

Northeast Community College

# Connections

Fall/Winter 2016

New College Honors  
& Facilities Showcase  
Northeast As A Top  
Notch Institution



**Northeast**  
community college  
FOUNDATION

*Path Hall & Hawks Point Dining Facility Dedicated October 13, 2016*

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# A Message from President Chipps

We often take for granted the outstanding work that goes on each and every day at Northeast Community College. We are passionate about providing our students an excellent education and fulfilling their dreams of becoming productive members of the workforce. The great mystery and beauty of America’s community colleges is that everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their educational goal, to be an integral member of America’s well-trained workforce, and to have a good life.

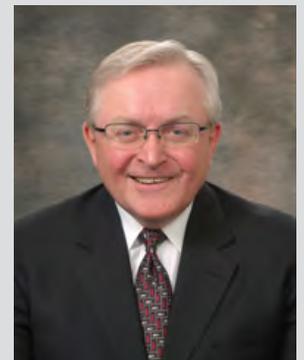
This fall, we were proud to learn that Northeast has been recognized with a prestigious honor that reaffirms the mission that Northeast is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves. Northeast Community College was named among the top ten national finalists for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation’s preeminent recognition of high achievement and performance in America’s community colleges.

Many of the categories that Aspen uses to distinguish excellence are already being addressed at Northeast through our five-year strategic plan, Vision 2020. We are making sure that our students are reaching their objectives through the plan’s number one goal, increase student success, as well as create additional avenues through the second goal, increase student access.

It all is reflected through the lens of Vision 2020 – a comprehensive road map that leads Northeast into the next decade. Recognition by one’s peers is certainly a wonderful tribute. However, this reaffirms Northeast’s reputation as a high quality, caring and passionate place that embraces student success and student access as its top strategic goals.

In this edition of Connections, you will read about the accomplishments that represent a drive and determination that has arisen from our faculty and staff to ensure that students are succeeding not only in college, but in life.

I am deeply appreciative of your continued support of Northeast. Thank you for making your Northeast Community College amongst the best in the nation.



*Dr. Michael R. Chipps*

Dr. Michael R. Chipps, President

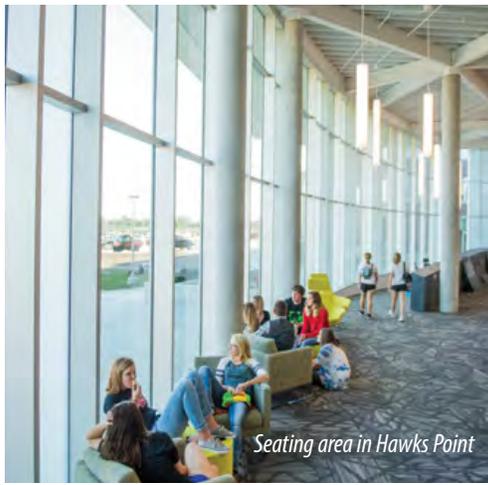
### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Connections magazine is published twice a year for Northeast Community College alumni and friends of the College.

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Seating area in Hawks Point

# A New Path

## Northeast dedicates new residence hall, dining facility; Path calls naming an incredible recognition

Dr. Bill Path called having his name associated with a new residence hall at Northeast Community College, "The greatest professional honor for which I could ever hope."

Path, former Northeast president and now president of Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, OK, spoke during a dedication ceremony October 13, of the new Path Hall and the adjacent Hawks Point dining facility on the Northeast campus in Norfolk.

The 63,000 square foot Path Hall accommodates approximately 200 students and includes single bedroom and double bedroom suites, with four residents living in each suite. Study lounge spaces are available on all three floors, and a communal kitchen area on the first floor is situated near a laundry room.

The adjacent 30,000 square foot Hawks Point dining hall has a capacity of 450 people. In addition to dining areas, it includes meeting rooms, a student lounge, exercise space and a wireless, open computer lab. A convenience store also offers students access to late night coffee, snacks and other personal supplies.

Path Hall Resident Assistant Kayla Langer, Spalding, said that in addition to being so close to classes and 24-hour support, she enjoys the sense of community Hawks Village brings to campus.

"Since the addition of Path Hall, I've noticed a major change in the attitude and community here at Northeast. I see more students on the walkway heading to and from class, eating together at the cafeteria every day, and making new friends and building relationships with one another. It brings me joy to know that these wonderful students of Northeast are getting the full college experience, because there's really no better way to do it."

