



Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

Student Newsletter
April 2026

The mission, vision and goals of the Goodwin College of Education students are grounded in our long history of service to Chicago's educational and diverse ethnic and racial communities.

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WELCOME MESSAGE

This April newsletter is packed with exciting opportunities and historic milestones! We're thrilled to share the story of NEIU's first-ever doctoral program launch celebration, along with essential Spring 2026 Commencement details, career development panels, upcoming scholarship deadlines, creative contests, and dynamic leadership opportunities for teachers.

We invite you to explore these offerings and make the most of everything Northeastern Illinois University has to offer.



FEATURED STORY

NEIU Celebrates Launch of First Doctoral Program A Historic Milestone for Northeastern Illinois University

NEIU reached a historic milestone on March 26, 2026, with the official launch celebration of its first-ever doctoral program: the [Ed.D. in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry!](#)

The [Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education](#) (GCOE) welcomed alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and community partners to Alumni Hall for an inspiring evening that showcased the program's bold vision — preparing scholar-practitioners ready to tackle the most pressing challenges in schools, colleges, and communities across the Chicago region.

A Vision for Scholar-Practitioners

Founding Director Dr. Kamau Rashid opened the night with powerful remarks, explaining how the LEI Ed.D. is intentionally designed for working professionals who want to sharpen their leadership skills while driving equity and social justice in education. The program builds directly on NEIU's long-standing excellence in teacher education and reflects the university's deep commitment to serving diverse learners and communities.

Distinguished Panel Discussion

The evening featured a distinguished panel who explored: “Bridging Theory and Practice: What Does It Mean to Be a Scholar-Practitioner?”

Panelists:

- **Dr. Nicole E. Holland, Ph.D.** — Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, National College of Education, National Louis University
- **Dr. Gloria McDaniel Hall, Ed.D.** — Masters in Community and Teacher Leaders Program, GCOE; CEO and Principal Consultant, Roots and Reimagine Consulting Collective
- **Dr. Kamau Rashid, Ph.D.** — Founding Director, Leadership, Equity and Inquiry Ed.D. Program
- **Dr. Natalie Neris, Ed.D.** — Professor, Educational Foundations Program, GCOE; African and African American Studies Program, CAS, Northeastern Illinois University

Together, they engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue about the intersection of theory and practice, the role of scholar-practitioners in driving systemic change, and the unique opportunities and challenges facing educational leaders in Chicago and beyond.

About the Leadership, Equity and Inquiry Doctoral Program

The Leadership, Equity and Inquiry, Ed.D. is housed in the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education. The program:


- Prepares scholar-practitioners to examine the dynamics of leadership, organizational change, and management
- Engages deeply with the processes of policy formation and analysis
- Examines the critical role of economics and finance in shaping urban development and educational equity
- Reflects on key problems of practice, and the social and structural elements that undergird these via an interdisciplinary study of Chicago, its communities and institutions
- **Learn more and apply:**
<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/programs/leadership-equity-and-inquiry-edd>

GCOE students — this is your moment. The future of educational leadership starts at NEIU!


Looking to the Future: The New Education Building

The launch comes at an exciting time for GCOE. Construction continues on the new Education Building (broke ground August 2025, opening planned for 2027). This state-of-the-art facility will become the future home of the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education — complete with modern classrooms, labs, clinics, and collaborative spaces built for the next generation of teachers, counselors, and education leaders. <https://www.neiu.edu/news/northeastern-illinois-university-breaks-ground-new-education-building>

Upcoming Events


GROW YOUR OWN TEACHERS
ILLINOIS

Have you always wanted to teach?



Now is your chance!

Grow Your Own Teachers Illinois (GYO-IL) is dedicated to recruiting and supporting racially diverse and community connected teachers.

GYO-IL's forgivable loan assists teacher candidates to complete an Illinois approved initial teacher licensure program.

In exchange, licensed graduates are required to teach at least five (5) years in a hard to staff school or position in Illinois.

GYO-Chicago, the oldest and largest of GYO-IL's programs, is now accepting applications from prospective teachers.

DIVERSE. ROOTED. EMPOWERING.

HOW DOES GYO SUPPORT YOU?

