week sponsored by the University of Florida Institute of Higher Education. Ten institutions were nominated for a Bellwether Award in each of three categories. Northeast's Renewable Fuels Technology program was nominated in the Workforce Development Category. All finalists competed for the award at the assembly in Orlando, FL., and winners were selected on how well their presentations addressed the conference theme, an identified critical issue, and the published criteria. Northeast's program, "Training the Workforce in Ethanol Production and Management-The Importance of Partners in Niche Program Development," was presented by Northeast's **Dr. Bill Path**, **Sarah J. Dempsey**, **Chuck Pohlman**, and Board chairperson **Dr. Don Oelsligle**, Tilden, and **Seth Harder**, general manager of Husker Ag Ethanol Plant in Plainview.

### WELLS FARGO/NPPD CHECK PRESENTATION

**Larry Arens**, account manager for Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), and **Terry Schutte**, vice president of agribusiness banking manager for Wells Fargo, recently presented a \$13,400 check to Northeast Community College for student scholarships. The funding was part of \$67,500 in scholarship funds raised by the 2007 Wells Fargo Nebraska Open golf tournament in September. In total, 11 community college campuses throughout Nebraska benefit from the Wells Fargo Nebraska Open. The proceeds are divided between the tournament's purse and the Nebraska Community College Foundation. Since its inception in 1991, the Open has raised in excess of \$1.3 million. NPPD coordinates the tournament.

### AUTO TECH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

For the second year in a row, the Automotive Industry Planning Council (AIPC) has honored the Northeast Community College automotive technology program with the Award of Excellence in the Post-Secondary Generic program. It was presented at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Conference. The Automotive Industry Planning Council includes the ACTE, National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), and ATech Training, Inc. As state winner for Nebraska, Northeast also received \$500 worth of Snap-On tools certificates. Instructors **Bowdie Otte** and **Alan Darnall** accepted the award at the conference. Other program instructors are **Cal Lamprecht** and **Roger Carnell**.

### CLASSIFIED STAFF'S TREE OF GIFTS

Members of Northeast's Classified Staff Association brightened the Holidays for 13 students and their families, four employees and their families, and 20 residents of the Norfolk Veterans Home with their Tree of Gifts. Each Holiday Season, the group decorates a Christmas tree in the Library Resource Center with tags containing the names of individuals. Some tags include a gift suggestion. Northeast faculty and staff take a tag, buy the gift, and then return it to the library in time for distribution before break.

### NORTHEAST STAFFERS HONORED WITH US BANK AWARDS

Several Northeast staffers were honored at our Spring In-Service with the US Bank Awards. Math instructor **Beth Welke**, Battle Creek, was honored with the US Bank Teaching Excellence Award-Full-Time Faculty, while **Doris Wilson**, Stanton, received the Teaching Excellence Award-Part-Time Faculty. **Tim Gilfert** of the custodial staff received the US Bank Great Performer-Classified Staff Award, while advisor/recruiter **Vickie Davis**, was honored with the Great Performer-Professional/Managerial Staff Award. **Troy Strom**, president of US Bank, presented the awards.

### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE IN O'NEILL

The Northeast Community College Education Center in O'Neill recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at its present location at 409 E. Adams Street with an Open House. Northeast moved to that location following the opening of a new public elementary school in O'Neill. At that time, NECC entered into a lease with the O'Neill Public Schools to use the vacated elementary school facility. Prior to that, Northeast community education and adult basic education classes were coordinated by individuals who worked primarily out of their homes. Current staffing at the center includes: **Merri Schneider**, regional coordinator; **Darlene Svancara**, administrative assistant, and **Dian Edwards**, student support specialist. Open House organizers were well pleased with the turn-out.

### VET TECH WHITE COAT AWARD

Several freshman veterinary technology students at Northeast Community College in Norfolk made history recently when they were formally inducted into the program with a first-ever White Coat Ceremony. During the ceremony, they were formally presented with a monogrammed white coat worn by the veterinary technician. Students inducted in to the veterinary technology program included: **Nicole Brown**, Grand Island; **Katie Bruening**, Hartington; **Kristen Caddell**, Norfolk; **Sean Cihak**, Avon, S.D.; **Julie Fricke**, Schuyler; **Lauryn Hassler**, Crete; **Shayna Janssen** and **Whitney Saalfeld**, both of Columbus; **Siobhan Marvin-Kriegler**, Prague; **Chelsea Naprstek**, Creighton, and **Kate Utecht**, Plainview.