



**NORTHERN  
PENNSYLVANIA  
REGIONAL COLLEGE**

20

Y E A R O N E

20

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# Contents



- 04** Letter from the President
- 06** Letter from the Chairperson
- 08** Our Story
- 10** Service Area
- 12** Financial Highlights
- 14** Donors
- 16** Board of Trustees
- 18** Administration
- 20** Success Stories

## President's letter



Dear friends and stakeholders,

Thank you for your support of this bold initiative designed to serve the underserved, unserved, and never served residents of northern Pennsylvania through the creation of the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. Every day NPRC is making a difference in the lives of students in Northwestern PA across the nine counties we proudly serve. Through the innovative use of technology and excellent instruction, we bridge skill gaps, helping unemployed and underemployed individuals find family-sustaining work. We also help

young people identify a path through career and technical education or pathways to transfer to more advanced levels of education. Through our affordable, accessible, and achievable programs, we are strengthening communities across the nine-county area, and slowing the outmigration of talented people who love the beauty and quality of life that Pennsylvania has to offer.

The NPRC is now actively pursuing regional accreditation leading to institutional eligibility for Title IV funding to support deserving students. NPRC currently operates in 28 locations strategically placed across the

“Through the innovative use of technology and excellent instruction, we bridge skill gaps, helping unemployed and underemployed individuals find family-sustaining work.”

nine-county service area. Currently, NPRC courses are available within 15 miles of any resident in Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Warren, and Venango counties. Accessibility and affordability are the two legs of the NPRC mission that are well served by our instructional model and excellent faculty and staff. And, an NPRC degree or credential is achievable through support of our Student Success Specialists who provide intrusive advising in combination with a co-requisite instructional model that incorporates support in mathematics, reading, and writing while making

progress toward a degree.

Drawing on the vision of the pioneers who established the Educational Consortium of the Upper Allegheny, the forebearer of the NPRC, we look forward to a future of preparing students for family-supporting careers, serving communities that have been historically neglected, and creating opportunities for economic growth and expansion in our region.

As a two-year, open-admission institution of higher education, we welcome all to learn, grow, and develop with us.

Joseph T. Nairn  
President

# A YEAR TO REMEMBER.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College's first Annual Report! Since the publication of the original white paper outlining the concept of this college in 2009, there have been many "firsts" for NPRC and the efforts which preceded this pioneering college. In 2011, the first assessment documenting the need for a community college in our region was released by the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. August of 2012 marked the first semester of a partnership between the Education Consortium of the Upper Allegheny and Gannon University to pilot the unique distributive delivery model throughout the original 11-county footprint. A newly appointed

Board of Trustees was established through legislation and met for the first time in December of 2014. The college plan was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in May of 2017. We welcomed our first President, Dr. Joseph T. Nairn, in July of 2017, and within two years, June 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Education authorized NPRC as a degree-granting institution. And finally, the spring semester of 2020 was NPRC's first semester operating independently from an accredited partner. Hence, our first Annual Report.

Our President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate, Joe Scarnati, continuously reminded us that "building a college is a marathon, not a sprint; nor does a college rise from the ground whole." Thank you to the many

**We welcomed our first President, Dr. Joseph T. Nairn, in July of 2017, and within two years, June 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Education authorized NPRC as a degree-granting institution.**

individuals, community stakeholders, delivery sites, and supporters who worked tirelessly and selflessly to get us to this next milestone. Your dedication is a testament to patience, perseverance, and endurance.

We look forward to celebrating and sharing many more "firsts" with all of you in the years to come!

Kate Brock  
Board Chair



**“Building a college  
is a marathon, not  
a sprint...”**

Sen. Joe Scarnati

# Our journey is just beginning

We're building a better future here. **Opening doors. Empowering possible. Giving purpose to potential.** And helping anyone who wants to go from the life they have to the life they dream about.

**2008**

A group of highly motivated and engaged education professionals recognize the need for accessible and affordable postsecondary education in the rural areas of northern Pennsylvania. Efforts begin to create what will eventually become Northern Pennsylvania Regional College.



**2009**

Senator Joseph Scarnati and other local legislators see the value of these efforts and support a feasibility study of postsecondary education needs in the region.