FINANCIAL AID

- GYO forgivable loan of up to \$25,000 in tuition, fees and books
- Funding for other education-related expenses like childcare and transportation

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- An academic coordinator who helps you identify and overcome challenges
- Tutoring and other academic assistance for you to succeed in the classroom

WRAP-AROUND SERVICES

- Emergency assistance if life circumstances threaten to disrupt your education
- Ongoing mentorship to ensure you stay on track and graduate
- Monthly meetings that help you develop tools to advocate for yourself and your students
- Solidarity with diverse teacher candidates who are traveling the same paths as you

GYO-CHICAGO APPLICATIONS DUE:

MAY

1st

2026

APPLY AT

growyourownteachers.org/apply

Application requires short essays, transcripts, and references. For more information: Email info@gyo-il.org or call 773-322-7419.

Goodwin College of Education and Grow Your Own (GYO)

We See the Teacher in You Event:

Thursday, April 2, 2026 · 5:00pm– 7:30pm

NEIU El 3390 N Avondale Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

Free Parking and Dinner



Inaugural Lawrence P. Frank Honors Lecture

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
HONORS PROGRAM PRESENTS

BAD BLOODLINES TO BIG DATA: THE EVOLUTION OF GENETIC SURVEILLANCE

Alexandra analyzes the bioethical issues of the eugenics movement, government-sanctioned forced sterilizations, and issues around protecting health information. While genetics and biology inform the heart of the lecture, this is primarily bioethics centered, at the cross section of current events and real-world applications.



Alexandra Ware

Alexandra is a Ph.D. candidate in Molecular Metabolism at the University of Chicago. She is also a National Cancer Institute T32 Fellow, and an Annual Fellow for the Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning.

APRIL 28 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
BBH 102

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2026 Commencement

Congratulations to all Spring 2026 graduates!

Please continue to monitor your NEIU email address for Commencement-related information delivered through Constant Contact or from commencement@neiu.edu.

Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Credit Union 1 Arena
525 S. Racine Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60607

<https://www.neiu.edu/student-life/current-students/commencement>

Caps and Gowns

Caps and gowns are required to participate in the ceremony.

Order deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026 — hard deadline from Jostens; orders mailed directly to the address provided.

All inquiries regarding cap and gown orders should be directed to Jostens at (800) 854-7464 or via their customer service help center.

Commencement is a formal event. Robes and hoods must be fully visible; caps may be decorated; graduates may wear stoles, cords, or medallions signifying academic honors, University clubs/organizations, and veteran status.

Tickets & Commencement Resource Fair

Each student will receive eight (8) tickets during the Commencement Resource Fair held in Alumni Hall on Main Campus:

- Monday, March 30, 2026: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 31, 2026: 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

There will not be a waiting list and no exceptions will be made. It is strongly suggested you attend the Commencement Resource Fair. Any lost or stolen guest tickets will not be replaced. Children under 2 years of age will not require a ticket.

Academic Honors Ceremony

Date & Time: Monday, May 11, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Location: Main Campus Auditorium

Invitations will be sent via email to eligible students.

Master's Hooding Ceremony

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | Main Campus Auditorium

- Goodwin College of Education: 5:30 p.m.
- College of Arts & Science and College of Business & Technology: 7:30 p.m.

Day of Commencement — Graduate Instructions

- Arrive between noon – 1:30 p.m.
- Check in at Gate 2 (right off Harrison Street)
- You will receive your Name Card and be directed to your seating section
- Hold on to your Name Card at all times — you will give it to the name reader as you cross the stage
- Arrive no later than 1:30 p.m. to check in and be seated for the 2:00 p.m. ceremony

Please plan your travel times accordingly and allow enough time for traffic and parking.

Guest Instructions

- Enter at Gate 3 (corner of Racine and Harrison)
- Doors open at 1:00 p.m. — seating is general admission
- Credit Union 1 Arena staff will be available for guests needing mobility assistance or wheelchair seating
- Seating for deaf and hearing-impaired guests will be available in Section 103
- No balloons, confetti, noisemakers, or strollers will be allowed in the Arena

Questions?

Contact the Student Union office at (773) 442-4630 or commencement@neiu.edu.

Advance Registration for Fall 2026

Advance Registration is Now Approaching

We hope you are having a successful Spring semester.

If you plan to enroll in courses for the Fall 2026 semester, please schedule an appointment with your assigned academic adviser as soon as possible. Meeting early will help ensure proper course planning and prevent any potential scheduling issues.

