Transform the Student Experience

Through a federal grant received earlier this year, Northeastern offered a new program this fall called Jump Start NJC. This was a unique opportunity designed to help students accelerate through an entire college course by arriving on campus two weeks prior to the start of the actual fall semester. Some learners enrolling at Northeastern are in need of pre-collegiate coursework. Students that do not score at a certain level on the standardized assessment test, are not allowed to enroll into degree level classes in math and English. Some of these students are very borderline, just missing the required scores for college level courses. For them, perhaps only one remedial class could make them ready for degree qualifying courses. Students who qualified to participate in this new program arrived on campus August 10th and enrolled in one of three academic tracks and spend two weeks brushing up on the reading, writing or math content they need in order to jump ahead and be ready to enroll in the next level course. In addition to the accelerated academic coursework, students who participated in Jump Start NJC also had access to tutors, were able to move into their residence halls and participated in a number of activities that allowed them to know the campus and the resources available. They became familiar with the use of their iPads on the college’s network. The programming, which ran early morning to late evening also included some community exploration, social activities and relationship building among the students. All of these activities were designed to increase the overall success rate for this particular cohort of learners. The grant funds allowed for this program to take place and made it very affordable for the students who signed up. The Jump Start Program cost was $300 per student which covered their room and meal charges for the two weeks. The cost of their course was paid for through grant dollars. Twenty-eight students enrolled in the Jump Start NJC Program.

New student orientation and first week welcome activities took place August 20th through August 28th. New students checked in and moved in on Thursday, August 20th. That day included a Community/Club Fair, a New Student and Parent BBQ, Residence Hall and Residence Floor Meetings, and a Movie under the Stars. On Friday, August 21st, Advising and iPad Sessions for students were held along with D2L Training, Comprehensive Learning Center/Library Orientations, and self-guided tours. The evening ended with a Foam Dance Pit where students danced in waist high foam bubbles on a dance floor. During the afternoon of Saturday, August 22nd the students could attend a carnival that included games, snacks and activities and the evening concluded with a Laser Tag competition.
Returning students moved in on Sunday, August 23rd. The first week of school included Associated Student Government activities including a Bonfire with S’mores, iPad Parties, Cops and Robbers, $2 Movie Night at the local movie theatre and a Surprise event the evening of Friday, August 28th.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Northeastern’s Faculty and Staff attended In-Service trainings the week of August 17th. The group attended a presentation on “Bridges out of Poverty” by Rural Solutions. “Bridges out of Poverty” strives to gain a broader, deeper understanding of economic class and how it impacts work, community, and life. Faculty also participated in a “Pathways to Persistence” presentation which was a simulated exercise that answers questions and assists campus communities to act, individually and collectively, to increase student success. Faculty also had the opportunity to attend six informative break-out sessions on E-Books, Digital Content and Desire2Learn; Copyright Laws and the Fair Use Exception; Content/One Drive; Office 365; iPad Accessibility and How to Help Your Students Get a Link Up with LinkedIn.

On August 11-13th, Steve Smith, Vice President of Student Services, and Cindy Carey, Counselor at Northeastern attended Max Tours in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This training was specifically for new users of Maxient. Maxient is a web-based service that helps colleges track everything related to conduct and behavior. More than 400 schools use Maxient, and others are joining each year. Maxient will allow NJC users to manage the processes and records related to student conduct. This includes all aspects of violations of the student code of conduct, Behavioral Intervention/Threat Assessment, housing incidents, academic integrity, Title IX & more. The software will allow Northeastern to customize its reporting forms, streamline the production of letters to students and parents, notify other parties involved in incidents, confirm the delivery and receipt of emails, and produce detailed reports instantaneously. Maxient is secure, and it is FERPA-compliant. Starting July 1, Northeastern entered into a three-year contract with Maxient. It showcased the many features, and explanation was given about how to get started with the process. Steve has begun the process of migrating files, submitting our code of conduct, submitting letter templates, and developing a listing of all campus locations and building names for Maxient IT staff to begin the customization design for Northeastern. Our logo has also been sent to Maxient. While the system is being designed for Northeastern, Maxient is simultaneously integrating with Banner. Prior to final deployment and implementation, Maxient will train the Northeastern campus staff on how to use the product.

Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

President Jay Lee held a State of the College Address report to the community on the morning of Monday, August 17th. The event was open to the public and included a breakfast buffet. President Jay Lee spoke to those in attendance about the current status of the college and significant changes taking place on the campus. The State of the College
Address was sponsored by the Northeastern Junior College Foundation. The profits will go to the Foundation and will be used to help buy furnishings for E.S. French Hall which is currently being renovated. Those in attendance heard first-hand information about the various trends impacting the college’s enrollment, housing and academic programs. Perhaps one of the things that President Lee is most excited about is Northeastern’s current initiative to become the state’s first iPad college. Guests got to actually experience use of the iPads through an interactive exercise. Northeastern’s faculty, staff and volleyball team were in the room helping the guests at each table participate. This exercise presented a good sampling of how iPads can be used to increase student engagement in the classroom.

Redefine Our Value Proposition Through Accessibility, Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development and Operational Excellence

Plans are underway for the third annual Beat the Plainswomen co-rec slow pitch softball tournament. Hosted by the Northeastern Softball team, this tournament will be held September 5th and 6th at the Mason Field in Sterling. This is a fundraiser for the college team with proceeds going to help cover travel expenses and new gear.

A new, vibrant and contemporary family of logos, two word marks, alphabet and two customized fonts for Northeastern’s eight-sport intercollegiate athletics programs will be introduced to fans this fall at Northeastern. This rebrand is the culmination of a year-long process that builds on the foundations and well-established spirit and traditions of Northeastern Athletics while also providing a new visual identity that is contemporary, inclusive and exciting. The main goal of the rebrand was to better position Northeastern Athletics with consistent logos, colors and lettering. This process was a collaboration between several Northeastern Departments, the community, current and former Northeastern Athletes, students and alumni. The rebranding included input from virtually every segment of the Northeastern community. The process began in 2013 with the Rural College Sustainability Report which noted the lack of brand recognition for Northeastern and recommended consistent branding for the college. The athletic department began a brand analysis in May 2014 to evaluate brand strength and identity. It was discovered during this analysis that Northeastern Athletics did not have a recognizable brand and the decision was made to pursue a logo overhaul. One of the biggest reasons for this project was the inconsistent look throughout the athletic programs. For example, the marks on the uniforms varied from NJC to different Ns with some using a version of Pete to others using their own wordmarks. The new brand was created for Northeastern Athletics by Joshua Holloway Design Studio (an NJC Alum) of Strasburg. The new logo and mascots set the visual direction for Northeastern Athletics for years to come and modernizes a 16-year-old design, with the goal of developing an innovative and contemporary athletic brand identity. The new Northeastern logo features clean, contemporary lines and a modern, confident and timeless graphic structure. Through these brand identity updates, Northeastern Athletics creates separation and distinction in the marketplace while also respecting the
past and representing the future. As part of the new program, all eight of Northeastern's intercollegiate sports teams will showcase consistent colors, logos and lettering.