

# Connections



## Expanding HVAC instruction in geothermal and green

Northeast Community College is expanding its heating, ventilation and air conditioning instruction, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

The \$400,000 grant from the DOL's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants program is part of an approximately \$2,700,000 award to all six Nebraska community colleges. The grant is to assist trade-affected workers who have lost their jobs because of increased imports or production shifts out of the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, geothermal energy is a heating or cooling process that comes from within the earth. Heat can be recovered as steam or hot water and used to heat buildings or generate electricity. Geothermal energy is a renewable energy source because the heat is continuously produced inside the earth.

John Blaylock, vice president of educational services at Northeast, said Northeast plans to add a few classes on geothermal and green energy to its current heating, ventilation and air conditioning curriculum. The College also plans to offer short-term certification courses.

"We are most excited, however, about our new mobile, weatherization and energy audit training lab," he said. "The DOL grant has allowed us to purchase this Energy Conservation Institute Weatherization Training Lab and take our geothermal training on the road to teach technicians how to do energy audits. That will be a great benefit to those technicians as more and more homeowners and businesses look for ways to conserve energy."

*This mechanically-designed mobile lab operates like a traditional home. It will provide hands-on training for students, including Building Performance Institute (BPI) field certification testing. With full control of mechanical systems and lab pressures, instructors will be able to create a learning environment that bridges classroom lecture with hands-on training, all on the same site.*

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## Northeast's paramedic program receives national accreditation

Northeast Community College's paramedic program has successfully completed a national accreditation process to become one of only four accredited programs in Nebraska. The program was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

According to Doug Dekker, director of Northeast's paramedic program, the accreditation process was rigorous, taking nearly two-and-a-half years to complete. The process included an Initial-Accreditation Self Study Report (ISSR) and a site visit by two staff members from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

Dekker said the site visit was extremely successful, with the visitors suggesting only procedural and paperwork issues that Northeast had addressed earlier. "I was extremely pleased with the outcome of the site visit," Dekker said. "To essentially get a clean bill of health on our first site visit was very gratifying after all our hard work."

Students enrolled in Northeast's paramedic program graduate as field/clinical-ready paramedics with the knowledge and skills to care for injured or ill patients. Upon graduation, they are eligible to take the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians' test. After certification by the National Registry, students can apply for a license to practice as paramedics in Nebraska.



*Students in the Paramedic program practice preparing a patient for transport. Pictured here are paramedic student Michael Nordyke and a volunteer who acted as a patient.*

# Northeast students and faculty take advantage of global educational opportunities

One of Northeast Community College's institutional priorities is to expand global experiences for students and to offer exchange opportunities for Northeast faculty so they can bring their experiences back into their classrooms.

"Since we live and conduct business on a global scale, our students need to understand other cultures and economies so they can be successful in their chosen careers," said Dr. Michael Chipps, Northeast president.

## Memo of understanding signed

Recently, Northeast Community College and North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe, England, signed a memorandum of understanding creating a program of international study between the two institutions.

The Business, Math and Technology Division at Northeast will host six to eight North Lindsey students, plus a faculty member and administrator next spring. Approximately the same number of Northeast business students and staff will travel to northern England next fall to get an immersion in the English system.

"This is not a typical academic exchange program of students," said Eric Johnson, Northeast dean of business, math and technology. He said the Northeast students have a focus on international business and are seeking Associate of Applied Science degrees, which will allow them to find a job in a specialized area of skill.



Northeast Community College officials met with officials from North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe, England, via interactive television to sign a memorandum of understanding to create an international study program. From left: Northeast Board Chairman Steve Anderson, President Dr. Michael Chipps, Vice President of Educational Services, John Blaylock, and Technology Support Specialist Tim Fenton.

Anne Tyrell, principal of North Lindsey, calls the exchange a fantastic opportunity. "We're really pleased to be entering into this partnership. It's going to benefit our students and our staff," she said.

## Two faculty members travel to China

Two Northeast faculty members had the opportunity to spend time with their counterparts at the Beijing Vocational College of Agriculture. Michael Lechner, agriculture instructor, and biology instructor Jim Gross traveled to China last September as part of a faculty exchange program. Last spring, two instructors from the Chinese school were in Nebraska studying water issues and visiting several regions in Northeast's 20-county service area.

"Water is extremely precious in China," said Lechner. "Waste water is an area they concentrate on. They use waste water from large sewage treatment plants for agriculture use." The two men also visited China's second largest waste water treatment facility, which is capable of treating water for 2.4 million people.

Lechner said Chinese agriculture is catching up with the west, but much of crop management is still done by hand. "They can pick corn cheaper by hand than they can combine it," he said. Lechner said that is due to the fact they have a large number of people who need jobs.

Lechner said the Chinese have not matched the west when it comes to livestock. "Pigs are seldom seen. The ones that are seen, are on the fat side," he added. Lechner said the cattle industry in China still has a long way to go to match what is seen in the United States.

