

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

A.	Expenditure Approval – New Telephone System .....	1
B.	Expenditure Recommendations for Purchases of \$100,000 or more – Architectural/Engineering Consultant for the Human Anatomy Laboratory	3

**II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A.	Fiscal Year 2013 Tuition and Fee Rates .....	4
B.	Firearms Policy .....	16
C.	Purchases between \$50,000 and \$100,000 .....	20
D.	News and Events	
1.	Third Annual Summer Research Symposium .....	21
2.	Jewel Box Series .....	21
3.	Latino Resource Center Inauguration of Mural .....	21
4.	Minority Student Mentoring Program .....	21
5.	Accessibility Center Meet and Greet .....	21
6.	Video Tribute to William “Doc” Speller .....	22
7.	Black and... Brown Bag Lunch Series .....	22
8.	New and Newly Tenured and Promoted Faculty Receptions .....	22
9.	NEIU Talent Show .....	22
10.	Midwest Regional First Year Conference .....	22
11.	The Interrupters .....	23
12.	NEIU Day of Service .....	23
13.	Fall Diversity Community Job Fair .....	23
14.	It’s A Major Deal! .....	23
15.	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration .....	23
16.	The Seventeenth Equity in Action, Immigration and Social Justice ...	24
17.	Student and Faculty and Staff Town Hall Meeting .....	24
18.	Golden Eagles Book Club .....	24
19.	NEIU Alumni Center Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony ...	24
20.	NEIU Foundation Annual Meeting .....	24
21.	Assessment Presentation by Dr. Terrell Strayhorn .....	25
22.	White Ribbon Campaign .....	25
23.	Charla (dialogue) with Dr. Fry .....	25
24.	Presidential Lecture Series .....	25
25.	Nuestra Comunidades (Our Communities) .....	25
26.	NEIU Leader Fund .....	26
27.	New Futuro Partnership .....	26

**I. A. ACTION ITEM: EXPENDITURE APPROVAL – NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

Northeastern Illinois University's current phone system is more than 25 years old. The phone system uses an older generation of technology than currently available alternatives and the replacement of the phone system has been a priority of the University Planning and Budget Council and most other campus constituencies. Further, the Governor's Executive Order 10 (2010) requested that agencies use more modern and cost-effective phone systems.

In response to these needs, University Technology Services led a project to replace the existing phone system with the current generation of technology based on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). The University publicly advertised for proposals for the replacement of the phone system through the established RFP process and specified that the selection of the successful vendor would be based on technical and functional compliance with the RFP as well as cost. The responses were evaluated and vendors with the highest ranked proposals were invited to campus for presentations and follow-up discussions before the final selection was made.

Board approval of the recommended vendor will result in the replacement of all University telephones, the voicemail system, and the systems that manage calls at all NEIU campus locations. The new phone system will take advantage of more cost-effective VoIP technologies and reduce the cost of telecommunication operations.

Other advantages of the proposed system include the consolidation of the telephone and computing infrastructure to the same campus network, the use of less energy without requiring a dedicated battery back-up system, reduced cost of labor in managing and maintaining the phone system, enhanced features and collaborative tools for staff and faculty that will improve efficiency and productivity, integration with the campus wireless system resulting in reduced cellular costs, uniform services across all campuses, and scalability providing for a 50 percent usage increase to seamlessly accommodate new buildings and growth.

The recommended vendor is Global Enterprise Technologies, Inc. (GET); an Illinois based systems integrator of Cisco Inc. products. (Cisco is the largest provider of networking equipment in the world.) GET's proposal complied with the technical and functional requirements in the RFP at a lowest price. The cost of the new phone system is nearly identical to the combined maintenance and expected service costs of the current NEIU telephone system for the next five years should it not be replaced. As part of the contract, the vendor will also provide installation and training.

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

University Services Fee

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR**

Global Enterprise Technology, Inc.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

**2**

**RESPONSES**

Unified Concepts	\$316,274*
Sentinel	336,826*
Global Enterprises Technology	357,838
Telecom Innovations Group	592,035
Strategic Products and Services	641,762
IPC Technologies	691,695
Morse Communications	770,845
Altura	826,600
Shared Technologies	923,079
Black Box	1,023,079

\* Not compliant with RFP requirements

**I. B. ACTION ITEM: EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PURCHASES OF  
\$100,000 OR MORE – ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FOR  
THE HUMAN ANATOMY LABORATORY**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

**Project Background**

The University recently was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand our capabilities in the health sciences. The amount of the total grant is \$4.3 million over five years. The grant, *Enhancing Career Opportunities in Biomedical and Environmental Health Sciences at an Urban Hispanic-Serving Institution*, will expand and enhance courses related to biomedical and environmental health sciences, including the renovation of several science laboratories in Bernard Brommel Hall. Over the next five years, professional development opportunities for students and faculty will also be implemented.

**Project Scope**

A working committee, consisting of faculty and staff, has been formed to develop and organize space requirements, perform functional and economic analysis for the arrangement of desired functions, and prioritize the proposed modifications to existing spaces that will house the Human Anatomy Lab, the first lab to be addressed. The scope of needed architectural and engineering services consists of program analysis, design, bid document preparation, bidding assistance, and construction administration. Related commissioning services are to be provided during the appropriate phases.

**Recommended Consultant**

BLDD Architects is being recommended as the Architectural/Engineering (A/E) consultant for this project based on their past experience as a consultant for the Science Engagement project completed earlier this year. BLDD is one of two firms selected through the competitive qualifications-based selection (QBS) process. BLDD's team specializes in academic and science laboratory projects, including programming, mechanical and electrical engineering systems, and cost estimating. The fee for the professional services has been negotiated with BLDD and will be reimbursed on completed phase and expense basis.

**PROJECT COST:**

Not to exceed \$121,000

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

Federal Grant Funding

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR:**

BLDD Architects  
833 W. Jackson  
Suite 100  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

## II. A. INFORMATION ITEM: FISCAL YEAR 2013 TUITION AND FEE RATES

### Overview

Setting tuition and fee rates is a complicated process which requires a balance between several, seemingly competing, factors. These factors are critically important in framing the tuition discussion and eventually determining tuition rates for the coming year.

