

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN • DANIEL L. GOODWIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

STUDENT NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2026

FALL 2026 REGISTRATION

Meet your adviser & enroll early

HOMECOMING 2026

“Get Your GOLD On!” • Sept. 16–19

OPPORTUNITIES & FINANCIAL AID

Fantástico • Fulbright

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN PHILION

Welcome to our last Summer 2026 newsletter! As the summer winds down, I want to flag one thing that will make your fall go more smoothly: please talk to your adviser now, as soon as possible, before classes start. A ten-minute conversation in early to mid-August can save you time, effort and anxiety in September. Visit out [advising webpage](#) to find the right advisor. I promise, the payoff will be worth the early effort.

On a different note, if you've walked past the construction site on Main Campus lately, you've seen that our [new Education Building](#) is really taking shape. It's been a long time coming, and it's exciting to imagine future GCOE students learning in this new space. More updates will follow as the year goes on. In the meantime, I hope you're finding some time to rest, recharge, and enjoy what is left of these last weeks of summer before we dive headfirst into the Fall 2026 semester.

All the best,

Tom Philion, Ph.D.

Dean, Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

GOODWIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEW FACULTY

Counselor Education

[The Goodwin College of Education](#) has appointed **Madelaine Romito, Ph.D., LPC, to the position of Assistant Professor of Counselor Education, effective August 15, 2026.** Please join the University community in welcoming Dr. Romito to Northeastern.

Teacher Education

[The Goodwin College of Education](#) has appointed **Nicholas Witt, Ph.D. as Assistant Professor for Secondary Education in Mathematics, effective August 2nd, 2026.** Dr. Witt joins Northeastern Illinois University from Western Michigan University. Please join the University community in welcoming Dr. Witt to Northeastern.

NEW NEIU ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of Dr. Kiantra D. Loza — Vice President for Enrollment Management

President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan has announced the appointment of **Dr. Kiantra D. Loza** as Vice President for Enrollment Management, effective August 3, 2026. Dr. Loza joins Northeastern Illinois University from the College of DuPage, where she served as Executive Director of Admissions, Outreach, and Enrollment Services.

Appointment of Elissa Caropreso — Director of Student Disability Services and Accessibility

Northeastern Illinois University has appointed **Elissa Caropreso, J.D., LL.M.**, as Director of Student Disability Services and Accessibility, effective July 20, 2026. Ms. Caropreso brings extensive experience in disability rights compliance, student advocacy, and accessibility leadership across higher education, K–12 education, and legal practice.

Appointment of Dr. Eric J. Pegués — Executive Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

After a nationwide search, Northeastern Illinois University has appointed **Eric J. Pegués, Ed.D.**, to the position of Executive Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, effective July 15, 2026. Please join the University community in welcoming Dr. Pegués to Northeastern.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2026

Register Early for Fall 2026

Meeting with your adviser early is the most effective way to prevent scheduling difficulties. Registration windows are open now; students are encouraged to secure required courses before sections reach capacity.

STEP ONE

Book Your Advising Appointment

If you plan to enroll in Fall 2026 courses, schedule an appointment with your assigned academic adviser as soon as possible. If you do not know your adviser, consult the GCOE advising directory.

[Find your GCOE Advisor →](#)

STEP TWO

Check the Advance Registration Schedule

The full Summer and Fall 2026 advance registration schedule is available on the Registrar's website, along with class schedules and important deadlines.

[Registrar Services →](#)

Why Meet With Your Adviser?

- Ensuring you are taking the right courses for your program and staying on track for graduation
- Learning about new opportunities and requirements
- Receiving personalized guidance for your teaching pathway
- Discussing clinical experiences and student-teaching placement

Early Registration Means:

- Better course selection and preferred class times
- Avoiding waitlists and greater peace of mind for fall planning

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEIU Homecoming 2026 — “Get Your GOLD On!”