If you are unsure who your assigned adviser is, please contact the **GCOE advising office** and we will be happy to assist you in locating your adviser.

Advance Registration Schedule — Summer and Fall 2026

<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/registrar-services/class-schedules-and-registration-information>

NEIU UNDERGRADUATE OPEN HOUSE

Thinking about NEIU for yourself, a friend, or family member? Visit one of the scheduled [Undergraduate Open House](#) events in April, or May. It's a great way for high school students, college-aged students, and their families to explore campus and find out if Northeastern is the right fit for a bachelor's degree. Stop by any time during this open house event. Meet representatives from academic programs, student support services, financial aid, housing, and more; and, [register for a campus tour](#)

EXPLORE WHAT'S NEXT: NEIU GRADUATE OPEN HOUSE

CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AT NEIU

Graduate Open House

April 6 • 5-7:30 p.m. • Alumni Hall

Explore what's next! Find out how our graduate programs can take you to the next step in your future.



Register Today!

To register, scan our QR code with your mobile device. For more information, please contact us at (773) 442-6001 or graduateadmissions@neiu.edu.



Are you thinking about going back to school for a master's, endorsement, certificate or our new Ed.D.? Northeastern Illinois University's Graduate Open House is your chance to explore options for next steps, all in one evening.

Meet faculty and advisors from NEIU's graduate and non-degree programs, learn about admissions and funding options, and hear how our flexible, affordable programs support working professionals. You'll also be able to talk with current graduate students about balancing coursework, careers and family, and how NEIU has helped them advance in education, business, the arts, social work and more.

[**Register for Graduate Open House**](#)

FEATURED OPPORTUNITIES

NEIU + CPS Teacher Apprenticeship Program

A New Partnership Between Northeastern Illinois University and Chicago Public Schools

This Registered Apprenticeship provides a pathway to becoming a teacher in Special Education, Bilingual Education, Physical Education, or Early Childhood Education (pending approval).

Benefits for Participating Students

- Tuition-free summer coursework
- 384 paid clinical hours at \$20 per hour (\$7,680 total)
- Guaranteed paid work placements
- Mentorship from experienced CPS teachers
- Peer mentoring through the Apprenticeship Program
- Potential for paid year-long student teaching placement in CPS
- Potential CPS interview upon degree completion

Eligible Majors

- Bilingual Elementary Education
- Special Education
- Physical Education
- Early Childhood Education (pending approval)

Teacher Candidate Application Timeline

1. Preferred Application Due Date: March 1, 2026
2. Final Application Deadline: March 15, 2026
3. 1st Round Interviews: April 1, 2026
4. 2nd Round Interviews: April 18, 2026
5. Mandatory Summer Orientation: 4 days

For More Information

Wendy Gonzales, Apprenticeship Director: wgonzales@neiu.edu

Tracy Stillwell, Apprenticeship Director: tlynnstillwell@neiu.edu

This is a transformative opportunity to receive exceptional support for a teaching career in CPS — don't miss out!

Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO-IL)

Building a Diverse, Community-Connected Teaching Force

Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO-IL) is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization dedicated to recruiting, supporting, and preparing racially diverse, community-connected individuals to become licensed teachers — particularly for high-need urban and rural schools facing chronic shortages and a lack of educator diversity.

Comprehensive Support for Teacher Candidates

The program delivers comprehensive support to teacher candidates from underrepresented backgrounds who show a strong commitment to equity, excellence, and diversity, including:

- Social and academic guidance
- Career development
- Financial assistance, such as forgivable loans tied to teaching service in priority schools

New cohorts are welcomed each semester, with engaging activities and support continuing throughout the academic year.

What Our Graduates Say

“I wanted to have this financial support but I also wanted to have this space where I could actually learn more about being a teacher, having the support of someone who is a person of color. ...So GYO was just this one place I knew was going to have my back in terms of supporting me going forward with what I wanted to do as a career.”

— Latrell Walton, GYO Graduate, 2020

“Grow Your Own’s financial support was great, but even with that, I don’t know if I would have made it without the support from the GYO monthly meetings and the guidance I got. I know for a fact that I am changing lives as a teacher, and even more so because of my culture and how I treat students.”

