



NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNELICK

The year 2026 has been roaring by, and I'm grateful for the exceptional start we have experienced.

We just achieved the most significant milestones in the College's history. In March, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) officially named us an accredited institution. It is an achievement that would not have been possible without the work of our entire NPRC community, especially our academic division. Their discipline and work over the last several years has led to this moment — recognition of the rigor and strong standing NPRC has earned in higher education. While it's an important milestone for NPRC, it's even more important for our current and future students. Accreditation opens up a new realm of possibilities for NPRC students, and we are only in the infancy of understanding the impact it will have.

Whether it's helping students enroll in life-changing programs like EMT and Nurse Aide, supporting students who are attending college for the first time, or helping others pursue careers through CDL training, every effort matters. Our dual enrollment offerings continue to expand while we work with each school district to meet their needs and offer programming that truly matters to students. This is just some of the important work that has defined the start of 2026.

Our community development events continue to bring unique and valuable opportunities to communities across our region. Being able to partner with local professionals and businesses has been nothing short of incredible and we take pride in educating the community on topics like artificial intelligence, personal finance, art, life-skills, purchasing homes and property, and much more. As we approach the one-year mark of the community development department, I could not be prouder of the results this team has achieved and the work they have done to advance our institution and connect with more members of these beloved communities.

Thank you to everyone for all you do for the College and the communities we serve across Pennsylvania. This is an exciting time to be a leader at NPRC, and I cannot wait to see what lies ahead.

Sincerely,

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

April 22 — Open Registration

FALL 2026 TERM

April 22 — Scams and Financial Exploitation of Seniors

SEMINAR - COUDERSPORT

April 23 — Forged for Financial Strength Workshop

FRANKLIN

April 30 — County Spotlight Celebration

WARREN & FOREST

May 1 — County Spotlight Celebration

MCKEAN

May 2 — Psychological Trauma in EMS Patients

VIRTUAL

May 9 — Commencement Ceremony 2025-26

KANE

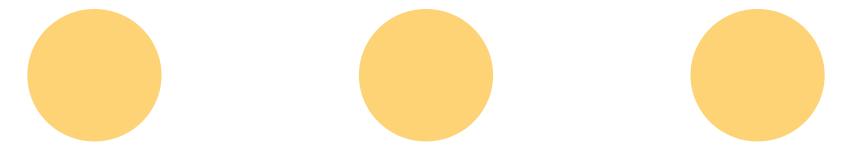
June 1 — Summer 2026 Term Begins

June 2 — Summer 2026 Registration Deadline

July 23 — Summer Cohort Begins

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS



ACCREDITATION UPDATE

NPRC has been officially accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) as of March 12, 2026, affirming NPRC's commitment to educational excellence, integrity, and transformative student outcomes.

The announcement follows a comprehensive multi-year process that included self-study and an in-depth review by a team of peer evaluators. Accreditation ensures that NPRC meets full compliance with MSCHE's quality standards, which evaluates institutions across all areas of operation. As an institution accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, NPRC will continue to ensure that it meets the high expectations of accreditation by conducting its next comprehensive Self-Study Evaluation and On-Site Evaluation visit at least every eight years.

NPRC's accreditation ensures continued eligibility for federal funding and affirms the institution's academic quality and integrity. Most importantly, it reinforces the promise that every NPRC student receives a meaningful education; one that nurtures talent and hard work, while also preparing graduates to make a difference in their communities and beyond.

For more information about this milestone, click [here](#).



ALYCE BUSCH JOINS NPRC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alyce Busch of Forest County joined the Board of Trustees at NPRC on March 13. Her experience and knowledge in business, criminal justice, and government make her a great addition to NPRC.

She currently serves as the District Attorney of Forest County, an Assistant District Attorney for Warren County, and as the Owner/Member of Alyce M. Busch, Esquire PLLC. Ms. Busch is a resident of Tionesta and a former resident of Warren. She holds a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Clarion University and completed her Juris Doctor at Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Her current community and volunteer service work includes serving on the Forest County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the Warren-Forest Bar Association, and the Forest County Multi-Disciplinary and Investigative Teams. She also previously served on Clarion University of Pennsylvania's Paralegal Studies Advisory Board as chair and interim director/instructor of the Paralegal Studies Program; the Forest County Children's Round Table; the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs/Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Board for Forest and Warren Counties; the Tionesta Community Association as a past president; the Tionesta Sports and Recreation Board; and the Warren County Children's Round Table.

