

Academic Affairs Updates ASAET Committee

**Interim Provost Shayne Cofer
September 17, 2026**



Fall 2026 Updates from Academic Affairs

1. New Tenure Track Faculty Hires

- Ankit Agrawal, Computer Science
- William Balco, Anthropology
- Laura Domagala, Nursing
- Kathy Donofrio, Nursing
- Madelaine Romito, Counselor Education
- Jesse Self, Justice Studies
- Aishwarya Vijayan, Computer Science
- Nicholas Witt, Teacher Education
- Yingshihan (Shihan) Zhu, Philosophy



Fall 2026 Updates from Academic Affairs (cont'd)

2. Emeriti Faculty (Summer 2026)

- Lidia Filus, Mathematics, Professor Emerita
- John Kasmer, Biology, Professor Emeritus
- Mark Melton, Special Education, Professor Emeritus
- Dan Milsky, Philosophy, Professor Emeritus

3. Retirements, resignations, etc., July 1, 2025 - present

- 18 tenured/tenure track faculty retirements/resignations:
7 professors, 8 associate professors, 3 assistant professors
- 9 instructors retired/resigned, of whom 5 were senior instructors



Fall 2026 Updates from Academic Affairs

4. Program Updates

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership Equity and Inquiry (LEI): launched in Fall 2026 with cohort of 23 students. Three 600-level LEI courses currently offered with enrollments of 21-23 students in each.
- Master of Science in Nursing – Entry into Practice (MSN-EP): Approvals sought; Illinois Board of Nursing (IBON) site visit September 22, 2026; Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit October 5-6, 2026.



Program Update MSN-EP (Gretchen La Civita)

Master of Science in Nursing - Entry into Practice Updates

- New Team; New Space; New Approvals in process (IBON, HLC)

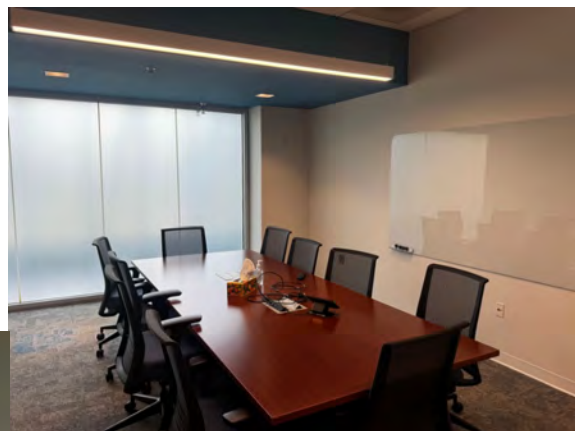
New Team

- Director of Simulation: Alex Rodriguez
- Simulation Operations Specialist: Colin Winkelmann
- 2 Assistant Professors
 - Dr. Kathy Donofrio
 - Dr. Laura Domagala
- 2 Upcoming Positions
 - Clinical Experience Coordinator
 - Program Assistant



Program Update MSN-EP (cont'd)

New Spaces:
Administrative suites,
meeting rooms



Program Update MSN-EP (cont'd)

New Spaces:
Debriefing rooms and
active learning open
lab space



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Program Update MSN-EP (cont'd)

New Spaces: Active
learning spaces -
Simulation labs



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Program Update MSN-EP (cont'd)

New Spaces: Immersive room



Questions?



Enrollment Report

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Dr. Kiantra Loza
Vice President, Enrollment Management
September 17, 2026

Enrollment Management Updates

ASAET Committee Meeting
Northeastern Illinois University

Dr. Kiantra Loza
Vice President, Enrollment Management
9.17.2026

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Enrollment by the Numbers

Fall 2026 Enrollment

Enrollment Metric	Fall 2026	Change from Fall 2025
Total Enrollment	5,674	▼ 2%
Undergraduate Enrollment	4,202	▼ 1%
Graduate Enrollment	1,472	▼ 4%
Transfer Enrollment	717	▼ 1%
Credit Hours	55,345	Achieved 96.8% of goal
Student Demographics (Change from Fall 2025)		
Asian Student Enrollment	-	▲ 11%
Black Student Enrollment	-	▲ 10%
Latine* Student Enrollment	-	▼ 10%
White Student Enrollment	-	▲ 2%
Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rate	65.0%	▲ +4.8 percentage points
Prior-Year Retention Rate (Fall 2025)	60.2%	-

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OPPORTUNITY LIVES HERE.