**2009**

Following the study, the Educational Consortium of the Upper Allegheny (ECUA) is established to find a process through which students can be provided postsecondary education in an effective and efficient manner without having to pull them away from their communities. Duane Vicini is brought in to lead the project and connect with higher education partners that could provide classes using a media-based, real-time education model with an affordable tuition rate.

**2011**

Additional feasibility studies are conducted by the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.



**2012**

ECUA pilot program begins with Gannon University.

**2013**

Another study is done by the Rural Community College Alliance. These additional studies underscore the critical need for affordable, accessible technical and associate degree programs in northwestern Pennsylvania.



**Summer 2013**

PA Senate Bill 1000 is introduced to address the long-term goals of the ECUA and provide a permanent solution to the problem.

**July 2016**

Legislation is incorporated into the PA Public School Code as Article XIX-G.



PA Senate Bill 1000 introduced

**December 2016**

College submits its plan to the State of Pennsylvania

Plan submitted to the State of Pennsylvania

**May 2017**

Plan is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College is officially established.



**May 2019**

NPRC is authorized by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania to grant associate degrees and certificates

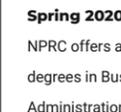


**September 2019**

Pre-candidacy application is sent to the Regional Accreditor.

**January 2020**

Operating independently and no longer affiliated with Gannon University, the first semester for NPRC begins.



**Spring 2020**

NPRC offers associate degrees in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Liberal Studies and Social Sciences.

**April 1, 2020**

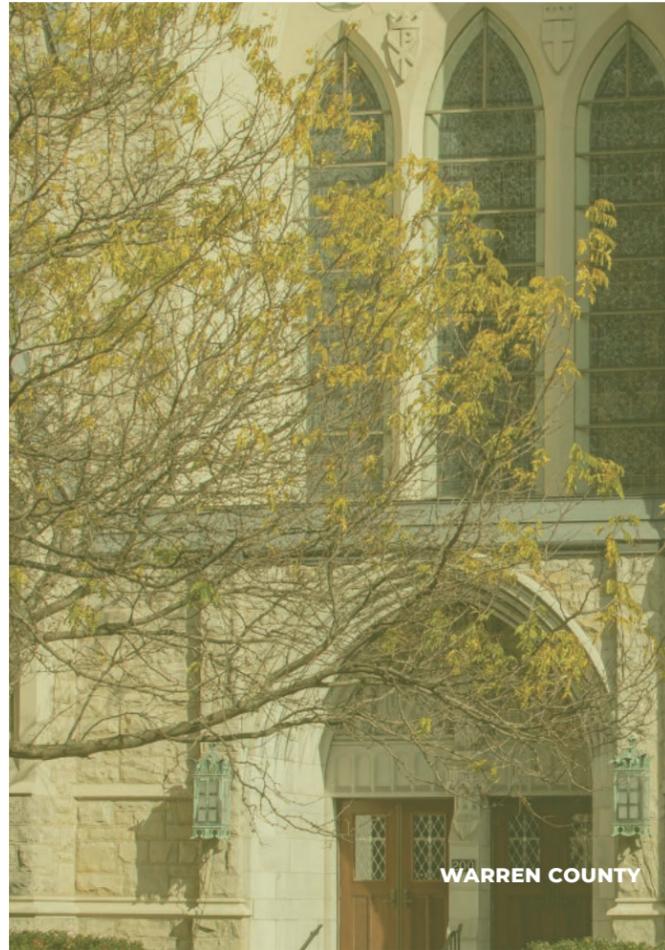
The college receives official approval to apply for candidacy for accreditation, completing the first step in the three-step accreditation process.

