



NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNELICK

We are already halfway through 2026. Where has the time gone? It has been a tremendous year for the College, and we are #NPRCProud of the strides made this spring.

We celebrated our largest ever Commencement Ceremony on May 9 in Kane and saw nearly 40 students become NPRC alumni. Seeing our students celebrate this milestone is always meaningful for me and our faculty and staff. These students worked incredibly hard and balanced so much to earn their certificates and degrees, but becoming a college graduate is just the beginning for each of them. They will continue to make an impact on their communities in the future.

This spring, we also officially dedicated our third floor in Warren to the founders of NPRC. We would not be here today without the dedication of Dr. Fran Grandinetti, Ms. Deborah Pontzer, Dr. Dick McDowell, and the late Ms. Helene Nawrocki. They will forever be remembered and celebrated by all the learners and community members who utilize this space for years to come. Our accreditation in March also marked a new beginning in many ways for our institution. Students enrolled in our education degrees may now qualify for support through the TEACH scholarships, Northwest Professional Development Organization (NWPDO) funding, and the Rising STARS Tuition Assistance (RSTA) Program if they meet specific requirements. These funding opportunities can help ease the financial burden of pursuing higher education, and we are grateful to all the team members who helped make this possible.

Our Workforce Development division has also secured additional funding from the West Penn Energy Fund to expand programming related to zSpace. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue showcasing this technology throughout the region and appreciate the hard work of the team members who helped secure funding and introduce the program to so many communities.

Finally, we are thankful for the generosity of our community members who donated to our student scholarship fund on our first Warren Gives Day. These contributions will help learners who need additional support to complete their coursework. We live in such a generous region and are grateful for the growing number of supporters and partners who continue to champion the College and our students.

Sincerely,

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

July 13 — CDL Registration Deadline

MANSFIELD

July 14 — TEACH Scholarship Info Session

REMOTE

July 14 — Haikuing Around the City with Mabel Howard

ERIE

July 15 — Hacking College: A Parent's Guide to Dual Enrollment

REMOTE

July 17 — Emergency Medical Technician Registration Deadline

July 23 — Mini Albrecht Durer Printmaking

GALETON

August 3 — CDL Registration Deadline

ST. MARYS

August 4 — Paraeducator Pathways Program Info Session

REMOTE

August 4 — Haikuing Around the City with Mabel Howard

ERIE

August 11 — NWPDO Funding Info Session

REMOTE

August 24 — Fall 2026 Term Begins

August 28 — Mini Fragonard Rococo Sketcht

GALETON

September 12 — Fire Investigation Registration Deadline

DANVILLE

September 16 — Zentangles Art Class

ERIE

September 24 — Golf Scramble

ST. MARYS

NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS

KANE, ERIE, AND WARREN RIBBON CUTTINGS

NPRC co-hosted three ribbon-cutting ceremonies this past spring to celebrate new spaces around the region. Ceremonies were held in Erie, Kane, and Warren to recognize new chapters of community presence for the College.

The event in Erie was held in partnership with the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership and celebrated the official opening of the space at 2005 Peninsula Drive, which opened in fall 2025. The location currently serves as a lab site for apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and customized training programs. NPRC's early childhood education lab site is also located within the space.

In Kane, NPRC partnered with the Kane Area Development Center to celebrate the College's continued presence at Six&Kane, located at 63 North Fraley Street. The second floor continues to serve as NPRC's home in McKean County and provides space for meetings, events, and community engagement. The third floor has also become a valuable gathering space for larger College meetings and regional events.

The College also celebrated the completion of the third-floor project at NPRC's Administrative Center in Warren. Officially completed in January, the multi-use space includes classrooms for academic and workforce development programming, dedicated emergency medical services instructional space, gathering areas, and collaborative technology designed to support in-person learning and community use.

NPRC partnered with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry to host the Warren ceremony in April. During the event, a classroom was dedicated in honor of Dr. Richard "Dick" McDowell. Dr. McDowell and his colleagues, Dr. Fran Grandinetti, Ms. Deborah Pontzer, and the late Ms. Helene Nawrocki, were further recognized with a plaque honoring them as NPRC's founders. The third floor was named "Founders Floor" to recognize their work.

Learn more about NPRC's locations across the region [here](#).



NPRC COMMENCEMENT

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) celebrated their annual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 9 at 2:00 p.m. The event took place at The Wilds Sonshine Factory Inc., with 35 students recognized for completing certificate or degree programs. The ceremony also recognized 13 students in absentia.

The 35 students recognized represented the largest graduating class in NPRC history, with a record number of attendees present to celebrate the students' accomplishments. Hailey Taylor served as the Student Commencement Speaker, while Kelly Compton provided the Commencement address.

