

Northeast Community College

Connections

Spring/Summer 2015



Partnerships Propel Northeast Forward

**Northeast Community College
continues to connect with
other colleges to provide the
best experiences for Northeast
Nebraska.**

Northeast
community college
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A Message from President Chipps

Northeast Community College has established numerous strategic partnerships with business and industry, K-12 school districts and colleges and universities. In particular to colleges and universities, we have primarily entered into these partnerships to broaden the educational offerings and opportunities for our students as they look beyond their Northeast journey.

One such example of our outstanding partnerships is with Wayne State College. While we have collaborated together for a number of years, we recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of our joint partnership at the College Center in South Sioux City. The College Center is one of the few co-owned facilities between two higher education institutions. It is primarily designed to transition Northeast graduates directly into upper level undergraduate and graduate programs provided by Wayne State College; and this all transpires in one location.

Since those early relationships with Wayne State College, Northeast Community College has rapidly expanded higher educational partnerships to include the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Bellevue University and Concordia University-Nebraska. In addition, Northeast has expanded to the international level and is now formally partnered with North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe, England, Middlesex University in London, England, and Aarhus Business College in Aarhus, Denmark. Northeast is currently working on other potential partners in Denmark, China and Canada. These partnerships are specifically designed to broaden students' global awareness and/or to increase transfer opportunities beyond Northeast.

In this edition of Connections, you will also find featured articles on a prestigious national award being conferred on the outstanding Northeast Board of Governors, an article on an alumnus, and special recognition of our students and faculty.

Northeast Community College continues to move forward at the 'speed of light!' I personally believe that this is one of the top five rural community colleges in the nation and we are presently working on multiple initiatives that will take Northeast to its next stage of development. Among the exciting new projects coming later this year are the opening of two new facilities – the Applied Technology building on the Norfolk campus and the new extended campus facility in O'Neill.

All being said, it is the exceptional board members, employees, alumni, donors, friends, and constituents who enable Northeast to be the 'difference maker.' So, thank you for your support and engagement to make Northeast the finest rural community college in the nation!



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.

Northeast Community College
801 East Benjamin Avenue
P.O. Box 469
Norfolk, NE 68702-0469

Phone: (402) 371-2020 or
(800) 348-9033
Fax: (402) 844-7400
Website: northeast.edu
Email: foundation@northeast.edu

Northeast Named Finalist for Prestigious Award

Dr. Michael Chipps has worked with a number of boards in his three decades in the Nebraska Community College system. But he said the competence of the board he works with now as president of Northeast Community College is like no other.

"I have the utmost pleasure of working for a highly visionary, engaged and motivated Board that deeply understands what it means to govern. The dedication, commitment, wisdom, and passion of the Northeast Community College Board are second to none."

Chipps' recognition of the Northeast Board of Governors comes as the College has earned a prestigious honor through the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Northeast Community College was one of four finalists among the nation's community colleges for the AACC's 2015 Exemplary CEO/Board of Trustees Award of Excellence. The award recognizes a community college whose CEO/Board of Trustees collaboration and working relationship are exemplary in promoting effectiveness in community college governance.

Prior to becoming president at Northeast, Chipps said the Board of Governors outlined its vision of taking the College to the next level of development.

"We are living out that vision on a daily basis through the collective effort of the board, our senior leadership team, faculty, and staff. Our Board has taken thoughtful steps forward to prepare the College for the 21st century needs of rural America and has provided me with the direction and support necessary to assure their vision is achieved. This board understands governance and bestows the president with the proper authority to lead and accomplish their goals."

"It is truly an honor to be considered for this prestigious award," said Gene Willers, of Pilger, Board chair. "President Chipps and his staff work tirelessly to establish initiatives that address the workforce needs of the College's entire 20-county service area. He and his team regularly engage us as a board as we continue our focus on the mission of serving students and the region through retreats and initiatives that foster community college completion through effective governance. We extend our thanks to the American Association of Community Colleges for this recognition."

John W. Davies, of Pilger, who served as board chair in 2014, said the Board has engaged in self-reflection and sought opportunities in recent years to improve its practices and provide more support for the leadership of the College.

