

NEIU COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

CAS CONNECTIONS

2024 SUMMER TERM | ISSUE #7 | MAY 13TH, 2024

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings, CAS community,

May is, of course, the time we celebrate our students' achievements and, with our commencement ceremony, the growth and development they've experienced as they complete this leg of their academic and life journey and cross the threshold to what's next for them.

In the CAS, I can say we as a community take great pride in our students' success and feel a sense of optimism about the skills, abilities, and values they've cultivated in our community and will bring to the world as they contribute their gifts and talents in shaping our world for the better.

The proverb is true, though, it takes a village to, in this case, educate a successful student. We need you to join us in this mission.

What is the mission? Let me explain.

As Acting Dean, I marvel at the opportunities our faculty and community work hard to provide for our students with the resources we have. In particular, I'd like to highlight the opportunities the CAS provides students to engage in high-impact research and creative activities working closely with our world-class faculty. At larger "research" universities, these experiences are typically reserved for doctoral students. At NEIU, our students get the full attention and mentorship of our faculty, who are thrilled to do this work and share their research expertise with students. We know these experiences make a huge difference in preparing our students for life after NEIU, giving them a leg up in landing great jobs and gaining admission to top graduate schools.

The summer research projects students undertake with faculty and the opportunities we provide them to have the transformative experience of presenting their work at national conferences, among other experiences and opportunities, require a lot of financial support to sustain.

The CAS this year has launched an historic campaign to raise \$150,000 to create a strong foundation for sustainable support for these transformative experiences. The campaign will run through the end of 2024 and, since our launch on Proud to Be NEIU Day, we are at about ten percent of the overall goal!



CONTINUED...

We need your participation to keep this campaign going strong and to help us reach the goal.

We invite you to reflect on ways NEIU supported you in your life journey and launched you in your success and to consider how you can pay that forward to NEIU students now!

In the CAS, we have never pursued a campaign of this magnitude, and we are hoping to change the game, so to speak, by building a powerful and growing giving community in which we all participate as we can, knowing continuing and steady support will enable us to provide these transformative experiences for our students.

We invite you to participate in a number of ways:

1). Discern what you can donate now or consistently over time (monthly gifts are an option). If you might normally donate \$25 or \$50, perhaps you can sustain doing that monthly, or doing a lesser amount monthly.

2). Help us raise funds by spreading the word, sharing our campaign with individuals, companies, or organizations that would be interested in supporting our students' research and creative activity experiences. If we had 100 people commit to either donating or raising \$1500, we would reach our goal (or, at this point, exceed it). Often friends will give because YOU care about the cause and ask them. This is a great opportunity to share the story of NEIU and build our community!

3). Share your ideas with us for fun social events that will bring out community together and encourage giving to our community. We'd love to hear from you!
urage giving to our community. We'd love to hear from you!

[Donate to CUSP Here](#)

Community changes everything. You can hashtag that!

So please join us in this campaign. Let's go!

All the best,

Tim Libretti, Acting Dean



SUPPORTING THIS CAMPAIGN

Will Impact Students' Lives in
Incredibly Tangible Ways!

To get a concrete sense of how supporting student research experiences transforms lives, just listen to **Jennifer Velazquez, BA, Secondary Education English, 2020:**

"As a first-generation college graduate, I never thought I'd be part of academic spaces where I had something to teach to others... However, I met amazing professors and friends whose support nurtured the academic in me.

I had the opportunity to be a part of local and out-of-state research conferences during my last couple of years at NEIU, and those moments profoundly transformed me. I felt a deep sense of pride as I shared my work for the first time at NEIU's Student Symposium. Encouraged by my professors to submit my proposal and supported by my peers in the audience, it felt right to be up there. That type of support in an academic setting was so important to me. It reassured my confidence and passion for literature.

Additionally, presenting at the Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society conference in St. Louis alongside my peers was a dream come true. I had always heard of students having opportunities to present their work off campus, but never thought that would be me simply because of the financial costs.

