

A photograph of two men in a workshop. The man on the left is seen in profile, wearing a black baseball cap, safety glasses, and a blue surgical mask. He is wearing a blue jacket with a yellow patch. The man on the right is facing forward, wearing a cap with an American flag pattern, safety glasses, and a grey cloth mask covering his nose and mouth. He is wearing a tan work shirt with "Northeast community" printed on it and yellow work gloves. He is holding a thin metal rod. The background is a workshop with various tools and equipment.

Northeast  
community college  
FOUNDATION

# Northeast Community College Foundation

Winter 2020



# Northeast Community College Board of Governors

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# A Message from President Barrett

Greetings,

When COVID-19 hit with such a vengeance this past March, our immediate focus was on the needs of our students and the health and safety of our college community. We persevered and then set our sights on Fall 2020.

Our faculty and staff responded with tenacity and grace. They participated in training sessions and revised their course structure and work to be prepared for the rollercoaster of the pandemic. Their efforts paid off with this semester's enrollment holding steady despite everything our students and their families have had to face. The Coronavirus pandemic has certainly made for a challenging year, but there is still much to commemorate at Northeast.

In September, we gathered for a ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction of the first buildings at the new Acklie Family College Farm, located near the Chuck M. Pohlman Agriculture Complex in Norfolk. They will be an innovative collection of facilities that are, in themselves, tools of the trade and instill a pride among our students as they prepare to enter the workforce and - for many - return to their hometowns and farms.

This fall, we celebrated the success of two alumni and two retirees of the College for outstanding achievement. We are proud of the collective work of our alumni, Jarod Hendricks and Dr. Jeremy Young, and our friends, Janelle Gerharter and Jerry Holmberg. They each have played a role in establishing our reputation and in meeting our mission; their success is reflected in our success as a college. Each exemplifies characteristics that are valued here at Northeast - and we are proud to call them our own.

There is another group of people we must recognize for outstanding contributions to Northeast Community College – YOU! Financial assistance from our supporters helps our students stay on track to graduate and become productive citizens in our communities across the 20-county service area. Your generous philanthropy serves as an investment to ensure their career dreams can come true. The partnership with our charitable benefactors is so invaluable and is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your continued support!

Leah A. Barrett  
President



# Scholarships: Essential for Student Success

There are many ways to make a scholarship gift—and every amount makes a difference. You can donate to an existing scholarship or create a new named scholarship. Scholarships provide important financial support for students in need. By donating to a scholarship, you can make attending college possible for many who may otherwise never attend.

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Annual scholarships are awarded to students on a yearly basis.

A minimum amount is required to establish a scholarship in your name. Contact the Northeast Community College Foundation to learn more.

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Endowed scholarships create a permanent fund in which contributions are invested to ensure the scholarship retains its value in perpetuity. Scholarships are awarded from the interest accrued while the principal is never touched.

A minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish an endowed scholarship, which will generate one \$1,000 scholarship annually. Incorporating endowed scholarships into estate planning is a significant way to help students achieve their dreams and leave a legacy.

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or contributing to an existing scholarship fund, please call 402-844-7240 or email [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu). Foundation staff will work directly with you to structure your scholarship agreement to include eligibility criteria that you would like for your fund. ■

Academic Year  
2019-2020

489  
Total Scholarship  
Awards

\$846  
Average Scholarship  
Award

\$413,671  
in Scholarship  
Awards

## Newly Established Scholarships (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

- Barbara Lee Nielsen Nursing Memorial Scholarship  
CheraLee Avery Memorial Scholarship  
CheraLee Avery Women's Basketball Memorial Scholarship  
CHS Foundation Scholarship  
CHS Agriculture Student Emergency Fund  
Douglas & Betty Garwood Scholarship

- Husker Harvest Days Scholarship  
Non FAFSA Emergency Fund  
P.E.O. Malawi Scholarship  
Richard Cruise Memorial Scholarship  
The Norman Ochsner Agriculture Scholarship  
True Potential 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.*

*The awards are customarily presented in person during a formal ceremony each October. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Northeast's Achievement Awards ceremony has been postponed. The recipients will be formally recognized during the 2021 ceremony next October.*

## Alumni Hall of Success



**Jarod Hendricks**

Jarod Hendricks is a 1993 graduate of Northeast where he earned his degree in building construction. He is president of Lyman-Richie Corp. (Gerhold Concrete Co.), a company he has worked for since his graduation from Northeast. Lyman-Richey Corp., now a CRH operating company, produces more than 1.7 million cubic yards of concrete annually out of its 36 ready mix production facilities across Nebraska, western Iowa, and southeastern South Dakota.

