

# Northeast Community College Foundation

Spring 2020

Northeast  
community college  
FOUNDATION



# Nexus Campaign Update

For the past two years, Northeast Community College has been engaged in a capital campaign to raise funds to improve our agriculture facilities on campus.

It is incredible what a different world we are living in now, as compared to when we first began discussing this project with you, our volunteers, project supporters, and agriculture partners. We recognize that you, like our students, faculty and staff, have likely been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that each of you are staying safe and remain healthy in light of these rapidly changing circumstances.

We are proud of the work that we've accomplished together. To date, we have secured \$22.5 million in total to support agriculture, including \$19.9 million in resources for Phase 1 construction. In addition, the Northeast Foundation has also raised \$1.3 million for scholarships and \$1.3 million for an ongoing maintenance fund once the facilities are built.

While the initial goal for the first phase of construction was more than \$23 million, we are pleased to share that the Northeast Board of Governors has approved a bid package that came in under budget! The Northeast Board of Governors approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price for Phase 1 construction of the agriculture facilities at \$19,748,049, which includes the alternates that were bid as part of the project. This, along with equipment, furnishings, and technology, set the total project cost at \$22.3 million.

Anticipating continued fundraising success, the College has begun dirt work and other necessary tasks to prepare the building site for construction. We still, however, need to raise the remaining \$2.4 million necessary to fund the equipment and technology that is part of the Phase I project, even as the College moves forward with building plans.

Initially, as many of you know, we had planned to host a ground breaking event this spring. Unfortunately, due to our

current COVID-19 situation, we have had to postpone that event. We hope to host that event following the easing of social distancing guidelines.

Thank you for your involvement in the Nexus campaign and being a champion of the much needed agricultural facilities. We will continue to share updates as they become available. ■

## nexus

Investing in a Sustainable Future

Northeast Community College

The first phase of construction began this past month. It consists of a new Veterinary Technology facility directly to the west of the Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex and new College farm and feedlot operations directly to the north.

## Invest Today. Grow Tomorrow.



Veterinary Technology Building



Feedlot Operations Building



# Virtual Commencement Ceremony

Livestream Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m.



Leah Barrett, president of Northeast Community College, speaks during the College's virtual commencement ceremony. Northeast's 47th commencement is being held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic..

The 47th annual Commencement Ceremony at Northeast Community College is going to look much different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Leah Barrett, president, said the Spring 2020 commencement will still be held on Saturday, May 16, but it will be broadcast virtually.

"Northeast, like other colleges in the United States, must change its plans for its 2020 Commencement Ceremony. It must look much different to ensure the health and safety of our graduates and their families and to abide by social distancing expectations during the pandemic," she said.

The virtual commencement ceremony will feature speakers representing the Board of Governors, faculty and students, followed by recognition of graduates. Instead of walking across the stage as is customarily done during such events, graduates were encouraged to submit photos of themselves so they may be

displayed when their names are read during the virtual ceremony.

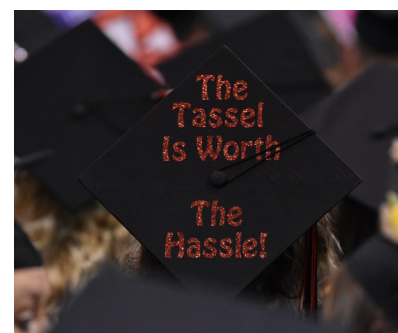
In addition, Barrett said Northeast would still like to acknowledge this year's graduates in person when the time of social distancing is lifted.

"You are welcome to walk at any future Northeast Community College Commencement Ceremony and be recognized - this could be in 2021, or when your sibling graduates, or when your children graduate from Northeast. This is lifelong promise from us. We want you to experience this special moment!"

The virtual ceremony, which will recognize graduates from summer and fall 2019 and spring 2020, will air on Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m., the same date and time as to when the original event was to be held in the Cox Activities Center on the Northeast campus in

Norfolk. It will air on Northeast's television channel KHWK – cable channel 20, and livestreamed at <https://team1sports.com/northeastcc/>. After that date, the ceremony will be available on demand on the Northeast YouTube Channel.

