



**NORTHERN
PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL COLLEGE**

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE **OFFICE** OF THE **PRESIDENT**



GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNELICK

Greetings! Welcome to our Summer 2023 Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting events and news from NPRC.

In May, we celebrated our third commencement. Seeing the joy and pride from each student as they received their degree is an honor. Our students worked hard every day to reach this milestone. Many juggled a job, raising children, and a collection of other events and stages in life. However, they had the drive and determination to make it to the finish line and we couldn't be prouder!

We look forward to the rest of the summer term and all the opportunities that lie ahead as we prepare for the 2023-24 academic and fiscal years. We are anxious to implement our new student information system to provide a better experience for our students; our workforce development team is creating additional courses to meet the needs across our region; and our academic team is working hard to establish additional agreements with institutions of higher education to create academic pathways for our students. In everything we do, our focus remains on our students and making their experience at our College the best it can be.

Our growth wouldn't be possible without the dedication of many. Our Board of Trustees and legislators continue to be some of our biggest advocates who believe in and support the future of NPRC. Our communities, faculty, staff, and students also deserve praise for continuing to build an institution that will continue to succeed.

Thank you for doing your part to support NPRC. We look forward to continuing to serve our communities in the best ways possible!

Sincerely,

Susie

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

July 18 — Virtual Information Session

July 19 — Registration Deadline*

Coaching and Motivating a Team

July 24 — CDL Registration Deadline*

Location — St. Marys, PA

July 28 — Financial Aid Deadline

Aug 7 — Wastewater Treatment Modules Begin*

Locations — Meadville and St. Marys, PA

Aug 11 — Fall Registration Closes

Aug 16 — Registration Deadline*

Coaching and Motivating a Team

Aug 16 — Fall 2023 Term Start

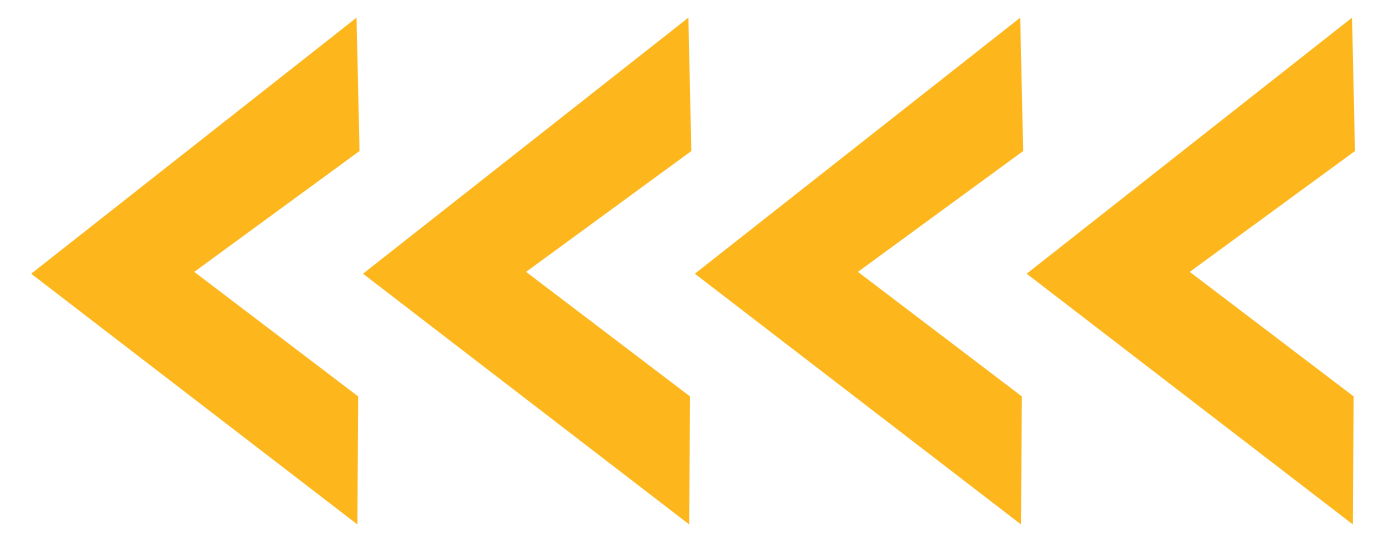
Aug 27-29 — Crawford Gives

Sept 14 — Constitution Day (Recognized)

Oct 24 — Fall Information Session

*Workforce Development Dates

NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS



ADAM JOHNSON NAMED VP OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

NPRC promoted Adam Johnson to the role of Vice President of Workforce Development in May. Johnson has a proven history working both in private and public sectors and in a collection of roles over his career.

