President's Report

to the Board of Trustees

December 11, 2025

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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ACTION ITEM I. B. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING EXPENDITURES OF $250,000 OR MORE: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES FOR TEMPORARY MANAGEMENT OF THE NEST

Project Background

On September 2, 2025, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) closed on a debt refinancing, resulting in the acquisition of the NEST housing complex. American Campus Communities (ACC) currently manages the property, having been initially hired by the previous owner, Collegiate Housing Foundation (CHF).

Given the timing of the acquisition – coinciding with the University's open house events and the critical student move-in period – securing an uninterrupted management agreement was essential. Continuous NEST operations were necessary to ensure student safety, support, and a seamless move-in process.

Justification

NEIU recommends continuing its partnership with ACC to prevent any disruption to housing services and meet operational needs at the NEST. The University executed a property management agreement with ACC for a $250,000 management fee, covering the period September 2, 2025, through May 31, 2026 (nine months). This arrangement allows the University to maintain smooth operations, ensure student support, and prepare for full self- management by June 1, 2026.

Current Vendor

American Campus Communities (ACC)
12700 Hill Country Blvd, Suite T-200
Austin, TX 78738

Source of Funds

Student Housing Auxiliary Fund

<u>Recommended Action</u>

I request that the Board adopt the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to approve the contract with American Campus Communities (ACC) for $250,000 for a nine-month period ending May 31, 2026 for the temporary management of the Nest resident housing facility.

ACTION ITEM I. C. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FY2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING DEVELOPMENT FUND: REPORT AND REQUEST

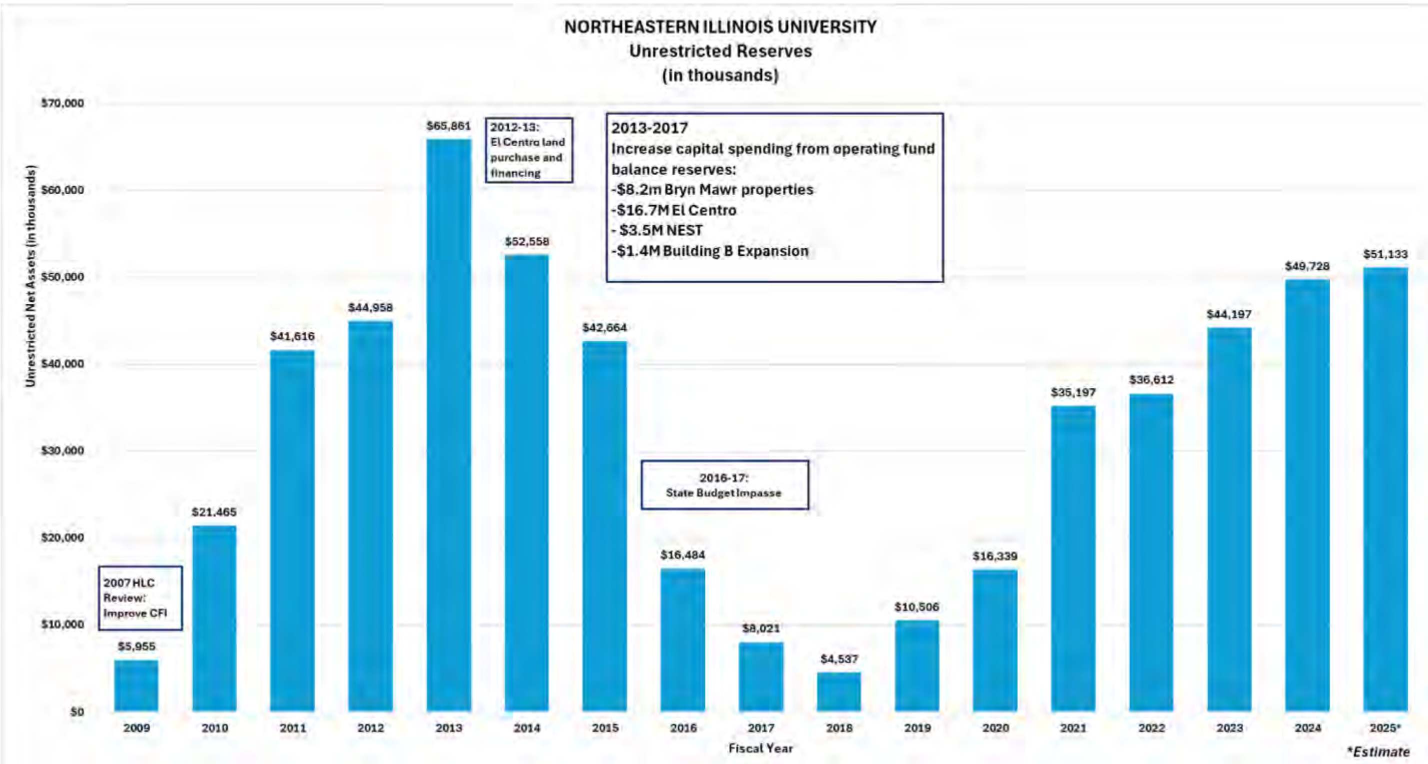
Overview

In September 2015, the Board approved the formation of a Strategic Planning Development Fund (SPDF). The purpose of the SPDF fund is to give the President the financial resources to pursue a strategy at the president’s discretion based on key priorities and strategic initiatives. The SPDF fund has been funded with annual allocations from unrestricted reserves since its formation as shown in Table 1. The SPDF has been used to foster enrollment growth, improve retention, address equity gaps, support capital improvements, as well as funding projects established as priorities by our University Planning and Budget Council (UPBC).