*First, students are the constituents most affected by tuition increases, and the ability of students to access higher education is encouraged and enhanced when the cost to students is held to a reasonable level. At the same time, students are the constituents who benefit directly from a full complement of academic offerings taught by highly qualified and energetic faculty in an environment conducive to learning and supported with the best technology.*

*Second, tuition rates must be examined and established in an environment of continuing uncertainties. Because tuition and State of Illinois funding comprise the University's total operating budget, tuition rates must be established when funding from the State of Illinois is unreliable at best and, at worst, steadily and permanently declining. In addition, new and expensive state mandates, and the possibility of new and significant university pension costs, are made more challenging by declining state support.*

*And third, tuition must be analyzed in terms of its contributions to the strategic, programmatic priorities of the University and the value of a degree from Northeastern. This year, in particular, new programmatic needs, such as a new and expanded El Centro program and campus, retention efforts, undergraduate recruiting, and strengthening graduate programs will all require additional resources.*

The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University is required by its enabling Act to adopt tuition and fee rates for students attending the University. Each year, the Board reviews and adjusts those rates to recognize the budgetary needs of the University and the appropriate contributions students should make to meet those needs. Historically, given the University's ongoing commitments to access and to providing a high-quality affordable education, the Board has adopted tuition and fee rates that are among the most affordable of the Illinois public universities. Equally important, the Board adopts tuition rates that reflect a fair and appropriate contribution from students to the cost of their education.

It is with the Board's continuing commitments to access and quality education, and in consideration of the factors outlined above, that this report presents the fiscal year 2013 tuition and fee rates to the Board for review and discussion. At its February meeting, the Board will be asked to approve tuition and fee rates for the upcoming academic year. Between now and the February meeting, the President and Vice Presidents will engage students and the entire University community in a discussion of this proposal and the underlying rationales and, in addition, monitor areas of uncertainty for possible effects on university resources.

### **Setting Tuition and Fee Rates**

In Fall 2004, a state law took effect requiring all Illinois public universities to guarantee new undergraduate students level tuition for four consecutive academic years. In Fall 2011, the eighth cohort of undergraduate students attending Northeastern entered the University under the tuition guarantee program. In the spring 2010 legislative session, the General Assembly and Governor approved an extension of the tuition guarantee program so that students in their fifth and sixth years of enrollment also have guaranteed tuition rates. The rates for those students in their fifth and sixth years are now at the rates for the cohorts enrolled in the following year. For example, students who first enrolled at Northeastern in Fall 2007 had their tuition guaranteed at the same rate for four years. Under the new law, they have tuition guaranteed in their fifth and sixth years at Northeastern at the rate charged to students who first enrolled in Fall 2008.

One result of the tuition guarantee program is the effect on tuition comparisons among institutions. Prior to Fall 2004, most universities had one basic tuition rate for undergraduate in-state residents and it was much easier to compare and assess tuition rates among public universities. Now, because of this legislation, all Illinois public universities have at least five different tuition rates for in-state undergraduate students. This complicates tuition comparisons. The Illinois Board of Higher Education developed a methodology for comparing tuition rates that involves weighting each university's various tuition rates by the number of students paying the corresponding rates. Those rates and comparisons are included in this report.

### **Student Tuition and Net Cost**

Tuition comparisons are important because they provide a means to assess student costs among somewhat similarly financed institutions. Table 1 presents fiscal year 2012 weighted average tuition rates at Illinois public universities for new undergraduates and for all undergraduate students and compares those rates with the previous year.

The fiscal year 2012 tuition rate for new undergraduate students enrolling at Northeastern was 5.8 percent more than the rate for students entering Northeastern the previous year. This increase was one percent less than the 6.8 percent average increase for all Illinois public universities. Only three public universities adopted a smaller tuition increase than Northeastern. The tuition for new full-time undergraduates at Northeastern is \$8,250, 87 percent of the statewide average of \$9,245. Given Northeastern's location in Chicago, having a tuition rate for new undergraduates 13 percent below the average tuition rate for Illinois public universities seems reasonable and consistent with our affordability goals.

For all undergraduate students, Northeastern's current year average tuition rate is \$7,462, based on 30 enrolled credit hours. Northeastern's overall undergraduate tuition rate is 15 percent below the public universities' average of \$8,740. Stated differently, on average, full-time undergraduate students at Northeastern pay \$1,278 less per year

for tuition, or \$42.60 less per credit hour, than the average for all Illinois public universities.

Table 2 provides comparison data for graduate tuition and shows that the fiscal year 2012 rate for students at Northeastern is \$6,600 based on 24 enrolled credit hours, 71 percent of the statewide average of \$9,349. The current year graduate tuition rate increase at Northeastern of 5.8 percent is very close to the statewide average of 5.7 percent. Six public universities have higher average graduate tuition than Northeastern and five have a lower average graduate tuition rate.

Table 3 provides a comparison of the tuition costs for undergraduate and graduate students at Illinois public universities. Because graduate education is more costly than undergraduate education, it follows that graduate students should not pay less for their education than undergraduates. For the past five years, Northeastern has established graduate tuition at the rate paid by the entering undergraduate students. This assures that no undergraduate student pays more per credit hour for their education than graduate students and the majority pay less. Statewide, graduate students pay 23.1 percent more than undergraduate students. However, these data should be interpreted with caution because graduate costs at several campuses are inflated due to the high cost of certain graduate programs, for example, medical education.

The discussion on published tuition rates does not reflect the fact that a majority of students at Northeastern, and most other higher education institutions, pay less for their education than the stated tuition and fee costs. Nationally, there is increasing discussion and analysis of the net price of a college education. Net price is generally defined as the price a student pays for higher education after financial aid is considered. This discussion is important for several reasons. First, given the increases in available student financial aid at all levels – federal, state, and institution – it is critically important to know how, or if, financial aid programs are improving access to higher education. Second, given the increases in tuition and fees at higher education institutions, it is important to know how much students are actually paying for their education. This discussion is of such importance that federal legislation will require all higher education institutions administering federal financial aid programs to publish on their websites the net price students actually pay to attend the institution.

Information presented in last year's tuition report showed that for full-time students who received need-based financial aid, the combination of federal, state, and institutional financial aid awards, on average, exceeded the net cost of tuition and fees. More than half of the undergraduate students included in the analysis received need-based financial aid. Stated differently, more than half of the students at Northeastern received need-based financial aid and for those students, on average, financial aid completely covered their tuition and fees. When all students are considered, those who received need-based financial aid and those who did not, students, on average, paid 45 percent of the stated cost (or "sticker price") of their tuition and fees. It should be noted that aid from loans and aid that included a work requirement were not included, which would further lower net costs.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

As a result, tuition increases do not affect tuition and fee costs for a significant proportion of the Northeastern student body because their tuition and fee costs are covered by financial aid. Because this analysis is so critical, it will be updated with Fall 2011 data and presented to the Board in the next report.