Learn more about her [here](#).



NPRC HOLDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

NPRC hosted its second annual fundraiser for student scholarships on the evening of Saturday, March 28 at Cable Hollow Golf Course in Russell.

The event helped raise money for student scholarships to support current and future students. Through sponsorships, donations, and bidding on auction items, groups, businesses, and individuals showed their support for the College in many meaningful ways.

The highlight of the night was hearing from the incredible students who shared their NPRC success stories, which everyone in attendance could agree is the most rewarding part of being connected to the institution in any capacity. Their stories of perseverance, second chances, and balance are inspiring to all.

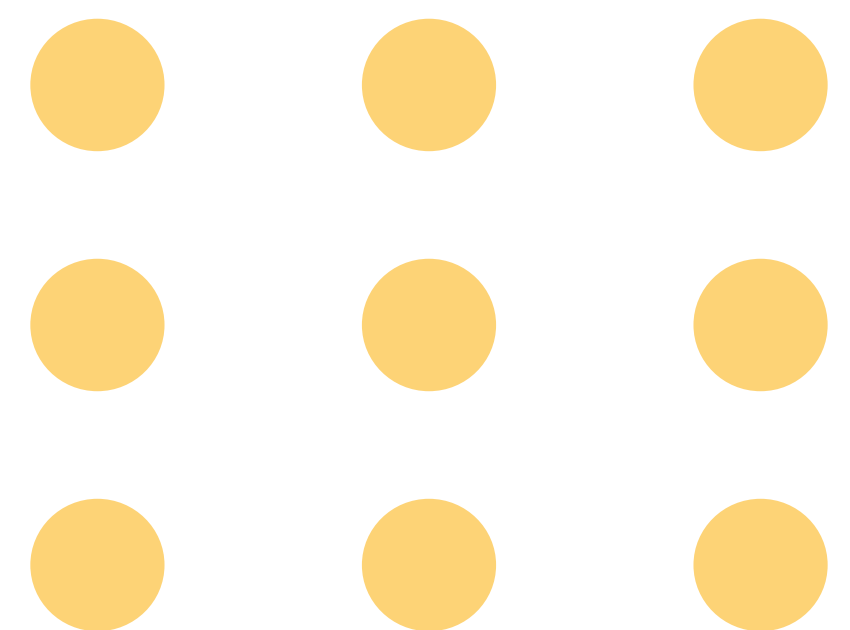
The second annual event was a success, and we have more fundraising opportunities coming later this year. Stay tuned for announcements on how you can support the College's student scholarship fund in the coming months.



NAMED COMMUNITYVOTES ERIE CDL PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College was named a Platinum winner of CommunityVotes Erie 2025 for Commercial Driver Training (CDL). NPRC's truck driving training, in partnership with PA Pride, LLC, has helped many professionals begin a career as a truck driver or advance their career in several ways. It is one of many ways the College is ensuring that #BrighterFuturesBeginHere.

To see a full list of winners from CommunityVotes Erie 2025, click [here](#).



STUDENT AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTIAN THAYER

Christian Thayer is one of the latest examples at NPRC of a student changing their life and brightening their future. A resident of Titusville, Thayer works full-time for the Erie Homes for Children and Adults (ECHA) at the Crawford County group homes as a program specialist and is using his learning in the classroom to better serve those in need of support.

“ECHA’s mission was the type of work I felt my calling to be,” noted Thayer. “We try to provide a family-living structure, where we take care of people while promoting independence as much as possible. The thing I love most about my job is that I get to have genuine relationships with the individuals we take care of. It is like having an extended family. I enjoy getting to take the individuals out into the community for fun events, and we help them develop and maintain relationships with their friends and employers.”

