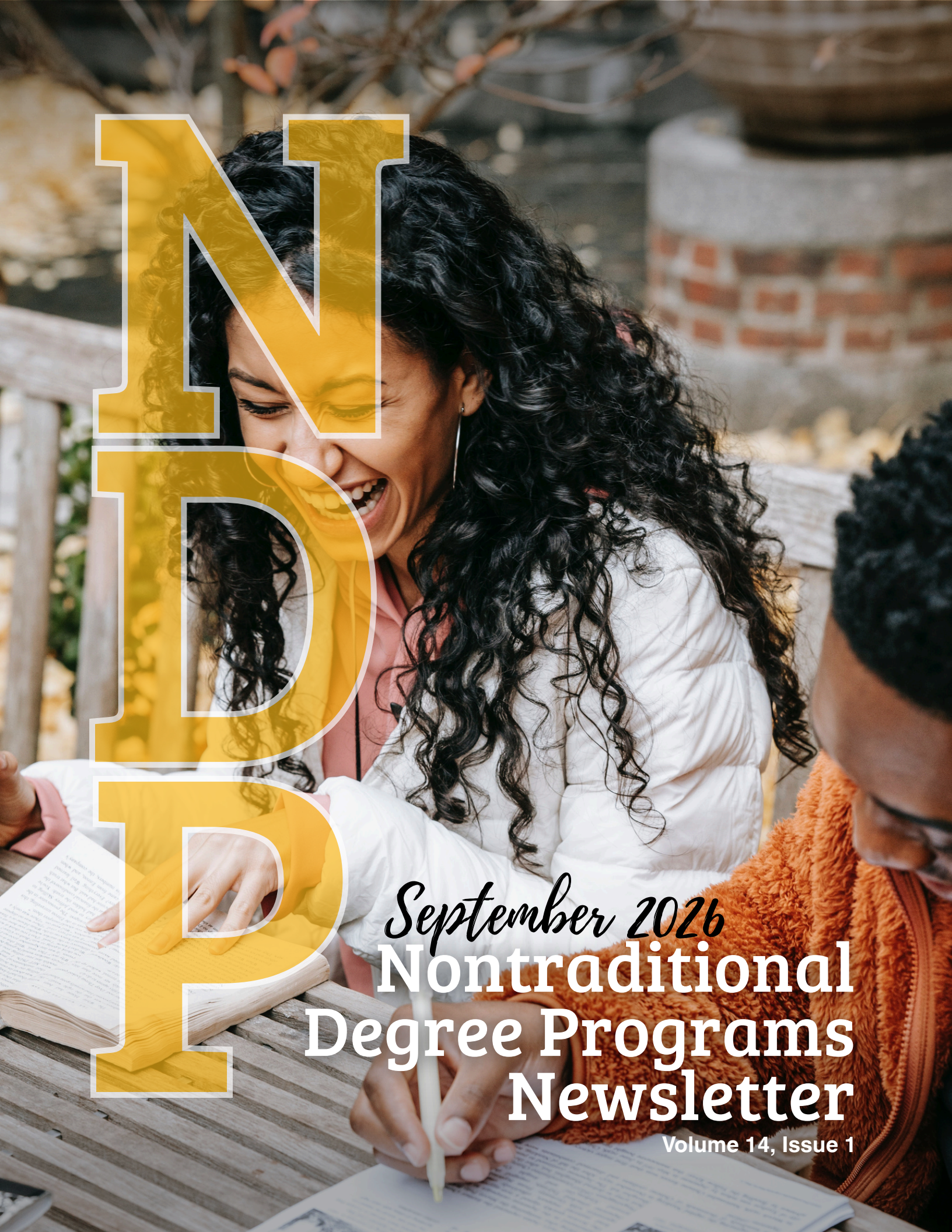




NDP

September 2026
**Nontraditional
Degree Programs
Newsletter**

Volume 14, Issue 1

NIP Alumni Highlight!

Hector R. Hernandez, MSW, MA Academic Program Specialist.

