



DATE: March 18, 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. NPRC proudly serves students in Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Warren, and Venango Counties.

Accreditation Update: An earlier update explained why accreditation is important to the college and its students. NPRC submitted its application for candidacy to the accreditor in September 2020 and has been notified that a peer team has been appointed to review the over 800 documents, which will result in a site visit once the review is complete. This process involves representatives from peer institutions who examine the college policies, procedures, and operations to determine the college's readiness for the next step in the process.

We will keep you apprised as the process continues. Like many organizations, our accreditor has experienced disruptions due to the pandemic; however, we are looking forward to a positive report soon.

Spring and Summer Classes: With no end in sight with the ongoing pandemic, the college made an early decision to hold spring classes virtually, ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. Similarly, to give students and faculty time to plan for their summer classes, we will remain virtual through the summer sessions. Summer and fall priority registration begin April 21 for veterans and students currently served by Disability Support Services who reside within the service region. April 22 begins registration for all other students in the NPRC service region, with open registration beginning April 26. In May, we will decide the modality of fall classes, pending direction from the Commonwealth and the CDC for face-to-face instruction.

Workforce Development: Term IV registration runs March 8 - March 26, 2021, with classes running April 5 - May 28, 2021. Term V registration is from May 17 – June 4, 2021. Term V runs from June 14 through August 6, 2021. For a comprehensive list of workforce classes, please visit our website at <https://regionalcollegepa.org/workforce-catalog/>.

Industrial Maintenance: We are creating additional opportunities for students who wish to study Industrial Maintenance but need to return to work quickly. Students can now earn an Industrial Maintenance Badge after successfully completing 13 credits of courses focused on Industrial Maintenance. With an additional six credits, they can earn the advanced badge. At 30 credits, they can earn a certificate in Industrial Maintenance, and after completing 60 credits, students will earn the AAS in Industrial Maintenance. All credentials are stackable, meaning that all credits earned at one level apply toward the next level, which means student progression is streamlined with no additional or unexpected requirements.

NPRC-University of Pittsburgh-Titusville Hub Partnership: An agreement between NPRC, the University of Pittsburgh-Titusville, Manchester-Bidwell, and Pitt's Manufacturing Assistance Center has been signed to bring a broad array of educational and training opportunities to the new "Hub" at Titusville. NPRC will provide an opportunity for students wishing to earn an associate degree in Nursing to prepare for entry to the Pitt program through a 30 credit General Education certificate from NPRC. For more details, please contact one of our Student Success Specialists who can provide prospective students with information and qualifications. NPRC's full array of academic classes and many workforce programs will also be available at Pitt-Titusville.

Workforce, Laboratory, and Classroom space in Erie: NPRC is finalizing the establishment of a facility in Erie to accommodate "hands-on" learning and classroom instruction using our real-time/multi-site instructional model. Some face-to-face classes will be offered there during the summer sessions, and we plan to offer workforce development and all academic programs at that location beginning in with the fall semester.

Marketing Update: We recently launched a new marketing campaign aimed at raising the awareness of the Workforce Development and Academic programs at NPRC. Please visit our website or social media pages to view the new promotions and be sure to watch for them on television and radio!

Commencement: Our first commencement ceremony as an independent institution will be held on Saturday, May 22, at 2 pm. It will be a virtual ceremony, available on our YouTube site. We anticipate 17 graduates to participate in the ceremony.

Farewell and Thank You: As you may be aware, I will be retiring from NPRC in April, and thus this is my last update. While the pandemic has prevented many face-to-face meetings with you, over the past year, it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to work with you, collaborate with you, and find creative solutions to often thorny problems that our region has faced.

The greatest satisfaction in this position has come from the opportunity to serve a region so deserving of opportunity and people so appreciative of the college's offerings. Those of you whom I have met know that I am a native Pennsylvanian, born in southwestern PA, but spent many years traveling to Forest County and elsewhere in our beautiful region. These four years have been a true pleasure, but four years away from my wife, family, and grandchildren have been a long time, and I look forward to spending quality time with them.

My successor will be named sometime in late March or early April, and I wish the new president all the best in leading this special institution and a very gifted, dedicated, and talented staff and faculty.

To all of you, friends, stakeholders, county officials, and community leaders, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe".