



NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNELICK

Greetings! We hope you enjoy our Fall 2024 President's Newsletter.

The Fall 2024 term is off to a terrific start. We offer a warm welcome to all our new students as well as students nearing the end of their time with us. We are #NPRCProud of each of you, no matter what stage you may be in at the College.

Our program offerings continue to evolve and meet students where they are. As a result, our student population is growing and has no plans of slowing down. We ran our first Culinary Boot Camp, welcomed new paraeducators as a part of the Paraeducators Pathways Program, and launched additional low-cost emergency medical technician courses throughout our region. It's safe to say there are wonderful things happening at NPRC, thanks in large part to the dedication of our amazing team and community champions.

I want to personally acknowledge Leigh Anne Kraemer-Naser for her work in helping the College earn a Developing Future Special Educators grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This funding will help the college prepare more special educators to progress in their careers.

I would also be remiss if I did not formally welcome our new Vice President of Academics, Dr. Ben Malczyk; Instructor of Business, Suzie Smith; and Culinary Arts Instructor, Adam LaBenne, to NPRC. The College is fortunate to have these leaders and innovators on our NPRC team. I hope you enjoy reading about our staff, programming, and what's next for NPRC. Thank you for your support as we continue to be your community's college!

Sincerely,

Susie

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Oct 1 — Paraeducator Pathways Program Info Session & Developing Future Special Educators Info Session

Oct 7 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — St. Marys, PA

Oct 12 — A Red-Carpet Affair Fundraising Gala

Oct 14 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — Mansfield, PA

Oct 14 — Spring 2025 Priority Registration Opens

Oct 1 — Spring 2025 Open Registration Begins

Oct 21 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — Erie, PA

Oct 22 — Paraeducator Pathways Program Info Session

Oct 24 — Developing Future Special Educators Info Session

Nov 2 — Safe Churches Seminar*

Wellsboro, PA

Nov 4 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — St. Marys, PA

Nov 11 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — Mansfield, PA

Nov 18 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — Erie, PA

Dec 9 — Registration Deadline*

CDL Class A — Erie, Mansfield, and St. Marys, PA

Dec 12 — Fall 2024 Term Concludes

*Workforce Development Dates

NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS



NPRC NOW OFFERING **ACT 48 CREDITS**

NPRC was authorized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to offer Act 48 continuing education credits for Pennsylvania educators. According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, "Act 48 of 1999 requires all Pennsylvania educators holding Pennsylvania public school certification (including Instructional I and II, Educational Specialist I and II, Administrative, Supervisory, Letters of Eligibility, and all vocational certificates) to participate in ongoing professional education. Act 48 requires that collegiate courses, continuing professional education courses (offered by intermediate units), and noncredit continuing professional education programs, activities or learning experiences be 'related to an area of the professional educator's assignment or certification.'"

Educators seeking college credits can enroll in any NPRC academic courses to help fulfill their 180 continuing education requirements every five years. Additionally, NPRC's Workforce Development division can deliver an Education Team and Leadership Certification course, as well as other customized professional development training courses for local school districts to assist educators in their continuing education coursework.

For more information about NPRC's Act 48 offerings, visit [here](#).



PRESIDENT SNELICK MAKING **PCN APPEARANCES**

NPRC's President, Susie Snelick, made her debut on the Pennsylvania Cable Network on Sunday, August 25 as co-host of the PA School Safety Hour.

The PA School Safety Hour is a bi-weekly, one-hour program designed for teachers, parents, administrators, and other stakeholders in student safety. It provides research-based information and expert insights on cognitive, behavioral, economic, and social issues affecting school safety, aiming to reduce critical safety incidents in schools and communities.

Every other Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for the next few months, President Snelick will welcome guests from around Pennsylvania to speak about school safety. Check out her television debut [here](#).



NPRC INSTRUCTOR PRESENTS AT **RCCA**

NPRC's Director of Applied Studies and Instructor of Early Childhood Education, Leigh Anne Kraemer-Naser, was selected to present at the 2024 Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Annual Conference. Kraemer-Naser presented about the development and execution of NPRC's Paraeducator Pathways Program.

Her presentation addressed this program, which started at the beginning of the Spring 2024 term. This program assists current paraprofessionals in the IU9 service area with earning valuable special education preparedness and eventually a special education bachelor's degree at a four-year institution. Kraemer-Naser has been an integral part of the development and the continuous improvement of the program. She also hopes the program can be expanded in the coming months to accommodate and support paraprofessionals from across Pennsylvania.

To accommodate the program, NPRC created a new early childhood degree specialization in special education. Students in the Paraeducator Pathways Program are eligible to earn 21 credits of the degree's required 60 credits through a portfolio project. Students enrolled in the program will also demonstrate the core competencies for the Special Education Paraeducators credential developed by the Council for Exceptional Children; a nationally recognized organization of special educators.

Learn more about this program and Kraemer-Naser's work [here](#).



