
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
Academic Affairs Update to the
ASAET Committee

Interim Provost Shayne Cofer
May 20, 2026

Updates from Academic Affairs: Interim Provost Shayne Cofer

1. Report from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) multi-location visit

NEIU completed a peer reviewer visit in March 2026 to its additional locations at University Center of Lake County (UCLC); El Centro and Carruthers Center (virtual). In April 2026, NEIU received a positive report on this visit from HLC.

“Visits to each of these locations demonstrated the diversity of services provided to meet the needs of the diverse NEIU learner and the communities the university serves. NEIU is to be commended for its use of these locations to embrace the needs of the communities that showed up to the sessions (the first two in the pouring rain) to tell the story of how much NEIU has improved their lives.”

“The locations visited for NEIU demonstrate compliance with all of the required elements to the highest level.”

Academic Affairs is particularly appreciative of the directors and staff at these locations, and the faculty and chairs that teach there, for the hard work and engagement with the HLC peer reviewer visits.

2. Update on consolidation and redesign of BA in Geography and Environmental Studies and B.S. in Applied Geosciences

In AY 2023-24 Academic Affairs paused admissions to the B.S. in Earth Science due to low enrollment and asked the Earth Science, Geography and Environmental Studies programs to look into consolidation.

Following a redesign, the three distinct bachelor's degree programs resulted in two distinct programs with two concentrations each.

- B.A. in Geography and Environmental Studies, with two concentrations: Geography concentration and Environmental Studies concentration
- B.S. in Applied Geosciences with two concentrations: Geodata and Geospatial Analysis concentration and Earth Ecosystem Resource Management concentration

Awaiting IBHE approval of our request of a Reasonable Modification and Extension (RME).

Enrollment Updates



Claudia Mercado, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management

May 6, 2026

Enrollment Summary

- Fall 2025 Headcount
- Fall 2025 Retention
 - FY' 26 Credit Hours, in progress
 - Fall 2026 Headcount, in progress
 - Fall 2026 Retention, in progress
 - FY' 27 Credit Hours, in progress

Enrollment Summary, SU and FA 2026

Headcount

Fall 2026 undergraduate headcount is currently up by 34 students, reflecting a current enrollment gain of 17.7%

Fall 2026 graduate headcount is currently up by 25 students, reflecting a gain of 24.8%

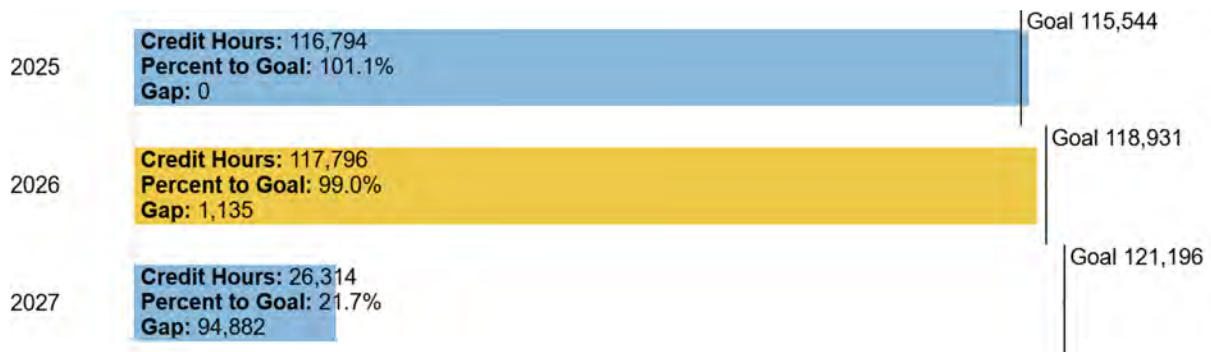
Both enrollment gains reflect earlier onboarding experiences by undergraduate freshmen and graduate students. Transfer students are currently lagging behind in registration however have an 18.7% increase in Intents To Enroll (ITE's on May 6)

Credit Hours

Summer credit hours total 10,839.0, down -453.0 compared to this time last year (-4.2% YOY)

