ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
Academic Affairs Update to the
ASAET Committee

Interim Provost Shayne Cofer
January 15, 2026

Updates from Academic Affairs: Interim Provost Shayne Cofer

Initiatives to grow enrollment, serve students and engage with partners and community, updates from the colleges:

College of Arts and Sciences

College of Business and Technology

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

College of Graduate Studies and Research

**Success Through Service:
Responding to Community,
Workforce, and Regional Needs**

Tim Libretti, Dean
Amanda Dykema-Engblade, Acting Associate Dean
Ken Voglesonger, Acting Associate Dean

College of Arts and Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences

- Approximately 30 UG, 15 Grad, 12 accelerated, 60 minors and 10 certificate programs
- Student Center for Science Engagement (SCSE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Center (SHARC)
- Preprofessional Advising
- Scholarships
- Student-centric Faculty

Curriculum Development

New (re-packaged) curriculum   *"I didn't know I could do that at NEIU"*

    Forensic Psychology

    Neuroscience

    Pre-Law Minor

    Post-Bac Pre-Health Certificate

In the pipeline

    Pre-Nursing Certificate

    TESOL Undergrad Certificate

    GES/ESCI Reconfiguration

Other notables

    Music, Actuarial Science, Museum Studies, PUENTES (Pathways toward University Education that Navigates Transitions Essential for Spanish Speakers), Dual Enrollment/Credit

Highlighting the Social Value of the CAS

- Career Readiness
  - Core Competencies
  - IMPACTOS (Grant funded)
  - ARCOS (Grant funded)
  - Fundraising

- Human Rights Theme Semester
  - Foreground CAS programs and their value for students while underscoring the problem-solving utility of the CAS curriculum (couples with our career readiness initiative).
  - Over 50 course offerings across the CAS
  - Approximately 10 co-curricular activities (e.g., GHRAD)
  - Numerous community and governmental partnerships

Community Partners/Relationship

- Black Ensemble Theater
- Silk Road Cultural Center
- Teatro Vista
- CIRCA-Pintig (Center for Immigrant Resources and Community Arts)
- North River Commission
- MWRD
- Friends of the Chicago River
- MSI
- Chicago Sky
- Field Museum
- International Servant Leader Museum
- School relationships
- BoA Half and Full Marathon
- History: Midwest Social Sciences Education Hub
- Music: Suzuki Institute

Questions?

College of Business and Technology: Dean Michael Bedell

- To facilitate enrollment growth, CBT is focused on relevant programs, access, innovation, and college specific marketing.
- Relevant Degree Programs
    - Ongoing Executive Council input to keep curriculum relevant
    - *AI Degree in Computer Science; AI for All course*
    - Entrepreneurship minor update to include practicum elements for business & non-business students
    - Changes to the Accounting degree – a.k.a. the return of 120 credit hours
    - Coursera integration into career preparation and curriculum
    - More professional experiences to enhance program value
        - Internships with BIG founders and neighborhood businesses and course projects with outside businesses (LUX Block, TMI Inc, Skinny Cana, Chez Adele, Tin Roof Theatre)

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Business and Technology

AACSB ACCREDITED

ABET Computing Accreditation Commission

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Business and Technology

- Relevant Community Institute Programs
    - *Partnership with NDP for both business and CS degree completion (ACE)*
    - Coursera Certificates
    - Neighborhood focused "executive education"
- Access
    - *CBT computer lab now cloud based*
    - Intelligent scheduling based on the "voice of the student"
- Innovation
    - *Generative Artificial Intelligence integration into the curriculum*
    - Coursera based AI prompt engineering program for faculty/staff
- CBT Marketing/Recruiting
    - *Lightcast*
    - *LLM.txt – Generative AI landing spot for our web page*
    - Social Media Marketing Team 365
    - Extend MOUs for grad degree students from overseas: UBI, COOP
- Things we are pondering: Doctoral programs…

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education: Dean Thomas Philion

Enrollment-Driving Initiatives:

- **Tomorrow's Teachers Apprenticeship Program (Undergraduate)**
    - ► 2025-2027 ILDCEO Apprenticeship Expansion Grant
    - ► 2026 – 2028 Job Training Grant Program – due Jan 16 to the ILDCEO