I am grateful we were able to raise money to make this trip possible because the moments we shared as a collective were special. We presented our findings to students from all across the country, listened to authors discuss their process, and learned from other students, who like us, were excited to be there. It was a defining moment that reaffirmed my belief in the power of being in community.

My biggest regret as an undergrad is not being a part of these spaces sooner."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



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CURRENT CAS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Andrea Ramirez

MASTER'S IN LATIN
AMERICAN LITERATURE
AND CULTURE



My name is Andrea Ramirez, and I'm on the edge of completing my journey as an MA student in Latin American Literature and Culture. This May marks the culmination of my master's degree, and I couldn't be more grateful for my time at NEIU. When I stepped into the World Language Department, I was enveloped in a supportive community dedicated to helping me achieve my academic aspirations.

Throughout my tenure as a master's student, I've had the privilege of participating in the graduate assistant program, where I've been able to contribute to the Language Lab and lead initiatives like Tertulias then Hablemos de todo un poco. These projects have fostered informal yet engaging Spanish conversations among Northeastern students and the wider community. By tackling contemporary issues within a welcoming atmosphere, we've encouraged Spanish practice and delved into the rich tapestry of Latin American culture.

CURRENT CAS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Andrea Ramirez

LATIN AMERICAN
LITERATURE AND
CULTURE

This endeavor has been deeply personal, as I understand firsthand the challenges of mastering a second language. Thus, our project aims to provide a space where both native speakers and learners alike can come together to enhance their Spanish skills in a supportive environment. It's been a dream come true to see this vision materialize, and I'm proud to have fostered linguistic and cultural exchange within our community.

Being a student at NEIU has not only enabled me to pursue my academic aspirations but has also done so at a more affordable cost compared to other universities. As I approach the completion of my master's degree, I find myself driven to seek out new academic endeavors, with the hope of embarking on a Ph.D. journey next year.

Being the first among my five siblings to attain a university degree fills me with immense pride. However, this achievement wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of my family. Pedro, Juan, and Rebeca Ramirez, their encouragement and belief in my abilities have been instrumental in reaching this significant milestone. Education holds great significance in my life, and I firmly believe that it knows no bounds of age. What truly matters is one's persistence and attitude towards learning. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the World Language Department for being an integral part of my journey as a master's student in Latin American Literature and Culture.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Stacey Goguen

**PHILOSOPHY + WOMEN'S,
GENDER, & SEXUALITY
STUDIES**

Dr. Goguen is interested in many different research topics, but most revolve around the question: When should we trust what someone tells us? And what should we do when we don't know who or what to trust? Dr. Goguen shared that she first thought about this question when she was in elementary school and got accused of cheating on a test. Even though she hadn't cheated, she realized there was no way the teacher could know that, so she began thinking, what should the teacher do? Now, Dr. Goguen studies bias, stereotypes, disinformation, and ignorance, but they all come back to questions like: If someone you trust says something you can't believe, what should you do: stop trusting the person, or start believing the incredible?

Dr. Goguen was originally planning to specialize in philosophy of physics (because the wave/particle duality and quantum entanglement are “freakin cool and strange”.) Then she discovered social psychology and feminist philosophy, and that changed her life. Dr. Goguen realized that some things she had taken for granted (Do we know our own thoughts and intentions? Do our social identities influence what we know and notice?) might have some wildly different answers than what she had previously assumed to be true.




FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Stacey Goguen

**PHILOSOPHY + WOMEN'S,
GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES**

According to Dr. Goguen, her favorite thing about NEIU is that there are so many people here (students, staff, faculty) who genuinely care about contributing to their communities and don't want to settle for what's comfortable and easy--they want to do what's hard and transformative. They want to keep growing and learning. That's a wonderful space to be in.