**Setting Tuition in an Uncertain Fiscal Environment**

The fiscal climate in the state of Illinois has had a direct impact on tuition and fee rates at Northeastern and all other Illinois public universities. The following table summarizes changes since fiscal year 2002 in state appropriations and Northeastern's Income Fund (created by state law to account for student tuition). Fiscal year 2002 represents the high-water mark in state higher education funding in Illinois.

**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
STATE GENERAL FUNDS AND UNIVERSITY INCOME FUNDS  
UNIVERSITY BUDGETS - FISCAL YEARS 2002 TO 2012**

	<u>General Funds</u>		<u>Income Funds</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Dollars / % of Total</u>		<u>Dollars / % of Total</u>		<u>Dollars/% Change</u>	
FY 2002	\$ 45,396,800	( 69% )	\$ 20,626,100	( 31% )	\$ 66,022,900	
FY2011	40,695,200	( 48% )	44,921,000	( 52% )	85,616,200	
FY2012	40,228,500	( 44% )	50,292,700	( 56% )	90,521,200	
<u>Change</u>						
FY 2011 - 12	(466,700)	(1.1) %	5,371,700	12.0 %	4,905,000	5.7 %
FY2002 - 12	(5,168,300)	(11.4) %	29,666,600	143.8 %	24,498,300	37.1 %
FY2002 - 12						
Average change		(1.2) %		9.3 %		3.2 %

In fiscal year 2002, state appropriations to Northeastern totaled \$45.4 million and accounted for 69 percent of the University's operating budget. The same year, student tuition totaled \$20.6 million and accounted for 31 percent of the operating budget. In the fiscal year 2012 operating budget, for only the second time, student tuition (56 percent) exceeds the state of Illinois' contribution (44 percent) to University operations. During this period, fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2012, state funding decreased \$5.2 million while student tuition, through a combination of enrollment growth and tuition increases, increased \$29.7 million. Stated differently, each year, on average, state funding decreased \$516,830, tuition revenue increased \$3.0 million, and the average net revenue increase was \$2.4 million per year.

Not reflected in these state appropriations are additional state funding requirements of the University that must be funded within these available resources. In addition, reserve requirements were imposed in several years on public universities by the Governor that reduced available spending of state funds.

What this means for tuition in the State of Illinois is that not only are public universities challenged by decreasing state appropriations, they also are experiencing a pattern of being required to pay additional state expenses out of these decreasing state resources. Because the University operating budget has two primary funding sources –

state appropriations and student tuition revenue – any reduction in available state funding results in either greater reliance on student tuition revenue to fund University operating expenses or greater pressure to reduce University services and programs.

A simplistic response to these trends is that the University should just continue to cut costs to address this funding shortfall. In fact, instruction and student support services account for about 70 percent of the operating budget with less than 30 percent allocated for utilities, operation of the physical plant, and administration (which includes all technology support). While the University continues to restrain hiring and watch costs, any significant budget cuts will affect instructional offerings and student services.

The national Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity, and Accountability recently updated its earlier report, which was groundbreaking in some of the new performance measures it recommends for higher education. One of those measures is the number of degrees awarded per 100 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students. As shown below, even with the budget constraints, Northeastern has increased the number of degrees awarded per 100 FTE students while the average for peer comparison institutions has remained level. Germane to this discussion of costs and cost reductions, the Delta Project analyzed institutional costs as measured against degrees produced. As shown in the following chart, from fiscal year 2005 to fiscal year 2009, spending per degree produced at Northeastern increased \$1,007, or 2.3 percent, while the average cost per degree for comparison institutions increased \$8,684, or 18.5 percent.

The data indicate that Northeastern has continued to graduate an increasing number of students with a budget that provides fewer resources per degree granted than our peer institutions. These national data support the fact that Northeastern is both a productive and cost effective University.

**DELTA COST PROJECT  
STUDY ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
COSTS, PRODUCTIVITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

	Fiscal Year					Change 05-09	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Amount	Percent
<b><u>Degrees Per 100 FTE</u></b>							
Northeastern Illinois University	22.2	23.8	24.1	23.6	25.4	3.2	14.4 %
Comparison Institutions - Mean	23.5	23.8	23.4	23.3	23.5	-	-
<b><u>Spending Per Degree</u></b>							
Northeastern Illinois University	\$ 44,511	\$ 42,178	\$ 42,691	\$ 42,875	\$ 45,518	\$ 1,007	2.3 %
Comparison Institutions - Mean	\$ 46,896	\$ 47,847	\$ 49,911	\$ 53,765	\$ 55,580	\$ 8,684	18.5 %

Source: Delta Cost Project

**Addressing the University’s Strategic Goals**

Northeastern has a long history of reallocation and will support our strategic plan and goals through internal reallocation. However, as mentioned above, the University continues to be challenged in supporting these goals because of state funding shortfalls.

For fiscal year 2012, the University reported to the Board our highest strategic priorities and will continue to invest available resources in these areas. These priorities are ensuring student success, enhancing academic excellence and innovation, providing urban leadership in Chicago and the region, investing in exemplary faculty and staff, enhancing University operations and facilities, and strengthening the financial position of the University. These are the strategic goals endorsed by the Board in September 2008.

Developing appropriate fiscal year 2013 tuition rates will be critical for the University in attaining our strategic goals. The balance between declining state appropriations and increases in student tuition will be weighed against the need for resources to address high institutional priorities, the most costly of which will be faculty and staff salaries.

The salary increase costs for our five collective bargaining units and our non-negotiated civil service and professional employees will be approximately \$2.0 million. Additional state mandates are likely, as is the possibility of the University being required to pay pension costs for state funded employees – a cost that could be up to \$3.0 million.

Retention efforts include plans to allocate an additional \$400,000 to increase the University's need-based student aid program. As reported to the Board of Trustees as part of the University's fiscal year 2011 operating budget, the University implemented a modest institutional aid program to provide financial aid to high achieving (at least a 3.0 GPA) students who did not receive state of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) financial aid funding because of the early cutoff for aid application processing.

In addition, the University will likely need to absorb certain grant-funded student initiatives should grant funding be eliminated, at an estimated cost of \$300,000. And finally, the University plans to open a new EI Centro facility in fiscal year 2013. Operating costs for that facility are still being determined, but they will be significant.

All of these programmatic initiatives outlined above will require new resources for faculty, staff, and program support to implement.

