DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS
2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT
On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the impact of our programming and services on students during the 2016–2017 academic year. This report also includes a look at the initiatives we’re working on during this 2017-2018 school year.

We connect students to the University through educationally purposeful activities outside the classroom. Our programs and services promote learning, leadership, engagement, service, health and wellness, and the celebration of diversity.

As in the previous academic year, this report is a quantitative assessment of the impact of Student Affairs programs and services and our contribution to student success. As you can see from this report, we have made progress towards accomplishing our strategic goals we established in our 2015–2020 Strategic Plan.

Our key performance indicators measure the ways in which we are also working towards the strategic goals set out in the University Strategic Plan, and towards the Baccalaureate Goals.

We have made great strides towards achieving our goals, and I am proud of the tireless work and dedication the Student Affairs staff shows to our students.

Sincerely,

Daniel López, Jr., Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

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Designed by Rich Xue
With contributions from Student Affairs and Marketing and Communications staff
Compiled and edited by Paola Vargas and Travis Truitt
Division of Student Affairs Leadership

Daniel López, Jr., Ph.D., Vice President, has more than 25 years of higher education experience leading comprehensive academic support services, developmental education and Student Affairs units in support of student success and retention.

F. Matthew Specht, M.A., Dean of Students, has worked in Student Affairs for 24 years managing facilities and providing programs. He has most recently focused on prevention education, adjudication and advocating for the rights of students.

Paola E. Vargas, M.A., Assistant to the Vice President, recently earned her master’s degree in Higher Education Leadership. She’s worked at NEIU for more than 16 years, including eight years of coordinating student services in the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education.

Kris Pierre, M.A., Director, Academic and Community Partnerships, has worked in Student Affairs and academic support positions at culturally diverse, urban Hispanic Serving Institutions, working across organizational boundaries to improve programs and build partnerships in support of student success.

Maria Genao-Homs, M.A., Director, Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, joined the NEIU community in 2013. She has dedicated her professional career to creating inclusive environments where college students can understand and appreciate difference while gaining knowledge of cultural competence through cross-cultural dialogue and experiential learning.

Dave Merrill, M.Ed., Director, Campus Recreation, has worked in the field of recreation for more than 20 years, the last 14 years as an administrator and instructor at NEIU.

Doug Lawson, M.Ed., Director, Student Disability Services, has worked to improve access for students of all abilities since 2005, first as a teacher in the K-12 system and then in the last six years as a Student Affairs professional.

Maureen Teresa Amos (“Mo”), M.A., Executive Director, Student Financial Wellness, has worked in the financial aid profession for more than 20 years and served in positions of leadership at the national, regional and state levels. She joined the NEIU family in 2003.

Tom Lambert, B.A., Director, Student Financial Wellness - Student Payment Services, has more than 25 years of experience in higher education administration in the area of student finance, including student account administration and financial aid. He has worked with Northeastern students since 2006.

Sharon Reimbaugh, MSN, APRN, FNP, Director, Student Health Services, has held clinical and administrative roles in college health throughout the country for the past 16 years, joining the NEIU team in 2017. She is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and has extensive clinical nursing experience working with young adults and adolescents.

Carol Z. Hughes, B.A., General Manager of The Nest, Student Housing, came to Northeastern in 2017 with more than 40 years of experience working in the housing field. She is employed by American Campus Communities, where she’s received numerous corporate awards.

Veronica Rodriguez, M.Ed., Director, Student Leadership Development, has worked with student organizations and Greek life and led and created service trips and at several Chicago-area universities since 2002, with the ability to develop students while remaining adaptable at all times.

Travis Truitt, M.A., Director, Student Media, is a former middle school English teacher and currently an instructor in the CMT program, with more than 16 years of experience working in journalism, communications and student media.

Christopher Maxwell, M.A., Assistant Dean of Students, has worked in higher education administration across the country for 10 years in increasing roles of responsibilities, with experience in student activities, multicultural affairs, and fraternity, sorority and residence life.

Sue Stock, Ph.D., Director, Student Counseling and Career Services, brings more than 25 years of providing mental health and career services at urban, diverse university campuses. Dr. Stock has served in leadership roles in professional organizations and has published books and articles on student affairs practice.

