

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

A.	Tenure Recommendations .....	1
B.	Naming of Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs in Honor of Dr. Angelina Pedroso.....	4
C.	Approval of Energy Performance Contract .....	5
D.	Approval of Labor Agreement: International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO Local 399 .....	8
E.	Expenditure Recommendations for Purchases of \$100,000 or more: Student Center for Science Engagement.....	9

**II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A.	Expenditure Notifications	
1.	Purchases Between \$50,000 and \$100,000 .....	12
2.	ERP Related Expenditures.....	12
B.	News and Events	
1.	Counseling Office Drop-in Service at El Centro .....	13
2.	Black Heritage Month Activities.....	13
3.	Jewel Box Series .....	13
4.	Africa International Business Conference .....	13
5.	Women’s History Month .....	14
6.	University Day .....	14
7.	Mid-America Educators’ Job Fair .....	15
8.	Project Success and Proyecto Pa’Lante Annual Awards Ceremony .	15
9.	Governor’s Address in Springfield .....	15
10.	National Social Work Month .....	15
11.	Who’s Who Recipients for 2010 .....	16
12.	Second Annual Professional Development Conference .....	16
13.	Jewel Box Series .....	16
14.	Second Annual Chicago Brass Festival .....	16
15.	The Fifteenth Annual Asian American Heritage Conference .....	17
16.	Latino Professional and Community Leaders Networking Day .....	17
17.	Student Awards .....	17
18.	Academic Awards .....	17
19.	Art Installation .....	17
20.	Commencement .....	17

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

1

**I. ACTION ITEM**

**A. TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Board approval is requested to grant tenure to the following members of the Faculty:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Department</u></b>
Sangmin Bae	Political Science
Christina Bueno	History
Tanya Cofer	Mathematics
Chielozona Eze	English
Daniel Milsky	Philosophy
Francesca Morgan	History
Rose Sperazza	Music
Phyllis LeDosquet	Special Education
Lisa Wallace	Library

Brief biographical information on the candidates follows:

**Sangmin Bae** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Bae has earned national and international recognition for her numerous publications in the international norms/international human rights field of political science. She has published one book and many articles and book chapters, has successfully authored several grant proposals, and has been sought as a commentator on East Asian and human rights politics. Dr. Bae has actively contributed to departmental, college and university-wide initiatives.

**Christina Bueno** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Dr. Bueno has been a productive scholar in the field of Mexican history, the study of representation/popular memory, and Latin American studies. She has authored papers, articles, reviews, encyclopedia entries, and is currently completing a book manuscript. Dr. Bueno has contributed to the Latino and Latin American Studies curriculum and she has actively participated on that program's advisory board as well.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

2

**Tanya Cofer** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Cofer is a productive scholar in pure mathematics, educational mathematics and in computational mathematics. She has published a textbook, authored several journal articles, presented papers at professional conferences, and applied for and received two research grants. Her research in mathematics education, in combination with traditional mathematics research, has led to her active participation in the Northeastern Illinois University's Middle School Teacher Quality Enhancement Program for teacher candidates in Elementary Education who wish to be endorsed in Mathematics and Science education.

**Chielozona Eze** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. Dr. Eze has recently published a novel titled *The Trials of Robert Mugabe*. He has authored several scholarly works, including a book on Alain Locke, two articles, and he currently has a second book under contract. Additionally, Dr. Eze has served on several departmental, college and university committees, and he is the coordinator of the graduate program in the English Department.

**Dan Milsky** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy. Dr. Milsky's research approach, making abstract thought accessible, has enabled him and his publications to build bridges with ease across audiences. He has published book chapters and reviews, and presented his research at several national and international conferences. His work on environmental philosophy is especially rigorous, innovative and relevant. Dr. Milsky has actively and productively served at all levels of Northeastern Illinois University. In addition to his service on department, college and university-wide committees, he has served as the Coordinator of the Philosophy program.

**Francesca Morgan** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. She is a prolific scholar who has made a mark as a major contributor to the field of American social and cultural history. She has published a book, a research article, and presented several conference papers. She has begun a second book project, *When Genealogy Became American, 1800-2000*, and has a forthcoming book chapter. Dr. Morgan has served Northeastern Illinois University and our students on many levels, from energetic advising to committee work. She is also the founding co-organizer of the *Newberry Seminar on Women and Gender* which links historians from Chicagoland to scholars from across the nation.

