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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE
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I. ACTION ITEMS

A. TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Board approval is requested to grant Tenure to the following members of the faculty:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Paul Blair	Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics
Bonnie Chauncey	Library
Charletta Gutierrez	Accounting, Business Law, & Finance
Nicole Holland	Educational Leadership and Development
Sophia Mihic	Political Science
Cynthia Moran	Communication, Media, Theater
Kristin Over	English
Sudha Srinivas	Physics
D. S. Sundaram	Marketing

Following is brief biographical information on the candidates.

Paul Blair will join Northeastern Illinois University in Fall 2008 as Chair of the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics Department. Dr. Blair is from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, Alabama where he served as Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Kinesiology.

Bonnie Chauncey is an Associate Professor of Libraries and Learning Resources and serves as an educational librarian. Since joining the faculty, Ms. Chauncey has authored two significant articles in her field, developed successful grant proposals, and contributed to planning and assessing library instructional services.

Charletta Gutierrez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Accounting, Business Law and Finance. Dr. Gutierrez specializes in management information systems. She has published several peer reviewed journal articles.

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Nicole Holland is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Development. Dr. Holland teaches in the areas of educational and individual differences, human development and learning, and educational research. She has received a grant from the American Educational Research Association, and the Illinois Association of Teacher Educators, in addition to authoring several peer reviewed articles, book reviews and book chapters.

Cynthia Moran is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre. Ms. Moran specializes in film. She has created a sizable body of documentaries which have been well received by both internal and external audiences.

Sophia Mihic is an Assistant Professor in Political Science. Dr. Mihic specializes in political theory and teaches in Political Science and Philosophy departments. She has published several articles and book chapters in excellent university presses.

Kristen Over is an Associate Professor in the English Department and teaches in the area of medieval literature and literary theory. Dr. Over has published a monograph, book chapters, and book reviews.

Sudha Srinivas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics. She focuses on computational modeling of the structural, electronic and magnetic properties of clusters. Her articles have appeared in *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters*.

D. S. Sundaram is an Associate Professor in the Department of Marketing and Management. Dr. Sundaram teaches in the area of marketing. He has published several peer reviewed journal articles. In addition, Dr. Sundaram received the Best Paper Award at the 2006 Marketing Management Association Conference.

**B. NAMING OF LEGACY HALL IN HONOR OF DR. DONN F. BAILEY
Carruthers' Center for Inner City Studies**

Dr. Donn F. Bailey served as director of the Carruthers' Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) for 22 years. He was one of the founding architects of the center. He passed away in December, 2007. During his tenure as director, Dr. Bailey oversaw the renovation of the historic Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building in 1975 and developed the undergraduate curriculum tied to the City of Chicago's Career Opportunities Program. A national and international leader in the field of speech and language, Dr. Bailey co-founded (1977) and directed (1978-1981) the National Black Association for Speech-Language. He also served as chairman of the Chicago Board of Education's Commission on School Desegregation in Chicago Public Schools from 1986-1990.

In recognition of his leadership and the integral role he played in making CCICS a prominent part of both Northeastern Illinois University and the broader Chicago community, it has been proposed in a letter dated January 17, 2008 by current CCICS Director Dr. Conrad W. Worrill on behalf of members of the faculty, staff and education community at large, that the Center's 250 seat auditorium be named in honor of Donn F. Bailey.

Many prominent, historic black and other civic leaders have visited CCICS—a virtual mecca for the study and creation of urban black culture and life. Paul Robeson, W.E.B. DuBois, Harold Washington, Rod Blagojevich, Carol Moseley Braun, Barack Obama, Richard J. Daley, Richard M. Daley, Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Sengstacke, Vernon Jarrett, Oscar Brown, Jr., and Nelson Mandela among countless others have visited CCICS, many of whom have spoken in its auditorium. A major renovation project is planned for the auditorium and already, approximately \$3,000 in memorial funds has been raised to help defray some of the project's costs. An initiative is underway to raise additional funds to assist in the renovation of the auditorium.