Table 1

Board Approved Transfers	Amount
FY2016	$750,000
FY2017	-
FY2018	-
FY2019	1,100,000
FY2020	2,000,000
FY2021	2,000,000
FY2022	2,000,000
FY2023	1,000,000
FY2024	-
FY2025	4,000,000
Total	**$12,850,000**

ACTION ITEM I. C. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FY2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING DEVELOPMENT FUND: REPORT AND REQUEST



Note: FY2025 has not been audited yet and is considered an estimate until fully audited.

Based on unaudited figures, the University will end FY2025 with an estimated year-end increase in net position of approximately $1.4 million. This positive outcome is primarily driven by slightly higher-than-anticipated tuition revenue, increased income from investments and other miscellaneous sources, and lower-than-expected bad debt allowances.

ACTION ITEM I. C. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FY2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING DEVELOPMENT FUND: REPORT AND REQUEST

The SPDF is funded with prior year accumulated (*excess*) revenues over expenses (net position or net income). It is common for the University to end the fiscal year with an increase in net position. Increases in net position can occur from a variety of reasons:

- Enrollment exceeded budgeted expectations
- Unexpected (unbudgeted) additional sources of revenue (*i.e.*, investment income or large grant)
- Actual expenses are lower than budgeted due to salary savings of vacant positions and/or delayed hiring
- Pension costs and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities decrease based on actuarial values at year-end.

On an annual basis, the University reports to the Board actual spending or allocation made from the SPDF fund during the past fiscal year. In FY2025, the University allocated $4,450,000 on the initiatives listed in Table 3:

Table 3

FY25 Initiatives	**Amount**
Nursing Simulation Lab	$2,250,000
One-Stop Shop	2,200,000
Student Success	23,000
Total	**$4,473,000**

FY26 Proposal

The University seeks approval from the Board to transfer $1 million of the net position to the SPDF. With a $1 million allocation to the SPDF, the President will be able to allocate resources where needed with a primary focus on **student success and retention initiatives, enrollment growth, and technological infrastructure improvements**. This focus is also consistent with the FY27 President's strategic planning initiatives submitted to the State of Illinois (see Appendix 1 - excerpt of Board action item presented at the September 18, 2025 FBG Committee and Regular Board meetings).

<u>Recommended Action</u>

I request that the Board adopt the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to approve the transfer of $1 million from the University's FY2025 unrestricted net position balance to the Strategic Planning Development Fund as presented.

ACTION ITEM I. C. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FY2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING DEVELOPMENT FUND: REPORT AND REQUEST

Appendix 1
Excerpt of the Item Presented at the September 18, 2025 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting

President's Report to the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University 27
September 18, 2025

ACTION ITEM I. F. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FY2027 PRELIMINARY OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS REQUEST

President's Strategic Program Initiatives

FY2027 Strategic Planning Initiatives/Priorities as outlined in Table 4 below, are driven by the five (5) key goals outlined in Northeastern Illinois University's Strategic Planning process, and are intended to align with the financial resources needed to advance these goals.

Table 4: FISCAL YEAR 2027

PRESIDENT'S STRATEGIC PROGRAM INITIATIVES

1. Student Success and Retention	
Continued strategic development of NEIUs One Stop Shop, which will serve all NEIU students and provide particular support for new students, first generation, new transfer and returning adult students via a seamless, accessible, and multi-modal student support service. The goal is to ensure that every student has advising, enrollment, financial aid and other key services available to them at our 3 campus locations, as well as to enhance the student and campus life experience.	$930,000
2. Enrollment Growth and Institutional Innovation	
Continued support for NEIU's new academic programs such as the Master of Science in Nursing, Entry into Practice (MSNEP) program and our first Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry, which will address key workforce development needs in our city, state and region, and which require staffing, materials and supplies, scholarships and other student support to grow, develop and be maintained.	$1,250,000
Development of new/re-designed competitive academic programs to grow graduate enrollment; to offer a range of graduate program offerings that meet the workforce development needs of our city, state and region; and to diversify graduate program delivery options and modalities to attract student interest and offer accessibility that increases graduate student enrollment (e.g., micro credentials, certificate programs, high- flex and cohort program models).	$30,000
3. Technological Infrastructure	
Support for the technological infrastructure, resources and supplies needed to grow enrollment; to support teaching and learning; improve retention, improve student success and graduation; and improve NEIU systems and operations. For example, the technology needed to provide the virtual features and tools to support NEIU's new One Stop Shop; the technological needed to streamline degree completion and workforce preparation; and the technology systems to support and advance NEIU's business operations.	$680,500
TOTAL	**$2,890,500**

ACTION ITEM I. A. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE THE NAMING OF ITS AUDITORIUM FOR SASHA L. GERRITSON

Sasha L. Gerritson is a distinguished double alumna of Northeastern Illinois University, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 1994 and Master’s degree in Music in 1996. Her relationship with the University extends far beyond her time as a student.

Ms. Gerritson served as an instructor in the Department of Music and Dance Program from August 2000 to July 2022, and held the role of Director of Musical Theater and Opera Performance, where she became the backbone of the University's opera productions.

During her tenure at NEIU, Ms. Gerritson and her spouse, Eugene Jarvis, have generously funded opera productions to create professional-level experiences for music students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community-at-large. Her dedication to excellence in performing arts helped establish NEIU as a destination for high-quality musical theater and opera education. She invested not only her financial resources but also her time, talent, and vision to build transformative experiences that have shaped countless students' lives and careers.