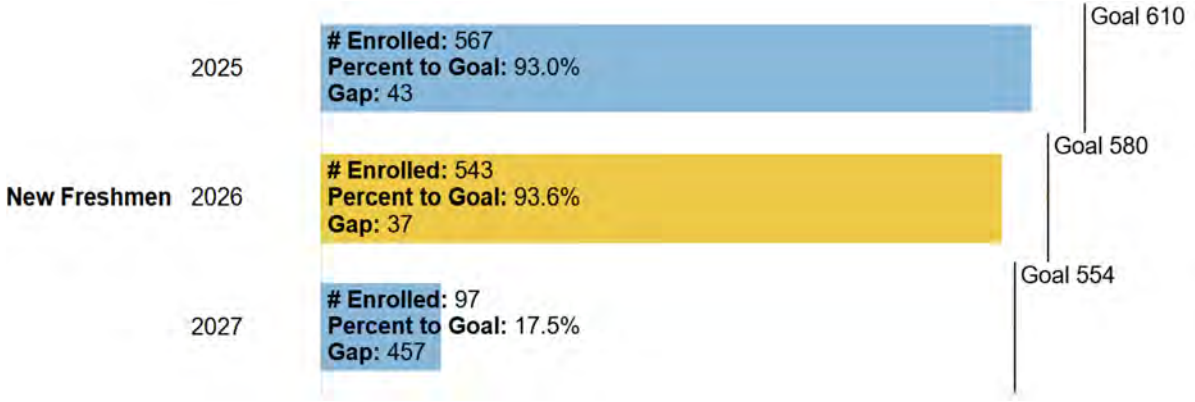
Fiscal year goals for both FY26 and FY27 are currently in progress and can be found on the next slide.

Enrollment Summary- Credit Hours



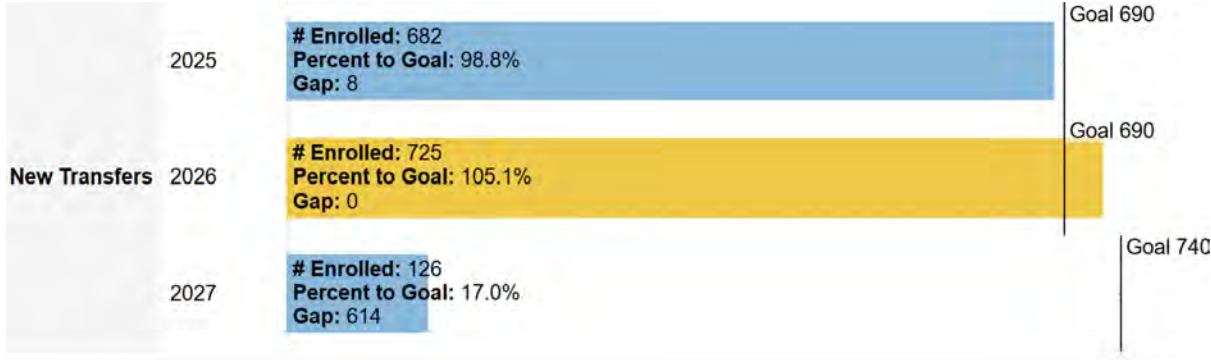
Data as of May 5, 2026. Taken from BOT Enrollment Dashboard, Tableau

Enrollment Summary- Freshmen



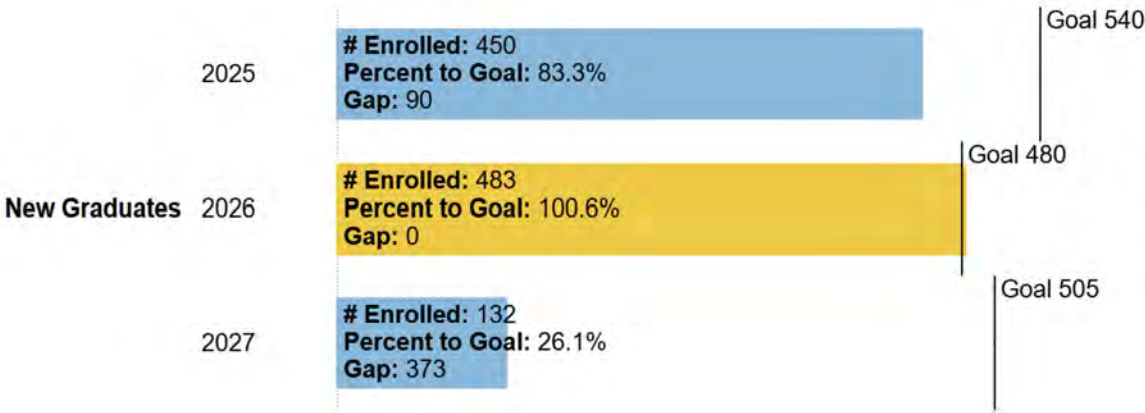
Data as of May 5, 2026. Taken from BOT Enrollment Dashboard, Tableau

Enrollment Summary- Transfer



Data as of May 5, 2026. Taken from BOT Enrollment Dashboard, Tableau

Enrollment Summary- Graduate



Data as of May 5, 2026. Taken from BOT Enrollment Dashboard, Tableau

Enrollment Summary- International

International applicants show a continued decrease in applicants and admitted students. The federal landscape has made it difficult to recruit international students, which typically comprise of 3% of NEIU’s population. In addition, we have increased our review of approved recruitment agents, which has resulted in a reduction of approved international agents, consequently impacting a reduction of applicants overall.