Kyle Burks, B.A., Director, Student Union, Event and Conference Services, has more than 20 years of experience in large-scale event and conference management. He’s been at NEIU since 2006 and has served in his current role as director since 2012.

Maureen T. Murphy, M.Ed., Assistant Dean of Students, has over 20 years of experience in student affairs, and fraternity, sorority and residence life. She currently works as a student advocate and with Undocumented Student Resources.

Luvia Moreno, M.A., Assistant Dean of Students and Director, Undocumented Student Resources, has more than 11 years of experience in Hispanic Serving Institutions, addressing the needs of undocumented and other underrepresented students and their families.

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**Key Performance Indicators**

The Division of Student Affairs measures the ways in which we are working towards the strategic goals set out in the University Strategic Plan, and towards the Baccalaureate Goals through the following Key Performance Indicators:

**SS3 - Fall to Fall Retention Rate of Students in Residence Hall**
- This KPI tracks the percentage of students in the residence hall in a Fall term who return the following Fall term, or graduate.

**SS4 - Fall to Fall Retention Rate for Engaged Students**
- This KPI tracks the percentage of students engaged in Student Affairs programs, services and events who are retained from Fall to Fall. This KPI does not track mandated participation such as: student pick-up of IDs and U Passes. Does not include students who graduate. (non-duplicated)

**SS12 - Number of Student Contacts in Student Affairs Programs and Activities (duplicated)**
- This KPI tracks the number of student contacts in student affairs services. This number includes one-one, group, walk-ins, workshops, programs and activities sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs.

- Student contacts are tracked through the Collegiate Link module of Campus Lab and other data collection methods. Students can be counted more than once. This KPI also tracks mandated activities such as: student IDs and U Passes.

**SS13 - Student Engagement in Student Affairs Programs and Activities**
- Percentage of students who engage in Student Affairs programs or services with quality, ongoing and deliberate curriculum intentionally deployed by a department. Non-duplicated.

**AEI6 - Number of Student Contact/Students Served in Career Services**
- These KPIs track the number of student contacts and the number of unique students served at Career Services during an academic year. Services include one-one, groups, walk-ins, workshops, outreach, job fairs, career counseling, and consultations.

**UL3 - Community Partnerships**
- Northeastern is committed to building community partnerships to support student success. This KPI tracks the number of partnerships between Northeastern and community service activities.

**UL4 - Community Service**
- This KPI tracks the number of students who participate in community service activities on and off-campus.

**EF57 - Social Justice Training: Faculty/Staff**
- The Division of Student Affairs holds staff/faculty training programs in support of undocumented students, disabled, LGBTQ (Safe Zone), and other historically underrepresented students.

- This KPI is the percentage of currently employed faculty and staff who participated in at least one training over the fiscal year.

**EF68 - Faculty and Staff Engagement**
- This KPI tracks the number of faculty/staff who are meaningfully engaged in Student Affairs programs and services.

**EU04 - Residence Hall Occupancy Rate**
- This KPI tracks occupancy rates for the 432-bed residence hall, defined as the percent of beds occupied.

**FS4 - Net Revenue from Space Rental**
- Under Student Affairs, Northeastern regularly rents out university space for events.

- This KPI tracks the net revenue collected from rental space in the Student Union and Campus Recreation.

**FS5 - Net Revenue from Community Recreational Programs**
- This KPI tracks the net revenue collected from community memberships and recreational programs.

**FS9 - Results:**
- This KPI tracks the percent of students engaged in Student Affairs activities who are retained or graduate, measured from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017. Student Affairs set a short-term target of 60% for retention and achieved 81.8%.

**Academic and Community Partnerships**

Academic and Community Partnerships promote civic and democratic engagement programs and campaigns, build connections between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to support student success and retention, develops and supports collaborative community partnerships that advance Northeastern’s mission, and provides leadership for Student Affairs collaborative learning initiatives with academic areas including the Economic Inequality Initiative and Tree Campus USA.