Hendricks has served as a member of the advisory committee of Northeast's building construction program. He is also trained and certified in a number of areas that are related to his work. In addition, Hendricks is scuba certified through Huskers Divers, with several additional certifications including advanced diver and spearfishing. Hendricks is involved in the Elkhorn Trap Shooting Club, where he participates in Amateur Trapshooting Association events and serves as a club coach to junior and senior school students.

Hendricks and his wife, Cary, have two children, son Clay, a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and daughter Kayla, a sophomore at Elkhorn High School. ■



**Dr. Jeremy Young**

Dr. Jeremy Young, originally from Pierce, is owner-veterinarian of Town and Country Veterinary Clinic in Albion, Elgin, and St. Edward. He graduated from Northeast in 2000 with a degree in pre-professional veterinary/animal science and then pursued a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Young earned his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University in 2006. He joined the Town and Country practice after completing his doctorate and assumed ownership in Jan. 2009.

In addition to his work in his veterinary practice, Young is actively involved in the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association, where he presently serves as the organization's president. He has been a member of the association's Continuing Education Committee and has represented the association's board as a district director, secretary/treasurer, and president-elect prior to his current role.

Young is also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, and American Association of Swine Veterinarians. He serves as an advisory committee member for the Nebraska Community Foundation, which is affiliated with the Boone County Foundation Fund. Young is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Albion and has served previously on church council and committees.

Young and his wife, Kim, have two young children, son, Chase, and daughter, Ryleigh. ■

## Distinguished Service



**Janelle Gerharter**

Two individuals who have traced the history of Northeast Community College have been recognized for outstanding achievement.

Janelle Gerharter and Jerry Holmberg, both of Norfolk, are recipients of the College's 2020 Distinguished Service Award. The award is 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.

Gerharter and Holmberg, both retirees of the College, have authored a book that details the history of Northeast and its predecessor institutions. *Success Started Here, A History of Northeast Community College 1928-2018*, documents the storied past of the institution that begins with the founding of Norfolk Junior College in 1928.

Gerharter authored the main narrative of the book, while Holmberg documented the athletic portion. They were joined by Dr. Robert Cox, former Northeast president and a past Distinguished Service Award recipient.

A native of Watertown, S.D., Gerharter earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from South Dakota State University. After graduation, she worked as a staff writer for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Gerharter moved to Norfolk following her marriage to Dave Gerharter. She was employed at the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce and First Presbyterian Church before beginning her 21 years at KNEN-FM. She was employed at KNEN in April 1979, when the radio station first signed-on the air. As continuity director, she was responsible for writing radio commercials.

Gerharter began her service to Northeast



**Jerry Holmberg**

Community College in June 2000 as a news writer/photographer in the Community Relations Department. She was named director of public relations at the College in Feb. 2004. She retired in Oct. 2012.

Gerharter and her husband, Dave, have three adult sons, Justin, Christopher, and Erik, and three granddaughters. She is active on the Great American Comedy Festival planning committee.

"I have said countless times that I loved my job at Northeast Community College and the students even more," Gerharter said. "When I started at the College, I was amazed at how very hard some of those first-generation students had to work for their community college education. They were an inspiration to me."

Holmberg grew up in rural Burt County and attended Lyons High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in education from Wayne State College and participated in track. He then achieved a Master of Arts degree in Educational Psychology and Measurements from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Holmberg worked as a high school counselor, teacher and coach from 1967-77. During that time, he was employed at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs, Ia.; Norfolk Senior High School, and Lincoln High School in Nebraska.

He and his family moved to Norfolk in 1978 to begin his career at Northeast Community College. He served as the director of placement (student employment services)/counselor through 2000. Additional responsibilities at various times during his tenure included student activities coordinator, alumni coordinator, concessions stand coordinator, interim dean of student services, and recruiting assistant. Holmberg was

appointed athletic director in Sept. 2000. He retired in June 2006.

He married Elaine Geisler, his high school sweetheart, and they have two adult sons - Greg and Dan, and five grandchildren. Holmberg has been active in the Morning Optimist Club of Norfolk for forty years.

"I am proud to say I really enjoyed working at Northeast Community College," Holmberg said. "I believe Northeast is an outstanding comprehensive community college, and I have and will continue to promote it at every opportunity I get."

The 240-page hardcover *Success Started Here, A History of Northeast Community College 1928-2018* is available through the Northeast Community College Hawks Shop on the Norfolk campus for \$24.95. It may also be purchased online at [collegestore.northeast.edu](http://collegestore.northeast.edu).

Dr. Leah Barrett, Northeast president, said the work in the book authored by Gerharter and Holmberg is well done and serves as a beautiful reflection for which Northeast is so well known. She said they are worthy of the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award.

"Janelle and Jerry have a love for Northeast that is unmistakable. Their time at the College was rewarding and is evident by their commitment to higher education and to our college," Barrett said. "Their achievement in earning this recognition is not only reflective of our effectiveness as a college, but also demonstrates the commitment of someone with close ties to Northeast in excelling the mission of the institution. They are two very special people who literally reflect the history of the College and are most deserving of this recognition." ■

## *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 402-844-7240 or [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu).