This action item recommends that the CCICS auditorium be officially named: **Legacy Hall in Honor of Dr. Donn F. Bailey**, recognizing not only his everlasting legacy, but those of the many other prominent individuals who have played a part in the Center's development. This action item shall be enacted in accordance with University policy.

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C. PARKING LOT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Board approval is requested for the expenditure of funds for parking lot repair and maintenance. This project includes reconstructing the parking lot at the Carruthers' Center for Inner City Studies (constructed 1976) and several projects on the main campus, including patching and resurfacing the pavement in Parking Lot CH (constructed 1995), filling and seal coating cracks in Parking Lot L (constructed 2001), and replacing pavement markings along Access Road (constructed 1999).

This work includes asphalt pavement removal, pavement patching, hot-mix asphalt paving, seal coat and crack filling, concrete curb and gutter removal, and replacement and installation of thermoplastic and painted pavement marking. In addition, underdrain and structure adjustments and other site work may also be required, depending on underlying conditions that are unknown until after the initial pavement is removed.

PROJECT COST:

Base Bid	\$199,999
Additional funds, if needed	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$219,999

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Permanent Improvement Operating Funds	\$ 5,000
Parking Lot Repair and Renewal Funds	214,999

RECOMMENDED VENDOR:

Chicagoland Paving
225 Telser Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

SUMMARY OF BIDS:

	<u>Base Bid</u>
Chicagoland Paving	\$199,999
A-Lamp Concrete	207,040
Accu-Paving	208,400
DeKalb Paving	214,700
Foxx Asphalt	269,207

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D. COMPUTER SUPPORT

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Board approval is requested for the continuing support for academic courseware applications from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The expenditure represents a one-year extension of services from Blackboard, Inc. to provide the Blackboard Learning System as the campus course management system.

The Blackboard Learning System is used by University faculty to support and enhance course delivery and student learning. The system facilitates on-line course documents, group communication, discussion boards and chat rooms; and course management tools.

The Enterprise version of the Blackboard Learning System provided under this contract supports a significant number of faculty using Blackboard and includes the functionality needed to support seamless integration with *NEIUworks*, the campus administrative information system. The contract includes the following services:

Blackboard Enterprise Learning System License Fees
Blackboard Enterprise Application Service Provider Fees
Blackboard Enterprise Test and Development Server Fees

The contract extension is being modified to move the contract renewal date from October 1 to July 1. This will result in the contract being in effect during the same time period as the University's fiscal year and will result in the contract no longer expiring during the fall semester. To accomplish this, a contract amendment was negotiated to terminate the existing three-year contract early on June 30, 2008, adjusting expenditures on the terminated contract downward to reflect the shorter contract term, and agreeing to a one-year extension with the new agreement expiring on June 30, 2009.

CONTRACT COST: \$108,425

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Technology Initiative

RECOMMENDED VENDOR

Blackboard, Inc.
1899 L Street NW, 5th FL
Washington, DC 20035

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II. INFORMATION ITEMS

**A. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE AND THE SELECTION OF A
PLANNING CONSULTANT**

At the February 7, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees, I outlined the University's plans for our strategic planning initiative. With the requirement from the Higher Learning Commission and the strong recommendation from the Board, we are undertaking a process that will better position the University in the changing higher education environment. Additionally, the faculty, staff and students of Northeastern are eager to reassess our role in higher education and plan how we strategically increase our relevance and value not only to the citizens of Chicago, the region and the nation, but also better define our role as a global university.

To that end, I have appointed co-chairs to serve with me during the strategic planning process – Associate Dean of the College of Business and Management Amy Hietapelto and Associate Provost Vicki Roman-Lagunas. In addition, we have established a Strategic Planning Steering Committee and Strategic Planning Team. Both of these groups represent the broad and diverse campus constituencies. Attached are two lists with the individuals in these two groups.

Also discussed in February was the need to hire an external consultant to design and facilitate our strategic planning process and to provide an independent assessment and review of our planning process. The University complied with Illinois procurement requirements by publicly seeking proposals for those services through the Request for Proposal process. We received five proposals and conducted on-campus interviews with two firms – The Education Alliance and Pappas Consulting Group, Inc. The on-campus interviews were day-long and provided the entire campus community an opportunity to interact and assess the two firms. As a result of those visits, we chose Pappas as the consultant.