During FY17, Academic and Community Partnerships:
- Developed and implemented a series of four financial literacy workshops to increase understanding of basic financial issues that impact on student success as a part of the Economic Inequality Initiative.
- Overaw the transition and move of the Student Food Pantry into a larger space and to the supervision of the AmeriCorps VISTA. There were a total of 2,231 visits to the Student Food Pantry, and use of the food pantry increased by more than 20 percent from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017.
- Developed a partnership with the Illinois Hunger Coalition to provide SNAP workshops for students using the Student Food Pantry and collaborated with them to administer a survey on the impact of hunger among NEIU students.
- Applied for and received funding from the Illinois Campus Compact for restorative justice training for students and faculty.

**Goals for FY18 include:**
- Increasing the number of paid internship opportunities and other engaged learning experiences for students through the development of positions to support the Food Pantry, Tree Campus USA, Northeastern’s community garden and non-profit organizations around NEIU’s campuses.
- Strengthening connections between academic programs and Student Affairs through the development of an Advisory Council to advise and provide guidance on the long term development of the Student Food Pantry and other initiatives designed to support students dealing with economic insecurity issues.

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**81.8%**
- Student Affairs Engaged Students Retained/Graduated - Actual

**60%**
- Student Affairs Short-Term Goal
Intercultural Affairs:
During FY17, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs (APCDIA) seeks to engage students at all Northeastern Illinois University campuses to create and sustain an environment of inclusivity across cultures, socio-economic class, sexual orientation, gender and other social identities. The APCDIA develops and provides programming and initiatives in a welcoming environment designed to educate, empower and retain students from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds. The APCDIA engages students at all Northeastern Illinois University campuses to create and sustain an environment of inclusivity across cultures, socio-economic class, sexual orientation, gender and other social identities.

During FY17, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs:

- Developed a new mission, vision and values to accurately reflect the work of APCDIA.
- Completed the second year of the African/African American Mentoring Program, which reported a nominal retention of its participants from its first to second year.
- Reframed the Social Justice Ally Initiative (SJAI) in collaboration with campus partners. This retooling required a cohort structure made up of faculty and staff. It included the “big three” trainings – (Dis)Ability Project, Safe Zone and Undocumented Student Success, an article published in an issue of “Diversity and Democracy,” a publication by the Association of American Colleges and Universities.
- Mentoring Program, which reported a nominal retention of its participants from its first to second year.
- Created “Building Institutional Capacity for Undocumented Student Success,” an article produced pre-, post- and longitudinal data at six months after the completion of the first cohort.
- In continued partnership with The Dream.US, an initiative offering a hybrid financial aid consisting of full scholarships with institutional funding, added 17 new scholars to its program support at a fraction of the cost of full-time staff.
- Completed the second year of the African/African American Mentoring Program, which reported a nominal retention of its participants from its first to second year.
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Goals for FY18 include:

- For the first time dedicated a full month of programming to the needs, concerns and triumphs of undocumented students in the spring semester. Selective events included:
  - Know-your-rights trainings
  - Citizenship workshops
  - Panel discussions
  - Workshops on internships 101
  - Friends and networking, among others
- Drafted “Building Institutional Capacity for Undocumented Student Success,” an article published in an issue of “Diversity and Democracy,” a publication by the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Campus Recreation:

The mission of Campus Recreation is to enhance and improve the total well-being and healthy lifestyles of students and the NEIU community through the utilization of Campus Recreation programs, services and facilities. During FY17, Campus Recreation:

- Increased facility operational hours by two hours on Saturday (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) and added operational hours on Sunday (1-5 p.m.).
- Added support services positions for students to augment facility operations in the PE Complex.
- Implemented the Res-to-Rec program to encourage residents of The Nest to become active in Campus Recreation programs.
- Offered American Red Cross certification classes in CPR/AED along with Water Safety Instructor and Lifeguard certification to more than 215 members of the University community. The pool was utilized a total of 22,961 times by the University community, and Campus Recreation staff taught 7,820 Neptune learn-to-swim lessons.

Goals for FY18 include:

- Conducting a comprehensive facility audit of the PE Complex as a basis for immediate and future repairs/ upgrades/renovations. This is the first step to a facility master plan.
- Establishing the Wellness Committee to address wellness needs and issues for the University community.
- Renaming the PE Complex as the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.
Department Highlights

Student Affairs

Student Affairs programs and services promote supportive living and learning environments, access to personal and career development, leadership and engagement opportunities, health and wellness, and the celebration of diversity. The Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students staff also works with the university community to advocate, support, adjudicate and educate NEIU students who are involved in incidents or circumstances where intervention is necessary to protect, correct and/or provide due process to find meaningful solutions.