In addition to operating budget issues affected by state funding, the University must also consider the operations and quality improvements that are supported by student fees. It is acknowledged that fee increases also contribute to increased student costs. As a result, the fee proposals are modest.

For most fees, the University is proposing that the fee be held level at the current year rate. Increases are requested for the two fee-support operations that have increasing debt service requirements – the Computer Resource Fee, which includes funding for University Technology Initiatives, and the Parking Fee, which provides funding for the debt service used to construct the Parking Facility and parking operations.

The major University Technology Initiative is the integrated information system – NEIUworks, and the University portal – NEIUport. A major component of this system is the continuing expansion and improvement of student services, including a significant expansion of web-based student services (e.g., on-line registration, bill payment,

financial services, degree audit that provides specific information on course/major requirements on a case-by-case basis). This past year, the University implemented the electronic disbursement of refund checks to students to eliminate the need for students to wait in lines to receive their checks. Planned fiscal year 2013 technology initiatives include the redevelopment of the University website.

In response to extremely strong student demand, last year the Board granted authority to implement a new fee for a student UPass program. The UPass program was implemented in Fall 2011 and provides a CTA transit card to cover CTA transportation costs for all full-time students. The current fee includes payments to the CTA of approximately \$92 per student and \$10 per card to administer the program. An increase may be included in the February report depending on the rates set by the CTA for next year.

In summary, student tuition and fees are an important source of funding for University operations and the resources provided by tuition increases are even more important in an environment of declining state resources. Improvements in University programs and services increasingly rely on support from students to expand and enhance the quality of academic programs, expand advising and counseling services, strengthen student support services, and maintain needed support services.

### **Tuition and Fee Proposal**

Table 4 provides proposed tuition and fee rates for fiscal year 2013. The proposed tuition rates attempt to balance the three factors identified earlier: the continuing commitment to keep the costs of attending the University affordable; the fiscal uncertainties related to continuing state funding and ongoing fiscal challenges resulting from mandated spending increases; and the strategic goals of the University, such as instructional improvements, retention efforts, and the establishment of the new El Centro facility. As shown in the following table, the proposed rate for new undergraduate students is the smallest increase since the tuition guarantee program was implemented. The rate for continuing students is modest and reflects the plan to bring the rates for those students, who are entering their seventh year at Northeastern, in line with students under the guarantee program.

**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATES**

Fiscal Year	New Students		Continuing Students *	
	Rate	Percent Change	Rate	Percent Change
FY02	n/a	-	\$ 101.00	-
FY03	n/a	-	104.50	3.5 %
FY04	n/a	-	110.00	5.3
FY05	\$ 124.00	-	115.00	4.5
FY06	160.00	29.0 %	126.00	9.6
FY07	175.00	9.4	136.00	7.9
FY08	195.00	11.4	156.00	14.7
FY09	220.00	12.8	170.00	9.0
FY10	245.00	11.4	190.00	11.8
FY11	260.00	6.1	210.00	10.5
FY12	275.00	5.8	230.00	9.5
FY13 Proposed	285.00	3.6	245.00	6.5

\* Continuing students are those not eligible for the tuition guarantee program.

In fiscal year 2013, in compliance with state statute, there will be six undergraduate student cohorts. These students will be enrolled in their first through sixth year at Northeastern and will have their tuition set by the tuition guarantee program in fiscal year 2013. New freshmen and transfer students at Northeastern account for 30 percent of the undergraduate population and will have their tuition guaranteed for six academic years. Students in their second through sixth year of study at Northeastern account for over 60 percent of the undergraduate population and also have their tuition guaranteed. The only undergraduate students at Northeastern not covered by a tuition guarantee are those students who have been enrolled at Northeastern for seven years or more, about 10 percent of our undergraduate student population. The rate for those continuing students included in this proposal would be \$245 per credit hour, \$20 less than the average for all undergraduates, and would represent a 6.5 percent increase above the previous year.

In Fall 2011, the student cohort that began in Fall 2006 will have its six-year tuition guarantee expire and tuition for those students will revert to the rate charged students who enrolled at Northeastern prior to the implementation of the tuition guarantee program, referred to as the "continuing rate" that is subject to annual adjustment. The Fall 2007 cohort will be in its sixth year of guaranteed tuition. The Fall 2008 cohort will have its four year guarantee end and, in accordance with State law, that cohort will see its rate increase to the rate of the Fall 2009 cohort.

The setting of the continuing rate in relation to the rates for students with a tuition guarantee has been an ongoing challenge. Intuitively, it seems that the rate for continuing students should be the average of the guaranteed tuition rates. However, when analyzing the guaranteed rates, it was determined that the increase for the continuing students to reach the average would be too large. In addition, with the large

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

number of transfer students at Northeastern, the number of students using the four-year guarantee likely is less than at more traditional public universities. As a result, the tuition proposal this year is that the continuing rate be tied to the rate of the students in the last year of their initial four-year tuition guarantee.

The earlier analysis showed that our graduate students currently pay tuition at 71 percent of the statewide average for graduate education. A modest tuition increase of 3.6 percent is recommended for those students. The tuition for graduate students will again be the same as the rate for new undergraduate students. For each in-state tuition rate, there is a corresponding non-Illinois resident tuition rate that is twice the in-state rate.

Northeastern is usually an early adopter of tuition and fee rates, typically in February of each year. Early adoption of rates allows students and their families time to plan for college costs. However, due to the uncertainties with state funding levels, possible new mandates, and new program requirements, it is possible that adjustments may be made to these recommendations when the final tuition and fee rates for fiscal year 2013 are presented to the Board for approval.