During the February meeting, the Board authorized me to enter into a contract with a strategic planning consultant with the following terms: “The amount of the contract paid from state appropriated funds would not exceed \$122,500” and “if additional funds are needed for this contract, the state funds will be supplemented with unrestricted local funds (e.g., indirect cost revenue).”

With this authority, I contracted with the Pappas Consulting Group with a total obligation of state funds of \$95,343. This amount is being supplemented with an additional \$47,671 from the University Indirect Cost Fund and \$47,671 from the Auxiliary Non-instructional Reserve Fund. The contract limit for the Pappas Consulting Group, Inc. is \$190,685.

The next steps in the planning process include a discussion on University Day of our collective hopes for Northeastern for the future; a series of focus groups with students, faculty and staff; interviews with some members of the Board of Trustees and the

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Foundation Board; and significant reviews of each functional area. We anticipate completion of the plan by early fall.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee

Co-Chairs: Sharon K. Hahs, President
Amy Hietapelto, Associate Dean, College of Business and Management
Vice Chair: Vicki Roman-Lagunas, Associate Provost
Members: Robert Bedford, Dean of Students Office
Terrence Black, Telecommunications
Gerald Chaney, Student, College of Education
Lesa Davis, Anthropology
Steven Dundis, Educational Leadership and Development
Lawrence Frank, Provost
Janet Fredericks, Graduate College
Christina Gomez, Sociology
Erik Lopez, Student, College of Arts and Sciences
Sunil Mahadeshwar, Student Member NEIU Board of Trustees
Nanette Potee, Communication, Media and Theatre
Allen Shub, Management
Julie Wight, Publications
Mark Wilcockson, Finance and Administration
Maria Zepeda, Institutional Studies

Strategic Planning Team

Chair: Vicki Roman-Lagunas, Associate Provost
Members: Gregory Anderson, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics
Helen Ang, Budgets
Maureen Amos, Financial Aid Office
Sangmin Bae, Political Science
Bradley Baker, Library and Learning Resources
Shelley Bannister, Justice Studies and Women's Studies
Suzanne Benson, Educational Leadership & Development; Weekend Institute
Laura Berry, Office of Program Advisement, Graduate Student, College of Education
James Blair, CASEP
Shayne Cofer, Music
Shellie Coleman, Transfer and Minority Student Success Programs
Andrea Davey, Foundation Board
Teresita Diaz, Proyecto Pa'Lante and Project Success
Dasha Djukic, Graduate Student, College of Business and Management
Omar Duque, NEIU Board of Trustees
Murrell Duster, Academic Development
Lidia Filus, Mathematics
Kate Forhan, College of Arts and Sciences

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Laurie Fuller, Women's Studies
Maureen Gillette, College of Education
Katherine Gleiss-Monar, Learning Center
David Green, Library
Evelyn Hanley, Finance and Administration
Edmund Hansen, Center for Teaching and Learning
Janice Harring-Hendon, Enrollment Services
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer, Psychology and Women's Studies
David Jonaitis, Finance and Administration
John Kasmer, Biology
Michael Kelly, Dean of Students
Carla Knorowski, Institutional Advancement
Erika Krehbiel, Public Relations
David Leaman, Political Science
Timothy Libretti, English
Daniel Lopez, Academic Development and El Centro
Nancy Matthews, Justice Studies and Women's Studies
Erica Meiners, Educational Leadership
Mark Melton, Special Education
Jaime Mendoza, Academic Advisement Center
Sophia Mihic, Political Science
Cynthia Moran, Communication, Media and Theater
Wamucii Njogu, Academic Affairs, Justice Studies
Norman Noerper, Computer Science
Henry Owen, Library
Kristine Pierre, Student Affairs
Santos Rivera, Affirmative Action and Outreach Programs
Buff Rosen-Boyd, Grant Accounting
David Rutschman, College of Arts and Science
Kimberly Sanborn, McNair Scholars Program
Timothy Scherman, English and Women's Studies
Therese Schuepfer, Psychology
Wendy Stack, Chicago Teachers' Center
Susan Stall, Sociology and Women's Studies
D.S. Sundaram, Marketing
Melvin Terrell, Student Affairs
Jonathan Teuber, Sponsored Programs
Varkey Titus, College of Business
Derrick Tussing, Graduate Student, College of Education
Mary Hay Verne, College of Arts and Science
Dureen Wheeler, Educational Leadership and Development, College of Education
Conrad Worrill/Lance Williams, Carruthers' Center for Inner City Studies
Ralph Zia, Facilities Management