His background in public safety is extensive with over 25 years working in the field and through his studies. He holds associate degrees in security management, criminal justice, and fire science; a bachelor's degree in fire administration from Columbia Southern University; and a master's degree in emergency services management from Columbia Southern University. His career at NPRC started in a part-time capacity in August 2021 as the Public Safety Program Coordinator. After less than a year in this role, he became the full-time Director of Workforce Development.

In the future, Johnson noted that he's excited to help individuals earn their industry recognized credentials, find ways to better assist regional high schools with post-graduation pathways, broaden the current offerings, and establish additional partnerships to help the institution and the communities we serve. "It's exciting to have a larger impact on the direction of Workforce Development," he said. "We continue to make it our priority to build a workforce regionally that is economically able, mobile, and resilient. NPRC is an institution that wants to support people's ability to get to work, offer students a chance to develop skills to advance their life and careers, and to be resilient if they need to make changes in their working career."

Read more [here!](#)



MICHAEL GIAMBRONE NAMED VP OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

NPRC welcomed Michael Giambrone as the institution's Vice President of Finance and Operations in April. Giambrone has over 30 years' experience in banking and finance, having most recently served as Vice President of Mortgage Banking for Northwest Bank. In his tenure at Northwest Bank, he worked his way through the Northwest Bank Management Trainee program, moving through various roles such as a branch manager, a real estate secured production manager, and a wholesale lending manager.

A native of southwestern New York and a graduate of Pine Valley Central High School, Giambrone went on to earn a degree in economics from the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Fredonia. He later completed professional education through the Pennsylvania Bankers Association Central Atlantic Advanced School of Banking, graduating with honors. Giambrone is excited to be a leader at the institution and to empower his team.

Giambrone said, "I love the College's vision and mission and believe what our institution does is something our communities need for future economic growth. I was the first person in my family with a four-year degree and I know the value of quality education. I know that we will continue to offer individuals several opportunities close to home to better themselves."

[Read more](#) about Giambrone!



HEATHER EVANS NAMED NEWEST NPRC BOARD MEMBER

Heather Evans joined NPRC's Board of Trustees in June to fill the fourteenth seat. Evans is a native of Erie County and has been a business professional for 30 years.

Evans currently serves as the Human Resource Manager at Port Erie Plastics in suburban Erie and has been in this role since December 2016. In her current position, she's responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all human resource activities and staff of the organization. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from The Pennsylvania State University in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, a Master of Business Administration from Gannon University, a Professional in Human Resources credential (PHR), and a Society for Human Resources Professionals Certified Professional distinction (SHRM). She is also a former instructor at Mercyhurst University and taught a Human Resources and Marketing course at the former West campus in Girard.

When asked about joining NPRC's Board of Trustees, she noted, "Something I have always been passionate about is education. I like that NPRC is doing their part to help the Erie County community grow; the community that I'm from and live in. I'm excited that NPRC takes time to understand what the region needs and is designing programs around that. I'm really looking forward to this opportunity."

Check out more about Evans [here!](#)



APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN THE WORKS

NPRC's Workforce Development department is excited to announce that it will provide training for pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs. Presently, there are many apprenticeship programs available to be completed, but there is a shortage of trainers and workers who can help bring these programs to fruition. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, pre-apprenticeships are programs that last a few weeks to a few months and are designed to prepare individuals for entry into Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) or other job opportunities.

Apprenticeships are state-registered training programs through an employer or organizational sponsorship. This means there is no cost to the employee to complete an apprenticeship. The investment by the employer offers them workforce security and upskilling. Apprentices can be identified as pre-hire, displaced, or incumbent workers of the firm that is conducting the program.

"We need a bridge," says Director of Workforce Development Andrea Kessler. "These are pipelines to jobs. If businesses can create programs, obtain the state funding, and find people who are interested in getting to work, NPRC can help with making sure they are trained to help their business succeed."

Check out [our blog](#) for more information about pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships.

"If businesses can create programs, obtain state funding, and find people who are interested in getting to work, NPRC can help with making sure they are trained to help their business succeed."