During FY17, Student Affairs:
• Completed a successful first year of resident housing.
• Worked with the Student Government Association to complete and publish a Student Bill of Rights.
• Developed a homelessness tool kit to assist our students who find themselves in crisis.
• Developed and implemented violence prevention programming.
• Led a coordinated effort to systematically reduce accounts receivables from students living in The Nest.

Goals for FY18 include:
• Developing and implementing the Living and Learning pilot program in the residence hall, The Nest.
• Implementing a new security and guest protocol at The Nest to provide a more educationally friendly environment.
• Working closely with American Campus Communities to identify, train and support housing staff and develop comprehensive programs to better serve students in The Nest.
• Uncoupling the Violence Prevention and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention programs to put more targeted emphasis on the drug and alcohol abuse issues on campus.
• Developing a communications plan and adjudication procedures for the University community.
• Enhancing student services at CCICS and El Centro.

Student Counseling and Career Services

Student Counseling and Career Services (SCCS) provides high-quality, inclusive and coordinated counseling and career services. SCCS promotes student success and wellness through culturally-sensitive direct service, education, advocacy and outreach to the NEIU community. Our services help students succeed academically, contribute positively to their communities and live meaningful lives.

During FY17, Student Counseling Services:
• Saw increases in unique students seen (+27.8 percent); percentage of student body seen (+32.7 percent); and total appointments (+4.35 percent).
• Student clients demonstrated significant changes in their initial clinical symptoms, with many clinical scales indicating change at much higher rates than the national average for counseling centers - e.g., depression scales, measured at the beginning of treatment and again at the end, were reduced more than at 94 percent of other university counseling centers.
• The majority of student clients agreed or strongly agreed that receiving counseling services helped them stay in school; that they would recommend Student Counseling Services to a friend; and that they feel better prepared to work through future problems due to the counseling they received.
• Offered 375 group therapy sessions.
• Through outreach, consultation and other University services, offered 162 outreach presentations and held 53 consultation appointments
• Hosted 71 Mindfulness Meditation sessions, serving 174 students, faculty and staff.

Goals for FY18 include:
• Creating a new mission and vision statement as the recently combined department merges departmental functions, space, communications and marketing, policies, procedures, data collection, etc.
• Rebuilding career services functions to enable the department to better support students.
• Prioritizing providing excellent service to students.
Department Highlights

Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services is committed to fostering inclusion and full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of their University experience. SDS will do this by facilitating the provisions of reasonable accommodations as determined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. SDS will seek to go beyond compliance through education, advocacy and strong partnerships with NEIU faculty and staff.

During FY17, Student Disability Services:

• Served 330 students.
• Trained 147 faculty and staff members through The (dis)Ability Project.
• Faced zero lawsuits, discrimination claims or grievances against the department.

Goals for FY18 include:

• Implementing effective and reasonable accommodations in a timely manner.
• Educating students on their rights and responsibilities and enhancing their self-advocacy skills.
• Bringing awareness to the University community regarding legal rights of students with disabilities and being a point of contact throughout the University community to remove institutional and attitudinal barriers for students with disabilities.
• Using The (dis)Ability Project campaign to change the University culture to allow for students to be a part of a multicultural world.

Student Financial Wellness

Student Financial Wellness is the new addition to the Division of Student Affairs and is comprised of three areas: Financial Aid, Scholarships and Student Employment (formerly in the Division of Academic Affairs) and Student Payment Services (formerly in the Division of Finance and Administration). Student Financial Wellness was established in response to students’ concerns around having to visit multiple offices in order to finance their education. Restructuring these services into a single unit will provide one central, convenient location for students who will now work with one financial wellness advisor for consultation regarding tuition bills, financial aid packages, scholarships and loans.

