

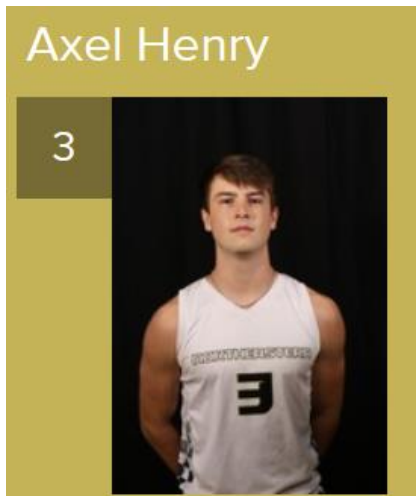
Northeastern Junior College February – March 2022 Board Report

- **Transform the Student Experience**

The NJC Associated Student Government team sponsored a **Family Feud Night** the evening of **January 27**. The winners were the NJC Staff team, “Jack’s Kids”.



Sophomore, Axel Henry (proud to say the son of NJC’s own Athletic Director – Marci Henry) was selected by the region to represent male student athletes from Region 9 on the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Student Athlete Advisory Council. Axel is involved in monthly phone calls and is working on the Bylaws and Constitution Committee to write rules and regulations that will govern the group. This is only the second year of the SAAC, but the first year group had many hurdles with COVID. Axel is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting in April along with the other student-athletes selected from each region of the NJCAA.



The NJC Aggies Club held a Blood Drive on campus on February 1.

Northeastern had seven wrestlers qualify for the national tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Those wrestlers who qualified were Braydon Mogle (125); Layne Shepherd (133); Deegan Palmer (141); Connor Davis (157); Cael Smith (165); Tucker Naccarato (174) and Nolan Bullethead (285). Overall, Northeastern earned one All-American spot with #12 seed, Braydon Mogle. The team finished 21st overall.

The Crime Scene Investigation class held a mock crime scene this week to test students' observation and knowledge! Very cool! *Note: no mannequins were hurt in the making of this mock crime scene.*



NJC is proud to introduce our three horsewomen that competed at the Celebration of Champions in Fort Worth, Texas the weekend of February 19. From right to left we have Paige Finegan (Non Pro), Corday Zenz (Limited), and Brielyn Blevens (Novice).



Big results for the Northeastern Livestock Judging Team who represented NJC at a high level the weekend of February 12 at back to back contests.

HEART CITY BULL BASH- Valentine, NE

Sophomores 2nd High Team Overall; 2nd High Team Reasons; 2nd High Team Placings;

Jess Diehl- 2nd High Individual Overall, 3rd High Placings, 7th High Reasons

MarLee Neu- 7th High Individual Overall

Anna Owens- 2nd High Reasons, 10th High Overall

Blake Fabrizius- 11th High Individual Overall, 5th High Reasons

Ainsley Fischer- 21st High Individual Overall

Freshmen 4th High Team Placings; 6th High Team Overall

Peighton Kendrick- 17th High Individual Overall, 15th High Placings

Abby Scholz- 5th High Placings, 20th High Individual Overall

NEBRASKA CATTLEMENS CLASSIC- Kearney, NE

Sophomores 2nd High Team Overall; 2nd High Team Reasons; 2nd High Team Placings

Ainsley Fischer- 2nd Overall, 1st Placings, 1st Feedlot Cattle, 6th Reasons

Anna Owens- 5th Overall, 4th Reasons

Jess Diehl- 3rd Reasons

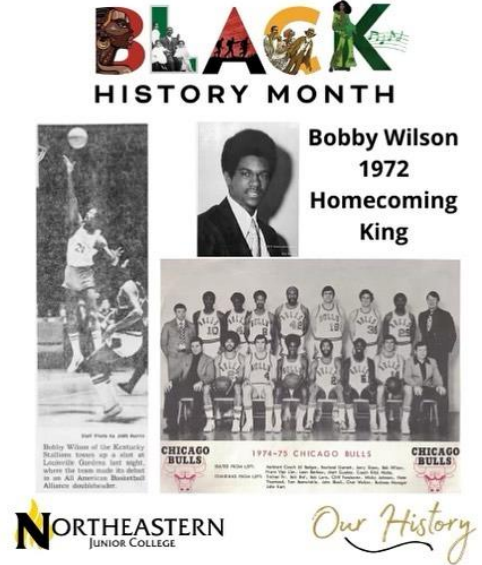
Freshmen 3rd High Team Overall; 2nd High Team Placings

Abby Scholz- Champion Individual Overall, 1st Placings, 4th Reasons



Northeastern's annual Hoops Homecoming Event was held on Saturday, February 19. The schedule of events included a luncheon for award winners, tours, women and men's basketball games (with award programs at halftimes), a reception for alumni and family and friends in the balcony of the Event Center and a check presentation from former Denver Mayor, Wellington Webb and his family. The weekend also included baseball and softball games.