Table 1  
ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
FY2012 UNDERGRADUATE TUITION INCREASES

(Annual based on 30 credit hours)	New Undergraduates				Weighted Average All Undergraduates			
	Enter	Enter	\$	%			\$	%
	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Change	Change	FY2011	FY2012	Change	Change
Chicago State University	\$ 8,070	\$ 8,310	\$ 240	3.0 %	\$ 7,002	\$ 7,386	\$ 384	5.5 %
Eastern Illinois University	7,620	8,070	450	5.9	6,827	7,323	496	7.3
Governors State University	7,110	7,290	180	2.5	6,696	7,081	385	5.7
Illinois State University	9,030	9,630	600	6.6	8,092	8,752	660	8.2
Northeastern Illinois University	7,800	8,250	450	5.8	6,879	7,462	583	8.5
Northern Illinois University	7,950	8,491	541	6.8	6,903	7,548	645	9.3
Western Illinois University	7,220	7,649	429	5.9	6,659	7,103	444	6.7
<b><u>Southern Illinois University</u></b>								
Carbondale	7,368	7,877	509	6.9	7,055	7,443	388	5.5
Edwardsville	6,201	6,630	429	6.9	5,858	6,218	360	6.1
<b><u>University of Illinois</u></b>								
Chicago	9,950	10,905	955	9.6	9,182	9,953	771	8.4
Springfield	8,108	8,670	562	6.9	7,370	7,921	551	7.5
Urbana-Champaign	12,475	13,162	687	5.5	11,124	11,922	798	7.2
Weighted Average	<u>\$ 8,890</u>	<u>\$ 9,495</u>	<u>\$ 605</u>	<u>6.8 %</u>	<u>\$ 8,111</u>	<u>\$ 8,740</u>	<u>\$ 629</u>	<u>7.8 %</u>
NEIU as a Percentage of State Average	88%	87%			85%	85%		

Table 2  
 ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
 FY2012 GRADUATE TUITION INCREASES

	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>
Chicago State University	\$ 5,688	\$ 6,264	\$ 576	10.1 %
Eastern Illinois University	6,096	6,456	360	5.9
Governors State University	6,216	6,840	624	10.0
Illinois State University	6,336	6,336	-	-
Northeastern Illinois University	6,240	6,600	360	5.8
Northern Illinois University	7,200	7,690	490	6.8
Western Illinois University	6,080	6,461	381	6.3
<u>Southern Illinois University</u>				
Carbondale	7,925	8,473	548	6.9
Edwardsville	6,012	6,312	300	5.0
<u>University of Illinois</u>				
Chicago	12,593	13,265	672	5.3
Springfield	6,774	6,978	204	3.0
Urbana-Champaign	12,857	13,791	934	7.3
Weighted Average	<u>\$ 8,849</u>	<u>\$ 9,349</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>	<u>5.7 %</u>
NEIU as a % of State Average	71%	71%		

Note: Graduate rates are based on 24 enrolled credit hours.

Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education Data

Table 3  
 ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
 FY2012 GRADUATE TUITION  
 COMPARISON WITH UNDERGRADUATE RATES

	FY2012 Graduate Tuition	Comparison - New Undergraduate And Graduate Tuition Rates	
		FY2012 New Undergraduate Tuition Restated to 24 Credit Hours	Graduate Tuition Percent Difference Undergraduate Tuition
Chicago State University	\$ 6,264	\$ 6,648	(5.8) %
Eastern Illinois University	6,456	6,456	-
Governors State University	6,840	5,832	17.3
Illinois State University	6,336	7,704	(17.8)
Northeastern Illinois University	6,600	6,600	-
Northern Illinois University	7,690	6,793	13.2
Western Illinois University	6,461	6,119	5.6
<b><u>Southern Illinois University</u></b>			
Carbondale	8,473	6,302	34.4
Edwardsville	6,312	5,304	19.0
<b><u>University of Illinois</u></b>			
Chicago	13,265	8,724	52.1
Springfield	6,978	6,936	0.6
Urbana-Champaign	13,791	10,530	31.0
Weighted Average	\$ 9,349	\$ 7,596	23.1 %

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

Table 4  
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Schedule of Proposed Tuition and Fees  
For Discussion Purposes Only

	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Change FY12 to FY13	
				Dollar	Percent
<b>TUITION (per credit hour)</b>					
Undergraduate - continuing (enrolled prior to Fall 2007)	\$ 210.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 15.00	6.5 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	195.00	220.00	220.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	220.00	220.00	245.00	25.00	11.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	245.00	245.00	245.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	260.00	260.00	260.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	275.00	275.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	285.00	n/a	n/a
Graduate	260.00	275.00	285.00	10.00	3.6
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing *	420.00	460.00	490.00	30.00	6.5
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	390.00	440.00	440.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	440.00	440.00	490.00	50.00	11.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	490.00	490.00	490.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	520.00	520.00	520.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	550.00	550.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	570.00	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	520.00	550.00	570.00	20.00	3.6
<b>MANDATORY FEES</b>					
Activity Fee	3.80	4.00	4.00	-	-
Student Union Fee	6.75	6.75	6.75	-	-
Campus Recreation Fee	3.60	3.60	3.60	-	-
Performing Arts Fee	0.80	0.80	0.80	-	-
Student Health Service Fee	1.70	1.70	1.70	-	-
Computer Resources Fee	15.75	16.75	17.75	1.00	6.0
Academic Enhancement Fee	7.50	7.50	7.50	-	-
Parking Fee (waivable)	12.00	12.20	12.50	0.30	2.5
Green Fee - rate per semester	3.00	3.00	3.00	-	-
U-Pass (Full-time Students only)	-	102.00	102.00	-	-
Health Insurance Fee <sup>2</sup>	667.25	752.25	752.25	-	-
<b>TUITION AND FEES (based on 15 credit hours, excludes health insurance fee and U-Pass)</b>					
Undergraduate - continuing *	\$ 3,931.50	\$ 4,252.50	\$ 4,497.00	\$ 244.50	5.7 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	3,706.50	4,102.50	4,122.00	19.50	0.5
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	4,081.50	4,102.50	4,497.00	394.50	9.6
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	4,456.50	4,477.50	4,497.00	19.50	0.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	4,681.50	4,702.50	4,722.00	19.50	0.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	4,927.50	4,947.00	19.50	0.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	5,097.00	n/a	n/a
Graduate	4,681.50	4,927.50	5,097.00	169.50	3.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing *	7,081.50	7,702.50	8,172.00	469.50	6.1
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	6,631.50	7,402.50	7,422.00	19.50	0.3
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	7,381.50	7,402.50	8,172.00	769.50	10.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	8,131.50	8,152.50	8,172.00	19.50	0.2
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	8,581.50	8,602.50	8,622.00	19.50	0.2
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	9,052.50	9,072.00	19.50	0.2
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	9,372.00	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	8,581.50	9,052.50	9,372.00	319.50	3.5

\* Continuing students are those enrolled prior to Fall 2007.

<sup>1</sup> Per Public Act 93-0028, Illinois undergraduate students newly enrolled starting Fall 2004 will have their tuition held constant for a period of four continuous academic years. This policy was extended at NEIU to non-resident undergraduate students. Public Act 96-1293 extended the tuition guarantee for two additional years at the rate for the following class, effective fall 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Assessed to all Undergraduate students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours who do not show evidence of other health insurance coverage. Final fee calculation for fiscal year 2013 is contingent on the results of negotiation with the insurance carrier. Amount shown is the charge per semester. Note that the Spring semester fee now provides insurance coverage during the Summer semester.