- **Online Rehabilitation Counseling Program (MA degree)**
    - ► 2025-2030 Rehabilitation Long Term Training Grant
    - ► Proposal to move program online in Fall 2026 with one tuition rate for in-state and out-of-state students

- **GCOE Outreach Coordinator**

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education (Continued)

Enrollment-Driving Initiatives:

- **Ed.D. in Leadership, Equity & Inquiry**
    - ► First cohort recruitment in process, classes begin August 2026

- **Masters of Science in Nursing, Entry into Program (MSN-EP)**
    - ► Simulation Lab – Feb.1 completion
    - ► HLC approval - Fall 2026 target completion
    - ► Initial hires – Summer and Fall 2026
    - ► Program launch – Fall 2027

- **CAEP Accreditation**

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Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

College of Graduate Studies and Research: Dean Marcelo Sztainberg

Overview: Fall 2025 Listening Tour

From October 29th to December 18th, CGSR held **33 one-hour meetings** and met with **32 programs**, including 4 certificate and endorsements programs (in GCOE).

- 15 programs in the College of Arts and Sciences (14 meetings)
- 3 programs in the College of Business and Management (3 meetings)
- 24 programs in the College of Education (*16 meetings)
  - *Note: Multi-program meetings were held for Counselor Education, Public Health and Exercise Science, and Secondary Education.*

The meetings included representatives of each program, one associate dean from the college where the program 'sits', Tim Sheahan and the CGSR staff.

Follow-up meetings with each program will occur in Spring of 2026.

College of Graduate Studies and Research (Cont'd)

Core Areas of CGSR Support

Each listening tour meeting opened with a brief CGSR review of:

- **Supporting Structures:** Policies put in place to sustain and improve graduate education.
- **Environment**: Efforts to enhance graduate student experiences outside of their classes such as orientations, ceremonies, symposia
- **Funding:** Current assistance including research and creative assistantships, course tuition waivers as well as ongoing efforts to secure other fundings such as through endowments
- **Opportunities:** Furthering relationships between and across NEIU colleges, with community organizations and businesses

College of Graduate Studies and Research (Cont'd)

Questions to Facilitate Conversation

Ahead of each meeting, programs received questions for consideration about program updates, program offerings, course modality and program growth.

After learning about CGSR's core areas of support, programs were encouraged to lead the meetings. Underlying questions asked were:

- **Who does your program serve? (Whom do you want it to serve?)**
- **What are your program's goals?**
- **What opportunities do you see for your program?**
- **What challenges does your program face?**

College of Graduate Studies and Research (Cont'd)

Initial Focal Initiatives

- **Supporting Structures:**
  - Accelerated program implementation and support, including 2+2+1
  - Development of micro-credentials that include cross-programmatic options
  - Cost of fully online degree programs

- **Environment**:
  - Support for orientations, possibly by College
  - Ongoing surveying of students regarding preferred course/program modality

- **Funding:**
  - Continuance of strategic waivers
  - Grant-funded graduate assistantships
  - New fundraising opportunities to support endowed GAs or other needs

- **Opportunities:**
  - Enhanced collaboration with the Center for College Access & Success to improve awareness of our programs in school districts and community organizations
  - Cross-program collaboration to develop partnerships with local businesses and schools

Enrollment Updates

Claudia Mercado, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management
January 9, 2026

Enrollment Summary

✅ Fall 2025 Headcount
✅ Fall 2025 Retention
❏ FY' 26 Credit Hours, in progress (next slide)
❏ Fall 2026 Headcount, starts in March
❏ Fall 2026 Retention, currently tracking
❏ FY' 27 Credit Hours, starts in March