An associate degree in human services from NPRC will allow Thayer to have increased opportunities at work and continue to allow him to know how to better serve those he works with. “When I was looking for schools, I wanted something that was local, and NPRC was the perfect fit for that,” he noted. “It was also very flexible, allowing me to go to school part-time to earn my degree. I also liked the option to take classes in person, which I am doing this semester.”

A perfect opportunity for a local resident who always hoped to go to college, but until now, did not have that perfect fit. But now, Christian is on his way to achieving even bigger things in human services.



DAVE PELACHIK

Dave Pelachik joined the NPRC team full-time in 2025, and he’s already begun making an impact by spending more time assisting in public safety.

Pelachik and his colleagues in public safety have worked diligently in recent months to help improve the NPRC’s emergency medical technician (EMT) program. The improvements include increased flexibility for students, expanded lab work locations, and more hands-on experiences to help students be prepared for when they enter this field. With rural healthcare continuing to be a prevalent issue across the country, increasing the number of professionals in emergency medical services is crucial to saving lives.

“We desperately need more trained professionals for the sake of so many communities,” shared Pelachik. “It’s a very satisfying career field, especially if you seek to make a difference every single day. EMTs are a community safety net and are the ones who help to save your neighbors and friends who need potentially life-saving care. You’re not just supporting a cause by supporting the education of future EMTs; you’re truly supporting life.”

The new cohort structure is split into the didactic coursework, lab skills, and field/clinical studies sections. Each of these sections is several weeks long and is competency-based. Lectures are flexible and can be completed from students’ homes. Pelachik is also available at different times of the day to accommodate various schedules. The course is available for public enrollment, with customized training opportunities also offered.

“My job is to serve these students who will then go out and serve our communities,” Pelachik shared. “It’s a learning process for everyone with this fresh approach in our courses, but I have a great support system here with Rob Mosher and Gregg Trisket. We all work together to serve our learners and do what’s best to help them all. I’m fortunate to be a part of a department that takes pride in that.”

The next public EMT cohort will begin July 27, 2026. Learn more [here](#).



WFD EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

SCOTT FOSTER

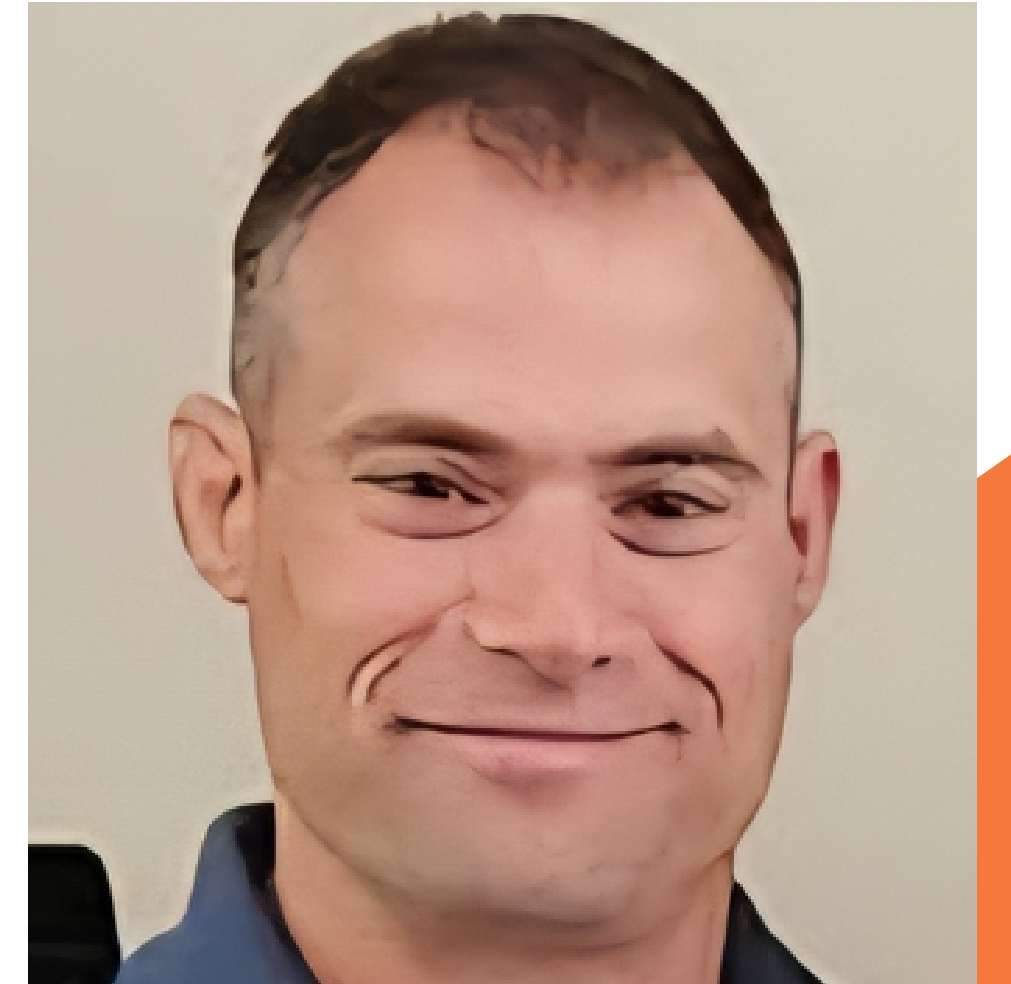
Teaching is a family affair for NPRC's zSpace Program Coordinator, Scott Foster. His mother was a teacher, one of his sisters is a teacher, and he has nearly 20 years of experience in education himself. Born and raised in Decatur, Indiana, Foster moved to Pennsylvania after college and holds an elementary education degree from Indiana University. He's also certified to teach technology education.