Dr. Michael Chipps, said with the opening of Path Hall, Northeast is meeting a need – for the College and the community.

"Thanks to a visionary board of governors, they fully supported what you are visualizing here today. This truly has become one of the most desired neighborhoods in Norfolk to live for its special amenities, convenience and safety."

The name of the dining facility, Hawks Point, is derived from the mascot of the College. Together, the new buildings join Simon and Burkhardt residence halls, also named for former Northeast presidents, and two student apartment buildings, to form an area known as Hawks Village. Approximately 550 students live in Hawks Village. ■



Study lounge



Living room of 4-room suite



Exercise Room



Former Northeast President, Dr. Bill Path and his wife, Deb, outside Path Hall.

# Northeast Named Among the Top Ten Community Colleges in the Nation

**Northeast in the running  
for the Aspen Institutes'  
prestigious award.**

The tradition of excellence continues at Northeast Community College. In September, Northeast was named as one of ten finalists for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's preeminent recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges.

"We were so pleased to be included in Aspen's Top 150," said Dr. Michael Chipps, president. "Now to be included in the Top Ten is outstanding, not just for the College, but most importantly for our amazing students and outstanding faculty and staff! This recognition is reflective of the incredible work that goes on at Northeast each and every day."

Northeast now enters the last stage of the competition for the \$1 million prize fund that will be awarded in March 2017, in Washington, D.C., to the winner and up to four finalists with distinction.

The Prize has been awarded every two years since 2011 by the Aspen Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based educational and policy studies organization which recognizes outstanding institutions selected from an original pool of more than 1,000 public community colleges nationwide.



The focus of the Prize is assessing community colleges' achievements in terms of student success in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings for graduates, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

"Northeast Community College utilizes data in some truly innovative ways, particularly to shape its curriculum to reflect job market needs," said Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program in Washington, D.C. "By using labor market statistics to inform new and existing programs, they're responding to the needs of the region and training students with the skills needed for well-paying, in-demand jobs."

The Aspen Institute selected Northeast as one of the nation's top community colleges for many reasons, including:

- A 60 percent, three-year graduation/transfer rate, well above the national average of 39 percent
- In response to student feedback, a complete redesign of its academic advising program, including intensive faculty training and plans to shift to a team advising structure comprised of both first-year advisors and program faculty with mandatory advising
- 99 percent of its students are employed or continuing their education within six months after graduation

- 85 percent of surveyed employers are satisfied with the skills of graduates they have employed

Chipps said, "There are so many community colleges who serve a diverse student body very well. However, there are definitive measures that the Top Ten community colleges have in common to better assure student success. Northeast Community College, in particular, is so intent, so passionate inside and outside of the classroom to create an environment where students don't have a choice but to succeed."

This fall, the Aspen Institute conducted site visits to each of the ten finalist institutions. Following a rigorous review process, a distinguished Prize Jury of higher education experts will select a grand prize winner and finalists with distinction. ■



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

**ASPEN PRIZE**

FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

**TOP 10**

2017

Aerial photo of Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska taken September 2016.

# Achievement Awards

## NORTHEAST ALUMNI HALL OF SUCCESS

**Major Wendi Sazama**



Major Wendi Sazama is a 2003 graduate of Northeast Community College. After earning a paralegal studies certificate from Northeast she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Wayne State College, a Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctorate from the University of South Dakota. She also earned a Master of Law in military law with an international an operational law specialty at The Army Judge Advocate General's Legal School and Center.

Originally from Bloomfield, Sazama is presently stationed at Eskan Village, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where she serves as the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) of the United States Military Training Mission (USMTM). USMTM trains, advises and assists the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense through security cooperation efforts in developing and sustaining capable deterrent and self-defense forces.

In her role as SJA, Sazama serves as the legal advisor to the Chief of USMTM, a two-star Army General, and ensures compliance with all facets of the joint U.S. Security Assistance mission in Saudi Arabia. ■

**Jeff Temme**



Jeffrey Temme graduated from Northeast Community College, then Northeast Nebraska Technical Community College, in 1974 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

He began his career as a teacher and coach, serving for a combined nine years at Campbell and St. Edward public schools. He then worked for over 20 years as a sales associate for Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

Since 1980, Temme has been self-employed in agri-business and currently serves as a sales associate with Century 21 in Norfolk. A longtime member of the Nebraska Auctioneers Association and the National Auctioneers Association, Temme has used his talent as an auctioneer and master of ceremonies at many charity and community events. He also sings and plays guitar at funerals, weddings and nursing homes throughout northeast Nebraska.