The Northeastern Monahan Learning Center celebrated Black History Month with displays in the library. One particular display, honors a former student named Bobby Wilson. Bobby attended NJC from 1971-1972 and played on the Men's Basketball Team. He was crowned the 1972 NJC Homecoming King. Bobby continued playing professional basketball for many other teams including the Chicago Bulls, the Boston Celtics, and the Indiana Pacers. He also played internationally for the Fortitudo Bologna (Italy) and the Grenoble (France). We are incredibly proud that Bobby Wilson chose to be a Plainsmen!



The NJC Food and Culture Fair was held on March 9, 2022 from 4:00pm-7:00pm in the Bank of Colorado Event Center Auxiliary Gym. The event had tables representing 15 countries and 10 different clubs and organizations. There were also live performances by: Anna Andreeva – Pop songs from around the world; and The Brewed Kings – band from Sterling playing Folk music and Bluegrass. This year, there was an entrance fee of \$5 per adult, \$2 for students and kids, and free for NJC students and kids under 6. Over 400 people attended the event. All funds collected will go toward fundraising for international student scholarships.

Northeastern held a Northeastern Preview Day on Monday, February 21st.

- **Transform Our Own Workforce**

Northeastern is so happy to welcome new NJC President, Mike White, to our campus and community! His first day was January 31st.

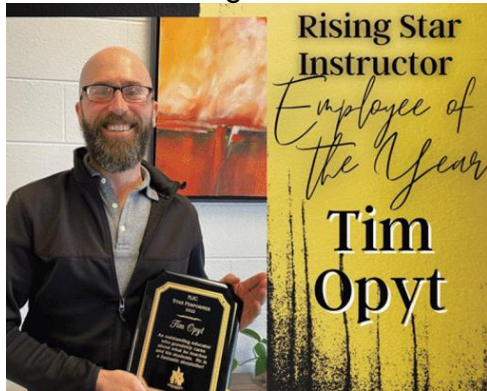


Faculty of the Year was awarded to Nathan Robinson, Theatre Instructor. Nathan began at Northeastern in 2015. Nathan's nomination states, "Nathan is able to muster a broad range of participation from his students for his theater performances and his students really respect him. The students who take his public speaking class have nothing but good things to say about the experience and he can bring even the shyest students out of their shell. Every semester starting a few weeks into classes, Nathan starts his rehearsals for the eventual performances that happen later in the semester, and we see him pull long days on campus, arriving early in the morning for teaching duties only to leave well past when the building has already emptied after dark. A teacher of Nathan's caliber deserves teacher of the year at least once in his career, but he's not one to toot his own horn."

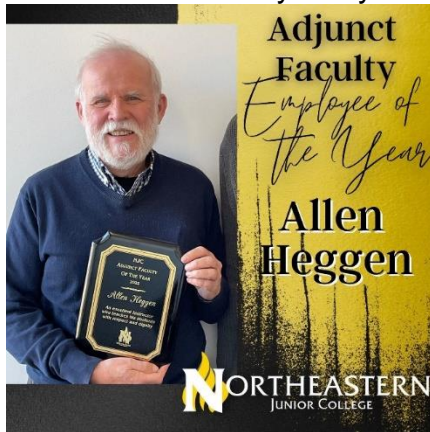


Northeastern gives out an annual award to a faculty member who has been on the job less than three years. The award is called the Star Performer Faculty of the Year Award. The Star Performer Faculty of the Year was awarded to Tim Opyt, History Instructor. Tim Opyt is an outstanding educator who genuinely cares about the subject he teaches and his students. Tim is a fantastic storyteller, and creates memorable history lessons for his students. In addition, Tim's students respect him, and he does whatever it takes for them to be successful. He is always available to help. Tim challenges his students. They

read primary historical sources and he expects excellent writing in the essays he assigns. He holds them to a high standard and consistently sets expectations for them. Tim is a caring individual, and it shows through his teaching. Tim is nothing short of amazing!



