

Northeast Community College

Connections

Spring/Summer 2014

Building Success

Northeast Community College expands to meet the ever-growing demands of its constituents—building relationships as well as new facilities.

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FACE BRICK PRECAST SILL

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In This Issue

O'Neill Extended Campus Update ...	3
New Buildings.....	4-5
Alumni Spotlight.....	6
What's New At Northeast	7
Leave a Legacy	8

A Message from President Chipps

Dear Friends,

At Northeast, we are privileged to have a wonderful college family that is passionate about serving you! We are always continuing our work to make 'Our Northeast' a stellar institution of higher learning.

In addition to having outstanding people, the College has worked hard to achieve and sustain outstanding facilities. Over the past four decades, Northeast has met the daunting challenge of establishing and sustaining a high tech, 21st Century college.

For instance, in the spring of 2015 we will open the new Applied Technology and Training Center on the Norfolk campus. This new facility will offer stellar teaching and learning spaces in highly technical skilled career areas to better meet the workforce needs of Northeast Nebraska.

A new residence hall and accompanying cafeteria is scheduled to open in early 2016. Private rooms, study areas, and meeting spaces for an additional 200 students will provide them with many more opportunities to live and learn while at Northeast.

Furthermore, Northeast Community College also recognizes the importance and high value of our extended campuses. The College Center in South Sioux City, as well as the West Point Extended Campus, do an outstanding job of providing student needs at more distant locations.

And last, but not least, is the new O'Neill extended campus facility scheduled to open in fall 2015. Residents will soon have a state-of-the-art facility to expand higher educational opportunities in the westernmost portion of our 14,000 square mile service area.

From our modest start 40-years ago with just four buildings to approximately 35 facilities on our four campuses today, Northeast is a community college on the move – and the best is yet to come! It is a new day for Northeast Community College and for the wonderful people that we have the opportunity to serve!

Thank you for what you do to make Northeast what it was, what it is and what it will become!



Dr. Michael R. Chipps

Dr. Michael R. Chipps, President

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Connections Magazine is published twice a year for Northeast Community College alumni and friends of the College.

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New Buildings, New Opportunities

Northeast Community College is providing expanded opportunities for students and the community.

The Northeast Community College's Norfolk campus continues to get a facelift as it expands its facilities and programs to meet the needs of its students and communities. This includes recent renovations to the Echtenkamp and physical plant buildings and the new construction of the Applied Technology facility.

Despite this growth, the College's enrollment growth has been hampered some due to a shortage

of housing on campus. In response, a new residence hall and cafeteria are also being built with plans to be open by January 2016.

As the College fills programming and facility needs, enrollment will rise and more students will receive an education, move into the workforce, and fill the workforce shortage, also known as the "skills gap".

Applied Technology Building

While speaking at the Applied Technology building groundbreaking last October, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman said the state's community colleges serve as a link between businesses and higher education to create programs which result in a highly-skilled workforce. "Nebraska's community colleges are a link to the future for our communities and the state."

The 66,613 square foot facility under construction at the north end of the Norfolk campus will house the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Building Construction, Electromechanical,



The Groundbreaking ceremony for the Applied Technology Building was held in October of 2013. Construction began shortly after and is expected to be completed at the beginning of 2015.

Electrical Construction and Control, and Wind Energy Technology programs. The \$9.1 million facility will include classrooms, faculty offices, labs for hands-on-training, lab support areas including a fabrication/tool room, storage areas, and a student lounge/study area to serve over 200 students.

Construction is underway and expected to take two years. Classes will begin in the new Applied Technology building in spring 2015.

Echtenkamp Renovation & Dedication

Ken Echtenkamp's name is synonymous with education in Northeast Nebraska. In addition to being a teacher, an administrator, and superintendent of two school districts, the West Point man served as business manager of one of the predecessor institutions to Northeast Community College and was a longtime member of the College's Board of Governors.

Northeast named its new information technology (IT) building after Echtenkamp, whose tenure with

the College spanned over 35 years. The Northeast Board of Governors approved the \$1.1 million renovation of the former broadcasting/electronics building into its new IT facility in 2012.

The new facility will showcase new, customized degree options beginning this fall. The Build Your Own IT degree, as it is being marketed, will offer five concentrations and stand-alone certificates in the following areas: Web and Visual Application Development, IBMi Application Development, Information Security, Technical Services Support and Cisco Networking. A student can receive a customized associate of applied science degree program (AAS), based on their career goals of working in information technology.

Room for Expansion

The Norfolk campus has had a pressing on-campus housing shortage for a number of years and now is the best time in the College's history to increase capacity. For example, at the start of the fall 2013 semester, over 715 students applied for 350 beds

that currently occupy Northeast's two dormitories, Simon and Burkhardt Halls, and the two student apartments.

