

# Northeast Community College Connections

January 2016



## Planning for the Future

**Northeast Community College Coordinates Campus  
Projects to Support Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.**

See President's Message, p. 2

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The Northeast Community College Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors that meet four times each year. Members are appointed in July and terms are staggered for up to three years per term.

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# A Message from President Chipps

The beginning of a new academic year is always an exciting time for students, faculty and staff. It is a period full of new beginnings and new adventures. However, this fall has even more special meaning at Northeast Community College; it has already been an exhilarating start for our students, college family and constituents as well.

This fall, Northeast has experienced three dedications of new facilities with two more coming next summer. While Northeast's success is not defined by its facilities, expansion does provide an indicator that the Board of Governors is serious about ensuring that quality environments are in place for students to have the best learning opportunities. There are multiple facets to measuring the success of an organization, and the type and quality of facilities are among them. Here at Northeast we have a wonderful reason to celebrate with the opening of two new educational buildings that are designed for the 21st century learner.

We just christened our new extended campus in O'Neill and the new Applied Technology on the Norfolk campus. These facilities feature 21st century classrooms, with exceptional technologies and laboratories, along with areas designed to accommodate specialized education and training to meet the current and future workforce needs of our 20-county service area. In addition, we opened a new regional office in Ainsworth this fall to better serve our constituents in the western most portion of our vast service area.

To set the course for the College's future, the Board of Governors recently approved Vision 2020, which is a five-year comprehensive plan that charts the exciting and bold future for Northeast. Vision 2020 focuses the College's resources on the success of students and the region it serves, and incorporates strategic goals that focus on student success, student access, a globally competitive workforce, and maximizing resources.

As our legislated tenets proclaim, Northeast will proudly continue our quest for providing outstanding technical, academic transfer, continuing and customized training and applied research. Incorporating the precepts of Vision 2020, Northeast will increase its work as an applied research-based institution with centers for excellence in agriculture, water, energy and technology.

These are amazing and exciting times at Northeast Community College. All constituents should have a deep sense of pride about this College and the role countless people have played from its humble beginnings to what we plan to achieve through Vision 2020. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead this outstanding institution on behalf of our visionary Board of Governors.

And thanks to all of you - our constituents, Northeast is the 'best of class' community college.



*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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# Dual Credit Can Lead to More Opportunities

Students who take college credit classes in high school are **two times** more likely to continue with their education after graduation.

The Early Entry Program at Northeast Community College offers many opportunities for high school students to take college courses before they graduate from high school. During the Fall 2015 semester, 48 of the 60 high schools in Northeast's 20-county service area offered at least one dual credit course taught by a high school faculty member who meets the college's credential requirements.

"These courses are considered dual credit — meaning students are earning both high school and college credit for the course they are taking," said Makala Williams, director of early entry programs. "The tuition for these dual credit courses is at a reduced rate of \$69 per credit hour versus the regular tuition and fee rate of \$105.50 per credit hour. This reduced rate makes taking a college course in high school very affordable and

economical. It's a win-win for everyone!"

Williams said that Early Entry students are saving an average of \$100 per class.

Another way for high school students to earn dual credit is through online courses taught by many Northeast faculty members. Each semester, the Early Entry Program identifies as many as ten general education courses, offering about 20 sections that qualify as dual credit. Because these courses are set up for Early Entry students only, they are also offered at the reduced tuition rate of \$69 per credit hour. The courses are very popular as it allows many students the opportunity to take a wider variety of courses in high school and have some flexibility with their schedules.

Williams said in addition to the dual credit opportunities, Early Entry students are able to

register for any college credit only course that they are interested in.

"Many students take advantage of our online courses and a number of them take a day or evening class on our main campus in Norfolk or at one of our extended campuses in O'Neill, South Sioux City and West Point. While these courses are offered at the regular tuition rate, it is still advantageous for those who will register as full-time students in the future. They could also earn special certifications that could allow them to qualify for specific jobs as high school students."

To learn more about becoming an Early Entry student or the dual credit process at Northeast Community College, contact Makala Williams at (402) 844-7118 or Taylor Christiansen, Early Entry Program Coordinator, at (402) 844-7243. ■

# Paving the Way To Meet the Workforce Needs of Tomorrow

## Northeast's New Applied Technology Building Opens

Northeast Community College's newest education building is open for business. Students began their education and training in the College's \$9.1 million Applied Technology building on August 24th.

The 66,613 square foot structure on the north side of the Norfolk campus houses the Building Construction, Electrical Construction and Control, Electromechanical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and some classes for the Diversified Manufacturing Technology, Wind Energy Technology and Plumbing programs. The programs

were previously housed in four separate buildings.