Additionally, Temme has served on a wind farm coalition that led to the Nebraska Public Power Purchase Agreement that brought 98 wind turbines to the Petersburg area.

Temme and his wife, Jan, have one son, Jared, and his wife, Leslee, as well as three daughters, Joelle Feeney and her husband, Jimmy, of Petersburg, Jenna Temme, of Chicago, and Julia Temme, of Omaha, and six grandchildren. ■

**Shane Weidner**



Shane Weidner graduated from Northeast Community College in 2001 with an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice with a law enforcement emphasis. He has also earned degrees through Southeast Community College and Bellevue University.

He began his career in the United States Army as an infantryman, serving stateside and overseas. After his military service, Weidner became a firefighter and emergency medical technician for the City of Norfolk.

Taking advantage of the many opportunities at Northeast Community College, Weidner studied to become a paramedic and hazardous materials technician. He progressed through the ranks of the Norfolk Fire Division, holding the positions of rescue supervisor, shift commander and fire chief, until receiving his current appointment of city administrator.

As city administrator, Weidner supervises approximately 250 employees of the City of Norfolk. He interacts daily with community leaders and elected officials to improve Norfolk. He was instrumental in the large recreation project funded by the \$16.4 million bond issue that resulted in the city's new aquatic facility and renovation of baseball and football fields at Veterans Memorial Park as well as construction of new baseball fields at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park.

Weidner and his wife, Jill, have two children, daughter Jenna and son Koal. Jenna and her husband, Jared, have a son, Samson. ■

# NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

## NORTHEAST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

**Larry Poessnecker**



Larry Poessnecker of Atkinson served on the Northeast Community College Board of Governors, representing District II of Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Boyd, Holt, and Knox counties in their entirety and a portion of Cedar County since 1989 until his retirement this year. He chaired every board committee and served as board chairperson in 1994, 2001 and 2010. Poessnecker was board vice-chairperson in 1993, 2000 and 2009. He is now a member of the Northeast Foundation Board of Directors.

Poessnecker also attended the American Association of Community College Trustees and American Association of Community Colleges meetings in Washington, D.C., on behalf of Northeast for many years. He was an active leader who worked to advocate and raise funds for the completion of a new \$3.5 million Extended Campus facility in O'Neill.

A graduate of Norfolk Junior College with an associate degree, Poessnecker also has a Bachelor of Science degree from Peru State College and a Master's degree in educational psychology from Kearney State College. He was a former public school teacher, counselor, elementary school principal and Northeast Community College adult education coordinator, as well as a successful agriculture producer.

Poessnecker and his wife, Lois, have two children, Jeremiah and Lisa Krysl, of O'Neill, and Jeff and Jennifer Poessnecker of Atkinson, as well as five grandchildren. ■

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

**John W. Sehi**



John W. Sehi, CPA, CVA, CGMA, graduated from Northeast Community College, then Northeastern Nebraska College, with an associate of arts degree in 1973. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with High Distinction from the University of Nebraska in 1974.

Sehi is currently a shareholder and vice president of Sehi & Associates, P.C., a certified public accounting firm in Norfolk. He has 40 years of experience in auditing, litigation services, business consulting, tax planning and preparation. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Valuation Analyst and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts and the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accounts, where he has served as a board member and on various committees for a number of years.

Sehi and his wife, Victoria (Dvorak), have been married for 38 years. They have one son, John, who along with his wife, Caitlin, have two children and are employed as doctors of physical therapy in York. ■

## NEBRASKA'S TOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATOR

**Paul Bailey**



Northeast Community College Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Instructor Paul Bailey has been selected as Nebraska's top community college educator. He was presented the 2016 Nebraska Community College Association's Faculty Member Award during the NCCA's Annual Conference. The award is presented annually to a full-time Nebraska community college instructor who has made significant contributions in the classroom.

Bailey has established a distinguished career in both the public and private sector, having worked in private industry for ten years and as an educator at Northeast Community College for 28 years. He was nominated for the award by Lyle Kathol, dean of applied technology.