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NEIU Tuition Model & Access

- New Domestic / International tuition structure
- Expands access to NEIU across the country
- Reinforces our commitment to affordable, low-debt education
- Four targeted campaigns launched to communicate the change
- Building the new model into future recruitment and enrollment strategy

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Strategic Enrollment Initiatives

- Campuswide canvassing on enrollment process with structured focus groups.
- Cross-divisional work to streamline student onboarding
- Full CRM communication flow across the enrollment funnel
- Re-engaging 300+ institutional partners
- Strengthening transfer, international and recruitment pathways



One Stop Center Updates

- **September 9:** Cabinet Preview and One Stop Walkthrough
- **September 12:** Construction completion.
- **September 21:** A-Team Preview and One Stop Walkthrough
- **October 5:** Phased Department Moves Begin
- **October 30:** Department Moves and Transition Complete
- **November 17:** One Stop Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting, 2–4 p.m.
- **November 18:** One Stop Officially Opens for Student Services



The One Stop Center is designed to create a more streamlined, connected student experience.

FALL-TO-FALL RETENTION ANALYSIS

Fall 2025 Cohort

Overall performance against the 62% institutional goal, year-over-year trends, and outcomes by race/ethnicity and gender

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

Executive Summary

Fall 2025 cohort retention exceeded the institutional goal

FALL 2025 RETENTION

65.0%

vs. 62.0% goal

GOAL GAP

+3.0 pp

above institutional target

YEAR-OVER-YEAR
CHANGE

+4.8 pp

vs. Fall 2024 (60.2%)

GROUPS BELOW GOAL

2 of 7

African American &
Other/Unknown

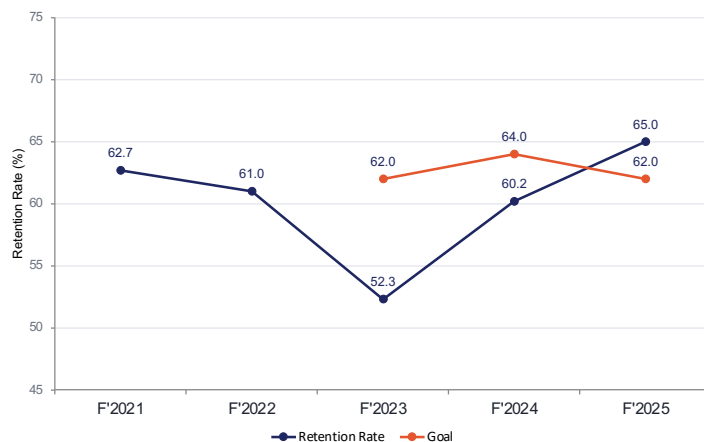
Key Findings

- Overall retention rebounded sharply after a five-year low in Fall 2023 (52.3%), reaching a five-year high in Fall 2025.
- Asian (83.3%), White (72.5%), and Hispanic (66.8%) students retained above goal; African American (56.7%) and Other/Unknown (55.9%) remained below goal despite gains for the former.
- Female students (67.3%) outperformed male students (61.6%); male retention remains just below the institutional goal.
- The largest single-group swing was African American students, up +9.8 pp year-over-year — the strongest improvement of any group.

Note: PP stands for percentage points; Other/Unknown includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/North African, Multi-racial, Nonresident alien, and students whose race and ethnicity were not known.

Overall Retention vs. Goal

Five-year fall-to-fall trend, Fall 2021–Fall 2025



FALL 2025 vs. GOAL

65.0%

Goal was 62.0% — exceeded by 3.0 percentage points

5-YEAR CONTEXT

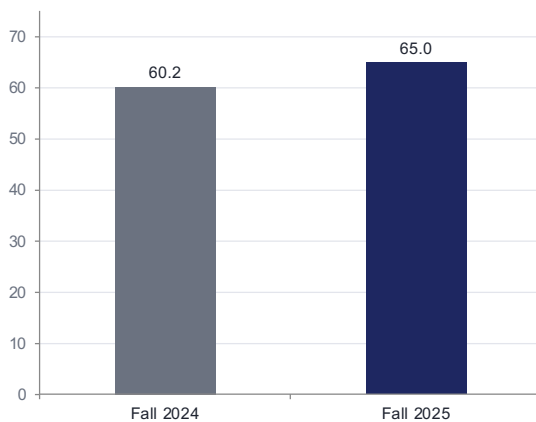
- 2021–22: Retention slipped from 62.7% to 61.0%
- 2023: Five-year low of 52.3%, well below goal
- 2024: Partial recovery to 60.2%, still short of goal
- 2025: Sharpest single-year gain, first goal miss reversed