Note: Tuition and fees, other than health insurance, the Green Fee, and UPass, are charged on a credit hour basis for each credit hour enrolled per semester up to 16 credit hours. There will be no tuition and fee charges for credit hours enrolled above 16 hours per semester.

**II. B. INFORMATION ITEM: FIREARMS POLICY**

**AMENDMENT TO BOARD REGULATIONS**

The University is recommending that the Board of Trustees consider adopting a firearms free policy. As an amendment to the Board Bylaws, Governing Policies, and Regulations, the University is required to present this recommendation first as an information item, followed by official action at the February 2012 Board of Trustees meeting.

**FIREARMS-FREE POLICY**

Approximately twenty-six states prohibit guns on public college and university campuses, and twenty-three states allow public colleges and universities to determine their own firearms policies. Illinois is the only state that has no provision for the concealed carry of firearms by citizens. Illinois, unlike 44 other states, does not have a provision mirroring the United States Constitution's Second Amendment. The Illinois General Assembly is contemplating, and will likely pass, concealed carry legislation which will restrict or nullify current law and protections.

Currently, there are a number of bills before the Illinois General Assembly advocating changes in the current firearms regulations. At the forefront is House Bill 0148. This bill will allow for concealed and open carry by licensed individuals. Licensees will be able to conceal and carry throughout the state. College and university campuses are restricted places where licensees are not authorized to conceal and carry, although exceptions allow them to travel on any public ways adjacent to or crossing the campus. This exception erodes the campus restriction to consist only of the inside of buildings. Effectively, it becomes legal for a licensee to prowl around the buildings of the campus while carrying a firearm, so long as he does not enter the buildings.

It would be prudent for Northeastern to consider, prior to any legislation passed by the Illinois General Assembly, the adoption of a comprehensive firearms policy prohibiting the possession, concealed or otherwise, of firearms on campus. By way of statute, the Board is delegated with broad authority to promulgate institutional rules and regulations. Section 25-45 delineates these powers and duties and specifically authorizes the Board to "To make rules, regulations and bylaws, not inconsistent with law, for the government and management of Northeastern Illinois University and its branches." Pursuant to its independent statutory authority granted in the *Northeastern Illinois Law*, the University has the authority to establish a Firearms Free policy encompassing University buildings, grounds, and vehicles as well as special events. Both the premise and conclusion are supported by the United States Constitution and Illinois law as well as various United States Supreme Court decisions, federal appellate decisions, and state Supreme Court decisions.

In creating such a policy, the University should articulate the factual basis for its regulations of firearms if it hopes to keep those regulations in place. For example, a common argument is that campus regulations are necessary to help avoid the

premeditated psychotic tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech in April of 2007. An additional or even alternative argument, however, is that such regulations are necessary to help prevent a homicidal charge by a non-psychotic person. Such events are typically precipitated by a tipping event—such as a breakup, firing, fight, or becoming intoxicated—and by their very nature present perhaps the more likely threat to a campus.

Such policy should be adopted by the Board and incorporated into the Board of Trustees Governing Policies, Bylaws and Regulations because of its statutory authority. Under Section VII the Governing Policies, Bylaws and Regulations, the Board is permitted to amend the Governing Policies, Bylaws and Regulations so long as (1) written notice of the exact wording of each bylaw to be adopted, amended, or repealed shall have been presented at the preceding regular meeting of the Board; and (2) by a majority vote of the total voting membership of the Board. Attached herewith as Appendix A is a proposed policy for the Board's consideration.

## APPENDIX A

### Proposed Policy Board of Trustees Governing Policies, Bylaws and Regulations

#### Section VI: Physical Facilities

##### H. Firearms Free Policy

NEIU is committed to the safety and security of its students, faculty, staff and visitors. The possession of firearms on or near NEIU's campuses, and properties, including leased buildings, or at academic or special events sponsored by NEIU represents a danger to the students, faculty, staff and visitors as well as the University's endeavor to provide a secure and nonviolent environment that is conducive to learning, teaching, and scholarship. This policy is necessary to help avoid the premeditated tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech in April of 2007 as well as acts of violence using firearms that are typically precipitated by a triggering event - such as a breakup, firing, fight, or becoming intoxicated - and by their very nature present perhaps the more likely threat to campus safety. This policy provides rules and regulations concerning the possession of firearms on campus and in all facilities and locations owned or operated by NEIU in an effort to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment for its students, employees, and visitors.

##### 1. General Regulations:

No faculty or staff member, student, affiliate or contracted service representative shall carry, maintain, or store a firearm, concealed or otherwise, on any property owned, leased or controlled by the university, except as provided herein. No visitor shall carry, maintain or store a firearm, concealed or otherwise, in any controlled space owned, leased, or controlled by the university or at any university event. Items that are used as firearms on property owned or operated by the university, whether or not they fit the definition above, will also subject the user to discipline or removal. All student organizations that wish to become or remain recognized by the University shall prohibit the carrying or possession of firearms.

##### 2. Exceptions: The following exceptions apply to this policy:

- a. Members of the University Police Department who are regularly employed by the University and are required to carry a firearm in accordance with their law enforcement duties and responsibilities.
- b. A firearm, real or replica, used in connection with drill, public ceremony or a theatrical performance.
- c. Any federal, state or local law enforcement officer in the performance of his or her official duties.

- d. Possession of firearms is permitted for peace officers, as defined by Illinois law, and members of the Armed Forces, or National Guard while acting in the scope of their duties.
- 3. Violations:** The following violations of this policy should be reported as follows:
- a. Any individual found to be in violation of this policy may be alerted to University Police or the appropriate police authorities for possible criminal prosecution. Furthermore, the University may take action to ban any individual from campus found violating this policy.
  - b. Student violations of this policy may be referred to the Dean of Students for discipline according to the Student Code of Conduct. If the student is found to have knowingly used or possessed such firearm(s) in a way that would violate this policy, disciplinary sanction up to expulsion may be imposed.
  - c. Employee violations of this policy may be referred to the appropriate Vice President for discipline according to applicable university policy or collective bargaining agreement. If an employee is found to have knowingly used or possessed such firearm(s) in way that would violate this policy, disciplinary sanction up to termination of employment may be imposed.
- 4. Reporting Violations:** All members of the university community are encouraged to report violations of this policy to University Police on campus. Employees are required to report violations to University Police if they become aware of violations.

