

## Northeastern Junior College February – March 2024 Board Report

- **Transform the Student Experience**

**Becca Wiersema and Abrianah Gonzales are two of the 10,000 students who call a rural community college home.** From playing sports to recreating on the weekends, read how they are getting the full campus experience at Northeastern Junior College and Colorado Northwestern Community College. [NJC's Becca Wiersema](#)

**Northeastern held a Preview Day on February 19 for perspective students.** Thirty-one prospective students and forty family members attended the day's event.



**In conjunction with the NJC Diversity Committee Members, decorations were held for Black History Month in the Hays Student Center.** These decorations were in addition to the artwork that is part of the outreach program to the Sterling Correctional Facility that was displayed around campus in support of Black History Month.



**Northeastern is again offering TaxHelp Colorado.** This free service is open to community members and those in need of support filing their federal and state taxes. Students and faculty train each spring to prepare for this program.

**N**  
NORTHEASTERN  
JUNIOR COLLEGE

**taxhelp**  
COLORADO

IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH  
**United Way**  
Mile High United Way

**NOW – MARCH 5, 2024**  
**TUESDAYS FROM 3:00 PM-6:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**  
**FROM 8:30 AM- 2:30 PM**

CALL 970-521-6735  
TO MAKE AN  
APPOINTMENT.

**NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
**WHYMAN HALL**  
100 COLLEGE AVENUE  
STERLING, CO 80751

**NJC is happy to share with students this amazing app, Handshake, that helps students around the world connect with jobs!**

**The #1 job app  
for students**

Download Handshake today

Download on the  
App Store

**HANDSHAKE PROFILE CHALLENGE**

Activate profile	Upload resume	Fill out job preferences
Add experience	Follow 5 employers	Fill out past coursework
Add a headshot	Ask a question	Apply to 3 jobs

**A great future  
doesn't require  
a great past.**

@JOINHANDSHAKE

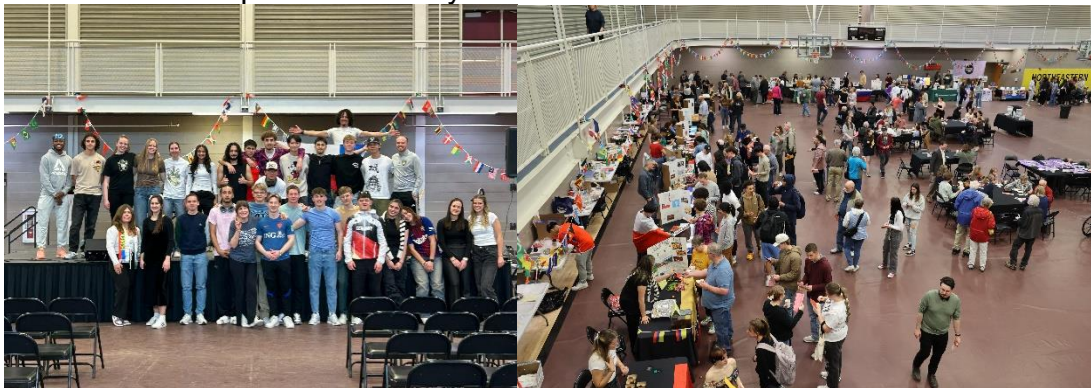
**The NJC Aggies Club hosted its annual Blood Drive on February 20.** This year, anyone who shows up to donate blood will receive a \$20 gift card to Amazon via email.

**The NJC Fire Science, EMS, and Nursing students conducted a Mass Casualty Incident Drill on campus on March 5.** A simulated lightning strike at the baseball field produced trauma and burn victims, as well as those physically uninjured but with severe stress and anxiety. The Fire/EMS students provided

basic medical care and transported the students to the NJC Nursing Lab where the student nurses conducted triage and care for the victims. The cosmetology department provided the realistic makeup to simulate the burns on the victims as seen in the photo. The Sterling Fire Department, Air Rescue from Haxtun and Sterling, and physicians from the Sterling Regional Medical Center also participated in the event.



