

# Northeast Community College Foundation Newsletter

WINTER 2019

**Northeast**  
community college  
FOUNDATION





# Northeast Community College Board of Governors

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Donovan Ellis, Pierce

## **District II**

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Carol Sibbel, O'Neill

## **District III**

Steven M. Anderson, Chairperson, Concord  
Arlan Kuehn, Vice Chairperson, South Sioux City

## **District IV**

Gene L. Willers, Pilger  
Dr. Terry Nelson, West Point

## **District V**

Julie Robinson, Secretary, Norfolk  
Dirk Petersen, Norfolk

## **At Large**

Jeffrey M. Scherer, Beemer

# Foundation Board Members

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William Tielke, Atkinson - Vice President

Greta Roth, Wisner - Secretary

Roy Miller, Lyons - Treasurer

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Jeff Scherer, Beemer

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Kendra Barnes, Norfolk

Dr. Robert Cox, Norfolk

Dan Garner, Osmond

E. Clark Gotschall, Atkinson

Scott Gray, Norfolk

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Matt Hoelsing, Norfolk

Don Holloway, Norfolk

Doug Johnson, Pierce

Larry Poessnecker, Atkinson

Jeanne Reigle, Madison

Pat Slaughter, South Sioux City

Wayne Studebaker, Norfolk

Dr. G. Tom Surber, Norfolk

# A Message from the Co-Interim Presidents

Dear Friends,

It has certainly been another amazing year at Northeast Community College! With student success and educational access at the forefront of our mission, the College continues to be a shining example of what a dedicated workforce development partner brings to the region.

This is demonstrated in a couple of ways. One, is the 2018 Northeast Graduate Report which confirmed that 99-percent of last year's graduates either found jobs or continued their education. Another shining example is commencement where over 900 students, who completed their studies at Northeast, celebrated their success at a ceremony in May.

As supporters of the Northeast Foundation, we regularly witness how your support has allowed our students the opportunity to succeed and pursue higher education degrees. We constantly hear the remarkable stories of Northeast students who aspire to attend college, but many times, through no fault of their own, they run into obstacles in achieving their dreams. And that is where you come in through your generous support through our scholarship programs.

As all of this work continues, it comes during a time of change. Following the retirement of Dr. Michael Chipps as president this spring, we were appointed to serve as co-interim presidents until the Board of Governors selected a new president. We are pleased to announce that we will welcome Dr. Leah Barrett, vice president for student affairs at the Northern Wyoming Community College District, as Northeast's ninth president in January.

We are confident she will be an excellent president and encourage you to meet with her and show her the support you have displayed toward us. Northeast will be in good hands and will continue to serve as an excellent model of a quality community college with outstanding faculty, staff and students!

Thank you for being a  
vital part of the Northeast  
community!

Mary Honke and Steve Schram  
Co-Interim Presidents



# Scholarships:

## 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.

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.



## Academic Year

2018-2019

# 511

Total Scholarship  
Awards

# \$812

Average Scholarship  
Award

# \$415,259

in Scholarship  
Awards

## Newly Established Scholarships (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

Gene Haas Scholarship

John & Vickie Sehi Accounting Scholarship

John & Vickie Sehi Annual Accounting Scholarship

Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. Scholarship

Marathon Press Malawi Scholarship

Marvin D. Hall Physical Therapist Assistant Memorial Scholarship

Nicholas Hanes McIntosh Memorial Scholarship

Norfolk Schools in Malawi Scholarship

Sharon J. Grunke Memorial Malawi Nursing Scholarship

We Can Do It! Scholarship

William J. Avery Agriculture Memorial Scholarship

William J. Avery Utility Line Memorial Scholarship

William J. Avery Women's Basketball Memorial Scholarship

# Achievement Awards

*Honoring Northeast alumni and friends who have made outstanding contributions to the College, who have been successful in their profession, and those who have chosen to give back and support their local communities.*

## ALUMNI HALL OF SUCCESS

*Awarded to former students who have achieved significant success in their profession, exhibited exemplary citizenship qualities, or made significant contributions to their community.*

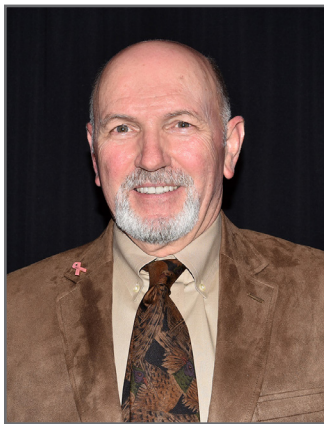
## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

*Presented to individuals who have demonstrated active service to higher education and who have played a significant role in the development of Northeast Community College.*

## NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

*Award is presented by the Nebraska Community College Association to one distinguished graduate of each of the community college areas. Recipients have previously been awarded the Northeast Alumni Hall of Success Award.*

## Northeast Alumni Hall of Success



**David Currie**

David Currie graduated from Northeastern Nebraska College, a predecessor institution to Northeast Community College in 1973 with a liberal arts degree. He was in the software business all his life in a variety of functions: software implementation and development, customer service, services marketing and management. The last 20 years, he was Project Manager of Systems Integration Projects at Unisys Corporation.

