



President's Report  
Northeastern Junior College  
Sterling, Colorado  
JUNE - AUGUST 2009

**Student Access Goal: All Coloradans shall have access to comprehensive community college educational programs**

*Dr. Lance Bolton, NJC President, was invited to represent rural Colorado and the Colorado Community Colleges at the July 27<sup>th</sup> Economic Opportunity & Poverty Reduction Task Force Meeting.* The following legislators were present to hear the testimony: Representatives John Kefalas, Sara Gagliardi, Daniel Kagan, Ken Summers and Mark Waller; Senators Paula Sandoval, Betty Boyd, Evie Huda and Al White. The Task Force is set up under authority of HB 09-1064 which is designed to increase access to economic opportunity in order to help Colorado families achieve self-sufficiency and financial security while simultaneously reducing the number of Coloradans living in poverty. HB 09-1064 creates a ten member Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force, with five members each from the House and Senate. The Task Force is charged with studying and evaluating the best policies and practices that: build family assets and financial stability, increase preschool through post-secondary educational opportunities, expand the workforce with quality jobs that meet private sector needs, make work pay through fair and sustainable targeted tax policies and address work-support issues. In addition the Task Force will study and evaluate the economic impact of poverty, current policies and services that affect persons living below the poverty line, issues impacting poverty such as education, healthcare, housing, etc., and also study and evaluate the Colorado Works program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with the goal of increasing participation and pathways to self-sufficiency as well as sourcing additional federal dollars for assistance with education and training.

*Representative Betsy Markey recently visited Northeastern Junior College's campus on August 28<sup>th</sup>.* She specifically asked for time to meet with NJC's faculty and staff to hear their concerns. She was open to visiting about any issues, not just those related to education. She was also open to any ideas about how the federal government can help colleges be more successful. This was not a campaign event and the invitation to NJC's staff for this event was absolutely optional.

**Student Success Goal: The demands of Colorado businesses and communities shall be met through the development of a high skilled work force**

After nearly 18 months of preparation, *a Wind Energy Technician Training Program will begin this August* at Northeastern Junior College. It is the first program of its kind to open in Colorado. The program's curriculum has been approved at the state level. Funding has been secured, facilities have been identified, an instructor has been hired and students are being recruited. Between private industry and contributions and a grant from the Department of Local Affairs, nearly \$900,000 has been raised to help pay for the opening of the new program. A number of wind energy company officials are serving on an advisory board for the NJC program and they have been very instrumental in setting up the curriculum. The new program is going to be a two-year associate of applied science degree program that will require a completion of 60 credits. Currently the program is full with a waiting list.

*For the second time in two years, Northeastern Junior College's automotive technology program is the benefactor of a hybrid car donated by State Farm Insurance.* The college has received another 2006 Toyota Prius, an almost identical match to a car received last year. Now that two hybrid cars are located at the training facility, student learning can be expanded even further as parts can be removed from one vehicle and placed on the

other, or the operating systems in one can be "bugged" to create a puzzle for the students to solve, utilizing the other car as the teaching guide. State Farm has an internship program and sometimes graduates from auto tech programs are hired. The company says that if an intern knows vehicles well, it gives him or her a real advantage when it comes to evaluating damage. Over the years, the company has hired a number of trained auto technicians to become full time estimators.

***Dr. Lance Bolton, NJC President, recently attended an invitation-only Clean Energy Economy Forum on August 27<sup>th</sup>.*** The hosts were Governor Bill Ritter, Congresswoman Betsy Markey, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley. The hosts discussed President Obama's vision for a comprehensive energy plan to jump-start the American clean energy sector and create millions of new jobs developing technologies that will cut pollution while producing alternative sources of energy. The forum included brief presentations as well as questions from stakeholders about local and regional energy issues.

**Student Success Goal: Colorado students shall have seamless opportunities to transition from high school into college and from two-year institutions into four-year institutions**

***Recently, NJC and RE 1 Valley School District administration met*** and the college updated information as to how well their graduates perform at NJC. Discussion was held concerning recent concurrent enrollment legislation that passed. Discussion was held on new secondary state standards for mathematics and whether or not those standards align well with the Accuplacer exam. It appears math computation is being de-emphasized at the secondary level but is still a key component of the Accuplacer exam. The college shared learning objectives and competencies for all remedial math courses.

***In August, NJC Recruiter Emma Pena-McCleave hosted Camp 2013.*** This was a two-day camp for Latino students entering the ninth grade. The camp looked at what it will take to be successful in high school and college. It also examined what it takes to be admitted to different colleges in Colorado.

***An AAA course will be required for any student with assessment scores that place them into multiple developmental courses.*** If the student accomplishes a C or better, they will receive a scholarship for the amount of the course.

**Operational Excellence Goal: The financial stability of the system's institutions and the physical safety of its students shall be ensured**

***Northeastern Junior College has entered into an Energy Performance Contract Lease with Ennovate Corporation.*** This project creates an opportunity for energy savings and a reduction in deferred maintenance. We are also proud that we will reduce NJC's carbon footprint on the planet. Work has already begun on the over \$2.3 million project. The plans are to upgrade lighting, windows, and some HVAC. There is also a component for saving water using low flush toilets and sink water regulators. All of these improvements come at no extra out of pocket cost for the college. The payments for the \$2.3 million lease purchase are paid from the energy savings and Xcel rebates over the next 12 years.

July 29<sup>th</sup> marked a milestone in ***hazardous preparedness for Northeastern Junior College, Sterling Regional MedCenter and the EMS responders with the Sterling Fire Department and Life Care Ambulance through a joint HAZMAT decontamination drill*** at a residence hall on NJC's campus. The exercise was specifically developed to test three things: the decontamination surge capacity of the Sterling Fire Department in a high victim exposure situation, the transport of a high number of victims to the local hospital and the decontamination surge capacity of the hospital. NJC also had the opportunity to test their emergency response plan and emergency operations center and team leaders at the same time.

***The Pandemic Flu Team at NJC met with Northern Colorado Health Department officials*** and reviewed action and communication in response to H1N1 threat to the campus and community. The campus is taking steps to communicate, educate and prepare for potential escalation of sickness.