NEIU | Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN PHILION

November is such a great time of year! We have Thanksgiving and Winter Break in the distance, but are surrounded by the beauty that comes with the change of seasons that is slowly—very slowly, this year—taking place.

Before I turn to a few items in this issue that deserve your attention, I want to thank everyone who joined us on October 15 for the Jean Burke Carlson and Diane Berger Ehrlich Memorial Lecture. Dr. Michael Jin's presentation about the Japanese American Redress Movement reminded us that teaching history is one of the most important things that educators do. History keeps us aware of what has happened in the past, but also provides instruction about what we need to do to make our future bright.

As you go through the remainder of this newsletter, please do give attention to the announcement that Spring 2027 registration is open. As usual, registering as soon as you are eligible secures your place in the courses that you need. In addition, if you plan to graduate in May, please remember that your graduation application is due December 1. Furthermore, teacher candidates should review the information about the ILTS Content Area Exam Prep workshop that will take place on November 14. Last but not least, every student should look closely at the scholarships in this issue, including Hush Harbor, which offers up to $10,000 a year to future teachers.

As Thanksgiving approaches, please know that I am grateful for each and every one of you. The schools and communities of Chicago need the knowledge, care, and commitment you are building here at NEIU.

Sincerely,

Tom Philion, Ph.D.
Dean, Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Former Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees Member Michelle Morales

Morales was an alumna and had served on the Board since 2023.

The Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education mourns the passing of Michelle Morales, Vice Chair of the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees and a proud graduate of our College.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and friends, to her fellow trustees, and to all who shared in her work.

Michelle earned her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from the Goodwin College of Education in 2012. She carried into her career the sense of purpose our programs strive to cultivate. To Michelle, educational leadership meant service to people. She drew strength from her Puerto Rican heritage. She worked to advance racial equity and to ensure that communities of color were heard in public education.

As a trustee, she placed students at the center of her service. She championed belonging and engagement. She understood that students thrive when a caring community stands behind them. Her life offers our teacher candidates, counselors, and future school leaders a lasting example of what an NEIU education makes possible.

We are honored to recognize Michelle as a distinguished alumna. Her enduring legacy will continue to inspire and guide the generations of educators who follow her.

Learn more: Read the University's tribute, Remembering Former Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees Member Michelle Morales, and Block Club Chicago's remembrance of Michelle Morales, which reflects on her leadership as President of Woods Fund Chicago and her lifelong advocacy for change.

With deepest sympathy,

Dean Philion
Associate Dean Lopez
And the Faculty and Staff of the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

FEATURED: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: Please register for Spring 2027

The Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education prepares teachers, counselors, and leaders for the schools and communities of Chicago and beyond. Whether you are beginning your degree, advancing your career, or preparing to lead, the College offers a pathway for your next step.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Undergraduate Programs

Licensure programs in early childhood, elementary, middle level, and special education, as well as art, music, physical education, and Spanish. The College also offers degrees in community health with an accelerated concentration to the MPH, and human resource development, and accelerated pathways to the M.A.T. in Secondary Education.

Explore Undergraduate Programs

MASTER'S DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Graduate Programs

Advanced study for educators and professionals, including CACREP-accredited counseling programs, educational leadership, literacy, special education, public health, and the Master of Arts in Teaching. Graduate certificates and endorsements are also available.

Explore Graduate Programs

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Doctoral Program

The Ed.D. Program in Leadership, Equity, & Inquiry is NEIU's first doctoral degree. Its inaugural cohort began in Fall 2026. Applications are now open for Cohort 2, which begins in Fall 2027.

Learn more about the program and apply for admission

WHY THE GOODWIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Accredited Preparation

Graduate counseling programs accredited by CACREP and accredited teacher licensure programs from early childhood through secondary education.

Tuition Assistance

The Goodwin College of Education awards more than $95,000 in tuition assistance each year.

Structured Support

Future Teachers Living Learning Community, TRIO, Grow Your Own Illinois, and Teach Chicago Tomorrow.

A New Home in 2027

A state-of-the-art Education Building with spaces for clinical practice, simulation, and community partnership.

READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

Goodwin College of Education advisors are available to guide prospective and current students through program options, admission requirements and pathways to professional careers in education.

Doctoral Admission: Leadership, Equity and Inquiry, Ed.D.

