



**NORTHERN  
PENNSYLVANIA  
REGIONAL COLLEGE**

# NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNELICK

This year continues to be a monumental one for Northern Pennsylvania Regional College and a year of many firsts. It makes me #NPRCProud to think about all the milestones we have reached and many more we will accomplish together.

We successfully hosted our first NPRC Golf Scramble just a few weeks ago, and the generosity we received was truly amazing. The College raised funds to support our student scholarships and help make an NPRC education even more affordable. We have increased accessibility in tremendous ways, and affordability remains a top priority for the College. Thank you to every sponsor, donor, attendee, and staff member who made our first annual golf scramble an overwhelming success.

Another milestone to celebrate is our growing student population. We enrolled a record number of students this fall, a testament to our team and the communities who continue to trust us to deliver a quality education that matters. Our amazing team has made this growth possible, and I know the progress we are seeing is only paving the way for even more opportunities.

Our workforce development programs also continue to reach more students, with offerings available both in-person and online, including through our partnership with ed2go. The number of students taking advantage of this extensive catalog of online programming has increased significantly over the last year. This reflects our team's continued efforts to meet students where they are with a variety of educational offerings.

To everyone who is helping the College continue moving forward, I appreciate you and know that many throughout our region and Commonwealth do as well. I'm #NPRCProud to be your President today and every day. Let's finish 2026 strong!

Sincerely,

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**October 19 — Open Registration for Veterans**

SPRING 2027 SEMESTER

**October 20 — Open Registration for In-Region Students**

SPRING 2027 SEMESTER

**October 20 — Homesteading Series: Budgeting and Bartering**

ST. MARYS

**October 21 — Open Registration for All Students**

SPRING 2027 SEMESTER

**October 25 — CDL Registration Deadline**

ST. MARYS

**November 2 — CDL Registration Deadline**

MANSFIELD

**November 4 — Zentangles Art Class**

ERIE

**November 7 — Women's Wellness Seminar**

MANSFIELD

**November 10 — Home Care Basics: Care Coordination**

KANE

**November 19 — Last Day to Withdraw**

FALL 2026 SEMESTER

**December 7-11 — Finals Week**

FALL 2026 SEMESTER

# NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## GOLF SCRAMBLE RESULTS

NPRC held the inaugural golf scramble to benefit our student scholarship fund on Thursday, September 24 at Bavarian Hills Golf Course in St. Marys. It was a perfect fall day for the 17 participating teams who attended from across Pennsylvania.

The outing was a tremendous success, giving golfers a chance to enjoy a day on the course filled with good food and beverages, various prizes and games, great conversations, and memories made alongside friends and colleagues. An event like this is only a success because of the people who make it possible. We are grateful to our attendees, Bavarian Hills Golf Course, our staff who volunteered their time over several months to ensure it would be a successful day, and the generous sponsors and donors who supported the College along the way.

To us, Northern Pennsylvania Regional College was the true winner of the day because of the generosity shown and the ability to connect with so many champions of the College in one place. However, there were some standouts on the course who we wanted to acknowledge for their performance.

The winners of the NPRC 2026 Inaugural Golf Scramble are:

### First Place

- Men's – Withum (60)
- Mixed Team – Titusville Hospital (60)

### Second Place

- Men's Team – Erie Bank (63)
- Mixed Team – Benefit Solutions (63)

### Team Random Winners

- Men's – Nichols Portland, Inc.
- Mixed – UPMC Cole

We are #NPRCProud of each of these teams and every team who hit the course to support us. The 2027 outing cannot come soon enough!



## WPEF GRANT

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) was selected as the recipient of the Energizing Community Education Project grant funding through the West Penn Energy Fund. The College received \$60,000.00 to support the expansion of the zSpace program over the next 12 months in Kane and throughout the region. The funds will also be used to explore the development of virtual and augmented reality experiences that include energy efficiency modules, using Six&Kane as the pilot location.

