

Nursing students thrilled with new facility and technology

Students are thrilled with the new J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh College of Nursing as well as the fact that the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing now has a presence in Norfolk.

“I really enjoyed being in the new building this last year,” stated Josh Crossgrove, a 2011 NECC nursing graduate. “The technology, like the simulation mannequins, is amazing,” he continued.

Jacob Reiman, also an NECC nursing graduate, stated, “Having 24/7 access to the building allowed me to be able to study any time of the day or night. Also, having the building dedicated to nursing was great—the instructors were always accessible for questions.”

“The building and technology are great assets to Northeast Community College and provide many valuable learning opportunities for students,” said Sheila O’Brian, an NECC nursing graduate.

Julie Henn, a BSN student at UNMC stated, “Because of the many donations from people in the community and throughout Nebraska, I have been able to learn and have hands-on experience with the equipment provided and with the state-of-the-art hospital and skills lab.” She continued, “It allows us to practice and gain confidence in what we can do as nurses. I am excited for what the future holds for UNMC Northern Division College of Nursing.”



Nursing students agree that the new simulation mannequins that were purchased with funds donated to the College of Nursing project are extremely valuable learning tools. Pictured left to right, Northeast nursing students Dawn Rafert and Jessica Bowling and instructor Amber Amick.

Northeast one of top community colleges in nation



Northeast Community College has been named one of the nation’s best community colleges by the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program. The Aspen College Excellence Program aims to identify and replicate campus-wide practices that significantly improve college student outcomes.

The 120 community colleges were selected from a national pool of nearly 1,200 using publicly-available data on student outcomes.

According to the Aspen Institute, the honored colleges have demonstrated high standards for learning, college completion without delay, and use as training grounds for jobs with competitive wages.

“This honor comes as a total surprise,” said Dr. Bill R. Path, president of Northeast Community College. “We had no idea we were being so closely scrutinized by the Aspen Institute, and it is a thrill to be named in the top 10 percent of community colleges across the nation.”



College Center opens in South Sioux City



A building that represents a one-of-a-kind opportunity to pursue higher education opened this March to serve students in the Siouland area.

The College Center, located at 1001 College Way in South Sioux City, is owned jointly by Northeast Community College and Wayne State College.

It is an innovative approach to regional education, designed to provide a seamless transition from basic skills training through associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees, while preparing the area workforce with skills needed for the 21st Century.

"The programming is structured so the colleges do not compete with each other as students are deciding which classes to take," stated Pam Miller, dean of College Center. "If students are freshmen or sophomores or enrolled in a certificate program, they are most likely to be Northeast Community College students," she continued. "If they are at the junior level or above, they are going to be Wayne State College students."

"This facility was made possible because people in the area saw the need for increased access to higher education, particularly for first-generation college students," said Dr. Path, president of Northeast Community College.

He continued, "Their donations have opened the door for hundreds of students to better themselves and obtain the skills they need to add to the region's workforce."



Northeast recruiter Maria Gonzalez (left) and student Sylvia Gomez de Fregoso (middle) visit with a guest during the College Center open house held in April.

Flooding forces College Center classes to relocate

The Missouri River flooding is devastating to all affected, including the students, faculty, and staff at the College Center in South Sioux City.

"The flood waters have not approached the College Center but, as a pre-caution, earthen berms were built around both the College Center and the Industrial Training Center," stated Pam Miller, dean of College Center.

Staff from both Northeast and Wayne State, as well as volunteers, spent several days filling sandbags, and Porter Construction of Norfolk and Milo Meyer Construction Company of Wayne built the berms around the buildings.

Classes and offices have been relocated until the threat of flooding is over. "We are looking forward to moving back into the College Center, hopefully near the end of summer," stated Miller. "Until then, the staff can be reached in the South Sioux City Library at 21st Street and Dakota Avenue."

"I am very grateful and honored for being recognized to receive such an award. The financial support of the scholarship is a tremendous help to me as I move forward in attaining my Education degree. Once I received my scholarship, I also realized that the effect isn't solely based on money, but also the care and high hopes from those that have provided the finances. It's an awesome feeling to know that someone I don't know cares about my success in life. This care and concern from a total stranger is just as much an honor as receiving the financial assistance."

Matt Meyer, Class of 2011

Want to make a student's dream come true?

Consider establishing a scholarship. An endowed scholarship will provide awards to deserving students for years and years to come!