"There is nothing like today," said Dr. Michael Chipps, president of Northeast, during an October 8th dedication ceremony. "Excitement doesn't quite define the feelings of many people who have, for years, visualized this building. They have always done a great job of teaching, but there's nothing like a place to teach in. For generations to come, the faculty here will be mentoring countless students toward meeting our workforce needs in Northeast Nebraska and beyond."



**"Bridging the gap between education and industry has never been more important than it is today."**  
- John Blaylock



Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning





*Electromechanical Technology*

The seven training programs will have the ability to expand curriculum and offerings to include green energy technology that is used in the construction trade.

The new facility includes multipurpose classrooms, labs for hands-on-training and lab support areas including a fabrication/tool room. Labs will be large enough to allow for adequate space for equipment so students may work in a safe environment. The building also has expanded storage areas, faculty offices and a student lounge/study area to serve over 200 students.

John Blaylock, vice president of Educational Services at Northeast, said the new building will play a critical role in Northeast's work in preparing a globally competitive workforce.

"Bridging the gap between education and industry has never been more important than it is today. This facility and its programs are excellent examples of what can happen to prepare the workforce of tomorrow by engaging in collaborative conversations today."

Northeast has joined the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3), which is a national consortium of colleges and industry leaders, who work together to address the increasing demands for a skilled workforce. Blaylock said the work being done by Northeast Community College with NC3 and its industry partners is evident throughout the building and across the curriculum in the technical programs.

"The aging workforce continues to be a challenge for all of us. It is imperative that education and industry continue to inform young people and those looking to re-tool their skills of the outstanding opportunities offered in programs such as you will see today."

Jonathan Schulte, of Atkinson, a non-traditional student in the Electrical Construction and Control program, said he values the education he is receiving from Northeast.

"This place is going to provide the skilled labor force that will meet the needs of many, many businesses. It is definitely going to attract future generations of students. I see not only the potential of how it will serve North Central Nebraska and southern South Dakota, but the building and its faculty are great recruitment tools. When I do graduate and do become part of that alum, I will be proud to be able to tell people that I gained that experience here at Northeast." ■



*Diversified Manufacturing Technology*

# Achievement Awards

## NORTHEAST ALUMNI HALL OF SUCCESS

***State Senator Beau McCoy***



State Senator Beau McCoy is a 2000 graduate of the Building Construction program at Northeast Community College. After attending Northeast, he continued his education and earned his Bachelor of Arts from Bellevue University.

McCoy lives in Omaha and is serving his second term in the state legislature representing the citizens of District 39 since 2008. He is also the Chair of Committee on Committees and serves on the Government Committee and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

In addition, Senator McCoy is the manager and marketing director of the Conklin Company Building Products and Roofing Systems division and is the National Chair Elect of the Council of State Governments (CSG).

Senator McCoy and his wife, Shauna, have four children - Audrey, Ryan, Nora, and Tess. ■

***Dr. Kari Jo Wade***



Dr. Kari Wade attended Northeast Community College, earning an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) in 2000. While at Northeast, faculty demonstrated a side of nursing she was unfamiliar with and she soon realized that she wanted to become a nurse educator.

Continuing her education, she earned her Bachelor Degree in Nursing from Creighton University, a Master of Science in Nursing from Nebraska Wesleyan University and her Doctor of Education through the College of Saint Mary (CSM) in Omaha.

Currently, Dr. Wade is a faculty member for Nebraska Methodist College in Omaha, developing curriculum and teaching courses for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DPN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs. She is an active member of the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) and past chair of the Pediatric Research Section for MNRS. Dr. Wade serves on the Nebraska Nurses Association Legislative, Advocacy, and Representation Committee and the Nebraska Methodist College Nursing Advisory Board. Dr. Wade has received numerous accolades and was selected as a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Nurse Leaders in 2012.

Dr. Wade and her husband, Dr. Shawn Wade, have two children, Keira and Ian. ■

***Mark Hecker – Deceased***



Mark Hecker earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Northeast Community College in 1981. He entered law enforcement in Humphrey at the age of 19 and later transferred to the David City Police Department before joining the Butler County Sheriff's Office in 1988. He served as a deputy sheriff for eleven years before being elected as sheriff, where he served until his untimely death in 2014.

During his time with the Butler County Sheriff's Office, Mark organized a "Stuff the Cruiser" event before Christmas to gather toys for underprivileged families in Butler County. He was also instrumental in the construction of the Butler County Detention Center and oversaw combining the David City Police Department and The Butler County Sheriff's Office.

Mark was a member of multiple community organizations such as David City Teammates, Meals on Wheels, Rotary and the David City Booster Club. He was also a member of the Sheriff's Association of Nebraska.