Currie and his wife, Mary, reside in Alpharetta, Georgia and are parents to three sons, Shane, Devon and Mason. Unfortunately, Devon succumbed to bone cancer at the age of 20. Due to the impact of losing their son, the Curries spend quite a bit of time promoting the awareness of childhood cancer and the organizations that support cancer research, stem cell transplants and financial support for families in the challenging journey to survive this horrendous disease.

Through activities and classroom work in college, Currie proved to himself that he could achieve his goals through hard work and patience - and do things he never thought he would do.

In citing his fondest memories at "Northeastern," he remembered the "great instructors and the incredible students" that he encountered. He said, "They encouraged me in many ways I did not think possible. Whether it was classes, extracurricular college activities or personal time, I met some great people and developed some great friendships." ■



**Nick Kasik**

Nick Kasik graduated from Northeast Community College in 1990 with a degree in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. He has over 25 years of construction industry experience and is presently employed as a Senior Operations Manager at RK Mechanical in Denver. Kasik resides in Bennett, Colorado with his wife, Nicole.

From being part of the initial Makita Power Tools team that kicked off cordless tool technology to serving on teams for many large national and international companies, leading notable Department of Defense projects, Kasik's professional experience has been adventurous.

In addition, he worked on landmarks such as Caesars Palace, MGM Grand, The Mirage, City Center, Bellagio, the historic Tropicana resort, and many other hotels on the Las Vegas Strip. He is also the founder and national executive director of the National Association of Construction Professionals, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to construction workforce development.

Kasik said the greatest memory of Northeast Community College for him was the feeling of community. He said there was a sense of belonging, as the school was small enough to have a personal touch with every student.

He said, "Northeast Community College opened a world of opportunities that I otherwise would have never been exposed to. ... It's not even the achievement or the challenge of new things that drives me most. It is the adventure that challenges inherently bring to your life that really drives you." ■



## Distinguished Service



**Mary Lauritzen**

Mary Lauritzen, West Point, has been a vocal advocate of Northeast Community College, in particular, with its work in east central Nebraska through its extended campus in her hometown.

Lauritzen is a retired clinic manager of the Family Vision Center, P.C. of West Point. She is a former national president of the American Foundation for Vision Awareness, former board member of the Auxiliary to the American Optometric Association, has served as president of the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision, and is the at large member of the board of the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

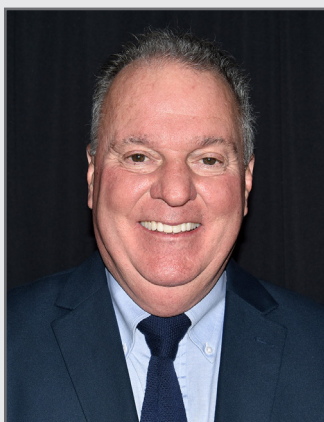
Lauritzen said the work of Northeast Community College in West Point has had an incredible impact on the region. She said as an area employer, extended campus advisory board member and a member of the community, she has witnessed Northeast's influence from a variety of perspectives.

She also credited the West Point Extended Campus for providing education to Cuming County's shifting workforce demands, identifying and responding to the cultural interests of the community and for increasing the area's college attendance rate.

Lauritzen championed the most recent work in West Point – the establishment of the Donald E. Nielsen Career and Technical Education Center.

Lauritzen and her husband, Dr. Dean Lauritzen, have two sons, Eric and Aaron. Eric resides in Los Angeles and Aaron and his wife, Sarah, live in West Point. ■

## Nebraska Community College Association Distinguished Alumni



**Larry Arens**

Larry Arens, Norfolk, graduated from Northeast Technical Community College in 1980 with a degree in Electrical. His 39-year career with the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) began shortly after graduation.

Arens began his work with NPPD as a transmission lineman in York. He later transferred to Osceola as a retail lineman, followed by a move to Oshkosh as a serviceman.

From there, Arens progressed up the management chain - promoted to local manager III in Dodge, local manager II in Exeter, and local manager I in Seward. He then advanced to his current position as account manager in Norfolk.

As an account manager, Arens serves as the liaison between NPPD and its wholesale and retail customers working with other power districts and municipal officials, such as mayors and city administrators. Some of his duties include contracts, rates, operational assistance, and providing support for other business departments.

Arens has provided his expertise to the College by serving on the Utility Line program's advisory committee for a number of years.

Arens said, "I am truly blessed to have had the training and support from both Northeast and NPPD."

During his time at the college, Arens said he valued how welcoming everyone was and how he had the opportunity to make new lifelong friends.

He said future Northeast students should "enjoy all that Northeast has to offer. They are on the leading edge of technology and your future is unlimited."

Away from NPPD, Arens is a member of the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, National Rifle Association, and a past member of the Norfolk Rotary Club. He and his family enjoy traveling, golf, hunting, and fishing.