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**B. UPDATE ON CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNIVERSITY AND THE ILLINOIS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
(FOP)**

On June 30, 2006, the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Northeastern Illinois University and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police expired. Since that time, University and FOP representatives had been meeting to reach agreement on monetary and non-monetary contractual issues. Those meetings did not produce contract terms acceptable to both parties.

Because the contract could not be resolved through continued negotiations, the parties had to resort to interest arbitration, pursuant to the Illinois Labor Relations Act, to reach a conclusion on contract terms. On February 25, 2008, University and FOP representatives met with the arbitrator Harvey Nathan to present final contract proposals for his consideration. Each side also presented extensive analysis to support its proposal.

After the interest arbitration hearing began, both sides agreed to recess the proceedings and work with the arbitrator to attempt to mediate the contract terms. After much discussion, a tentative mediated agreement was reached. However, the terms of that agreement will not be finalized or public until submitted in a formal letter by the arbitrator to both parties. When that letter is sent, the contract terms will be final. The terms are binding and are not subject to ratification by the Union membership or to approval by the Board of Trustees.

When the University receives that notification, it will be forwarded to the Board and reported publicly at the June Board meeting.

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**C. NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTERNAL POLICY
GUIDELINES NAMING OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS**

Pursuant to Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees Regulations, Section VI. Physical Facilities, Subsection C. Naming of Board Property, Item 4 issued April 7, 1998: *The University shall develop policies for the naming of University property. The policies and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.*

Therefore, it is the purpose of this document to set forth internal policy and procedures for naming of University facilities and programs. In this regard, "facilities" may be defined as buildings, including rooms, halls, auditoriums, etc., structures, landscaped areas, walkways, driveways, streets, open spaces, or any other property under the jurisdiction of the University. "Programs" may be defined as any academic or non-academic program, college, school, center, institute etc., but not endowed academic positions such as chairs, professorships or fellowships.

Proposals for the naming of University facilities and/or programs must follow the guidelines set forth herein and are subject to the approval by the President, who shall make recommendations to the Board. When considering naming proposals, particularly for programs, faculty advice should be sought at the lowest appropriate level and each successive level. This advice shall be noted and submitted along with the proposal to the President. The proposed name for a facility should be consistent with the existing pattern of names and function of the facility under consideration.

In order to name a facility or program in honor or memory of a person, the proposal's nominee must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- 1) Nominee must have provided a substantial portion of the funds needed to construct, renovate, remodel or build an addition to a facility; or must have provided a substantial portion of the funds needed to establish, advance or maintain a program;
- 2) Nominee must have been nominated by a person who has provided a substantial portion of the funds needed to construct, renovate, remodel or build an addition to a facility; or by a person who has provided a substantial portion of the funds needed to establish, advance or maintain a program;
- 3) Nominee was a distinguished person in the public life of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois and/or the Nation, including those who have held elective or appointive office, members or employees of the University's Board of Trustees, or members or employees of the Illinois Board of Higher Education;
- 4) Nominee is a member or former member of the University's faculty, staff, student body, or alumni.

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Additionally, in order to name a facility or program in honor or memory of a nominee, the proposal must identify the source(s) of substantial financial philanthropic support that has been committed to the naming of the facility or program.

The above criteria also apply for commemorative plaques and the like, which may be affixed inside buildings near rooms, auditoriums, lecture halls, dining and lounge areas, laboratories etc. recognizing distinguished individuals such as University faculty, staff, students, or alumni, who are associated with the functions of those spaces, and/or a donor (or donor's honoree) who has provided a substantial philanthropic contribution in support of that space or program.