Mark left behind his wife Betty, five daughters and a son. ■



## NORTHEAST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

***State Senator Jim Scheer***



Successful business owner and District 19 State Senator Jim Scheer of Norfolk has distinguished himself as a leader dedicated to the education of all citizens of the State of Nebraska. His vision and tireless work on behalf of Northeast Community College and his past work as a member of the State Board of Education and the Norfolk Public Schools Board of Education will continue to benefit generations for years to come.

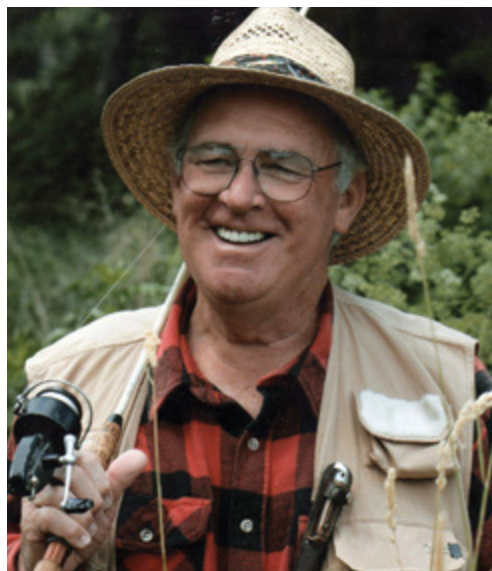
In 2015, Senator Scheer collaborated with Northeast Community College, community leaders, fellow senators, and the Governor's office to successfully promote the transfer of abandoned State property on the Norfolk Regional Center grounds to Northeast Community College through legislation he sponsored.

Senator Scheer has a long history of working at all levels of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education. He spent nearly two decades on the Norfolk Board of Education – eight years as president. He then was elected to the State Board of Education in 2005, and was elected president in 2011. In addition he has served on the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee.

Scheer and his wife, Kristi, have three adult children, Keeli, Rachel and John. ■

## NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

***Richard "Dick" Turpin***



Dick Turpin grew up in the Nebraska Sandhills where hunting and fishing played an important role in his upbringing. In 1957, following his time at Norfolk Junior College, his first job with the Commission was on a grounds crew near his hometown of Bassett. He then became a conservation officer in Ponca where he worked in Dakota, Dixon and part of Thurston counties. In 1973, Turpin moved to Lincoln, where he coordinated the state's hunter safety education program for 18 years. He became Chief of Law Enforcement in 1991.

An article in the Sioux City Journal described Turpin as Nebraska's "premier outdoors speaker." He has presented seminars and workshops at sports shows, conducted youth and adult campfire storytelling and sing-alongs, traveled with a tepee and dressed in authentic mountain man attire, has an outdoor tips segment entitled "Turpin Time," which airs during newscasts on radio and television stations across Nebraska, and makes turkey calls.

Dick and his wife of 55-years, Reenie, have five children and 12 grandchildren. ■

## FOUNDATION BOARD EMERITUS

***Eldon Peters***



***Gerald Petersen***



***Don Smejkal***



The Board of Directors Emeritus is an honorary title of distinction for those who have served on the Northeast Community College Foundation Board. As emeritus members, they will continue to provide leadership and counsel to the Foundation.

Eldon Peters, retired banker from Norfolk, served on the Foundation Board for 14 years.

Gerald Petersen, retired business owner from Norfolk, served on the Board of Governors for almost 14 years, then served on the Foundation Board for 12 years.

Don Smejkal, retired banker from Norfolk, first served on the Foundation Board until his resignation in 1986 when he was appointed to the Board of Governors and served for 13 years. After resigning from the Board of Governors, he rejoined the Foundation Board and served for 17 years. ■

Nominations Needed - If you are interested in nominating an individual for the Northeast Alumni Hall of Success, please contact the Northeast Community College Foundation Office at 402-844-7065 or [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu) or visit the website to fill out an application <http://www.northeast.edu/2016/Achievement-Awards/>

# What's New At Northeast

## Vision 2020

## VISION 2020

success starts here.

The Board of Governors at Northeast Community College has approved a document that sets the future direction of the institution over the next five years. Northeast's new strategic plan, Vision 2020, has been created through a comprehensive planning effort built on the foundation of past successes and is designed to chart a new direction to meet the needs of 21st century students and the region, according to Dr. Michael Chipps, president. "The Board of Governors established the overall direction for Vision 2020 by adopting a new mission statement that dedicates us to the success of students and the region we serve, and college goals that focus on student success, student access, a globally competitive workforce, and maximizing resources." ■

## Global Engagement

Northeast Community College recognizes that its students need to be culturally and globally aware to succeed in the 21st century. Providing opportunities for faculty and student exchanges, internationalization of the curriculum, and expanding the engagement of international students with other student and community groups can assist in these efforts.