**Rose Sperazza** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Music. She is an active performer at the local and regional levels. Highlights of her performances include a live WFMT broadcast with the Cube Contemporary Music Ensemble, a solo faculty guest artist appearance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an ensemble member on NEIU Women's Composers Concert, a featured performer with the Cassatt String Quartet, opera performances, a chamber musician with the Southern Illinois Music Festival, an orchestra member with the Park Ridge, Madison, Southport, and Palos Symphony Orchestras, and a band member with the Chicago Pops Concert Band. She is also the founder of the Chicago Clarinet

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

3

Ensemble. Dr. Sperazza serves on many committees across the university, and she actively participated in the self-study recently submitted to the National Association of Schools of Music as part of the department's accreditation application.

**Phyllis LeDosquet** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education. Dr. LeDosquet has published two single-authored book chapters and one co-authored book chapter. She has contributed to a monograph aimed at preparing teachers to infuse pressing life issues into instruction. She currently has a contract to co-author a textbook on early childhood assessment in special education. Dr. LeDosquet has been actively involved in many departmental, college and university committees, and she is an active member of a multi-institution (higher education, community agency and Illinois State Board of Education) work group on Early Childhood Education and Special Needs.

**Lisa Wallis** is an Assistant Professor in the Ronald Williams Library. Ms. Wallis is both the Web Services Librarian and the Life Sciences Librarian. She has successfully redesigned and implemented the Library's website, a very critical project for the university. Additionally, she has been responsible for the implementation of new "Web 2.0" technologies, and she has investigated, promoted and implemented numerous tools and social technologies for the Library. Ms. Wallis has published a peer-reviewed journal article, a book chapter, and an encyclopedia entry. She is NEIU's principal investigator on an Illinois State Library grant-funded project to study the research methods of nontraditional and underserved students.

**I. ACTION ITEM**

**B. NAMING OF CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL  
AFFAIRS IN HONOR OF DR. ANGELINA PEDROSO**

Dr. Angelina Pedroso came to Chicago Teachers College North (the former name for Northeastern Illinois University) in the fall semester of 1965. In her forty-four years of employment at Northeastern Illinois University, she has touched the lives of thousands of students, in the classroom as an instructor of the Spanish language and Hispanic Literatures and, even more so, as she guided them through their adaptation to university life. She has recently retired from her appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Dr. Pedroso has been a true leader of the faculty as well. An active participant in and proponent of shared governance, she has been elected to countless committees on campus. She has served repeated terms as Chair of NEIU's Faculty Senate, as the Chair of the Council of Faculties of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities of the State of Illinois, and as Chair of the Faculty Council on Student Affairs. Her service extends to the regional and national arena as well, serving as a member of the National Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, a consultant to the Desegregation Training Institute with the Chicago Public Schools, a member of the Board of the United Way, and Commissioner of the Illinois Commission on Human Relations.

She has been honored by many organizations on campus, in Illinois and across the nation. To name a few: she was the recipient of Northeastern Illinois University Alumni Association's Faculty of the Year Award, the Outstanding Educator of America Award, and Community Leader of America Award. She was honored by the Crest Division of the Proctor and Gamble Corporation together with *Univisión* for her outstanding humanitarian work and contributions to the community.

Faculty, staff and students who have had the opportunity to work with her identify her as the essence of the spirit of NEIU's mission, vision and values. In recognition of her leadership, commitment and dedication to providing higher education opportunities to all students, the President, on behalf of the faculty and staff, requests that the new multicultural center be named in Dr. Pedroso's honor. A fundraising initiative is planned for renovations and programming in the multicultural center.

This action item recommends that Northeastern Illinois University's multicultural center be officially named: **Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs.**

**I. ACTION ITEM**

**C. APPROVAL OF ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT**

During this past year, the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees received and discussed several reports on the University's plans to reduce energy consumption and costs. At its June 11, 2009 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with NORESKO, an energy services company, to be the University's energy services company. The contract negotiations with NORESKO were completed and their initial work, an energy audit, began in September 2009. In March 2010, NORESKO delivered the energy audit report and findings to the University.

The energy audit identified nineteen energy conservation measures for University consideration. Each measure was analyzed to determine the estimated cost of the conservation measure, the expected utility savings, and the amount of time it would take for those savings to pay for the energy conservation costs (simple payback). Under the energy performance contract, NORESKO will guarantee that the proposed energy conservation measure will result in guaranteed energy savings. If those savings are not realized, NORESKO will be financially responsible for making up the difference between the proposed and actual energy savings.