Ms. Gerritson's generosity to her alma mater has been sustained over many years. She and Mr. Jarvis have founded multiple scholarships, including the Jarvis Family Presidential Scholarship, the George Rico Presidential Scholarship, the McGowan Scholarship, the Opera Piccola Scholarship, and the Peace Scholarship, ensuring that future generations of NEIU students have access to quality education, especially in music and across the University. Her commitment to NEIU has been paralleled by her distinguished career in the performing arts community, where she currently serves as General Director of the Opera Festival of Chicago and has directed acclaimed productions throughout the Chicago area.

Ms. Gerritson is married to legendary video game designer Eugene Jarvis, who is regarded as one of the founding fathers of arcade gaming and is the creator of iconic games including Defender, Robotron: 2084, Smash TV and Cruis’n. Mr. Jarvis currently runs Raw Thrills, an arcade game studio, and is the first game-designer-in-residence at DePaul University, where the couple named the Eugene P. Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media. Together, the couple has demonstrated extraordinary philanthropic leadership.

Ms. Gerritson and Mr. Jarvis have confirmed their intention to recommend grants totaling $1.5 million over five years (2025-2029) to benefit Northeastern Illinois University through the NEIU Foundation. This commitment will be structured through three funds:

- **$500,000** to create the Sasha Gerritson Theatre Renovation Fund for capital improvements to the auditorium exterior and interior
- **$500,000** to establish the Sasha Gerritson Theatre Endowment Fund for ongoing facility maintenance and programming support
- **$500,000** to enhance the existing McGowan Music Scholarship Fund, established in honor of Ms. Gerritson's late mother

This $1.5 million commitment exceeds the $1 million minimum threshold established in the NEIU Foundation's Naming Opportunities Policy for naming the Auditorium. The Foundation, University leadership, and donors have negotiated a comprehensive fund agreement that accomplishes each party’s mutual objectives while facilitating the donors' intended giving structure through their donor-advised fund.
The proposed Auditorium renovations will significantly enhance the facility's aesthetic appeal and functionality, creating a more professional and welcoming space for university performances, community events, and public programming. These improvements will elevate the performing arts at NEIU and position the auditorium as a premier venue in the region.

ACTION ITEM I. A. BOARD ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE THE NAMING OF ITS AUDITORIUM FOR SASHA L. GERRITSON

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Gerritson recognize her as embodying the essence of NEIU's mission, vision, and values. Her decades of service, her sustained financial support, and her unwavering commitment to student success make her an exemplary candidate for this honor.

Recommended Action

I request that the Board adopt the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee’s recommendation to approve the naming of the University’s Auditorium for Sasha L. Gerritson, in recognition of her leadership, dedication, and transformative impact on performing arts education at Northeastern Illinois University. This recommendation comes with support from the NEIU Foundation and is made in accordance with the Board’s Regulations, Section VI. Physical Facilities, Subsection C. Naming of Board Property and the University’s Policy G1.2 Naming of University Facilities and Programs.

ACTION ITEM I. D. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES OF $250,000 OR MORE: SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN 3B SCIENTIFIC

Project Background

In 2025, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) began construction on a state-of-the-art Simulation Lab at the El Centro campus ahead of the launch of the new Masters of Science in Nursing, Entry to Practice program (MSN-EP). The build-out includes modernized classrooms and the construction of the required Simulation Lab, which will include advanced electronics capabilities. The lab will feature virtual/mixed reality technologies designed by 3B Scientific/Echohealthcare; these technologies provide the only truly immersive, interactive, and virtual nursing classroom in the state of Illinois.

Sole Source Justification

NEIU recommends contracting with 3B Scientific/Echohealthcare to provide the MSN-EP with its exclusive product Echo Complete. Echo Complete is a unique and complementary product only available from 3B Scientific. Echo Complete provides an Immersive Interactive standard medical room, as well as two days of training; six Lifecast Body Simulation bodies; two iSimulate REALITi 360 Plus patient monitors (with training); two Cardionics Stethoscopes; the choice of iRis or eSono licenses; and the installation and commissioning of a proprietary service and support program, MeLiSA. 3B Scientific has created this one-of-a kind solution to meet the needs of medical and nursing education programs world-wide by combining proprietary and COTS technology.

Vendor	Project Cost
American 3B Scientific, L.P. 2189 Flintstone Drive, Suite O Tucker, GA 30084 USA	$286,660 – promotional pricing $325,006 – list price

Source of Funds

President's Strategic Development Funds

Recommended Action

I request that the Board approve the sole source contract between NEIU and American 3B Scientific for the purchase of its proprietary Echo Complete system to be installed in the new nursing simulation lab at the promotional cost of $286,660. This promotional pricing will expire December 19, 2025. Should this pricing expire, the cost to NEIU will increase to $325,006.

INFORMATION ITEM II. A. FY26 1ST QUARTER BUDGET TO ACTUALS REPORT

The Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees at its September 18, 2025 meeting approved the University final operating budget, which represented spending plans for fiscal year 2026 (FY2026). The information herein reflects a comparison of actual expenditures to that budget, as well as previous year-to-date actual expenditures.

The operating budget for FY2026 totals $159,408,000. Of that total, $93,785,000 is the University's unrestricted general operating budget supported by State appropriation and student tuition. In addition, the University's restricted funds budget amount of $65,623,000 is supported by student fee programs, auxiliary services, grants, and contracts.

At the Board's request, quarterly reports are provided for the unrestricted operating budget, which supports most University departments and ongoing operations. This report provides an update on first quarter spending in the unrestricted budget and is summarized in Table 1, which also includes a comparison with year-to-date spending for both FY2025 and FY2024.