Fall-to-Fall Retention | Fall 2025 Cohort

3

Year-over-Year Movement

Fall 2024 → Fall 2025 overall retention



Both years are compared against the 62.0% institutional goal

YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE

+4.8 percentage points

From 321 of 533 retained (Fall 2024) to 340 of 523 retained (Fall 2025)

WHAT DROVE THE GAIN

- African American retention rose +9.8 pp, the largest gain of any subgroup
- Hispanic retention rose +7.0 pp on the cohort's largest population (274 students)
- Female retention rose +5.8 pp, outpacing the +2.8 pp male gain
- Gains were partially offset by declines among White (–2.9 pp) and Other/Unknown (–7.5 pp) students

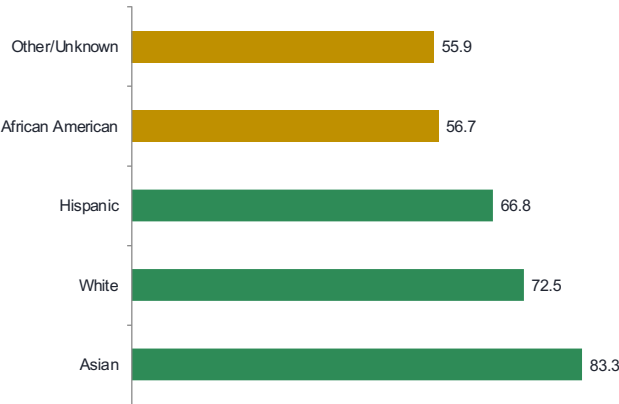
Other/Unknown includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/North African, Multi-racial, Nonresident alien, and students whose race and ethnicity were not known.

Fall-to-Fall Retention | Fall 2025 Cohort

4

Retention by Race/Ethnicity

Fall 2025 cohort, ranked, vs. 62% goal



Goal: 62.0% — green = at/above goal, orange = below goal

Fall-to-Fall Retention | Fall 2025 Cohort

Fall 2024 → Fall 2025 Change

Group	F'25	YoY
Asian	83.3%	+4.6 pp
White	72.5%	-2.9 pp
Hispanic	66.8%	+7.0 pp
African American	56.7%	+9.7 pp
Other/Unknown	55.9%	-7.5 pp

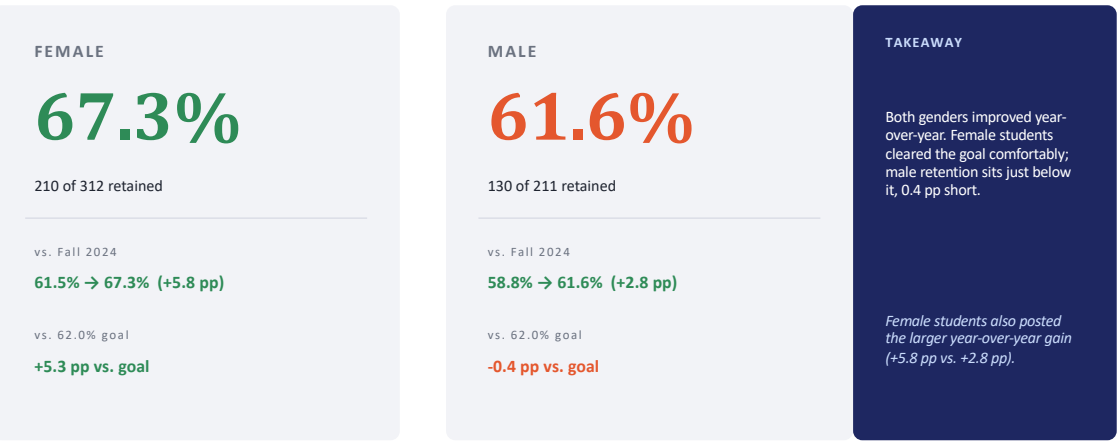
African American and Other/Unknown students remain below the institutional goal, though African American retention posted the cohort's largest year-over-year gain.