NPRC completes the first step toward accreditation

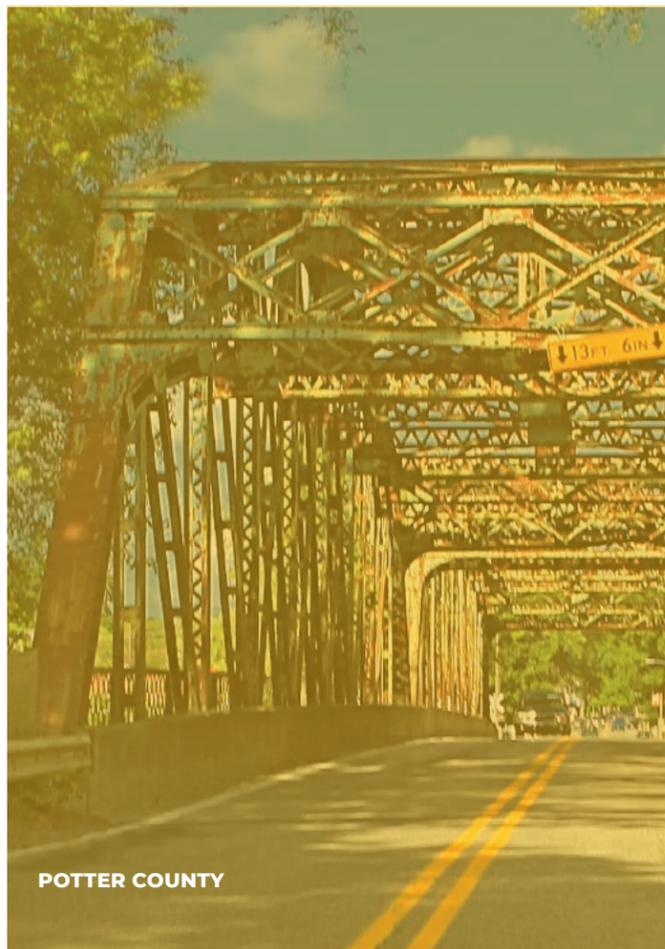




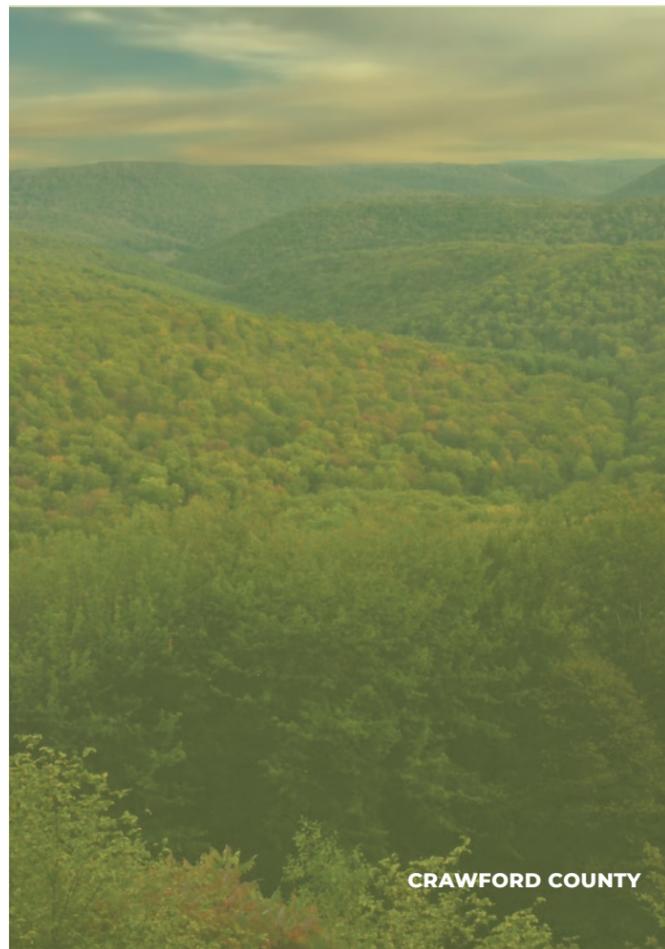
ERIE COUNTY



WARREN COUNTY



POTTER COUNTY



CRAWFORD COUNTY

# Service area

### Location. Location. Education.

Community is central to the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College story. The college is synonymous with the area and evokes many of the same characteristics that make this region so special. Just like our students, we're here because we want to be here.

Our footprint includes Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Venango, and Warren counties. When you serve an area larger than the state of Connecticut with an audience of over half a million people it takes a unique delivery model to achieve success.