Moreover, Table 2 provides a financial forecast for the unrestricted operating budget. This financial forecast builds upon the existing quarterly reporting and presentation structure of the budget-to-actual reports and incorporates separate forecasts for revenues and expenses. The revenue forecast is forward-looking and based on existing models used to build the University's operating budget. The expense forecast is based on average historical spending by category and utilized data, adjusted to account for new initiatives/funding sources, any anticipated new spending, and current commitments/ encumbrances.

INFORMATION ITEM II. A. FY26 1ST QUARTER BUDGET TO ACTUALS REPORT

Table 1
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
UNAUDITED FIGURES

	FY2024 Q1			FY2025 Q1			FY2026 Q1					
	Adopted Budget	FY24 Actual YTD	% of Budget	Adopted Budget	FY25 Actual YTD	% of Budget	Adopted Budget	Current Budget	FY26 Actual YTD	% of Current Budget	FY26 vs FY25 ACTUALS	
Revenue												
State Appropriations	$ 39,960,000	$ 10,376,923	26.0%	$40,758,700	$ 12,283,426	30.1%	$ 41,166,300	$ 41,166,300	$ 13,955,576	33.9%	$ 1,672,150	{A}
Net Tuition Revenue	41,874,400	21,955,530	52.4%	45,134,178	23,286,420	51.6%	47,001,700	47,001,700	23,997,168	51.1%	710,748	{B}
Net Differential Tuition Revenue	689,000	395,480	57.4%	820,122	470,732	57.4%	1,617,000	1,617,000	656,286	40.6%	185,554	{B}
Investment Income	2,276,600	1,025,049	45.0%	3,700,000	1,050,446	28.4%	3,400,000	3,400,000	828,155	24.4%	(222,291)	{C}
All Other Sources	500,000	173,499	34.7%	500,000	157,982	31.6%	600,000	600,000	250,889	41.8%	92,907	
Total Revenue	$ 85,300,000	$ 33,926,481	39.8%	$ 90,913,000	$ 37,249,006	41.0%	$93,785,000	$93,785,000	$39,688,074	42.3%	$ 2,439,068	
Expenditures												
Personnel Services	$ 67,901,380	$ 13,345,164	19.7%	$70,829,802	$ 14,379,819	20.3%	$ 73,613,490	$ 74,002,133	$ 14,869,588	20.1%	$ 489,769	{D}
Contractual Services	14,631,783	1,222,477	8.4	14,821,712	1,830,600	12.4	14,032,107	12,855,055	1,764,380	13.7	(66,220)	
Equipment	431,986	53,821	12.5	383,986	120,150	31.3	379,486	469,419	69,084	14.7	(51,066)	
Commodities	807,401	48,884	6.1	818,150	99,323	12.1	758,917	780,069	107,346	13.8	8,023	
Telecommunications	176,700	643	0.4	176,700	1,081	0.6	176,700	181,250	16,473	9.1	15,392	
Travel	197,750	1,458	0.7	193,650	46,034	23.8	171,800	257,044	27,494	10.7	(18,540)	
Permanent Improvements	25,000	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	25,000	-	-	-	
Operation of Auto Equip	21,000	2,008	9.6	24,000	8,570	35.7	23,500	38,100	9,270	24.3	700	
Tuition Scholarships	1,299,000	788,821	60.7	1,299,000	799,048	61.5	1,299,000	1,871,930	752,764	40.2	(46,284)	
Debt Service	2,308,000	571,800	24.8	2,341,000	578,408	24.7	3,305,000	3,305,000	827,870	25.0	249,462	{E}
Total Expenditures	87,800,000	16,035,076	18.3%	90,913,000	17,863,033	19.6%	93,785,000	93,785,000	18,444,269	19.7%	581,236	
BOT Reserve Allocation	(2,500,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net Expenditures	$ 85,300,000	$ 16,035,076	18.8%	$ 90,913,000	$ 17,863,033	19.6%	$93,785,000	$93,785,000	$ 18,444,269	19.7%	$ 581,236	
Excess Revenue Over Expenditures	$ -	$ 17,891,405		$ -	$ 19,385,973		$ -	$ -	$ 21,243,805			

Notes:
1. Adopted Budget column reflects the FY2026 budget approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025.
2. The Current Budget reflects budget transfers processed between organizations and accounts.
3. "Actual Year to Date" or "Actual YTD" is current year expenses recorded or booked through October 9, 2025 and does not include encumbrances.
4. All Other Sources includes space rental and other miscellaneous fees/income (lab, transcript, NSF, late fees, etc.)

INFORMATION ITEM II. A. FY26 1ST QUARTER BUDGET TO ACTUALS REPORT

Northeastern Illinois University FY26 Q1 vs FY25 Q1 Actuals Explanation for Change

{A} Change from PY (totaling $1.7 million) relates to timing of requesting reimbursements from the State. Full State appropriation amount is expected to be exhausted by Q3.

{B} The increase in Net Tuition Revenue and Net Differential Revenue ($896K) was primarily driven by higher credit hour enrollment in FY2026 compared to FY2025, along with the increase in graduate tuition rates and the implementation of additional tuition differentials beginning Fall 2025.

{C} Investment income is mostly attributable to income earned from the Illinois Funds. Note that reimbursements from the State are deposited to the Illinois Funds. The following table presents the investment income earned per month:

	Investment Income Earned		
	As of September 2025	As of September 2024	Difference
July	$ 283,646	$ 374,486	$ (90,841)
August	274,167	344,166	(70,000)
September	270,343	331,793	(61,451)
	$ 828,155	**$ 1,050,446**	**$ (222,291)**

The $222K decrease in investment income can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the Federal Reserve's decision to reduce rates starting September 2025 and fluctuations in the investment balance.

