

Fall 2026 Updates from Academic Affairs

Higher Learning Commission Updates

HLC Peer Reviewer site visit to NEIU for the Master of Science in Nursing – Entry into Practice (MSN-EP) approval process, October 5-6, 2026. Met with administration, faculty, staff, students, external partners.

HLC Comprehensive review Spring 2028, self study report due March 20, 2028, Site Visit April 17-18, 2028. HLC Assurance Team with representation from all areas of the university being formed (Fall 2026).



NEIU's Equity Plan Progress: Planning to Implementation

- **Equity summary report** submitted to IBHE on May 31, 2026
- **Strong overall review:** IBHE called our FY2026 summary comprehensive and data-rich, noting that NEIU has moved beyond planning to meaningful implementation
- **Specific initiatives recognized:** IBHE named the First-Year Experience redesign, ICARE advising, affordable course materials, and co-requisite gateway course reform
- **Measurable results:** Review cited gains in fall-to-spring retention, higher success rates in FYE courses, reduced student debt, and substantial textbook cost savings. It called our affordability work "particularly impressive."
- **Model practices:** IBHE singled out the Equity Plan Dashboard and our use of disaggregated data and broad campus engagement through the the University Diversity Council, equity teams, and working groups

Opportunities and Next Steps

- **Continued focus on implementation**, with coordination of our cross-campus efforts and alignment with NEIU's strategic plan, and taking clear, accountable next steps to close equity gaps
- **NEIU selected for SUCCESS Targeted Technical Assistance (2026-2027)**
 - Dedicated expert support (Equity Champion + 40 hours of individual campus consultation)
 - \$40,000 in grant funding to accelerate Equity Plan and SUCCESS initiatives
 - Ongoing statewide engagement: NEIU will continue to take part in Communities of Practice, Knowledge Sessions, and IBHE check-ins
 - An opportunity to build on the infrastructure already in place and strengthen coordination, measurement and sustainability

NEIU



El Centro Activities, FY26–27

Student programming, partnerships and operational development

Student activities

Leadership development through IME Becas

7 monthly sessions, October 2026–April 2027

Student success

Thursday Success Workshops, CREAR Futuros Mentoring, THRIVE programming model to support student success

Financial support

FAFSA workshops: Oct. 24 and Dec. 5

Open scholarships: El Centro Endowment, NEIU Provided, Nohra DeFrancisco and IME Becas

Community events

Trunk or Treat (Oct. 30), Community Resource Fair & El Mercadito, cultural celebrations, Upward Bound programming, and Community Shredding & Electronics Recycling (Oct. 10)

Civic engagement

November 2026 election operations and voting site coordination

Staff and partnership activities

Outreach Pipeline 2026–27

Thus far, 5 external HS school visits + 9 scheduled group visits to El Centro + 7 Next Steps Workshops = 21 outreach/recruitment events

Partner programs

Puerto Rican Alliance of Arts (PRAA): Expanded arts programming for high school students while strengthening El Centro recruitment pipeline.

Palenque LSNA: Advancing an MOU to host high school summer programming at El Centro and expand community-based services.

CPS Network Programming: Strengthened partnership through professional development and recurring engagement at El Centro.

Testing

76 proctoring opportunities scheduled across Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer 2027—expanding El Centro's direct engagement with prospective students throughout the year.

Team development

2026–27 Individual Strategic Planning: Established individualized strategic goals and measurable outcomes for El Centro team members.

El Centro Strategic Plan: Developing El Centro's strategic plan to align priorities, programs, operations, and growth with NEIU's 2026–2031 Strategic Plan.



Jacob H. Carruthers Center

THURSDAY, FEB 25, 2027



Carruthers 60th Anniversary Celebration

This signature celebration gathering will bring together generations of faculty, students, community leaders, and alumni to honor 60 years of transformation.

THURSDAY, MAR 25, 2027

Carruthers Lecture-This Woman's Work

A special tribute event highlighting the extraordinary women who have shaped, sustained, and elevated the mission of the Carruthers Center.

