

Northeastern Junior College May 2023 Board Report

- **Transform the Student Experience**



The new NJC Associated Student Government was elected and sworn in. Congratulations to our new officers pictured here!

Congratulations, Philip Ruch, Class of 2023, NJC 2022-2023 Associated Student Government President, for being recognized in the All In Vote's Student Voting Honor Roll! Phil's hard work and commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement is inspiring!



The Northeastern Business Department hosted their awards night on April 25. They shared a short Ted Talk with attendees. We would like to share it, because it truly is a depiction of our daily mission at Northeastern. [Ted Talk](#)

An extraordinary evening of creativity and storytelling of NJC's Playwriting Class's Project Performance was held on May 3. Participants immersed themselves in a world of captivating narratives as they presented dramatic table readings of eleven thought-provoking scripts. This year, our talented students have explored the fascinating theme of "Artificial Intelligence," weaving together compelling stories that delve into the complexities of technology and its impact on humanity. This was a remarkable capstone project, where the power of words and the magic of theatre came together to create an unforgettable experience. Free pizza and dessert were provided.

The Northeastern Rodeo Team wrapped up their spring 2023 season. Northeastern Junior College is College National Finals Rodeo Bound again! Wacey Day finished third in the Region in the Goat Tying Event and fifth place Women's Team in the Region.



The NJC Associated Student Government held its annual Leadership Banquet on May 3. The theme was a Luau. Here is a picture of the 2022-2023 ASG Officer Team (right), Tim Stahley, the Residence Life Director (middle) and the newly elected 2023-2024 ASG Officer Team (left).



Northeastern Junior College's Agriculture Department celebrated another successful year and handed out over \$57,000 in scholarships at its 55th annual awards banquet May 2.



**Picture courtesy of Callie Jones/Sterling Journal Advocate.*

The Northeastern Softball team hosted the Region IX Softball Tournament on May 12-14 in Sterling at the Mason Softball Fields. Northeastern won the school's first-ever Regional IX Softball Championship and headed to El Dorado, Kansas on May 11-14 to play in the Plains District Softball Tournament! NJC Softball gave us two incredible contests in the Plains District Softball Tournament! Unfortunately, they lost both to end their season. Game 1 Butler won 10-9 by way of walk-off and Game 2 in 8 innings 14-13. The Plainswomen proved to everyone how truly special these ladies are! In addition, Coach Jenny Smock is your 2023 Region IX Softball Coach of The Year!



Jackson Rottschafer, Northeastern men's golfer, qualified for Nationals and placed 15th in the nation and earned 2nd All American honors. The Northeastern men's golf team barely missed qualifying for Nationals.

The NJC Athletic Petey's Awards Night was held the evening of May 9. The event began with a special graduation ceremony for the NJC Softball team who missed their ceremony to play in the Plains District Softball Tournament!

The NJC Nursing Department held a Nursing Pinning Ceremony on May 11. Twenty-one students received their nursing pins. It is a tradition steeped in history and is an important milestone in a nurse's life.



Northeastern held two Commencement Ceremonies on Friday, May 12. The first ceremony was held at 10:00am and included graduates in the Agriculture, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Science, Health, Math and Science and Nursing areas. The second ceremony was held at 2:00pm and included graduates in the Applied Technology - Auto, Diesel, Welding, Wind, Business/Sports Management, Cosmetology and Liberal Arts. Three hundred fifty-two graduates were recognized at Northeastern Junior College's 80th annual commencement ceremony.



The NJC Adult & Community Education GED Graduation and Awards ceremony was held on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00am. Seven graduates received their GED diplomas this school year, along with several awards for leadership and mastering skills pictured below.



- **Own Workforce**

Amanda Kerker, Northeastern Criminal Business Professor, was selected as this year's Sterling Journal Advocate's Crystal Apple Award winner. Each local school district in Logan County, including Northeastern, nominate employees that go above and beyond in their positions. The Sterling Journal Advocate highlight each winner in a special section of the newspaper. The winners are also recognized at a banquet the evening of April 28. Please read the full article, click on this link [Sterling Journal Advocate Crystal Apple Winner, NJC - Amanda Kerker](#)

Northeastern honored four retirees at the annual Retirement Reception on April 27. To read about the retirees, check out this Sterling Journal Advocate newspaper article [NJC Honors Four Retirees](#)

- **Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships**

NJC received a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for nearly \$500,000 for a paramedic program. This grant starts in July and is a one-year grant. It also includes funding for a Bilingual CNA program with nursing.

A partnership was developed with eight Bank of Colorado presidents from northeast Colorado pooling together their sponsorship money to support 22 high schools in the area with incoming freshmen scholarships, as well as other activities on campus and returning sophomore scholarships.

- **Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development and Operational Excellence**

Northeastern received our final accreditation letter from the Higher Learning Commission on April 28, which formalizes the successful review we received from the committee. We remain fully accredited with a mid-cycle report on assessment due before our next full assessment in five years. President White thanked Vice Presidents Sam Soliman and Lisa LeFevre and all faculty and staff that contributed to this substantial project!

Northeastern's Adult Community Education Department officially hit the federal target of 40% of students achieving a measurable skill gain (by testing or GED obtainment) on May 1!

Northeastern has signed a contract with *The College Tour* which is a 30-minute show presented on Amazon Prime. NJC will be featured in this fall's season. Filming will begin in September. We will be working through the summer with students and representatives who will appear on the show. This is an exciting opportunity to highlight NJC and all that we do!

NJC is closer to being able to begin construction on its Applied Technology Campus expansion project. NJC was awarded \$11 million by the state's Capital Development Committee for the first phase of the project and the second phase of \$5 million to finish the project was funded this year. The expansion will connect the two existing buildings – Lebsack Schmidt Hall and the Wind Energy buildings together with a new 35,700 square-foot metal building. It will also allow renovation of the 45,470 square foot existing building space and make improvements to the plumbing, HVAC, electrical and fire protection systems. The expansion will allow more bays for the welding program – from 14 bays to 35 bays. It will also allow more bays for the automotive and diesel technology programs, which will make it easier to move trucks in and out. There will be space for the precision agriculture program and will allow more classroom

capacity for all programs. The expansion will bring opportunities for new programs such as electrician and HVAC technician.

The NJC Wind Program received new equipment through a grant. It is a hydraulic climb trailer shaped like a wind turbine that will allow NJC to deliver critical job safety training for future wind workers. This safety training is an important job skill in demand by renewable energy companies.

To help build enrollment, NJC will be adding three low cost of entry activities. These are activities requiring only a small upfront investment to attract future students. An Esports intramural league ran this spring to test our ability to be an Esports team in the fall of 2023 with the NJCAAE. The team took 5th place out of 25 in the nation in the Rocket League and 7th out of 33 in the Overwatch league. Ten out of the 18 intramural students are returning next year when NJC officially starts its new team. NJC will be adding a trap-shooting team next school year. Trap shooting is an emerging NJCAA sport. Many local schools including Sterling High School and Akron High School have trap-shooting teams. We will be able to utilize the Logan County Shooting Sports Complex for competition. A cheer performance team through a partnership with Ignite Cheer will be added. They will perform during timeouts of winter sports. This will be a club as cheer performance is not a NJCAA sport yet.

Northeastern has modified our student ID cards to comply with House Bill 23-1007, the law that requires post-secondary education institutions to print the Colorado Crisis Hotline 988 number on student identification cards. Karla Rosas, a NJC Advisory Board member works at Centennial Mental Health and served as our advisor to ensure the correct and appropriate information was included on the cards.