Dates: September 16–19, 2026

Who’s Invited: Students, alumni, faculty, staff, community members, and friends of the University

Northeastern Illinois University and the NEIU Alumni Association invite you to Homecoming 2026 — a campus-wide celebration paying tribute to our Graduates of the Last Decade with “Get Your GOLD On!” For more information, visit neiu.edu/homecoming or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@neiu.edu | (773) 442-4205.

The State of the Goodwin College of Education — A Homecoming Reception

Please RSVP using this [form](#)

Who’s Invited: All GCOE Students, Faculty, Staff, Administrators, Professors Emeriti, Alumni, and Partners

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Time: 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Location: Chez Adele Restaurant | 3311 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60659 | Street parking available

Agenda:

- 5:30–5:45 p.m. — Welcome & Introductions
- 5:45–6:30 p.m. — Key Developments in the GCOE
- 6:30–6:45 p.m. — Q&A: Open Floor
- 6:45–7:30 p.m. — Closing Reflections & Reception

Hors d’oeuvres and dinner reception with a Goodwin College of Education update included.

The Jean Burke Carlson and Diane Berger Ehrlich Memorial Lectureship

Please RSVP using this [form](#).

Lecture: *Reckoning with Redress — What Teachers Need to Know*

Distinguished Lecturer: Michael Jin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

Date & Time: Thursday, October 15, 2026 · 5:00–8:00 p.m.

Location: Northeastern Illinois University · 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, IL 60625

In a distinguished lecture on Japanese American redress, Dr. Jin will examine and demonstrate what teachers can do to develop curriculum and instruction. The goal is to make this significant moment in American history relevant and meaningful for today’s students.

Schedule of Events:

- 5:00 p.m. — Meet and Greet · Dinner and beverages · Student Union 115 North & South
- 6:00 p.m. — Lecture: *Reckoning with Redress* · Michael Jin, Ph.D. · NEIU Auditorium (E-106)
- 7:00 p.m. — Question and Answer
- 7:15 p.m. — Reception · Tea, pastries, dessert, and refreshments · Corridor outside the NEIU Auditorium

- 7:45 p.m. — Conclusion

Free admission • Open to all. Register at neiu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/education/gcoe-events. Questions? Contact GCOE-Outreach@neiu.edu · Free parking in Lot D.

Tinker Time @ BIG Center in Bronzeville (Summer)

Mondays & Tuesdays · 9 a.m.–2 p.m. · CCICS, 700 E. Oakwood Blvd., Room 103

The [Business Innovation and Growth \(BIG\) Center](#) at NEIU's College of Business and Technology offers **free, hands-on STEM activities** for students, families, and community members of all ages. Explore engineering, creativity, and problem-solving by building with LuxBlox and other creative materials in a collaborative environment. Participants may build individually or collaboratively. *Children must be supervised by a chaperone.*

Contact: BIG-Center@neiu.edu

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – AUGUST 2026 AND BEYOND

Date	Event
Aug. 4, 6, 15	New Student Orientation — First-Year Students · Email orientation@neiu.edu to sign up
Aug. 13, 19	New Student Orientation — Transfer Students · Email orientation@neiu.edu to sign up
Aug. 22	New Student Orientation — All Students (First-Year & Transfer Combined)
August	Fall 2026 Classes Begin — book your adviser appointment today
Sept. 4	Trena Waddy-Jones Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship — Application Deadline
Sept. 16–19	NEIU Homecoming — Campus-Wide Celebration · “Get Your GOLD On!”
Sept. 17	The State of the Goodwin College of Education — A Homecoming Reception · Chez Adele Restaurant, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	Fulbright U.S. Student Program — National Application Deadline (2027–2028 cycle)
Oct. 15	Carlson Ehrlich Memorial Lectureship, 5:00–8:00 p.m. · SU 115 North & South · Lecture: NEIU Auditorium (E-106)
Oct. 19	Immunization Compliance Deadline
Mondays & Tuesdays (Summer)	Tinker Time @ BIG Center, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. · CCICS, 700 E. Oakwood Blvd., Room 103