You may also visit the website to complete an application:

<https://northeast.edu/alumni/achievement-awards>



# Planned Giving

## The Ins and Outs of Social Security

There are so many options regarding Social Security as a person nears retirement age and it can become stressful trying to make decisions. When should you start to take your Social Security? The date you can take your “full” benefits depends on the year you were born. Currently the age is 67 but you can take “early” benefits starting at age 62 or even wait until age 70.

### Which is better for me?

A typical Social Security payment replaces approximately 40% of your pre-retirement income. To qualify for Social Security, you need to have contributed to the fund for 40 quarters or 10 years. Your Social Security payout will be dependent on your highest earning years.

In the 1980s, Congress decided to increase the age for full Social Security benefits from 65 to 67. For anyone born after 1960, the full Social Security retirement benefit is available at age 67. In addition, if you work after age 67, there's no reduction in your Social Security payment. You can continue to receive the full work income and the Social Security benefit.

Many Americans start taking payments at age 62. Based on the current Social Security tables, your maximum payment would be 30% lower than the full benefits at age 67.

This amount will be adjusted every year based on the Social Security cost-of-living increase.

Additionally, if you start to take your benefit at age 62 and continue to work, you will lose part of your Social Security payment. For every \$3 in income (over an indexed limit) you earn between age 62 and full retirement age, you lose \$1 in Social Security benefits. By taking your payment at age 62, you receive both a lower payout for your lifetime and reduced payments for the years until your full retirement age.

If you continue with your present employment and do not need your Social Security income, you can receive an increased benefit by delaying the start of payments to age 70. This could result in a significant increase over your normal retirement amount. The amount increases by about 8% per year.

### Are my Social Security Payouts taxable?

Individuals with lower incomes do not pay any federal tax on Social Security. Generally, single filers with an annual income under \$25,000 do not pay.

For many Social Security recipients, their income is in the middle range and 50% is taxable. For example, a single person with taxable income of approximately \$25,000 to \$34,000 would pay tax on half of his or her Social Security. The taxable income is called the modified adjusted gross income and includes adjustments for some types of tax-free income.

You may have invested funds, a retirement fund or some other form of income that will raise your annual taxable income above \$36,000. Because you already paid tax on your half of the Social Security, you may feel that anything higher is a very substantial tax. However, with the increasing need to fund Social Security in the future, it is highly improbable that will change. ■

# Nexus Campaign

*Buy an animal.  
Support the future of agriculture!*



*When you donate to the new agriculture facilities on the Acklie Family College Farm at Northeast Community College, your name will be engraved on an animal silhouette on the College farm-scape. Three sizes of horses, cows, pigs, and chickens are available starting at \$50.00.*

*Animal silhouettes can also be ordered by texting “ANIMAL” to 402-383-FARM (3276) or online at <https://agwaternexus.com/>*

*For information on multiple purchases or family groupings, contact the Foundation at 402-844-7240 or [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu). Space on the farm-scape is limited, so those wishing to be recognized in this way are urged to order their animals as soon as possible.*

## New Agriculture Facilities Under Construction

**View Construction Progress Live at [northeast.edu/webcams](http://northeast.edu/webcams)**

The long-dreamed-of improvements to the Acklie Family College Farm at Northeast Community College are under construction.

The project, known as Nexus, includes the new vet tech clinic and classroom building, a combined farm operations building and large animal handling facility, a feed lot and lagoon to feed out the calves from the College's 50 cow-calf herd, a shelter for sheep and hogs, and feed and commodity storage. Construction is expected to be completed by Fall 2021.

More than \$20 million has been secured toward the \$22.3 million project, and fund raising continues to provide technology, equipment and furnishings for the new facilities. There are several ways to donate to the project, including online giving. For further information on the Nexus campaign and ways you can invest in the future of agriculture, check the website [agwaternexus.com](http://agwaternexus.com) or call 402-844-7056. ■



**Large Animal Handling Facility**



**Veterinary Technology Building**

## 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  
Glenice & the late John C. Watson

Main Campus  
801 East Benjamin Avenue  
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Norfolk, Nebraska 68702

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

“

*Attending college has always been in my life plan and scholarships are a big part of the reason that dream came true. My parents never forced me to be the best at school, but they taught me to work hard and do everything to my best ability.*

*Those qualities and an appetite for learning led me to do very well in high school, which helped in the search for scholarships to further my ability to learn. Because of the scholarships I have earned, I am on my way to becoming the best nurse I can be.*

”



**Ruth Dodge**

St. Helena, NE  
Sophomore | Nursing

Gary Kuester Memorial Scholarship  
2020-2021 Recipient