

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT



GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNEICK

Greetings! We hope you enjoy our Winter 2023 President's Newsletter. It was a busy end to the year, and it is surreal that both another year has come and gone, and our next academic term is upon us.

NPRC was fortunate to meet several noteworthy milestones recently, including signing an academic agreement with Erie County Community College and being awarded a generous grant by the Appalachian Regional Commission. We will use these monies to purchase and develop vans that assist staff members and students with various needs.

We are excited to welcome all new and returning students this Spring, including those in the first cohort of the Paraprofessional Pathways Program. We could not be more excited about our partnership with Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit IX and the opportunity to aid these professionals in advancing their careers.

While we are helping our IU9 paraeducators, we are also serving several high schools through dual enrollment. Our dual enrollment program continues to grow and be a treasure for local high schoolers looking to make strides in their higher education journey at a young age.

Workforce Development continues to deserve recognition for their ability to adapt and meet the critical needs of local employers and industries. We look forward to the development of our pilot program in Culinary Basics for Tioga County, with target implementation for fall 2024.

We couldn't have reached these milestones without our hard-working team members, dedicated board of trustees, and persevering students. These learners remain top of mind through every stride we make.

Thank you for your continued support of NPRC, and best wishes for a great 2024!

Sincerely,



Susie

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Jan 10 — Emergency Planning and Response Seminar Deadline*

Jan 12 — Spring Registration Closes

Jan 15 — CDL Registration Deadline: Erie*

Jan 17 — Spring 2024 Term Start

Jan 23 — CDA Preparation Deadline*

**Jan 30 — CDL Registration Deadline: St. Marys*
Wastewater Treatment Module IV Deadline*+**

Feb 5 — CDL Registration Deadline: Mansfield*

Feb 12 — CDL Registration Deadline: Erie*

**Feb 27 — CDL Registration Deadline: St. Marys*
Wastewater Treatment Module V Deadline*+**

Feb 27 — Spring Information Session

Mar 4 — CDL Registration Deadline: Mansfield*

Mar 11 — CDL Registration Deadline: Erie*

*Workforce Development Dates

+Wastewater Locations — Meadville and St. Marys

NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS



NPRC HITS THE ROAD

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College was a recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). This grant is being allocated to the purchase of two customized and branded vans to assist the College's various needs, including instructional and student service support.

One van will be designated to haul equipment throughout our footprint to support labs and training programs, making hands-on learning more accessible for our region. The second van will be designed with more flexible, multi-purpose use to support various academics, workforce development, and student services activities. This vehicle will serve as a mobile space that helps facilitate convenient access to potential training aids, smaller lab equipment, and NPRC's planned career closet. This van will also provide our team's transportation to off-site programming, while providing static recruitment and visibility opportunities.

Learn more about this new venture [here](#).



NPRC AND EC3 JOIN FORCES

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College and Erie County Community College signed an academic agreement to aid current and future students in their academic journeys between institutions. Leadership from the respective institutions met at the Corry Higher Education Council on Tuesday, October 3 for a formal event to sign the agreement into effect. Each institution will begin honoring course equivalencies as soon as the spring 2024 term, with the formal agreement going into effect in Fall 2024.

This agreement has a goal of better serving students who are currently residing or may reside in Erie County in the future, and helps ensure clear communication regarding courses and programs at each institution and creates more seamless transferability. The agreement will be honored for five years, with consistent review of course equivalencies will occur.

Read more about this partnership [here](#)!



NPRC HOSTS PARAPROFESSIONALS PATHWAY PROGRAM

Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit IX (IU9) has selected NPRC as the two-year educational provider for the Paraprofessionals Pathway Program. This program will begin at the start of the Spring 2024 term, and is designed to assist current paraprofessionals in the IU9 service area with earning valuable special education preparedness.

The program was made possible after IU9 was awarded the Paraeducator Preparation Pathways grant funding through a program from Governor Shapiro. The grant provides \$1.5 million statewide for paraeducators to enhance their special education credentials and knowledge. To support this program and its goals, NPRC is also offering a new specialization in special education as part of the early childhood education program in the 2024-25 academic year.

Read more about this program [here](#).



RURAL BROADBAND FORUM RECAP

NPRC hosted a panel of representatives from various state and federal agencies for a Rural Broadband Forum on Monday, October 30 in Coudersport. The event provided important information on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

The BEAD Program is a nationwide initiative to help underserved communities have improved internet access and speed, cybersecurity, infrastructure, and related technological improvements. This nearly 50-billion-dollar program awarded \$1.16 billion to the state of Pennsylvania; with the Pennsylvania Broadband Authority tasked with allocation.

This event shared opportunities for funding, updated infrastructure, and workforce development enhancements in underserved areas across the state. Area business owners, economic development organizations, legislators, and even curious community members attended to better understand how the BEAD Program can make an impact.