FEATURED SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Grow Your Own-IL Diverse Male Teacher Initiative
Hush Harbor

Up to $10,000 a year for future teachers, with advising, tutoring, and mentorship



Questions: GCOE-Outreach@neiu.edu, L-MezaJr@neiu.edu, lmeza@gyo-il.org

A LOOK BACK: THANK YOU TO OUR NEIU COMMUNITY

The Jean Burke Carlson and Diane Berger Ehrlich Memorial Lectureship



From left to right: Dr. Michael Jin and Dean Philion



Dr. Michael Jin delivers the lectureship address

Reckoning with Redress — What Teachers Need to Know · October 15, 2026

On Thursday, October 15, 2026, the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education hosted **The Jean Burke Carlson and Diane Berger Ehrlich Memorial Lectureship**. Michael Jin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History and Global Asian Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago, delivered *Reckoning with Redress — What Teachers Need to Know*. Dr. Jin examined the Japanese American Redress Movement and showed how teachers can bring this history into their classrooms. We thank the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners who joined us for dinner, the lecture, and the reception. Your presence and thoughtful questions made the evening a success. We also thank Dr. Jin for sharing his scholarship with our community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — NOVEMBER 2026 AND BEYOND

Date	Event or Deadline- *For a full list of events, go to NEIU Connects*
Nov. 2	Career Building Workshop · 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. · Google Meet
Nov. 2	Registration Drive · 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. · Village Square (also Nov. 5)
Nov. 2–5	TRIO Student Support Services Fall 2026 Leading and Learning Week · Alumni Hall
Nov. 4	Campus Construction: Building PE Roof Replacement Concludes
Nov. 4	Scholarship Workshop with Michelle Morrow, Ed.D. · 11:00 a.m. · Zoom
Nov. 4	Rehabilitation Counseling, M.A. Virtual Information Session · 6:00–7:00 p.m. Sign up now to receive a link
Nov. 4–6	NEIU Libraries Annual Book Sale · Ronald Williams Library, first floor
Nov. 5	Yoga Workshop · 11:00 a.m. · Pedroso Center, B 159
Nov. 5	Nontraditional Degree Programs Mixer · 12:00 p.m. · Room B 147
Nov. 5	Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance · 12:00–2:00 p.m. · Student Union 217 (virtual on Nov. 6)

Date	Event or Deadline- *For a full list of events, go to NEIU Connects*
Nov. 5	Urban Gardening and Local Food Production Seminar · 3:30–5:00 p.m. · Pedroso Center, B 159
Nov. 5, 12, 13; Dec. 3	Health, Housing, Legal, and Food Assistance with CALOR · 12:00–4:00 p.m. · Village Square
Nov. 9	26th Annual Polish-American Heritage Celebration · 6:00–8:00 p.m. · Alumni Hall
Nov. 9	Women Professional Speaker Series: Carol Lipari, Ed.D. · 7:00 p.m. · Zoom
Nov. 10	Study Abroad Fair · 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. · Alumni Hall
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Ceremony · 10:00 a.m. · Peace Garden
Nov. 14	ILTS Content Area Exam Prep: Workshop 1, Introduction to the Content Area Exam · 9:00 a.m. · Zoom
Nov. 16	Academic Support Center Spring 2027 Student Position Application Deadline · 5:00 p.m.
Nov. 16–19	Disability Awareness Week 2026 · Film screening, faculty conversation, storytelling performance, and student discussion
Nov. 17	NEIU One Stop Center Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting · 2:00–4:00 p.m. · Building E, Room E 120
Nov. 18	Eagle Fest · Main Campus · Proof of Spring 2027 registration or graduation required
Nov. 30	McNair Scholars Program Application Deadline · 11:59 p.m.
Dec. 1	Graduation Application Deadline · December 2026 Graduates
Dec. 4	Toys for Tots Donation Deadline · One Stop Center (E 120) and Admissions (D 130)
Dec. 8	Fall 2026 Master's Hooding Ceremony for Graduating Master's Candidates · 7:00 p.m. · Auditorium, Main Campus
March 1, 2027	Graduation Application Deadline · May 2027 Graduates
March 1, 2027	34th John Sargon Albazi Student Symposium Abstract Submission Deadline · 11:59 p.m.
April 30, 2027	34th Annual John Sargon Albazi Student Symposium Presentation Day · Main Campus
Expected 2027	New Education Building — Anticipated Completion

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

For a full list of events, visit NEIU Connects.

Career Building Workshop — Nov. 2

National Nontraditional Degree Student Week (November 2–6) opens with a Career Building Workshop. The session covers practical networking strategies and guides students through crafting a concise, memorable elevator pitch. Use it to prepare for the upcoming Career and Internship Fair or to continue building your professional network. Participants will leave ready to introduce themselves with confidence to professionals in their field.