{D} The increase in Personnel Services of $490K was driven by across-the-board raises for union and non-union employees, promotions, and equity adjustments.

{E} The increase in Debt Service of $249K is primarily due to new University-issued debt used to refinance the NEST student housing and parking obligations, and to support critical campus improvements. Previously, NEST-related payments were made through a PPP agreement paid under the contractual line, typically around December and March timeframe; starting in FY2026, the University directly covers principal and interest, which are recorded monthly under the debt service line.

INFORMATION ITEM II. A. FY26 1ST QUARTER BUDGET TO ACTUALS REPORT

Table 2
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET TO FORECAST COMPARISONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
UNAUDITED FIGURES

	Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustment	Adjusted Budget	Actual Year to Date as of 09/30/2025	Forecasted Revenue/Expenses Thru 06/30/26	Annual Forecast	Adjusted Budget Vs Annual Forecast
Revenue							
State Appropriations	$ 41,166,300	$ -	$ 41,166,300	$ 13,955,576	$ 27,210,724	$ 41,166,300	$ -
Net Tuition Revenue	47,001,700	-	47,001,700	23,997,168	23,063,493	47,060,661	58,961
Net Differential Tuition Revenue	1,617,000	-	1,617,000	656,286	1,011,265	1,667,551	50,551
Investment Income	3,400,000	-	3,400,000	828,155	2,550,000	3,378,155	(21,845)
All Other Sources	600,000	-	600,000	250,889	349,111	600,000	-
Total Revenue	**93,785,000**	**-**	**93,785,000**	**39,688,074**	**54,184,593**	**93,872,667**	**87,667**
Expenditures							
Personnel Services	73,613,490	388,643	74,002,133	14,869,588	59,058,543	73,928,131	74,002
Contractual Services	14,032,107	(1,177,052)	12,855,055	1,764,380	11,018,563	12,782,943	72,112
Equipment	379,486	89,933	469,419	69,084	384,309	453,393	16,026
Commodities	758,917	21,152	780,069	107,346	672,708	780,054	15
Telecommunications	176,700	4,550	181,250	16,473	144,819	161,292	19,958
Travel	171,800	85,244	257,044	27,494	222,334	249,828	7,216
Permanent Improvements	25,000	-	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	-
Operation of Auto Equip	23,500	14,600	38,100	9,270	28,158	37,428	672
Scholarships, Awards and Grants	1,299,000	572,930	1,871,930	752,764	1,119,166	1,871,930	-
Debt Service	3,305,000	-	3,305,000	827,870	2,477,536	3,305,406	(406)
Total Expenditures	**93,785,000**	**-**	**93,785,000**	**18,444,269**	**75,151,136**	**93,595,405**	189,595
Excess Revenue Over Expenditures	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 21,243,805**	**$ (20,966,543)**	**$ 277,262**	**$ 277,262**

Notes:
1. Adopted Budget column reflects the FY2026 budget approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025.
2. The Current Budget reflects budget transfers processed between organizations and accounts.
3. "Actual Year to Date" or "Actual YTD" is current year expenses recorded or booked through October 9, 2025 and does not include encumbrances.
4. All Other Sources includes space rental and other miscellaneous fees/income (lab, transcript, NSF, late fees, etc.)
5. "Forecasted Revenue/Expenses Thru 06/30/26" is based on historical trends, adjusted for knowledge of new initiatives/projects or spendings.
6. "Budget Adjustment" reflects net budget transfers processed between organizations and accounts.

INFORMATION ITEM II. B. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FRAMEWORK

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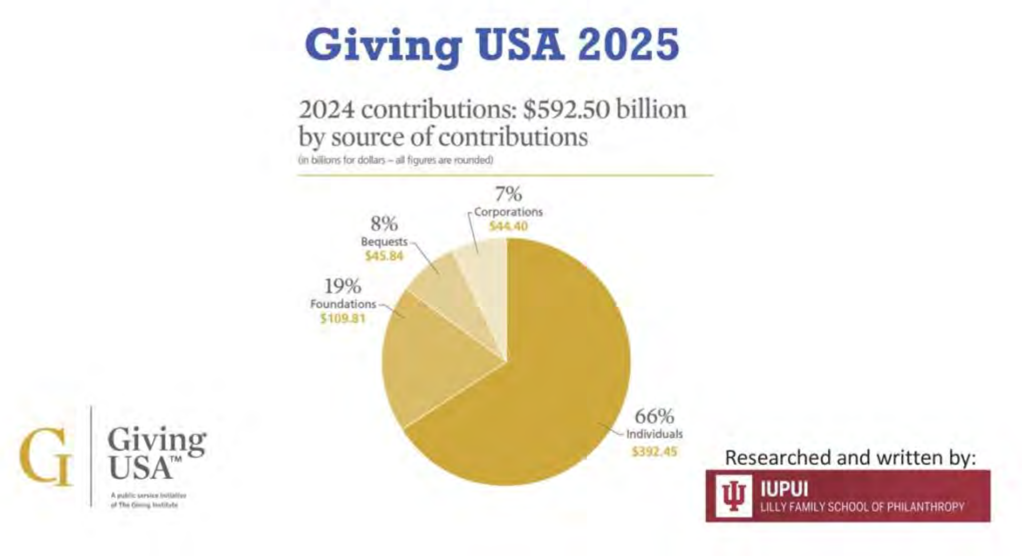

INFORMATION ITEM II. B. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FRAMEWORK

