

Northeastern Junior College February – March 2023 Board Report

- **Transform the Student Experience**

Northeastern Junior College is happy to announce our two PTK (Phi Theta Kappa) All Colorado Scholars. This year the two scholars chosen were Brady Zink and Brittney Geschwentner.

The Agriculture Department represented and recruited for Northeastern at the Colorado Farm Show in Greeley the week of January 23.



The NJC sophomore and freshman Livestock Judging Teams competed in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the Sioux Empire Livestock Show on January 29. They represented NJC very well; sophomores were Reserve Champion Team Overall. The sophomores also competed in San Antonio, Texas on February 25. They had an excellent day with the following results: 5th High Team Hogs, 6th High Team Sheep and 10th High Team Overall. Individual results were Blake Bruns-4th High Individual Sheep; Abby Scholz-6th High Individual Sheep, 7th High Individual Hogs; Sydney Baldwin-18th High Goats.



The NJC Aggies Club hosted their annual blood drive on February 7 on the NJC campus. Participants entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Clearwater Beach, Florida! In addition, every participant received from the Red Cross a \$10 gift card by email from Amazon.

The NJC Cosmetology Department held a Grand Re-Opening on February 2. Guests were invited to visit and see what we have done with the remodel that we have been working on for the last four years. Guests could relax in the massage chairs in the Nail Room, look at the projects that the students have completed and the wonderful styles they have completed on their mannequins. There were refreshments, swag bags and giveaways.



The NJC Ranch Horse Team was busy representing NJC at the National Western Stock Show in January and they represented NJC very well. The competition was limited to two individuals for the Collegiate Horseman's Challenge. They competed in three separate rounds of competition and then finals. Zoey Boos was the Reserve Collegiate Champion receiving a \$1,000 sponsorship. In the team challenge, alongside Otero Junior College, we earned the championship, and custom National Western Stock Show Jackets! Other members of the team came to work hard, recruit, represent and support their teammates.



NJC and the NJC wrestling team had the privilege of hosting this year's regional wrestling tournament on February 18. This tournament was for the right to attend the NJCAA National Tournament. Six wrestlers qualified for the National competition in Council Bluffs IA where Braydon Mogle and Tucker Naccarato earned All-American Wrestling titles.

Some awesome NJC faculty and staff participated in Untapped Executive Function Training on campus on February 18. The student-oriented training focused on neurodivergence and goal achievement strategies.



NJC hosted a Preview Day on Monday, February 20, 2023. Thirty-three potential students signed up for the day's events. Ninety guests were on NJC's campus that day.

The NJC Music Department held its first ever NJC Honors Jazz Band competition for local high school students. Twenty plus students from across northeast Colorado were invited to join, and were on campus all day on February 20 while they practiced their music. Things culminated in a free Honors Jazz Band performance that evening in the Dorothy Corsberg Theatre.



NJC hosted a Scholarship Night at our Yuma campus the evening of February 23. We had about 30 people attend. Thanks to CSU, the Rural Communities Resource Center, and COSI / Kelly Kuntz for making this successful event happen.



NJC's men's and women's soccer programs hosted an Indoor Futsal Tournament on March 4-5. It was a fun weekend for everyone that participated!

The fifth Annual Northeastern Culture Fair was held on March 8. The event featured food and activities from Around the World. The event was \$5 for community members and \$2 for local students and kids 6+. The event was free for NJC students and kids under six. There was a student performance held from 4:00pm-6:00pm and a Nahucalli Mexican Folkloric Dance Troupe show from 6:00pm-7:00pm.



- **Transform Our Own Workforce**

Becky Cranwell, Development English Faculty, attended the 2023 NOSS (National Organization for Student Success) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on March 2-5, 2023. This conference is a gathering of student success/developmental practices and an opportunity to meet and learn from practitioners in this field who are from across the country to develop new strategies and be able to learn from outstanding professional development opportunities. This is an opportunity to be exposed to new and effective strategies for teaching and curricular changes and innovations.

Maria Gauna, Assistant Registrar, attended the AACRAO (American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) National Conference in Aurora, Colorado on March 26-29, 2023. The AACRAO Conference is an opportunity to learn, network and advance. Higher Education professionals from a variety of disciplines gather to engage and discuss the every-changing landscape of higher education. It is place to find solutions to the challenges we face in our work including enrollment management, new regulations, how to best assist transfer students, and acquiring professional credentials.

- **Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships**

Below is a picture of President Mike White, Dusty Houston, our new CDL instructor, and Marylu Smith-Dischner, Yuma Campus Director, opening the inaugural CDL course in Yuma on January 26 at the Yuma campus. We had 10 students present, all with driving experience, to complete the three-day course to prepare for CDL licensure.



NJC welcomed hundreds of area FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students to campus on February 1-2. Many faculty and staff were instrumental in judging, setting up for the events, creating display boards in the atrium, planning, providing workshops, and even something as simple as greeting them or giving them directions to their events. All of these experiences create an image of NJC in their minds, and we hope that will translate to future students!