- **Date and time:** Monday, November 2, 2026 · 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Virtual via Google Meet (separate links for the noon and 6:00 p.m. sessions)

TRIO Student Support Services Leading and Learning Week — Nov. 2–5

TRIO Student Support Services invites all NEIU students to its Fall 2026 Leading and Learning Week. The week brings together students, faculty, staff, and community members with one goal: to help students graduate. The lineup includes free presentations offered in person and via Zoom. Space is limited, and advance registration is strongly recommended.

- **Dates:** Monday, November 2, through Thursday, November 5, 2026
- **Location:** Main Campus, Alumni Hall, and virtual via Zoom
- **Full schedule:** See the Fall 2026 Leading and Learning Week schedule.

Registration Drive — Nov. 2 and 5

Secure your Spring 2027 class schedule before classes fill. Student Success and Retention's Registration Drive helps students schedule advisor appointments and clear student account holds that may prevent course registration. Bring your student ID, map out your Spring schedule with an advisor, and receive your ticket to Eagle Fest on November 18 on the spot.

- **Dates and time:** Monday, November 2, and Thursday, November 5, 2026 · 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Village Square
- **Eagle Fest entry:** Proof of Spring 2027 registration or graduation is required.
- **Accommodations:** Contact Student Disability Services 48 hours in advance at sds@neiu.edu or (773) 442-4595.

Scholarship Workshop with Michelle Morrow, Ed.D. — Nov. 4

Join NEIU Director of Scholarships Dr. Michelle Morrow, Ed.D., to learn how to find and apply for both NEIU and external scholarships. This event is part of National Nontraditional Degree Student Week.

- **Date and time:** Wednesday, November 4, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom

Rehabilitation Counseling, M.A. Virtual Information Session — Nov. 4

Learn about NEIU's Rehabilitation Counseling master's program, including the fully remote M.A. and graduate certificate options, curriculum and program structure, admission requirements, career opportunities, and professional credentialing pathways such as the CRC and LPC/LCPC. Prospective students will have time to ask questions about the program and the application process. Register to receive the Zoom link.

- **Date and time:** Wednesday, November 4, 2026 · 6:00–7:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- **Questions:** Counselor Education, (773) 442-5550 · counsedu@neiu.edu

NEIU Libraries Annual Book Sale — Nov. 4–6

The NEIU Libraries invite the community to the Annual Book Sale on the first floor of Ronald Williams Library. Browse an affordable selection of hardcover and paperback titles, children's books, CDs, DVDs, LPs, music scores, and more. All items are $1.00, and proceeds support the NEIU Libraries. Cash, check, and Zelle are accepted.

- **Dates and times:** Wednesday, November 4, and Thursday, November 5, 2026 · 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; Friday, November 6, 2026 · 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Ronald Williams Library, first floor

Yoga Workshop — Nov. 5

National Nontraditional Degree Student Week continues with a yoga class at the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs. NEIU students, faculty, and staff are welcome.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, November 5, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Pedroso Center, B 159

Nontraditional Degree Programs Mixer — Nov. 5

The Nontraditional Degree Programs (NDP) office is hosting a mixer for students, faculty, and staff to celebrate Nontraditional Student Week 2026. Stop by to say hello, stay for conversation, and learn what is happening at NDP.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, November 5, 2026 · 12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Room B 147

Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance — Nov. 5–6

Student Health Services (SHS) is partnering with Hamdard Health Alliance to offer free, one-on-one appointments. Students and employees can receive help navigating Medicaid and marketplace health insurance options, understanding eligibility requirements, and completing enrollment. In-person and virtual 30-minute appointments can be reserved through NEIU Connects. Hamdard Health Alliance will send a confirmation email once your appointment is confirmed.

- **In person:** Thursday, November 5, 2026 · 12:00–2:00 p.m. · Student Union 217
- **Virtual:** Friday, November 6, 2026 · 12:00–3:00 p.m.
- **Other times or a recorded information session:** Email health-education@neiu.edu.

Health, Housing, Legal, and Food Assistance — Nov. 5 through Dec. 3

Student Health Services (SHS) is partnering with CALOR to connect students with HIV testing, PrEP access support, legal assistance, affirming care, food and housing resources, and help navigating health insurance. Stop by the CALOR table to ask questions or to schedule an appointment for more personalized assistance.