During FY17, Student Health Services:

• Engaged students through 3,734 clinical encounter visits, averaging 311 visits per month, and 741 laboratory health screening visits. These numbers are similar to the past fiscal year, despite lower enrollment.
• Expanded physical exam, diagnostic and treatment services offered through new nurse practitioner appointments.
• Successfully launched a coordinated effort with Student Counseling Services to screen all Student Health Services clients for depression and provided follow up counseling as needed.
• Revised the scheduling process to increase accountability and improve access for students.
• Successfully onboarded a new director and improved the clarity of staff roles through restructuring.
• Developed a new clerical file system to increase efficiency and improve workflow and reorganized the physical facility needed.
• Increased student outreach through participation in new student orientations.
• Laid the preliminary groundwork for participation in a health care Group Purchasing Organization to decrease supply and lab costs.

Goals for FY18 include:

• Increasing student health and counseling services at El Centro and the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.
• Enhancing the quality of service and communication to promote student satisfaction.
• Expanding health care services to remove and modify illness related barriers to student success.
• Participated in the newly formed campus Wellness Committee.
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• Collaborated with the Swedish Covenant Community Partnership program for the first time and formed new partnerships with North Park University to provide an internship site for a BSN student and with Health Education to provide service learning and internship opportunities.

Student Health Services provides high-quality, inclusive and coordinated health services. We promote student success and wellness through culturally sensitive direct service, education, advocacy and outreach to the NEIU community. Our services help students succeed academically, contribute positively to their communities and live meaningful lives.

During FY17, Student Health Services:

• Became a member of the American College Health Association (ACHA) and participated in the national ACHA conference to increase networking and professional development opportunities.
• Executed a targeted outreach initiative to educate and advise students about health insurance issues and collaborated with Academic and Community Partnerships and PCC Community Clinic to provide an ACA health insurance specialist on campus to enroll students in Medicaid and ACA insurance.
• Collaborated with the Swedish Covenant Community Partnership program for the first time and formed new partnerships with North Park University to provide an internship site for a BSN student and with Health Education to provide service learning and internship opportunities.
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Student Housing - The Nest

NEIU Student Housing provides a supportive learning and living environment conducive to healthy living, personal growth, academic achievement and professional success in the heart of the University and the city of Chicago. Northeastern is working with American Campus Communities (ACC) in the design, development and management of the student housing project. ACC has established itself as a leader in quality student housing communities nationwide.

440
Maximum Occupancy

395
Residents at Move-In Day

8
Resident Assistants
During FY17, Student Leadership Development: 

- Engaged more than 2,600 unique students participating in SLD events.
- Advised 85 Registered Student Organizations, including eight sororities, four fraternities, one co-ed fraternity, one gender neutral fraternity and four student media organizations.
- Facilitated 59 different events funded by Council of Clubs’ allocations totaling $100,000.
- Created new evening and weekend programs for students living in The Nest, including bringing YouTube sensation Alex Aloni to campus, an event attended by more than 300 students.
- Conducted a 7-week Leadership Pathways course comprised of 19 students.
- Conducted the Freshmen Leadership Institute, a two-day retreat for 19 incoming freshmen.
- Selected and trained 13 Freshmen Navigators – campus leaders who helped “navigate” fellow freshmen and assisted with Freshmen Meet Ups.
- Expanded the Freshmen Meet Ups, which continue to draw 50 to 60 freshmen to gather and create community.
- Assisted with the creation of the first NEIU Weekend.
- Created a week of events for new residents including activities for move-in days.
- Organized four student-led, immersion-oriented Alternative Spring Break Trips in March. A total of 44 students went to either learn more about civil rights and community organizing in Memphis, Tennessee; border reform and immigration issues in Tucson, Arizona; refugee resettlement issues in Clarion, Georgia, or work with Habitat for Humanity building a house and learning about Cherokee nation’s struggles to preserve their culture and heritage in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- Created more experiential learning programs such as “Sex Signals” and non-violence training.
- Student Media accomplishments include:
  - The Independent earned a second place certificate for “Best of Show” for newspapers in its category at the Associated Collegiate Press midwinter convention.
  - WZRD radio was acknowledged in the recent “Best of Chicago” 2017 issue of the Chicago Reader.
  - 123 unique students participated in at least one media organization or attended Meet the Media Night, and 105 students were actively engaged in one or more media organizations, with 18 students participating with two or more student media organizations (up from eight last year).