Looking Ahead — New Education Building (Expected 2027)

Construction continues on our new state-of-the-art Education Building on the Main Campus, featuring modern classrooms designed for 21st-century learning, collaborative spaces for teacher candidates, advanced technology

integration, dedicated areas for clinical practice and simulation, and community partnership spaces. Updates and grand-opening details will follow in future issues. [Tour of the new NEIU Education Building](#)

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES

Apply to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program

International Research & Teaching Opportunities · 2027–2028 Award Cycle

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers grants for individually designed study, research, or English Teaching Assistant projects in more than 140 countries. This is a prestigious opportunity for graduating seniors and graduate students to pursue international academic and professional experiences.

Application Deadline: Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Apply at: us.fulbrightonline.org

Get Support: Dr. Amanda Montes, Fulbright Program Advisor | almontes@neu.edu

Fantástico Pre-Apprenticeship Program — NEIU & Chicago Public Schools

The Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools, invites students to apply to the **Fantástico Pre-Apprenticeship Program** — a Registered Apprenticeship pathway to becoming a licensed teacher in Special Education, Bilingual Education, Physical Education, or Early Childhood Education. Participating students receive tuition-free summer coursework (6–9 credit hours), up to \$7,965 in tuition and fees coverage, personalized advising and mentorship, an Individual Education Plan to guide the pathway to licensure, and cohort support with

professional development. NEIU incoming freshman or second-year students and transfer students with fewer than 60 credit hours are encouraged to apply. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and space is limited.

For more information, contact Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship Directors **Wendy Gonzales** (wgonzales@neiu.edu) and **Tracy Stillwell** (tlynnstillwell@neiu.edu).



Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

Fantástico Pre-Apprenticeship Program

A new partnership between Northeastern Illinois University and Chicago Public Schools.

Registered Apprenticeship path to becoming a Teacher in **Special Education**, **Bilingual Education** or **Physical Education**, **Early Childhood Education**.

Benefits for participating students:

- Tuition-free summer coursework (6–9 credit hours)
- Up to \$7,965 in tuition and fees covered
- Personalized advising and mentorship
- Individual Education Plan to guide your pathway to licensure
- Cohort support and professional development

Who should apply:

- NEIU Incoming freshman or second-year students
- Transfer students with fewer than 60 credit hours

Future Opportunity:

Students who complete Fantástico may transition into the NEIU–CPS Teacher Apprenticeship Program, where they may:

- Earn \$20/hour for classroom field experience
- Complete 384 hours in CPS classrooms
- Receive additional tuition coverage for licensure coursework



Apply Now!

- Space is limited
- Applications reviewed on a rolling basis.



Program Website



Application

For more information:

Wendy Gonzales & Tracy Stillwell
Apprenticeship/Pre-apprenticeship Directors

wgonzales@neiu.edu tlynnstillwell@neiu.edu

Master of Arts in School Leadership — Lake County/NEIU Cohort, Fall 2026



Are You Considering Becoming a School Leader?

Northeastern Illinois University offers a
Master of Arts Degree in School Leadership with the
Illinois Principal Endorsement



Join the Lake County/ NEIU Cohort in Fall 2026



Fall Classes Begin
August 24, 2026

What Can I Do With This Degree?

Graduates of the School Leadership Program are prepared for leadership positions in Pre-K – Age 22 schools e.g., Principal, Assistant Principal, Dean, Department Chair, Curriculum Director, etc.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- The cohort is open to all Lake County educators and school support personnel (former Type 73).
- Applicants must have two years of teaching or school support personnel experience to enroll.

Course Modality

Classes will be held online in synchronous format via zoom.

To reserve your seat in the cohort,
register here or use the QR code below.