When Dr. Goguen isn't in front of class or serving on a committee; you might find her playing games (board games, video games, etc.) She can run eight different TTRPG systems! Dr. Goguen also likes learning new recipes to cook, and walking by the river.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT *Yesenia Esteban*

COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA, AND THEATER MAJOR
MINOR IN CREATIVE WRITING

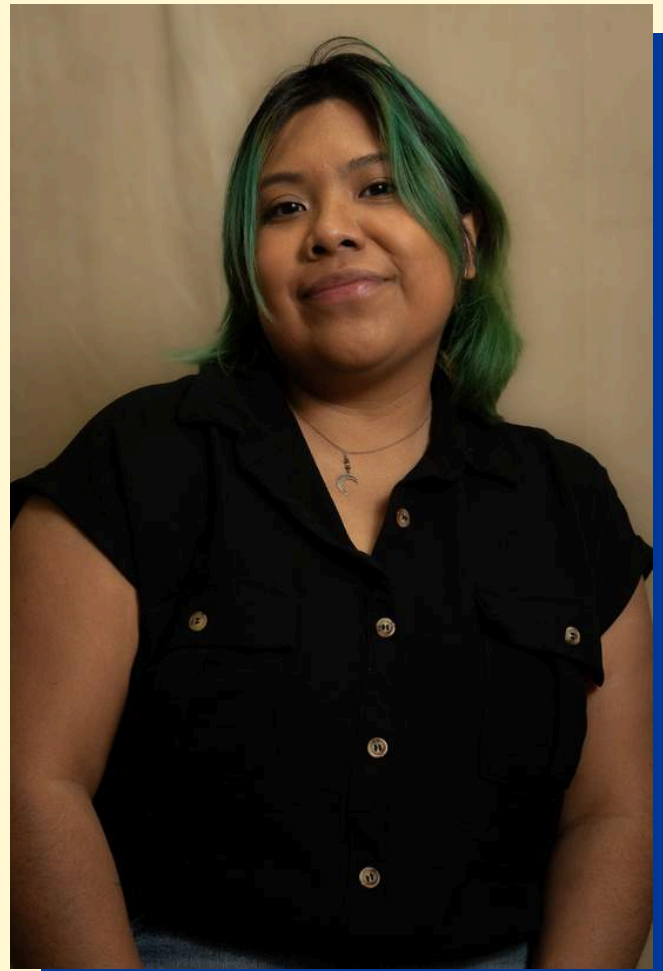
Undergraduate major- Communications, Media, and Theater with a minor in Creative Writing

What are you doing now?

I am currently fundraising for my short film *Primos!* *Primos!* is a coming of age short film which follows Ricardo and Maite in the weeks leading up to their senior high school graduation.

What do you remember most about your time at NEIU?

Although we went online due to the pandemic, I truly appreciate the amazing professors that continued to create engaging classes and lasting friendships.



What is a word of advice for current students?

Take advantage of the amazing resources provided at NEIU!

Anything else?

Follow my short film on Instagram to keep up to date! Filming in Albany Park and Lincoln Square this Summer! IG: [primosfilm.chi](#)

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT *Yesenia Esteban*

“Primos” Short film

Assist us in reaching our \$10,000 goal!



about us :

Primos is a Latinx/e coming-of-age short film that follows Maite and Ricardo in the weeks leading up to their high school graduation.

follow us :

-  [yessi.creates](#)
-  [primosfilm.chi](#)
-  seedandspark.com/fund/primos

Filming in Lincoln Square and Albany Park this Summer!

a film by Yesenia Esteban



FEATURED MAJOR: ECONOMICS



WHY CHOOSE ECON @ NEIU?

- You can start taking Econ courses right away, whether you're a first-year student or transferring from another college or university
- Our small faculty is able to work closely with students on research
- Want to work on real-world problems? Class offerings include cross-study opportunities between economics and topics such as poverty and segregation

Contact Us

Economics Office
BBH 346C
(773) 442-5690
econ@neiu.edu
www.econ.neiu.edu

Connect With Us



@neieconomics



Economics Program Information

for Prospective Students



WHAT IS ECONOMICS?

Economics is the social science that analyzes how to make the best choices with limited resources, often using **data analysis and cutting-edge methods**. These important decisions are made by consumers, businesses, governments of all sizes, and nations. The Economics program at Northeastern Illinois University offers courses leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

What can I do with an Economics degree?