Capital campaign leaders honored



Bart Gotch



Eric Bertness

South Sioux City businessmen Bart Gotch, president and chairman of Siouxland National Bank, and Eric Bertness, CEO of Phillips Kiln Services, Ltd., were honored with Distinguished Service Awards from Northeast Community College.

The award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated active service to higher education and played a significant role in the development of the College.

The two businessmen served as co-chairs for a capital campaign to help build College Center. According to Courtney Klein-Faust, NECC executive director of development, having the Gotch and Bertness names attached to the capital campaign lent credibility to the project. "Not only did they provide leadership in decision-making, but they also rolled up their sleeves to tackle the most arduous part of a capital campaign: asking individuals and businesses to support the College Center financially," she said.

"Despite a downturn in the economy, limited exposure for both Northeast and Wayne State College in Siouxland, and competition from other area institutions of higher education, the campaign was able to raise \$1.5 million," she continued. "Their relationships in the community, and the level of respect that they have earned in Siouxland over the years, not to mention their determination and persistence, contributed greatly to our success in the campaign effort."

International exchange opportunities available for Northeast students

Students at Northeast now have the opportunity to participate in an international exchange program at the community college level. Northeast Community College has been selected to participate in a pilot project with the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP).

In the past, ISEP focused efforts on students enrolled in a 4-year college or university; however, with the increasing need for students to learn to work in the global economy, ISEP has decided to begin working with community colleges.

Students interested in participating in the program will have exchange opportunities available for a four- or eight-week summer session, winter semester, or entire academic year.

Student participants pay the cost of their own tuition, housing, and meals at their home institution. A Study Abroad fund has been established through the Northeast Foundation to assist students in paying for their travel expenses.

Northeast President Dr. Bill R. Path included international exchange programs in Northeast's Strategic Plan following a 10-day visit to China last October. He was invited by the American Association of Community Colleges to attend the International Forum on Vocational and Technical Education in Beijing. While there, he visited colleges in Beijing and four other cities.

As a result of his visit in Beijing, four representatives from the Vocational and Technical Education in Beijing visited Northeast Community College in June where they learned about how agricultural classes are taught in this country. They also met with representatives from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture to discuss the possible establishment of an exchange program for Ag students that could develop in to a 2 + 2 program.

If you would like to help students learn how to work in our global economy, please consider a gift to the Study Abroad fund.



Representatives from the Beijing Vocational College of Agriculture toured the Northeast campus while on a visit to the U.S. in June. Pictured left to right: Liang Xiuwen, Ding Xinyuan, Qian Zhiwei, Wu Hanjing, and Du Baode. Wu is a University of Nebraska graduate who served as an translator.

A minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish a new endowed scholarship. For as little as \$250 a year, you can establish an annual scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving student. You can fund your annual scholarship for just one year, if that is your desire, or for as many years as you wish.

Welcome to Connections



*Courtney Klein-Faust,
Executive Director
of Development and
Foundation Director*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Connections*! We created this semi-annual publication, because we wanted to share with you what you've helped us, and our students, accomplish.

At Northeast, we strive to build a better tomorrow, by providing a top-notch education to northeast Nebraska's future leaders. We are able to do this because of you. Without you, many of our students would find college to be just beyond their grasp. Your donations allow us to keep tuition affordable, and the scholarships you fund help to bridge the financial gap that many potential students face.

Thank you for your support of Northeast and our students. Together, we can do amazing things.

Ask me why...

Why do you give?

There are many, many reasons. We want to create a better community for ourselves and our kids. One of the advantages of living in a smaller community is the fact that anyone can make a difference. And we want to set an example for our children – like our parents did for us. We feel a responsibility to give back, whether our gift is monetary or a gift of our time.

Why do you support Northeast Community College and the Foundation?

Northeast students are incredibly appreciative of our support. The thank you notes we receive are heartfelt. They let us know what a difference we are making in their lives. And beyond the impact we can have on individual students, we are contributing to the success of a wonderful asset to our community. In addition to providing educational opportunities to students, the college is important for our region's economic development. Everyone benefits – not just students.

What advice would you offer to Northeast students?

Don't assume that giving back is something you have to wait to do. Giving brings a lot of joy to your life. The sooner you start, the sooner you can experience that joy.



Tammy and Brandon Day, Norfolk

Contact us

If you would like to discuss the possibilities of contributing to an existing scholarship or creating your own, please contact Courtney Klein-Faust at the Northeast Foundation. (402) 844-7056 • foundation@northeast.edu
PO Box 469 • 801 E. Benjamin Avenue • Norfolk, NE 68702-0469

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