

Office of the Dean of Students

Volume 9, Issue 1

Spring, 2009

NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES AND LINKS — THE “ASK ME” CAMPAIGN?

Questions about NEIU? Ask anyone wearing this button.

The ASK ME Campaign serves NEIU to: 1) create a friendlier, more caring, and engaging campus environment; 2) lessen new students' anxiety by providing answers in a personalized manner; 3) encourage faculty and staff to participate in campus life; 4) help improve coordination among services; and 5) foster an enriching campus experience leading to greater student retention.

The campaign was kicked off by the Office of the Dean of Students on January 12, 2009. This campaign implements the NEIU Strategic Goal One, action step 1.5 to “improve coordination among student and academic support programs and services with a focus on quality, customer service and intentional integration with the curriculum.” Participants wore an ASK ME button to welcome new, transfer, and returning student questions and



inquiries. During the first two weeks of Spring semester, the ASK ME banner hung in Village Square over the information resource table hosted by the Student Affairs staff and student leaders. All staff who participated received a campaign kit with button, fact sheet, frequently asked questions/answers, and an office sign for posting. The Weekend Institute hosted a table in the Science Building lobby on Saturday, January 27.

The ASK ME campaign has been

highly successful! Over 180 staff, faculty, and student leaders from nearly every college, department, and program participated by answering more than 600 student inquiries. The most frequently asked questions were related to campus locations, the NEIU catalog, financial aid services, the parking process, recruitment and enrollment services, health services, advising, and student activities.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We encourage all NEIU departments, programs, faculty, staff, and student leaders to join us as we again kick-off the ASK ME campaign during the first two weeks of Fall, 2009. The campaign will continue each Fall and Spring semester. Please contact the Dean of Students Office, B 119, for more information.

“DARE TO CARE” SERVICE LEARNING

Service-Learning at NEIU will offer opportunities for all students to engage in community programs and gain real-world experience networking, contributing to important societal issues, building lasting relationships and empowering others. As part of the Service Learning initiative, the Office of the Dean of Students, in conjunction with a multi-disciplinary effort at Northeastern, hosted “Dare to Care” on Friday, Jan 30th. Dr. Bob Bringle presented at several well-attended faculty and student leader sessions on “how to incorporate service learning in the classroom and into everyday life.”

The University has adopted its own definition for Service-Learning. “Service Learning is a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities designed to promote student learning and development. To find out more about the Service Learning initiative at NEIU, contact Robert E. Bedford, Assistant Dean of Students, B 119.

Dean's Office Staff:

Michael T. Kelly, Ed.D., Dean of Students
Antoinette R. McConnell, M.A., Assistant Dean of Students
Robert E. Bedford, M.S.Ed., Assistant Dean of Students
Flora M. Llacuna, M.A., Coordinator, Student Enrichment Programs
Ruth Johnson, Office Support Specialist
Theresa Segura-Herrera, Ph.D., University Liaison for S.A.H.P. Grant
Dave Rudey, Graduate Assistant
Nathan Ziccarelli, Graduate Assistant
Jimit Shah, Office Assistant

Vital Information:

This newsletter is published once per academic term to inform students about the activities of the Office of the Dean of Students.

Questions:

Suggestions for future editions should be forwarded to the Dean's Office by calling extension 4610 or e-mailing M-Kelly2@neiu.edu

WHO'S WHO STUDENTS HONORED:



Thirty-six NEIU students will be inducted into "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" for 2009. "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" is a national program recognizing students for outstanding scholarship, service and leadership. Nominations are submitted by campus faculty and staff for this recognition opportunity each Fall.

Upper-class undergraduate and graduate students that display excellence in academics and provide outstanding service to the NEIU university community are nominated. In addition to students having their biographies included in the Who's Who compendium for this year, each honoree receives an award certificate presented at a formal NEIU ceremony on April 28, 2009. This year's inductees are:

Mr. Saleh M. Akhras
Mr. Eduardo Arabu Jr.
Mr. Keenan P. Arnold
Mr. Keith Atterberry
Ms. Imani A. Beard
Mr. Michael Buibas Jr.
Mr. Emilio N. Caban
Mr. Clad G. Codak
Mr. Brett R. Coleman
Ms. Kesha C. Daniels
Mr. Norman M. Davis
Ms. Giuseppa M. DiCesare

Ms. Wanda R. Dukes
Ms. Jose L. Fulgencio
Ms. Donna R. Gentry
Ms. Kali M. Gooden
Mr. Nawaf A. Habib
Ms. Mary J. Hetland
Mr. Francois Jean Jr.
Ms. Cherise Johnson
Ms. Muzna Nazeer
Ms. Kathleen H. Murray-Tedesso
Ms. Annum A. Qureshi
Ms. Rhonda J. Rey

Mr. Simpson B. Robinson
Mr. David M. Rudey
Mr. Hamza J. Salim
Ms. Monica E. Saucedo
Mr. Jimit M. Shah
Ms. Faye S. Stevens-Jett
Ms. Leticia S. Strange
Ms. Catrina D. Toney
Ms. Robin M. Wagner
Mr. Kendall O. Walker
Ms. Melissa A. Woo
Mr. Nathan J. Zicarelli



EXPLORE AND LEARN The National Student Exchange Program

In Fall of 2008, the National Student Exchange (NSE) program, coordinated by Flora Llacuna, welcomed nine new exchange students to Northeastern Illinois University. Two students were from New Mexico, one from Washington State, one from Oklahoma and five from Puerto Rico.

