



**DATE:** January 12, 2021

**FROM:** Dr. Joseph T. Nairn, Founding President

**RE: NPRC Status Update**

**A Status Update on Northern Pennsylvania Regional College**, a two-year, associate degree-granting institution supported by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Now in our third year of operation, NPRC proudly serves students in Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Warren, and Venango Counties.

**COVID 19 Update:**

Like most other institutions of higher education and schools across the nation, we have been working to address the Covid-19 virus and ensure the health and safety of all our students, faculty, and staff. We will remain "virtual" for the spring semester and will decide the modality for our summer sessions based on the best information available. We at NPRC continue to maintain high-quality educational experiences for our learners with minimum disruption. While these are certainly "disruptive times," we continue to serve our learners with high-quality instruction.

**Site-based Instruction:**

The pandemic has placed some restrictions on any face-to-face instruction, but we continue to find ways to conduct our classes and workforce training safely and effectively. We are currently preparing a "hands-on" site in the eastern counties for labs and other experiential learning. Please watch for more announcements as we build our capacity in these areas.

The College is opening a technical training facility located in Erie County to serve local employers and job seekers' training needs. The training center will be located at 5739 West Ridge Road, the former Fortis Institute. The facility has ten classrooms and can accommodate five to seven occupational training laboratories.

**Spring Classes:**

NPRC's Spring 2021 schedule includes 35 academic courses offered across the nine-county service area. The semester begins on January 20, and we are still accepting applications.

<https://regionalcollegepa.org/class-schedule-years/2021/>

Workforce development classes are offered in Elk, Erie, McKean, Potter and Warren counties in Commercial Truck Driving, Powder Metal, Emergency Medical Responder, and Child Development Specialist. The next term begins in February, and we are accepting applications.

<https://regionalcollegepa.org/workforce-dev/>

**Progress toward Accreditation:**

NPRC and our accreditor have identified a review team currently examining NPRC's "readiness for Candidacy" application, which was submitted at the end of September 2020. Once that review is complete, its report will be reviewed by the Commission, which will determine when the College can become a candidate for accreditation.

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#### **NPRC/University of Pittsburgh-Titusville:**

NPRC is one of four partners developing the offerings at the reimagined Pitt-Titusville workforce Hub. NPRC has already begun offering general education courses in a certificate that will bridge the Pitt-Bradford associates degree in nursing. NPRC will also offer other classes in NPRC degree programs in collaboration with Manchester Bidwell and Pitt's Manufacturing Assistance Center. We anticipate being able to offer all our academic programs and some of our WFD programs at that location as the location has science labs and facilities for courses requiring large-equipment technical training.

#### **Marketing/Community Relations:**

Our Marketing team has been hard at work developing our spring branding campaign. Later this month, we will begin seeing new television commercials, radio spots, print advertisements, and digital media promotion. The campaign's underlying message is that NPRC has removed the common barriers to higher education and workforce development.

Starting next week, you may also see a newspaper insert promoting Workforce Development going out in newspapers across our nine-county service area. The insert has information about our programs and includes the 2020-2021 Course Schedule.

NPRC Connects, our digital spotlight of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College highlights Workforce Development this month; please like and share the information when you see it on our social media channels.

#### **Workforce Development:**

NPRC continues to build its portfolio of training opportunities for residents and employers of northern Pennsylvania. Recent additions include a commercial truck driver training range in Shinglehouse, PA, which will serve McKean and Potter counties. Residents in that area seeking that training currently acquire it from a firm in New York. The division also has a partnership with the Potter County Education Council to provide Dental Assistant and Medical Clinical Assistant programs in the eastern service area. In addition to those programs, the division is pleased to provide crane operator training through a third-party partnership with Crawford Custom Consulting in Meadville. We have already received inquiries about this program since its recent addition to our portfolio.

In December, just over \$900,000 worth of equipment was purchased to support the Associate of Applied Science in Applied Technology with a specialization in Industrial Maintenance Technology program, precision machining training including computerized numerical control lathes and mills, emergency medical services, and the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. All of the equipment will allow the College to provide first-class, industry-based training.

#### **Advisory Committees:**

Our Erie and Rural Advisory Committees have met and are beginning to provide critical feedback to the administration about the region's needs and possible responses from the College. As stakeholders for your community and the region, we welcome your interest in serving on one of these vital groups.

#### **Area visits:**

As the Covid-19 related restrictions begin to ease, I ask you to please invite me or our Student Success Specialist staff to meetings or gatherings where we can share college information with interested parties. We have a great story to tell, and some of our staff have lived the life of an NPRC student to see how the degree created new opportunities for them. We love to tell our success stories. We are, of course, open to participating in virtual meetings as needed at your preference.

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**Finally, Thank You!**

This past year has been challenging for all of us, as educators, as parents, as employers, as workers (essential and otherwise), and just as caring, feeling human beings. We are grateful to you for your support, positivity, and commitment to seeing these unprecedented days come to an end. Please know that we are always open to your comments, feedback, and ideas. Please stay safe and be well!

**Northern Pennsylvania Regional College**

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