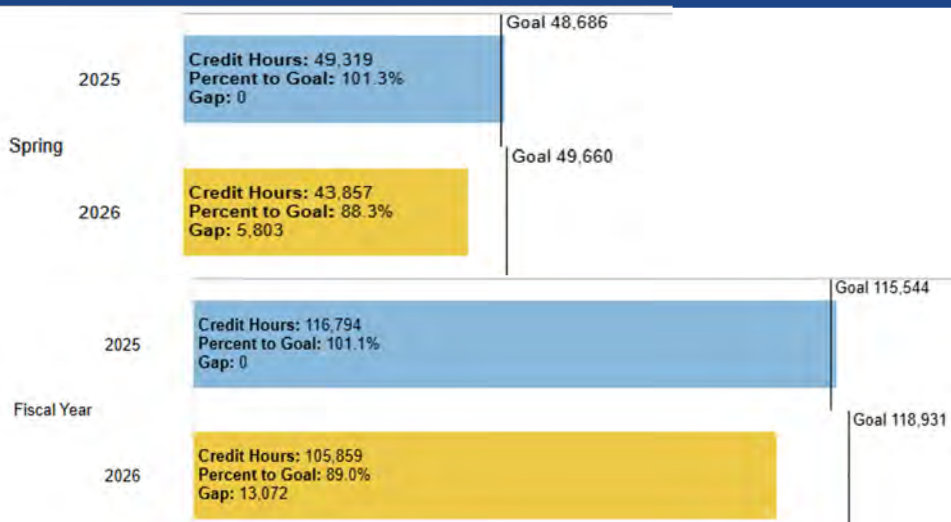# Enrollment Summary, Spring 2026

Headcount

Compared to Spring 2025, we have an increase of 71 students, equivalent to a +1.8% increase.

Credit Hours

Compared to Spring 2025, we have an increase of 833 credit hours, equivalent to a +2.0% increase.

5,803 credit hours remain to reach the Spring 2026 goal.

Enrollment Summary Credit Hours

Spring

2025 — Credit Hours: 49,319 / Percent to Goal: 101.3% / Gap: 0 — Goal 48,686

2026 — Credit Hours: 43,857 / Percent to Goal: 88.3% / Gap: 5,803 — Goal 49,660

Fiscal Year

2025 — Credit Hours: 116,794 / Percent to Goal: 101.1% / Gap: 0 — Goal 115,544

2026 — Credit Hours: 105,859 / Percent to Goal: 89.0% / Gap: 13,072 — Goal 118,931

Student Success and Retention: Interim AVP Irma Ortiz
Retention Update

- Early AR hold (continued pilot effort)
  - < 45 credit hours, $500 balance, not Hope Chicago, AFTER financial aid applied
  - Initial debt: $2.97M (627 students)
  - Amount recovered: $2.15M - reduction of 72%

- NEIUStar Progress Survey results and continued effort to increase faculty participation
  - Attendance Survey 39.3% completion
  - Progress Survey 1 55.8% completion
  - Progress Survey 2 67.7% completion

- Fall to Spring Retention
  - 1/5/26 70.9.3%*, +3.2 percentage points compared to last year
  - Project Success +17 percentage points compared to last year

Northeastern Illinois University

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee

The Nest

TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

January 15, 2026

Dr. Terry C. Mena, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

Completed Actions:

- ✓ American Campus Communities (ACC) management agreement to support a 9-month operational transition
- ✓ The Director of Housing & Residence Life national search completed
- ✓ Selected eRezLife for new housing CRM & Kick off sessions for integration
- ✓ Complete assessment of mechanical audit and maintenance history.
- ✓ Complete assessment of technology, hardware, servers, security, risk management, and facilities elements.
- ✓ Enrollment Management, Marketing and ACC Coordination Meeting
- ✓ Revised FY2026 Operational Budget for 9-month ACC Management Services
- ✓ Draft new Housing Lease & 2026-2027 Leasing Rates

Next Major Actions:

- ❑ Launch Living Learning Communities application for 2026
- ❑ Complete vendor agreement transitions and oversight
- ❑ Onboard Housing Director
- ❑ Finalize staffing model and hired key housing, facilities, custodial, and student staff
- ❑ Finalize FY 2027 NEST budget
- ❑ Launch comprehensive marketing and communications plan
- ❑ Launch new NEST website, social media, and publications
- ❑ Release 2026–27 housing application and lease in eRezLife
- ❑ Complete property and inventory transfers
- ❑ Re-launch Goldie Bucks food card swipe program
- ❑ Achieve full operational oversight under Student Affairs and Housing & Residence Life by May 29

Questions?

