



**NORTHERN
PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL COLLEGE**

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NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Summer 2022

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College is a publicly funded higher education institution offering associate degrees, certificates, and workforce development training at affordable costs. We are incorporated as a 501(c)(3) public, non-profit created under legislative authority with substantial funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. NPRC proudly serves students in Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Warren, and Venango Counties.

Commencement Re-cap

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College celebrated the second commencement in the college's history on Saturday, May 21. This year's class speaker was Lily Morse. The ceremony took place at The Dam Inn in Wilcox, with 10 graduates receiving their diplomas. Three students graduated in absentia.

Graduates who attended the ceremony include:

Associate of Arts

- Sherrie Falck (Elk County), Social Sciences
- Karen Klos (Warren County), Liberal Studies

Associate of Science

- Samantha Dubrawka (Forest County), Business Administration
- Connor Gausman (Elk County), Criminal Justice
- Benjamin Huey (Elk County), Business Administration
- Zachary Kick (Warren County), Business Administration
- Lily Morse (Warren County), Business Administration
- River Shelander (Elk County), Criminal Justice
- Allison Snell (Warren County), Business Administration
- Katherine Wells (Forest County), Business Administration

Greetings from President Snelick

Greetings! Welcome to our Summer 2022 Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the updates and happenings at NPRC over the last few months!

May was an exciting month as we held our second annual Commencement ceremony. We celebrated our students' accomplishments - moments and achievements we are so proud of. We recognize the hard work and dedication that brought them to this milestone in their life.

We also celebrated a monumental time in our College's history with the official signing of an academic agreement with the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, an event that occurred on July 28 in Warren. This agreement represents the culmination of hard work and dedication of so many from both institutions. It provides opportunities and pathways for our students to continue their educational journey and exemplifies the quality of our programs. This agreement with Commonwealth University is one of many steps towards NPRC's long-term growth.

Lastly, over the next few weeks, more information will be shared about our upcoming Community Conversations in September and October. The agenda will include updates from NPRC, but time at these events will be more dedicated to feedback from community members, partners, and employers. These sessions will be held in each of our nine counties as well as a tenth session that will take place virtually.

Check out some of this quarter's news and enjoy the remainder of summer!

Institutional Fees Suspended

NPRC's Board of Trustees voted and approved a two-year suspension of institutional fees charged for academic courses. Institutional fees are additional charges to students based on the number of credits in which students enroll each academic term.

The two-year suspension will begin for the fall 2022 term and will continue through the summer 2024 term. To read more, check out the [official release](#).

NPRC Inks Agreement with Commonwealth University

NPRC and Commonwealth University (Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, Mansfield universities) signed a guaranteed transfer agreement, effective fall 2022, in a ceremony held at NPRC's Administrative Center in Warren on Thursday, July 28 at 2:00 p.m.

The agreement provides transferability of many NPRC credits to the integrated universities of Commonwealth University. It also includes guaranteed transfer opportunities for specific NPRC associate degrees directly into four CU bachelor's degree programs with no loss of credit for qualifying students. NPRC's Associate of Arts degrees (Liberal Studies and Social Sciences) and Associate of Science degrees (Business Administration and Criminal Justice) are the four degrees included.



"This agreement not only provides opportunities and pathways for our students to continue their educational journey, but also exemplifies the quality of our education offerings."

"We celebrate a monumental time in the life of NPRC," noted President Susan Snelick. "The official signing of the academic agreement with the Commonwealth University is the culmination of hard work and dedication of so many. This agreement not only provides opportunities and pathways for our students to continue their educational journey, but also exemplifies the quality of our education offerings. This recognition by the Commonwealth University is not taken lightly and is one of many steps in NPRC's long-term growth."

To support the guaranteed admission for eligible transfer students, renewable scholarships of up to \$5,000 for qualifying students are available. To be eligible, a student must have earned a minimum of 30 NPRC-specific credits and graduated with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

For more information, check out the full breakdown of the agreement by reading our [official media release](#).



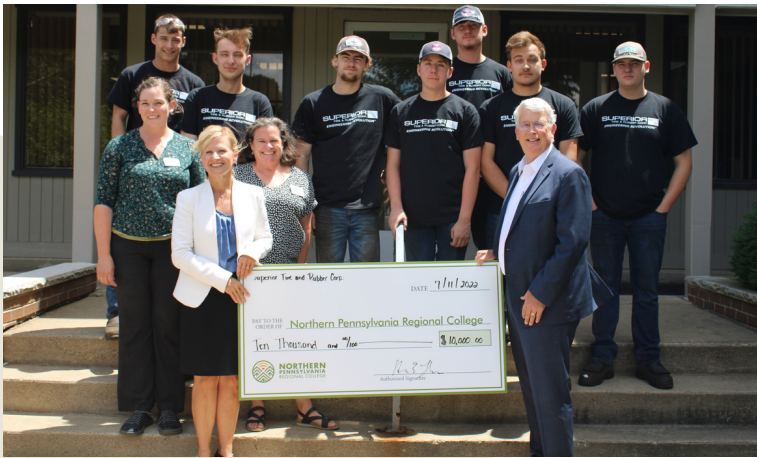
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COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

Local Business Invests in Employees through Scholarship Program

Superior Tire and Rubber Corporation has established a scholarship program to provide opportunities for their employees, their employee's spouses, and their employee's children to enroll in courses at NPRC at no cost. Presently, several Superior Tire employees have co-op positions between the Warren County Career Center and Superior Tire, an agreement the business hopes will eventually transition these employees to full-time and allow them to become an NPRC student.