-Andrea Kessler
Director of Workforce Development

AARON WEINKAUF EARNS SEVERAL LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

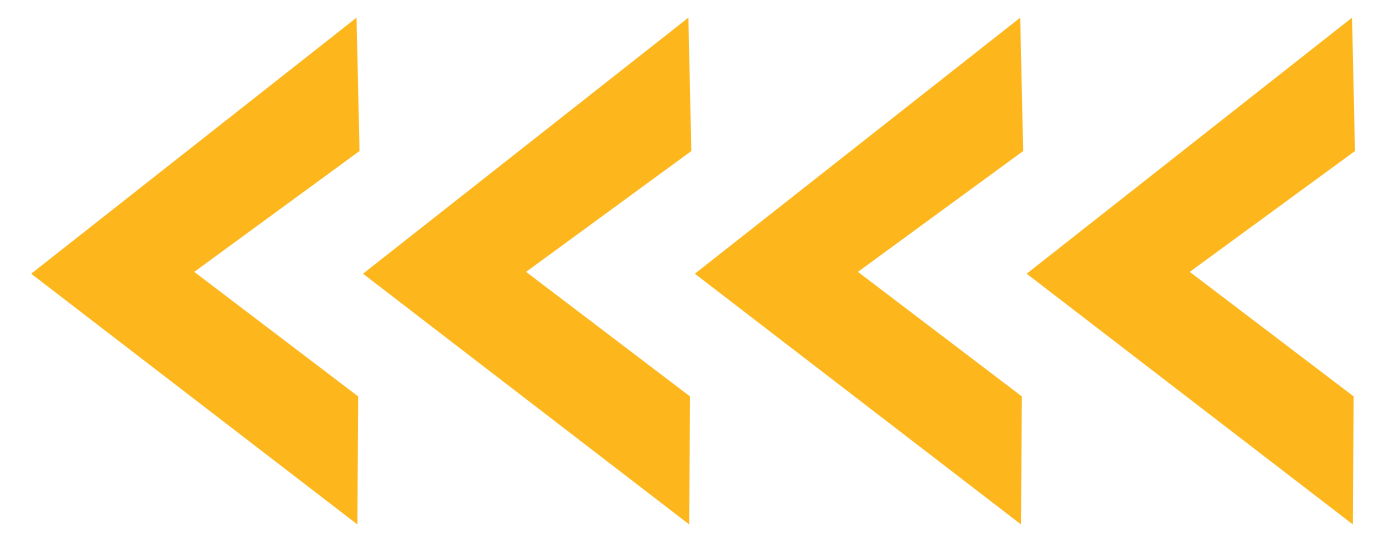
Aaron Weinkauff received word last month that he was awarded the McGrady Family Scholarship for a second consecutive year, while also being named the recipient of The Lisa Pecora Scholarship for NPRC Students, The T.O. Fitch Memorial Scholarship, and The Helene K. Nawrocki Memorial Scholarship through the Elk County Community Foundation. "It means a lot and I'm super grateful," he noted. "You can't always count on opportunities like this to happen, but when they do, it's mind blowing. Just thinking, 'What did I do to deserve this?' I appreciate that the community has support for students of all ages."

A native of St. Marys, he began his time at NPRC in January 2022 and expects to finish his Associate of Science in Business Administration in the fall 2023 term. Attending NPRC has been a life-changing experience for Weinkauff as the College has allowed him to discover so many potential directions he can go in his business career. With the help of these scholarships, Weinkauff expects that will finance his entire fall 2023 term. "I've met a lot of great people at NPRC from different stages in life. It's a lot more personable than an online school. I think more people should check out NPRC and take a class to see if it's a good fit. It's not just a College for older people or younger people. It's really a college for everyone," he said.

Check out more about Aaron's story [here!](#)



NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS



NPRC COMMENCEMENT RECAP

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College celebrated their annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. The event took place at The Titusville Mill in Titusville, with seven students receiving their diplomas. Four additional students received their certificate in general studies. Two students graduated in absentia.

Savannah Casey was selected as this year's class speaker. Before the ceremony, she spoke more in-depth about what the opportunity to be the student speaker and the employees of NPRC meant to her. "I'm ecstatic and very honored," she explained. "I greatly appreciate everyone who saw potential in me and helped me get through college. Every student engagement specialist, administrator, faculty, and staff member are phenomenal."

The Mayor of Kane, Brandy Schimp, followed Casey as the 2023 Commencement Speaker. Schimp's address featured themes of asking for help when needed, understanding the value of each person's dollar, turning "they" into "we," being proud to be an NPRC graduate, and having pride in being from a rural area.

The event marked the third commencement ceremony in the history of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. With the hard work of the NPRC Commencement Committee, the College hosted a ceremony that these alumni and families will never forget. We look forward to continuing to celebrate these alumni and seeing many more students cross the stage in the coming years.