The National Student Exchange Program facilitates NEIU students taking courses at another university anywhere in the USA; and students from other states are able to take courses here at NEIU. Many schools have reciprocal



arrangements with NEIU, so that what you pay here is what you will pay there.

Majors for incoming National Student Exchange students vary as much as their location. Some NSE students attend NEIU and take courses in Psychology, while others are taking courses in Fitness and Political

Science. Coordinator Flora Llacuna said, "I love them like they were my own children" about her NSE students.

Stop by the Office of the Dean of Students, B 119, for additional information about locations and costs.



NEIU
UNIVERSITY AMBASSADORS
LEADERSHIP
AND SERVICE - A WINNING
COMBINATION



LOOKING TO ENHANCE YOUR ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE? BECOME A STUDENT AMBASSADOR!

The Student Ambassador Program enhances the academic experience, builds leadership skills and assists in preserving the integrity of NEIU while creating a lasting first and last impression to campus visitors. The corps of Ambassadors serve as a student club as well as in a service and leadership role. They provide a student's viewpoint on panel discussions and represent students at NEIU commencement, academic honors, and award ceremonies, open house, and other special events, many sponsored by the Office of the President.

Their service role also includes greeting university guests and conducting campus tours.

To be eligible to become an Ambassador, students must have completed 30 hours of coursework and have a GPA of 2.00. During the ambassador application interview, a student must demonstrate a passion and commitment to service. Ambassadors receive priority course registration and training. Ambassadors enjoy the benefits of recognition as dynamic student leaders and campus role models.

If you know of a student to recommend or who has an interest in becoming an Ambassador, the Office of the Dean of Students is currently accepting applications. Applications can be downloaded from the Dean of Students web page at www.neiu.edu/~DeanSt (click on Programs and Services) or picked up in B 119. Becoming an NEIU Student Ambassador provides a sense of accomplishment, enriches the academic experience, enhances your resume, and is vital to campus life.

EL CAP – Creating Awareness and Promoting Prevention

The Latino Coalition for Awareness and Prevention, (EL CAP) is a student group started in 2007 as part of the SAMHSA funded grant sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students. The Spanish translation for EL CAP is “La Coalicion de Latinos para Conciencia y Prevenir.” The group’s main goal is to create awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and hepatitis to promote knowledge and impact a change in behaviors.

The group is made up of ten or more students and a University Liaison. Dean Michael Kelly serves as consultant and advisor to the group. Because NEIU is an Hispanic Serving Institution, according to the grant, EL CAP primarily focuses on the Latino population at NEIU, while still keeping information flowing to everyone who may be affected by HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and Hepatitis issues. Because NEIU is a commuter institution, EL CAP has a duty to perform outreach into communities

and schools around Chicago to promote awareness and prevention of these issues. All in all, EL CAP’s vision, purpose, and goal works toward increasing change and decreasing the number of people contracting hepatitis and HIV and the number of reported addiction cases in the greater Chicagoland area.

EL CAP Events include:

**Outreach to El Centro
NEIU Student Organization Fair
Information Table for World AIDS Day
Delivery of HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse,
and Hepatitis Seminars Attendance at the
Leadership Exchange Conference**

Upcoming Events:

**“Ten Seconds of Thought” Program,
Wednesday, April 8th
1 - 6 p.m., Alumni Hall**

Student Complaint Procedure

The Office of the Dean of Students distributes the Request for Formal Review of a Student Complaint form. The form must be submitted in order for a complaint to be investigated.

Steps in filing a complaint:

A student is to first meet with the staff person responsible for complaints in the office where the matter arose, in hope of gaining resolution. If, after the meeting, the student is dissatisfied with the outcome, the following steps are to be followed:

- 1)** A complaint is to be submitted in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students by completing a Student Complaint Form.
- 2)** When a student submits a complaint, the person must provide their name, contact information, and attach any related documents.
- 3)** After a complaint is submitted, the student will meet with the Dean, an Assistant Dean, or Coordinator to review the matter and be informed of the process.
- 4)** The assigned staff member will then investigate the nature of the complaint, contact all necessary parties, and report back to the student with the outcome.
- 5)** Additional follow-ups will take place at the student's request until the matter is resolved.

All completed complaint forms are kept on file in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Note that grade appeals, exceptions to University procedures, student disciplinary complaints, and affirmative action cases do not fall under these guidelines.

PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS: The Minority Student Mentoring Program

The first-year of college can be interesting, adventurous, and fun, yet challenging. The Minority Student Mentoring Program serves first year students with little prior knowledge of the college experience and connects them on a personal level with faculty or professional staff who cares about their academic and professional development and educational success.

During the Fall semester the Minority Student Mentoring Program matches mentors and mentees, kicks off with a Fall Welcome reception and ends with a Holiday reception. Throughout the semesters mentor and mentee meets individually. This program is another way partnerships grow, and have a lasting impact on student's overall success.