"Companies are focused on their business, but what we want to do is give our employees, their spouses, and their children an opportunity. We are trying to utilize talent to its fullest,"

To formally acknowledge the scholarship program agreement between NPRC and Superior Tire, a signing between NPRC and Superior Tire and a check presentation of \$10,000.00 for future students' education took place on Tuesday, July 12 at Superior Tire's headquarters in Warren.

Superior Tire and Rubber Corporation President and CEO, Hank LeMeur, shared with NPRC that, "The overriding objective is we want to offer a path to growth for our employees and their families. The objective is to help make our employees more productive, our company more productive, and make it more fulfilling. One of the first people we had go through NPRC was not the employee, but their wife. It helped her improve her skills and move onto a job that gave her a path to a more fulfilling career."

Check out the [official news release](#) for a full breakdown of the scholarship and partnership.

Community Conversations Scheduled Throughout the Region

Wednesday, September 21

10:00 a.m. - Elk County
Maker's Warehouse
St. Marys, PA 15857

1:00 p.m. - Cameron County
Fire Hall
Emporium, PA 15834

Thursday, September 22

10:00 a.m. - Warren County
NPRC Administrative Office
Warren, PA 16365

1:00 p.m. - McKean County
The Pennhills Club
Bradford, PA 16701

Wednesday, September 28

10:00 a.m. - Erie County
NPRC Education and Training Center - Building I
Erie, PA 16506

Wednesday, September 28 (cont.)

1:00 p.m. - Crawford County
Parkside Commons (Open House to follow)
Meadville, PA 16335

Thursday, September 29

10:00 a.m. - Potter County
Gunzburger Building
Coudersport, PA 16915

12:00 p.m. - Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, October 5

10:00 a.m. - Forest County
East Forest High School
Marienville, PA 16239

2:00 p.m. - Venango County
The Galena Building (Open House to follow)
Franklin, PA 16323

Student Spotlight

Aaron Weinkauff is no stranger to the business world. The St. Marys native has owned and operated Weinkauff's Electric Guitars for over 13 years. Earlier this year, he decided to further his knowledge and skills in business by enrolling at NPRC. He's excelled and became a Dean's List student and a recipient of the McGrady Family Scholarship.

"I always wanted to go to school," he explained. "It's a two-way street; what more can I add to my business, or do I want to go in another direction? I can't do any of it unless I've got a better handle on the business end and even on the computers or technology."

NPRC has made it possible for Weinkauff to travel less than a mile from his home to take courses, one of several benefits he enjoys about the College. However, this is far from the only positive note he mentioned.

"It's pretty affordable and we're not in a classroom with a lot of people to make things distracting. When I've had problems come up, I've also really liked that the communication was there. I usually hear from instructors that same day."

No matter where our students start or what they hope to achieve, we continue to empower students to change their lives and brighten their futures.

Check out more about [Aaron's NPRC story](#).



"For them to pick kind of the underdog, the abstract guy and offer me a scholarship; it was a big deal for me."

Get to Know Our Board Members!

Jamie Evens



Jamie Evens joined NPRC's Board of Trustees in January 2022. He currently serves as the Regional Director of Hospitality and Operations for UPMC's North Central Region. He's also President of the Port Allegany Youth Basketball Association, a Lector and Eucharistic Minister for St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, and the Head Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach for the Lady Gators of Port Allegany.

Evens has coached basketball since 1993, with the 2022-2023 season being his fifth as head coach at Port Allegany. Additionally, he has officiated basketball games for the past 28 years and has added football officiating over the last several seasons. When not working or volunteering, Evens enjoys time with his family, traveling, and attending concerts and sporting events.

He has previously served as treasurer for Northwestern Pennsylvania Area Health and Education Center, treasurer for the Potter County Education Council, and on the board for the North Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment/Workforce Solutions.

"I've tried to play a part to help build an educated and trained workforce to serve the needs of rural communities. Despite challenges with population decline and opportunities for training, I believe Northern Pennsylvania Regional College has the leadership and vision to address these gaps. NPRC will play a huge role as we move forward." Read more [about Evens](#).

Community Engagement Team Spotlight

Hello, I'm Taylor Roth. I am new to the CES team and joined the team in June of this year. Before NPRC, I was working in the enrollment department of UPMC Health Plan, but it has always been my career dream to work at a higher education institution and help potential students find the right higher education path that fits their needs. I am an Erie, PA native and enjoy sharing the college with the Erie community. A fun fact about myself is my bachelor's degree is in creative writing and my dream is to publish a novel—which I am in the process of drafting.

**Taylor
Roth**



Hi, my name is Desiree Higley, and I have been employed as a Community Engagement Specialist with NPRC since June 13, 2022. With a teaching background in elementary and adult education and working towards workforce development and providing soft skills, financial literacy, career exploration, and work experiences, I eventually made my way up to management. One purpose became clear to me; I genuinely have a passion for working with people and inspiring positive changes in their lives. I also like to take my love for animals and art and combine them. My latest project is making toad houses around my yard.

**Desiree
Higley**



Hey there, I'm Rose Clarke and I joined the NPRC Community Engagement team in November 2021. I previously worked for Oregon State University and University of Minnesota Extension Services, focusing on community outreach and education in Forestry, Natural Resources, and Sustainability. Some of my hobbies include hiking, adventures with friends, knitting, gardening, and any opportunity to use my chainsaw.

**Rose
Clarke**



Hi, I'm Jodi Guisto and I am a native of Ridgway, with family ties in St. Marys, and currently residing in Emporium. I have two sons, a very patient fiancé, and an adorable Pomeranian. I am a graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a dual degree in Child Development and Family Relations. I came to NPRC last November with a background in Social Services and Early Childhood. I am covering the same footprint I did in my previous role and have maintained connections and resources across those counties. I love being a part of something that is designed to truly give back and build up our rural counties.

**Jodi
Guisto**