University Technology Services
Digital Transformation & Area Initiatives

ASAET January 2026
Northeastern Illinois University

Eliot Allan Rodriguez
Chief Information Officer

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Initiative Spotlight: Artificial Intelligence (AI) @ NEIU

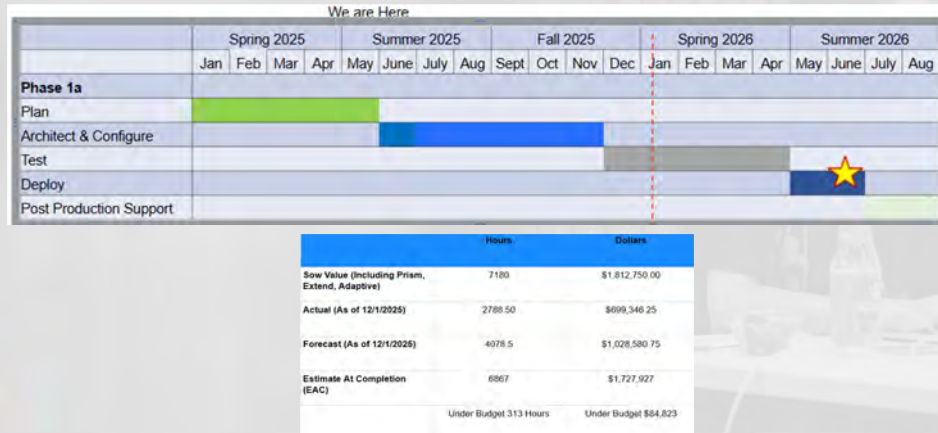| AI Governance Plan			
Phases	**Activites**	**Status**	**Timeframe**
Phase 1	• **Obtain additional consulting services to assist with reviewing our governance, risk management and strategic readiness for AI technologies**	In Progress	Jan - Feb
	• Work with University Leadership to Establish an AI Governance committee in collaboration with the existing University Data Governance Group	Pending	Feb - Mar
	• Establish a University Wide AI Policy and Usage Guidelines	In progress	Feb - Mar
	• Inventory existing AI systems and assign ownership (RACI matrix)	Pending	Mar - May
Phase 2	• Develop AI risk framework and system classification	Pending	Jan - Feb
	• Conduct risk assessments on existing and new AI projects	Pending	Mar - Apr
	• Establish processes for continuous monitoring and auditing	Pending	?
Phase 3	• Provide employee training/guidance on responsible AI use	In progress	Feb - Mar
	• Monitor compliance through audits and usage analysis	Will be a continuous process	

Note: *While the governance framework is being developed, University Technology Services continues to evaluate requests for the use of generative AI tools on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, guidelines and training to promote responsible use of AI are provided.*

Initiative Spotlight: Workday Finance

Status:
The initiative at this time remains on track for a July 1, 2026 Go Live. Some components of the initiative are ahead of schedule as some testing has already begun. Training plans are being reviewed with the consultant vendor and Change MGT Team as well to begin Training rollout later in the spring.

		Hours	Dollars
Sow Value (Including Prism, Extend, Adaptive)		7180	$1,812,750.00
Actual (As of 12/1/2025)		2788.50	$699,346.25
Forecast (As of 12/1/2025)		4078.5	$1,028,580.75
Estimate At Completion (EAC)		6867	$1,727,927
		Under Budget 313 Hours	Under Budget $84,823

Webex- Project Milestones				
Phase	**Area**	**Status**	**Major milestones**	**Timeframe**
Phase 1 Foundations	Contact Center	Completed	Webex Customer Assist live with agents, queues, and reporting	Nov - Dec 18
Phase 2 Infrastructure	Core Voice & Devices	Completed	Phone migration and core Webex Calling infrastructure	November 25 - Jan 26
Phase 3 Validation	Pilot Testing & Safety Compliance	On going	SSO, E911 validation, and user/admin training underway	Jan - March 2026
Phase 4 Training	Legacy Integration & Staff Training	Ongoing	• 3 Analog Gateways & 20 ATAs • Auto Attendants & Hunt Groups • Conduct multiple Training sessions for NEIU team members	Ongoing
Phase 5 Launch	Go live	On Track	March 2026 go-live confirmed; major milestones progressing as planned	Go-Live: Mar 2026

