

Northeast Community College Foundation

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Northeast
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FOUNDATION

A Two Decade Old Dream Fulfilled As New Agriculture Facilities Are Dedicated

A 20-year dream to develop state-of-the-art facilities for agriculture students at Northeast Community College has become a reality.

Dedication ceremonies were held April 26 for the College's new Veterinary Technology building and nearby combination Farm Operations building and Large Animal Handling facility at the Acklie Family College Farm. The site is located near Northeast's Chuck M. Pohlman Agriculture Complex, 2301 E. Benjamin Ave., in Norfolk.

The late Chuck Pohlman, the first dean of agriculture at Northeast, envisioned a complex of structures for agriculture programming on the farm site east of the College's main campus. The ag complex that bears his name was constructed and opened to students in 2004.

Dr. Michael Cooper, director of the veterinary technology program, interviewed for a position in the program with Pohlman in 1991. "If Chuck could see the new facilities," Cooper said, "his glasses would slide down his nose and I can hear him say, 'Wow!'"

Dr. Leah Barrett, Northeast president, said the new facilities help position Northeast as a leader in the agriculture field.

"Having state of the art equipment and facilities, expert faculty, and a 500-acre contiguous farm," Barrett said, "we can leverage all these assets and create a one-of-a-kind, national model for collaboration and partnership."

Northeast Community College's agriculture program has grown from just three students in 1973 to more than 350 students today. In the 1980s, members of the Board of Governors, who saw the value of having a working farm that was contiguous to the



campus, purchased property from the State of Nebraska that now includes farmland and the ag complex.

Julie Robinson, chair of the Northeast Board of Governors, said she and her colleagues also saw value in continuing their predecessors' commitment to agriculture programming by committing \$10 million from the capital fund to support the current work. She said she is grateful to the supporters of the College who contributed the remaining \$12 million to the Nexus Campaign.

"I speak for the Board when I say thank you to our volunteers and donors," Robinson said. "We are so proud to be able to stand up here and proudly point to these facilities as evidence of the great partnership that Northeast has with the community and the region it serves."

Mariah Frevert, a veterinary technology student from Wayne, said the new buildings will allow students to get their education in one location as opposed to running back to different buildings across campus to get to their classes and lab.

"Not only will the new facilities benefit

veterinary technology students," Frevert said, "They will also benefit students in all agricultural fields. Our new state-of-the-art facilities have put us at the forefront of innovation and advancement in veterinary medicine and agricultural sciences."

Tracy Kruse, a first-year veterinary technology student from Yankton, SD., thanked the donors and the Board of Governors for providing funding for the new College farm. She feels fortunate to be among the first students to be able to train and earn a degree in such modern facilities.

"The new (Veterinary Technology) building allows me and my fellow classmates to have access to some of the greatest technology known to veterinary science and gives us the opportunity to work in a high-quality environment," Kruse said.

More than 20% of the funding for the Nexus Campaign came from the family of Phyllis and the late Duane Acklie through the Acklie Charitable Foundation.

The Acklies are natives of Madison County and alumni of Norfolk Junior College, one

of the institutions that merged to become Northeast Community College.

They went on to establish Crete Carrier Corp., which has grown into a transporter of virtually any product, operating more than 5,000 tractors and 13,000 trailers throughout the continental United States.

Halley Acklie Kruse was joined at the celebration by her grandmother, Phyllis Acklie, and other family members. Speaking on behalf of the family, Acklie Kruse said the strength of the project's vision was put into sharp focus over the past two-years and demonstrated the need for all industries to innovate.

"And that is why I think the Nexus Campaign has resonated with businesses, individuals and the broader community," Acklie Kruse said, "because investing in what is next for sustainable agriculture, next for Nebraska's workforce and next for innovation is

necessary for students, future farmers and ranchers to have the problem-solving skills needed to meet the demands of the future."

The \$22 million facilities include the 38,431 square foot Veterinary Technology building that features classrooms, labs, surgery suite, radiology, kennels, and exercise areas, as well as collaborative space for students and offices for faculty.

The farm ops/large animal building is located north of the Pohlman Ag Complex. Other new structures are a three-sided commodities storage building, a small animal shelter, feedlots, and sorting pens. Approximately seven acres will be used as livestock pens and an outdoor classroom area. ■



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The new (Veterinary Technology) building allows me and my fellow classmates to have access to some of the greatest technology known to veterinary science and gives us the opportunity to work in a high-quality environment...

“The labs and classrooms are state-of-the-art and we are able to learn and practice our skills in an area that has plenty of space for each student and first-class equipment that all of us are encouraged to use.”

Tracy Kruse
Veterinary Technology
Yankton, South Dakota

Graduate Report

99.5%

of 870 graduates in the 2020-2021 academic year are employed or continuing their education

90%

of Northeast graduates are employed in Nebraska

This data is collected during the academic year from 2020-2021 graduating classes. For more information visit northeast.edu/career-services/graduate-report

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2022 Scholarship Luncheon



"I am incredibly grateful for all that I have received and want to thank you for investing in my future. I am truly inspired by your generosity and one day I will give back to students and invest in their futures here at Northeast."

Grace Jansen, of Hartington, recipient of the Dr. Jagmohan & Shobhana Desai Family Scholarship and Donna & John Goossen Nursing Memorial Scholarship.

"Not only am I thankful, personally, but I am also thankful for all of the other generous donors that help our students here at Northeast Community College earn their way towards success."



Alexis Schnoor, of Pierce, recipient of the David & Freda Wolf Scholarship.



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