

Northeastern Junior College September – November 2021 Board Report

- **Transform the Student Experience**

Northeastern has a wonderful group of international students from all over the world including 35 students from 12 different countries. Northeastern is happy to continue the program started back in 2019: International Friends!! The International Friends Program matches a Northeastern staff or faculty member with one of our participating international students. Once a staff member is matched, they can connect with the international by introducing them to their family, supporting them at sporting events (many are athletes, but not all), or showing them around Sterling and Colorado. Northeastern also has four Russian students who are here with a cultural study abroad program called the YEAR Program. Their program requires they be connected with a host family, who they will stay with during the Thanksgiving and Winter holidays.

In September, Northeastern President Jay Lee visited and talked to the women's basketball team about doing what's right, respecting, accepting, and taking care of others.



October was a busy month for the Northeastern Fire Science Program. Northeastern hosted the Fire on the Plains conference October 15-17. Participants traveled from all areas of our region including Kansas and Nebraska. The event was attended by 40 volunteer firefighters. The Eastern Colorado Incident Management Team ran the event as an “incident”. Staff members from the Division of Fire Safety and the Colorado Wildfire Incident Management Academy were on site as well.

The Northeastern Aggies Club held their annual Red Cross Blood Drive on October 21 on the Northeastern campus.

As Fall 2021 Northeastern Rodeo Season comes to a close, Northeastern is very proud of the success of its Rodeo Team. Those of you who are not familiar with College Rodeo – here is a brief explanation. In college rodeo athletes are not separated between two-year and four-year institutions like the other sports. So, our 18-20-year-old students are competing against student athletes who can have a maximum age of 26 years old. Northeastern has two freshmen who are in the top 10 of their events. This means the other athletes in the top ten are juniors, seniors, and graduate students at their respective institution. There is a long round placing and a short round placing and an aggregate placing. The long round is all contestants entered in the events, the short round is only the fastest ten times qualify, the aggregate is the two times for an individual combined and ranked from first to tenth. The number of athletes within an events is from 50 other athletes to 104 other athletes.

Congratulations to our Northeastern Junior College Shot at a Scholarship student winners - Stephanie Rodriguez, Noelle Meagher, Lars Walczyk, Taneya Kunkel and Matthew Campbell. Thank you to Amazon, the Colorado Community College System, and the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges for these amazing scholarships for our students!



Noelle Meagher, President Lee & Lars Walczyk

We are looking for students at Northeastern Junior College to participate in our research study aimed at improving student sexual and relationship health. The study is completed entirely online and outside of class time. Students who participate can receive up to \$170 in gift cards and get the experience of participating in a large-scale research project. In the study, students will be asked to review an online program about sexual and relationship health and complete a few online questionnaires.

The Sophomore and Freshmen Northeastern Livestock Judging Teams were very successful at the 2021 State Fair of Texas in October. Results for both teams: Sophomore Team 9th Overall; 6th High Team Sheep; Blake Fabrizius- 3rd High Individual Sheep and Goats; Jess Diehl- 23rd High Individual Reasons; Freshmen Team 10th Overall; 8th High Team Hogs; Peighton Kendrick- 10th High Individual Reasons, 11th High Individual Cattle, 19th High Individual Overall, 22nd High Individual Sheep and Goats; Abby Scholz- 25th High Individual Hogs.



The Peter L. Youngers Fine Arts Gallery on the Northeastern Junior College campus hosted the annual Northeastern Regional Art Show from October 19 through November 18. Regional artists residing within an approximately 150-mile radius of Sterling submitted works of art for exhibit. Exhibits included original two-dimensional drawings, paintings, photography, printmaking, mixed media, or small three-dimensional work. There was an artist closing reception on November 17 from 5-7 p.m.

The Northeastern PTK (Phi Theta Kappa) Chapter did an Operation Christmas Child again this year. They were looking for donations to build 50 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child for children in third world countries. Donation boxes were placed around campus. Donation items that were looking for included toothbrushes, bars of soap, combs/hairbrushes, hair clips, wash cloths, pencils/pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, erasers, school supplies, small toys, cards and mini stuffed animals.

Six Northeastern nursing students who completed a summer class called Transitions to Practical Nursing were successful in passing the NCLEX-PN (state board exam) to become licensed. This is a 100% pass rate. All are continuing this year to finish their Associate of Applied Science in Nursing.

For a fourth season in a row, the Northeastern Volleyball team punched their ticket to the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. NJC came into the region tournament on a very nice winning streak and they extended that streak through the Region IX tournament, winning three

consecutive matches to take the championship. Another great note to add is that head coach Mackenzie Chrisman was named the Region IX coach of the year. She has had a good run as both an assistant coach and head coach, winning various awards and keeping the winning tradition alive at Northeastern.