### We Meet Students Where They Are.

Our students can attend classes in any of 28 instructional sites throughout our 9-county service area. We offer a flexible, career-focused curriculum and quality instruction using interactive technology to create meaningful face-to-face classroom experiences. By aggregating students across the region we allow them to stay in their home communities while keeping class sizes reasonable. Each instructional site also has a proctor to assure academic integrity.

We offer associate degrees, certificate programs, short-term classes, workshops and seminars, as well as customized training for local businesses. At NPRC, we recognize the value in letting people stay where they want to be, work in a place they love and build their individual potential right in their own community.

**We meet you where you are**

# financial

- ▶ NPRC is an ordinary expense of the commonwealth with preferred status.
- ▶ Funding has increased from \$1.1M in 2014 to \$7M for FY2020.

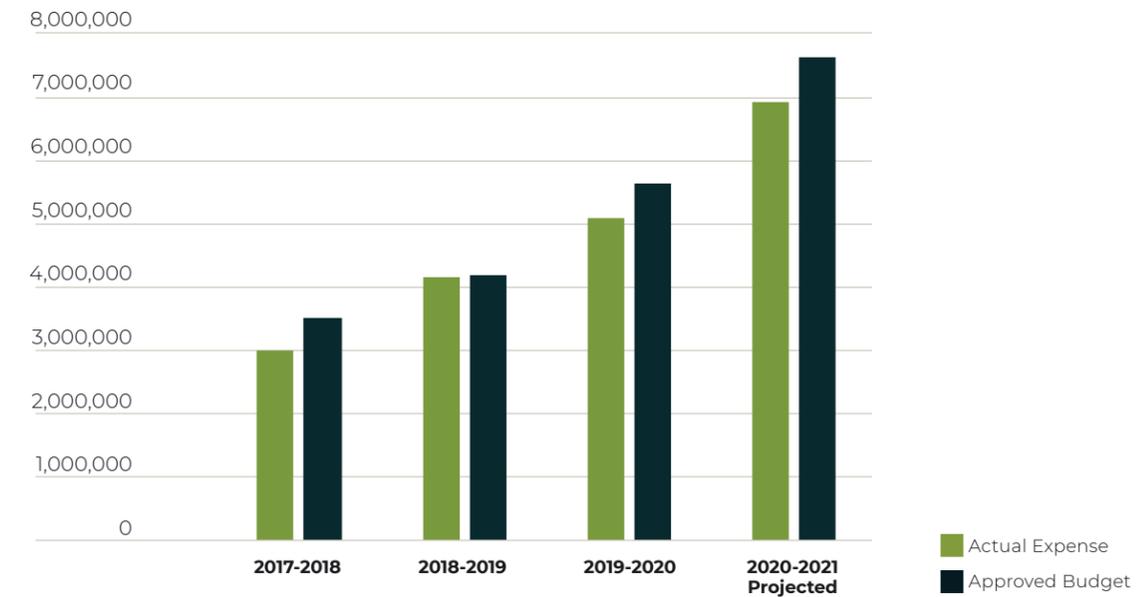
**62%**  
**2020**  
**Academic**  
**and**  
**Workforce**  
**Expense**

**\$1.1M**  
**2014 Fund**

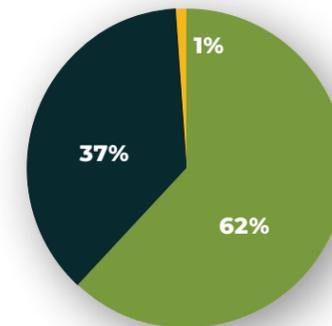
**\$7M**  
**2020 Fund**



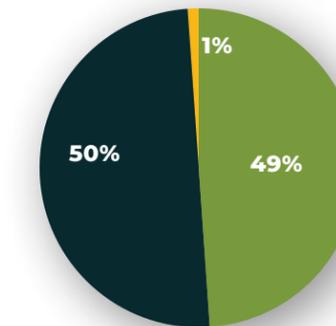
## ACTUAL EXPENSE VS APPROVED BUDGET



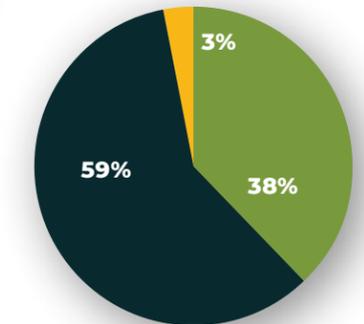
PROJECTED FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2020-2021