University staff analyzed the proposed measures, with our external consultant, and determined that a package of twelve energy conservation measures satisfies the University's payback parameters and other contractual requirements and State of Illinois statutory requirements. The proposed energy conservation projects follow. While the projects have been thoroughly discussed and analyzed, the final project costs and savings may vary slightly. It should be noted that the total package has an estimated simple payback of 12.9 years and includes one project, PE Complex Solar Panels, which has a long payback period but is intended to be a demonstration project for the University students, faculty, staff, and guests.

**Proposed Energy Conservation Measures**

Below are the energy conservation measures included in the proposed project. All costs, savings, and simple paybacks reflect current estimates.

1. Control System Upgrades: replace multiple Building Automation Systems with one standardized system to improve efficiency (cost: \$2,281,144; annual savings: \$164,576; simple payback: 13.9 years).
2. Lighting efficiency upgrades: replace lamps and ballasts with more efficient ones, modify wiring and install reflectors to reduce the number of lamps and ballasts (cost: \$1,640,293; annual savings: \$145,485; simple payback: 11.3 years).

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

6

3. Variable air volume at Library: replace existing air distribution boxes and fan controls to improve the distribution of heat and air conditioning in the building (cost: \$619,833; annual savings: \$54,685; simple payback: 11.3 years).
4. Water efficiency upgrades: replace fixtures and flush valves in many campus buildings to reduce the amount of water used (cost: \$482,474; annual savings: \$30,826; simple payback: 15.7 years).
5. New condenser water pumps and filtration system: install new filters and a variable speed motor to improve efficiency of heat evacuation from air conditioning equipment (cost: \$306,270). Although efficiency and life expectancy of the equipment will be increased, no savings can be quantified.
6. Physical Education Complex solar panels: install photo cell panels to supplement heating the swimming pool water (cost: \$264,893; annual savings: \$1,851; simple payback: 143.1 years).
7. Lech Walesa Hall: install variable speed motors on main fan units to make the building heating and cooling distribution more economical (cost: \$129,183; annual savings: \$23,715; simple payback: 5.4 years).
8. Replace existing control for the three high temperature hot water boilers to improved burning efficiency and natural gas usage (cost: \$101,595; annual savings: \$21,033; simple payback: 4.8 years).
9. Building D: replace existing fan coil and install variable speed fan motors on main fan units to improve distribution of building heating (cost: \$95,599; annual savings: \$8,536; simple payback: 11.2 years).
10. Install insulation on high temperature hot water expansion joints to reduce the loss of heat (cost: \$71,280; annual savings: \$7,694; simple payback: 9.3 years).
11. Kitchen hood controls: install new controls in the kitchen hood exhaust fan to reduce energy consumption (cost: \$60,798; annual savings: \$7,919; simple payback: 7.7 years).
12. Physical Education Complex: install variable speed motor on the swimming pool pump to reduce energy consumption (cost: \$46,167; annual savings: \$7,592; simple payback: 6.1 years).

The simple paybacks indicated above are based on project costs and savings and are not adjusted for the costs of financing or measurement and verification costs. Based on total finance costs, projected to be 5 percent annually, and measurement and verification costs, the total project cost will be \$9,598,336. Based on annual utility savings, escalating at 3.5 percent annually, this package of projects is forecasted to have an actual payback of 16 years. During this period, it is expected that the annual utility savings will pay the project finance costs and generate, using the assumptions outline above, a small positive cash flow.

University staff also discussed with NORESKO the importance of female and minority representation among its subcontractors. As a result, NORESKO agreed to establish a goal of 20 percent of outside contracts and supplies to be provided by female and minority businesses.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

7

Following Board approval of the projects at the April meeting and project financing at the June meeting, it is expected that the work will commence with estimated completion in approximately thirteen months. When necessary, work will be completed at night, on weekends, or during semester and holiday breaks to minimize interference with academic programs.

Board approval is requested to proceed with the energy conservation projects outlined above and to initiate financing arrangements.

**I. ACTION ITEM**

**D. APPROVAL OF LABOR AGREEMENT: INTERNATIONAL UNION OF  
OPERATING ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO LOCAL 399**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

The University and the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local 399, which represents the University's Operating Engineers, reached a tentative labor agreement on March 17, 2010. The University was notified that on March 24, 2010 that the agreement was ratified by the union members. This is a one-year agreement for fiscal year 2010 and will expire on June 30, 2010.