President Snelick and Chairperson Jamie Evens also spoke during the ceremony. Chairperson Evens concluded the celebration by sharing, "As Chair of the NPRC Board, it has been my privilege to stand with you and share in this moment that you have earned through determination, curiosity, and resilience. One of the great joys of working with this institution is witnessing how education transforms people. Not just through knowledge gained, but through the confidence that comes from asking hard questions, exploring new ideas, and learning to see the world—and yourself—in new ways. On behalf of the entire NPRC Board of Trustees, I congratulate each of you. We are proud of who you are today—and even more excited for who you will become."

Learn more about NPRC's 2026 Commencement Ceremony [here](#).



MCKEAN COUNTY SPEAKERS

Bradford natives Hailey Taylor and Kelly Compton served as the Commencement Speakers in their home county of McKean during the annual Commencement Ceremony held at The Wilds Sonshine Factory, Inc. in May.

Hailey Taylor served as the Student Commencement Speaker and graduated with a degree in business administration in two years. She was a multiple time Dean's List student and was also named an NPRC Student of the Month. "Without NPRC, I would never have learned the things that I have, just as the personal lessons every other student has or is currently learning wouldn't have been figured out without this school. NPRC changed my life, and I do not doubt that it has for everyone else as well. The lessons, the support, and the opportunities this school has granted us truly compare to no other institution."

Kelly Compton, the Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit 9 Director of Educational Services, followed Taylor and delivered the Commencement address. She shared, "Here is where I'm going to push you. Everyone is here to celebrate you and all that you have accomplished. All that you have overcome to be in this moment right here, right now. So, I want to congratulate you and your families, and I want to challenge you. You didn't come this far to only come this far. After you have fought hard to reach a finish line, the temptation is to stop. To exhale. To let this be the thing you did — the degree on the wall, the credential in the folder, the chapter that closes. You earned a rest. You deserve one. But then you get back up."

Check out our [blog](#) to learn more about Compton and Taylor.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT CELEBRATIONS

NPRC hosted a series of six County Spotlight Celebrations throughout the spring, highlighting the institutions' growing regional impact.

The events recognized student achievement, workforce initiatives, and community partnerships. NPRC showcased the strong momentum taking place across the region, highlighting student success through accessible and affordable education, workforce programs aligned with local industry needs, and partnerships with school districts that expand opportunities for students throughout the region. Members of the media and local government officials also attended. Overall, the celebrations were a success and helped strengthen connections with key stakeholders to support continued growth.

The event dates and locations included:

- Thursday - April 2, 2026 (Erie County) - 2005 Peninsula Dr. Erie, PA 16506
- Tuesday - April 14, 2026 (Tioga/Potter Counties) - The Deane Center: 104 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901
- Thursday - April 16, 2026 (Venango/Crawford Counties) - The Galena Building: 1140 Liberty St. Franklin, PA 16323
- Friday - April 17, 2026 (Elk/Cameron Counties) - The Red Fern Event Center: 421 Old Kersey Rd. Kersey, PA 15846
- Thursday - April 30, 2026 (Warren/Forest Counties) NPRC Administrative Center: 300 2nd Ave. Warren, PA 16365
- Friday - May 1, 2026 (McKean County) - Six&Kane: 63 North Fraley St. Kane, PA 16735

For more community-related courses and events from NPRC visit events.nprc.edu to learn what's coming to your area soon.



GOLF SCRAMBLE

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) is excited to announce the first annual golf scramble to be held on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at Bavarian Hills Golf Course in St. Marys, located at 251 Mulligan Road. All proceeds from the event will support current and future students at the institution. The event registration will take place from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m., with a shotgun start set for 10:00 a.m.

The team entry fee is \$500 per foursome and includes cart and greens fees, lunch and beverages on the course, dinner, and eligibility for cash and prize giveaways throughout the event. The outing will feature a hole-in-one contest, on-course games, and cash prizes for first and second place in the men's and mixed divisions and cash prizes for a few randomly selected teams. Basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle, skins, and mulligans will also be available for additional purchase during the event. Non-golfers can support the event through sponsorship opportunities or by contributing to a raffle basket, door prize, or by making a monetary donation as a sponsor. For more about the event, registering a team, or becoming a sponsor, visit [here](#).



APPRENTICESHIP INSIGHT

NPRC and the German American Chamber of Commerce - Pittsburgh Chapter (GACC) have formed a strong partnership in apprenticeship training. Specifically, the organizations have partnered for an apprenticeship in mechatronics and have helped around a dozen students complete the program.

GACC is the apprenticeship program sponsor, and NPRC serves as the education provider. Coursework takes place at the Education and Training Center at Pitt-Titusville in a dedicated lab location. The program includes 11 courses, each 60 hours in length, for a total of 660 hours of classroom instruction.

Currently, Betts Industries, Inc and Kronospan are sponsoring students to complete this apprenticeship, but more employers are welcome to inquire about sending team members through the program. In total, the program takes around two years to complete and combines on-the-job training, independent learning, and classroom instruction. Students who complete or are currently enrolled in the apprenticeship program are also eligible to pursue NPRC's associate degree in industrial technology.