Apply Today! Visit: www.neiu.edu



Our Mission Is You

Program Sequence & Degree Requirements

- **Year 1:** Students take two classes per semester (back-to-back) one night a week, with the exception of summer. Summer classes are held two separate nights each week.
- **Year 2:** Students take one class per semester in addition to completing their year-long internship. All students keep their current full-time jobs while completing the internship.
- **Degree Requirements:**
 - ✓ Twelve Courses
 - ✓ Comprehensive Exam
 - ✓ PERA Training
 - ✓ ILTS 195 and 196 Principal as Instructional Leader Exams

Cohort Start Date: Fall 2026

Cohort Graduation: Summer 2028



For further information regarding the
graduate program cohort contact:

Noreen Powers, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & School Leadership
Program Coordinator
Literacy, Leadership, Development and
Special Education Department
Email: N-Powers@neiu.edu
Cell: 312-339-2739

Academic Support Center Is Hiring Students for Fall 2026

The Academic Support Center (formerly the Learning Success Center/Center for Academic Writing) is hiring NEIU students for Fall 2026 to work as tutors, student aides, work-study, and graduate assistant positions. Front desk positions as student aides or work-study are also available. Remaining Fall 2026 positions include Content and Writing Intensive Program (WIP) Tutors, Math Tutors, Writing Tutors, and Front Desk Aides.

Questions and applications: Contact Executive Director of Academic Support Services Kate Hahn, Ph.D., at mk-hahn@neiu.edu.

Long-Term Substitute Pre-Kindergarten Teacher — Hammond Elementary School

Hammond Elementary School is seeking a qualified substitute Pre-Kindergarten teacher to provide instructional coverage during a maternity leave from **August 21 through September 22, 2026**. This is an excellent opportunity for candidates who are interested in gaining valuable classroom experience while supporting young learners in a Pre-Kindergarten setting. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and current résumé to Assistant Principal Jason Siegellak at jesiegellak@cps.edu.

Summer Opportunities Through CAPE

Northeastern Illinois University offers noncredit summer opportunities for children through adults via the Office of Community and Professional Education (CAPE). View the CAPE summer schedule and sign up online at neiu.edu. Contact: cape@neiu.edu

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Student Orientation — Redesigned for Fall 2026

In response to student feedback, the Office of Student Success and Retention has retired the lecture-based orientation model. Beginning in **Fall 2026**, NEIU will offer a redesigned, interactive, and engaging orientation built with the student experience at its center.

What Is Changing?

- **Interactive Elements:** Games and challenges that make absorbing critical information engaging
- **Real-World Practice:** Students will learn and practice de-stress strategies, such as participating in a Barbershop Talk, providing a first-hand encounter of University activities you can expect during your time here

The goal is not simply to complete a checklist; it is to build confidence, foster genuine connections, and ensure that students leave with practical tools for the journey ahead. This new interactive format is designed to keep energy high, anxiety low, and retention strong.

First-Year Orientation Dates: August 4 · August 6 · August 15

Transfer Orientation Dates: August 13 · August 19

Both First-Year & Transfer Students: August 22

To sign up, email: orientation@neiu.edu

Action Required: Immunization Compliance — Deadline: October 19, 2026

All NEIU students are required to submit their immunization records to remain in compliance with the Student Immunization and Screening Policy. To learn more, visit neiu.edu/student-immunizations to review requirements and the full policy.

As of March 30, 2026, an “immunization hold” was placed on students who are not in compliance with immunization requirements. At this time, this hold is strictly informational and will not impact students’ ability to register for classes. The immunization hold is now visible in NEIUport in the “Student Self Service” tab. **Beginning October 19, 2026, an immunization hold will prevent class registration and may impact students’ ability to make changes to their schedules, including withdrawing from classes.**

Steps to Comply:

- “Immunization Compliance” information, including an FAQ, is available in NEIUport under the “Student” tab.
- Using your Nmail credentials, sign in to Northeastern’s secure patient health portal. Only students currently registered (enrolled) can check their compliance status and/or upload current vaccine records.
- If you are missing any vaccinations, visit [Student Health Services](#) and get vaccinated.