Adjunct Faculty of the Year was awarded to Allen Heggen. Allen is an adjunct instructor in the Liberal Arts Department. He has taught English 115, 121, and 122 in the past and currently teaches Humanities 121 and 122. Allen only recently started teaching Humanities courses and he will tell you he is having more fun than he has ever had in the classroom. Students describe him as kind and extremely knowledgeable and they love how much interesting material he shares with them. They will also tell you that their favorite part of class is when he spontaneously bursts into song. Students love Allen because he is an excellent instructor, but also because they feel he respects them so much and treats each of them with dignity. Allen is always reliable and student-oriented. Northeastern is very lucky to have such a wonderful adjunct instructor like Allen!



The Administrative/Professional/Technical Employee of the Year was awarded to Snow Staples, Student Success Coordinator. Snow challenges people in the best way with important questions and insight. She is always thinking about what is best for students and is a true advocate for supporting students with whatever their needs are. It is hard work to support all students in that role, and she does a great job. Snow has been a quiet leader among COVID chaos. In addition to her regular job duties, she has been solely responsible for tracking all student's COVID positive cases. In addition to managing COVID cases, she has also performed above and beyond contacting students regarding academic alerts and attendance issues. If there is a student in the classroom

struggling, odds are Snow has texted, emailed, and met with them regarding their situation and provided them endless opportunities for support. We are very lucky to have this hardworking, unsung hero at Northeastern.



The Classified Employee of the Year was awarded to Lauren Montoya.

Lauren is the Administrative Assistant for Records and Financial Aid on campus. “Lauren is such a light here on campus. She’s positive, friendly, and makes students feel comfortable. She is an extremely hard worker and has been a go-to person for me when I have questions or need any help!” Lauren’s nomination states. Lauren is a tremendous asset to this campus in how she builds relationships with students and helps them navigate their time here. She is always 100% student-focused and does her best to brighten and lighten the student experience.



It is with great sadness that we mourn the tragic loss of Mr. Trenton Schwarzer. Trenton was the Safety and Security Coordinator here at Northeastern. He was an amazing advocate for campus security and maintaining relationships with our local police, sheriff, state patrol, and firefighters. Trenton supported faculty and staff on our campus, and he worked many long hours to provide support for our students. Trenton provided our campus with life-saving AEDs, security cameras, and made NJC a safer institution. Trenton will be greatly missed around campus; he was always there to tell a great life story or ask if you needed help with anything. NJC will not be the same without him and we are all very thankful for the time we had with him.



- **Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships**

The Colorado Community College System announced it will build five micro-pathways in energy and healthcare in partnership with the Education Design Lab, a national nonprofit that designs, implements and scales new learning models for higher education. The Lab's funding and technical assistance will help jumpstart these programs in energy and healthcare, two dynamic and essential industries in Colorado according to Michael Macklin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development at CCCS. CCCS plans to pilot the micro-pathways at the following colleges: Arapahoe Community College, Colorado Northwestern Community College, Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Lamar Community College, **Northeastern Junior College** and Pueblo Community College.

HB21-1149: Strengthening Photovoltaic and Renewable Careers (SPARC)

- Awarded \$1,065,000 over 5 years
- Career pathway design for the energy sector
- Energy sector includes Electromechanical generation and maintenance, electrical energy transmission and distribution, energy efficiency and environmental technology, and renewable energy production.
- Auto/diesel program – purchase electric vehicles
- Wind/solar – develop/refine pathways for DOC, Workforce, ESL, and military; develop high end certificates for wind/solar students to expand skills particularly in robotics
- Project with Education Design Lab

HB21-1264: Allocation of state funding to support workforce development activities

- Total award: \$681,291
- Nursing \$26,291

\$10,000 Nursing – (actual cost \$7,624) NextGen NCLEX continuing education to occur week of March 14th; the program is currently incorporating NextGen NCLES questions into assessments; graduating students will be tested on the NextGen NCLEX starting May of 2023
\$16,291 – 4 hospital beds, sit-to-stand patient lift, 3 wheelchairs

- Welding \$655,000

Build-out of new space including transformer upgrade, electrical, creation of the welding bays

The Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick Counties partnered with Northeastern Junior College for their annual Early Childhood Conference.