Overall, the educational programs and experiences will be conducted at Six&Kane in Kane, Pennsylvania, the Cameron County Chamber of Commerce in Emporium, Pennsylvania, and in partnership with local businesses and school districts throughout the 10-county region NPRC serves.

[Learn more](#) about the grant funding and what's to come using zSpace.



# RENEWED AGREEMENT COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) and Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (CU), which includes Bloomsburg University, Lock Haven University, and Mansfield University, have agreed to expand terms for an existing academic agreement.

This guaranteed admission agreement creates a seamless transfer pathway from NPRC to CU, allowing qualified NPRC graduates to continue their education and earn a bachelor's degree while providing CU with access to a broader and more diverse student population. Under the agreement, eligible NPRC graduates who earn an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), an Associate of Science (A.S.), or an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree may receive a block transfer of 60 credits toward CU's Technical Leadership major. Additional eligible coursework will be evaluated individually.

Students are responsible for applying to CU (with the application fee waived), submitting official transcripts, and paying CU tuition and fees once enrolled. CU will recognize the NPRC degree as satisfying its general education requirements, although students may still need to complete specific directed general education courses required within their CU program. The agreement also recognizes credits that contributed to the NPRC degree from sources such as dual enrollment, transfer courses, CLEP/AP, military training, and other approved learning experiences.

Overall, the agreement is designed to protect students' academic progress, maximize transfer of credits, and reduce duplication of coursework. It also provides an affordable and clearly defined pathway for students to continue from a two-year NPRC degree to a four-year bachelor's degree at CU.



## RCCA CONFERENCE

Members of the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College team attended the annual Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Conference at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Mississippi. The conference took place from Wednesday, September 16 through Friday, September 18.

President Susie Snelick and Registrar Lori McNeal co-presented a session titled From Vision to Velocity: Turning Your Strategic Plan Into Everyday Action. The presentation shared how NPRC's current strategic plan was developed, what's it includes, and how it's being carried out by employees across the institution. The plan's four pillars of Students First, Career Pathways, Community Engagement, and Financial Stability are top of mind in each decision the institution makes.

Vice President of Academics Dr. Ben Malczyk also presented during the conference about NPRC's Paraprofessionals Pathways Program and how it is helping paraeducators state-wide advance in their careers and work toward becoming teachers. With help from the RCCA's Student Success Academy, NPRC has been able to rebuild the recruitment model and strengthen the paraprofessional pipeline across Pennsylvania. The data gathered from the Student Success Academy helped inform an enrollment strategy that the College implemented and has since resulted in increased enrollment among paraeducators across the Commonwealth.

For more information about the Rural Community College Alliance, visit [here](#).



## HOW NPRC HELPS WARREN COUNTY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES GROW

Vice President of Enrollment Management, Jen Cummings, penned a blog article for the Warren County, Pennsylvania newsletter earlier this summer. Her piece offers a look at the opportunities available through NPRC and the College's work throughout the region. As a Warren County native, Cummings also shares the pride she takes in serving her home county and neighboring rural communities.

Check out the [piece](#) Cummings wrote, which explores how a reset can lead to the best outcomes.



# STUDENT AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## LINDSEY THOMPSON

Lindsey Thompson is a full-time employee in the poly department at Superior Tire and Rubber Corporation. Through a scholarship offered by Superior Tire for employees attending NPRC, she has been able to return to college and pursue a degree in business management. Thompson takes courses part-time while balancing her full-time career and being a mom to two and a grandma to one. She is grateful for the opportunity to have a second chance at earning a college degree.

"I am so happy to have the opportunity to come back to school later in life," she shared. It's always been a goal of mine to earn a degree. I started college when I was younger, but life happened and I wasn't able to finish at that time. I decided to come back now because my kids are mostly grown, which gives me the time I need to succeed."

She is grateful for the supportive environment she's found at the College, which includes her professors as well as her advisor, Bri Colvin. Her support system also includes her two daughters, her mom, and her colleagues at Superior Tire. "I'm thankful for everyone who is encouraging me every step of the way and that my employer has this program that is awarding me a second chance at earning a degree."