From improved internet access and speed for small town residents to new and updated infrastructure creating possible opportunities for employment, we look forward to seeing the progress of this initiative.

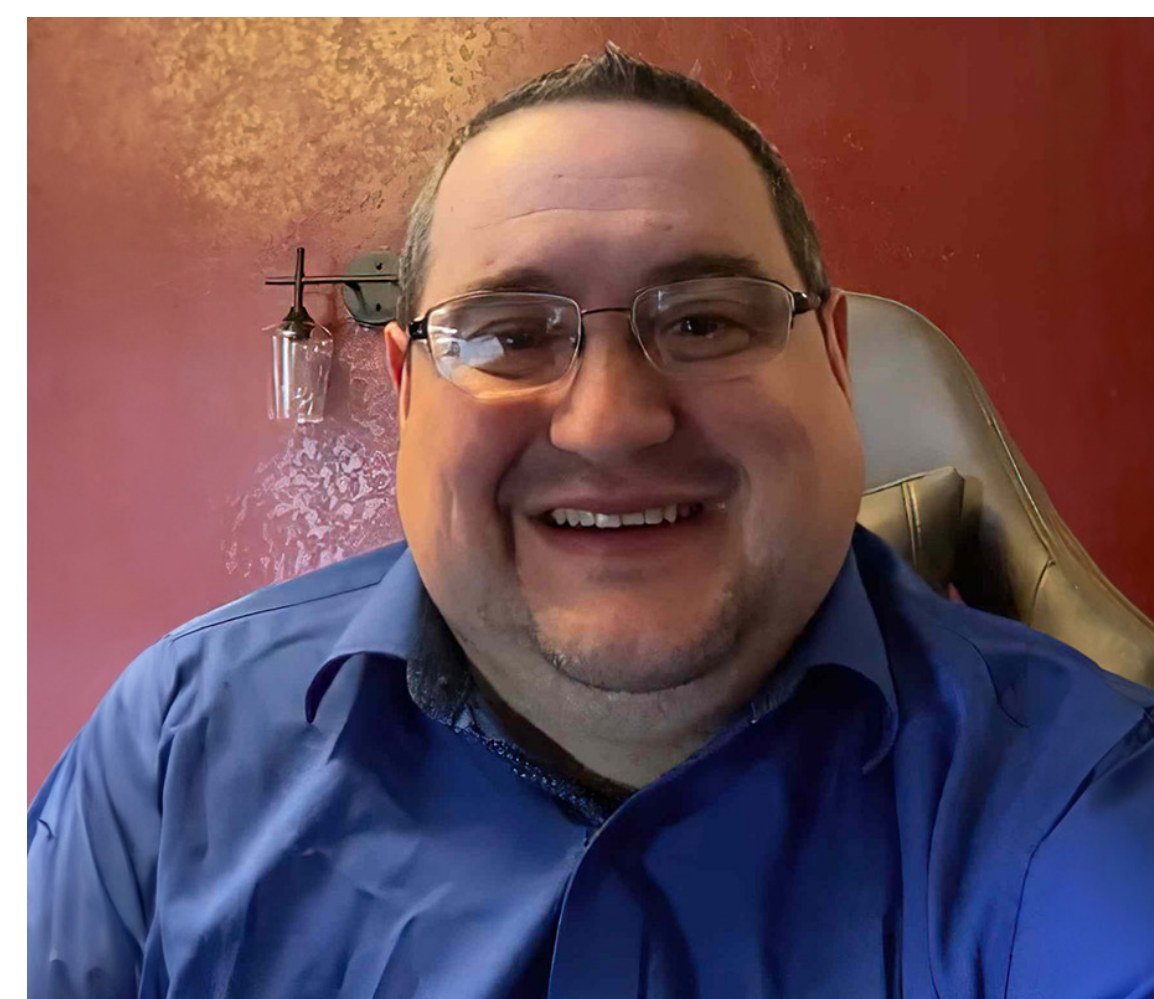
DAVE WILSON PRESENTS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Instructor of Criminal Justice, Dave Wilson, presented at the Law and Public Safety Education Network (LAPSEN) National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona this past November. Wilson presented about the new criminal law course he developed and teaches at the College; a course prioritizing investigation scenarios.

The new criminal law course was introduced to students this past spring after the separation of the original criminal law and procedure course. This action split law and procedure into independent classes allowing Wilson to design a course with an extensive final project involving criminal elements and the charging of a suspect. In the new course, students follow the steps involved in investigation and write an incident report, file for a search warrant, and present their findings and procedure to a panel of highly qualified professionals that has included district judges and local attorneys.

“It means a lot to be seen as an educational leader in criminal justice both personally and as an institution. To be sought out by LAPSEN to present at this conference and share about the steps we have taken as an institution was a privilege.”