"The board strongly believed in the need to reflect on where the College was and the direction it needed to go to more effectively address student success. Their review and reshaping of the College involved working with organizations who guided us on excellent board and presidential relationships, board roles and responsibilities, policy development and goal identification," Davies said. "This process has helped the Northeast Board identify goals that directly align with institutional priorities."

Other members of the Board include Steven Anderson, of Concord; Arlan Kuehn, of South Sioux City; Keith Harvey of Creighton; Dr. Terry Nelson, of West Point; Dr. Don Oelsigle, of Tilden; Dirk Petersen, of Norfolk; Shirley Petsche, of Petersburg; Larry Poessnecker, of Atkinson, and Julie Robinson, of Norfolk.

This is the second time in as many years that Northeast has been named a finalist for an award presented by the AACC at the national level. The College was named a finalist in 2013 for the American Association of Community Colleges Awards of Excellence in the Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership category for its collaborative work with the Nucor Detailing Center in Norfolk. ■



Partnerships, Near and Far

Northeast collaborates with other higher education institutions to provide additional global awareness and learning



Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich and Dr. Michael Chipps during the MOU signing for Concordia University.

Northeast Community College is no stranger to working with others. In the past two years alone, the College has established partnerships with four institutions of higher learning in the United States, England and Denmark.

Northeast holds the philosophy that effective partnerships are best as an opportunity for the College to more effectively meet the needs of its constituencies. The University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District are examples of these great partnerships.

One of Northeast's longest serving partners is Wayne State College, at both the Norfolk and South Sioux City campuses. While the partnership has been in existence for decades, the two institutions recently observed the tenth anniversary of its largest collaboration, the College Center in South Sioux City.

Over the past decade, the College Center has been instrumental in providing multiple opportunities for people in and beyond the service area to take Northeast and Wayne State courses and programs at this one location.

"This concept was truly visionary for its time. I commend the Northeast and Wayne State boards and administration for creating this partnership which allows for a seamless transfer for our students to attend Wayne State without having to travel far from home," said Dr. Michael Chipps, president of Northeast. "After a decade of service with this partnership, together we remain fully committed to meeting the needs of educating our constituents in the Siouxland region."

Two of Northeast's newest educational partners also call Nebraska home.

In early 2014, Chipps and the president of Bellevue University, Dr. Mary Hawkins, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow Northeast Nebraska residents the opportunity to take additional college level courses through the institutions. The MOU provides Bellevue with formal opportunities to offer upper level undergraduate and graduate level courses and programs for constituents in the Northeast Community College service area with a primary focus on the non-traditional working adult.

"Creating opportunities for transfer to four-year institutions is part of the role and mission of a

community college," said John Blaylock, vice president of educational services at Northeast. "It makes sense to partner with an institution like Bellevue, which has reached out to the adult market."

In November, Chipps joined the Reverend Dr. Brian Friedrich, president of Concordia University-Nebraska, to sign a MOU solidifying the financial and educational commitments of another new partnership.

Through this agreement, graduates of Northeast who have earned an associate's degree through Northeast and who choose to enroll full-time at Concordia will be awarded no less than \$12,000 annually in institutional aid as they pursue their bachelor's degree. In addition, these students may receive a New Horizons Scholarship of \$2,000 that stacks on top of all other Concordia grants and academic or performance scholarships.

"Many students desire a private, faith-based, liberal arts education but do not place it on their radar largely due to affordability," said Chipps. "These are usually very good academic students who, largely due to life situations, end up selecting a lesser cost institution. In collaboration with Northeast Community College, Concordia has created an exciting and affordable way for these students to help make their hopes and aspirations a reality."

Northeast Community College is also paving the way for its students and faculty to collaborate with educational partners overseas such as North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe, England, and Aarhus Business College in Aarhus, Denmark.

Students, faculty and staff from Northeast and North Lindsey have participated in numerous exchanges since the partnership was formed. The most recent educational mission was a trip to England by Dave Beaudette, auto body technology faculty member, and five of his students. Northeast



Dr. Chipps and Dr. Mary Hawkins of Bellevue University sign a MOU making Bellevue an on-campus partner.

hosted the third class of North Lindsey applied technology students and faculty this spring.

Three Northeast faculty members, Brian Anderson, broadcasting, Cara Hoehne, business, and Kate Trindle, geography/history, had a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Denmark to teach for two weeks at Aarhus Business College. Since the onset of the agreement in 2013, Aarhus has also sent faculty members and students to Northeast to teach and learn.

