

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, March 9, 2017

**STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Jeffrey M. Scherer, Chairperson	ABSENT
Arlan W. Kuehn	PRESENT
Shirley J. Petsche	PRESENT
Carol A. Sibbel	PRESENT
Dr. Terry F. Nelson, ex-officio	PRESENT

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Steve Anderson	PRESENT
Keith E. Harvey	PRESENT
Don Oelsligle	PRESENT
Dirk A. Petersen	PRESENT
Julie A. Robinson	PRESENT
Gene L. Willers	PRESENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Michael Chipps	Shanelle Grudzinski
Mary Honke	Matt Johnson
Dr. Michele Gill	Roger Nelson
Lynne Koski	Cleve Stolpe
Derek Bierman	Dr. Wade Herley
Amanda Nipp	Shawn Tillotson
Eric Johnson	
Dr. Tracy Kruse	
Craig Garrett	
Jim Curry	
Diane Reikofski	
Brenda Sock	
Lyle Kathol	

**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was convened at 11:35 a.m. in Room 1108B of the College Welcome Center by Arlan W. Kuehn, member of the Student Success Committee.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the February 9, 2017 meeting.
3. Lyle Kathol, Shanelle Grudzinski, along with instructors, Matt Johnson, Roger Nelson, and Cleve Stolpe presented the program review of the Utility Line Program.

Northeast Community College is one of only three two-year utility line programs in the nation and students come to Northeast from across the United States. The program teaches students practical applications of job safety, power line construction and maintenance, pole setting and repair, transformer connections, electrical apparatus setup and design, and overhead and underground power transmission and distribution.

With a waitlist of students from across the nation wanting into the program annually, there is a compelling demand for the program. Hiring rates among Northeast graduates remain strong, further revealing the need for a trained workforce.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows the average number of annual job openings in Nebraska at 90 jobs per year. This, coupled with the projected annual job openings across the nation, validates the critical need for the program.

Following discussion, acknowledgement was made that the Northeast Community College

Utility Line Program is a premier program that exceeds the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) thresholds for the student credit hour (SCH)/Faculty full-time equivalency (FTE) of 275 and the five-year average of ten awards. A consensus was reached by the Student Success Committee to recommend the continuation of the Utility Line Program at Northeast Community College and to submit to the CCPE.

4. Dr. Michael Chipps and Dr. Tracy Kruse provided an update on the Ag and Water Center for Excellence. Last fall, Dr. Kruse advised the Board of Governors that we were in the beginning stages of the feasibility study to find out what the support would be in the 20-county service area. She indicated that a phenomenal response of support has been received.

Consultants have been assisting with focus group meetings and interviews and their report should be completed in a few weeks. The feasibility report will be shared with various groups as well as the Board of Governors.

Dr. Kruse reported that not all of the funds will be raised locally. Fundraising will be done across the state and national funding will be pursued. Dr. Chipps advised that while they are in Washington, D.C. next week, he and others will be meeting with national agencies regarding the Ag and Water project.

Dr. Kruse reviewed the tentative timeline for the project, reporting that it will be completed in a phased approach. A great deal of work will need to be accomplished in the next three to four years to make this project a reality.

5. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.