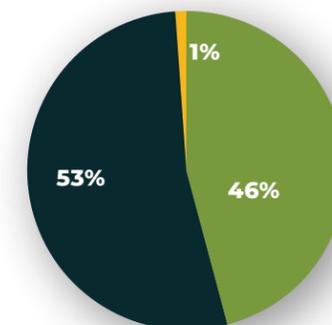
PROJECTED FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2019-2020



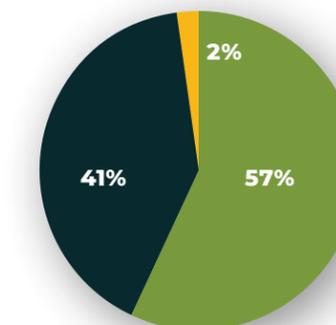
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2016-2017



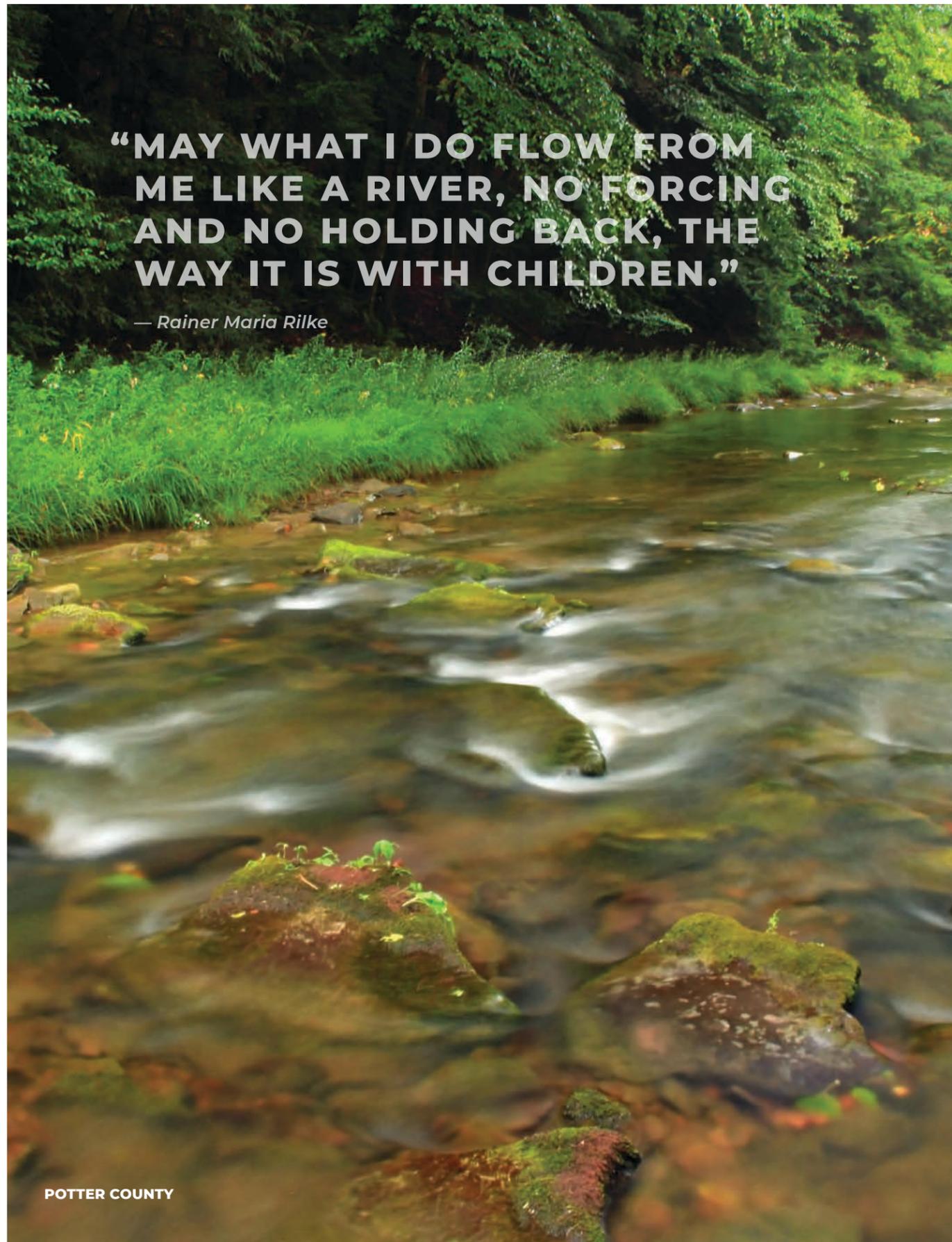
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2018-2019