— Mayra Bravo Gonzalez, GYO Graduate, 2010 & GYO IL Board Member

Learn More and Apply

For more details about the program, eligibility, or the application process — including the Forgivable Loan Program and Diverse Male Teacher Initiative — visit the official website or contact:

Luis Meza, Candidate Coordinator: lmeza@gyo-il.org
growyourownteachers.org

To learn more about admission to Northeastern Illinois University’s Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education Grow Your Own Teachers program, please contact:

Cindy L. Jones, GCOE Outreach Coordinator: gcoeoutreach@neiu.edu

FEATURED EVENTS

Symposium Series on Excellence in Mathematics and Science: Research and Practice

Thursday, April 23, 2026

University of Illinois at Chicago | 851 S. Morgan M/C 249, Chicago, IL 60607

The Chicago Symposium Series brings together mathematics, science, and musical composition for an interdisciplinary day of ideas and conversation.

Plenary Speakers

- Dr. Ellen Dow — Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Dr. Eugenia Cheng — Scientist in Residence, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Registration & Speaker Information

<https://chicagosymposium.org/>

Breakout Session Proposals Welcome

We have room in the program for breakout sessions and welcome proposals for discussion topics or small-group sessions.

Breakout Proposal Deadline: April 8, 2026

Submit proposals to: chisymp@uic.edu

The Chicago Symposium Series provides a unique platform for educators, researchers, and practitioners to engage in meaningful dialogue about excellence in mathematics and science education. This interdisciplinary event fosters collaboration and innovation across fields.

For more information: <https://chicagosymposium.org/> | chisymp@uic.edu

Jacob Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies Open House

Wednesday, April 23, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Jacob Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies | 700 E. Oakwood Blvd, Chicago, IL

What to Expect

During this event, prospective students and their families will have the opportunity to learn more about:

- Academic programs offered at CCICS
- Financial aid options and how to apply
- Scholarship opportunities available to students
- Student housing information
- Campus life at the Carruthers Center
- Guided tours of the facility

About CCICS

- The Jacob Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies is a vital part of Northeastern Illinois University, serving the South Side of Chicago and providing accessible, high-quality education to diverse communities. The Center offers undergraduate and graduate programs designed to meet the needs of working adults and community members.

<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/carruthers-center>

Join us for this exciting opportunity to connect with prospective students and showcase the exceptional programs and support services available at CCICS!

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Teach Plus Illinois Leadership Fellowships for Teachers

Four Highly Selective Leadership Opportunities for Outstanding Teachers

We are excited to share four highly selective leadership opportunities for outstanding teachers looking to expand their influence without leaving the classroom. All are now accepting applications for the 2026–27 school year.

About Teach Plus Illinois

Teach Plus Illinois empowers excellent, experienced, and diverse teachers to take leadership over key policy and practice issues that advance equity, opportunity, and student success. Through our programs, teachers from across the state learn how policy is made and how it impacts their classroom. We provide teachers with training and opportunities to change and influence policies at the school, district, and state level — achieving change in schools and in the broader education system.

Available Fellowships for 2026–27

1. Policy Fellowship

Application Deadline: April 6, 2026

A highly selective leadership opportunity for Illinois teachers (birth through grade 12) to develop policy expertise and advocate for educational equity at the school, district, and state levels.

2. Chicago Change Agent Fellowship

Application Deadline: May 1, 2026

Through the Change Agent program, Teach Plus recruits, selects, trains, and supports outstanding Teacher Leaders to lead a school-based effort to address a problem of practice that affects students across their school. Selected teachers receive monthly coaching and professional development on distributed leadership.

Requirements:

- Current classroom teachers with a minimum of two years of teaching experience in a Chicago school (charter or district)
- Student population of at least 70% free or reduced lunch
- Principal support required

3. Affinity Group Facilitator Fellowship

Application Deadline: May 22, 2026

The Illinois Affinity Group Network is a year-long transformative experience designed for educators to facilitate affinity groups and build community among teachers across the state.

4. Project Connect Plus

Applications: Rolling

An ongoing leadership opportunity for teachers to connect with policy and practice initiatives throughout the year.

Program Benefits

All programs span the 2026–27 school year and offer selected teachers:

- Generous stipend for their time and work
- Professional development on policy, advocacy, and leadership
- Networking opportunities with teacher leaders across Illinois
- Coaching and mentorship from experienced educators
- Opportunities to influence school, district, and state-level policies
- Leadership development without leaving the classroom

Who Should Apply?