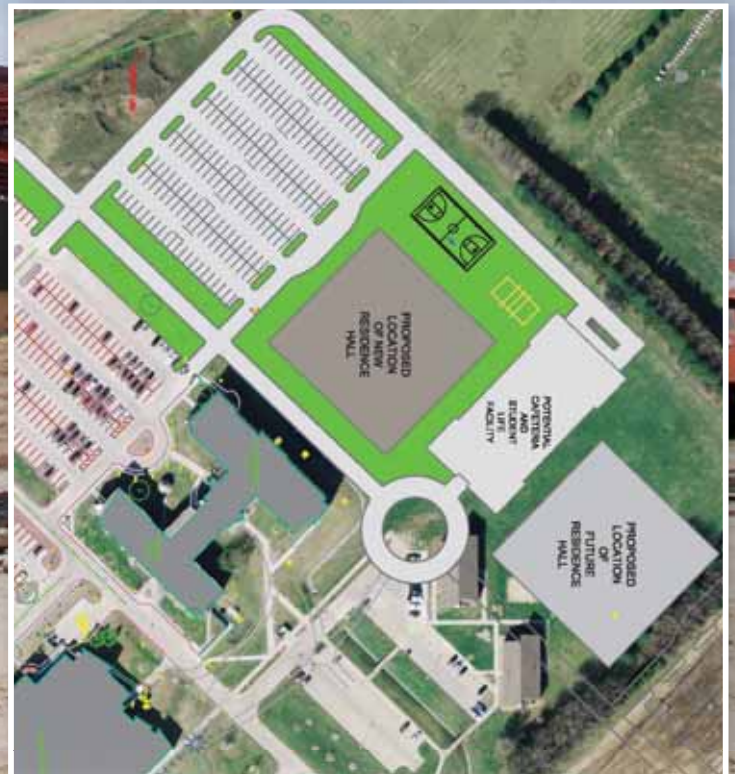
The plans call for an \$11 million, 79,000 square foot residence hall which will be able to accommodate approximately 200 students. The design for the residence hall will be 4-person, suite-style units with separate bedrooms for each resident.

The site proposed is immediately west of the current dormitories, with space outlined for future growth proposed to the north. A cafeteria is slated to be built in between the two proposed sites.

Construction on the new residence hall could begin later this year with occupancy planned for January 2016. ■



Northeast Community College names new information technology building after former teacher, administrator and board member, Ken Echtenkamp.



The proposed space for the new residence halls is located to the west of the current halls and is expected to house 200 additional students.

Alumni Spotlight

The Reiman family of O'Neill holds a special place in their hearts for Northeast Community College. Not only did Lawrence ('85 Auto Body) and Jane ('85 Marketing & Management) meet while attending college there, they have had three children and a daughter-in-law who also received their education from Northeast.

All of them reside in the O'Neill area. "Lawrence and I started our auto body business, Reiman's Body Shop, in O'Neill twenty five years ago. We are very fortunate that our family is all close by," Jane Reiman.

The oldest son, Jesse ('08 Utility Line) is employed at Niobrara Valley Electric, and his wife Jenna ('09 Nursing) is working at Avera St. Anthony's Hospital in the Kidney Dialysis Unit. They have one child, Case. The twins, Leah ('10 Elementary Education) is employed at St. Mary's Elementary School as a Preschool teacher and Jake ('11 Nursing) is a Registered Nurse at Avera. Jake is engaged to Michelle Kester. Jack is a freshman at St. Mary's High School and Lorissa is a second grader at St. Mary's Elementary.

Why did you choose Northeast Community College?

We chose Northeast Community College because it offered a quality and affordable education close to home. With all the career choices offered at Northeast, our family was able to get the education needed to obtain employment in our chosen fields.

What is your favorite memory of Northeast Community College?

Jane: Meeting a young Auto Body student who would later become my husband!

How would you describe your experience as a student at Northeast Community College?

Leah: I enjoyed my experience at Northeast Community College. The class sizes were smaller,



L to R - Standing: Jack, Michelle, Jake. Seated Middle: Jenna, Jesse, Jane, Lawrence, Leah. Seated Front : Case, Lorissa.

allowing more one on one time with teachers. I felt the teachers made an effort to get to know you personally. My advisor kept me on track and made sure I was taking the correct classes that would transfer to Wayne State College. Northeast is an affordable college that offers many programs and classes that can fit any student's needs.

What is the most enjoyable part of your job?

Jenna (RN): I truly enjoy educating clinical students from Northeast and the UNMC program on the role of a dialysis nurse as well as the dialysis process and kidney failure disease. My job consists of working with patients who are in kidney failure. The patients come in on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to have their blood filtered and cleaned. Being a nurse is a very rewarding career that allows me to help those in need. Northeast helped me achieve this career by providing me with an excellent education.

What is your biggest personal or professional accomplishment?