As of today, we are experiencing a 31% decrease in admitted students.

Data as of May 5, 2026. Taken from BOT Enrollment Dashboard, Tableau

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
 - 5/1/26 - 49% reduction, \$710K recovered
- NEIUSar Progress Survey results and continued effort to increase faculty participation

Fall 2025

- Attendance Survey 39.3% completion
- Progress Survey 1 55.8% completion
- Progress Survey 2 67.7% completion

Spring 2026

- 46.5% completion +7.2
- 57.9% completion +2.1
- 65% completion -2.7

- Fall to Fall Retention Progress Update
 - 5/7/26 - 36.7% +3.1 from previous year
 - All advisors are being asked to update registration status for each student on their caseload and provide information on any student(s) not registered





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

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

May 20, 2026

**Mental Health Early Action on Campus
(MHEAC) Act Updates**

Purpose:

**To address gaps in mental health services
through training, peer support,
and community-campus partnerships.**



Mental Health Early Action on Campus (MHEAC) Act Updates

Goals and Reporting

Expanded Counseling Services

Three additional PT counselors at EL Centro, CCICS & the Nest
Extended individual and drop-in and counseling hours
Increased evening programming

Reduce Barriers for Technology and Support

Twelve laptops for laptop loan program
TimelyCare virtual platform



Mental Health Early Action on Campus (MHEAC) Act Updates

Goals and Reporting

Expand Access to Campus Resources & Programming

Transportation support
Mental health and basic needs kiosks
Wellness room at El Centro and PE building

Increase Access to Assessment and Evaluation

Community partnerships
Mental health screenings through Aiberry



End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) Grant Work Updates

Basic Needs Assistance Fund

57 Applications

40 awarded

17 denied/incomplete/ineligible expenses

Top 3 requests:

Rent Assistance

Utilities

Transportation

Grant funds supporting programming for homeless/students in care such as:

Temporary Emergency Housing

Friendsgiving Meal Program

Student Pantry Food



Questions?





University Technology Services

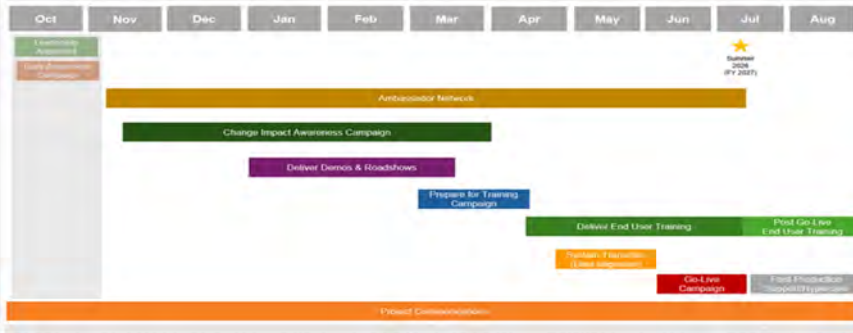
Digital Transformation & Area Initiatives

ASAET May 2026
Northeastern Illinois University

Eliot Allan Rodriguez
Chief Information Officer

Workday Finance Update

High Level Communication & Training Schedule



Training Materials Status by Audience/Topic



Classroom Technology Refresh Phase 1

Main Campus

BBH 123, 228, 229, 316, 354, 124, 309
LWH 3096
FA 216

Hybrid Tech: BBH 240, 308, 356, 111 CBM 158

El Centro

Hybrid: ELC: 320 & 325

CCICS

Hybrid: CCICS: 401 & 522

Room Selection: Based on usage demand & prioritization of oldest rooms

Procurement & Scheduling: Proposals have been approved through procurement process. Rooms are being scheduled to be completed by July 2026

Hybrid Technology Classrooms: These rooms provide additional capabilities for remote learning modalities.




SMART CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION

Modern Technology. Engaged Learning. Stronger Outcomes.

1 MODERN TEACHING ENVIRONMENT


- ✓ New podiums
- ✓ Upgraded classroom computers
- ✓ Mounted monitors with swing arms



Benefit: Provides faculty with an organized, functional teaching workspace that supports laptops, documents, and digital materials.


4 WIRELESS COLLABORATION

- ✓ Wireless presentation devices
- ✓ Share content from laptops, tablets, or mobile devices
- ✓ No cables. No hassle.




Benefit: Allows instructors and students to share content from laptops, tablets, or mobile devices directly to the classroom display wirelessly.


7 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & EQUIPMENT WARRANTIES



1 Year Vendor Hypercare Support



Training Documentation




Equipment Warranty Coverage

Benefit: Ensures successful deployment, faster issue resolution, user adoption, and long-term classroom reliability.