**II. C. INFORMATION ITEM: PURCHASES BETWEEN \$50,000 AND \$100,000**

Board of Trustees' Regulations require that the President report to the Board purchases of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 other than those exempt from Board approval (e.g., utilities). The following lists those purchases since the last Board meeting.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Purchase Order Amount</u>
ProQuest CSA LLC	Library Online Subscription Services	\$50,600
Snow Systems	Snow Removal	\$75,000
Gallagher Benefit Services	Compensation Survey	\$94,790
Fletcher, O'Brien, Kasper & Nottage	Legislative Consulting Services	\$63,750
Touchnet Information Systems	Payment Gateway System	\$90,380

## **D. NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **1. Third Annual Summer Research Symposium – September 16**

The Student Center for Science Engagement held its Third Annual Research Symposium on Friday, September 16. The purpose of this full-day symposium is to showcase the work of NEIU students in science and mathematics, departments included: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Mathematics and Physics. During the summer of 2011, fifty-three students worked on campus with faculty in these departments, conducting original research, and an additional fourteen conducted research off campus at institutions including The Field Museum, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Washington State University, and the University of Illinois, Chicago. The work of students and their faculty mentors was showcased in oral and poster presentations to the university community and was followed by a luncheon and keynote talk by Dr. Nyree Zyrega, Ph.D., Plant Systematist and Herbarium Curator Chicago Botanic Garden.

### **2. Jewel Box Series – September 16**

On Friday, September 16, the Jewel Box Series opened with jazz singer Grazyna Auguscik to a nearly sold out performance in the recital hall. Concerts are broadcast live on WFMT 98.7 FM, Chicago's classical radio station.

### **3. Latino Resource Center Inauguration of Mural - September 16**

On Friday, September 16, the Latino Resource Center inaugurated its mural with a presentation by community leaders and student activists who organized and led the centers initiative. The mural, titled "*Corazon sin Fronteras*" (Hearts without Borders) is a visual representation of the centers core values and mission. It was a piece that was developed by students, staff, and faculty, along with the artist Victor Montañez. The mural will be displayed in the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs for all members of the University community to enjoy.

### **4. Minority Student Mentoring Program – September 20**

The Partners for Success: Minority Student Mentoring Program (MSMP) hosted its fall kick off reception on Tuesday, September 20 in the Golden Eagles Room. In its twenty-second year, MSMP impacts the lives of its minority student participants, many of whom are the first generation in their family to attend college, by providing a mentor who has a vested interest in the student's prospective career, academic development, and overall success throughout his/her first year in college. Faculty and administrators who serve as mentors came together to meet their assigned mentees. Partners for Success is coordinated by the Dean of Students Office.

### **5. Accessibility Center Meet and Greet – September 22**

The Accessibility Center collaborated with a variety of university departments to provide matriculating students with disabilities a Meet and Greet Orientation Program on

Thursday, September 22 in Alumni Hall. The purpose of this event was to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to meet department service providers who will be able to facilitate their academic pursuits. Participating departments included Academic Advisement, Counseling Office, Financial Aid, Health and Wellness, Learning Support Center, Ronald Williams Library, Student Employment, Student Life, Student Computing, Center for Science Engagement, and TRIO Access.

#### **6. Video Tribute to William “Doc” Speller – September 28**

On Wednesday, September 28, Dr. Jamie Y. Daugherty, Director for Project Success, participated in a special video tribute to William “Doc” Speller, founder and former director of Project Success at Northeastern. Both Dr. Daugherty and Mr. Speller were interviewed by Rev. Harold E. Bailey, founder of the Probation Challenge Organization, for a 30-minute video on Speller’s life and legacy and the current and future direction of Project Success at NEIU. The video can be seen on the PCC Internet Broadcast Network at [www.ProbationChallenge.Org](http://www.ProbationChallenge.Org).

#### **7. “Black and...” Brown Bag Lunch Series – September 28**

On Wednesday, September 28, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosted its first “Black and...” Brown Bag Lunch Series with Dr. Lynette Danley. The “Black and...” Brown Bag Lunch Series is a set of lectures, workshops and other events that speak to how gender, class, nation of origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, and educational background in their many combinations come together to impact the educational experience of people of African descent.

#### **8. New and Newly Tenured and Promoted Faculty Receptions – September 28 & 30**

On Wednesday, September 28, a reception was held to honor the newly tenured and promoted faculty; and on Friday, September 30, a dinner was held to honor new faculty by President Hahs at her residence. Both events were well attended.

#### **9. NEIU Talent Show – September 29**

Produced by the Office of Cultural Events and sponsored by Beck’s Book Store, the NEIU Annual Talent Show took place on Thursday, September 29 in the auditorium. The first place winner was Patrise Washington, student and activist/poet, who won \$1,100!

#### **10. Midwest Regional First Year Conference – September 30**

Barbara Sherry (First Year Experience), Audrey Natcone (Justice Studies and Women’s Studies), and Kris Pierre (Student Life) presented on *Chicago Rocks and the Pursuit of Happiness: Strengthening the First Year Experience by Strengthening Relationships Between Student Life and Academic Affairs* at the Fourth Annual Midwest Regional First Year Conference in Elgin, Illinois on Friday, September 30.

### **11. The Interrupters – September 30**

Six hundred members of the University community attended a private screening of the critically acclaimed documentary, "The Interrupters" on Friday, September 30 in the Auditorium and Recital Hall. Following the screening was a panel discussion with Eddie Bocanegra, NEIU social work student and lead feature in the film, acclaimed author and producer of the film Alex Kotlowitz, and director Steve James (also director of "Hoop Dreams").

### **12. NEIU Day of Service – October 1**

For the first time on Saturday, October 1, the Leaders Emerging and Developing (LEAD) program, sponsored by Student Activities, hosted an NEIU Day of Service. All students were invited to sign up to complete a four-hour block of service in the surrounding community. Projects included the Latino Health Fair cosponsored with El Centro at the PE Complex, Jensen Park clean up, and creating garden spaces at Clinton Elementary.

### **13. Fall Diversity Community Job Fair – October 4**

The Office of Career Services coordinated the Fall Diversity Community Job Fair on Tuesday, October 4 in Alumni Hall. It was the second event of this type hosted in conjunction with the following community partners: Albany Park Community Center, The Korean American Chamber of Commerce, The Peterson Pulaski Business Industrial Council and the Pulaski Elston Business Associates, Inc.