Goals for FY18 include:

- Continuing to empower students to be more self-sufficient within their organizations.
- Continuing to create purposeful programs for The Nest residents and creating more experiential learning programs such as Tunnel of Oppression and the Spectrum Retreat.
- Relocating to the Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs.

Student Leadership Development (SLD) engages our diverse and often non-traditional students through programming, service projects, experiential learning and leadership opportunities designed to enhance their college experience. SLD strives to enhance our students’ college experience through student engagement. We nurture students as they emerge on campus. We guide them as they advance through their collegiate career. We support them as they develop transferable skills. We advise them as they evolve into global citizens. We celebrate them as they recognize potential. We cultivate leaders.

**Student Leadership Pathways**

- 85 Student Organizations
- 2,600 Unique Students Participating
- 19 Leadership Pathways
- 13 Freshmen Navigators

**85**

More than

**2,600**

Student Organizations

**19**

Leadership Pathways

**13**

Freshmen Navigators
Bustos and student laureates from around the state were honored during a Nov. 11 ceremony and luncheon at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site.

“Cesar entered as a freshman in 2011 and was placed in developmental Mathematics and English courses,” said Professor of Physics Paulo Acioli, who nominated Bustos for the award. “This is a particularly challenging road for a student to succeed in majoring in a STEM discipline. Nevertheless, Cesar persevered and is en route to graduate with distinction as a double major in Physics and Mathematics combined with an Earth Science minor.”

Acioli first met Bustos in his PHYS 206L course, a class recently modified to use a non-standard textbook and using computations as an integral part of the course. The main idea is to emphasize that all moving objects can be explained by a small set of principles known as Newton’s laws.

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“Cesar performed spectacularly in the class,” Acioli said. “In particular, I should emphasize that Cesar was one of the most engaged students in the class, a trait that carries over to his extracurricular activities at the University and beyond.”

Those extracurricular activities include presiding over the Earth Science Club, participating in the Northeastern chapters of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanic and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) and the Society of Physics Students, undertaking original research, and being accepted into Northwestern University’s highly selective Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics Research Experiences for Undergraduates (CIERA REU) program.

Bustos enjoyed science and started out at Northeastern as an Earth Science major, but he soon found something he liked more. “I was good at math as a kid but got tired of it since they never taught anything new or showed us what you can do with it,” he said. “One semester I had to take Calc II (All of Physics) and I just fell in love and decided to change my major. It was only until I took those two classes that I found out you are able to apply it to things around us.”

The Order of Lincoln was established in 1964 by proclamation of Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner to honor individuals whose contributions to the betterment of humanity have been accomplished in Illinois or whose achievements have brought honor to the state.

For Bustos, the nomination means an opportunity to help. “When I was a kid, I always wanted to be a superhero and help people and things like that. Well, I found out the devastating news that that is not going to happen,” he said. “So I opted into trying to help the society around me in any way that I possibly can. I cannot swing around the city like Spider-Man, but I could help those around me in promoting STEM to community centers and trying to get people interested in STEM.”

“Double major Cesar Bustos named NEIU’s 2017 Lincoln Academy Student Laureate.”

Bustos and student laureates from around the state were honored during a Nov. 11 ceremony and luncheon at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site.

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“Aciol
Student Government Association Leadership

The purpose of the Student Government Association is to lead with integrity, embracing our diversity to promote a cohesive and unified student body. It is the mission of the SGA to be the voice of all students.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The SGA is composed of three bodies: the 16 representatives of the Council of Clubs, 16 Senators, all elected, and 5 Student Justices appointed by the SGA President.

These groups are lead by the Executive Board: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the IBHE:SAC (Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisor Council) Student Representative, and the Student Trustee.

The Senate advocates for the student body. The Senators serve on one of two standing committees: the Student Life Committee or the Academic Affairs Committee.

The Council of Clubs advocates for creating and funding organizations on campus. Council of Clubs representatives serve on one of two standing committees: the Promotions and Appointments Committee or the Charter Rules and Regulation Committee.