Other/Unknown includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/North African, Multi-racial, Nonresident alien, and students whose race and ethnicity were not known.

5

Retention by Gender

Fall 2025 cohort vs. 62% goal, with year-over-year change

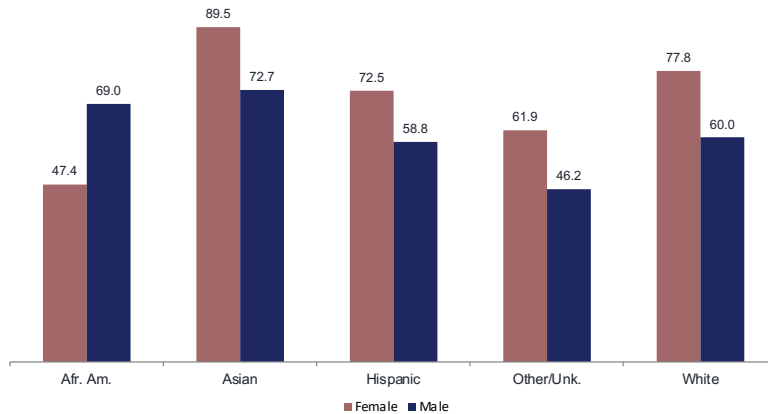


Fall-to-Fall Retention | Fall 2025 Cohort

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Retention by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

Fall 2025 cohort — where the two factors intersect



NOTABLE PATTERNS

- African American students reverse the overall pattern: males retained at 69.0% vs. 47.4% for females — a 21.6 pp gap.
- Asian females retained at 89.5%, the single highest rate of any subgroup in the cohort.
- Other/Unknown males retained at just 46.2%, the lowest rate in the cohort.
- Among White, Hispanic, and Other/Unknown students, females outperform males by 12–18 pp.

Other/Unknown includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/North African, Multi-racial, Nonresident alien, and students whose race and ethnicity were not known.

Fall-to-Fall Retention | Fall 2025 Cohort

7

Takeaways & Next Steps

What's working

- Overall retention beat the 62% goal by 3.0 pp — a five-year high
- African American retention grew the most of any group (+9.8 pp)
- Female retention (67.3%) comfortably exceeds goal

Where to focus

- African American and Other/Unknown students remain below goal
- African American females (47.4%) and Other/Unknown males (46.2%) are the lowest-retaining subgroups
- Male retention overall (61.6%) sits just under goal

Suggested next steps

- Investigate the reversed gender gap within African American students
- Extend Fall 2025 supports that drove Hispanic and African American gains to Other/Unknown students
- Monitor whether White and Other/Unknown declines persist into Fall 2026

Other/Unknown includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/North African, Multi-racial, Nonresident alien, and students whose race and ethnicity were not known.

Fall-to-Fall Retention | Fall 2025 Cohort

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STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATES

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee

Northeastern Illinois University

Dr. Terry C. Mena
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
September 17, 2026

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NEW HIRE

ELISSA CAROPRESO

Director of Student Disability Services

Student Affairs welcomes a new leader supporting
access, accommodations, and student success.

Joined NEIU in July 2026

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FALL 2026 OCCUPANCY REPORT

FALL 2025

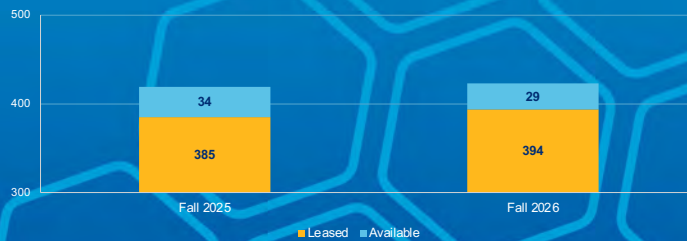
91.9%

385 of 419 rentable beds

FALL 2026

93.1%

394 of 423 rentable beds



Occupancy will continue to change before and after the census date. Data as of September 4, 2026.

FALL 2026 DETAILS

0	leases in process
132	students on the waitlist
0	new applications
0	beds offline
4	model-room beds
4	emergency-housing beds
8	staff-unit beds

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NEST REFINANCE AND TRANSITION UPDATE

COMPLETED MILESTONES

- Refinancing completed September 2, 2025
- NEIU assumed direct management May 29, 2026
- Director hired and eRezLife housing management software implemented
- Two additional full-time staff hired; operations, budget, and vendors transitioned

EARLY OUTCOME

Summer revenue generated through camps, conferences, and intern housing.

