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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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NURSING COLLEGE TO BE NAMED J. PAUL AND ELEANOR McINTOSH COLLEGE OF NURSING

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing Northern Division will be named the **J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh College of Nursing** following the recent announcement of a gift of well over \$1,000,000 to the project by the McIntoshs. The generous gift helped assure the success of the capital campaign and the establishment of an equipment endowment. The campaign continues to raise funds for the endowment. Tentative completion date is summer 2010. The facility will house Northeast nursing programs from basic nurse aide, licensed practical nursing, and associate degree nursing and UNMC bachelor's, master's, and doctorate nursing programs.

NORTHEAST OFFERS MORE COMPLETE DEGREE PROGRAMS ONLINE

With the start of the new academic year, Northeast will increase its online degree programming. Students may complete all studies for an associate of arts degree in academic transfer, accounting, agriculture-college transfer, behavioral science, business administration, criminal justice (both corrections and law enforcement options), journalism, and social science. In cooperation with other Nebraska community colleges, online associate of arts degrees are offered in early childhood education and library and information services. A 19-credit hour certificate in renewable fuels is also offered online. For more information, email onlineadvisor@northeast.edu.

COORDINATING COMMISSION APPROVES WIND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education has approved a 41-credit-hour Northeast Community College diploma program in Wind Energy. Classes for the program will begin in August and preliminary enrollment numbers look very strong. The program is being partially funded with an \$86,000 Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative grant. Northeast was one of 20 colleges and technical schools across the nation to receive the grant.

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SPEAKS AT 36th COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Honorable **John M. Gerrard**, Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, was the keynote speaker at the 36th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 9. Some 762 students, including those earning double majors and 105 who completed their studies last December, were listed in the commencement program. Graduate **Lisa Sanders**, Norfolk, gave the Student Speech before receiving her associate of applied science degree in physical therapist assistant. Some 24 students were honored for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point.

NORTHEAST EARNS SAFETY AWARD

Northeast Community College has been named a Greater Omaha 2009 Safest Company by the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter. Recognition of its Gold Award of Honor took place at the chapter's Awards and Sustenance Safety and Health Summit in May in Omaha. **Deb Ferris** accepted the award on behalf of Northeast. Northeast underwent an extensive review by the Chapter's Safest Companies Committee made up of safety professionals representing a broad variety of industries and safety disciplines.

NURSES PINNED IN SPECIAL CEREMONY

Some 52 associate degree nursing (ADN) and 45 practical nursing (PN) students received their nursing pins in a special Pinning Ceremony at Northeast Community College in May. Associate degree nursing graduates **Mwangi (Peter) Nduati** and **Jared Sporleder**, both of Norfolk, **Morgan Schwarting**, Battle Creek, and **Kylie Zimmerer**, Creighton, and practical nursing graduates **Tom Gannon**, Norfolk, **Jessica Haselhorst**, Randolph, and **Jilian Thiele**, Columbus, were honored with the Essence of Nursing Awards. The ADN and PN graduates are now eligible to take national licensure exams to practice as either registered or licensed practical nurses.

NORTHEAST ADULT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HONORS GED RECIPIENTS

Some 48 students out of a total of 150 graduates were honored during the 33rd Annual Adult Basic Education Recognition Night at Northeast recently. The students were recognized for completing the requirements to receive a Nebraska High School diploma through the General Educational Development (GED) test administered by Northeast's Adult Education Program. **Dr. Don Oelsligle**, member of the Northeast Board of Governors, was the featured speaker. The Northeast Board of Governors' Scholarships were presented to **Andy Colsden**, **Deon Rabbass**, and **Cynthia Hunter**, all of Norfolk, and **Molly Hays-Northam**, Laurel. The scholarships will pay half the students' Northeast tuition for four semesters.

TWO STUDENTS HONORED IN CAPITOL CEREMONY

Recent Associate Degree Nursing Graduate **Jared Sporleder** and Physical Therapist Assistant Graduate **Lisa Sanders**, both of Norfolk, were among 29 community college students from across the state honored in April at the Phi Theta Kappa All-Nebraska Academic Team Recognition Day ceremonies. The event was held in the Warner Legislative Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an international academic honor society for two-year institutions, and the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) sponsored the event to honor the students for their academic achievement, leadership, and service to the community.

AG, UL STUDENTS BRING HOME AWARDS FROM COMPETITIONS

Over 20 Northeast Community College students competed in last spring's North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. Some 17 community colleges and 18 university teams competed at the three-day event. Northeast's **Zach Herz** won first place in Problem Solving and second place Overall in the Agribusiness Management Contest. Northeast teams also placed in the Agricultural Quiz Bowl, Agribusiness Management, Computer Applications, Crops, and Horse Care and Management Contests. The students were accompanied by Instructors **Bernie Thyen** and **Mike Roeber**. Northeast utility line students also competed in the Utility Line Rodeo at Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, before the semester ended. Some 128 students from nine different colleges from seven states were represented in the competition. Northeast fielded three teams with a total of 12 students. **Jordan Walsh**, Ponca, placed first individually in the obstacle course and **Andrew Wallin**, Newman Grove, **Nate Burnison**, Laramie, Wyo., **Marc Pelster**, Petersburg, and **Brent Foxhoven**, Fremont, placed first in cross arm change out.

TANN ROBOTICS CHALLENGE WRAPS UP YEAR-LONG EFFORT

The 2008-2009 Technology Academies of Northeast Nebraska (TANN) Robotics Challenge series wrapped up its final competition at the Sunset Plaza in Norfolk in May. Teams in two divisions competed in three meets last year that tested engineering design, problem solving, and computer programming skills. The TANN Robotics Challenge featured high schools from Battle Creek, Stanton, Pierce, and O'Neill Public. Teams from Northeast Community College and Wayne State College also competed. Battle Creek High School took first place in the high school division while teams from Pierce High School finished in second and third place. Two teams from Wayne State College garnered first and second place while a team from Northeast took third place. A team from Battle Creek High School won the season standings after the three contests with a total of 2,135 points. The Wayne State College Gold Team won the college season standings with 1,390 points. Northeast Instructor **Richard Chrisman** was the Robotics Competitions Coordinator with assistance from **Nancy Mawson**, Director of TANN.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction projects on the Northeast Community College campus continue at a frenzied pace. The College Welcome Center, with a projected size of 35,000 square feet and an approximate cost of \$7.8 million, is set to open late this summer. The facility will house most student services and most administrative services offices. Preliminary ground work and infrastructure work is currently underway for the J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh College of Nursing. Ground will also be broken this summer for the College Center of South Sioux City, a joint facility to house Northeast Community College and some Wayne State College programming.