🕒 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

📍 Lobby / Lower Level / Donn F. Bailey Hall

Carruthers Community Arts Integration

AACM (Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians)

Black Music Series Concert Dates (TUESDAYS)

- November 10, 2026
- February 9, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- April 13, 2027
- June 15, 2027

Black Cinema Series (MONDAYS)

- November 23, 2026
- December 1, 2026
- February 15, 2027
- March 15, 2027
- April 19, 2027
- May 17, 2027
- June 14, 2027

Engagement Opportunities (Fall 2026)

Tue, Oct 20, 2026 CCICS Open House 📍 Lobby / Lower Level Conf Room 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Thu-Sat, Oct 22-24, 2026 AACM Music Festival 📍 Donn F. Bailey Hall 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Fri, Nov 6, 2026 Counselor Brunch 📍 Lower Level Conference Room 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Fri, Nov 10, 2026 Kemetic Institute Africa Forum 📍 Lower Level Conference Room 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Sat, Nov 14, 2026 Urban League HS Visit 📍 Lower Level Conference Room 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fri, Nov 20, 2026 Get On the Bus 🚌 Information Tour 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Empowering student recruitment, community scholarship, and cultural engagement.

Engagement Opportunities (Winter & Spring)

Fri, Dec 11, 2026 Kemetic Institute Africa Forum Lower Level Conference Room 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Fri, Dec 18, 2026 Kwanzaa Paint & Pour Cultural Celebration & Community Arts
Tue, Jan 19, 2027 King In the Wilderness Movie Donn F. Bailey Hall 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Sat, Feb 20, 2027 • ANNUAL FUNDRAISER The WIZ Annual Fundraiser Donn F. Bailey Hall 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Fri, Mar 12, 2027 Spring Open House Lobby / Lower Level Conf Room 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fri, May 7, 2027 • GRADUATION CELEBRATION Black Student Graduation Honoring Excellence & Academic Achievement



All events support student retention, community empowerment, and academic achievement at NEIU.

NEIU CCICS 2026–2027

Fall 2026 First-Year Experience Program Updates

- **FYE Course Graduation Requirement**

All first-year students (students who enter NEIU with 0-29 credit hours) and/or any first-time freshmen with less than 2 semesters of post-secondary education must register in, and successfully complete an FYE course with a “C” or better in their first semester at NEIU as part of their graduation requirements.

- 304/523 first-time freshmen enrolled in a Fall 2025 FYE course
- 505/516 first-time freshmen enrolled in a Fall 2026 Fall FYE course

We’ve moved from 58% FYE enrollment rate to 97% with the addition of the FYE graduation requirement

- **Peer Mentor Program**

15 peer mentors, 1 graduate assistant
Weekly check-in meetings and training sessions
FYE Freshman Meet-Ups:

- August 2025 71 Freshmen attended
- August 2026 160 Freshmen attended

We’ve more than doubled our participation rate at our monthly FYE freshman meet-up events



Fall 2026 First-Year Experience Program Updates

- **Dr. Lawrence Frank FYE Scholarship**

Kaige Rivera and Diana Perez were awarded the 2025-2026 FYE scholarship (\$1350 each), and were recognized at Golden Eagle Welcome Day on August 21st

- **FYE Faculty Development & Curriculum Updates**

FYE Faculty take part in a mandatory 2-day FYE Faculty Institute in May
FYE Faculty-Peer Mentor Luncheon in August
Weekly email with resources, guidance, and check-in meetings to convene and process FYE course/program happenings
FYE Master Course shell in D2L serves as a one-stop shop for FYE course resources and pedagogical recommendations

- **Fall Student & Faculty Survey Administration**

Survey opens in November and will be used to continue to assess the effectiveness of our FYE courses, knowledge & application of NEIU resources, overall feeling of belongingness in the classroom community





ASAET Enrollment Management Updates

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Dr. Kiantra Loza
Vice President for Enrollment Management
October 2026

Enrollment Communications Re-design

Partnership with Baker Consulting

Overhauling the entire communication flow with messages tailored to each persona.

November 15, 2026

Go-live date

10–15 communications per workflow

Partnering with Marketing to refresh and redesign all graphic design elements of our Slate campaigns.

Six communication flows

First Time in College Freshmen

Transfer

International

Graduate

Parent Communications

Summer Only

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Enrollment Focus Group Updates

7 Focus Groups Completed to Date

Each group has included a combination of students, faculty, staff and administrators. We are collecting valuable information across the enrollment lifecycle.

Four Stages of the Enrollment Lifecycle

- 1 Lead Generation and Prospecting
- 2 Admissions and Acceptance
- 3 New Student Onboarding
- 4 Continuous Enrollment Through to Completion

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One Stop Center

Coordinated student services

Financial Aid, General Advising, Graduate Admissions and Registration in one connected service model.

Operational priorities

- Finalize queuing system and student flow.
- Confirm front desk coverage and escalation procedures.
- Coordinate campus communications and service continuity.