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Stabilize operations and improve the resident experience
- Strengthen long-term occupancy and financial planning
- Explore philanthropic and naming opportunities

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NEST FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

FY27 charges, payments, and balances as of September 11, 2026

Cohort	# Students	Lease Amount	Housing Scholarship	Paid by Other Sources	Outstanding Balance
Afghan Transition Program	5	\$27,025.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,025.00
CBT Housing	8	\$43,240.00	\$0.00	\$6,649.95	\$36,590.05
Future Teachers	5	\$27,025.00	\$0.00	\$3,392.01	\$23,632.99
General Student	334	\$1,768,433.65	\$10,000.00	\$245,930.57	\$1,512,503.08
HOPE Chicago	29	\$37,835.00	\$0.00	\$375.00	\$37,460.00
Honors Housing	7	\$154,535.00	\$0.00	\$2,577.23	\$151,957.77
STEM Housing	10	\$48,645.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,413.95	\$38,731.05
Social Justice Housing	9	\$52,945.00	\$0.00	\$6,229.70	\$46,715.30
Total	407	\$2,159,683.65	\$12,500.00	\$272,568.41	\$1,874,615.24

Student account data may change as transactions and adjustments post. Lease balances exclude overages and lockouts.

Other sources include out-of-pocket payments, loans, and federal, state, or institutional aid remaining after tuition and fees.

Source: Office of Institutional Research and Assessment and Student Accounts Receivable

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NEST FY27 BUDGET

NEST Housing and LLC FY27 Budget		FY2027 Budget	Restricted Budget	Unrestricted Budget
Revenue				
	NEST Revenue	\$ 3,851,600	\$ 3,851,600	\$ -
	Less: Allowance	(305,160)	(305,160)	-
	Net Revenue	\$ 3,466,440	\$ 3,466,440	\$ -
Expenses				
	Housing			
	Personnel Costs	\$ 680,700	\$ 680,700	\$ -
	Contractual	661,100	661,100	-
	Travel	10,800	10,800	-
	Commodities	74,800	74,800	-
	Equipment	25,700	25,700	-
	Telecommunications	5,200	5,200	-
	Awards to Students	779,900	779,900	-
	Debt Service	2,266,700	1,228,240	1,038,460
	Total Expenses	\$ 4,504,900	\$ 3,466,440	\$ 1,038,460
	Net Revenue	\$ (1,038,460)	\$ -	\$ (1,038,460)
	FY27 Support Needed from Unrestricted Budget	\$ 1,038,460		
	FY26 Support from Unrestricted Budget	\$ 1,776,100		
	Savings to Unrestricted Budget	\$ 737,640		

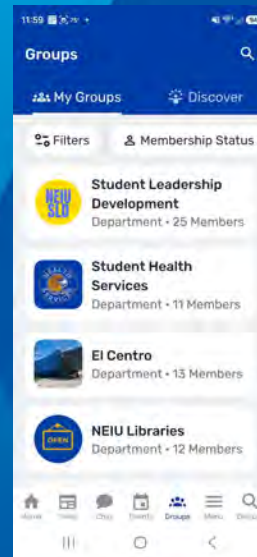
For the first three fiscal years, the NEST budget will remain negative. The plan reaches full funding and becomes neutral to the state budget after three years.