Economics graduates often work in an analytical and financial jobs, and can be found at all levels of business and other organizations. Courses in statistics and data analysis often help students gain useful skills. As of 2021, **new graduates with a bachelor's degree in Economics enjoy a median starting salary around \$62,000/year. Many jobs with the title of Economist require a Master's degree or a Ph.D., and the median salary is \$105,630 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021).**

NEIU Economics graduates have been successful, finding employment at major firms, investment groups, and banks; starting businesses; or studying in graduate programs.

THE ECONOMICS MAJOR *AT NEIU*

The 36-credit major requires six core courses and six elective courses. The department currently has specializations in urban economics, applied macroeconomics, and finance. Courses in data analysis provide essential skills and are offered every term.

Economics is also the perfect complement to disciplines such as political science, geography, history, mathematics, and business. The department offers an 18-credit minor for students in other majors.



67%

Of Econ grads who studied Applied Economics and Management say their work makes the world a better place

Source: College Salary Report 2021

ECONOMICS

Required core courses:

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| ECON-215 | Principles of Macroeconomics |
| ECON-217 | Principles of Microeconomics |
| ECON-220* | Business and Economic Statistics I |
| ECON-221 | Tools for Economists (WIP) |
| ECON-303* | Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory |
| ECON-304* | Intermediate Microeconomic Theory |

The department regularly offers these elective courses:

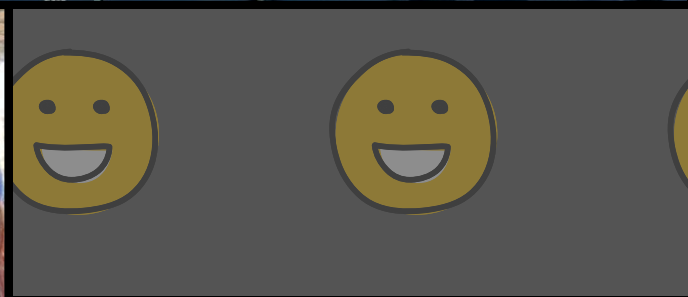
| | |
|------------|---|
| ECON-307 | Money and Banking |
| ECON-309 | Public Finance |
| ECON-310** | Business and Economic Statistics II (WIP) |
| ECON-318** | Introduction to Econometrics and Forecasting |
| ECON-320 | Nonprofit Management, Administration & Communications (WIP) |
| ECON-321 | International Monetary Theory & Relations |
| ECON-322 | International Economics |
| ECON-323 | Economic Development (WIP) |
| ECON-330 | Urban and Regional Economic Development |
| ECON-333 | Urban Economics |
| ECON-334 | Cost-Benefit Analysis |
| ECON-343* | Macroeconomic Data Analysis |
| ECON-344 | Financial Economics |
| ECON-345 | The U.S. Federal Reserve |
| ECON-346** | Applied Economic Statistics Using R |
| ECON-349 | Data Science Lab for Health |

*Math 165 (Finite Mathematics) required as a prerequisite

**Econ 220 (Business and Economic Statistics I) required as a prerequisite

(WIP): Writing Intensive Program undergraduate courses that fulfill the writing-intensive graduation requirement

FEATURED CLASS: "HAPPINESS"



"Happiness" is a class that is cross-listed under both Psychology and Philosophy. Dr. Avi Fleischer (Psychology) and Dr. Dan Milsky (Philosophy) co-teach the course. In this class students and faculty explore both philosophical beginnings and psychological applications of happiness research. The class is very experiential and includes activities like attending baseball games, a day at the gym, board games. These are all utilized to take advantage of what is learned in class that brings happiness, for instance; exercise, community building, and relationship.

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER (BET) + NEIU

Our World

STUDENTS PERFORM ON BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER STAGE AS PART OF BET/NEIU PARTNERSHIP



BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER + NEIU

Our World

Students perform on Black Ensemble Theater Stage as Part of BET/NEIU partnership

NEIU and the CAS have partnered with Jackie Taylor's world-renowned Black Ensemble Theater, joining forces in the effort to eradicate racism and create a more just and equal world. In particular, the theater has been working with the faculty and students to enhance the student experience and overall learning and cultural environment at NEIU.