Read about the full ceremony and see the entire list of graduates [here](#).



NEWS FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

NPRC's Criminal Justice program continues to develop in a positive direction. Like many traditional criminal justice programs in higher education, NPRC offers a well-rounded classroom experience. However, NPRC is also incorporating industry credential achievement, differentiating it from traditional programs.

Recently, NPRC's criminal law and criminal procedure course split into individual courses to provide the most thorough learning experience in each of these subject areas. The criminal law course now has an extensive final project. Students followed the steps involved in investigation and wrote an incident report, filed for a search warrant, and presented their findings and procedure to a panel that included a judge of common pleas, a magisterial judge, and a district attorney. The College also has a pathway for students to complete a practicum experience for credit – an experience that includes a minimum of 60 hours of fieldwork to help them gain experience and insight into what a specific career or role looks like.

"We are one of the few institutions who is focused on this applied and scenario-based learning in our criminal justice program that is not a law school or a police academy," notes Instructor of Criminal Justice, Dave Wilson. "I think our program is going to be a leader simply because we are not holding to all the traditions of other criminal justice programs."

For more information about our criminal justice degree, visit [our blog](#).

"I think our program is going to be a leader simply because we are not holding to all the traditions of other criminal justice programs."

-Dave Wilson
Instructor of Criminal Justice

NPRC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SAVANNAH CASEY, CLASS OF '23

Savannah Casey began at NPRC in August 2020. She was looking for a way to expand her knowledge of business and support her career with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry. Attending NPRC allowed her to earn her degree in business administration right in her hometown. This spring, Casey completed her coursework and served as the 2023 Commencement student speaker.

"The staff at NPRC was always accommodating, positive, and upbeat," noted Casey. "That always reinforced to me why I was going to College in the first place and to not give up." In addition to her professional career, Casey is a wife and a mom to three young girls. Now having completed her degree, she has more time to spend with her loved ones.

"My husband and children endured every stressful day and late night with me. I'm thankful to have had their support to be able to pursue this exciting chapter of my life. I hope that I have shown them that hard work, putting your mind to the task at hand, and striving for the best that you can be is something of great importance."

Becoming an NPRC student also introduced her to many team members at the College, and she cherishes the bonds she's built with Student Engagement Specialist, Sandie Rohlin, and Community Engagement Specialist, Rose Clarke. "The staff of NPRC are phenomenal. Every single person I engaged with was willing to help me, no matter what my question was. For anyone considering higher education, I encourage them to start at NPRC."



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

KIMBERLY REES

Dr. Kimberly Rees has worked in education around Potter County for over 28 years. She currently serves as the Superintendent of the Austin Area School District and has been a member of NPRC's Board of Trustees since January 2022. Her favorite part about working in education is helping students improve their lives.

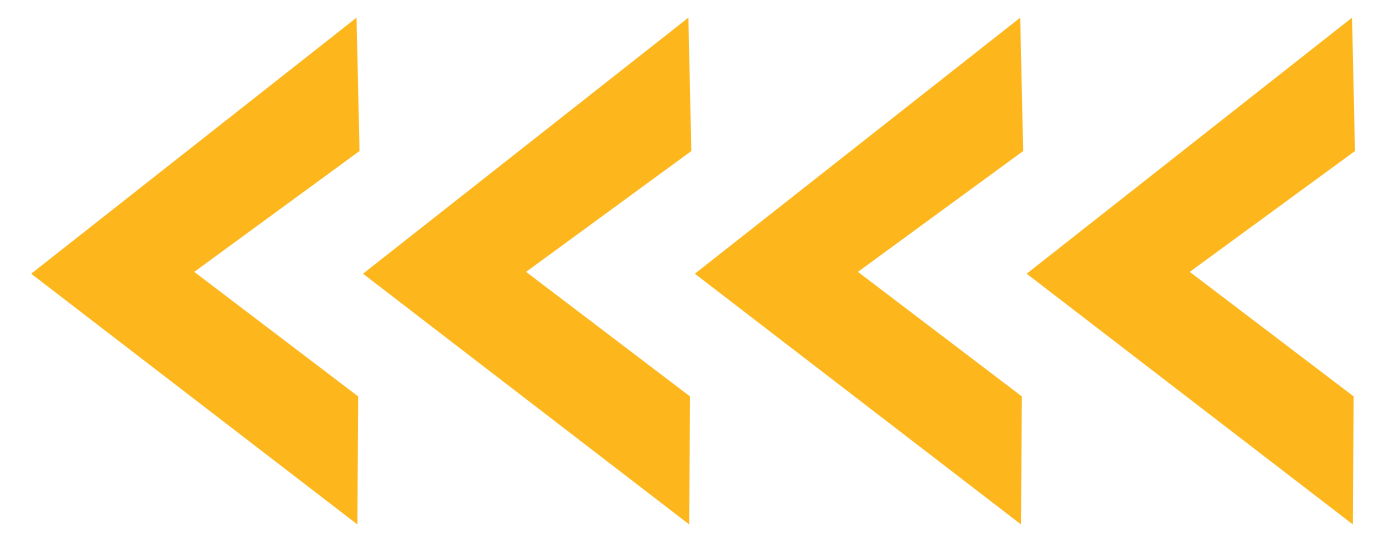
"Education is the fundamental piece that levels the playing field for everyone. I really enjoy talking about education and putting ideas into practice that help students learn to love learning as much as I do."