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NEIU CONNECTS

CampusGroups mobile app

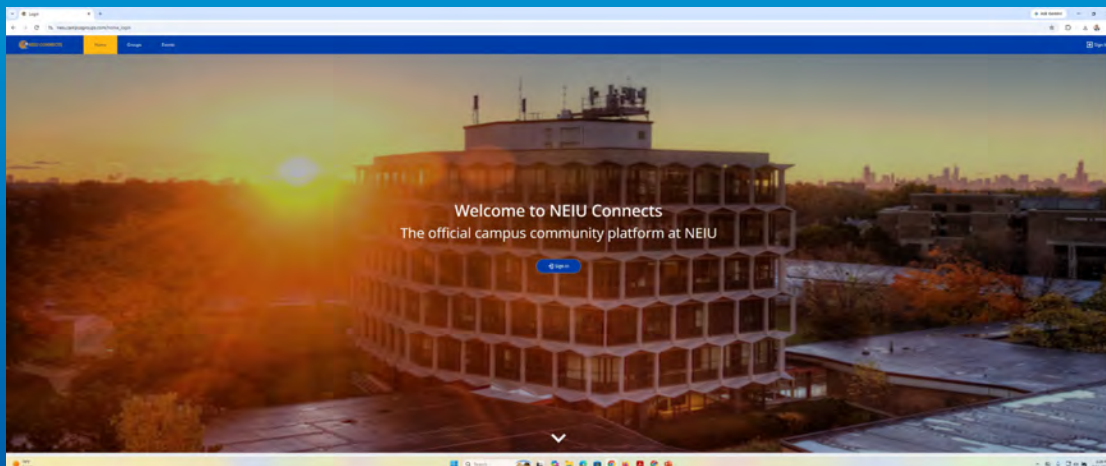
- 01 Download CampusGroups from the app store
- 02 Search for NEIU Connects
- 03 Sign in with your NEIUpport login and password
- 04 Start exploring



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NEIU CONNECTS WEB PORTAL

The official campus community platform at NEIU



Visit neiu.campusgroups.com and sign in with your NEIUpport credentials.

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QUESTIONS?

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University Technology Services

Technology Transformation @ NEIU

ASAET Committee Meeting September 17, 2026
Northeastern Illinois University

Elliot Allan Rodriguez
Chief Information Officer, University Technology Services

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Executive Summary

Delivering on our Commitments. Strengthening the Student Experience

University Technology Services continues to modernize NEIU's technology environment while keeping a central question at the forefront:

How does technology help our students succeed?

Since our May update, UTS has:

1 Major enterprise modernization milestones have been completed.	4 Classroom & campus technology investments have continued.
2 Technology governance and project management capabilities continue to mature.	5 Cybersecurity and institutional resilience remain strategic priorities.
3 NEIU continues to prepare for responsible adoption of emerging technologies, including AI.	

Our Focus: Modern technology → Better university services → Better student experiences
→ Greater opportunity for student success

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Major Commitments Delivered



Workday Finance	- Successfully Launched Workday Finance after an 18-month implementation. - Continuing to meet with heavy users and further optimizing the system.	Faster Financial Processes → Better Information → More Efficient Student Service
Cloud Telephony Modernization	NEIU transitioned from legacy telecommunications infrastructure to a modern cloud-based communications platform.	Reliable Access → Greater Staff Mobility → Better Connection to University Services
Classroom Technology Modernization	Legacy classroom technology continues to be replaced with modern instructional and hybrid-learning capabilities across all campus locations	Reliable Classrooms → Fewer Disruptions → More Flexible Learning

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY. EMPOWERING EDUCATORS. ENRICHING STUDENT SUCCESS.



Protecting our Students & University through Cyber Security

Mimecast

Email remains one of the most common pathways for phishing, fraud, malware, and account compromise. In June 2026, NEIU implemented Mimecast to strengthen protection for the university community.

Following Implementation, UTS is actively gathering feedback from the community to make further optimizations to the platform:

- Relaxing overly restrictive security policies
- Removing confusing device-enrollment prompts associated with secure links
- Reducing unnecessary email digest notifications
- Improving access to university used websites by refining URL policies
- Continuing to monitor feedback and adjust protections

7.4 Millions

Inbound emails scanned

5.05 Million

Legitimate emails delivered

2.4 Million

Spam & Malicious emails blocked

Numbers based on total June - August

[Mimecast Info Link](#)

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Artificial Intelligence @ NEIU

Next Steps

New Position Created: Special Assistant to the President on AI Governance & Strategy

This new role will lead NEIU's work to establish a coordinated and responsible approach to artificial intelligence.

Dr. Xiwei Wang has accepted this Role effective August 24, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Deliverables

1. AI Governance Council Charter
2. Temporary AI Usage Guidelines
3. AI Tool Intake and Review Process
4. Institutional AI Inventory
5. AI Risk Assessment Framework
6. University AI Strategy Roadmap
7. Interim/Temporary and Final AI Policies
8. AI Training Program and Materials
9. Governance KPI Dashboard and Reporting Structure
10. Stakeholder Engagement Plan
11. Annual Governance and Risk Assessment Report
12. Recommendations for Permanent AI Governance Structure

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Thank you

Questions?

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