As part of this partnership, Black Ensemble Associate Director Michelle Reneé Bester worked students in one of our First Year Experience classes, *Your Chicago: Write On!*, to create the performance "Our World," featuring our NEIU students.

Our World wove the students' personal perspective on the world from their life experiences.

On May 2, nine of our students performed on the Black Ensemble Theater stage, telling their own stories.

The nine students who performed were Rahim Khan, Andrea Medina, Delfina Rodrigues, Derrius Walker, Niya Douglass-McIntyre, Diana Medrano, Lorie Pennington, Matilde Ortiz Martinez, and Aniya Burley.

It was a wonderful experience for our students and, we hope, for our larger community.

We look forward to more such events as part of this vital partnership.

If you'd like to support this partnership, please visit our [giving page](#)!

SHOUT OUTS

Congrats to the 2024 NEIU Libraries Award for Excellence in Research:

- Owen Bitting, Undergraduate student in Psychology
- Claire Lavender, Graduate student in Linguistics
- Benjamin Ortiz, Graduate student in History
- Wesley “Wes” Skym, Graduate student in Communication, Media, and Theatre

Since 2014, the NEIU Libraries have recognized outstanding student efforts in the area of library-based research through the annual Libraries Award for Excellence in Research. The award is given to students who demonstrate outstanding ability to identify, locate, select, evaluate, and synthesize library resources and to use them in the creation of an original research project. Student award winners receive a cash prize of \$300 and recognition for their outstanding efforts.

[Link to More information](#)

Congrats to Nabil Kahouadji, Professor of Mathematics for having his article "On the Generalizability of Machine Learning Classification Algorithms and Their Application to the Framingham Heart Study" published in Information as part of the Special Issue 2nd Edition of Data Science for Health Services.

[Link to Article](#)

Congrats to the CAS Brommel Presentation Award Winners at the 2024 John Albazi Student Symposium:

- Dylan Magahis, Art + Design
- Ivan Ocampo, Art + Design
- Lesly Alonso, Art + Design
- Hannah Grajciar, Art + Design
- Briana Kielan Harris, Art + Design
- Grecia Martinez, Art + Design
- Amanda Cox, Psychology; McNair Scholars Program, University Honors Program
- Joyce Poole, Art + Design
- Mykee Vives, Psychology; MARC Scholars Program, University Honors Program
- Michelle Vargas, Psychology; MARC Scholars Program
- Jon Scott-Haines, Biology
- Jaweriya Azeem, Economics
- Louie Parker-Bernstein, Geography and Environmental Studies
- Timothy Garrison, English
- Sabina L. Lilly, Music and Dance
- Abigail Heggem, Communication, Media, and Theater
- Rafael Sazo, Biology
- Vincent Lotesto, Biology
- John Sayson, Psychology; McNair Scholars Program, University Honors Program
- Alicia Thompson, Biology; McNair Scholars Program
- Andrea Thompson, Chemistry; MARC Scholars Program, McNair Scholars Program

CONGRATS

2024 Spring Graduates!

Congratulations graduates! Commencement was on May 10th, 2024!

Special shout out to Dragana Vasic, who just graduated with a Master's in Social Work. Dragana has worked in the CAS Dean's Office as a Student Worker and Extra-Help since 2016! She has also helped out a ton in the Ceramics Studio. We will miss you, Dragana!

Another shout out to Martii Kuznicki, who was a previous CAS Program Assistant and NEIU employee for many years! Congrats to her on her Master's Degree in Communications, Media, and Theater!



Martii Kuznicki, Tim Libretti (Acting Dean), Dragana Vasic, Ken Voglesonger (Acting Associate Dean), and Amanda Dykema-Engblade (Acting Associate Dean).



Dragana Vasic



Handshake

Handshake is the No. 1 career platform for students and alumni. It encompasses a large-scale network with more than seven million student users and access to more than 500,000 employers. Handshake offers new features, enabling you to:

- Access personalized job recommendations based on your major and interests
- Register for career fairs, on-campus, off-campus, and nationwide industry events
- Manage on-campus interviews with top companies and connect directly with employers
- Schedule appointments with your career coordinators.