Bailey's leadership skills are not only recognized within Northeast and the NCCA, but nationally as he recently received recognition as being number five on the HVACclasses.org's top ten Air Conditioning and Refrigeration instructors in the nation. He has also successfully completed a series of exams to earn Certified Master HVACR Educator (CMHE) credentials from HVAC Excellence, a non-profit organization serving the HVACR industry. ■

**Nominations Needed!** - If you are interested in nominating an individual for the Northeast Alumni Hall of Success, please contact the Northeast Community College Foundation Office at 402-844-7065 or via email [foundation@northeast.edu](mailto:foundation@northeast.edu). You may also visit the website to complete an application: <http://www.northeast.edu/Achievement-Awards/>

# What's New At Northeast

## New Vice President

Northeast Community College has selected Amanda Nipp as its new vice president of student services. Nipp, who previously served as the College's dean of enrollment management, assumed her new position in July. She succeeds Dr. Karen Severson, who retired after 26 years with Northeast Community College. ■



Amanda Nipp

## President and Health and Wellness Programming Honored at Nebraska Career Education Conference



Shirley Petsche, Board of Governors Chairperson, and Dr. Chipps

Dr. Michael Chipps, president, was named the recipient of Nebraska's prestigious Elaine Stuhr Leadership and Advocacy Award during the Nebraska Department of Education's 2016 Nebraska Career Education (NCE) Conference. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in advancing the mission of NCE to enhance lifelong learning, earning and living skills and knowledge. It is the highest honor that Nebraska Career Education presents each year. Also at the conference, Northeast's Health and Wellness Division was presented with NCE's Outstanding Postsecondary Program for its work over the past year. ■

## Northeast signs MOU with USDA & National Corn Growers Association

Representatives of five Midwest community colleges, including Northeast Community College, have come together to form a national consortium to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-

NRCS). This collaboration, which also includes the National Corn Growers Association and USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE), was born out of a mutual desire to provide more ongoing education, training and demonstration to future farm producers and agricultural service providers with the goal of improving the health, and therefore the long-term productivity, resilience, and sustainability of soil. "This partnership with the community colleges will leverage efforts of the newly formed Soil Health Division. It will help build a network of the next generation of land managers, experts, educators and technicians who are actively involved in improving soil health," said Dr. Bianca Moebius-Clune, NRCS's director of the soil health division. ■

## New Athletic Program

Northeast Community College announced the addition of a new athletic program to begin the 2016-17 academic year. Baseball becomes the College's eighth intercollegiate athletic program. Marcus Clapp, formerly of the University of Nebraska-Kearney, has been hired to lead the program. ■



Marcus Clapp

## Scherer & Sibbel Join Northeast Board

Jeff Scherer, chief financial officer of Smeal Fire Apparatus in Snyder, joined the Northeast Community College Board of Governors in early 2016. Scherer, Beemer, succeeded John W. Davies, Pilger, who resigned his At-Large seat. The

position represents the College's entire 20-county service area. Scherer was formally elected to the position in November 2016.

Carol Sibbel, O'Neill, is the newest member of the Northeast Community College

Board of Governors. Sibbel, a loan officer at Pinnacle



Carol Sibbel



Jeff Scherer

Bank, succeeded Larry Poessnecker, Atkinson, who resigned his District II seat this summer. The district covers Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Boyd, Holt, and Knox counties in their entirety and a portion of Cedar County. ■

## Northeast To Train Next Generation of Dealership Service Technicians

Northeast Community College is part of an initiative to provide more trained industry certified service technicians into Chrysler dealerships. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) established the program, known as Mopar CAP (Career Automotive Program) LOCAL, in partnership with the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) to train approximately 1,000 students annually. Northeast, through its automotive technology program, is one of 42 colleges to be added to FCA's growing network of certified technical training sites. ■



The mascot of Northeast is making an indelible mark of its own as a sculpture of a soaring hawk has found a home in front of the Cox Activities Center on the Norfolk campus. The sculpture was commissioned by members of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Student Government Association and was crafted by former faculty member Merle Mead.

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# Leave A Legacy

You can make a real difference in your community by remembering Northeast Community College Foundation in your will and leaving a charitable legacy for future generations. Contact Christine Tudor at (402) 844-7658 or christinet@northeast.edu

Sample language:

"I give and devise \_\_\_\_\_ (specific dollar amount/percentage of estate/specific personal property) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Northeast Community College Foundation, Norfolk, Nebraska, to be used at the discretion of its Board of Directors for the education needs of Northeast Community College students."



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