- **Dates:** Thursday, November 5; Thursday, November 12; Friday, November 13; and Thursday, December 3, 2026
- **Time:** 12:00–4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Village Square

Urban Gardening and Local Food Production Seminar — Nov. 5

In celebration of Native American and Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Month, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosts a discussion on urban gardening and local food production. The speakers are Horticulture Educator Gemini Bhalsod and Local Foods Specialist Jesse Schaffer of the University of Illinois Extension serving Cook County.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, November 5, 2026 · 3:30–5:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Pedroso Center, B 159

26th Annual Polish-American Heritage Celebration — Nov. 9

This year's celebration features *Architecture of Resistance*, a one-woman stage show written and performed by Klaudia Siczek and directed by William Schraufnagel. The event will also honor Lucyna Galusza, NEIU Senior Instructor and Coordinator of the Mathematics Development Program, as Educator of the Year. Refreshments and live entertainment will accompany awards presented to students and community members.

- **Date and time:** Monday, November 9, 2026 · 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Alumni Hall
- **RSVP (recommended):** The event is free. Email John Brozyna at j-brozyna@neiu.edu or Christina Ciecierski, Ph.D., at c-ciecierski@neiu.edu. Direct questions to Dr. Ciecierski.

Women Professional Speaker Series — Nov. 9

The Women Professional Speaker Series presents Carol Lipari, Ed.D., Director of Culture and Strategy at Access Living, a Chicago center of service, advocacy, and social change for people with disabilities. Dr. Lipari will address her career in racial and disability justice and her lived experience as a disabled Asian American woman. The event is cosponsored by Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Disability Studies minor, and the Department of Counselor Education.

- **Date and time:** Monday, November 9, 2026 · 7:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom

Study Abroad Fair — Nov. 10

Students interested in studying in another country are encouraged to attend. Students from partner universities will describe student life at their institutions, and representatives from those countries' consulates in Chicago will attend. Students can also learn about faculty-led Study Tours, the Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad, and the U.S. government's Fulbright Program. Free popcorn will be provided.

- **Date and time:** Tuesday, November 10, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Main Campus, Alumni Hall
- **Questions:** Michael Nance · m-nance@neiu.edu

One Stop Center Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting — Nov. 17

The NEIU community is invited to celebrate the official opening of the One Stop Center, a new space dedicated to serving our students. The ribbon cutting ceremony will mark the start of a new era of student support.

The One Stop Center unites Financial Aid, Scholarships, Student Employment, General Advising, Graduate Admissions, and Registration in one location, creating a connected, student-centered experience.

This milestone was made possible by the dedication and collaboration of so many members of our University community. Please join us as we open the doors and recognize everyone who helped bring the Center to life. Light refreshments will be provided.

- **Date and time:** Tuesday, November 17, 2026 · 2:00–4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** One Stop Center, Building E, Room E 120 (across from the Welcome Desk)
- **RSVP:** Please RSVP by Monday, November 9, to help us plan for attendance.

Disability Awareness Week 2026 — Nov. 16–19

NEIU's Division of Student Affairs presents **Disability Awareness Week 2026**, a week of conversations, performances, and student voices. All events are free.

Free Film Screening

- **Date:** Monday, November 16, 2026
- **Film, time, and location:** To be announced

Thinking with Disability: A Conversation with NEIU Faculty

- **Date and time:** Tuesday, November 17, 2026 · 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- **Location:** In person in SU 103 and via Zoom · Register here

How does using a Disability Studies lens enrich academic work in different disciplines? Join us for a conversation with NEIU faculty members about how they use disability in their research and teaching in the fields of geography, special education, linguistics, literature, and history. Featuring Alex Peimer, Jody Siker, Rick Hallett, Ryan Poll, and Ashley Elrod. Refreshments will be provided.

Storytelling Performance with Tellin' Tales Theatre

- **Date and time:** Wednesday, November 18, 2026 · 2:30–3:30 p.m.
- **Location:** In person at the Pedroso Center, B 159, and via Zoom · Register here

Four seasoned solo performers share personal vignettes based on their real life stories about living with a disability. The result is a beautiful message of independence and the power of dealing with the world on their own terms. Funny as well as touching, these stories will change the way you think about disability. Refreshments will be provided.

Disability at NEIU: A Student Discussion

- **Date and time:** Thursday, November 19, 2026 · 3:05–4:30 p.m.
- **Location:** In person in SU 103 and via Zoom · Register here

How does disability affect the way you navigate and understand the world? Join us for a conversation with NEIU students who live with a disability, study disability issues, or are involved in disability advocacy. All students are welcome to attend. Snacks and giveaways provided!