The agreement does not include an across-the-board wage increase. The agreement does include the following:

- Roll-over of current language.
- A one-time \$1,000 stipend to all bargaining unit members employed at the time the agreement is accepted by both parties.
- One personal day which must be taken prior to or on June 30, 2010.
- A commitment that the University will not lay-off, furlough, or otherwise reduce staffing of bargaining unit members through any means of involuntary staff reduction through June 30, 2010.
- That the University will make every effort to fill current employment openings for bargaining unit positions currently approved by the University.
- That the University will provide assurance to Local 399 that if the University provides additional general wage adjustments to its non-negotiated employees for the period ending June 30, 2010, above the \$1,000 stipend, a like amount will be given to Local 399 bargaining unit members.
- That the University will reopen negotiations with Local 399 effective July 1, 2010, or before that time if requested by the Local, for the purpose of negotiating a long-term contract covering all contract language and articles.

Board approval is requested for this agreement.

**I. ACTION ITEM**

**E. EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PURCHASES OF \$100,000  
OR MORE: STUDENT CENTER FOR SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

This project is funded with a federal grant from the Department of Education and will remodel and update various rooms in the Science Building to house the Student Center for Science Engagement. Remodeled areas will include a seminar/studio laboratory on the first floor. Remodeling on the second floor will include a student study/tutoring area, an office for the Program Coordinator and Advisors, and a new faculty/student computer research facility. The Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics departments will each have one existing laboratory upgraded to reflect current teaching pedagogy and interactive technology, as well compliance with all safety regulations.

In addition to the base work, the University sought additional bids (alternates) in case the base bids were under estimates and additional remodeling could be completed within the available grant funding. This turned out to be the case and all alternates will be accepted and funded within the available grant funding. Generally, the accepted alternates provide for the complete removal and replacement of all cabinets, ceilings, and lighting. Alternates 1 and 2 provide for removing existing laboratory cabinets and utilities and providing new cabinets and plumbing and electrical connections. Alternate 3 provides for replacing the ceilings and light fixtures in the four remodeled laboratories.

Construction is expected to be completed in August 2010.

**A) GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

**PROJECT COSTS:**

Base Bid:	\$329,400
Alternate #1:	24,100
Alternate #2:	25,700
Alternate #3:	<u>5,300</u>
Base Bid with Alternates:	\$384,500
Additional funds if needed	<u>38,500</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$423,000

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

Department of Education College Cost Reduction and Access Grant

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR:**

Chicago Commercial Contractors  
11921 Smith Drive  
Huntley, Illinois 60142

**SUMMARY OF BIDS**

**General**

<b><u>Contractor</u></b>	<b><u>Base Bid</u></b>	<b><u>Alt. 1</u></b>	<b><u>Alt. 2</u></b>	<b><u>Alt. 3</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Chicago Commercial Clarion	\$329,400	\$24,100	\$25,700	\$5,300	\$384,500
Construction Millennium 3	336,000	24,000	25,000	10,700	395,700
Boller Construction Staalsen	356,381	23,000	24,000	4,500	407,881
Construction Simpson	388,000	26,000	28,000	3,800	445,800
Construction Ujamaa	393,494	23,665	25,980	4,700	447,839
Construction Doherty	432,500	14,500	45,500	10,100	502,600
Construction FCL Builders	435,274	15,097	46,669	6,510	503,550
	472,890	25,600	28,700	6,900	534,090
	490,031	14,845	46,642	9,191	560,709

**B) ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**

**PROJECT COSTS:**

Base Bid:	\$70,910
Alternate #1:	900
Alternate #2:	<u>28,900</u>
Base Bid with Alternates:	\$100,710

Additional funds if needed	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$110,710

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

Department of Education College Cost Reduction and Access Grant

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR:**

Sharlen Electric  
9101 South Baltimore, PO Box 17597  
Chicago, IL 60617

**SUMMARY OF BIDS**

<b><u>Electrical Contractor</u></b>	<b><u>Base Bid</u></b>	<b><u>Alt. 1</u></b>	<b><u>Alt. 2</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Sharlen Electric	\$ 70,910	\$ 900	\$28,900	\$100,710
Hickey Electrical	98,750	3,500	23,900	126,150
Argon Electrical	108,000	1,300	18,500	127,800
Gibson Electric	114,183	4,733	21,991	140,907
Monarch Electric	146,500	6,900	30,000	183,400