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NEIU Foundation Board

Institutional Advancement and the NEIU Foundation

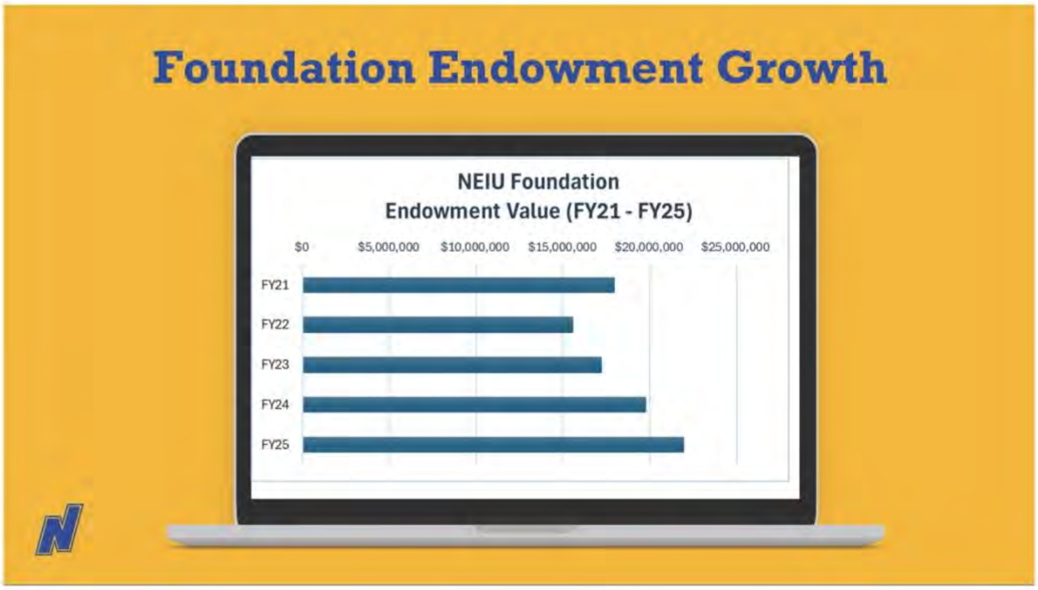
A Brief Look at Then...

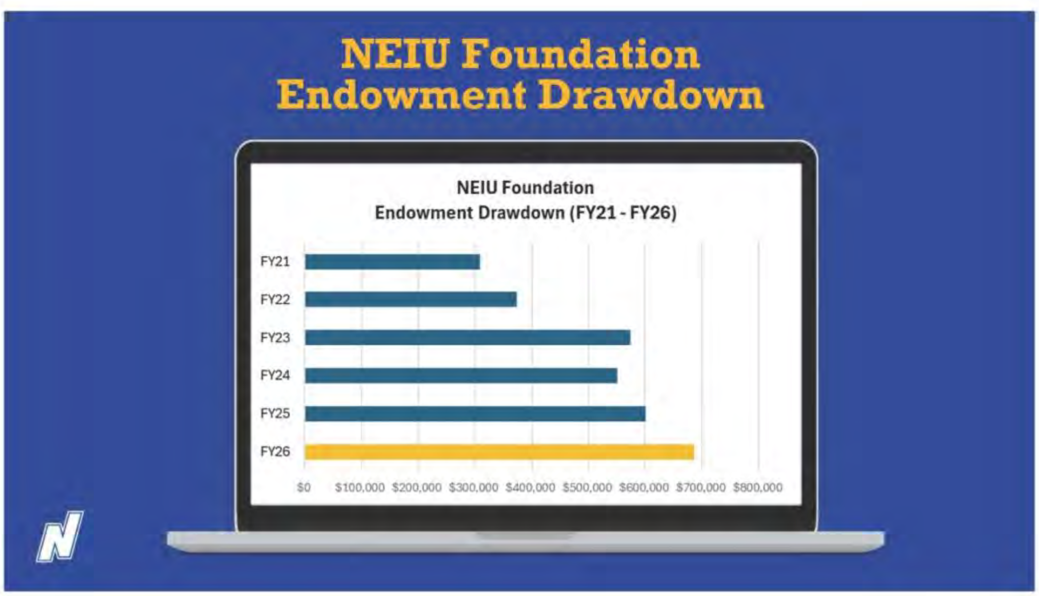
- Endowment = $2.6M (IA established 2007)
- 66 privately funded scholarships available
- 2 Fundraising Staff

And Now.

- Endowment = $22M
- 167 privately funded scholarships available
- 5 Fundraising Staff

INFORMATION ITEM II. B. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FRAMEWORK





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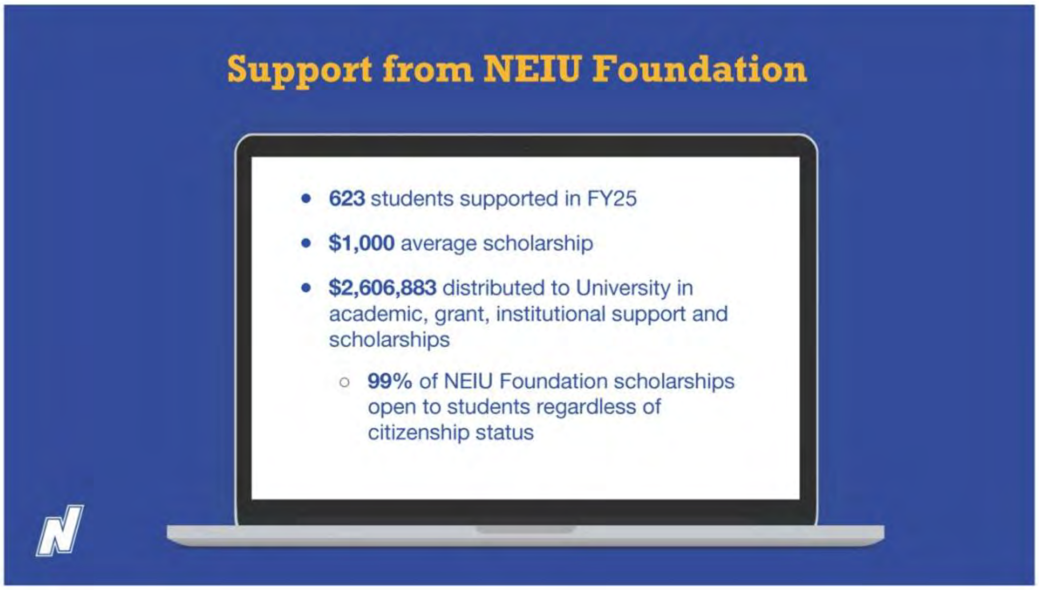