COSI (Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative) hosted the 5th annual High School Mock Interview Day on March 22, 2023 from 9:00am—12:30pm on the NJC campus. During this event, seniors from our local high schools visited Northeastern, and participated in numerous sessions that enhance their future career and college skills. The day included a mock interview with a professional in their area of interest, as well as presentations concerning life after high school, proper interview skills and financial awareness into adulthood. This event brought over 120 students on our campus. What a great opportunity to show these seniors how wonderful Northeastern is!

More registered nurses (RN) on the Eastern Plains have access to a streamlined pathway to earn a Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) thanks to a \$50,000 grant awarded to the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges. The Foundation was selected by Telligen Community Initiative last July and has partnered with Morgan Community College to expand their RN to BSN program to Lamar Community College, Northeastern Junior College, and Otero College. The pathway upskills working RNs to prepare them for advanced roles with higher salaries.

The NJC Nursing Department at Northeastern Junior College held a Donor Appreciation Breakfast on March 1 as a way to thank donors. Nursing students meet their scholarship donors and Nursing Booster Club members who have provided them with financial aid. They greeted the donors with thank you cards and showed them around the simulation lab.



The Logan County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Northeastern Junior College Agriculture Department, the Logan County 4-H Extension, and LOCAL (Logan County Arts League) held a Ag Day on Saturday, March 25. Participants were able to explore products, services, and careers that involve the greater Sterling area while celebrating the Agricultural industry.

The NJC PTK (Phi-Theta Kappa) Induction Ceremony was held on Sunday, March 26 at 2:00pm in the ES French Theater with a reception that followed.

The Concurrent Enrollment Advising Day took place on March 29. Students were invited to start the day with lunch in our cafeteria, compliments of COSI (Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative). Students and parents then met with an advisor in their major area of study and registered for classes for the fall 2023 semester.

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

Northeastern was awarded \$10,000 of extended grant funding from the Buell Foundation to help with Early Childhood Education through December 31, 2023. The grant from the Buell Foundation will enable the Adult Community Education (ACE) program to hire an early childhood education instructor to provide literacy focused childcare to young children while their parents attend adult education classes at ACE, which reduces barriers to education for the adult learners. The Buell Foundation has been a long supporter of the Family Literacy program at ACE and this marks the final year that the Buell Foundation will be awarding Family Literacy grants. Access to affordable and quality childcare is frequently a barrier to education and employment for adult learners and the Family Literacy grant from the Buell Foundation will provide us the opportunity to offer quality childcare in hopes of alleviating one of the many barriers adult learners experience. We hope to expand the Family Literacy program to all NJC students by offering free childcare to NJC students while they are accessing services in the MLC.

Northeastern Faculty, Rebecka Cranwell and Brian Lewton, applied for an Open Educational Resources grant that was approved for \$25,900 to encourage faculty to adopt free online course materials to save students money. Ultimately, the OER grant is designed to remove student barriers to accessing learning materials. Often, students cannot afford some of the required learning materials, and they go without or they share texts. Therefore, the implementation of open access materials or creating your own as a faculty or staff member helps to remove those issues, and it allows for further scholarship/research opportunities for the faculty and staff. In this current grant, we targeted specific instructors who were willing to work on OER implementation in their classroom. Throughout the previous grant cycles, we were able to convert ENG and some COM 1115 Public Speaking classes to OER, as well as ECON, BUS and several other courses. Therefore, the more we can offer OER materials, especially for gateway courses, the better we may be able to impact student retention and completion rates, all while taking into consideration how we can address the diverse needs of students, including financial burdens.

NJC is once again running the Tax Help Program that provides people in the community who meet specific income requirements with free tax preparation from an NJC student. This year we have three locations running- Holyoke, Yuma, and Sterling. Two locations have bilingual capabilities. Each location was open twice a week for four weeks. Our hope was to help prepare 350 tax returns for these communities. This program also gives students an industry recognized credential and on-the-job training. We are proud to announce that this is our biggest year yet with 33 students participating.

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 five Phi Theta Kappa graduation stoles. These stoles can be distributed to chapter officers or members to be worn during graduation and to keep in celebration of their college completion milestone.

NJC held a Mass Casualty Incident Drill/Training exercise on campus on March 7. The scenario was that a group of students were hit by a car in a parking lot. There were local police and ambulance present. NJC's EMT students and nursing students participated in this milestone event, which allowed them to apply their learning in a realistic training scenario. The goal was to present them with some unique and unexpected situations to exercise their critical thinking skills along with their emergency and medical responses. NJC's Cosmetology students also participated in the event by helping with makeup.



Northeastern Junior College celebrated the annual Hoops Homecoming on February 4. The day included basketball games against McCook Community College, with the women playing at 2:00pm and the men at 4:00pm. The Alumni Association provided food and presented their annual awards to honor community members who have gone above and beyond for 2022-2023.