**C) PLUMBING CONTRACTOR**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

11

**PROJECT COSTS:**

Base Bid:	\$103,800
Alternate #1:	<u>8,600</u>
Base Bid with Alternates:	\$112,400

Additional funds if needed	<u>12,000</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$124,400

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

Department of Education College Cost Reduction and Access Grant

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR:**

Kroeschell Plumbing  
3222 N. Kennicott Ave.  
Arlington Heights 60004  
Niles, Illinois 60714

**SUMMARY OF BIDS**

<b><u>PLUMBING CONTRACTOR</u></b>	<b><u>Base Bid</u></b>	<b><u>Alt. 1</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Kroeschell Plumbing	\$103,800	\$8,600	\$112,400
F.J. Kerrigan Plumbing	115,192	9,063	124,255
C.J. Erickson Plumbing	125,900	8,300	134,200

**II. INFORMATION ITEM**

**A. NOTIFICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF CERTAIN EXPENDITURES**

**1. 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 is a list of those purchases since the last Board meeting.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Purchase Order Amount</u>
Allied Barton Security	Guard Service	\$60,000
Chicago SMSA Ltd. Partnership	Verizon Wireless Service	50,000

**2. ERP RELATED EXPENDITURES**

At the April 6, 2006 meeting, the Board of Trustees resolved that "in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the ERP project, (the Board) delegates to the University President the authority to approve such expenditures and contracts directly related to the ERP project without prior approval and that the President will report to the Board on all such approved expenditures and contracts normally requiring Board approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees." Under this authority, the following contract has been approved and is reported to the Board as required.

IBM Corporation	Cognos Maintenance and Support Three-year contract 3/1/10 thru 2/28/13	\$167,841
-----------------	---	-----------

**B. NEWS AND EVENTS**

**1. Counseling Office Drop-in Service at El Centro – February 1**

On February 1, the Counseling Office started a pilot program called "*Let's Talk*" at El Centro. The outreach program provides an opportunity for El Centro students to meet with a counselor to discuss personal or emotional issues that concern them, without having to pre-arrange an appointment. Many students cite the stress resulting from personal or family-related issues as obstacles to their academic performance and this pilot program aims at reducing those obstacles to their academic success. Dr. Amanda Rios, one of the Counseling Office's postdoctoral fellows is providing the service on Monday evenings throughout the spring semester.

**2. Black Heritage Month Activities – February 2-26**

This year's theme was "The Capacity of Hope!" Featured events throughout the month included the L.E.A.D Series Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Albert Mosley who discussed topics on leadership and social justice; B.H.M. Keynote Speaker, Dr. Walter Kimbrough discussed the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Read-To-Lead book discussion on "*The Souls of Black Folk*" by Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois was facilitated by Professor Emerita, Dr. Barbara Scott; and a play titled, "Wine in the Wilderness" by Alice Childress which focused on the race riots in Harlem.

The Annual Awards Ceremony was held Friday, February 26, 2010 from 5:30-9:30 PM in Alumni Hall. President Sharon Hahs, and Trustees Grace Dawson and Carlos Azcoitia gave remarks. Awards for Excellence were awarded to Sharron Evans (Administrator), Keith Atterberry (Alumni), Debra Kern (Community Service), Dr. Kenneth Addison and Dr. Angelina Pedroso (Faculty), Milton Hall (Student), and Cindy Jones (Staff). The William "Doc" Speller Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Anderson Thompson; the Dr. Melvin Cleveland Terrell Award in Research & Literature was presented to Dr. Alvin D. Farmer, Jr.; and the Murrell Jean Higgins Duster Legacy Award was presented to J. Marshall Jennings.

**3. Jewel Box Series – February 19**

On Friday, February 19, the Jewel Box Series featured Duo Melis, a classical guitar duo from France. The concert was broadcast live on WFMT 98.7 FM, Chicago's classical radio station. Advertising for NEIU's Jewel Box Series was heard on WFMT 98.7 FM, WXRT 93.1 FM and WDCB – College of DuPage Radio.