Initiative Spotlight: University Phone System Modernization - Webex Calling

Current Costs: On-Premises Solution & 3rd Party Platforms

Service	5 Year	Annual
Cisco On Prem	257,400	51,480
Cisco Webex Spark Flex	422,400	84,480
Webex Contact Center	341,352	68,270.40
E-911	62,000	12,400
	$1,083,152.00	$216,630.40

Future Costs: Service Consolidation & Transition to Cloud platform

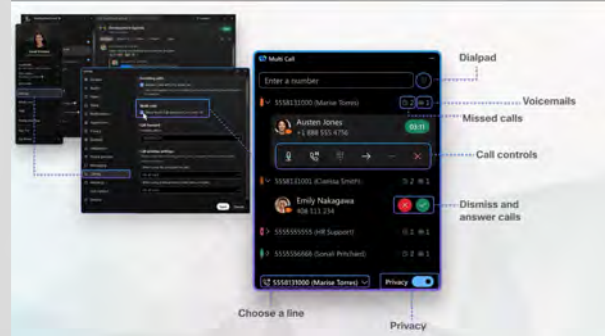| Service	5 Year	Annual
Webex Calling	$362,152	$72,430.80

Cost savings: 66.55% | 5 Year: $721,000.00 | Annual: $144,199.60

Webex Calling Key Benefits:
- Lower Overhead
- Built-In Compliance
- Unified Experience
- Simplified Management & Real-time Analytics
- Scalable & Reliable with Disaster Resilience

5

UTS Area Report

Client Services

Key Initiative in Progress

Initiative	ETA
Phase 2 Faculty & Staff Computer Refresh Procurement	Spring - Summer 2026
Phase 2 Printer Refresh Procurement	Spring - Summer 2026
Phase 2 Computer Refresh Procurement	Spring - Summer 2026

Student Impact:

- Continuing to modernize classrooms & printing with the latest technologies for enhanced student learning & printing experiences

Area Summary

First point of contact for all technology support at NEIU, and includes the IT Services Desk & Media Services Group. The group also collaborates with the university in support of new technology initiatives being rolled out.

IT Security

Key Initiative in Progress

Initiative	ETA
Development of the University's Artificial Intelligence Policy and Governance Process	Ongoing
DUO MFA security enhance for employees	Ongoing
Advanced email security implementation	Ongoing

Student Impact:
- Strengthened account access protections
- Ensures payment processed are handled securely & in compliance
- Ensures IT systems and user computers maintain secure postures to prevent loss of data and disruption to critical IT services.

Area Summary

Oversees the protection of all assets, data/information systems and processes that enable the university to fulfill its critical mission, and ensure compliance with current IT Security standards.

IT Infrastructure

Key Initiative in Progress

Initiative	ETA
Modernization of Telephony system to a cloud based phone system	Spring 2026

Student Impact:

- Greater accessibility to the University phone system even in the event of a natural disaster.

- Further Enhancement and Modernization of the One Stop Center phone communications with reporting.
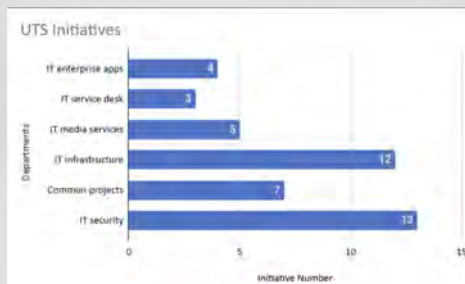
Area Summary

Oversees the management, analysis, maintenance and management and support of the entire network infrastructure & telecommunications systems for NEIU.

IT Project Management

UTS Current Initiatives: 44

Key Initiative in Progress

Initiative	ETA
Digitization of PM Business Process for Greater Accessibility	Fall 2025 - Spring 2026
Assessment of Project Management Platforms	Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

Area Summary

Oversees the planning, coordination and delivery of technology-based initiatives at NEIU. Ensuring projects are executed efficiently, on time, and in alignment with the university's strategic goals.

Thank you

Contact Info:
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