Want to volunteer as a speaker? We are seeking students to speak about their experiences for 5–7 minutes during the event. Email Ashley Elrod at a-elrod@neiu.edu to volunteer.

These events are brought to you by the Division of Student Affairs, Student Disability Services, and the minor in Disability Studies. To request disability accommodations for any of these events, please contact Student Disability Services at (773) 442-4595 or sds@neiu.edu at least 48 hours in advance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Academic Support Center Student Positions for Spring 2027 — Apply by Nov. 16

The Academic Support Center (ASC) is hiring NEIU students for Spring 2027 as tutors, student aides, and graduate assistants. Students who qualify may hold these roles as work-study positions. Each job description includes a link to its application form.

- **Application deadline:** Monday, November 16, 2026 · 5:00 p.m.
- **Main Campus:** Content and Writing Intensive Program (WIP) Tutors, Math Tutors, Writing Tutors, and Front Desk Aides
- **El Centro:** Math Tutors and Writing Tutors
- **Jacob H. Carruthers Center:** Math Tutors and Writing Tutors
- **Job descriptions:** Academic Support Center

- **Questions:** Kate Hahn, Ph.D., Executive Director of Academic Support Services · mk-hahn@neiu.edu

Temporary Extension of Student Health Services Office Hours

To improve access for students, faculty, and staff, Student Health Services (SHS) is temporarily extending its hours through the end of the fall semester. In addition to vaccinations, SHS offers a wide range of services to support your health and well-being.

- **Extended hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays until 7:00 p.m. (last appointment at 6:30 p.m.)
- **Immunization requirement walk-ins:** Tuesdays · 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- **Immunization policy questions:** student-immunizations@neiu.edu
- **Services and appointments:** Student Health Services

Toys for Tots Donations and Veterans Day Ceremony — Nov. 11

The Veterans Services Office, in partnership with the local Marine Corps Reserve, is a drop-off site for this year's Toys for Tots drive to support families in need. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys. Thank you for supporting our student veterans and for bringing joy to families this season.

- **Donation boxes:** One Stop Center (E 120) and Undergraduate Admissions Office (D 130), Main Campus
- **Donations accepted through:** Friday, December 4, 2026
- **More information:** See the Toys for Tots FAQ webpage.

In observance of Veterans Day, the Veterans Services Office invites the University community to honor the service of our nation's veterans.

- **Veterans Day ceremony:** Wednesday, November 11, 2026 · 10:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Peace Garden, outside the cafeteria, Main Campus

Celebrate Native American and Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Month with the NEIU Libraries

Explore the histories, cultures, and experiences of Native American and Indigenous peoples through the NEIU Libraries' collections. The Libraries' virtual heritage month display features four films that highlight Indigenous voices, cultural survival, resistance, and the contributions of Indigenous people. It also offers a selection of downloadable eBooks on Indigenous identities, literature, art, education, and cultural traditions. Discover stories of urban Indigenous communities, Native representation, Indigenous sovereignty, environmental stewardship, and the ongoing work of cultural renewal and community building.

Interim Leadership: Office of Research and Sponsored Projects

Marcelo Sztainberg, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, announced that Brittany Pines has been appointed Acting Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) while Sharon Todd is away from the office. Ms. Pines will oversee all ORSP operations. For research administration needs, contact b-pines@neiu.edu or orsp@neiu.edu.

STUDENT SUCCESS AND RECOGNITION

Launch of the GCOE Dean's List Webpage

In early October, the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education launched a dedicated **Dean's List webpage** that recognizes undergraduate majors for academic distinction. The webpage:

- Provides a central and permanent record of academic honors and distinction
- Increases the visibility of candidate accomplishments across our degree programs

- Celebrates student achievement and scholarly dedication

View the Dean's List: GCOE Dean's List

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

Student Leadership Development (SLD) — Upcoming Events

Student Leadership Development invites students to take part in three leadership experiences this year. Scan the QR codes on the flyer to learn more or to submit a nomination.



Alternative Break Trips

Alternative Break Trips offer students the opportunity to travel, serve, learn, and connect with communities beyond campus. Each trip combines meaningful community service, cultural experiences, and structured reflection centered on a unique social or community-focused theme.

LeaderShape Institute

Students explore their personal values, build essential leadership skills, and develop a clear vision for positive change through reflection, group discussion, and team challenges. Faculty and staff may nominate a student to attend by completing the nomination form linked through the QR code on the flyer.