Free vaccinations are available for currently enrolled students. SHS accepts most health insurance plans and will assist students who do not have a health insurance plan. To further assist students with compliance and provide required vaccines at no cost, SHS will hold **walk-in immunization clinics every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., now through October 6, 2026**. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact SHS at student-immunizations@neiu.edu.

New Education Building — Construction Update

Walk past the construction site on NEIU’s main Campus and take a look — your future is taking shape, one floor at a time. Updates on the new Education Building will follow as construction progresses throughout the academic year.

Workday Financials — Updates & Resources

Stay up to date with NEIU’s Workday Financials system. Visit the [Student Payment Services](#) page for the latest updates and resources. Questions: studentpaymentservices@neiu.edu

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Trena Waddy-Jones Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship

Application Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2026

[The Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies \(CCICS\)](#) is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the Trena Waddy-Jones Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship. This scholarship is available to eligible undergraduate students and is designed to help offset tuition costs for the Fall 2026 semester. If you are enrolled at CCICS or in an eligible program, we encourage you to apply before the deadline.

Goodwin College of Education Scholarships

The Goodwin College of Education annually distributes more than **\$95,000 in scholarships** generously provided by alumni and other benefactors. For scholarship information and applications, visit GCOE Scholarships. Questions? Email gcoe-scholarships@neiu.edu

NEIU For You Scholarship

NEIU offers a four-year base tuition scholarship that provides significant tuition support throughout your undergraduate education. Visit the NEIU Financial Aid page for full eligibility details and application information.

Student Account & Payment Information

Summer 2026 Final Payment. Students making monthly payments for the Summer 2026 term should note that the final payment was due on **July 30, 2026**. If the bill is not paid, an outstanding balance fee of \$50.00 and an Accounts Receivable (AR) hold that restricts registration will be assessed to all past-due Summer 2026 accounts on **August 8, 2026**.

NEIUport provides students with 24-hour access to view and print tuition and fees statements and pay account balances online by credit or debit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express). A convenience fee applies to all credit and debit card payments: 3.00% for domestic card transactions and 4.25% for international card transactions. **Fee-free payment options** are accepted in person or through U.S. mail: personal or cashier's check, money order, ACH (electronic check), or cash (in person only; do not mail cash). Be sure to include your NEIU student ID number on your check or money order for prompt posting.

Student Payment Services Mailing Address: NEIU Student Payment Services Office, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Building D, Rm 101, Chicago, IL 60625-4699

Fall 2026 Tuition Payment Plan. Enrollment in the Fall 2026 Tuition Payment Plan is now open. Make timely payments to avoid late payment fees.

For more information, visit the Student Payment Services webpage, email studentpaymentservices@neiu.edu, or call (773) 442-5165.

ACTION REQUIRED · [ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE HOLD POLICY](#) — EFFECTIVE FALL 2026

NEIU will implement a new Accounts Receivable (AR) hold policy effective Fall 2026.

The due date for Fall 2026 tuition is **Aug. 10, 2026**. An AR hold that prevents registration will be placed on the account of any student enrolled for Fall 2026 as of **Sept. 4, 2026** if the balance due exceeds \$2,000 and one or more of the actions below has not been taken.

To avoid an AR hold being placed on your account, please take one or more of the following actions:

- Ensure that you have been awarded sufficient financial aid to cover your balance due.
- Enroll in an NEIU Tuition Payment Plan. A past due amount, up to \$2,000, can be enrolled into the plan along with the Fall 2026 balance. See FAQs and information regarding the NEIU Tuition Payment Plan on the Student Payment Services webpage.
- Pay your account balance in full.

Please note that failure to make timely payments may result in:

- Registration holds
- Late payment fees
- Inability to register for future semesters
- Additional collection activity

We strongly encourage you to review your student account and make your payment arrangements as soon as possible if you are enrolled for Fall 2026.

