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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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**PROJECT RECEIVES BOOST FROM BOG, COORDINATING COMMISSION, MADISON COUNTY**

The fast-paced activity to build a University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing Northern Division on the campus of Northeast Community College in Norfolk continues. The Northeast Board of Governors approved preparation of final plans/specifications and necessary bid documents for the College of Nursing building at the Board's October meeting. A few days later, the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education (CCPE) approved the program statement for the \$12.9 million project. A few days after that, fundraising efforts received a major boost when the Madison County Commissioners voted to approve a \$1 million donation for the project. To date, \$9.5 million has been committed to the project through a capital campaign. Tentative opening date for the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division is 2010.

**NORTHEAST HOSTS STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Several Northeast Community College student leaders recently welcomed counterparts from other Nebraska colleges to campus for the annual Nebraska Student Leadership Conference. The event, which attracted 81 participants, was hosted by Northeast's Student Government Association, Student Activities Council, Resident Assistant/Student Assistant Team, and Student Ambassadors. Guests attended from North Platte Community College, McCook Community College, Metro Community College in Omaha, Central Community College in Hastings, and Wayne State College. Conference theme was "Think Global, Act Local." Keynote presenter was **Seth Heinert**, co-founder of Cross Anchor Presentations. He encouraged participants to "Lead Where You Are."

**NORTHEAST'S WELKE TEACHES THE TEACHERS**

**Beth Welke**, math instructor at Northeast Community College since 2000, was one of nine math instructors from across the country invited to participate in a National Technology Leadership Program sponsored by Texas Instruments (TI) last summer. She was hand-picked for the TI "Fast Track" training program because of her local leadership in training colleagues and teaching with educational technology. While there, she received specialized training on the TI-Navigator™, a wireless classroom learning system. Following completion of her training, she was encouraged to train teachers in other schools and districts. She has since facilitated two training sessions for middle, high school, and postsecondary teachers and plans two more in November.

**NEW PHI THETA KAPPA MEMBERS ADDED TO ROLLS AT NORTHEAST**

Phi Theta Kappa, (PTK), Tau Chi Chapter, at Northeast Community College in Norfolk added to its numbers recently with a special Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony. Since the installation of Northeast's Tau Chi chapter in 1996, some 1,478 students have been inducted into the honor society which recognizes academic excellence. The 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**.

### **CAREER DAYS BRING HIGH SCHOOLERS TO CAMPUS**

High school students interested in Northeast business and applied technology programming were welcomed to campus for a Career Day hosted by those divisions in October. During the Business, Math and Technology division's Launch to Reality Career Day, some 91 students learned about Northeast's graphic design, accounting, business management, information technology, architectural drafting, and administrative assistant (legal, medical, ag-services or general) programs. Northeast's automotive technology, auto body technology, building construction, diesel technology, electrical construction and control, electromechanical, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, irrigation technology, renewable fuels technology, and utility line programs were highlighted during the Applied Technology division's career day attracted **126** students. Careers in different occupations were also discussed.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND STUDENT AMBASSADORS HOST SPOOKTACULAR**

Over 700 costumed children and adults were welcomed to Northeast's Ag Complex on a cold and rainy night for an evening of games, prizes, candy, and other Halloween activities during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Spooktacular. The event was sponsored by the Northeast Student Activities Council (SAC), with **Carissa Kollath** as SAC coordinator, and the Student Ambassadors, with **Samantha Wolfe** as advisor.

### **STUDENT AMBASSADORS WELCOME PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

The fall 2008 Student Ambassadors are busy leading prospective students and their families on campus tours and introducing students to faculty members and department heads. Student Ambassador Officers are **Tara Kaczor**, Spencer, President; **Sarah Ourada**, Elm Creek, Vice-President; **Desirae Smith**, Neligh, Secretary. Other Student Ambassadors are: **Wes Prater**, Elgin; **Ken Kumm**, Bloomfield; **Paula Medina Guerrero**, Bogota, Columbia; **Rachel Sage**, Crofton; **Chelsey Vomacka**, Leigh; **Anna Fogg**, Fremont, and **Erika Rocha**, Norfolk.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS REPRESENT STUDENT BODY**

The 2008-2009 Student Government Association (SGA) officers are in place following elections last spring and this fall. As representatives of the student body on campus, they serve on all major councils and committees, help plan and promote student activities, boost student morale, and voice student concerns and opinions to the college administration. They are led by President **Wes Prater** of Elgin, Vice-President **Shane Owens** of Randolph, and Secretary **Kim Rentschler** of Atkinson. Sophomore senators include **Brian Bierschenk** of Plainview, **Michelle Hansen-Schaller**, San Antonio, Texas, **Krista Vogt**, Utica, and **Ken Kumm** of Bloomfield. Freshman senators are **Chelsey Vomacka**, **Leigh**, and **Brittni Hoffman** and Elizabeth Rivas, both of Norfolk.

### **NORTHEAST'S DEBATE AND SPEECH TEAM AGAIN OFF TO A FAST START**

The Northeast Community College Speech and Debate Team, with Melissa Lemke-Elznic as director of forensics and Dave Fox as assistant director, has traveled to competitions on four weekends this fall. To date, they have won 22 individual trophies, one speaker trophy, and four community college sweeps trophies. Team members are **April Hart**, Pierce; **Glory Kathurima**, Norfolk; **Brian Robinson**, Wakefield; **Kaitlin Effle**, Verdigre, and **Vawn Taylor**, Lead S. D. Kathurima has already qualified her persuasion speech and Robinson has qualified his extemporaneous speaking for the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) in Akron, Ohio, next spring. The Northeast team finished last season ranked in the top five community colleges across the country.

### **EXPLORE NORTHEAST-WEEKEND EDITION IS TOMORROW**

Northeast Community College will welcome prospective students and their parents or spouses to campus tomorrow for a day of fun and exploration during Explore Northeast-Weekend Edition. The event begins at 9 in the Cox Activities Center and will conclude at 2 p.m. President Dr. Bill R. Path will welcome guests and draw for two, \$300 scholarships at 10 a.m. Campus and program tours and a free lunch are included in the day.

### **STUDENT BROADCASTERS TO ASSIST LOCAL STATIONS WITH ELECTION NIGHT COVERAGE**

Northeast Community College radio and tv broadcasting students are gearing up for the general election November 4 and their second Election Night Northeast. With **John Skogstoe** as instructor, Northeast broadcasting students will provide the four radio stations in Norfolk with live interviews from candidates. The interviews will be conducted in the KHWK-TV studio in the Cox Activities Center. Candidates for local races and Madison County Republican and Democratic party chairpersons have been invited to the KHWK studios or phone in an interview. Commentary on Congressional races from other states and the presidential race will be given by **Derek Anderson**, instructor at Omaha Central High School. Northeast's **Courtney Klein-Faust**, **Janelle Gerharter**, and **Pam Saalfeld** will also assist.