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2017-2018



■ Academic & Workforce Expenses  
■ Administration  
■ Fundraising



**“MAY WHAT I DO FLOW FROM ME LIKE A RIVER, NO FORCING AND NO HOLDING BACK, THE WAY IT IS WITH CHILDREN.”**

— Rainer Maria Rilke

POTTER COUNTY

By supporting Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, you make it possible for many in our community to have access to a high-quality education, innovative programs, and new technologies. We recognize and say thank you to NPRC's inaugural donors.



The Stackpole-Hall Foundation

# donors

## Helping others

**Brent Jones**  
Warren, PA

**Deborah & Lawrence Vicini**  
Warren, PA

**Debra Teachman**  
Warren, PA

**Dianne E. Meier**  
Russell, PA

**Duane & Donna Vicini**  
Russell, PA

**James & Susan Scalise**  
Warren, PA

**John & Gloria Werner**  
Sheffield, PA

**John R. Hauser**  
Greenville, PA

**Joseph & Terri Nairn**  
Warren, PA

**Katherine & William Brock**  
St. Marys, PA

**Kelsey Kirkpatrick**  
Kane, PA

**Linda Fleming**  
Erie, PA

**Lisa Lee Pecora**  
Bradford, PA

**Lori Ann McNeal**  
Sheffield, PA

**Mark & Lynn Espin**  
Warren, PA

**Mary Jo & H. William White**  
Oil City, PA

**Patsy & Gwendolynn Scutella**  
Warren, PA

**Randall & Michele Scalise**  
Warren, PA

**Ray & Andrea Grolemond**  
Kane, PA

**Raymond Jr. & Rene Davis Pring**  
Warren, PA

**Rick W. Smith Sr.**  
Louisville, KY

**Ronald & Amy Meier**  
St. Marys, PA

**Ronald & Lucrecia Johnson**  
Clarendon, PA

**Henri E. LeMeur**  
Warren, PA

**Johnsons Tire Service Inc.**  
Clarendon, PA

- Community Foundation of Warren County
- ERMP - Erie Regional Manufacturer Partnership
- LeMeur Family Foundation - Henri E. LeMeur, Trustee
- Northwest Charitable Foundation
- Northwest Institute of Research
- The Stackpole-Hall Foundation
- UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)
- USDA (United States Department of Agriculture)

# values

## Defined by our values. Recognized for our value.

The Board of Trustees of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College are professionals and business people from the same communities across northwestern Pennsylvania whom we serve. This dedicated and experienced team is committed to ensuring that education and opportunity are available to all citizens of the area, regardless of location. The Trustees serve to advise and guide the college in meeting its mission of accessibility and affordability. They also provide a critical voice and connection to the college for businesses, industries, government, and community organizations within the region.