Arens and his wife, Anne, have three children, Jordan, Tyler, and Dillon. Jordan and his wife, Mandy, (Omaha) have three children, Sam, Jackson and McKenzie. Tyler and his wife, Sarah, (Kansas City) and Dillon lives in Lincoln. ■

## 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) 844-7658 or via email [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu).

You may also visit the website to complete an application:  
<http://www.northeast.edu/Achievement-Awards/>

# Planned Giving

## Cultivate Your Legacy

### Agriculture and Water Center of Excellence Nexus Campaign

Northeast Community College has been recognized as a top ten community college in the nation by the Aspen Institute. Northeast's agriculture program is the 8th largest two-year degree granting program in the United States and is seen as a leader nationally. These achievements were not reached by coincidence. Together, our students, faculty, staff, and members of our college family built this outstanding institution through years of dedication and a commitment to student success. Each student that passes through Northeast's halls builds on our shared legacy.

Northeast's Nexus Campaign offers a chance for you, your family, or your business to be an integral part of that legacy for years to come. By making a gift of \$50,000 or more, you can receive naming rights for classrooms, commons spaces, buildings, and even the Agriculture and Water Center of Excellence itself. What better way to honor your family name, memorialize a loved one, or raise visibility for your business than by helping generations of future agriculture producers, technicians, and professionals receive the education they need to help them find success.

You can reserve your naming opportunity\* by making a gift or pledge to the Nexus Campaign today. Types of non-cash gifts accepted for the campaign include:

- Bequests
- Life insurance policies
- Charitable Annuities
- IRA Mandatory Distributions
- Gifts of grain, livestock, or other commodity

You can learn more about the campaign at [agwaternexus.com](http://agwaternexus.com). To begin the conversation about your planned or estate gift, contact the Foundation office at (402) 844-7654 or [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu).

**\* Naming rights for revocable gifts such as bequests and life insurance occur upon realization, while irrevocable gifts such as charitable gift annuities can occur immediately.**



## Founders Society

The Founders Society is comprised of those individuals who have chosen to include Northeast in their estate plan with a deferred gift for the ultimate benefit of the College and its students.

Anonymous (2)  
John & Diana Blaylock  
Dr. Michael & Susan Chipps  
Vern Fairchild & the late Lucille Fairchild  
Scott & Angela Gray  
Dr. Wade & Kristine Herley  
The late Robert & Joan Hodgson  
Daniel & Dr. Tracy Kruse  
Dave & Ann Lund  
Ed & Corinne Morris

The late Norman Ochsner  
Dirk & Jan Petersen  
Mark & Beth Pfeil  
Brian & Rose Ann Rogers  
Jeff & Lori Scherer  
Brian & Nicole Sedlacek  
John & Vickie Sehi  
Dr. G. Tom & Susan Surber  
Frank & Chris Tudor  
Glennice & the late John C. Watson



# Chuck Pohlman's Legacy

Support the Agriculture & Water Center of Excellence

## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In 1973, Chuck M. Pohlman started the agriculture program at Northeast with 3 students. Today, there are nearly 350 students and the agriculture program now features 12 programs of study with 14 faculty members.

In the 1990s, Chuck and Northeast faculty members began discussing the need for an ag complex. In addition to the ag complex, they had a dream to move the farm out to the site. They conducted a fundraiser and managed to get enough funds raised to complete the first facility, the arena, back in 2004.

## FINISH CHUCK M. POHLMAN'S DREAM

By replacing the old College Farm and bringing all livestock and large equipment to one site, we can ensure a high quality, safe and efficient environment and replace the 1920s era College Farm.

## NEXUS CAMPAIGN

The goal of the campaign is to relocate the College Farm beyond the tree line north of the Chuck M. Pohlman Agriculture Complex. Plans include a veterinary technology building, large animal handling facility and structures to support the farm and livestock operations. This \$23 million project is needed to ensure we have a modern farm to educate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.



## CONTINUE THE LEGACY

Chuck M. Pohlman left a legacy at Northeast and a lasting impression on your life. Now is your chance to **continue this movement and impact the lives of thousands** of future fellow Northeast agriculture students.

We ask you to **Invest Today, and Grow Tomorrow** with a gift of \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or another amount that is meaningful to you. Your donation is an important investment in the future of agriculture and the opportunities that are available to future students!

**Thank you for considering a gift to help us finish Chuck's dream!**

**Visit [agwater nexus.com/Donate](http://agwater nexus.com/Donate) to give today!**

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

[northeast.edu](http://northeast.edu)  
(800) 348-9033

## Agriculture & Water Center of Excellence A Campaign Students Believe In

*“Having new facilities and updated technology in the facilities would really make this place grow exponentially. The sky is honestly the limit. We have great students. We have great faculty. If we just had great facilities, things would be very good for many years to come.”*

**Justin Mensik**

**Morse Bluff, Nebraska**

**Agribusiness | Diversified Agriculture | Natural Resources**



## Invest Today. Grow Tomorrow.

Visit [agwaternex.com/Donate](http://agwaternex.com/Donate) to support the  
Agriculture & Water Center of Excellence