

BAIS Students Honored at Black Heritage Awards Ceremony

BAIS students Dale Carter and Patricia Behn-Wright were honored at this year's 14th annual Black Heritage Awards Ceremony at Northeastern Illinois University on February 19, 2016.

Dale Carter, like many children who emerge from a childhood fraught with abuse and neglect never finished H.S., dropping out his freshman year. It took a few decades for him to find an educational path and now he is a McNair Scholar who is preparing to pursue a graduate degree in Social Work. Dale has been accepted to Loyola and UIC; he is waiting to hear back from NEIU before he makes a final decision. He hopes to use his education to raise awareness as to the horrors of financial exploitation being experienced by older adults who tend to be male, lower-income, higher education, non-Hispanic blacks. Dale was awarded a one-credit hour scholarship, the only monetary award presented.



Patricia Behn-Wright serves as the Treasurer of Psi Chi, Honor Society for Psychology; Treasurer of the NEIU Psychology Club; as well as President and Historian of the Sigma Eta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Ro was presented with the Student Leadership Award at this year's ceremony. Patricia, due to the development of a disability in 2011 was unable to re-open a daycare facility which she had run in the past. Needing to find a new direction, she decided to pursue her dream of earning a degree in education. Soon after starting at NEIU, she realized that counseling was more closely aligned with her ideals, so will be earning a second major in Psychology.

The Black Heritage Awards Committee has been in existence since 2002. Mr. William Speller, a man who served the NEIU community for over 40 years helped found Project Success. He was also significant in founding The Black Heritage Committee, a body of people dedicated to highlighting the great contributions and achievements of black students and faculty members. Dean Murrell Duster, a fixture at NEIU for over 35 years, along with Mr. Speller were the primary go-to resources for the African-American student population during their years of dedicated service.

NDP 1 Credit Hour Courses

Did you know that the NDP program offers three courses that are each worth one credit hour? Students can earn three credit hours at the 300 level, while learning valuable skills. These classes are:

Library Research - NDP 320

Time and Project Management - NDP 351

Creating a Prior Learning Portfolio - NDP 330

Each of these one credit hour courses are scheduled so that you will be finished with the class by the time you are halfway through the semester! If you are planning to create a Prior Learning Portfolio, NDP 330 will guide you through this process. If you are moving on to a graduate program, NDP 320 and NDP 351 will provide tools that will enhance the success of your academic undertakings.

Scholarships for NDP

Each semester, the NDP program offers merit based scholarships to students who demonstrate academic excellence. Please apply if you meet the following eligibility criteria found at:

<http://www.neiu.edu/academics/nontraditional-degree-programs/scholarships>

If you need a scholarship application, please email: NDP@neiu.edu

NDP Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to these NDP students who have been awarded merit-based NDP tuition scholarships for the Spring 2016 semester:

Terrie Albano
Debbie Barnes
Andre Brown
Dale Carter
Letitia Epps
Dauphine Gregory

Isabelita Hernandez
Domatila Ortega
Brian Parker
Lynn Roth
Isra Shahin
Sherry Williams

UWW Alumna Michelle Sanders

Michelle Sanders completed her bachelor's degree in the University Without Walls in 2008. Her depth area, *Developmental Disabilities Services*, was based on several years of professional experience that she brought to the program. As a UWW student, she continued to build competencies in the area and expand her knowledge in breadth areas.

Within one month of Michelle's UWW graduation review board, she contacted a representative of UPC Seguin, a non-profit organization with an operating budget of nearly \$42,000,000, to ask a question about a systemic issue her current agency was facing. Michelle, never having met the person before, had a conversation for nearly two hours. Two months later, Michelle was offered a job as the Residential Services Director of UPC Seguin. Soon after, Michelle offered the position of Vice President of Human Resources; no interview needed!



"The UWW helped me to really develop a whole range of skills besides just those that I identified as skill gaps in my learning contract," Michelle stated. "I walked away with a degree and a level of confidence that I didn't have before. Without UWW, while I would have had the confidence to make that call to that person to discuss a systemic issue, I may not have had the confidence to also sell myself because I didn't believe that I was marketable. UWW has helped me to feel confident to create my own opportunities outside of my comfort zone."

