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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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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTINUES; RECRUITERS VISIT CAMPUS**

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing Northern Division capital campaign continues to build upon its incredible momentum, and recently reached the \$8 million mark. To date, most campaign efforts have been focused on the counties in very close proximity to Norfolk, but will soon be extended to the entire 20-county service area. The building project team is putting the finishing touches on the building design. To view a 360<sup>o</sup> view of the building, go to [www.healthy-lives.org](http://www.healthy-lives.org), and click on the College Building tab. In other UNMC College of Nursing news, the College of Nursing Director of Student Services has held four recruiting sessions in Norfolk to date. **Larry Hewitt** visited with approximately 30 individuals during his first three sessions. He plans more visits on October 20 and November 17.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVE 2008-2009 BUDGETS**

The Northeast Community College Board of Governors approved four budgets for 2008-2009 totaling \$70,186,967 at its September meeting. The budgets will require a total levy of \$.090000, including a mandatory capital construction levy of \$.0100. The owner of a home in Northeast's 20-county service area with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$90 per year to support the college, compared to \$82.30 from the previous year. The 2006-2007 tax levy was \$.090421. During that meeting, the General Operating Budget was set at \$29,815,484, Capital Improvement Budget at \$3,426,420, ADA/Hazardous Material Budget at \$29,234, and Other Funds Budget at \$36,915,829. The Other Funds budget is restricted, non-tax-supported funds that include the capital campaigns for new building projects and proceeds from revenue bonds issued by the Facilities Corporation for the new College Welcome Center that is under construction.

**JOE FERGUSON HONORED BY NEBRASKA DIPLOMATS**

**Joe Ferguson**, business, industry and economic development director at Northeast Community College, has been honored by the Nebraska Diplomats as the Nebraska Diplomat of the Year. The award was presented at the 41st Annual "Passport To Nebraska" banquet. Joe was honored for his outstanding work in social and economic development by the Diplomats, the state's largest economic development organization made up of more than 475 business executives and community leaders from across Nebraska.

**NORTHEAST, BRIAR CLIFF FINALIZE AGREEMENT FOR 2 + 2 IN SOCIAL WORK**

Officials at Northeast Community College and Briar Cliff University in Sioux City have recently completed curriculum plans for a 2 + 2 Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from Briar Cliff. Students enrolled in the 2 + 2 program will complete an associate of arts degree from Northeast and then finish their undergraduate studies at Briar Cliff. The bachelor's degree from Briar Cliff is sufficient for licensure in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. Iowa and South Dakota applicants are required to sit for an exam prior to licensure. The Bachelor of Social Work degree will prepare graduates for entry-level social work jobs in child welfare, health care, addictions, mental health, youth services, geriatric services, criminal justice, and community advocacy.

## **VIEWPOINT GETS ITS OWN WWW**

*The ViewPoint*, the official student newspaper of Northeast Community College, is now available as a website at [www.neccviewpoint.com](http://www.neccviewpoint.com). College Publisher, a company that hosts over 450 college newspapers across the nation, including *The Daily Nebraskan* at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, designed a website for *The ViewPoint* over the summer. The content of the website is now managed by a Northeast student editor. According to **Jason Elznic**, *Viewpoint* advisor, the College Publisher provides a high-quality product at no cost for the college, as the expense of maintaining the website is paid through national advertising placed by College Publisher.

## **ADULT EDUCATION DIRECTOR WEIGHS IN ON ONLINE GED®) PROGRAMS**

**Nancy Schultz**, Northeast director of adult education, recently warned against trying to earn a GED®) online. She said vulnerable consumers spend great amounts of time and money (some up to \$1,200) earning what they think is an accredited General Educational Development (GED) high school diploma on the Internet or through correspondence courses. She said the GED tests must be administered only at official GED Testing Centers like Northeast Community College. Advertisements, news releases and other marketing materials for legitimate GED programs must now bear the registered trademark ® after the first use of the GED acronym. GED instruction is free but there is a testing fee.

## **NORTHEAST CORN MAZE OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

The Corn Maze at Northeast Community College is open for business weekends through November 1 north of the Ag/Allied Health Building. The maze this year has an alien theme. 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 the lighting. According to **Danny Whitlock**, Drafting Club advisor, over 2,500 individuals went through last year's first-ever Corn Maze. Northeast's Student Activities Council plan a Haunted Maze October 24-25 and October 31-November 1. For Corn Maze hours, visit [www.northeast.edu](http://www.northeast.edu)

## **2008-2009 VISITING WRITERS SERIES OPENS WITH POET**

The English Department at Northeast Community College launched its 2008-2009 Visiting Writers Series with a reading by **Allison Adelle Hedge Coke**. She is a University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK) associate professor who has published three full volumes of poetry, a free verse, chapbook, and memoir. Poet **Robert Roripaugh** will read on Wednesday, October 22, and **David Pichaske** will present on Wednesday, October 29. Both readings are at 7 p.m. in the Hawks' Landing on the second floor of the Student Center.

## **GO GREEN FOR AGRICULTURE DAY ATTRACTS POTENTIAL STUDENTS**

Some 38 high school students recently attended a Go Green for Agriculture Career Day at Northeast Community College. Students learned about Northeast's renewable fuels technology, golf course management, irrigation technology, horticulture, and agribusiness programs during this recruiting event. They also enjoyed a GPS scavenger hunt and free lunch during the day. Other career days include the Launch to Reality Business Career Day on October 2 and Applied Technology Career Day on October 24.

## **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ACTIVITIES CONTINUE**

Northeast's annual observance of Hispanic Heritage Month began September 15 and continues through October 15. A Salsa Tasting Contest drew some **23** different salsas made by students, faculty and staff. Winners were **Oscar Osorio** (hottest salsa), **Donna Andrew** (most original salsa), and **Bryce Andersen** (best overall salsa.) Hispanic Heritage Month activities will also include a free performance by pre-eminent classical and flamenco guitar virtuoso and vocalist AnnaMaria Ardinalli-Padilla on Tuesday, October 7, at 11 a.m. in the Cox Activities Center.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT SEES SHARP INCREASE IN PERFORMING GROUP NUMBERS**

**Dr. Linda Boullion** and **Dr. Randall Neuharth** have seen sharp increases this semester in student interest in Northeast music performance groups. Dr. Boullion, department chair and director of vocal music activities, said she had a larger-than-usual number of auditions for the Northeast Singers Express and Ebony and Crimson. She also said she has one of the largest Concert Choirs in her tenure here with 47 members. Dr. Neuharth, director of instrumental music activities, said his audition group, the Jazz Machine, has 19 members. Each section is full with back-ups for some sections. The College/Community Concert band includes 20 Northeast students this semester. Both attribute increased interest to their annual spring tour to communities in four states, the spring Jazz Festival that attracts over 3,000 junior and senior high school students, and career days that recruit students for different areas of study at Northeast Community College.