For more information regarding payment due dates or account balances, please contact the [Student Payment Services Office](#) at (773) 442-5165 or studentpaymentservices@neiu.edu.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have made your payment arrangements per one or more of the options stated for Fall 2026, please disregard this notification.

Kaplan Test Preparation — Available at No Cost

Through “Prepare for Illinois’ Future Powered by Kaplan’s All Access License™,” administered through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), NEIU students can prepare for more than 40 graduate admissions, licensure, and credentialing exams — all at no cost. Sign up at go.kaplan.com/illinois. Email cape@neiu.edu with any questions.

STUDENT RESOURCES & SUPPORT

NEIU offers a wide range of student support programs. All students are encouraged to explore the resources available to them:

Program	Description
Future Teachers Living Learning Community	A residential community for students pursuing careers in education

Program	Description
<u>College of Arts and Sciences Education Program (CASEP)</u>	Support for education students in the College of Arts and Sciences
<u>Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO-IL)</u>	Pathway program supporting community members becoming teachers · gcoeoutreach@neiu.edu
<u>TRIO – Student Support Services Teacher Preparation Program</u>	Federal TRIO program supporting first-generation and low-income students
<u>Teach Chicago Tomorrow Program</u>	Preparing the next generation of Chicago educators
<u>Fantástico Pre-Apprenticeship Program</u>	NEIU–CPS Registered Apprenticeship pathway to teacher licensure · wgonzales@neiu.edu tlstillw@neiu.edu
<u>Master of Arts Degree in School Leadership with the Illinois Principal Endorsement</u>	Noreen Powers, Ph.D., Email: N-Powers@neiu.edu
<u>GCOE Endorsements & Licensure</u>	Guidance on educator endorsements and licensure GCOE-Endorsements@neiu.edu

Explore all student supports: neiu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/education/student-supports

STAY CONNECTED – CONTACT INFORMATION

Please share and collaborate:

- What content is most valuable to you?
- What topics would you like to see covered?

Have a Story or Announcement to Share? Submissions and feedback are welcome from students, faculty, staff, and partners. For questions about events, programs featured in this newsletter, and collaborations, please contact gcoeoutreach@neiu.edu

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education Contacts

Role	Contact
GCOE Outreach Coordinator	Cindy L. Jones, M.A. — GCOE-Outreach@neiu.edu
GCOE Scholarships	gcoe-scholarships@neiu.edu
GCOE Endorsements & Licensure	GCOE-Endorsements@neiu.edu
Content Exam Prep / LINKS Test Prep	Dr. Jo Ann Karr — jkarr@neiu.edu
Fantástico / Apprenticeship Programs	Wendy Gonzales — wgonzales@neiu.edu · Tracy Stillwell — tlynnstillwell@neiu.edu

Role	Contact
Fulbright Program Advisor	Dr. Amanda Montes — almontes@neiu.edu
Academic Support Center	Dr. Kate Hahn — mk-hahn@neiu.edu
New Student Orientation	orientation@neiu.edu
Student Payment Services	studentpaymentservices@neiu.edu — (773) 442-5165 — Building D, Rm 101
Student Health Services	student-immunizations@neiu.edu — (773) 442-5280 — Room E 051
CAPE / Kaplan Test Prep	cape@neiu.edu
BIG Center — Tinker Time	BIG-Center@neiu.edu
NEIU Homecoming / Alumni Relations	alumni@neiu.edu — (773) 442-4205
Registrar Services	neiu.edu/academics/registrar-services
GCOE Website & GCOE Advisors	neiu.edu/education

NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY**Cindy L. Jones, M.A.**Outreach Coordinator | GCOE-Outreach@neiu.edu

Northeastern Illinois University · Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

Office of the Dean · Lech Walesa Hall 4045

5500 N. St. Louis Avenue · Chicago, IL 60625 · neiu.edu/education***Onward. Upward. Together.***

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