Forty employers attended the event from a wide variety of industries including social service agencies, government agencies and for profit businesses. All were looking for a variety of job seekers including full time, part time, seasonal and internships. Over 300 candidates attended the event, the majority of which were Northeastern students and alumni.

### **14. It's A Major Deal! – October 5-6**

The Academic Advisement and Testing Center, in conjunction with the College of Education, College of Business and Management, College of Arts and Sciences, the Student Center For Science Engagement, and Career Services hosted "It's a Major Deal!" on October 5 and 6 in Village Square. The purpose of this event was to increase student awareness of the major declaration process, encourage students to plan ahead, and promote more timely degree completion.

### **15. Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration – October 7**

NEIU's Latino Heritage Committee presented the *Noche de la Familia* celebration, on Friday, October 7. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a performance by Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company. Awards for excellence were awarded to Trustee Omar Duque (Business), Luis Ortiz (Community Leadership),

Christina Gomez (Education), Victor Montañez (Fine Arts), and Juan Calderón (Student, Community Leadership).

**16. The Seventeenth Equity in Action, “Immigration and Social Justice” – October 11**

The seventeenth Annual Equity in Action Conference, “Immigration and Social Justice” was held at NEIU on October 11. The conference highlighted various aspects of immigration at the local and global level, presentations included “*Social Alienation among Mexican American Youth*”, “*A Lesson in Civic Engagement: Organizing for School Change and Social Justice in Chicago’s Mexican Immigrant Community - Historical and Current Perspectives*” and “*Immigrant Communities and Their Challenges: Albany Park and Beyond*”. Sessions were well attended by the university community and sponsored by the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs.

**17. Student Town Hall Meeting – October 11  
Faculty and Staff Town Hall Meeting – October 18**

President Hahs held a Student Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, October 11 and a Town Hall Meeting for faculty and staff on Tuesday, October 18. The meetings provided an opportunity for dialogue within the University community in an informal setting. Topics were presented, followed by a question and answer session.

**18. Golden Eagles Book Club – October 12**

The new Golden Eagles Book Club had its first meeting on Wednesday, October 12 to discuss Jane McGonigal’s book, *Reality is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*. The book club is open to everyone at Northeastern and surrounding community. Members will explore fiction and nonfiction works, interact with authors, and discuss current events.

**19. NEIU Alumni Center Open House and Ribbon-cutting Ceremony – October 13**

On Thursday, October 13, the Alumni Relations Office hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Alumni Center. Located near Lech Walesa Hall on Bryn Mawr Avenue, the NEIU Alumni Center houses an alumni library and lounge, alumni and student computer stations, Wi-Fi hotspot access, and designated parking for visitors to the Center. The Alumni Center’s mission is to continue to provide alumni with the same access, opportunity, and community they had as students, as well as provide a central space for alumni to return.

**20. NEIU Foundation Annual Meeting – October 13**

On Thursday, October 13, the NEIU Foundation celebrated its Fourth Annual Meeting, which was themed “Building Pathways Through Philanthropy.” The evening included a ribbon cutting at the new NEIU Alumni Center, receptions, and a program that featured

University highlights from FY2011, student scholarship representatives, and faculty and donor recognition.

**21. Assessment Presentation by Terrell Strayhorn – October 21**

The Student Life Professional Development Committee hosted a workshop titled *Using Assessment to Inform Practices that Support Student Learning* on Friday, October 21. The workshop was presented by Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, Associate Professor of Higher Education at Ohio State University in the School of Educational Policy and Leadership. Dr. Strayhorn is the principal author of *Frameworks for Assessing Learning and Development Outcomes* (2006).

**22. White Ribbon Campaign – October 25**

On Tuesday, October 25, the Dean of Students Office hosted the “White Ribbon Campaign” as part of National Domestic Violence Month in Village Square from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. The White Ribbon Campaign is an international movement to challenge men to take a stand against violence toward women and to raise awareness about the issue. An information table was hosted and men were asked to wear a white ribbon to show their support and encouraged to pledge to be non-violent and oppose violence towards women.

**23. Charla (dialogue) with Dr. Fry – October 26**

On Wednesday, October 26, Dr. Richard Fry, Senior Research Associate at the Pew Hispanic Center, discussed his latest research report highlighting Latino retention and successful strategies by panel discussion. Charlas will be a series of discussions held on campus that will invoke critical thinking and provide a platform for conversations on relevant issues in the Latino community. This Charla was sponsored by the ENLACE Leadership Institute with the Latino Resource Center.

**24. Presidential Lecture Series – October 27 and November 3**

The Presidential Lecture Series featured author and gamer Jane McGonigal on Thursday, October 27. Ms. McGonigal presented a lecture on her new book, *Reality is Broken: Why Games Make us Better and How They Can Change the World*. On Thursday, November 3, author George S. Everly will present his work: *The Secrets of Resilient Leadership*.

**25. Nuestra Comunidades (Our Communities) – November 4**

The Latino Resource Center kicked-off one of its Nuestra Comunidades initiatives with a visit to the Humboldt Park neighborhood on Friday, November 4. Several members of the university community toured the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, and the Vida/Sida AIDS Education and Prevention Program. The community visits were created for students, faculty, and staff to collaborate with various non-profit organizations, cultural centers, museums,

educational and faith based organizations in order to enhance the understanding of systems and organizations within the Latino community.

### **26. NEIU Leader Fund**

In mid-October, the Office of Institutional Advancement unveiled the NEIU Leader Fund, which will benefit faculty and students. The Leader Fund name rests on the recognition that Northeastern's students, faculty, and alumni are leaders in their respective fields. The name also reflects the understanding that financial gifts to NEIU demonstrate leadership by positively contributing to the University. Through the Leader Fund, donors will provide annual income that supports students, faculty, and staff; help NEIU maintain one of the lowest tuition rates for a major university in the state; bridge the gap between tuition and state support; upgrade, replace, and maintain the university's technology and other teaching and learning resources; and facilitate faculty and student research.

### **27. New Futuro Partnership**

Northeastern Illinois University has partnered with New Futuro to provide Latino parents and students access to free, bilingual information about college. As a partner of New Futuro, NEIU will be featured on New Futuro's website, have its name and logo included on advertising in *Hoy* and in New Futuro magazines, be invited to participate in New Futuro's Chicago program media campaign with Univision and *Hoy*, and receive free exhibition space at New Futuro's workshops for Latino families held at various locations through the community.