Planned Transition Timeline

October 5	Advising move
October 12	Graduate Admissions move
October 19	Financial Aid move
October 30	Final transition
November 17	Grand opening, 2–4 p.m.
November 18	Student services open

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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
October 15, 2026

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Living Learning Communities

Be inspired to inspire.



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WHY LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES?

Learning thrives through connection - not in isolation.

01 BELONG

Build community through shared experiences.

02 ENGAGE

Connect academic, social and extracurricular learning.

03 GROW

Strengthen relationships with peers, faculty and mentors.

04 THRIVE

Support academic focus, transition and student success.

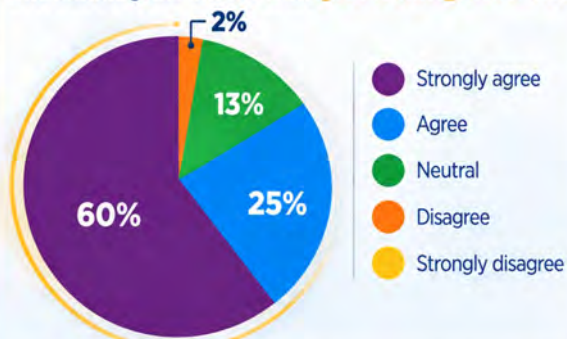
STUDENTS. COMMUNITY. POSSIBILITY.



LLC SURVEY

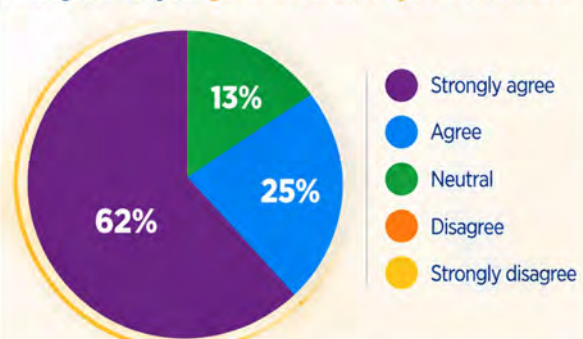
FOR LIVING AT **THE NEST**

Has being in an LLC and living in the Nest increased your belief that **you belong at NEIU**?

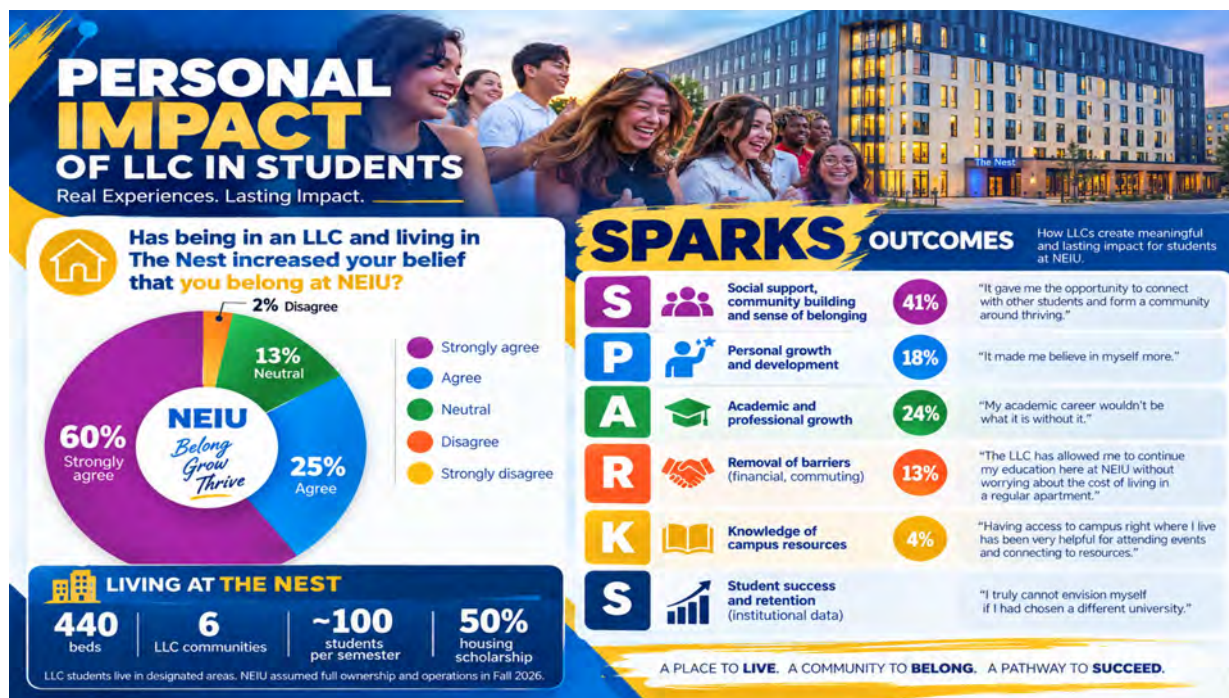


85% AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE that being in an LLC and living in the Nest increased their belief that they belong at NEIU.