**4. Africa International Business Conference – February 25 and March 1-2**

The Presidential Lecture Series collaborated with the College of Business and Management to present Dr. Vijay Mahajan, author of "Africa Rising: How 900

Million African Consumers Offer More Than You Think.” In “Africa Rising”, legendary global business consultant Vijay Mahajan reveals this remarkable marketplace in all its richness and complexity, and helps companies understand the massive opportunity it presents.

Dr. Mahajan participated in three events: an afternoon session with COBM students who gave a presentation based on his book; a dinner prior to the lecture that included NEIU faculty, staff, students and donors; and an evening lecture attended by approximately 500 students, faculty and community members. In lieu of accepting a fee from NEIU for his services, Dr. Mahajan asked NEIU to present five \$1,000 awards to students in the College of Business and Management.

Since 2002, the students of the College of Business and Management (CBM) have organized an annual International Business Conference that focuses on different regions of the world. This year's conference focused on Africa. The purpose of the annual International Business Conference is to help NEIU students, as future business leaders, to explore and understand business dynamics and career opportunities in a diverse, international business world. The main sessions of the conference were held in Alumni Hall on March 1-2, 2010.

#### **5. Women's History Month – March 1- April 9**

To celebrate Women's History month, several events were offered throughout March and April, including: “Film Screening and Panel Discussion: *The Silencing of Girls of Color*”, (March 2). The film was accompanied by a panel dialogue on the issues of GLBTQA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allies) inclusion and diversity, hate crimes legislation, the lack of media coverage and the implications of gender non-conformity on the current youth perspective. The event featured the filmmaker, Charles Brack and included Professor Nancy Matthews, Yasmin Nair (Gender JUST), and student champion Janean Watkins. Other events included, “Women Composers Concert” (March 16), faculty and students of the Music Department performed music by Women Composers; “Women in Computing” (March 30) with Netiva Caftori, highlighted women who have succeeded in computer science, why there are so few women in the field and what can be done to remedy the situation.

#### **6. University Day – March 4**

University Day 2010 was held on Thursday, March 4 in Alumni Hall. The theme of this year's University Day was “*Free Speech at NEIU.*” On March 2, the Student Government Association organized a prelude and kicked off the event with a student speak out. Several students shared their thoughts on topics ranging from the U-Pass to immigration reform.

Two special guests delivered keynote addresses, Michael Deutsch, the renowned civil rights attorney, and Dr. Jacqueline Battalora, professor of

sociology at St. Xavier College. Their addresses discussed the essential role of robust, free speech in protecting democracy in the US.

There were several workshops throughout the day. A morning workshop facilitated by Dr. Chris Toffolo, Chair of the Justice Studies Dept, explored issues of power, control and First Amendment protections. Another workshop, co-facilitated by Michael Deutsch and NEIU Professor, Michael Armato, of the Sociology department, explored the balance between unfettered access to free speech in the face of disagreeable visitors and the rights of members of the campus community to study and work. A third workshop, facilitated by Dr. Battalora, reexamined her argument that certain hate speech is detrimental to the health of less powerful and vulnerable individuals. The last workshop was sponsored and facilitated by the Union for Puerto Rican Students. This session recounted the history of UPRS at NEIU (the longest-lived Puerto Rican student organization in the US.)

#### **7. Mid-America Educators' Job Fair – March 5**

The Mid-America Educators' Job Fair was held on Friday, March 5 in the small gym of the PE complex. For the third consecutive year National-Louis University co-hosted the event with Northeastern. The 44 participating schools and school districts represented eight States, Japan, and the United Kingdom. There was an increase of 7.6% in the number of job applicants attending the event from last year; 37.5% were NEIU students or graduates.

#### **8. Project Success and Proyecto Pa'Lante 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony – March 9**

The Project Success and Proyecto Pa'Lante Annual Awards Ceremony took place on Tuesday, March 9. The ceremony recognized 100 students for high honors (3.5 - 4.0 cumulative GPA) and honors (3.0 – 3.49 cumulative GPA). Nineteen students were also awarded Spirit Awards for exemplifying NEIU's spirit. The awards honor students who have demonstrated development and growth, leadership, diligence and/or commitment to their learning. An additional 77 students were recognized for graduating during the previous summer, fall and spring semesters. Dr. Roberto Sanabria, Director of University Outreach and Equal Employment, delivered the keynote address.

#### **9. Governor's Address in Springfield – March 10**

The President attended the Governor's Address in Springfield on behalf of Northeastern on Wednesday, March 10.