**Northeastern hosted the sixth Annual Food & Culture Fair on March 6 from 4:00pm-7:00pm in the Bank of Colorado Event Center. Check out this video of the event! [Food & Culture Fair](#) .** The Food and Culture Fair brings students and community members together to learn about our international students' home countries, traditions and food. In addition to each country's booth, there is music and other performance by our students.



**The wrestling team traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa for the NJCAA National Tournament.** Travelers that qualified for the national tournament included:  
**125lbs – Calvin Mendez** – Ranked 10<sup>th</sup> on the Open Mat and Seeded 16<sup>th</sup> in the tournament \* results –went 3 wins, 2 losses, and was 1 match away from All-American  
**141lbs – Kyle Lewis** – Ranked 10<sup>th</sup> on the Open Mat and Seeded 12<sup>th</sup> in the tournament \* results – went 1, win 2 losses  
**157lbs – Channing Warner**  
**285lbs – Riley Butt** – Ranked 9<sup>th</sup> on the Open Mat \*results – went 2 wins, 2 losses and was 2 matches away from All-American

**The NJC Women's Basketball Team finished second in Region IV, losing only to three-time region champion Casper College. It was a terrific year for Plainswomen Basketball and new coach Bronson Moton!**



**The NJC Rodeo Team is back in action and competed in Gillette Wyoming in the first event of the spring season!**



Starting the week of March 11, NJC has a traveling, interactive mental health exhibit on campus in the ESF Atrium. As part of having this exhibit, NJC has partnered with Centennial Mental Health Center to provide the community and the college with COMET training. The training was held on Friday, March 15, at noon in ESF 126. This provides great tools for working with people and even in your personal life in our community.



- **Transform our Own Workforce**

Larry Prestwich was a long-time Art Faculty member at NJC. Sadly, Larry Prestwich passed away last year. NJC put on an exhibit of his artwork attended by his wife and four of his children.



Jason Rohm, NJC Diesel Tech Instructor and Layton Peterman, NJC Auto Tech Instructor attended the Vision Hi-Tech Training & Expo in Overland Park, Kansas on February 27-March 3, 2024.

Joy Branlund, NJC Nursing Instructor, attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual conference in Denver on February 15-17, 2024. The annual conference had three days of scientific sessions and workshops. Some were geared towards education, others inform of scientific developments.

**Congratulations to our Employee of the Year Award Winners:**

Brian Lewton, Faculty of Year; Mike Wasson (not pictured), Instructor of the Year; Katie Thompson, Rising Star Award; Steve Shalla, Classified Employee of the Year and Tami Patten, APT/Professional Technical Employee of the Year.



**Catheryne Trenkle, NJC Director of Academic Support Services, attended an online NEC Proposal Writing Workshop on February 21-22.** This two-day online workshop provided instructions and practical skills to develop a successful SSS Grant.

**Steve Smith, NJC Vice President of Student Services; Brant Davis, NJC Residence Life Director and Cindy Carey, NJC Counselor attended a Maxient Regional Training in Denver on March 19.** The event included the life cycle of an incident from reporting through case resolution, along with helpful tips for Title IX, BIT/CARE, Student Complaints, and Academic Integrity processes. It also covered information on pre-built and custom analytics, IR layouts, letters, and questions/topics of interest to attendees.

**In support of the first year NJC Cheer Team, President White made a surprise appearance with the team at halftime. Watch the awesome dance moves President Mike White has! [President Mike White's Dance Moves](#) .** President White says he better keep his day job. 😊

- **Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships**

**Northeastern Junior College was thrilled to host the 2024 Colorado Regional Assessment Conference on February 16.** It was a momentous occasion for educational assessment in the state, bringing together more than 70 faculty and staff from Colorado's higher educational institutions. Keynote speeches included Pepperdine University's Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp and Terrence Cao, who discussed the need for educators and instructional designers to collaborate, and Dr. Kris Acheson-Clair from Purdue University, who shared insights from specific case studies that have built intercultural competence