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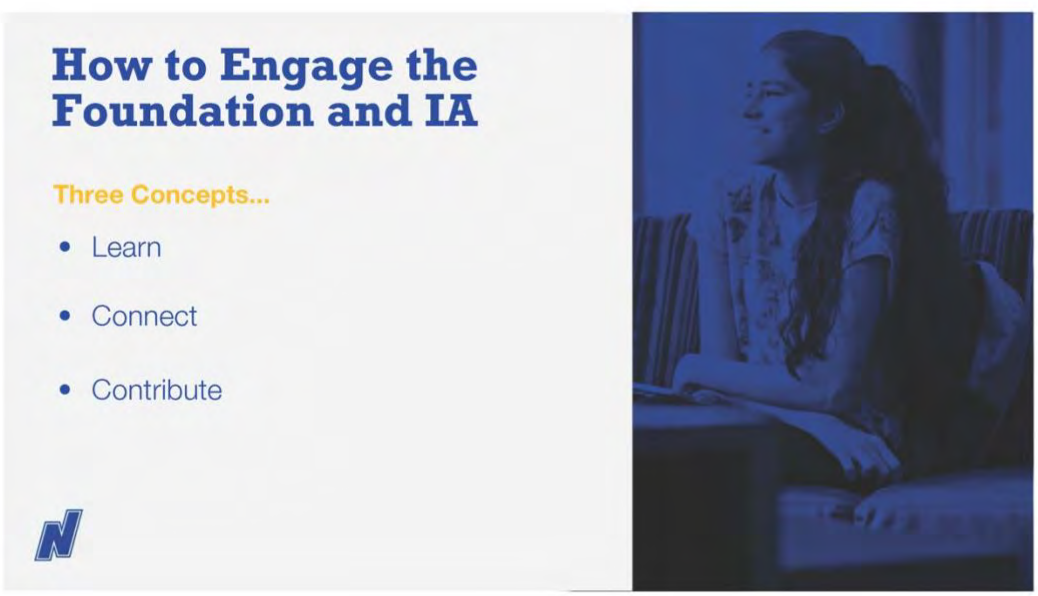

INFORMATION ITEM II. B. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FRAMEWORK

Learn

Fundraising Focus

Understanding and advocating for our priority funds:

Scholarship Funds
- Tomorrow's Teachers
- Finish Line

General Support
- Leader Fund
- Student Emergency Fund

Academic Programs
- MSN-EP Program and Simulation Laboratory
- Ed.D. Program

College / Library / El Centro / CCICS Priorities

Connect

Increase NEIU's Presence in the Community

- **Help us Network!**
  - Attend events and bring guests
  - Make your contacts known to Advancement Staff
    - Individuals, Corporations, and Foundation leaders who resonate with our values and are in decision-making positions
    - Seek Sponsorships, Internships, Mentorships, Job Opportunities and more
    - Arrange and / or attend introductory meetings

INFORMATION ITEM II. B. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FRAMEWORK

Contribute

Make a Difference with Your Gift

- All gifts make a difference
- Support from the University's Inner Circle conveys a strong message
- Gifts may be designated to a cause of your choice

The Next Fundraising Campaign

Building Our Future

Based upon the results of the Strategic Plan, NEIU will embark on an "All In" comprehensive campaign to convey NEIU's broad reach and impact. Our sophomore campaign will focus on priorities identified for philanthropic investment that flow from the University's new Strategic Plan.

Preparation Phase - Calendar Year 2026:

- Case for Support
- Planning Study
- Steering Committee Identification / Enlistment
- Campaign Budget
- Cultivation / Solicitation Activities
- Awareness Plan

INFORMATION ITEM II. B. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FRAMEWORK

INFORMATION ITEM II. C. NEWS AND EVENTS

The IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) Big Picture meeting took place on September 29th. The meeting was an opportunity to tie the University's mission to the state's economic goals.

The Veteran's Service Center, located on the fourth floor of the Ronald Williams Library, had its grand opening on October 6th.

Mr. Scott B. Sophier has been appointed the new Chief of Police and Executive Director of Campus Services effective November 3, 2025. Chief Sophier joins the NEIU Police Department after 22 years serving the City of Evanston, where he most recently served as Commander of Special Events and Community Engagement. During his tenure, he served as the Police Department Liaison to Northwestern University where he assisted in providing operational leadership and support for campus policing. Chief Sophier's leadership style emphasizes collaboration: in responding to protests, for example, he has partnered with the Special Operations Teams and protesting organizations to manage the operational planning of protest activities to ensure participant safety while maximizing free expression. A highly accomplished leader, Chief Sophier brings strong experience collaborating with community stakeholders, non-profits, and outside agencies to create a culture of safety that emphasizes free expression, harm reduction and innovation to Northeastern.