#### **10. National Social Work Month – March 15**

The NEIU Social Work Program celebrated National Social Work Month on Monday, March 15 in the Golden Eagles room. The keynote speaker was State

Senator Iris Martinez, Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Hispanic Caucus and President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL). Many administrators, staff, faculty, and instructors participated in the celebration, and most importantly, senior social work students and alumni served as respondents to the Senator's remarks.

#### **11. Who's Who Recipients for 2010 – March 16**

On Tuesday, March 16, twenty-seven NEIU students were honored at a reception for 2010 Who's Who recipients. Each of the NEIU honorees received an award certificate at the formal NEIU ceremony and will have his or her biography published in the 2010 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*. Who's Who is a national program recognizing students for outstanding scholarship, service and leadership. Upper-class undergraduate and graduate students must display excellence in academics and provide outstanding service to the NEIU university community to be nominated by campus faculty and staff.

#### **12. Second Annual Professional Development Conference, "Great Service Matters" – March 17-18**

The Second Annual Professional Development Conference "*Great Service Matters*" for faculty and staff, took place at NEIU on March 17-18. The conference featured keynote presentations and various breakout sessions. The keynote presentation entitled "Finding Purpose While Achieving Excellence" was presented by Dr. Robert Nash and Dr. DeMethra LaSha Bradley, both from the University of Vermont.

#### **13. Jewel Box Series – March 19-20**

On Friday, March 19, the Jewel Box Series was coordinated with the Chicago Brass Festival and produced by NEIU music professor, Travis Heath. The event also featured the brass trio "B3+", which included renowned performers Franz Hackl (trumpet), John Clark (horn), and Marcus Roja (tuba). The three led a master class on Saturday, March 20. The concert was broadcast live on WFMT 98.7 FM, Chicago's classical radio station. Advertising for NEIU's Jewel Box Series was heard on WFMT 98.7 FM, WXRT 93.1 FM and WDCB – College of DuPage Radio.

#### **14. Second Annual Chicago Brass Festival – March 19-21**

The Second Annual Chicago Brass Festival took place on March 19-21. The Festival was created by Professor Travis Heath with support from the Music Department, the Office of Cultural Events, and the Student Government Association. The weekend featured concerts, master classes, exhibits and a competition. It attracted an audience from the surrounding communities as well as visitors from all over the world.

**15. The Fifteenth Annual Asian American Heritage Conference – March 31 and April 1**

Asian Programs of the Academic Development Department held The Fifteenth Annual Asian American Heritage Conference from March 31 to April 1, 2010. The theme of the conference was, "Human Rights: From Dialogue to Action." The highlights of the conference included a presentation on "Human Rights and Democratization: The cases of Seoul and Beijing" by Professor Sangmin Bae in the Political Science department. Other presentations emphasized globalization, climate change, disaster recovery, vulnerability of reconstruction efforts, and the politics inherent in such efforts.

**16. Latino Professional and Community Leaders Networking Day – April 6**

On Tuesday, April 6, the Dean of Students Office hosted a "Latino Professional and Community Leaders Networking Day." The speakers included representatives from government, broadcasting, health, higher education, and business. Dr. Aida Giachello, founder and director of the Midwest Latino Health Research, Training and Policy Center, delivered the keynote address. A reception followed with networking opportunities between guests and students on topics related to professional training, establishing connections within a chosen field, and community service as an aspect of professionalism. Resource information was provided by the McNair Scholars Program, and the NEIU Office of Career Services offered resume critiques.

**17. Student Awards – April 20**

Student Awards will be held on Tuesday, April 20 at 1:40 pm in Alumni Hall. Trustee Dawson will bring greetings.

**18. Academic Honors – April 29**

Academic Honors Reception will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 5:00 pm in Alumni Hall. Trustee Azcoitia will bring greetings.

**19. Art Installation, "Tremendous Ferntuity" – through April 30**

Tremendous Ferntuity is a four-channel sound installation created by Jeff Kowalkowski, Music department. His work is featured at Lincoln Park Conservatory through April 30. The work combines electronically processed voice and instrument recordings into a calmly ambiguous, peaceful environment within the Fern Room, intended as a meditation on good luck in life. Exhibition hours: daily 9am-5pm. Admission is Free.

**20. Commencement – May 8**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
April 8, 2010**

18

Commencement is tentatively scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 8, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. There will be one ceremony for all graduates at 10 am.