

March 25, 2026

Action Item: FY2026 Tenure Awards

Faculty Member

Academic Department

Garo Agopian

Management and Marketing

Sheng Liu

Business Law, Accounting and Finance

Mohammad Tavakolifar

Business Law, Accounting and Finance

Garo Agopian earned his Ph.D. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. Dr. Agopian teaches undergraduate courses in marketing — particularly social media marketing, mobile marketing, and marketing management — and has also taught in the MBA program. He has contributed to curriculum development in both existing and emerging areas, including launching the Mobile Marketing course. Dr. Agopian's research focuses on the intersection of branding, social media marketing, and consumer behavior, with particular emphasis on the presentation and perception of expertise, social influence, social anxiety, personal brands, and related cultural and individual factors.

Sheng Liu earned his Ph.D. in Accounting from Drexel University. Dr. Liu teaches undergraduate courses in financial accounting, managerial accounting, and data analytics, as well as accounting courses in the MBA program. He has contributed to curriculum development, including developing Data Analytics in Accounting and integrating analytics across the accounting curriculum. Dr. Liu's research focuses on financial and managerial accounting and auditing within supply-chain contexts, examining how strategic alignment between suppliers and customers affects firms' financial performance, audit pricing, and the longevity of supply chain relationships.

Mohammad Tavakolifar earned a Ph.D. in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Morgan State University. Dr. Tavakolifar teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in accounting, where he integrates data analytics into the curriculum, mentors student research, serves as coordinator of the accounting programs and as the primary academic advisor for master's students in Accounting. Dr. Tavakolifar's research focuses on voluntary financial and nonfinancial disclosures, and has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals in the accounting field. He is actively engaged in academic and professional service through participation in national and international scholarly associations and professional accounting organizations.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
Academic Affairs Update to the
ASAET Committee

Interim Provost Shayne Cofer
March 19, 2026

Updates from Academic Affairs: Interim Provost Shayne Cofer

- First Year Experience (FYE): Graduation requirement for Freshmen
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC) multi-location visit: March 9-11, 2026
 - University Center of Lake County (UCLC)
 - El Centro
 - Curruthers Center (virtual)HLC reviewer met with directors of these locations, academic/student support staff, chairs, faculty and students

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)



(continued)

- 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...

Graduate Programs Pilot: Online Programs at NEIU with "Flat-Rate" Tuition • Beni Ortiz, VP Finance and Administration

Focus Programs

- MA in Rehabilitation Counseling (15 students – Fall 2025)
- MS in Exercise and Sport Science (32 students – Fall 2025)
- Masters in Public Health (38 students – Fall 2025)

Context: 90% of peer (public) institutions across the Midwest offer flat rate tuition

New: These will be NEIU's first fully online programs, with the opportunity to expand our target student population to neighboring states.

Pilot Program: proposed 3-year ramp up, to allow for recruitment and marketing efforts



FA 2026

Enrollment Update:

Undergraduate and Graduate

ASAET Committee Meeting
Northeastern Illinois University

Ryan Trout, Director
Undergraduate Admissions

Tim Sheahan, Director
Graduate Admissions

Undergraduate Admissions

Application Funnel:

Freshmen

- One Click Admit, IBHE

Transfer

- CCC Partnership

Readmit

- ReUp



Visit Options

Campus Tours

Preview Days

Open Houses

1:1 Meeting with Recruiter



Attend a Preview Day

Make your college decision with confidence. As you stroll through Main Campus, step into a classroom and envision what your life at NEIU can look like. We offer a limited number of Preview Days each semester.

[Attend a Preview Day](#)

[Visit NEIU, Undergraduate](#)

Graduate Admissions

Application Funnel:

Degree Seeking

- Additional staff support

Certificate

- Strategic plan

Doctoral

- New pipeline



Ed.D. in Leadership, Equity & Inquiry Launch

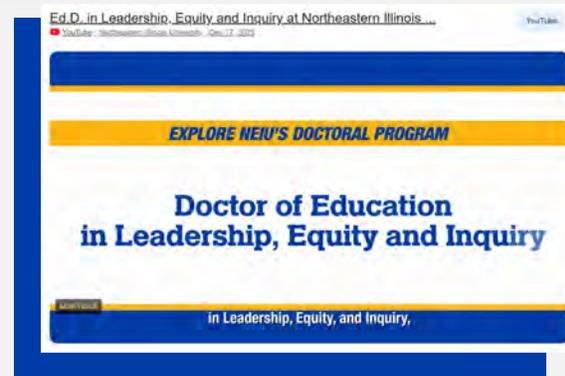
Many Visit Options

Expanding offerings of visit options such as the Graduate Open Houses, virtual visits and on-campus visits.

Next Visit Day:

Thursday, March 26th

5:00 PM until 7:30 PM



[Youtube Video](#)

Questions?