Certified Peer Educator (CPE) Training

Students build leadership, communication, active listening, intervention, inclusive programming, and self-care skills through this 12-hour course held over two days.

Contact	Role or Department	Email
Nikki Nigl	Certified Peer Educator Training	n-nigl@neiu.edu
SLD General Office	Student Leadership Development	SLD@neiu.edu

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

McNair Scholars Program — Applications Open for Cohort 25

- **Application deadline:** Monday, November 30, 2026 · 11:59 p.m.
- **Eligibility:** Current sophomores, juniors, or seniors planning to attend graduate school
- **Program benefits:**
  - **$2,800 paid research stipend**
  - Personalized academic advising and career roadmapping
  - Faculty mentorship and graduate school application guidance
  - Fully sponsored travel to research conferences and scholarly networks
- **Learn more:** McNair Scholars Program · **Questions:** mcnairp@neiu.edu

34th Annual John Sargon Albazi Student Symposium

- **Event date:** Friday, April 30, 2027 · Main Campus
- **Abstract submission deadline:** Monday, March 1, 2027 · 11:59 p.m. · Submit an abstract
- **Presentation formats:**
  - **Poster presentations:** Visual display with an interactive one-hour live question-and-answer session
  - **Podium presentations:** 15-minute oral presentation followed by a session question-and-answer period
- **Requirements:** Faculty sponsorship is required. Projects involving human subjects must be reviewed by the NEIU Institutional Review Board (irb@neiu.edu).
- **Awards:** Presenters are eligible for the *Bernard J. Brommel Awards* and the *NEIU Libraries Awards for Excellence in Research* (top prize: $1,000).
- **Questions:** rcasymposium@neiu.edu

Commencement Keynote Speaker Nominations

The University Commencement Planning Committee invites students and employees to submit speaker nominations on a rolling basis. Nominees must have distinguished records in art, science, business, technology, or education and align with NEIU's mission.

- **Submission:** Log in via Nmail to complete the online nomination form.
- **Contact:** Andy Dutil, Executive Director of Student Union and Campus Recreation, a-dutil@neiu.edu

Invest in Your Future: Free Kaplan Test Preparation

Northeastern Illinois University has partnered with Kaplan for **"Prepare for Illinois' Future Powered by Kaplan's All Access License,"** a statewide program administered through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). All test preparation resources and courses are provided at no cost to students.

- **Graduate admissions:** GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, and more
- **Licensure and credentials:** Preparation for more than 40 graduate admissions, licensure, and credentialing examinations, as well as career skills development courses
- **Sign up:** go.kaplan.com/illinois · **Questions:** cape@neiu.edu

GRADUATION AND REGISTRATION

Applying for Graduation: December 2026 and May 2027

NEIU has transitioned to a **one-commencement ceremony institution** beginning this academic year. As a result, graduation application deadlines have been extended for undergraduate, second bachelor's degree, and master's degree candidates.

Graduation Term	Extended Deadline	Application
December 2026	**December 1, 2026**	Undergraduate · Master's
May 2027	**March 1, 2027**	Undergraduate · Master's

Filing instructions, forms, and fees: Applying for Graduation — Registrar Services

- **Important:** Graduation applications cannot be reviewed without the accompanying Academic Course Record.
- Confirm with your academic advisor that you are officially declared in your program of study (Undergraduate Major Declaration Form).
- Undergraduates submit applications to gradeval@neiu.edu; master's students submit to graduate-records@neiu.edu. Applications may also be delivered to Enrollment Services, Room D 101.

Fall 2026 Master's Hooding Ceremony

The University will honor its graduating master's degree candidates at the Fall 2026 Master's Hooding Ceremony. The hooding marks the completion of graduate study and is one of the most meaningful traditions of the academic year.

- **Date and time:** Tuesday, December 8, 2026 · 7:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Auditorium, NEIU Main Campus
- **Participation:** Graduating master's candidates should contact their graduate program advisor for participation details.

Spring 2027 Advance Registration

Advance and priority registration for the **Spring 2027 semester** (including Winter Session) opened **Monday, October 12, 2026**.