While they needed to use in-



Agriculture Instructor Michael Lechner (center) and Biology Instructor Jim Gross (right) visited China earlier this fall in a faculty exchange program with the Beijing Vocational College of Agriculture. They are pictured here with a student from the college.

terpreters much of the time, Lechner and Gross became impromptu English instructors while at the Beijing college where the language is a required course for its students. Gross said the students are very interested in learning English. "The students can read it and write it much better than they can speak it," he said.

## Associate dean chosen for Fulbright

Pam Saalfeld, associate dean of humanities, arts, and social sciences and the study abroad coordinator, was one of 20 college and university administrators in the nation chosen to participate in a Fulbright Seminar to Germany.



Pam Saalfeld

The program introduced the participants to the postsecondary education system in Germany. They spent one week in Berlin and then visited colleges and universities in Frankfurt and Strasbourg, France.

Saalfeld's main intent when applying for the Fulbright was to connect with German educators in an effort to expand study abroad opportunities for Northeast Community College students and faculty.

*The impact of your gifts to the Foundation . . .*

## Northeast broadcasting department/KCAU TV forge new partnership

The Northeast Community College radio/TV broadcasting program and KCAU-TV in Sioux City have forged a new partnership that gives students real-life experiences in gathering and reporting TV sports and news.

Northeast students provide KCAU-TV exclusive footage of local sporting events and news in the area. According to Instructor John Skogstoe, the students shoot and edit the video, take notes, write a script, and send it to KCAU via File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

With Northeast alumnus and KCAU Sports Director Travis Morgan in the lead, KCAU provides training on shooting and reporting sports events. "KCAU also provides student mentoring and news critiquing on a regular basis and assists with travel expenses," Skogstoe said.

"This new partnership with KCAU-TV provides the strongest training opportunities for Northeast broadcasting students to date," Skogstoe said. "Our partnership with KCAU-TV is a natural one with three Northeast graduates employed there."

In addition to Morgan, other Northeast alumni employed at KCAU-TV are Morning News Producer Andy Bottger and Danielle Feenstra in Creative Services.



*KCAU-TV Sports Director Travis Morgan (standing) was on the Northeast Community College campus to train radio and TV broadcasting students how to film sports and news highlights for broadcast on KCAU.*

## Dr. Chipps to serve on 21st Century Commission team to reshape the future of community colleges



*Dr. Michael Chipps*

Northeast Community College President Michael R. Chipps, Ph.D., has been named to a national team charged with helping American community colleges redesign, reinvent, and reset their direction to better serve students today and for decades to come.

The charge follows publication last April of a report commissioned by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The report, *Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation's Future*, was written by the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges, a blue-ribbon commission of community college leaders and supporters.

Dr. Chipps will join 104 community college leaders from across the country who will be divided into nine different teams. He will serve on the Accountability Team that is charged with implementation of policies and practices that promote rigor, transparency, and accountability for results in community colleges.

The team will also implement a voluntary framework of accountability for nationwide use and develop stronger approaches to measure student learning and employment-related outcomes. The group is also challenged to establish a state data system to track students on their educational and career paths. That statewide system can demonstrate employment- and wage-related impacts of a community college education.

The Accountability Team is also asked to work simultaneously with states, funders, and national associations to develop a concise set of indicators of student progress and success.

"As leaders of the 21st Century Commission, we are charged with analyzing and recommending new approaches to education and training through our community colleges. What a great opportunity to be at the forefront of the conversations about America's community colleges, which now enroll nearly half of all students in higher education in the country."

Dr. Chipps noted that the *Reclaiming the American Dream* report challenges community colleges to increase completion rates by 50 percent by 2020 and cut by half those students entering college needing remedial classes. Community colleges are also encouraged to close the American skills gap with a sharp focus on career and technical education.

The report further recommends that community colleges refocus the college mission and redefine institutional roles to meet 21st century education and employment needs. Community colleges are also advised to invest in support structures to serve multiple colleges through collaboration and with partners in philanthropy, government, and the private sector.

It also suggests institutions target public and private investments strategically to create new incentives for support of community colleges.

"While some may have found the *Reclaiming the American Dream* report a bit daunting," Dr. Chipps said, "it will become a guiding strategic tool for most colleges. Not only does it address our challenges, but it presents us with opportunities of great potential and promise. America's community colleges continue to be at the forefront of the American higher education system and it is supported in part by the work of the 21st Century Commission."

Last year, 217 students received Foundation scholarships totalling \$129,867. In addition, \$1,179,053 was used for building support and \$35,705 was used for equipment, programs, and services, all of which enhanced student learning.

## Annual Gifts

The following individuals and businesses donated to the Northeast Community College Foundation this past year. Gifts given directly to the College may not be mentioned here but are equally appreciated.