Learn more [here](#).



STUDENT AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

STEPH NELSON

We are #NPRCProud to announce Stephanie “Steph” Nelson. She was named as the May 2026 Student of the Month. A native of Warren County and longtime resident of Russell, Nelson is a working parent of three who is taking advantage of the time she has now that her children are adults or young adults.

For the last 23-plus years, Nelson has worked at the Barber National Institute at the Bollinger Campus in Warren. She currently works as the SE Team Lead, working with high school students and adults with disabilities. Specifically, she and her colleagues help these folks in need with social skills and finding jobs that are meaningful for them and the community. To learn more about human services and continue growing in her career, she decided in the Spring of 2025 to enroll at NPRC and has not only enjoyed her experience but made the most of it. She’s also been named to the Dean’s List on top of being a recent Student of the Month. “Making Dean’s List was the most meaningful accomplishment I have ever had from a career and education standpoint. I was so excited to accomplish that. I never thought I would do anything like this and being named Student of the Month was exciting, too.”

Learn more about Nelson and her time at NPRC [here](#).



BOB RICE

Bob Rice, our Assistant Director of Facilities Management, is no stranger to both higher education and service. A native of Carthage, New York, Rice is a veteran of the United States Navy and previously worked as a collegiate coach and athletic facilities and events coordinator.

A graduate of Herkimer College, SUNY Cortland, and Capella University, Rice has a passion for service, specifically in education. He brings this enthusiasm to NPRC, having just eclipsed one year with the College. “I was a first-generation college student myself, so playing a role in helping so many other first-generation students is meaningful to me. From the moment I learned of the job until now, I’ve never been so comfortable and proud of where I work. Everyone is so professional and helpful, and I’m able to be a part of major developments here.”

His favorite part of working at NPRC is that each day is unique to the next and brings its own set of challenges and opportunities. “I don’t consider myself the most technical person, but I’ve learned a lot in my time here. Traveling to our different locations and partners’ locations, I’ve really enjoyed it. I know what I went through as a college student, so being a small part of helping students now who each have their own unique circumstances, I don’t take for granted.”

From solving technical problems to helping coordinate logistics and travel and even playing a hand in helping the College become accredited through safety planning, Rice has become a vital part of the NPRC team in a short time. “I have never experienced so much positivity from administration. Every employer says they support wellness, but the College truly does in a variety of ways. It’s been nice to be praised and appreciated for the work I do.”

We are #NPRCProud to have you on our team, Bob!



WFD EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

FRED DEWALT

Fred DeWalt, a native of Meadville and a part-time proctor and instructor of Industrial Technology, has been a tremendous addition to the College's team. His time at NPRC began in 2024 as a proctor for academic courses in Meadville and Erie, but after sitting in on and proctoring some industrial courses, it became apparent that DeWalt's skill set was a great match to teach in our workforce development division.

DeWalt is a veteran of the United States Navy and the Navy's Submarine Force. He spent ten years as a sonar technician in the service, and this work helped him tremendously when he returned to civilian life and entered private industrial work. His career saw him work for Channellock, Armstrong Cable, and Time Warner before settling into this chapter of part-time instructor and proctor. "As a kid, I wanted to be an art teacher, but I've gone into different industries that have now led me here. The experience of teaching here has been great. I learn from my students, and I enjoy covering the wide range of material offered in each different class, since they all have different requirements."

DeWalt spends most of his time at NPRC teaching industrial maintenance and working in partnership with private businesses and groups as part of larger apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs for which the College is an educational provider. Outside of his time working at NPRC, DeWalt spends a lot of time with his family, which includes his wife, Patti, his three children, and four grandchildren.

Thank you for all the work you've done for NPRC, Fred. We are #NPRCProud to have you as a member of our team.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

ELK COUNTY CATHOLIC

The Elk County Catholic School System (ECCSS) and Northern Pennsylvania Regional College worked together during the 2025-26 school year to deliver apprenticeship training in Mechanical Engineering Technology as a part of a growing dual enrollment agreement.

The students completed their SACA Electrical Systems I certifications in the spring and had a special visit from Pennsylvania State Representative Mike Armanini so he could experience the collaboration firsthand. The opportunity allowed students to pair hands-on learning with theoretical applications in the classroom. The program has been a great success, and the partnership is set to continue going forward. Improvements are already being made for the next school year, and more students are looking forward to beginning the opportunity while still in high school.

ECCSS shared, "We are grateful for our continued partnership and the opportunities dual enrollment provides for our students. The dual enrollment programs have allowed our students to experience college-level coursework while still in high school, giving them both confidence and a strong academic foundation for their future. In addition, the manufacturing initiatives have created meaningful, hands-on pathways that connect education with real workforce needs in our region. Together, these programs are opening doors and helping our students see the many possibilities available to them after graduation. We truly value this collaboration and the positive impact it continues to have on our school community"

Learn more about apprenticeships and customized training [here](#).