Thompson has become a Dean's List student and was selected as Student of the Month for August. Both are accomplishments she is genuinely proud of, and reminders that it is never too late to try again. "Being recognized means all of my hard work is paying off and I'm truly excited about what my future holds."

Learn more about Thompson [here](#).



## RYANN UPHAM

Hi! I'm Ryann Upham from Liberty, Pennsylvania in Tioga County. I graduated from North Penn - Liberty High School and went on to Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, where I earned a degree in hospitality management, along with a cognate in event and conference management, and a minor in business. I am one of the newest members of the NPRC team and serve as a Community Liaison for Cameron, Potter, and Tioga Counties. I've enjoyed working with various community partners and small businesses in my first few months at the College. I consider myself a true extrovert and am thrilled this role allows me to meet new people and work alongside them.

Prior to my time at NPRC, I spent some of my college years working in event management, assisting in athletic and institutional events at Liberty University. When I moved back to Pennsylvania, I worked in secondary education at my alma mater and quickly got into coaching youth sports. I also worked as the Summer Youth Program Coordinator for Tioga County Trehab, where I gained valuable experience in workforce and career development. That role allowed me to build meaningful relationships throughout Tioga County and gave me an even greater appreciation for this community that I'm proud to be from and reside in.

In my free time, I enjoy volunteering and coaching a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball, and Little League baseball. I'm a lover of the outdoors and just about any outdoor activity when it is above 50 degrees. I truly enjoy living in this region of central Pennsylvania and building connections within the community. I'm excited to continue building connections and serving individuals, families, and organizations across Tioga, Potter, and Cameron Counties.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## SARA SAWTELLE

Hello, I'm Sara (Hawkinson) Sawtelle. I am an extremely curious researcher who loves to help people learn and understand complex issues. I earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry at Boston College and have taught middle school, high school, and at the college level as both professor and adjunct faculty. Science is my jam — as we used to say back in the day. I love being in a position where I can put my skills to work for others.

I started proctoring for NPRC in October 2021. Back then, I would leave my teaching job at the end of the school day to cover locations in need of a proctor, such as Franklin and Titusville. Currently, I am proctoring at the Warren NPRC location, which is just down the street from my home and a lovely walk.

I love being around the students and providing support. The conversations we have when they are between classes are so engaging, and I look forward to every interaction. While class is in session, I check rooms to make sure everything works properly. Once classes are over, I turn off the equipment and make sure the room is tidy. Proctoring for NPRC feels like being part of a vibrant learning community, which is right where I belong.

It is a joy to support the NPRC community as they deliver online degree programs that are affordable for academic and workforce training.



# COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## WEST PENN ENERGY FUND

The West Penn Energy Fund (WPEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPEF investments focus on three broad areas: the deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies; energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and economic development, environmental improvement, and public education related to sustainable energy throughout the West Penn Power service region.

The 23-county region they serve is over 10,000 square miles, has a population of approximately 1.5 million residents, and represents over 700,000 West Penn Power customers. Though they are a for-profit entity, they created the West Penn Energy Fund as a non-profit organization to give back to communities across much of Pennsylvania. They have awarded millions of dollars in grant funding and supported community projects over the years, including over 100,000 dollars for programming at Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. In addition to the funding the College has received, NPRC also is a tenant at Six&Kane in Kane. WPEF provided funding to support the development of this one-of-a-kind energy saving facility, which is home to numerous small businesses in downtown Kane.

The group of professionals, comprised of both administrative staff and volunteers, have twice awarded the College with an Energizing Community Education Project grant. The funding is being used to teach communities about sustainability and technology and to highlight zSpace, a software platform that uses artificial intelligence and virtual reality to create immersive learning experiences that showcases artificial intelligence and virtual reality to residents across Pennsylvania.

For more about the fund and all they do to help the region, click [here](#).