Retention Update

- Early AR hold (continued pilot effort)
 - -45 credit hours, \$500 balance, not Hope Chicago, AFTER financial aid applied
 - Initial debt: \$1.4M, 358 students
- NEIUSar Progress Survey results and continued effort to increase faculty participation

Fall 2025	Spring 2026
○ Attendance Survey 39.3% completion	46.5% completion +7.2
○ Progress Survey 1 55.8% completion	57.9% completion +2.1
○ Progress Survey 2 67.7% completion	underway
- Fall to Spring Retention 80.8% (compared to 79.9% AY25, +.8)
 - Asian 90.3%
 - Hispanic 81.7%
 - White 78.6%
 - Black 77.8%





Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee Northeastern Illinois University

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

March 19, 2026

NEST Updates

Spring 2026

- Total Leases: 340
 - Renewal: Unavailable
 - New Leases: Unavailable
- Current Occupancy Rate: 80.1%
Target Occupancy Rate: 80%

Spring 2025: 326 / 76%

Prior Occupancy

Fall 2025: 385 / 93.5%
Goal: 95%
Fall 2024: 393 / 94%
Goal: 92%
Summer 2025: 85 / 20%
Goal: 50%



As of March 6, 2025



NEST Charges, Payments, Balances Fall 2025

Cohort	# of Students	Lease Amount	Housing Scholarship Applied	Paid by Other sources	Outstanding Lease Balance
Afghan Transition Program	7	\$43,587.36	\$0.00	\$43,587.36	\$0.00
CASEP Housing	12	\$64,860.00	\$28,382.00	\$33,787.60	\$2,690.40
CBT Housing	13	\$70,175.06	\$30,780.00	\$30,745.42	\$8,649.64
Discover Yourself	20	\$105,240.29	\$47,201.00	\$50,206.11	\$7,833.18
Future Teachers	14	\$75,870.19	\$33,686.00	\$42,184.19	\$0.00
General Student	209	\$1,124,015.56	\$5,000.00	\$973,853.69	\$145,161.87
HOPE Chicago	53	\$289,643.64	\$0.00	\$219,700.59	\$69,943.05
Honors Housing	15	\$81,075.00	\$51,253.00	\$29,712.00	\$110.00
STEM Housing	20	\$105,998.06	\$56,358.00	\$47,654.41	\$1,985.65
Social Justice Housing	19	\$98,230.87	\$41,794.00	\$56,436.87	\$0.00
Total	382	\$2,058,696.03	\$338,041.36	\$1,484,280.88	\$236,373.79

Source: Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Student Account Receivable

Note:

- Student account data may change due to ongoing transactions, adjustments, and updates. Figures reflect information available as of **March 10, 2026**.
- Lease Amount & Outstanding Lease Balance do not include charges related to overages or lock outs.
- Other sources include out-of-pocket payments, loans, federal, state, and institutional aid after covering tuition and fees



Questions?





University Technology Services

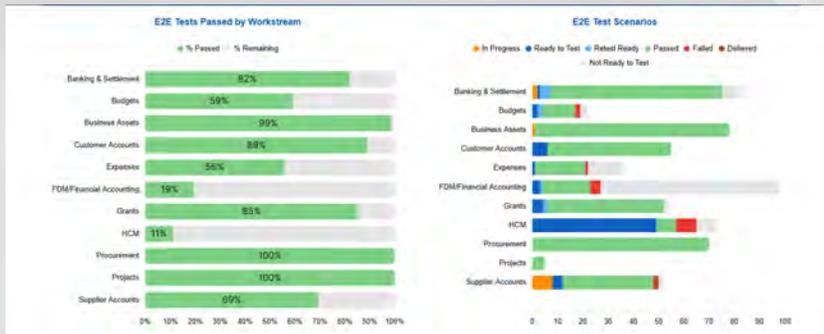
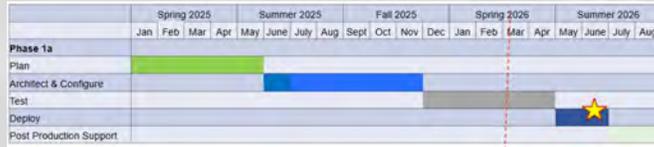
Digital Transformation & Area Initiatives

ASAET March 2026
Northeastern Illinois University

Eliot Allan Rodriguez
Chief Information Officer

Initiative Spotlight: Workday Finance

The initiative remains on schedule for a July 1, 2026 go-live. The project is currently in the end-to-end testing phase, with approximately 66% of required testing completed.



Initiative Spotlight: Enterprise Productivity & Collaboration Tools Assessment

Purpose

- Evaluate **Microsoft Office 365** as a potential enterprise collaboration and productivity platform.
- Compare capabilities with the University's current **Google Workspace environment**.
- Assess **cost sustainability and long-term platform strategy** following recent Google pricing changes.

Assessment Approach

- Pilot participation across campus units.
- **User feedback and focus groups** with faculty, staff, and administrators.
- Evaluation of **collaboration tools, system integrations, security, and user experience**.

Strategic Context

- **Microsoft 365 is the primary collaboration platform for all Illinois public universities.**
- This pilot ensures the University's technology strategy remains **aligned with peer institutions and long-term cost considerations**.
- The assessment will ensure we remain competitive with other institution offerings

Next Steps

- Continue pilot testing and campus engagement.
- Complete **comparative evaluation of Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace**.
- Provide **recommendations to University leadership**.



Access to the Office 365 Pilot: <https://www.neiu.edu/office365>



Thank you



Contact Info:

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