- Mrs. Kate Brock, Chairperson**  
*St. Marys, PA*
- Mrs. Amanda Hetrick , Vice-Chairperson**  
*Tionesta, PA*
- Mr. Hank LeMeur, Secretary**  
*Warren, PA*
- Ms. Mary Bula**  
*Erie, PA*
- Dr. Adrienne Dixon**  
*Erie, PA*
- Mr. Robert Esch**  
*Bradford, PA*
- Mr. Andy Foyle**  
*Erie, PA*
- Mr. Robert Kaemmerer**  
*Warren, PA*
- Mr. Greg Mahon**  
*Harrisburg, PA*
- Dr. Richard McDowell**  
*Bradford, PA*
- Mr. Douglas Morley**  
*Coudersport, PA*
- Mrs. Susan Snelick**  
*Ridgway, PA*
- Mr. Kevin Sprong**  
*Meadville, PA*
- Honorable Mary Jo White**  
*Oil City, PA*
- Mr. Dennis Wilke**  
*Pittsburgh, PA*



## board of trustees

Our board is an experienced group who are committed not only to shepherding the college to success but also building something that positively impacts the people and communities of our region for years to come.



Joseph T Nairn, D. Mgt  
Founding President



Linda M. Fleming, Ph.D.  
Vice President of Academic  
and Student Affairs



Raymond R. Pring, Jr.  
Vice President of Finance  
and Administration



Rick W. Smith Sr., MBA, MA, CFRL  
Interim Vice President of Advancement  
and Community Engagement

## administration

# challenge.

### Challenges are nothing more than opportunities for change.

Years before there was the NPRC, there was a recognized need for secondary education in this part of the commonwealth. It was a big challenge but a small group of smart, talented and committed individuals decided to take it on. The effort was focused on building a model that was scalable and could lower the barriers of entry to educational opportunity across a rural geographic area greater than the size of Connecticut.

Utilizing a variety of community locations as classrooms and delivering class instruction via live interactive technology offered access, affordability, and allowed students to stay where they want to be. There was no longer a need to leave or move away from their communities to get an education or training. It was also an effective way to help non-traditional and first-generation students navigate and succeed in an unfamiliar educational environment.

We are also meeting the needs of

industries and employers in the region through our Workforce Development Programs. It is important that industry stay in the area so our curriculum is designed to create a local base of skilled talent that is trained for positions within these businesses. In addition, our Board of Trustees acts in an advisory capacity and has been very involved in building strong connections between the college and regional companies. This enhances our regional economic growth and civic development which in turn helps to both retain and attract residents to our region.

The biggest challenge the college has faced is the ability to become a regionally accredited institution. Achieving accreditation not only raises our standing among peers but it opens up greater opportunities for students to get financial aid and be able to transfer their credits to other colleges or universities. This is not a process that moves quickly but we are proud to say as of April 1, 2020, the NPRC is proudly pursuing accreditation. And we are carefully preparing the college to meet all accreditation standards.

**It takes experience if you want to create greatness**

# SUCCESS STORIES

**“I want people to know *you can do it* if you want it.”**

*Megan*

In her early 30's, working full time and as a single parent, Megan Walker never considered college as an option. It was only after a death in the family that she began thinking about life and how it was maybe time to do something more with herself.

Going to school in Erie was out of the question as it was too far away. The fact that she could attend classes with NPRC right in her community and get financial assistance was what convinced her to start. It was tough at first and she often thought, “I just can't do this.” With encouragement from her Student Success Specialists she's stuck with it and has maintained her GPA.

Megan describes having grown immensely in the year she's been attending NPRC. She's set to graduate with an Associate Degree in Business Administration next year and plans to utilize it in her community.

If Megan were to give advice to other potential students, she would tell them, “If you're thinking about college but not sure if you can do this, I want you to know if I can do it, you can too.”



## “I want my kids to know the importance of getting an education and pursuing their dreams and goals.”

Taylor

Taylor Palmer is in her first year at NPRC and pursuing an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. She’s currently working as an aide in an elementary school helping children with emotional issues so Taylor feels it’s an ideal career track for her. In fact, it was a superintendent at work who recommended the program at NPRC.

Taylor looked into it but opted to wait a year because she would have had a long drive back and forth to classes. That all changed when the program began being offered right in her hometown. She met a Student Success Specialist several times who walked Taylor through the entire admissions and financial aid process. “Working with my SSS is fantastic and has made me feel that things are more attainable because I know I have someone on my team supporting me and cheering me on.”