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D. NEWS AND EVENTS

1. Black History Month Activities - February 1-29

This year's theme was "Black Activism – Actualized, Deferred or Forgotten?" Activities explored the question "What happened to Black Activism? Was it Actualized, Deferred or Forgotten?" by celebrating activists and discussing and encouraging the various ways to find your voice, become an activist and inspire a movement. A committee of over 20 members of the University community as well as 20 supporting offices and organizations worked since the Fall to develop the programs, which included: "Positive on Purpose," a presentation by Bill Campbell: as a video and film festival; Enoch Williams Drum Workshop; and an art exhibition featuring the work of African American artist Arlene Turner-Crawford.

The Annual Awards Ceremony was held Friday, February 29, 2008 from 6:00-10:00 PM in Alumni Hall. Trustee Dr. Grace Dawson, President Sharon Hahs and Vice President Melvin C. Terrell gave remarks and a reception followed the ceremony.

2. NEIU Welcome Reception for Vice President Carla Knorowski – February 13

The University community welcomed Vice President for Institutional Advancement Carla Knorowski with a reception in the Golden Eagle Room. President Hahs noted Dr. Knorowski brings to the University and how pleased we all are that she accepted the position. Dr. Knorowski addressed the room with wonderful enthusiasm for the future of advancement at NEIU.

3. Global Initiatives Day - February 18

On Tuesday, February 18, NEIU Celebrated a Global Initiatives Day. Illinois State Representative and NEIU Alumna Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios gave a keynote speech on her recent international experience in Australia. Consul General of Australia Robert Charles also attended the event. Throughout the day there was a variety of exhibits in Village Square relating to the global experiences available to Northeastern's students.

4. State of the University – February 21

President Hahs gave her first State of the University address to a large audience of faculty, staff and students at 1:40 pm in Alumni Hall. She thanked members of the University community for their many contributions, and provided information on campus safety, the upcoming UPI negotiations, the Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award, Banner implementation, and strategic planning. She then addressed in detail the topics of institutional advancement, fiscal information for FY09, and a variety of student success trends and results. A brief question and answer session was followed by a reception.

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5. Performing Arts Series – February 22

The NEIU Varsity Big Band performed in the Performing Arts Series with guest artists Larry Combs (Chicago Symphony Orchestra clarinetist) and NEIU's trumpet professor Travis Heath. The band premiered a new arrangement by jazz legend Bill Holman, written especially for the NEIU performance.

The May 30th concert will feature Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues and will be preceded by a reception for NEIU donors.

6. Northern Illinois University Remembrance Gathering – February 26

A "Remembrance Gathering" was held at 1:40 p.m. in Village Square. In memory of the Northern Illinois University students who lost their lives during the tragic events of February 14, 2008. President Hahs gave introductory remarks, SGA Senator Paul Harris read a poem, and Vice President Melvin C. Terrell read the names of the students. Soloist Kathy Cowan and pianist Jeff Kowalkowski (Instructors of Music at NEIU) performed. Scrolls signed by members of the university community were presented to an NIU Law School representative by Eric Justiniano, Assistant Dean of Students and Paul Harris, SGA Senator.

7. National Teacher Job Fair held at Northeastern – February 29

Ninety-two schools and school districts representing sixteen states were present for the Mid-America Educators' Job Fair, was held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the PE Complex. Forty-nine (53%) of the schools and school districts were from Illinois and forty-three were from other states. A total of 378 applicants were present. One hundred and fifty-four (41%) were NEIU students or alumni and 224 were from other colleges and universities. Northeastern entered into a partnership with National-Louis University to sponsor this event.

8. Workshop at the Illinois Higher Education Center's 2008 Annual Conference in Springfield, IL – March 3

Dr. John Hoeppel, Director of Counseling, co-presented a workshop at the Illinois Higher Education Center's 2008 Annual Conference in Springfield, IL. The overall conference theme was "Campus Safety, Security and Mental Health Issues." Dr. Hoeppel presented, along with Laurie Davidson of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, a workshop on "Using Data to Plan and Gain Support for Mental Health Promotion and Problem Prevention." The session focused on marketing mental health needs to key stakeholders across campus, including top-level administrators, faculty, and influential student groups.