2 IMPROVED VISUAL INSTRUCTION

- ✓ Laser projectors
- ✓ New projector screens
- ✓ Elmo document cameras



Benefit: Delivers brighter high-definition images and allows instructors to easily display books, documents, and demonstrations to the entire class.

5 ENHANCED CLASSROOM AUDIO

- ✓ New speaker systems
- ✓ Improved sound clarity
- ✓ Voice amplification for larger classrooms
- ✓ Hybrid technology compatible



Benefit: Improves sound clarity and supports voice amplification in larger classrooms while supporting compatibility with Hybrid technologies.

3 FLEXIBLE DEVICE CONNECTIVITY


- ✓ Direct connections for laptops, tablets, and other devices
- ✓ HDMI, USB-C, USB, and network connectivity
- ✓ Clean, reliable, and easy to use



Benefit: Enables faculty and guest presenters to quickly connect personal devices without technical setup or compatibility issues.

6 HYBRID & DISTANCE LEARNING (HYBRID ROOMS ONLY)

- ✓ Mounted cameras
- ✓ Ceiling microphones
- ✓ Confidence monitors
- ✓ Simultaneous in-person and remote participation



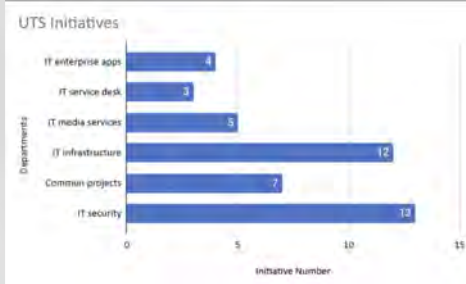
Benefit: Enables simultaneous in-person and remote participation, supporting hybrid instruction and online learning.



INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY. EMPOWERING EDUCATORS. ENRICHING STUDENT SUCCESS.

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
Implementation of Smartsheets for IT Project Management	Summer 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.



IT Security

Key Initiative in Progress

Initiative	ETA
Assisting with the development of the University's Artificial Intelligence Policy & Governance Process	Ongoing
Advanced email security platform implementation	Ongoing
Reviewing & updating the information security plan to better align with audit and compliance requirements.	Ongoing
Google Gemini and NotebookLM Pilot	Ongoing

Student Impact:

- Overall enhancement of existing controls to better secure critical systems for teaching, learning and administrative purposes.
- Strengthened account access protections
- Establish AI governance policies and practices to enable responsible implementation and use of AI.
- Support use of AI Technology for teaching, learning and administration.

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
Infrastructure & Upgrades Assessment for all NEIU Campus locations Including New Education Building	Ongoing
Productivity & Collaboration Tools Assessment	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.
- Comprehensive review of the Productivity & Collaboration Tools to ensure we provide students with the very best possible experience.



Area Summary

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

Enterprise Apps

Key Initiative in Progress

Initiative	ETA
Workday Finance Integrations + Extend and API Development	Ongoing
Ellucian Banner Enhancements Review	Ongoing

Student Impact:

- Streamlined Business Processes that provide faster response and reporting to better serve our student body
- Ensures payment processes are handled securely & in compliance
- Continuously generate and optimize the platforms we use to provide the best possible student experience.



Area Summary

Oversight of the university enterprise application systems & services, including design, development, implementation, support and maintenance.

Client Services

Key Initiative in Progress

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



AI @ NEIU PROGRESS

Building a responsible, secure, and innovative AI ecosystem for our university community.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

1

Draft AI Policy Completed

We have completed a draft of the University-wide AI Policy.

2

Draft AI Governance Framework Completed

We have completed a draft of the AI Governance Framework.

3

Reviewed by University Information Security Committee

The University Information Security Committee reviewed both documents and provided valuable feedback.

4

Best Practices Guide & Security Training Created

We created a Best Practices Guide for the Use of AI at NEIU and developed security training to promote responsible and secure AI use across campus.

5

Consultant Assessment Completed

We hired a consultant who conducted an assessment and provided findings and recommendations. These insights position NEIU to use AI safely, effectively, and responsibly.

NEXT STEPS

Update AI Policy & Governance Framework Draft

The AI Policy and AI Governance Framework drafts are being updated to incorporate the consultant's recommendations and feedback.

Establish AI Governance Path Forward

Based on cabinet leadership's review of vendor recommendations, we will determine the structure, processes, and next steps to establish AI governance across the university.

Plan Communications to Our University Community

We will share ongoing progress, resources, and opportunities for engagement as we advance AI initiatives at NEIU.

AI NEIU is thoughtfully building the foundation for AI—guided by strong policy, robust governance, and a commitment to security, ethics, and innovation.

Advancing AI together for a better NEIU.

[AI NEIU Guidance & Training Link](#)



Thank you



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