When asked why college was important to her, Taylor says, “I missed out on a chance to attend college right out of high school. It was an athletic scholarship but I wasn’t able to take it at that time. Now I’m in a better position and want to show my kids that no matter what, you can do it. I don’t want anybody to think they can’t just because of their situation.”

## “without an education you don’t get very far.”

Jessica

Jessica Blank works full-time as a nurses aide in the emergency department at a medical center. It’s a good job but Jessica decided she wanted to take a step further. She’s just started her first year at NPRC and plans to eventually get a degree in Nursing.

Going back to school was a challenge for Jessica as she has a young daughter and another child on the way. “It was definitely hard to get back in the swing of things and be in a school mindset,” she says. “But I feel like without an education you don’t get very far.”

Jessica attended an NPRC open house and the location and convenience is what sold her. She likes that she can work at her own pace and take classes part time. And her Student Success Specialist has met with her to plan a schedule for the future that will work around her having a newborn at home.

“Students can count on their SSS because they’re there for you, no matter what stage of your journey you are in.” In Jessica’s words, “they meet you where you are and support you physically, mentally, and emotionally.”

**the journey is the reward**

## “I am the great American outdoorsman.”

Bobby

At the ripe old age of 22, Bobby Duguay is already transitioning into his second career. He’s currently working full time as an Aerospace Machinist which he went to school for, but after 3 years is ready to make a change. Bobby is now pursuing his Associate Degree in Criminal Justice with the goal of becoming a park ranger.

“I am the great American outdoorsman”, says Bobby. “I’m always outside. I hunt, fish, bike, hike, kayak, canoe, and camp.” When he looked into working for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources he discovered he needed a degree. And when he started looking at colleges NPRC was a good fit.

Working full time didn’t permit Bobby to go to school during the day. The convenience and flexibility offered by NPRC was perfect for him. Plus it was very affordable. He’s now taking classes at night and is on track to graduate at the end of 2021.

Bobby’s advice to others is simple but smart. “It’s important to me to be making a living doing what you love.”



# INVESTING IN SUCCESS.

## What makes us different is what makes a difference.

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College serves communities across northern Pennsylvania by engaging recent graduates, high school or college non-completers, returning adults, and first generation students. Our unique model utilizes community locations to deliver class instruction at multiple sites in nine counties and bring students and instructors together via live interactive video technology. We partner with libraries, high schools, businesses, and existing education entities to bring remote classroom learning just about anywhere. And we offer associate degrees, certificate programs, short term classes, workshops and seminars, and customized training.



The future is bright for NPRC as we fill a special niche in the way we deliver post-secondary education and workforce development to our region. The advantage to our method is its flexibility and scalability. We offer smaller class sizes. Our faculty to student ratio is 10:1 with direct support from Student Success Specialists. We also hold classes after 12:30 p.m. in 28 locations throughout the region allowing people who work during the day to attend classes in the evening. Institutional aid for students who would typically qualify for traditional aid like PHEAA and Pell is also available.

## Right size. Right time.

NPRC is low-cost, high quality, easily accessible, and responsive to community needs. There's no brick and mortar. No online. Which means less overhead. We're not paying for things we don't need so the focus is on the student. We meet them where they are at the time. And do everything possible to allow students get their degree without having to leave the community. Our trustees and staff are true partners in ensuring that each student finds success both in school and in life.

Classes in nine counties: Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Venango, and Warren.

## What makes us successful

- ▶ **Student Success Specialists.** Our team of educational experts help recruit and then support each student all the way through their education through graduation. Whatever a student needs, from tutoring, financial aid, child care, computers, or a few words of encouragement, the SSS is there to help them stay on their academic path.
- ▶ **Start with academic classes at the outset.** In traditional academic programs, students often take remedial classes before they can take academic classes. At NPRC all students go into the same academic math and English courses that include supplemental instruction so everyone gets a solid foundation without spending unnecessary time in remedial classes.
- ▶ **No traditional grading schedule.** We have first third, second third, and final grades. If students are having difficulty we are able to catch it early and address the issue before it is too late in the semester to recover.



**NORTHERN**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**  
REGIONAL COLLEGE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# 20 YEAR ONE 20



**NORTHERN  
PENNSYLVANIA**  
REGIONAL COLLEGE