Are you an educator (birth through grade 12) who wants to develop leadership, lead change in the classroom or the Capitol, create change through practice or policy, expand your influence, and advocate for educational equity and student success?

Learn More and Apply

<https://teachplus.org/IL>

Questions? Contact Kimberly Nguyen: knguyen@teachplus.org

Or contact Josh Kaufmann, Executive Director, Teach Plus Illinois

OPPORTUNITIES & DEADLINES

Murrell J. Higgins Duster Scholarship

Application Deadline: Friday, April 24, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Students can apply for the Murrell J. Higgins Duster Scholarship now through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 24. Scholarships will be awarded to students who will be enrolled for the Fall 2026 semester.

About the Scholarship

This scholarship assists students with the costs associated with attending Northeastern, including tuition, books, and fees.

Application Requirements

A complete application will include:

6. Application form with all information requested
7. Essay related to your involvement with the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs and how it has enhanced your understanding of diversity, social justice, and/or intersectionality, and what these concepts mean to you with regard to your identity

How to Apply

Please submit all completed applications to cdia@neiu.edu and include “Duster Scholarship Application” in the subject line of your email. Once the application submission period closes, scholarship recipients will be selected and notified.

For More Information

Contact DeWitt Scott, Ed.D. | Phone: (773) 442-5372

Email: dt-scott@neiu.edu

Accepting Play Submissions for the 10th Annual Nuevas Voces Playwriting Contest and Festival

Submission Deadline: May 1, 2026

Winners Announced: May 15, 2026

Festival Dates: October 1–3, 2026 (tentative)

The Office of Community and Professional Education and the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre's Stage Center Theatre are thrilled to announce the 10th Anniversary of Jim Blair's NUEVAS VOCES: Playwriting Contest and Festival!

About Nuevas Voces

Nuevas Voces was founded in Fall 2017 by alumnus and former Northeastern professor Jim Blair to create a platform for new playwrights at the University. It is a thrilling launch point for new work and its vibrant community, featuring multiple prize-winning short plays selected from an extensive competition.

Call for Submissions

We are currently accepting play submissions for consideration. This is an excellent opportunity for emerging playwrights to showcase their work and be part of a celebrated tradition at NEIU. Submission guidelines are available on our webpage.

Questions?

Contact Sarah J. Fabian, Managing Director of Stage Center Theatre: sj-fabian@neiu.edu

Join us in celebrating a decade of new voices and innovative theatrical work at Northeastern Illinois University!

2026 NEIU Homecoming

Save the Dates: September 16–19, 2026

Homecoming 2026 will take place September 16–19! Mark your calendars for this exciting celebration of the NEIU community.

Call for Event Proposals

The Office of Alumni Relations asks faculty and staff to submit their ideas for events they would like to host during Homecoming weekend.

Submit the date and title of your event to: alumni@neiu.edu

Deadline: May 15, 2026

After the deadline, events will no longer be added to the Homecoming schedule. Details and timing can be finalized by the start of the Fall semester.

Why Participate?

Homecoming is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Reconnect with alumni
- Showcase your department or program
- Build community across campus
- Celebrate NEIU pride and traditions
- Engage current students with alumni networks

Event Ideas

Consider hosting:

- Department open houses • Alumni panels • Networking receptions
- Academic showcases • Student organization activities
- Cultural celebrations • Athletic events

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations: alumni@neiu.edu

RESOURCES

Student Support Resources

In collaboration with a variety of partners, the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education offers structured support to teacher candidates as they pursue an Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL).

These structured supports begin as early as the summer after high school and provide academic, social, and financial support through student teaching and the initial years of employment.

Academic Support

- Tutoring and academic advising
- Study groups and peer mentoring
- Clinical placement assistance
- Licensure guidance and test preparation

Social Support

- Mentorship programs
- Student organizations and networking
- Community-building events
- Peer support networks

Financial Support

- Scholarships and grants
- Work-study opportunities
- Emergency assistance funds
- Information about loan forgiveness programs

Professional Development

- Career planning and job search assistance
- Resume and interview preparation
- Professional networking opportunities
- Continuing education resources

Learn More

<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/daniel-l-goodwin-college-education/student-supports>

The Goodwin College of Education is committed to supporting you throughout your journey to becoming an educator and beyond.