The SGA worked with the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students to establish a Student Bill of Rights. (next page)

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Golden Eagle Award: Anna Augustyn

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Advocacy Award: Leticia Vargas

Dr. Shoness L. Warren-Sloor Service Award: Martha Armenta

Wilson Media Award: Robin Bridges

Greek of the Year: Diego Santiago

Indelible Mark Award: Maria Genao-Horns

Blue and Gold Award: Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity

NRIchment Award: Muslim Student Association

Soaring Eagle Award: Theta Chi Omega Sorority

Trailblazer Award: Ability Advocacy Organization

Greek Chapter of the Year: Delta Tau Lambda Sorority

On February 14, 2017, the Student Government Association, through Senate Resolution SR17-005, approved a Student Bill of Rights for the students of Northeastern Illinois University. The Bill of Rights enumerates specific individual rights and responsibilities for the student body that will be implemented in the Fall 2017 semester.

Highlights include:

Freedom of Speech and Rights of Assembly

Students shall have the right to express themselves individually and to assemble, demonstrate, protest and organize activities presenting differing viewpoints. Student organizations shall be inclusive and have the right to invite guest speakers of their choosing and to select their own advisor.

The Right to Student Representation and Due Process

The student body shall be officially represented by the Student Government Association, and students, both individually and collectively, shall be able to express views on institutional policies. All students shall have access to a fair and concise grievance process and the right to due process under the Student Code of Conduct.

Freedom of the Student Press

The student press shall be free from censorship and prior review of copy, and editors and managers shall be protected from arbitrary suspensions or removal due to administrative disapproval of editorial policy or content.

Equal Opportunity, Access and Inclusivity at All Campus Locations

Students shall be afforded the same freedoms and rights with the availability of equitable institutional resources at all campus locations, and all students shall have the right to academic support services, mental health-related services, accommodations for covered disabilities and access to timely financial aid information and services.

The Right to Individual Privacy and Student Group Recognition

Students shall have full protection against improper disclosure of their educational records, and registered student organizations shall receive institutional recognition.

Student Responsibilities

Students have a responsibility to foster an atmosphere of respect, understanding and goodwill among individuals and groups as a part of a University community that is committed to adhering to the principles provided in the Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination policy.

APPROVED BY: Student Government Association President
February 14, 2017

Vice President for Student Affairs
March 1, 2017

Interim President
April 10, 2017

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At the 2017 LEAD Awards banquet hosted by Student Leadership Development, the following students and student organizations were recognized for their outstanding efforts and positive impact on campus and beyond:

Golden Eagle Award: Anna Augustyn

Legacy Award: Max Caviness and Rut Ortiz

Advocacy Award: Leticia Vargas

Dr. Shoness L. Warren-Sloor Service Award: Martha Armenta

Wilson Media Award: Robin Bridges

Greek of the Year: Diego Santiago

Indelible Mark Award: Maria Genao-Horns

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Upon approval by the President, the Student Bill of Rights will be implemented starting in the Fall 2017 semester.

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Division of Student Affairs Salutes our Student Employees

The work of the Division of Student Affairs is supported by many talented student employees. Here are just a few highlights of their work:

Gloria Orozco Dorado

At the Student Affairs Awards of Excellence program last May, student employees Ashely Neja of Student Union, Event and Conference Services and Albert Chanthaboury of Student Leadership Development received the Rising Star Award.

The smiling face at the front desk of the Student Affairs office this year belongs to Gloria Orozco Dorado, an international student from Colombia who did a year of undergraduate studies at NEIU (2015-2016) and is now back to pursue her Master’s degree in music pedagogy. Gloria maintains a rigorous rehearsal and class schedule, but still manages to bring energy, charm and creativity to the office every day. She is a talented clarinetist who has won several performance scholarships. Her role in the Student Affairs office gives her the opportunity to develop an understanding of the administrative side of higher education, as well as to interact with and provide support to students, faculty and staff across the University.

The Angelina Pedrero Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs currently employs eight undergraduate and graduate students from across disciplines and areas of interest. All eight of these students are engaged in the mission of the Pedrero Center and regularly contribute to major initiatives.

According to Merrill, student employee Christine Cordero “set the standard” for employees through “her desire, dedication and commitment to growth.” Cordero graduated in May after a busy year in which she earned a promotion within the department, completed an intensive internship, became president of the PETE Club, officiated multiple championship games and worked extremely hard to prepare for her post-graduation journey.