VERIFY your Handshake Account at
neu.joinhandshake.edu



STUDENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HEY STUDENTS!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES?

Handshake has many career resources and job opportunities for students with more being posted every week.



MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT **HANDSHAKE!**

Scholarship Corner

CAS SCHOLARSHIPS WEBSITE LINK

Merit Scholarship Application

The College of Arts and Sciences provides a limited number of Merit Tuition Scholarships for interested and deserving undergraduates (Second Bachelor's candidates are not eligible) within the College of Arts and Sciences. These scholarships are generally granted for three to six credit hours and students **MUST** be enrolled at least half-time.

Scholarships will be granted on the basis of the student's intended major, status, intended Career/Educational Goals, transcripts and/or ACT/SAT scores, and letter of recommendation.

To be considered for selection, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Transfer and NEIU continuing students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25
- Students who have earned 45 credit hours at NEIU must be declared majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Transfer students with over 45 total hours must declare their major in the College of Arts and Sciences by their second semester at NEIU.
- Entering Freshmen must be in the top 15% of their graduating class or have a minimum ACT score of 24 or SAT of 1110.

Applicants must submit a complete application including:

- The name and email address of a faculty member who has agreed to complete a faculty recommendation form
- Official college transcript (NEIU transcripts may be unofficial), OR an official high school transcript reflecting class standing and ACT/SAT scores.

This award may be withdrawn in instances of substantiated academic misconduct or other violations of University standards pertaining to proper student conduct.

Application Deadlines:

Fall: May 15th

Spring: October 1st

Summer: February 1st

The College Merit Tuition Scholarship Committee will review all applications and notify applicants, approximately, one month after the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.



The next CAS Undergraduate Merit Scholarship Deadline is May 15th for Fall 2024.

Our Merit Scholarship application has changed. It is now on a Google Form !



SUPPORT NEIU CAS STUDENTS!

NEIU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is launching a historic \$150,000 campaign to fund our College Undergraduate Scholars Programs (CUSP). This fund supports research, student scholarship, and creative activities that propel our students into meaningful careers!

Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/5afe9s2u>

DONATE HERE:



Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/4pc92m5h>



Events



Link to CAS
Calendar of
Events






BA+1 One Stop Enrollment

Tuesday, May 14th

11am - 2pm
Room BBH 323

 [neiu_psychology](https://www.instagram.com/neiu_psychology)

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)

05/22/24 VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL SESSION

CPS BIL/ESL ENDORSEMENT



- LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING CLASSES
- ONLINE, HYBRID, AND REMOTE COURSES
- PART TIME AND FULL TIME SCHEDULE AVAILABILITY
- PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, AND THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIPS.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22
4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

REGISTRATION



ZOOM LINK

[HTTPS://NEU-EDU.ZOOM.US/J/83481327448?](https://neu-edu.zoom.us/j/83481327448?pwd=SML6MGFOEEFHOFc1DW5JK1HKs2HYDZ09)
[PWD=SML6MGFOEEFHOFc1DW5JK1HKs2HYDZ09](https://neu-edu.zoom.us/j/83481327448?pwd=SML6MGFOEEFHOFc1DW5JK1HKs2HYDZ09)

773-442-5870

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 **Northeastern**
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)

05/23/24 VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL SESSION

CPS BIL/ESL ENDORSEMENT



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REGISTRATION



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY, MAY 23

4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

ZOOM LINK

[HTTPS://NEIU-EDU.ZOOM.US/J/89470079928?PWD=NNLJCE1YSKYXL1FKRUWXAGLPZIKVQT09](https://neiu-edu.zoom.us/j/89470079928?pwd=NNLJCE1YSKYXL1FKRUWXAGLPZIKVQT09)

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 **Northeastern**
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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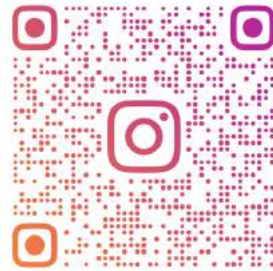
STAY CONNECTED



NEIU College
of Arts and
ciences



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