Northeast's international partnerships correspond with one of the College's eight institutional

priorities -- Global Educational Opportunities.

"Northeast's commitment to these opportunities for our students should be commended. Whether a student travels abroad with Northeast, has exchange students in their classroom or has an instructor who travels abroad, global and cultural understanding will be enhanced," Hoehne said. "We can talk about how the world is getting smaller in our classrooms all we want, but if we can bring in real life experiences, people, and examples, students will truly understand just how important global and cultural understanding can be."

Chippis stated, "We continually look to collaborate with entities who are engaged in preparing a globally competitive workforce, which increases the success of Northeast's 21st century students and advances the region we serve. We seek out these partnerships to share ideas, share resources and share in the success of our students. It provides our faculty and students with a much broader perspective, which translates to being more globally competitive and much more marketable to business and industry both near and far." ■



Main: While visiting England, students had the chance to visit historical landmarks. The major art installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London, marked one-hundred years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in World War I. Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower's famous moat between July 17 - November 11, 2014. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war. (Photo courtesy of Dave Beaudette)

Top: Northeast instructors Kate Trindle, Cara Hoehne, and Brian Anderson during their visit to Aarhus Business College in Denmark.

Middle: A group of Northeast students visit historical landmarks during the first trip to North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe, England in 2013.

Bottom: Auto Body Repair Technology students walk across the famous crosswalk in London that is featured on the Beatles "Abbey Road" album cover.

Alumni Spotlight

Andy Stebbing

Andy grew up in Norfolk with a strong family. He has six brothers and sisters. His parents have been married for 57 years, own Stebbing Engineering and still live in Norfolk. Andy graduated from Norfolk High School, Northeast Community College and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

After graduating from Northeast, Andy worked as an officer with the Norfolk Police Division. Later, he took a leave of absence to finish his degree. After completing his degree, he moved to Lincoln, where he worked as a deputy in the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and moved up the ranks to sergeant.

Andy still lives in Lincoln where he serves as Lancaster County Treasurer. Something unique about Andy...he was a candidate in the May 2015 Lincoln mayoral election.

Major: Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology

Graduation Year: 1986

Family: Single dad with two sons, Chase, 15 and Jesse, 9.



What advice do you have for other Northeast Community College students? Stay in college and continue to higher levels.

Pictured left: Andy Stebbing (center) with his two sons Chase (L) and Jesse (R).

Why did you choose Northeast Community College? I choose Northeast because of their reputation for excellence...and they have great teachers! Northeast was a great local college with small class sizes and I got to know the instructors. They also offered classes in various subjects that easily transferred to other colleges.

What is your favorite memory of Northeast Community College? Long conversations with instructors Mike Stoley and Patti Gubbels.

How would you describe your experience as a student at Northeast Community College? To sum it up...perfect. I enjoyed every aspect of college while attending Northeast.

What is the most enjoyable part of your job? Interacting with thousands of people each year.

What is your biggest personal or professional accomplishment? I would say leaving the Sheriff's Office as a sergeant and winning the Lancaster County Treasurer's Office position. Once there, I transformed it into a world class office while saving over one million dollars in four years. I have done this by making the office more efficient and user friendly.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Researching Nebraska history, looking for ancient stone tools and artifacts and hiking/ exploring Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas and South Dakota areas. I also enjoy coaching youth sports as this is a way to build confidence in young athletes.

What is the most significant thing you learned at Northeast Community College? Relationships matter. The connections you make early on in life will stay with you. While attending Northeast, I developed near and dear friends which have turned into lifetime friends.

In Memory of Douglas "Doug" Richard Garwood



On February 8, 2015, Doug Garwood, a valued member of the Northeast Community College Foundation Board of Directors passed away. He will be remembered most for his kindness, his entrepreneurial spirit and for the way he always gave back to his community. He was born in Walthill, NE, where he attended Walthill High School and then the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He married Betty Graham on May 20, 1962. Doug and Betty have one son (Scott) and one daughter (Pamela), six grandsons and three great-granddaughters.

In 1999, he established Garwood Enterprises, Inc. with his son. Doug wanted to diversify his agriculture business which included Cardinal Farms Greenhouse and Cardinal Farms Aquaculture, the first of its kind in Nebraska.