development and global learning. University of Northern Colorado faculty Randy Larkins and Chad BeBee shared methods for gauging student learning with a focus on how to build successful program outcomes. Dr. Geeta Verma of the University of Colorado-Denver presented on LivedX, an AI-powered platform that converts real-life experiences into academic credentials. Dr. Michael Schulman of the Colorado Community College System presented innovative results from his retention research. Red Rocks Community College's Derek Grubb and Pikes Peak State College's Brook Koltun both offered valuable perspectives on evaluation techniques in advising and student services and how to incorporate the Council for the Advancement of Standards into educational assessment. The conference was organized by Leslie Weinsheim, Director of Institutional Research at NJC. Weinsheim and Dr. Matt Garcia of Red Rocks Community College shared experiences building an Honors Program and a First Year Experience Program, respectively. Dr. Veronica Koehn, NJC's Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, presented on the expedient journey faculty have taken to develop institution-wide student learning outcomes that thoroughly encompass and embody the robust liberal arts, sciences, and career-technical education NJC provides. By creating a platform for institutions and educators to work together, the 2024 Colorado Regional Assessment Conference has raised the bar for academic innovation and excellence, creating a dynamic setting for sharing best practices and advancing comprehensive educational assessments and student learning strategies.



**Just over a year ago, Northeastern Junior College approached the artists at the Sterling Correctional Facility to support a program to bring exciting artwork to the campus.** Through a grant, NJC purchased supplies and large canvasses, and the artists created over 60 large paintings in celebration of heritage months. The paintings celebrate Hispanic Heritage, Native American Heritage, Black History, Women's History, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage, holidays around the world and more. Many have been rotated between buildings for the enjoyment and appreciation of all. Today, the program continues with smaller paintings that are proudly displayed in offices and smaller rooms on campus with over 100 total paintings to date. The artists are given a theme with each set of canvasses and use their imagination and talent to design the paintings. Most recently, they produced artwork in support of mental health and

athletics, and pieces reflective of the community including livestock and rural scenes. Most recently, the artists were asked to bring history to life with some historical figures.



Artists from bottom left  
Dale Bruner, Craig Forbes, Raul Chavez, Lynell Hill, Mike White-N.J.C. President, Joseph Hill, Johnny Matheny

**On March 18, students from high schools across Northeast Colorado were on campus for the NJC Honor Jazz Band, directed by Lee Lippstrew, Northeastern Music Professor. They rehearsed all day today put on a free concert that evening in the Corsberg Theater in ES French.**





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

**NJC received an Open Educational Resources Grant, which assists faculty with finding free alternatives to textbooks.**

**NJC received a \$200K Teaching Excellence Grant split with Morgan Community College.** Faculty have been encouraged to find professional development opportunities. Part of that includes working with a consulting group called Neovate, which will help us identify places where we excel and where we can improve.

**NJC was awarded a \$100,000 Wildfire mitigation grant to integrate that training into our Fire Science program.**

**NJC received an \$875,000 Behavioral Health Grant to build our Psychology Program.**

**NJC is working with LivedX, which is an online platform that helps students translate lived experiences into college credit to offer in B-term.**

**NJC has started an Ag Operations Certificate for the Diesel Program. There has been a lot of interest from other various industry companies.**

**NJC's Applied Technology Campus is looking at a CAD online course for Wind and Welding for Fall 2024.**

**NJC will be offering a Barbering Program through Cosmetology starting hopefully in the August term.**

**Northeastern held Hoops Homecoming on Saturday, February 10.** The day included an Alumni Awards Luncheon, campus tours, followed by Women's and Men's Basketball Games versus McCook, NE. A reception was held for alumni, families and friends of NJC in the balcony of the Bank of Colorado Event Center.



**At the Hoops Homecoming Luncheon, the new Plainsman Pete and Plainsman Penny mascot heads were unveiled. Below is a picture of NJC President, Mike White, and his wife, Marietta, getting a photo op with them!**



**Our President, Mike White, can't forget his time in the Navy!** Check out the Coffee with the President segment from our The College Tour episode. [The College Tour Coffee with the President](#) . If you follow NJC on social media, our episode is officially being featured on The College Tour Instagram and Facebook. Please give the videos a like and share. Our episode is officially live on The College Tour website, not on Amazon Prime yet. Our episode will drop with Season 11 at the end of May 2024.

**Organizations in rural CO are encouraged to apply for funds to provide training and resources for individuals and businesses who have been negatively impacted by COVID.**