A life-long resident of Cook County, Chief Sophier holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College of Missouri, and is a graduate of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's School of Police Staff and Command. He is an instructor at North East Multi-Regional Training, where he teaches traffic crash investigation skills to other sworn personnel. He also serves as an evaluator for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board for crisis intervention training. He regularly presents on a variety of topics related to crisis intervention, de-escalation and peer support and officer wellness.

Institutional Advancement News September - December 2025

NEIU Alumni Relations Strategic Plan Presentation (September 24, 2025) – the Director of Alumni Relations presented the new three-year Alumni Relations strategic plan to the President's Cabinet focusing on the 5 core goals and related annual action items to strengthen the Office of Alumni Relations and NEIU Alumni Association to engage NEIU's 90,000 alumni community:

- Goal 1: Foster University-wide Collaboration
- Goal 2: Build Alumni Engagement
- Goal 3: Create a Culture of Alumni Volunteerism
- Goal 4: Institute a Tradition of Alumni Philanthropy
- Goal 5: Expand Alumni Communications Outreach

Launch of the *Golden Eagle Quarterly* (October 2, 2025) - The NEIU Alumni Association launched the first issue of the *Golden Eagle Quarterly*. The quarterly member-only newsletter engages alumni by sharing upcoming events, involvement opportunities, and key membership benefits such as discounts and professional development resources.

The first issue saw over *1,400 successful deliveries and a 51.3% open rate*, reflecting strong interest in this communication piece. Each edition highlights the impact of alumni contributions, showcasing how the NEIUAA supports scholarships, academic initiatives, recruitment, retention, and cultural programs that enhance the NEIU student and alumni experience. Overall, the response shows promising upward mobility of engagement of alumni donors.

INFORMATION ITEM II. C. NEWS AND EVENTS

NEIU Night at Chicago Fire FC (October 4, 2025) - The Office of Alumni Relations organized NEIU Night at Soldier Field when the Chicago Fire FC took on the Toronto FC. This marked the first official event with the Chicago Fire and also gave ticket holders an exclusive co-branded NEIU x Chicago Fire scarf! NEIU has already been offered the opportunity to come back next season.

Kendra Scott x NEIU partnership (Oct 28-29, 2025) - The Assistant Director of Alumni Relations organized a new partnership with Kendra Scott, a jewelry brand, and hosted them at the Commencement Resource Fair on the main campus for future graduates to treat themselves to a new necklace, bracelet, or earrings prior to graduation in December. We’ve also secured an in-store shopping event at their Old Orchard Mall in Skokie, IL location on Friday, November 21, 2025 from 6-8pm. 20% of every purchase will be donated to the NEIU Alumni Association and the promotion is valid in-store and online with code GIVEBACK-KMCKA on KendraScott.com.

Amplify | Elevate (November 6, 2025) – the Vice President of Institutional Advancement partnered with the Director of Alumni Relations and IA and AR colleagues to plan, manage and execute the annual Amplify | Elevate event at the University Club of Chicago. Hosted by NEIU Foundation Board President Olga Camargo, this annual engagement event serves as an opportunity for NEIU’s board members, community leaders, alumni, volunteers, and high-level donors to celebrate the mission and impact of the University and discover ways to support our diverse students on the pathways to success.

Faculty/Staff/Retiree donor appreciation event: “Hot Beverage Happy Hour” (Nov 13, 2025) - For the second year, the Manager of Stewardship and Communication planned and executed the Faculty/Staff/Retiree donor appreciation event, Hot Beverage Happy Hour. With a fall theme and hosted over custom hot beverages and baked goods, the event thanks and builds relationships with those employees and retirees who contributed to the University in the previous fiscal year.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution Outreach - This fall, the NEIU Foundation conducted a targeted reminder campaign for donors aged 70 ½ and older regarding the tax advantages of making Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from their IRAs before December 31, 2025. A 6 x 9 postcard was mailed to approximately 5,000 households in mid-September, followed by a standalone e-blast to more than 17,000 recipients in October. Similar information was included in the October and November editions of *New@NEIU*, Institutional Advancement’s e-newsletter.

Giving Tuesday - December 2
The University’s 11th annual campus-wide Giving Tuesday initiative engaged 46 programs and departments - our “Champions” - each hosting customized crowdfunding pages to support peer-to-peer giving. The NEIU Foundation set a goal of $60,000 for the 2025 campaign, and achieved $80,301 in one day. This represents a significant accomplishment as the campaign exceeded its goal without the benefit of a major gift received that day. By comparison, last year’s total of just over $85,000 included a single $20,000 gift; excluding that gift the 2024 campaign generated approximately $65,000.

The Institutional Advancement team will continue to analyze the results, including donor counts, average gift size, new donor acquisition, and year-over-year trends, to assess growth and identify opportunities for continued innovation.

Academic Affairs News

HLC Microcredentialling Workshop Series: A team from NEIU is one of 12-15 institutions participating in a Design Camp Pilot Workshop on Microcredentials launched in Fall 2025 by the HLC's Credential Lab Innovation Center. NEIU's team of five, which draws from each of the three colleges, the Registrar's office

INFORMATION ITEM II. C. NEWS AND EVENTS

and Academic Affairs, will design and lead the implementation of an action plan for a Credit-based Microcredential initiative at NEIU. The series of workshops started in October 2025 and runs through February, 2026.

HLC Comprehensive Evaluation Site Visit scheduled for April 2028: Northeastern Illinois University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and will be due for its next 10-year cycle of comprehensive evaluation in 2027-2028. As part of the accreditation process, NEIU is required to submit an assurance filing to HLC by March 20, 2028, which will be followed by a site visit by the HLC peer review team on *April 17-18, 2028*.