In 2013, Doug was named the Champion of Small Business by the Nebraska Business Development Center and received the Nebraska Small Business Person of the Year Award.

Doug was very involved with his community. In addition to serving on the Foundation Board and working hard to establish the College Center, he also served as chair and interim president of the South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, was a member of Dakota County Economic Development, and Boys & Girls Home and Family Services Boards. He was also a member of numerous service organizations and clubs in the area.

The Alumni Office is compiling names of successful alumni to showcase in our newsletter. To be considered for feature in the next *Alumni Spotlight*, please submit your information to the Northeast Alumni Office by emailing alumni@northeast.edu.

If you are not receiving the Connections Newsletter, or if you've moved or changed your name recently, please visit our website, www.northeast.edu/alumni and submit the alumni update form.

What's New At Northeast

Athletics

Buoyed by the success of its athletic programs, Northeast Community College is adding two new programs to its growing roster of sports. Women's softball and men's soccer will begin in Fall 2015. Iris Woodhead will coach softball while Chad Miller will lead the soccer team. The move comes two years after Northeast reinstated women's volleyball and men's golf following the discontinuation of the two sports a decade earlier. Northeast also sports men's and women's basketball programs. "We really look at this as a great recruiting opportunity," said Dr. Karen Severson, vice president of student services. "There are so many wonderful student-athletes who currently live in our 20-county service area or in the region and we hope we can tap into that resource to build these teams with our own homegrown athletes." ■

Black Hills Energy Gift

Northeast Community College is the recipient of a significant donation by the corporation that provides natural gas to much of the College's 20-county-service area. Black Hills Energy representatives presented College officials with a \$50,000 gift this spring to be used to purchase equipment in Northeast's new Applied Technology building. "Northeast Community College is an integral part of the Black Hills Energy service territory," said Jeff Sylvester, vice president

of Nebraska gas operations. "We currently have eight Northeast graduates in the Black Hills Energy workforce in the Norfolk area alone, providing us talent and an ongoing relationship with the College. We believe that helping to provide equipment will support the energy industry and employees of the future."

Scholarship Luncheon

Hundreds of students at Northeast Community College have seen the generosity of others. Scholarship recipients and donors were honored during the annual Northeast Scholarship Luncheon on April 2, which recognized the sponsors for helping Northeast students succeed with their education. This year, seventy-six percent, or 2,083 of the 2,726 degree seeking students at Northeast, received financial aid. For 2014-2015, 334 scholarship awards were made in the amount of \$225,945 with an average award of \$676. The number of scholarships Northeast awards, however, has not kept up with the needs of the number of scholarship applications, which have doubled. ■



Above: Dr. Michael Chipps, president of Northeast Community College, visits with Scholarship Luncheon attendees.

Instructor Receives Cattleman's Grant

Two educational organizations have recognized Mike Roeber, Northeast Community College agriculture/livestock judging instructor, for outstanding contributions in and out of the classroom.

The Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska (ACTEN) and Nebraska Agriculture Educators Association (NAEA) honored Roeber during the Nebraska Career Education Conference. He was selected as the ACTEN's Outstanding Postsecondary Teacher. Roeber was also recognized at the NAEA Conference for 25 years of teaching agriculture education courses. ■



Roeber

Theatre Student Honored

A Northeast Community College student was recognized for his work on a College theatrical production at a regional theatre festival. Tanner Schwedhelm, of Winside, received a "Commendation for Achievement in Sound Design" at the Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Minneapolis. Schwedhelm, a digital cinema major, was acknowledged for his work on the Northeast Players production of "On Ego," by Mick Gordon and Paul Brooks.



Schwedhelm



Pictured (from left) are Black Hills Energy representatives - Scott Zaruba, operations manager for Northeast Nebraska, Jeff Sylvester, vice president of Nebraska gas operations, and Northeast Community College representatives - Gene Willers, of Pilger, chairperson of the Board of Governors, Dr. Michel Chipps, president, and John Blaylock, vice president of educational services.

Main Campus
801 East Benjamin Avenue
P.O. Box 469
Norfolk, Nebraska 68702

northeast.edu
(800) 348-9033

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 Christine Tudor at (402) 844-7658 or christinet@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."



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