



## Northeastern Junior College February 2025 Board Report

- **Economic Mobility**

**The Northeastern Welding Lab continues to expand to include metal cutting in support of individual projects and robotic welding. This program has extremely high job placement throughout the region.**



**The Northeastern Cosmetology Student Salon is open to the public during the spring semester where students practice their skills on a wide variety of customers. This builds cosmetology proficiency in preparation for the licensing examination and grows communication and customer service skills.**



**The first Northeastern Paramedic Class started Saturday, February 22.** A big celebration event was held at 8:00am Saturday morning. There are eight students in the program. The classes are held on Saturdays and Sundays for working adults. There is a critical shortage of paramedics in the region so this program upskills current first responders to better jobs.



- **Education For All**

**The Northeastern Phi-Theta Kappa All-Colorado Scholars were announced in December.** The two students are Gracie Clark and Sarah Liebold.

**The NJC Equine Club competed at the National Western Stock Show in Denver on January 20-22.** This competition is a Collegiate Horseman's Challenge and every college with an equestrian team of any kind in our region was represented. Events included two separate judged patterns, a speed (timed) challenge, and a team challenge with exhibitors.

**The Northeastern Wrestling team held Sophomore night on February 11 leading to the regional tournament where individuals qualify for the national NJCAA competition.**





**Our congratulations to the Northeastern Cheer Team!** The weekend of February 15 was their first ever trip to Nationals in Anaheim, California where they earned a second-place finish.



**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Food & Culture Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 12 on the Northeastern Campus.** Booths share international food, arts and crafts and various international entertainment is provided.



- **Empowered Talent**

**To align with the new CCCS Strategic Plan, NJC has formed a Strategic Planning Committee who is charged with helping create the 2026-2031 NJC Strategic Plan.** There will be community roundtables held in Northeastern's five-county service area.

## NJC Strategic Planning Community Roundtables

We want to hear from you! As we develop our 5-year strategic plan, we are seeking community feedback. Please join us for a small bite, a drink and good conversation as we discuss the future of NJC!



	Thursday, February 27th 5-6pm Indian Hills Golf Course in Yuma
	Wednesday, March 5th 5-6pm Cobblestone Inn & Suites in Holyoke
	Thursday, March 6th 5-6pm DBJ Cafe in Julesburg
	Monday, March 10th 5-6pm Sky Ranch Golf Course in Sterling
	Thursday, March 13th 5-6pm Elks Lodge in Akron

**Veronica Koehn, Northeastern Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, attended a virtual Teaching with AI Workshop Series in January and February.** Veronica serves as Northeastern's Quality Matters Coordinator (QMC). Each college in the system has a QMC, and several meetings have been dedicated to discussing what sort of AI policy each institution has, if any. This workshop will provide Veronica with other perspectives that she can share with the QMC group.

- **Partner of Choice**

**Northeastern was thrilled to receive the Most Educational Small Booth Award from the Colorado Farm Show!** A huge thank you to the organizers for this honor—it is an incredible recognition of our dedication to education and agriculture!



**Resilience and the ability to “Bounce Forward” were the focus of this year’s Early Childhood Education Conference hosted by the Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick counties and Northeastern Junior College.** Held all day Saturday at the college, the conference drew eighty-one attendees from across Northeastern Colorado, including preschool/center directors, early educators, and family childcare home providers.



*\*Photo courtesy of Callie Jones/Journal-Advocate.  
Jodi Geis-Crowder, clinical supervisor and professional trainer for Volunteers of America Northern Rockies, is joined by her registered therapy dog, Shay River, as she talks about early pioneers who recognized the human and animal connection, during a workshop.*

**A \$245,000 Perkins Innovative Grant was awarded for the 2025 fiscal year to nineteen rural school districts to improve their welding programs across Colorado. Alamosa, Arickaree, Bethune, Briggsdale, Burlington, Byers, Caliche, Eads, Eaton, Hi-Plains, Holly, Holyoke, Kim, Peetz, Revere, Sterling, Valley, Weldon Valley, and Woodlin were all participants of the grant.** Each Agriculture Education Program at these schools received \$12,000 to spend to update and improve their welding programs. The remaining money has been used for grant administration. On January 14, these schools came to NJC with students to discover the next steps in a welding career. One hundred forty-five students and instructors came to discover a college degree at NJC, explore the new welding facility, walk on campus, tour businesses in the welding field, and pick up their final resources. This grant was written and administered by Nicole Volberding. East Central BOCES is the fiscal agent of the grant.



(Photo courtesy of Nicole Volberding/Special to The Times/Journal-Advocate)

**President Mike White presented to the Colorado State University Board of Governor's with CSU Vice President James Pritchett on the Behavioral Health education partnership.** This program will allow students to complete a Master's Degree in Addiction Counseling while remaining on the NJC Campus. The students complete their Associates Degree with NJC and then continue their education as remote CSU students for three additional years to earn the Masters. With the critical shortage in behavioral health providers in rural Colorado, this program can provide the skilled workforce needed.

**President White attended the OEDIT Opportunity Now Summit hosted by the University of Northern Colorado.** This summit brought together industry and educational leaders to seek collaboration to solve Colorado workforce shortages. NJC is a key regional provider of workers in the skilled trades and the summit seeks ways to encourage these careers through paid internships and job shadowing.

- **Power of 13**

**After the short notice departure of the NJC Financial Aid Director, NJC employed an experienced financial aid director from CCD to help identify process improvement opportunities and train the incoming director.** She quickly identified opportunities to streamline workflow and grew the knowledge and skills of our financial aid department.

**NJC would like to extend a shout out to our partners at Pueblo Community College for their support and expertise designing our first mobile learning lab to support the Commercial Driving program.** Their long record of success with mobile learning labs was invaluable in helping us avoid pitfalls and design an effective lab in a short period of time.