Pam Saalfeld, previously associate dean of humanities, arts and social sciences, now serves as the College's director of the Center for Global Engagement. She oversees efforts to increase student engagement, expand diversity of the student population and lead Northeast's faculty and student exchange program. ■

## TRIO grant

Northeast Community College has received a federal grant that is designed to provide individualized support and assistance to students who may have faced challenges in completing their education. The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Northeast a federal TRIO grant, which consists of \$220,000 during the first year that began September 1, with the total five-year amount projected at more than \$1.1 million.

"Northeast can now provide targeted services to students who are challenged by low-income, first-generation status, and/or a disability," said Amanda Nipp, Dean of Enrollment Management. "The additional services will strengthen persistence, academic success, graduation, and transfer to four-year institutions. This project will increase

current services such as tutoring, advising, financial aid application and planning assistance, career services, and cultural experiences." ■

## Open House at Northeast's Regional Office in Ainsworth



A new regional office is now serving Northeast Community College constituents in the western service area. The office, located in the ESU# 17 building at 1292 East 4th Street in Ainsworth, serves residents in the Ainsworth, Bassett, and Springview areas, as well as other towns and villages across the Keya Paha, Brown and Rock county service area. Sonny Corkle serves as the regional office coordinator. ■

## Severson recognized for leadership by a State and National Organization

The vice president of student services at Northeast Community College has been recognized for her work with an international honor society that is committed to academic excellence. Dr. Karen Severson was one of twenty-three college administrators from across the nation presented with the 2015 Distinguished College Administrator Award by Phi Theta Kappa at the organization's 97th Annual Convention in San Antonio, TX.

The Distinguished College Administrator Award is



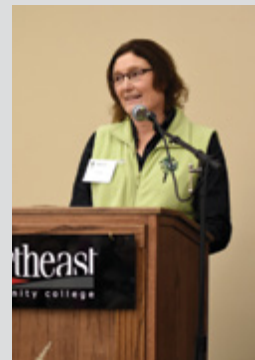
presented to college vice presidents, deans or leaders other than college presidents/CEOs serving in an administrative capacity who have demonstrated a strong level of support for Phi Theta Kappa during their tenure. Severson has also been honored for her work by the Nebraska Community College Association. She was presented with the 2015 Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) Administrator's Award during the NCCA annual meeting in Scottsbluff. The award is presented annually to one administrator from five of the state's community college areas. ■

## O'Neill Extended Campus

Northeast Community College and residents of North Central Nebraska commemorated the opening of the College's new extended campus facility in O'Neill with a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony in early October. While the building may be new, Northeast's presence in the region is not. The College opened its prior extended campus in a 77-year-old former elementary school building in O'Neill in 1998. Northeast successfully raised nearly \$3.5 million through a capital campaign to construct the new 15,075 square foot extended campus facility at 505 East Highway 20. ■

## Grant named 2015 AG-ceptional Woman of the Year

Karen Grant was honored as the AG-ceptional Woman of the Year at the Seventh Annual AG-ceptional Women's Conference held at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College. "Karen was honored for her dedication, strength, skills and influence in agriculture," said Corinne Morris, dean of agriculture, math and science at Northeast Community College and conference director. "She



is very influential in the Grant family farm operation which consists of crop rotation and swine farrow to finish in Meadow Grove. In addition, she is involved in multiple agriculture organizations and boards."

Grant has also become a spokesperson for agriculture in other ways. As a member of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association (NPPA) Board of Directors, she travels across the nation as a voice for small farmers and producers and serves as a liaison for agriculture.

Grant was nominated by her daughter, Kristen Grant Sindelar. ■



# Northeast Foundation Donors

## Scholarships are Essential for Student Success

Establishing a scholarship is one of the most enduring and enterprising ways you or your organization can make a difference in the lives of students at Northeast Community College. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, and your investment in them through scholarships will pay the highest dividends.

One gift can change a student's life. 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 you may establish your own named scholarship.

For more information on establishing an annual or endowed scholarship, contact the Foundation Office at (402) 844-7658. Your gift can make a lasting impact that changes lives, builds futures and improves communities and our State.

## Newly Established Foundation Scholarships

Donald and Dorrine Liedman Agriculture Scholarship  
Donald Liedman & Dorrine DeHaven Liedman Scholarship  
Northeast Nebraska Toy Farmers Scholarship  
Tim Hansen Memorial Scholarship  
Siouxland Federal Credit Union Scholarship  
Mike Sucha Memorial Basketball Scholarship  
Mercy Medical Assistance Scholarship  
Vision Dakota County Scholarship  
Great West Casualty Company Scholarship  
Jeff and Lori Scherer Endowed Scholarship

## ANNUAL GIVING

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations donated to the Northeast Community College Foundation this past fiscal year 2014-15. Gifts given directly to the College may not be mentioned here, but are equally appreciated.

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