For more about Wilson and his work, check out this [piece](#)!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Our [NPRC store](#) is filled with plenty of new clothing items and gear for everyone! All proceeds go toward our students' scholarships.



WFD INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

BRIAN BYERS, LEAD EMS INSTRUCTOR

Brian Byers wasted little time making an impact since joining the NPRC team in early 2022. A United States veteran, Byers has made a successful career out of emergency medical service (EMS) and public safety.

His career in EMS began in 1988 when he joined the United States Navy. From 1988 to 2001, Byers served and advanced his career to certified paramedic. Eventually, his knowledge and leadership were recognized by others, resulting in him teaching colleagues CPR and first-aid courses. This stint was life changing for him and led him on the path of education.

After four years of civilian life, Byers returned to the armed forces from 2005 to 2012 where he served as a medic in the United States Air Force. Unfortunately, the years 2012 through 2019 were grim. With serious medical complications impacting him, Byers took time to get well and hoped to one day teach again. Just a few years later, he has become a crucial member of our team.

"It's rewarding to be a part of an organization that's growing and helps so many communities out," Byers noted. "I love what I am doing here at NPRC and that I can make an impact. It's refreshing to work alongside a great team of people who truly care about making a difference."



NPRC STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ANN BURT AND ANNA SCHMITT, EDUCATIONAL REPS

Hi, everyone! I'm Ann Burt. I'm one of the newest team members and currently serve as the Educational Representative for Potter County. I grew up in Emporium and attended college at Millersville University. I graduated with dual degrees in anthropology and history in 2021 and studied abroad in Scotland to learn about their culture and history for five months in 2019.

In my free time, I stay up to date with the American Anthropological Association as an active member, collect model trains, and author books and short stories. Though I've only been with NPRC for a short time, I've enjoyed the community members and colleagues I've had the chance to collaborate with. I'm excited to see where my future with NPRC takes me!

...

Hello! I'm Anna Schmitt, and I recently joined NPRC as an Educational Representative for Erie County. I grew up in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania and moved to Erie for college in 2018. I graduated from Penn State Behrend in 2022 as a Schreyer Scholar with a degree in English.

During my studies, I wrote an honors thesis on queer unhistoricism and applied it to the narration of the AIDS crisis. I presented this essay at conferences in the spring of 2022. I was also accepted into the Macksey Symposium at Johns Hopkins University with my work on pronouns in French and presented my thesis at Behrend's Annual Gender Conference.

I continued my part-time job after graduation and prior to accepting my position at NPRC, I used the newfound time rediscovering old passions like hiking, crocheting, reading, journaling, and visiting local coffee shops. I appreciate how kind and welcoming everyone has been at NPRC. I'm excited for what's ahead!



NPRC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ELIZABETH SEVERANCE

Elizabeth Severance has used the opportunities that NPRC offers to build a brighter future. A native of Erie County, Severance came to NPRC originally as a child development associate (CDA) student in the spring of 2021. But in December, she completed her associate degree in early childhood education.

“I really enjoyed the flexibility of my schedule at NPRC,” she notes. “I could balance my home life, work life, and being a college student. It’s wonderful how I could still take care of everything and complete my degree.”

Elizabeth is the proud mom of four children and works full time at Child Development Centers. She began her career there three years ago and has worked her way from lead toddler teacher to head start lead teacher after earning her CDA credential and her associate degree.

“I could do it all because I have a great support system in my husband and the teachers at NPRC. All my instructors were understanding, helpful, and supportive of a working mother trying to juggle it all. Without the support of everyone, I do not think I could have done this. I have NPRC to thank for teaching me so many things that I’m now able to bring into my classroom.”



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

DUANE VICINI

Bringing the best education possible to rural communities remains one of Duane Vicini’s persisting missions. Whether it was his early days in education as a sixth-grade teacher at Pittsfield Elementary or the end of his working career as NPRC’s chief of staff, Vicini has dedicated many years to ensure students feel empowered and have the resources locally to achieve their goals.

Prior to his time with ECUA/NPRC and eventual retirement, Vicini enjoyed successful tenures as both a principal in the Warren County School District and as superintendent in the Forest Area School District. Vicini’s own academic journey included receiving an elementary education degree from Mansfield State College, a master’s degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh, and a master’s degree in education administration from St. Bonaventure University.

In the latest chapter of his life, education continues to be his passion as he currently serves on NPRC’s Board of Trustees as the incoming for 2024 board chair. Duane has advocated and supported NPRC since its inception and shares, “There have been some highs and lows along the way, but I am thrilled to see the growth of NPRC. I cannot think of a better culmination of my time than to step into this chairperson position. It’s a true honor to serve NPRC in this way.”

For more information about Vicini and our Board of Trustees, check them out [online!](#)