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The Northeast Community College Foundation's Key Society consists of individuals or families who have arranged for a planned gift to the College through a specific provision by will, the creation of a charitable trust or gift annuity, the gift of a life insurance policy, or the gift of real estate. By planning their gift, the Key Society's members are able to make a generous donation without using any of their current income. In many cases, these legacy gifts keep giving past the donor's lifetime, enabling the donor to touch the lives of many future generations of Northeast Community College students.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Key Society, please contact us. We would be happy to assist you with your planning.

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*"I have recently graduated from high school with big hopes and dreams. I hope to graduate from college as a professional and become successful in life. I am the first generation college student in my family and hope to become a role model for my sister. I want to help my family achieve a better life. The donation of a scholarship is going to help me pay for essential things needed this year. Thank you for this scholarship that will help me complete my first year of college."*

Yvette Aceves, Academic Transfer major

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## Scholarships are essential for student success

Scholarship dollars are essential for Northeast Community College students' success. If you would like to help a Northeast Community College student in his or her pursuit of a college education, there are many ways to do so.

Gifts can be made to an existing scholarship, to the Foundation's General Scholarship Fund, or to establish your own named annual or endowed scholarship.

An **annual scholarship** may be awarded for just one year, if that is your desire, or for as many years as you wish. A minimum of \$500 is recommended for an annual scholarship.

An **endowed scholarship** will provide awards to deserving students for generations to come. A minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish a new endowed scholarship.

For more information on establishing an annual or endowed scholarship, contact the Foundation Office at 402-844-7065.

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*reality instead of a dream.*

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## Agriculture Complex named for Pohlman

The man credited with shaping the agriculture program at Northeast Community College into what it is today was recently honored in a most deserving way.

At a celebration to mark 40 years of agricultural programming, college officials announced the Agriculture Complex will now be known as the Chuck M. Pohlman Agriculture Complex.

"This is a fitting tribute to Chuck for all the work he has done for Northeast," said Dr. Michael Chipps, Northeast president.

"He has been one of the finest ambassadors Northeast has ever seen. With the addition of his name to this facility, people for generations to come will never forget Chuck Pohlman's impact on education and agriculture in general across this fine state, he added.

Pohlman started the agriculture program in 1972 with just

three students. Through the years, enrollment has steadily increased with approximately 100 new students beginning each fall. He was the only administrator of the program until his retirement earlier this year. He also helped lead the capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of the Agriculture Complex.



Several members of the Pohlman family were on hand when it was announced that the Agriculture Complex will now be the Chuck M. Pohlman Agriculture Complex. Left to Right: Chuck's daughter Emily Ehle, his wife, Linda, Chuck, his daughter-in-law Monique, and his son, Garrett.

"This is a most deserving honor," said Steve Anderson, Concord, chairman of the Board of Governors. "The Ag Complex is an excellent facility. Without him, this may have never happened. Chuck deserves a tremendous amount of admiration for all he has done for Northeast," he said.

*"The Agriculture Complex has given us the opportunity to do so much more with livestock judging. We can do our workouts inside and not have to deal with the weather conditions. We are also able to do our animal science labs indoors. Thanks to everyone who made this building possible."*

Cody Schulz, Agriculture-College Transfer major

*others will pay dividends for years to come.*

## Gifts of Grain and Livestock

With today's high prices and a positive outlook for commodity markets, many farmers are considering gifts of grain to fulfill their charitable intentions.

When farmers deliver grain to market and transfer ownership to a charity, they receive greater tax savings than if they sell the commodity and then write a check from the proceeds. The farmer can still deduct all production costs on income taxes, and, depending on the producer's specific circumstances, save on federal income tax, state income tax, and self-employment tax. This can work with livestock as well.

Consult with your tax advisor to determine if a gift of grain or livestock is appropriate for your tax situation. Then call the Northeast Community College Foundation office at 402-844-7065 prior to delivering the grain to an elevator. The Foundation will then set up an account with the elevator, and you can transfer ownership to the Foundation when delivering the grain.

### Ask me why. . .

Northeast Community College employees passionately believe in the mission of the College and truly want to help students succeed by providing not only their time and talents, but part of their earnings as well. Employees give to scholarships, program support, building projects, and to the greatest needs of the College. Here are some reasons why employees choose to give back . . .

*"I appreciate the opportunity to support Northeast Community College by my contribution to the Foundation. Several members of my family graduated or took classes from Northeast. I think the Foundation is an excellent way for me to give back to the college and to demonstrate my support of the students and the continued success of Northeast."*

Sandy Hilliges, Coordinator of Admissions Services

*"Northeast Community College is a great place to learn, and a great place to work. The foundation is one way that we can personally ensure that the College's mission will continue for our students and generations to come."*

Anthony Beardslee, Audio Recording Instructor

*"We change lives here! Giving to the foundation just makes sense—what a great way to increase our collective power to improve the College and the communities we serve."*

Corinne Morris, Interim Dean of Agriculture, Health & Science Division

*"I give to the Foundation because as an employee I feel we are truly blessed to be a part of Northeast. This is just one way that I can feel that I'm giving back to the Northeast Community College community."*

Brenda Potts, Payroll Specialist

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