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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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COLLEGE OF NURSING CAMPAIGN RECEIVES BOOST WITH FEDERAL APPROPRIATION

An announcement by U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson brought the finish line in sight for a capital campaign to construct the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing Northern Division in Norfolk. Sen. Nelson recently announced that the \$11.9 million project will receive a federal appropriation to buy some necessary equipment for the facility that will be built at Northeast Community College. The equipment funds were included in Sen. Nelson's Labor-Health and Human Services-Education subcommittee FY 09 appropriations request. The 43,747-square-foot, state-of-the-art building will house UNMC's bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs and NECC's basic nurse aide, licensed practical nurse, and associate degree nursing programs.

NORTHEAST AGAIN HOSTS AGRICULTURE EDUCATION CONTEST

Northeast Community College again hosted the District III, IV and V FFA Agriculture Education Contest last month. Over 1,000 high school students representing 32 schools participated in 12 different contests at the annual event sponsored by the agriculture department at Northeast.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH OBSERVED AT NORTHEAST

For the first time ever, Northeast Community College's observance of Women's History Month included an Art and Poster Contest. There were 16 entries from students, faculty, and staff and the community. **Sheryle Griffith** won first place with her shadow box depicting average women and their contributions to history. **Yoo Hoon Kim** was the second place winner and **Shereen Zangeneh** took third place in the contest. Over 90 voted on the entries at a reception sponsored by the Women's History Month Workgroup. The Women's History Month workgroup, along with the Northeast Multicultural Club and Team India, also sponsored a program by **Nanci Ricks**, founder of the Dalit Freedom Network.

SPRING JOB FAIR ATTRACTS GRADUATING STUDENTS AND PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS

A sure rite of spring at Northeast Community College is the annual Spring Job Fair sponsored by the Career Services Department. This year, some 330 students visited with 67 employers about possible employment opportunities. **Rose Ann Rogers**, director of the Career Services Department, said there were slightly more employers at the job fair this year in spite of current economic conditions in the area.

DRAFTING CLUB PRESENTS CHECKS FROM CORN MAZE PROCEEDS

Tony Stuthman, president of the Northeast Drafting Club, recently presented a \$500 check on behalf of the Drafting Club to the TeamMates Mentoring Program and another \$500 check to Bright Horizons Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The monies were raised last fall at the Corn Maze designed by drafting students. Members of the Northeast Diversified Ag Club planted the corn while Northeast's utility line and electrical construction and control students provided the lighting. **Joyce Kirschner** of TeamMates and **Jenny Becker** and **Gina Clyde** of Bright Horizons visited campus to accept the checks.

NORTHEAST STUDENTS ATTEND CONFERENCE ON COOPERATIVES IN TWIN CITIES

Four Northeast Community College students recently joined 90 others from 25 schools and organizations at the National Farmers Union (NFU) College Conference on Cooperatives in the Twin Cities. Northeast's **Kevin Rohrer**, **Colby Freudenburg**, **Vicky Overman**, and **Katie Ziemke** joined participants from several states at the three-day conference. Northeast instructor **Bernie Thyen** accompanied the students.

NORTHEAST BASKETBALL PLAYERS EARN POST-SEASON HONORS

The Northeast women's basketball team, with **Matt Svehla** as head coach, has been named champions of the Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference (NCCAC) with its season record of 25-7. Svehla was named Conference Coach of the Year for the 14th time in 15 years. **Jasmine Lovejoy** and **Elisha Foley** made the 2008-2009 NCCAC team while **Mairead McNally** and **Chaundera Riley** were named All-Conference Honorable Mention. Lovejoy was also named to the All-Region IX team while McNally and **Sofie Lundberg** made the Region IX All-Tourney Team. On the men's team, under Head Coach **Dan Anderson**, **Rashad Allison** and **Chamar Wilson** were named to the NCCAC All-Conference team while **DeAndre Jones** was named to the Honorable Mention team. **Dr. Mike Cooper** assists Svehla while **Trevor Burnette** is the assistant men's coach.

27TH ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCLUDES

The 27th Annual Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Northeast music department, in association with the Northeast Area Jazz Ensemble (NAJE), is in the history books. The two-day event saw about 70 different performing groups from junior and senior high schools throughout the Midwest perform. Trophies were awarded to the top four jazz bands and swing/jazz choirs in each of the four levels of competition. The Northeast Jazz Festival is one of the few jazz festivals in the Midwest approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals for high school and junior high school participation.

NORTHEAST HOSTS WORKSHOP ABOUT NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS FOR WOMEN

Women in Hard Hats, a workshop that focused on careers for women and girls in the industrial manufacturing areas of renewable fuels (ethanol), electromechanical, electrical, and welding, was held recently in Northeast's renewable fuels technology building. The program included two information sessions with industry representatives and current Northeast Community College female students who spoke about the great career possibilities in these areas. The workshop was sponsored by the Northeast New Beginnings program, **Brandi Rossman**, director, and was partially funded with federal Carl D. Perkins funds.

DIVERSIFIED AG CLUB ALUMNI TRACTOR PULL GETS BIGGER EVERY YEAR

The 4th Annual Diversified Ag Club Alumni Tractor Pull at the Northeast Ag Complex attracted 274 pullers from five states recently. The event was assisted by Ken Porter Construction, North Central Railroad, Kelly Ryan Farm Equipment, and US92 Radio in Norfolk. **Billie Ruwe**, Blair, **Clint Jedlicka**, Schuyler, and **Jordan Lassek**, Osceola, all members of the Northeast Class of 2006, co-chaired the event. The first tractor pull drew about 100 pullers.

PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTS 73 IN SPRING CEREMONY

Another 73 students were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), international honor society for the two-year college, recently. Since the installation of Northeast's Tau Chi chapter in 1996, some 1,551 Northeast students have been inducted into the society which recognizes academic excellence. Students inducted into PTK have earned at least 12 credit hours and a minimum grade point average of 3.5 or above out of a 4.0 system. PTK sponsors are math instructor **John Miller**, wellness/aerobics instructor **Amy Ries**, and English instructor **Julie Ptacek-Wilkey**

NORTHEAST TEAM WINS DIESEL CHALLENGE FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

For the third year in a row, Northeast Community College diesel technology students have won the Diesel Technology Challenge and become the only college to ever win the title three consecutive years. **Kenton Pollock**, **Adam Venteicher**, and **Sam Prien**, all second-year Northeast students, were on that team. Diesel technology instructors are **Doug McKibbon**, **Craig Evans**, **William Marx**, and **Tony Milenkovich**.

SKILLS USA TEAM DOES WELL

Northeast and Central Community College, Columbus and Grand Island, were the site of the Nebraska State SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Competition in architectural drafting, auto service technology, internetworking, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning last week. Northeast SkillsUSA Club members who competed are Tony Meyer, Justin Siebrandt, Matt Bland, Keith Mecke, Andrew Hafer, Kirk Christian, and Dustin Nelson. Bland won first place in the auto service technician contest and Nelson earned first place in the internetworking competition. Both will advance to nationals in June in Kansas City. **Wayne Cross** is the advisor and received assistance from instructors **Paul Bailey**, **Brad Vogt**, and **Bowdie Otte**.