“ The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Northeastern Illinois University was an important foundation for where I am today because it gave me the opportunity to explore multiple disciplines and understand how they intersect. The program allowed me to take courses in education and research, which helped me develop a deeper understanding of how these areas are interconnected and how research can inform educational practice. The flexibility of the degree also provided me with the academic foundation and confidence to continue my education, ultimately allowing me to pursue and complete two master's degrees and now an Ed.D. ”



NDP Staff Highlights!

NDP Staff Directory

Dr. Kimya Barden
Director

Dr. Zada Johnson
UWW Faculty Advisor

Jennifer Blair
Interdisciplinary Studies
Program Specialist

Jacqueline Butler
Interdisciplinary Studies
Program Specialist

Robert Hall
Office Support Specialist

Héctor Cortés
Office Manager

LaQuis Harkins
NDP Math Tutor

Héctor Cortés



I am the new Office Manager for Nontraditional Degree Programs. I have been at this position for over a month and it has been a pleasure working with this team. I look forward to many months and years of work here at NEIU's NDP. When not at work, I am traveling around the world, working on my garden, being creative with cardmaking or taking care of my 55-gallon freshwater fishtank. As many of the people that come to this programs, I was a student who came back to school after many years in the workforce.



LaQuis Harkins, NDP Math Tutor



I am a second year graduate student in the Department of Communication, Media, and Theater. I am also a professional literacy and math tutor.



Hours: In-Person Tuesdays and/or
Thursdays

Online: Evenings for your assistance.



Events Calendar

NEIU Homecoming 2026

Get your Gold On!

September 16-19

Wednesday:

NEIU at Portillo's / NEIU at the Chicago Cubs

Thursday:

Coffee and Crafts: Paint and Sip at El Centro

Show your NEIU Spirit!

Friday:

Trivia Night / Golden Eagle Glow Run

Saturday:

La Copa NEIU / Poetry and Pancakes



Chicago Sky!

Tickets are Free!

Join us for NEIU Night at the Chicago Sky!

Thursday, September 17th, 7:00pm at the Wintrust Arena

[Click here for Tickets](#)





Class Gift Scholarship

NEIU Scholarship

- Open to any major
- Must be a degree seeking undergraduate or graduate student
- Must be full-time (12) or half-time (6) hours
- Must volunteer 10 hours with the NEIU Alumni Association
- Consideration will be given to outstanding scholastic achievement (3.0 GPA or higher)
- Click here: [Class Gift Scholarship](#)

College JumpStart “Pay It Forward” Scholarship

NEIU Scholarship

- Deadline: September 30, 2026
- Amount: \$1,000.00
- Eligibility: Open to all Nontraditional students and adult learners who are legal U.S. residents and enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited university.
- Why it fits? No test scores, age limits or demographic rules. You just need to write a 250-word personal statement about a time you paid a good deed forward.
- Click here: [College JumpStart “Pay It Forward” Scholarship](#)

Resources

at NEIU

Food Pantry

NIEU's Student Pantry provides support and assistance to current students impacted by food insecurity. It also offers external resources and connects non-students to local food pantries through the Chicago Greater Food Depository.

Click here: [Student Food Pantry](#).

Location: Student Union - Rm 123 (Main Campus)

Student Counseling

Student Counseling Services is open for mental health and wellness services for students, both in-person and remotely. Services include both individual and couples counseling.

Click here: [Student Counseling Services](#).

Location: Building B-119 (Main Campus)

Library Services

NEIU Libraries are a great place to reserve books, reserve a room, use printers, copiers and receive in-person help.

Click here: [Libraries](#).

Location: CCICS (Main Campus), El Centro

Pedroso Center

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs develops and provides programming and initiatives in a welcoming environment designed to educate, empower, and retain students from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds.

Click here: [Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs](#).

Location: Building B-159 (Main Campus)

Career Development

NEIU's Office of Career Development empowers, prepare and achieve your career goals. Whether you're seeking your first job, or advancing in your professional journey, we provide the tools, resources and support to help you succeed.

Click here: [Office of Career Development](#).

Location: Building B-119 (Main Campus)

Academic Support & Tutoring

Academic Support Center provides free peer-led tutoring for all NDP students. They will work with you on tutoring for Math, WIP, English, etc.

Click here: [Academic Support Center](#).

Location: RWL Rm 454 (Main Campus)