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9. Student Town Hall Meeting with President Sharon Hahs – March 4

Vice President Melvin C. Terrell worked with the President of the Student Government, Keenan Arnold, and NEIU Board of Trustee Student Representative, Sunil Mahadeshwar, to coordinate a Town Hall Meeting among students and President Hahs. The meeting was held from 1:30-3:00 pm in Alumni Hall, and was extremely informative for all parties.

10. Meet the President and Welcome New Vice President Event at the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum – March 11

The university hosted a breakfast reception at the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum to introduce President Hahs and our new Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the NEIU Foundation Dr. Carla Knorowski. Over 150 people attended the event including members of our campus community as well as many individuals from the Chicago corporate, educational, civic, and cultural communities – alumni, donors, community partners and other friends of the University.

11. Jewel Box Series – March 14

The Jewel Box Series concert featured The Cassatt String Quartet and NEIU faculty clarinetist **Rose Sperrazza**. The concert was dedicated to the memory of former NEIU Music Professor Dr. Vincent Oddo. The event was sold out and was followed by a reception attended by audience members that included Dr. Oddo's family and friends. The Jewel Box Series concerts are broadcast live on WFMT radio 98.7 FM.

The last two concerts in the series will feature the American Chamber Players (April 18) and baritone Lucas Meachem (May 16).

12. Who's Who Awards for Students – March 25

A ceremony was conducted in SU-003 for Northeastern Illinois University undergraduates who were inducted into the Class of 2008 of Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges. Twenty-one NEIU students received the Who's Who distinction. The program began with a welcome by President Sharon Hahs, followed by the presentation of award certificates by Vice President for Student Affairs Melvin C. Terrell, Dean of Students Michael Kelly, and President Hahs. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the program.

13. Metropolitan Mayor's Roundtable Report – March 26

The Office of the President hosted a report presentation by the Center for Metropolitan Chicago Initiatives, University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, and the Metropolitan Mayor Caucus. Titled "Forging the Tools for Unity: A Report on Metro Chicago's Mayors Roundtables on Latino Integration", it is the result of roundtable discussions held in 2007 to promote conversation among Latinos and civic, community, faith and municipal leaders.

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14. Thirteenth Annual Asian American Heritage Conference: "Preserving our Heritage: Globalization and Identity" – April 1

The 13th Annual Asian American Heritage Conference with the theme "Preserving Our Heritage: Globalization and Identity" is scheduled for April 1-7. The Asian Conference celebrates the rich, multicultural legacies that connect Asia and the Americas. Conference sessions encompass issues of historical, educational, socio-political, cultural, linguistic and other relevant topics, and take place in the spirit of interactive dialogue. Also included are musical performances and displays.

15. Student Awards Program – April 8

The Student Awards Program was held at 1:45 pm in Alumni Hall. Awards presented included University wide awards, such as the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, the Presidential Scholarship, the Student Leadership and Service Scholarship, the University Ambassador Award, Nontraditional Degree Program awards, and awards given by the various colleges. Over 200 students received awards. Greetings were given by Trustee Carlos Azcoitia, SGA President Keenan Arnold, and Director of Student Activities Sharron Evans was keynote speaker. The award ceremony was followed by a reception.

16. NEIU Lobby Day – April 9

On Wednesday, April 9, a group of 35 NEIU faculty, staff, students, alumni and trustees traveled to Springfield to participate in the Higher Education Lobby Day. Our message focused on support for the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request.

17. Presidential Lecture Series – April 24

The Presidential Lecture Series will present poet, essayist and activist Adrienne Rich. The lecture/reading will take place at 8:00 p.m. in the NEIU Recital Hall and will be free and open to the public. A session with students will be held at 12:00 p.m. in the recital hall that same day.

18. Academic Honors Reception – April 23

Academic Honors Reception will be held on Wednesday April 23 in Alumni Hall. Trustee Grace Dawson will bring greetings from the Board of Trustees.

19. Commencement – May 3

The Commencement Convocation will be held on Saturday May 3 at the Physical Education Complex. Trustee Walter Dudycz will bring greetings from the Board of Trustees.