- **Transform Our Own Workforce**

Forty-one Northeastern Junior College faculty and staff members were recognized by President Jay Lee at the college's fall in-service in August. Employees achieving milestone years of service for both 2021 and 2020 were honored. The 2021 awardees represented a combined 360 years of service, and the fall 2020 awardees represented a combined 165 years of service. Lyle Rose, Structural Trades III, received the highest recognition with 35 years' service to Northeastern.

Jill Yocom, Northeastern Assistant Event Center Manager, attended an online Teaching Yoga: Essential Foundations & Techniques training. Upon completion, Jill is now a certified yoga teacher. There is always a need to offer yoga as a PED course at Northeastern.

Cyndi Hofmeister, Northeastern Grant Writer, attended the virtual CASE Community College in Advance Conference on November 2-10. Cyndi joined hundreds of community college advancement professionals from across the nation online to share strategies for fundraising, friendraising, marketing and communications, leadership/management, and advancement services.

Linda Merkl, Northeastern Vice President of Academic Affairs, and other various faculty and staff attended the Higher Learning Commission Program Assessment Virtual Seminar Series on November 8, 9, 15 and 16. This seminar series provided an opportunity for individuals to further their understanding of practical and meaningful assessment of student learning in academic programs. Through lecture, discussion, and structured activities, participants gained the practical knowledge and skills to lead the development and implementation of a program assessment plan in their academic discipline.

The four-module seminar was designed for individual department chairs, academic program coordinators and faculty in programs without discipline-specific accreditation to inform program assessment practices.

Several female Northeastern employees attended the AMI (Academic Management Institute) in Golden, Colorado on November 19. The Academic Management Institute is the yearly training event for women leaders who are building careers and contributing to the colleges and universities of Colorado and Wyoming. AMI is organized by the Colorado Network of Women Leaders, which started in 1986 as part of a charge from the American Council on Education (ACE) to increase the number of women who served as college and university presidents or who held advanced leadership positions in institutions of higher education in the United States.

- **Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships**

For years Northeastern and NextEra Energy have had a great partnership and now that partnership has expanded. On September 10, Northeastern celebrated the groundbreaking of a new Solar Learning Lab donated by NextEra. NextEra Energy was pivotal in starting the wind tech program back in 2008, but even in previous years before that they helped Northeastern build and develop the program, along with some of our other partners in northeast Colorado. NextEra has been great at supplying parts, motors, and anything the program needs. In 2019, the company donated a nacelle and a hub to Northeastern and in 2020 they donated a GE 1.5 hub, along with 800 solar panels with the intent of the college developing a learning lab on campus. NextEra has also given support to Northeastern the last couple of years while the company has been working on its new Niyol Wind Farm south and west of Fleming. At the groundbreaking event, Northeastern President Jay Lee gave remarks about the importance of the wind program and other career and technical programs.



(Northeastern students and faculty pose for a photo with NextEra Energy staff at the site of a new Solar Learning Lab during a groundbreaking ceremony for the lab Friday, September 10.) 📷: Sterling Journal Advocate

Northeastern has announced plans to partner with the University of Colorado Denver to bring a bachelor's in early childhood education to Sterling. With a degree in early childhood, teachers can teach up to the third grade.

Northeastern offered an UAS Ground School to help students prepare for the FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot exam. Any student or community member using a drone for 'business' purposes, needs their license. This course will help them with their success on the intensive FAA examination. AVT 255 – UAS Ground School Hybrid Course demonstrates readiness for the UAS Operator written test. Regulations pertaining to UAS operations will be introduced, including airspace, weather, and flight parameter limitations. Students will also demonstrate knowledge of UAS components and systems, maintenance, autonomy, ground stations and telemetry. This course was offered as a hybrid course. Flight experience was also a component of the course.

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

The Northeastern Foundation's annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Breakfast was held on Saturday, September 11. Northeastern students are fortunate to have many generous scholarship donors who help make it affordable for them. That morning students and their scholarship donors got a chance to get to know one another. The day was about thanking the generous community members and faculty who have given to their education, but it was also about honoring our wonderful scholars who have chosen Northeastern for their education. The Northeastern Foundation has over 500 scholarships available and has awarded over \$300,000.

Northeastern received a COSI "Finish What You Started" (FWYS) grant award of just over \$350,000. FWYS is focused on assisting students who have interrupted their higher education plans for a variety of reasons, return to college and finish their degree or certification. This is one of four COSI programs funded by CDE that Northeastern is participating in and speaks volumes of our Student Services Staff who work directly with COSI and the students these programs reach.

Northeastern received the Colorado State Libraries Grant of \$5,000. This grant provides and supports electronic resources available at the Monahan Learning Center on the Northeastern campus.