- **Check your registration time:** Visit the Academic Calendar and select the *Spring 2027 Advance Registration Schedule*.
- **Registration resources:** Information on adding and dropping classes, waitlists, and prerequisite policies appears on the Class Schedules and Registration page.
- **Registration Office:** registration@neiu.edu · (773) 442-4050, option 3 · Enrollment Management, Building D, Room D 101

Spring 2027 Registration Advising: Carruthers Center (CCICS)

Spring 2027 registration is underway. Students at the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies should schedule an appointment with their assigned academic advisor to review degree progress, select required courses, and register on time. Registering as soon as you are eligible helps the University plan course offerings and reduces the possibility of course cancellations due to low enrollment.

- **Advisor:** Nekenya Walker, M.A., Program/Student Advisor · n-walker@neiu.edu

- **Location:** Jacob H. Carruthers Center (CCICS), Room 515, 700 E. Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60653
- **Phone:** Office (773) 256-2038 · Mobile (872) 401-1349 · Fax (773) 256-2030
- **Schedule advising:** Carruthers Center

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Fall 2026 Financial Aid Reminders

The Financial Aid Office communicates key elements of consumer information throughout the award year. Here are the top Fall 2026 Financial Aid reminders for those of you who have applied for federal and/or state student assistance:

- **Submit your FAFSA early for 2027–2028** to avoid the loss of State MAP Grant eligibility and to get a jump start on scholarship applications.
- **Review your billing statement** using the "Student Payment Services" card in your NEIUport. Check the "Student" tab for any outstanding charges. Do you still have an outstanding balance after federal and state grants were applied? Visit the Financial Aid Office to ensure your award package maximizes your eligibility as well as to discuss scholarship and borrowing options so that you can focus more on your studies.
- **Prior balance holds:** If you have a prior balance Accounts Receivable hold and need assistance with your Spring registration, please visit Student Payment Services or contact studentpaymentservices@neiu.edu to review payment plan options. For private borrowing options, visit the Financial Aid Office.
- **For those graduating in December,** your online exit counseling sessions (e.g., Direct Loans, TEACH) need to be completed mid-November using www.studentaid.gov. The last day to borrow Fall semester-only Direct Loans is Thursday, November 5.
- **Drop in before dropping out.** Prior to acting on any thoughts of withdrawing from coursework, "drop in" to your instructor's office hours and see your academic advisor and the Financial Aid Office to identify options with the least negative impact to degree completion and future aid eligibility.
- **Check your N-Safe contact information** and make appropriate updates. If you have not already, download the CampusShield application on your phone and sign up. In the instance of a University emergency or closure, you will receive an alert directly on your phone.
- **Voting:** All students are encouraged to check your voter registration information and note any changes in your polling place. If you have yet to register to vote and will be voting in Illinois, please visit the Illinois State Board of Elections website for information about "Grace Period" Registration.

The Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Student Employment Offices thank you for making Northeastern your institution of choice. **The Financial Aid Office relocated to the One Stop Center on Monday, October 26.** See you in the new space. Students can also schedule a virtual **Financial Aid Advisor appointment**.

NEIU For You Scholarship — Up to Four Years of Base Tuition

NEIU offers a **four-year base tuition scholarship** for eligible students.

- **Eligible students:** First-time, full-time freshmen
- **Expansion:** Beginning in **Fall 2027**, qualified **transfer students and veterans** are also eligible.
- **Learn more and apply:** NEIU For You Scholarship

Spring 2027 Tuition Payment Plan

The Tuition Payment Plan allows students to spread tuition and fee payments over manageable installments.

- **Simplicity:** Enroll online through NEIUport.
- **Early access:** Enrolling early provides more time to pay and smaller monthly payments.
- **Scheduled payments:** Timely payments help students avoid late fees.
- **Enrollment dates and questions:** Student Payment Services · studentpaymentservices@neiu.edu

Goodwin College of Education Scholarships

Explore GCOE tuition assistance and institutional funds on the GCOE Scholarships webpage or contact gcoe-scholarships@neiu.edu.

ESSENTIAL STUDENT REMINDERS

Fall 2026 ILTS Content Area Exam Prep: Workshop 1 — November 14, 2026

Experienced exam coaches Professor Bortz and Professor Maglaris lead the final Fall 2026 workshop. The session provides an overview of the ILTS exam, its expectations, and available resources. It is recommended once for new candidates and for those who have not attended a prior prep session.