Merrill also praised Dan Reamer, who started as an undergraduate student working in Campus Recreation more than five years ago when he lobbied professional staff for the ActiVnet software program, which he said should be used as the registration software in the Neptune Learn to Swim Program. Reamer has taken that ActiVnet program and developed it for use in all aspects of Campus Recreation, including membership and fitness activity registration, and across the university in the Community and Professional Education (CAPE) program. Currently, Dan implements and manages the ActiVnet program at the university as a graduate student in business.

Campus Recreation, which employs 107 total students, is focused on continually developing each student in a unique way that relates to the skills they need upon graduation. Every student is different, with their own challenges, goals and career path. This makes this departmental goal exciting and dynamic as they work together to achieve it.

Student lifeguards and swim instructors develop a variety of skills including teaching, business, technology and leadership through their work in aquatics at Campus Recreation.

Campus Recreation Director Dave Merrill said several students on the aquatics staff have assisted with special needs swimming lessons for Northside Learning Center High School (NLCH) and expressed very positive feedback about the experience, in which they learned firsthand how easy it is to include people with special needs in all aspects of life, including recreational activities as well as educational opportunities as the NLCH students very quickly learned how to swim.

The Nest Student Housing provides a unique opportunity for students to both live and work on campus as Resident Assistants. Here is an introduction to some of the students doing this very important work:

• Andrea Valenzuela is a junior majoring in chemistry. She transferred to Northeastern from a community college and says she loves “making art, dancing, going to the gym and eating.”

• Bella Vargas is a fourth-year student majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. She lists baseball and visiting Paris among her favorite activities, and she says she thoroughly enjoys Godiva chocolate, green tea with soy, cheese and veggie burgers – with bacon!

• Kayla Walker is a second-year human resources major and calls herself a “military brat” who has traveled and experienced the world with her family, listing England, Maryland and Texas as her favorite military stations along the way. She says she expresses herself through her makeup and through many different fingernail designs.

• Cherita Warren is a second-year student and a vocal performance major who enjoys singing, playing guitar, painting, swimming and cooking. She’s sung background vocals for a number of artists, including Common, and she’s traveled to Sweden twice and to London.

• Elyse Woodbury, who already holds a degree in neurobiology from Baldwin Wallace University, is pursuing her second bachelor’s in psychology, while minoring in gerontology. She says she has “a deep passion for education and study” and that students are “building the staircase to our dream careers.” She’s the president of NEIU’s Child Advocacy Club and also hosts a weekly study group.

• Bendell Williams is a finance major and a Spanish minor. He says he loves to cook and workout at the gym. He created a Facebook group for his residents, and he calls himself a “proud bother” of Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Looking Forward

This year, our work is focused on the following priorities to better serve our students:

- Focus on student engagement, retention and assessment using national high impact practices in support of student success.
- Continue to restructure and relocate student services for budget reductions and efficiency in support of student success.
- Implement Student Affairs Departmental Assessment Plans and continue to collect data for our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to measure our contribution to student retention and success.
- Attain budgeted residence hall occupancy of 352 (80%), leading to a financial gain for the institution, and continue to build residential hall programs to support student retention.
- Launch the Living and Learning Community (LLC) Program for the students living in the residence hall - The Nest. This program is aimed at promoting student success and increasing the retention of students living in the residence hall and at NEIU, working closely with student success programs, Academic Advising and other retention initiatives to ensure effective coordination and support.
- Increase student health and counseling services at El Centro and the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies and remodel the student lounge at CCICS.
- Work with Academic Affairs to identify faculty members to serve as faculty fellows within the Pedroso Center.
- Expand wrap around programs in the Food Pantry to better support students dealing with economic insecurity issues in partnership with academic programs and local non-profit organizations.
- Expand learning experiences for students through collaborative efforts with the Department of Health Sciences and Physical Education, the Food Pantry and The Nest residence hall.
- Implement the vaccination policy for students and develop a plan for the Immunization compliance program for the University.
- Expand the Power Closet program aimed at providing students with everyday and business attire.
- Rebuild career services and work closely with academic departments to better serve students in the career development process.
- Launch sexual assault and prevention programs and apply for external funds.

The Student Affairs team looks forward to working with you, and we thank you for your continued support and commitment to our students.