The UWW not only helps nontraditional students create opportunities and build confidence, the it also challenges them to surpass their own expectations at school and work. "I want other people to truly recognize that UWW is a REAL program. It is NOT taking the easy way out! In fact, if a student is looking for an easy degree, UWW is not the way to go," Michelle added. "I worked incredibly hard while participating in UWW. I am an extremely driven person. This is not a program for everyone. Traditional programs are for everyone—UWW is for a student who would rather march to the beat of his/her own drummer within grayer parameters."

NDP Alumni Advice

The NDP newsletter is excited to present a new column that will feature BAIS and UWW alumnus. This reoccurring column will showcase advice and tips from successful NDP alumnus who graduated with various majors and depth areas. Our first alumni, Michelle Sanders (see featured article above) offers this advice for future and current UWW students:

- The single-most challenging aspect of the program was being mostly on my own. My advisors were great and so were the UWW staff, but at the end of the day, I was in the drivers' seat and it was all up to me.
- You were accepted into the UWW program because you clearly articulated why it is the right program for you and other people believed in you. You are writing your own education plan – make it count!
- Being a UWW student was also sometimes lonely. Take classes that you are interested in, form relationships, perhaps even try to network with other UWW students as a means of supporting each other. After the orientation meeting, I never saw another UWW student for the rest of my tenure at Northeastern.
- Applying for UWW is not a decision to be taken lightly. It is important to understand that this program is HARD. It requires a high level of organization, initiative, and focus. If a person doesn't possess at least these three personality characteristics, I would strongly advise considering a different program.

Tutoring Tips & Resources

Nearly every college student would benefit from tutoring at some point. Here are some tips to help make sure you get the most out of any tutoring experience:

- Come to your tutoring session prepared. Have a goal in mind and bring all materials with you.
- Tutoring can only work if you are invested in what you are studying. You must be engaged in the material to make the effort worth your time and the tutor's time.
- You may get lucky and find the first tutor you work with is perfect. If this is not the case, please make sure you seek out another tutor who might be better matched to your needs.
- NDP offers free tutoring which is available by appointment. Our tutor is NDP Graduate Assistant Tasha Banks. To schedule an appointment, contact her at t-banks1@neiu.edu.
- NDP students can also contact the Learning Support Center: 773-442-4568.
- The Center for Academic Writing provides tutor support for students taking a WIP course. If you are unsure of your writing skills the Center is a great resource available during the semester you are in a WIP class. Here is the link to their website: <http://www.neiu.edu/academics/center-academic-writing>

Is a Prior Learning Assessment in Your Future?

It is possible to get credit for prior learning experiences which may have presented themselves in the course of your lifetime. Many of these opportunities arise in the workplace, but some may come from the pursuit of personal interests as well. If you are considering creating a prior learning portfolio, please read the statements below and check all that apply to you.

- I am currently enrolled in or planning to enroll in the B.A.I.S. Program
- I have professional background which includes exposure to a variety of learning opportunities and experiences
- I have received formal or informal training which will not qualify for transfer credit
- I have any military training or volunteer work that may be used for prior learning credit
- I hold professional certifications, licenses or awards which highlight my learning experience
- My knowledge and skills in this field are current
- My knowledge and skills can be measured
- My prior learning satisfies the requirements for an identifiable academic discipline
- I would be interested in taking a college credit course on assembling a prior learning portfolio

If you checked one or more of these statements, please make an appointment to talk with your advisor about whether or not a prior learning assessment is right for you.

Earn Credit Hours with Exams

NDP students have the flexibility to obtain the credit hours needed for satisfactory degree completion. NDP students have the option of testing out of over 40 subjects. These test subjects include CLEP exams as well as baccalaureate and upper level baccalaureate competency exams offered through D.S.S.T. Our advisors can help you determine which tests will be right for your educational goals.

If you think this might work for you, please check out the websites:

<https://clep.collegeboard.org/>

<http://getcollegecredit.com/>

Health and Counseling Services

All students have access to mental health and counseling services. These services are offered at no charge each semester.