Foster joined the team at NPRC to help lead courses using zSpace; an interactive, three-dimensional, virtual reality program that allows users to become fully engaged in hands-on learning. Using a stylus tool, it allows users to manipulate, disassemble, and reassemble objects; investigate concepts; and conduct simulations. zSpace is centered around Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Career and Technical Education (CTE). It supports learning from early elementary through adult education.

Throughout his career, Foster has taught fourth grade, science and social studies in grades five through eight, English Language Arts to sixth and seventh graders, and middle school STEM courses. His broad teaching background, as well as his experience teaching technology education, made him an excellent fit when the College was searching for a zSpace Coordinator who could also teach courses to early education students and community members.

So far, Foster has hosted several events for both staff and community members in Emporium and Kane to showcase the functionality of zSpace. Additional public courses are planned, while private courses will also be hosted for groups of young learners in local schools.

Head to NPRCEvents.org for the latest zSpace offerings coming to the area.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

OIL CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Oil City Area School District is one of several public-school systems taking advantage of our Runways programming for high school learners. Runways is a unique approach to dual enrollment that includes deep collaboration between a high school instructor and an NPRC faculty member, who collaborate on assessments, curriculum, and enhanced lab and interactive learning opportunities.

Oil City's Mike Crocker teaches science and is in his second year as an instructor in the Runways program. "It has been a great opportunity to gain college credits while still in high school for my students, especially because this year and next year's learners really benefit with course fees being covered by grant funding. The students also work with an increased amount of lab equipment because of the course that they otherwise would not have had access to use."

Specifically, the equipment provided by NPRC allowed these learners and Crocker to gain experience with DNA fingerprinting and electrophoresis labs, along with resources that the district did not previously have. Additionally, students are gaining experience working with an online platform, Desire2Learn (D2L), and taking a course that has online components.

There's an increasing likelihood that students will experience an online course if they continue to college, so this introduction to online learning and related platforms is aiding in their experience. "It took a little while, but the students adjusted to using D2L. It was the students' first time using it, but Ron Pollock and Breanna Greene from the College have been there for anything I needed as an instructor, and all students may have needed as well," Crocker shared. "NPRC has also been flexible in letting me determine the order of topics in the courses, so it runs smoothly into my anatomy and physiology course offered at Oil City."

For more information about NPRC's Runways program and how it can benefit a school district and learners near you, click [here](#).