- **Date and time:** **Saturday, November 14, 2026 · 9:00 a.m. · Zoom**
- **Who should attend:** All GCOE teacher candidates in ECED, ELED, MLED, SCED, SPED, Art, Music, PE, Spanish, and Counselor Education
- **Individualized support:** Individual coaching sessions are available in November based on your personal action plan.
- **Register:** Fall 2026 ILTS Content Area Exam Prep Workshop Registration
- **Questions:** Professor Maglaris, a-maglaris@neiu.edu; Professor Bortz, m-bortz@neiu.edu

Visit the Academic Support Center

The Learning Success Center (LSC) and the Center for Academic Writing (CAW) have merged into the **Academic Support Center (ASC)**. Professional staff and peer undergraduate and graduate tutors support students across all subjects and writing projects. Visit the ASC on the fourth floor of Ronald Williams Library or send a direct Nmail chat to *Academic Support Center*. Full contact information appears under Student Support and Success Resources.

Seasonal Vaccines for the NEIU Community

Seasonal respiratory viruses, including flu, COVID-19, RSV, and pneumonia, cause contagious infections of the respiratory system. Seasonal vaccines are available at **Student Health Services (SHS)**.

- **Uninsured NEIU students:** The flu vaccine is available at no cost. Other vaccines require insurance.
- **Insured NEIU students:** Vaccines are covered under health insurance with no co-pay.
- **Advance sign-up required:** Sign up through NEIU Connects. Appointments are confirmed only after you receive an approval email from Student Health Services. Walk-ins are not accepted.
- **Contact:** health-services@neiu.edu · (773) 442-5800 · Student Health Services

Public Health Information: Meningococcal Disease (Bacterial Meningitis)

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has asked state universities to share the following guidance.

- **Overview:** Meningococcal disease infects the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord and can cause severe bloodstream infections. Young college students, particularly those living in residence halls, are at moderately increased risk.
- **State requirement:** All registered NEIU students age 21 or younger must provide documentation of meningococcal vaccination received between ages 16 and 21.
- **Free vaccine:** Students who need the vaccine may receive it at Student Health Services at no cost while supplies last.
- **Requirements and records:** neiu.edu/student-immunizations

University Parking: Blue, Gold, and Guest Parking

- **Gold lots:** Reserved for faculty and staff with a valid Gold permit. NEIU Police enforce Gold lots, and unauthorized vehicles are subject to citation.
- **Blue lots:** Registered students may park only in designated Blue lots after registering their vehicle through Student Permit Registration. Consult the Main Campus map for lot boundaries.
- **Guest parking:** Day passes are available through the Passport Parking app or at PassportParking.com using the posted zone number.
- **Signage:** Additional parking signage will be installed across campus in the coming weeks.

2026 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR)

The NEIU Police Department has released the 2026 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report in compliance with the Clery Act, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act, and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

- **Contents:** Crime statistics, prevention and awareness tips, emergency response protocols, fire safety data, and University emergency contact numbers
- **Online access:** University Police Crime Reports
- **Paper copies:** Available upon request at police@neiu.edu

STANDING FEATURES

The following features appear in every issue of the student newsletter and are updated as new information becomes available.

New Education Building — Looking Ahead to 2027

Construction continues on the new state-of-the-art Education Building on the Main Campus. The facility will feature 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. Completion is expected in 2027, and updates and grand-opening details will follow in future issues.

Student Support and Success Resources

The following programs and offices support Goodwin College of Education students from admission through graduation. Contact details appear in the table that follows.

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

Program	Description
College of Arts and Sciences Education Program (CASEP)	Support for education students in the College of Arts and Sciences ·
Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO-IL)	Pathway program supporting community members who are becoming teachers
TRIO — Student Support Services Teacher Preparation Program	Federal TRIO program supporting first-generation and low-income students
Goodwin College of Education Advisors	Program advising for GCOE undergraduate and graduate students
GCOE Endorsements and Licensure	Guidance on educator endorsements and licensure
Academic Support Center	Tutoring and writing support across all subjects
Academic Advising Center	Academic advising, course planning, and degree progress support
Student Health Services	Health care services and immunization compliance support for enrolled students
Student Counseling Services	Confidential counseling and mental health support for students
Financial Aid Office	Assistance with financial aid, grants, loans, and scholarships
NEIU Libraries	Research assistance, library collections, and study spaces
Career Development Office	Career exploration, internship, and job search support
Student Disability Services	Academic accommodations and accessibility support
Campus Recreation	Fitness facilities, recreational sports, and wellness programs

Stay Connected — Contact Information

Follow the Goodwin College of Education on social media: Instagram · Facebook

Tell us which content you value most and which topics you would like to see covered. For questions about events, programs, or collaborations, contact Cindy L. Jones, Director of Outreach and Marketing, at GCOE-Outreach@neiu.edu.

NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY

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Onward. Upward. Together.

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