Dr. Rees completed her K-12 teaching certification and letter of eligibility at Edinboro University, a master's degree at Gannon University in curriculum and instruction, and a doctorate degree in education (Ed.D) from California University of Pennsylvania. Prior to her current role, she served as the Executive Director of the Potter County Education Council. One of the biggest mentors in her career and life is the late Helene Nawrocki; one of the founding members of the College. Dr. Rees noted, "I know she would be so happy and proud of what the college has become and how it continues to develop. I will never forget her support and guidance and her dedication to improving the lives of the people around her and the people in the footprint of NPRC."

For more about Dr. Rees and our Board of Trustees, check out the [Board of Trustees page](#) on the NPRC website.



NPRC STAFF SPOTLIGHT



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM

AMANDA BEIL

Hey, everyone! I'm Amanda Beil and I'm one of the newest members of the NPRC family. I was recently hired as the Administrative Assistant to Student Services. I have worked in education for nearly eight years and was previously employed at McKissock in appraisal and real estate education.

I graduated from Sheffield Area Middle/High School and went on to complete my bachelor's degree in history at Clarion University. My next chapter is to begin a master's degree in American history. One of my biggest passions is theatre, as my parents performed Medieval and Civil War reenactments during my childhood. Today, I am a board member and performer for the Warren Players and enjoy the escape of being a different person when performing. Traveling is another one of my passions. I am excited about my upcoming trip to Salem, Massachusetts during the Halloween season.

My favorite part about working at NPRC is seeing a student's journey come full circle. I am thankful to be a part of the process of seeing people become NPRC students and helping them achieve more in their lives! I can't think of anything better to be a part of. When not working or performing, I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend, Josh; being a cat mom to my little black panther cat, Spooky Boo; and watching horror movies.



JILL LASECKI

Hello! I'm Jill Lasecki and I've been at NPRC for nearly a year. I serve as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services and as the College's Receptionist. I grew up in Warren County and graduated from Sheffield Area High School. I began my professional career in politics after earning my degree in political science from Westminster College. I am thankful for the knowledge and skills I learned in politics because I have taken them with me throughout my career.

After leaving politics, I went back to school and completed graduate work and a teaching certificate at Edinboro University. I have worked in education for over 30 years, and in my current role, I have learned a great deal about higher education. I enjoy working with the many different people at the College. It's amazing to see the collaboration that takes place on a daily basis.

Outside of work, I enjoy traveling to New York City, attending Broadway shows, spending time with family, and reading. I'm excited to approach my first-year anniversary with NPRC later this summer and continue to help NPRC become an even stronger College!



JOANNA ELLETSON

Hey there! I'm Joanna Elletson and serve as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer. I grew up in Warren County and graduated from Warren Area High School. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a degree in elementary education (K-6) and a minor in political science. My time at the College began in April 2020 working from my dining room table during the COVID-19 shutdown.

I always thought I would work in the world of education, but I never expected it to be in higher education. When I saw an opportunity to join the institution, I was excited to be a part of making the hopes and dreams of it a reality. Getting to apply the eclectic skills I have learned throughout my professional career each day, while collaborating with the most hard-working, dedicated team I have ever come to know, is my favorite part about working at the College. I love being a part of the NPRC family and bringing amazing opportunities to my hometown and beyond.

I am the proud Mom of an 11-year-old boy and love to watch him play basketball. When not spending time with him, my husband, and our pets, I enjoy being out on the water and going on adventures that do not involve heights! I'm currently crossing off items on my second bucket list, which is called "100 before 40."