Goodwin College of Education Scholarships

Making Education Affordable and Accessible

For more than a century, Northeastern Illinois University has been committed to preparing high-quality educators — and to making educator preparation affordable and accessible to all. U.S. News & World Report has ranked us for nine years in a row as graduating students with the least amount of student debt among Midwest regional universities.

\$95,000+ in Annual Scholarships

Scholarships are one of the most important tools for making education affordable. In addition to offering scholarships funded by the federal government and the state of Illinois, the Goodwin College of Education annually distributes more than \$95,000 in scholarships generously provided by alumni and other benefactors.

Scholarship Categories

- Undergraduate and graduate students in all GCOE programs
- Early Childhood Education majors
- Elementary, Middle Level, and Special Education students
- Secondary Education and K–12 teacher candidates
- Physical Education and Exercise Science majors
- Human Resource Development students
- Counselor Education graduate students
- Diverse teacher candidates and underrepresented populations

Featured Scholarships Include

- Daniel L. Goodwin Scholarship • Tomorrow’s Teachers Scholarship • Merit Tuition Scholarships
- Kay Hilton Memorial Scholarship • Mark Zinman Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Santos Rivera ENLACE Scholarship • And many more!

External Opportunities

- Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (ISAC)
- Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois
- Grow Your Own Illinois
- Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program • TEACH Grant Program

Learn More

<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/education/gcoe-scholarships>

Questions? Email: gcoe-scholarships@neiu.edu

Invest in your future as an educator — explore scholarship opportunities today!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 2026

- April 1 — Internships into Careers Panel (Student Union, Room 217, 3:00–4:30 PM)
- April 1 — Teacher Apprenticeship 1st Round Interviews
- April 3 — Cap & Gown Order Deadline for Spring 2026 Commencement
- April 6 — Teach Plus Policy Fellowship Application Deadline
- April 8 — Chicago Symposium Breakout Proposal Deadline
- April 15 — CCICS Open House Faculty/Staff Sign-up Deadline
- April 18 — Teacher Apprenticeship 2nd Round Interviews
- April 23 — Chicago Symposium Series at UIC
- April 23 — Jacob Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies Open House (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
- April 24 — Murrell J. Higgins Duster Scholarship Deadline (11:59 PM)

May 2026

- May 1 — Nuevas Voces Play Submission Deadline
- May 1 — Teach Plus Chicago Change Agent Fellowship Application Deadline
- May 11 — Academic Honors Ceremony (6:00–8:00 p.m., Main Campus Auditorium)
- May 12 — Master’s Hooding Ceremony (GCOE: 5:30 p.m. | CAS & CBT: 7:30 p.m.)
- May 15 — Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremony (2:00 p.m., Credit Union 1 Arena)
- May 15 — Nuevas Voces Winners Announced
- May 15 — Homecoming Event Proposal Deadline
- May 22 — Teach Plus Affinity Group Facilitator Fellowship Application Deadline

Fall 2026

- September 16–19 — NEIU Homecoming 2026
- October 1–3 — Nuevas Voces Playwriting Festival (tentative)

Looking Ahead

- 2027 — New Education Building Opening (Construction began August 2025)

STAY CONNECTED

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education Office of the Dean

Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue • Chicago, IL 60625

Important Contacts

For questions about events, programs featured in this newsletter and collaborations, please contact:
Cindy L. Jones, M.A.

Outreach Coordinator, gcoeoutreach@neiu.edu

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education, Office of the Dean

GCOE Scholarships: gcoe-scholarships@neiu.edu

Student Support Resources: neiu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/daniel-l-goodwin-college-education/student-supports

Office of Alumni Relations: alumni@neiu.edu

Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs: cdia@neiu.edu

Teacher Apprenticeship — Wendy Gonzales: wgonzales@neiu.edu

Teacher Apprenticeship — Tracy Stillwell: tlynnstillwell@neiu.edu

Teach Plus Illinois — Kimberly Nguyen: knguyen@teachplus.org

<https://teachplus.org/IL>

Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO-IL) — Luis Meza: lmeza@gyo-il.org
growyourownteachers.org

Commencement — Phone: (773) 442-4630

Commencement — Email: commencement@neiu.edu

<https://www.neiu.edu/student-life/current-students/commencement>