"We are so proud of our graduates," Barrett said. Although we will all miss the honor of watching them walk across the stage on May 16, our virtual ceremony will provide them and their families an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments." ■



# Approach to COVID-19

Northeast Community College Adjusts To New Normal To COVID-19 Pandemic

WE'RE ALL IN THIS  
**TOGETHER**  
#HAWKOUTCOVID



The 2020 spring semester at Northeast Community will be one that many people will not soon forget. As the COVID-19 pandemic enveloped the world, Northeast Community College was among higher education institutions that adjusted its learning platforms to accommodate the education of its students.

Most of the 126 full-time faculty and several part-time instructors taught remotely from off-campus, while several others instructed students from their offices on-campus. With the goal of keeping social distancing intact, faculty members made adjustments to fit their needs.

Michele Gill, interim vice president of educational services, said it demonstrates the spirit of the Northeast faculty.

“This truly showcases the innovation our instructors have provided to their students as they continue to convert their course content to online delivery so that quality instruction continues to be their top priority. Also, instructors have been engaging with their students on a more personal level as a

group and have incorporated the important element of human interaction in the learning process.”

In mid-May, Northeast announced plans to operate with a limited number of employees and students through the summer and look at additional measures for the fall semester. “We need to return to a more personal business approach based on a philosophy of academic excellence and the safety of our faculty, staff and students,” said Leah Barrett, president.

The Northeast COVID-19 Recovery Team has been working on designing a business continuity plan that includes facility adjustments and guidelines, practices and procedures to ensure that the College functions effectively and safely.

Under the new business continuity plan, there will be public access to a limited number of facilities beginning in June. Instruction over the summer will mainly occur in a remote format, with some students on campus in hands-on classes

with social distancing in place. By June 1, academic departments will have finalized their course plans for the fall semester so that new students will know the instructional delivery format when they register for classes.

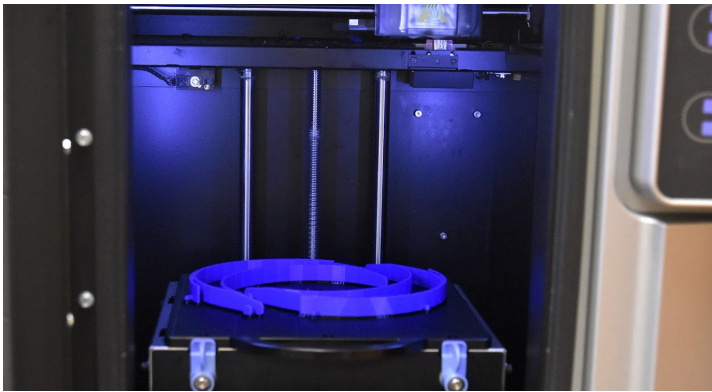
Also, in June, Northeast Community College will bring a limited number of employees back to its campuses in a staggered or staged approach incorporating a combination of work from home and work in College offices. Barrett said this method of work will likely be in place as the threat of COVID-19 persists, which could be for several weeks, most of the summer, and even into the fall.

“What we look like on June 21 may be very different than September 1, but academic excellence and the safety and the health of our College community will be at the forefront of opening and in the management of facilities and the number of employees working on our campuses,” she said. “However, I am confident our business continuity plan approach to reopening can bring some normalcy back into our lives.” ■



# We're All In This Together

## Northeast Steps Up To Produce Face Shields For Area Healthcare Providers



A 3D printer at Northeast Community College creates visors to be used on transparent face shields for area healthcare workers. Lynnette Frey, drafting instructor at Northeast, is producing the visor pieces that get attached to transparent plastic film and have been provided to the healthcare providers across Northeast's 20-county service area. A similar effort is underway by Biology Instructor Amanda Thomason at Northeast's extended campus in South Sioux City. Those 3D printed PPE are being provided to a Sioux City, IA, hospital. ■

*Save  
the  
Date*

May 19, 2020

NORFOLK AREA

**BIG** *give*

Norfolk Area Big Give is a 24-hour period of giving when Norfolk area supporters are invited to give back to their favorite local charities and educate themselves on other non-profits in our community.

The goal of this community-wide giving event is to match Norfolk area supporters' passions and generosity with local nonprofit organizations already doing great work. Though community members are aware of the efforts of several non-profits in the area, there is much work that goes unnoticed.

**NORFOLKAREABIGGIVE.ORG**