ANDREA SHENE

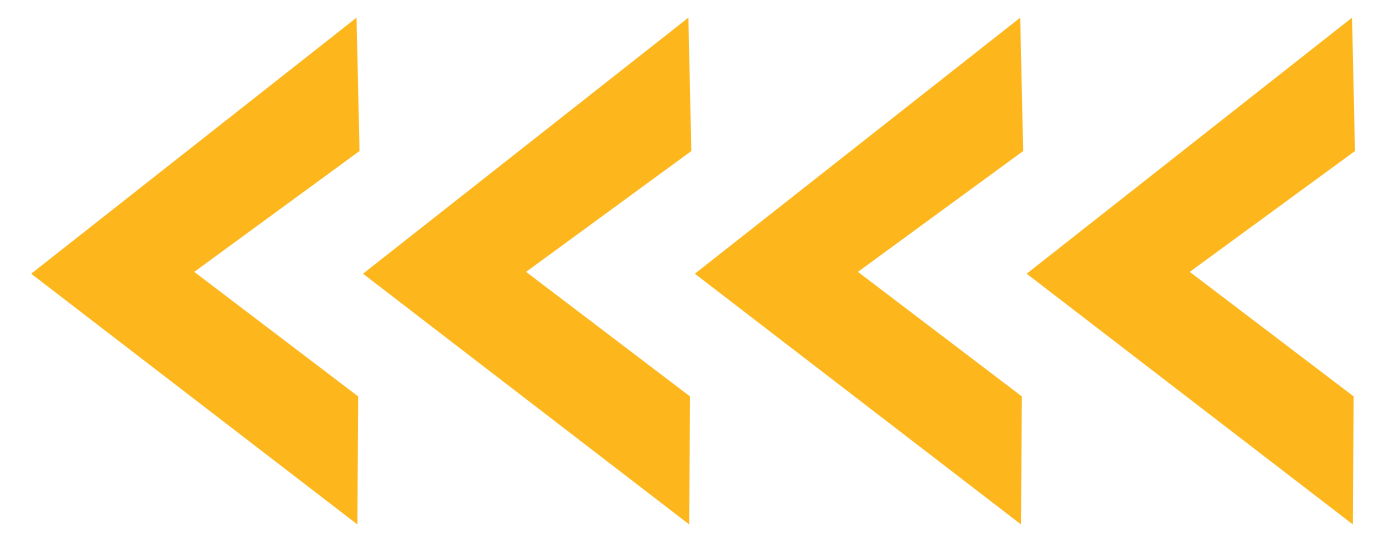
Hi! I'm Andrea Shene and my role at NPRC is Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant to the Board of Trustees. I've been with NPRC for a little under two years but have worked in education for a combined 25 years. I am a native of Warren and graduated from Warren Area High School.

Before coming to NPRC, I worked as an athletic trainer for various local districts. I completed my bachelor's degree in allied health from Slippery Rock University and a master's in athletic training from California University of Pennsylvania. Though I left working in sports full-time, they have not gone far, as I am the proud mom of three boys who are involved in baseball, basketball, and football. My husband, Patrick, and I love to watch our sons Aaron, Brady, and Colin play. When not working at the College or running around to sporting events, I enjoy boating, camping, and reading non-fiction works about American history.

To me, the best thing about working at NPRC is sharing a common goal of providing quality education to many throughout the region. I'm excited to continue my time here at the College and love being a part of this growing team!



NPRC PART-TIME FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



JANELLE TURK, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Janelle Turk is known as an amazing artist and educator. For the last 15 years, she's combined her passions in art and teaching to make a positive impact in the McKean and Warren County communities. NPRC was fortunate to gain her as an instructor this past spring for the Creative and Expressive Arts course.

Art has been a focal point all her life, but teaching was something that her high school art teacher, Ms. Thomas, encouraged her to pursue. After graduating from Warren Area High School, Turk headed to college at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting. She later added a master's degree in art from Edinboro University.

Over her career, Turk has taught in the Bradford and Warren County School Districts and currently serves as the K-12 art teacher for Sheffield. She is also an accomplished muralist and crafter. When she's not creating, she operates businesses named Turk Designs and Totemic Treasures.

Teaching in higher education was new to her this spring, but it took her little time to make an impact on her students. During the last class of the term, Turk was surprised by the shirts designed with her face on them by students.

"That really made me feel like I was part of the NPRC family. Everyone at the College has been so helpful and collaborative. I'm hopeful to teach more classes in fine arts in the future!"