Jake: My biggest personal or professional accomplishment through Northeast was passing the NCLEX Nursing Boards Exam. Northeast was a great learning environment and I met many new friends in my nursing classes that helped me be prepared and pass our biggest test following graduation.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Jake: I went to Northeast to become a nurse partially because of the hours available to an RN. I work three days a week which leads to lots of opportunity for spare time hobbies. I have narrowed these hobbies down to two. In the summer I put in as many rounds of golf on a day off as possible, and in the fall I am in the tree stand deer hunting about three times a week.

What inspires you to give back to Northeast Community College?

We are very excited to have Northeast Community College build a new learning facility at O'Neill. We have many friends and family that will have the opportunity to continue their education without having to drive the extra 80 miles. Our surrounding communities will all be able to share the knowledge and make all our lives better. ■

To be considered for feature in the next *Alumni Spotlight*, submit your information to the Northeast Alumni Office by emailing alumni@northeast.edu.

To update your contact information, please visit our website, www.northeast.edu/alumni and submit the alumni update form.

What's New At Northeast

Northeast Community College and Bellevue University sign partnership agreement



Northeast Nebraska residents will soon have the opportunity to take additional college level courses through a new articulation agreement between Northeast Community College and Bellevue University.

The presidents of the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow Bellevue University to offer upper level undergraduate and graduate level courses and programs with a primary focus on non-traditional working adults. They will have offices in Norfolk, O'Neill and West Point.

"We are delighted to expand educational opportunities for residents in our 20 county service area. They will have additional choices for aligning associate degrees with bachelors and masters degrees through Wayne State College, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and now Bellevue University," Dr. Michael Chipps, Northeast president. "Each of our partner senior institutions offer several types of programs as well as different methods for completing them, which appeals to many sectors of our public." ■

Northeast Community College regional coordinator in Hartington

In August, 2013, the Hartington City Council agreed to provide the College office space and utilities in the Hartington City Office building, 107 W. State Street, in an effort to enhance Northeast's presence in Cedar and Knox counties. Russell Flamig will be charged with identifying course, program and training needs in the region, facilitate student support services, and represent Northeast Community College at meetings and other events. Flamig has currently served as principal of Hartington Public Schools from 2006 to 2014. ■

Manufacturing Bootcamp in Cuming County Prepares Participants To Fill Needs

Through the generosity of the Louis and Abby Faye Dinklage Foundation, private donors and sponsoring manufacturers, the Northeast Community College Foundation is now offering scholarships to those in the Cuming County region who want to gain valuable skills and learn more about career opportunities available locally.

These funds cover all but \$99 of the cost to attend a 9-week, 72-hour basic Introduction to manufacturing and workforce readiness skills training. Participants learn about safety, quality management and customer service, but also develop closer relationships with the employers themselves, learning about their products and services and applying that to the coursework being taught. "By taking apart a Smeal fire engine, they not only learn about skills needed in that workplace, but they also learn about teamwork and problem solving," said Instructor Shanelle Grudzinski.

Upon successful completion, students can participate in an interview fair with sponsoring employers. They can also apply for and receive up to 6 credits to be applied to the 16 credit-hour Diversified Manufacturing certificate being offered on campus.

The College and Foundation distributed more than \$212,000 last year to over 300 students. Through this program, about 150 additional students will receive scholarships over the next 3 years and it addresses the current workforce skills gap and meets immediate needs of employers. ■

Ambulance Donated to EMT/Paramedic Program



Students in Northeast Community College's EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and paramedic program now have the opportunity to take part in additional hands-on experience with a new piece of equipment.

College officials have accepted the donation of a 2004 Osage Type II ambulance from Norfolk Ambulance Service, Inc. The company is owned by Ardith Kutchera. Several of Kutchera's present and past paramedics are all graduates of the Paramedic program at Northeast. ■

Updated Dining Experience

The College's dining center, "The Hawk Spot", got a new makeover this past year. Chartwells, Northeast's Food Service Provider, partnered with the College to give the space a more modern look and provide for more dining options for students.

Through this venue, Chartwells provides multiple food and beverage choices in an all-you-care-to-eat format with made-to-order dishes, authentic cuisine, and healthy choices at interchangeable concepts and destinations coupled with special or themed events.

Chartwells also operates "Hawks Landing," located in the upper level of the Northeast Student Center, and complements "The Hawk Spot" by offering individual meals made to order, specialty coffees, and much more. The company also runs a coffee shop that serves Starbucks products in Northeast Community College's Welcome Center. ■



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Leave A Legacy



You can make a real difference in your community by remembering Northeast Community College Foundation in your will and leaving a charitable legacy for future generations. Contact Dr. Tracy Kruse at 402-844-7056 or foundation@northeast.edu.

Sample language:

"I give and devise _____ (specific dollar amount/percentage of estate/specific personal property) _____ to the Northeast Community College Foundation, Norfolk, Nebraska, to be used at the discretion of its Board of Directors for the education needs of Northeast Community College students."