Has being in an LLC and living in the Nest this year helped **your academic performance**?



87% AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE that being in an LLC and living in the Nest this year helped their academic performance.



STUDENT SUCCESS & RETENTION

Living Learning Communities | Fall-to-fall persistence

93%

LLC student persistence
2025-2026

65%

FTFT retention
2025-2026

+28

percentage-point gap
LLC vs. FTFT

LLC PERSISTENCE OVER TIME



2025-2026 BY LLC



2025-26: 87 of 94 LLC students persisted | FTFT = first-time, full-time | Source: NEIU LLC institutional data

AFGHAN REFUGEE TRANSITION PROGRAM (ARTP) | FY27

Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP) | FY27 Updates

From transition support to degree completion
and career readiness.



EDUCATION
ACCESS



WRAPAROUND
SUPPORT



STUDENT
SUCCESS



CAREER
READINESS



Paola Vargas

Associate Dean of Students &
ARTP Program Lead



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AFGHAN REFUGEE TRANSITION PROGRAM (ARTP) | FY27

ARTP SCHOLARS DEGREE COMPLETION & COMPOSITION

Two cohorts continuing progress through undergraduate and graduate pathways.



13

Graduated
to date



17

Continuing
scholars



3

AY27 expected
graduates

CONTINUING SCHOLAR COMPOSITION



10

Undergraduate



3

Graduate



4

SAELL

DEGREE PATHWAYS REPRESENTED



Accounting



Computer Sciences



MBA



Marketing



Business Administration



Political Science



GIS

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From transition support to **degree completion**
and career readiness.

AFGHAN REFUGEE TRANSITION PROGRAM (ARTP)

SCHOLAR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Current Academic Year

Resilience. Progress. Brighter Futures.


AVERAGE
DEGREE PROGRESS




AVERAGE
REQUIREMENTS
COMPLETED




AVERAGE
OVERALL GPA



*Education
Opportunity
Belonging
Success*



ARTP SCHOLARS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE
**STRONG ACADEMIC PROGRESS, HIGH ENGAGEMENT,
AND COMMITMENT TO DEGREE COMPLETION.**

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AFGHAN REFUGEE TRANSITION PROGRAM (ARTP) | FY27

INVESTING IN SCHOLARS. BUILDING FUTURES.

A coordinated pathway from academic persistence to financial self-sufficiency.



\$1,029,085

FY27 INVESTMENT

IBHE (IDHS) + State Appropriation



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- ✓ Individualized case management
- ✓ Academic planning and advising
- ✓ Registration and course navigation
- ✓ Academic support connections



STABILITY & WELL-BEING

- ✓ On-campus housing and basic needs
- ✓ Counseling and wellness resources
- ✓ Individualized wraparound support
- ✓ Immigration-service referrals



ENGAGEMENT & OPPORTUNITY

- ✓ Navigating NEIU systems and resources
- ✓ Student community and belonging
- ✓ Student success and career readiness
- ✓ Research and educational conferences



CAREER & LIFE BEYOND NEIU

- ✓ Internship and job-search preparation
- ✓ On-campus work opportunities
- ✓ Professional networking
- ✓ Graduate pathways and life skills



NEIU FOCUS



Degree completion



Career readiness



Belonging



Financial stability

*Education
Opportunity
Belonging
Success*

QUESTIONS?

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University Technology Services

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Eliot Allan Rodriguez
Chief Information Officer, University Technology Services

October 15, 2026

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Strengthening Technology Governance & Delivery

Initiative Criteria	Strategic Alignment	Does it advance NEIU's strategic priorities?
	Risk	Does it address security, compliance or operational risk?
	Impact	Who benefits and how significantly?
	Financial	What is the investment and expected return?
	Capacity	Do we have the resources to deliver it?
	Urgency	What happens if we defer it?
PMO Provides	Prioritize	Align Technology initiatives with University strategic priorities, risk and available funding
	Govern	Establish consistent project standards, oversight, risk management and executive reporting
	Optimize	Coordinate resources, identify dependencies and manage competing demands across the technology portfolio
	Measure	Track outcomes—not simply project completion—to ensure investments deliver expected institutional value.

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IT PMO Launch Estimated Timeline



Thank you
Questions?

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