This year's conference was held virtually on Saturday, January 29. Anyone who cares for children and/or works with families was invited to attend this free event. Participants could earn up to seven hours of free training from the comfort of their own homes. The Keynote speaker for the day was Lisa Matter, infant family specialist from EQUIT. Other sessions for the day included: Destressing While Kiddos Are Stressing; Inclusion for One Means Inclusion for All; Working with Children on the Autism Spectrum; Opportunity Knocks: Will You Open the Door; and Pyramid Model Teacher Starter Kits: Building Capacity to Meet the Social and Emotional Development Needs of Infants and Toddlers.

As part of the RISE Grant, NJC hosted a Career Fair on campus March 31, 2022 from 4pm – 6pm located in the Bank of Colorado Event Center Auxiliary Gym. NJC partnered with the Colorado Workforce Center to offer this event both in person and virtually to NJC students and the Northeast Colorado Community. One of the goals of the event was to inform current students, potential job seekers, and attendees, of our programs and available credentialing opportunities for career choices that have the potential to garner sustainable and gainful employment. We encouraged local job seekers to not only meet employers and but also to discuss opportunities to pursue furthering their education at NJC. We offered our current students the opportunity to network with employers and seek out job opportunities prior to graduation.

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

Northeastern Junior College earned an award for the 2020 Colorado Campus Voting Challenge in partnership with the Colorado Secretary of State's office. Northeastern Junior College earned the following award: Most Improved Voter Turnout Rate for a Community College.

On February 15, 2022, Northeastern Junior College satisfied the final action item from the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) following our Clery audit, which occurred a couple of years ago. We received a message from one of the CCCS internal auditors stating that our Clery Audit is complete and no additional follow-up is needed. As a result of the CAP, our Annual Safety Report (ASR) was completely rewritten by Coordinator of Campus Safety & Security, Trenton Schwarzer.

Good News! NJC's Applied Technology Campus project was approved by the Colorado Joint Budget Committee. We are planning to begin work this fall and have the new building ready for students in the fall of 2023.

It is with great excitement that NJC launched our Virtual Chatbot on our website starting March 1st. With "*Torchy*", the name of the Chatbot, we are hoping that we will see not only an increase in productivity by staff, but also allow perspective students questions to be answered even when someone is not available. "*Torchy*" has already been programmed with some of our most commonly asked questions, and will continue to learn new answers as we move forward. Gecko Chat will also be able to give us detailed analytics on what time is the busiest for answering questions, how long they have been on our website, if they got their question answered successfully, and even what location the questions are being asked from, among other detailed reports.

During the Fall 2021 semester, former NJC Campus Safety & Security Director, Trenton Schwarzer, took steps to acquire additional Automated External Defibrillators (AED) units for NJC's campus. They were ordered and delivered recently, and NJC's Physical Plant worked quickly this semester to mount the AED's at various locations on campus. Units were previously placed in the Event Center, Applied Technology campus, and ES French Hall. New AED units were added to nine other buildings around campus. The NJC Safety and Security Committee will offer AED training to the entire campus in the near future.

Phi Theta Kappa's REACH Rewards program recognizes and rewards Phi Theta Kappa chapters that excel in membership development. PTK created this program because they believe strongly in the mission of Phi Theta Kappa and want as many students as possible to receive the benefits of membership, including scholarships and increased opportunities for engagement with peers and faculty on campus, which lead to higher rates of completion. We are happy to announce that the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Northeastern Junior College has been named a 2022 REACH Chapter and will receive special recognition in the form of four Phi Theta Kappa graduation stoles that will be sent directly to your chapter's advisor.

Last year, because of the COVID restrictions, we held two commencement ceremonies with crowd limitations at each ceremony. Since last year's two ceremonies were so well received, this year we decided to hold two ceremonies once again, but hopefully with no restrictions this year. This year, our two ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, May 13 at 10:00am and 2:00pm. The 10:00am ceremony will include students in Agriculture; Emergency Medical Services; Fire Science; Health, Math & Science and Nursing. The 2:00pm ceremony will include students in Applied Technology; Business; Sports Management; Cosmetology and Liberal Arts. There will be a reception after each ceremony for students and their families.