For details on services available please see their webpage:

<http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/student-health-and-counseling-services>

Angelina Pedroso Center

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs honors all differences, fosters leadership, promoting diversity, intersectionality, and social justice in a student-centered environment. Room B-149

LGBTQA Resource Ctr. & Student Affairs

Steven Loveless Director
S-Loveless@neiu.edu

African and African American Resource Center

Meagan Mitchell Director
m-mitchell4@neiu.edu

Women's Resource Center

Joanna Snawder Director and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
j-snawder@neiu.edu

Latino Resource Center

Maria Genao-Homs Director
m-genao-homs@neiu.edu

Asian and Global Resource Center

Yasmin Ranney Director
y-ranney@neiu.edu

NDP Office Staff Spring 2016

The NDP Office, B-147 is fully staffed with people who are here to help you every day.

Please stop in and get to know the team:

Dr. Kim Sanborn—Director
Dr. Ann Aviles De Bradley—Faculty Advisor UWW
Ms. Jennifer Blair—Program Specialist
Ms. Jacqueline Butler—Program Specialist
Ms. Trease Sockol—Office Support Specialist
Mr. Ed Porter—Office Support Assistant
Ms. Erica Krueger—Grad Assistant BAIS Program
Ms. Justine Altman—Grad Assistant UWW Program
Ms. Tasha Banks—NDP Tutor

DIVVY Bike Discounts Available

You may have noticed those racks of blue bikes popping up all over the city. These bikes are part of a bike sharing program called DIVVY. Riders can purchase an annual membership allowing for unlimited 30 minute rides, 24/7. DIVVY bike stations are currently located in neighborhoods from Andersonville to Hyde Park. Many DIVVY bike kiosks are conveniently situated near train stops along CTA lines.

DIVVY members can download apps which show the number of bikes and open docks at every station, in real time. For more information on how to get your student discount please visit the NEIU page: <http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/divvy-student-memberships>

Remote Printing Feature

NEIU students are able to send documents created off sight to any of the copy machines located on campus. Once you send a document to the printing queue, it will be available to print 24 hours. Here is the link for you to access this service: <https://print.neiu.edu/user>. On this page enter your NEIU ID and password and follow the prompts.

What Would You Like to Read About in Our Next Newsletter?

Is there a topic you would like us to report on, someone on campus you would like to see interviewed or an event you would like to have us highlight? Please send suggestions for future newsletter articles, interviews or announcements to NDP@NEIU.edu.

MLRC—what they have to offer

Have yet to become familiar with the Multi-Media Learning Resource Center (MLRC)? If not, this semester might be the right time for you to get to know them. The center can be found on the 3rd floor of the Ronald Williams Library. You will need to show your student ID to get in, but once you do, a whole world of technology will be at your feet. There are computer terminals and printers for student use. In addition to these basic technologies, the lab can also accommodate any need to edit audio/visual creations.

New to the center is audio/visual equipment that can be used by all NEIU students. You will need to show your student ID to check out equipment, rental is free for up to 3 days. The center also boasts a soundproof room which can be used to record audio components for your projects.

Campus Recreation

If you are a fitness buff and enrolled at NEIU, please take a look at the P.E. Building and all it has to offer. For starters, the complex boasts 5 gymnasium court areas, a climbing wall, an elevated track, racquetball courts, a fitness center and an 8 lane 25ft. long pool with a diving area. These facilities are available for use anytime the facility is open.

Do your kids want to learn to swim? Do you? Each student is allowed to bring two immediate family members into the complex as guests, on Wednesdays from 3-10PM, Fridays from 3-7PM and Saturdays from 9 AM– 3PM. The recreation program offers swimming lessons for all ages from Preschool—Adult. Here is the link to the information about the swimming programs: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/crneiu>

Do you workout with a personal trainer? Campus Recreation offers student packages with discounted rates. Please contact Dave Merrill, for more information: D-Merrill@neiu.edu

Are you interested in fitness classes such as Yoga, Zumba, Athletic Training or Body Conditioning? These are among the many structured fitness classes offered through Campus Recreation. Here is where you can find more information: <http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/campus-recreation/fitness>