NEW VP JOINS **NPRC TEAM**

NPRC welcomed Dr. Ben Malczyk to the role of Vice President of Academics in July. Malczyk comes to Pennsylvania from Utah. He was previously employed by Ensign College as the Associate Academic Vice President. His time at Ensign spanned nearly three years and included a previous role as a senior director of curriculum and instruction before being promoted. He was a crucial part of helping the two-year institution grow their enrollment through online programming.

Before living in Utah, Malczyk resided in Nebraska and worked as a faculty member in the University of Nebraska at Kearney's social work department for around seven years. Here, he earned the opportunity to serve as the faculty senate president and as program director. He was a vital part of the institution launching a fully online bachelor's degree program in social work – helping to improve rural communities' access to both education and social services. His background and experience in accreditation, program assessment and improvement, faculty development, online teaching and learning, innovative models of teaching, administration in higher education, and experience as a faculty member, instructional designer, and program leader makes him an excellent addition to the institution.

Malczyk graduated from BYU with a bachelor's degree in marriage, family, and human development. He added a master's degree in social work (MSW) and a PhD in social welfare at the University at Albany.

Learn more about Dr. Malczyk [here](#).



NPRC OFFERS **CULINARY BOOT CAMPS** IN TIOGA COUNTY

With the generous support of many from the Tioga County area, NPRC launched a culinary program with two courses in Tioga in August. The Level I and Level II Culinary Boot Camps welcomed six students and helped them progress or begin their careers in the industry.

In partnership with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, Community and Economic Assistance Program, The Fund for Northern Tier Development, Kecks Food Service, Charles Knox & Margaret Etner Foundation, and the Ernest L. Sweet and Mildred Roberts Sweet Foundation, the boot camps came at no cost to students.

During the courses, learners were introduced to culinary skills that included use of kitchen equipment, basic cooking techniques, vegetable preparation, safe food handling procedures, personal hygiene practices, preparation of stocks, emulsion sauces, pizza baking, sautéing, grilling, and plate presentations. The Level I Boot Camp offers training in basic culinary skills to help students get prepared for testing for their ServSafe Certification.

For more information about our Culinary Boot Camps, visit the program's [webpage](#).



NPRC AWARDED **EDUCATION GRANT**

NPRC was recently named one of 77 school entities awarded a shared sum of 1.4 million dollars by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The \$20,000.00 the College received will be allocated to support high school career and technical education (CTE) students, as well as current Child Development Associate (CDA) students or credential completers to become more familiar with the field of special education. The first Developing Future Special Educators cohort at the institution is set to begin their studies at the start of the Spring 2025 academic term.

The monies will be used to support a minimum of 12 students who reside in NPRC's region and are interested in special education careers. Funding will cover the cost of enrolling in seven academic credits and textbooks at NPRC. Learners will enroll in two, three credit courses remotely over two academic terms and a 40-hour, one credit externship. The externship will be completed at their place of employment if they are already working in the industry or at the school they are attending as a CTE student. The goal of the externship is for students to observe how special education teachers and support staff interact with their students.

Learn more about the grant and the Developing Future Special Educators program [here](#).





ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) and the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (Pitt-Bradford) signed a guaranteed transfer agreement to enable NPRC students in three associate degree programs to transfer into bachelor's programs at Pitt-Bradford. The signing took place in an official ceremony held on the campus of Pitt-Bradford on Wednesday, September 4.

Those degrees include:

- Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies into any Pitt-Bradford undergraduate program, provided they meet the program requirements for general education courses and electives. However, these general education courses and electives will not replace the required major courses in the Pitt-Bradford program.
- Associate of Science in Business Administration into the Bachelor of Science in Business Management
- Associate of Science in Criminal Justice into the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

To be eligible, NPRC students must also meet the following minimum requirements:

Received a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher; completed, plan to complete, or plan to transfer back the major requirements prescribed by NPRC for graduation; and have received a favorable recommendation from the Articulation Agreement Program Liaison at NPRC to successfully complete credit transfer to Pitt-Bradford.

Learn more about this academic agreement [here](#).



NPRC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BRITTANY DORITTY

Brittany Doritty's favorite place and activity will forever be in the kitchen creating dishes both she and her loved ones enjoy. Since she was a little girl, helping the adults in her life create delicious food has always been a passion. Today, Doritty blends her passions of serving others and working in the food industry as a cafeteria worker for the Girard School District.

She entered food service before graduating high school and hopes to remain in this industry for the foreseeable future. However, advancing in the industry is most likely with continued experience and a college degree. In August 2023, she began her time at NPRC as a business administration student.

"I was worried about what opinions people may have since I waited so long between high school and now. However, the faculty and staff have done nothing but help me feel totally accepted and encouraged to always do my best."

The flexibility of working a day-shift job and attending courses in the evening is the perfect fit for a professional like Brittany. "I love the flexible schedule, especially as someone who works multiple jobs. I also enjoyed all my interactions with the faculty and staff I've worked with. Everyone is very friendly and helpful."

Doritty aspires to complete her associate degree by the end of 2025; a moment in life she's anticipating. "To have this degree will be life changing. I will have so many new doors open to further my career, and this is a skill set I can take with me into many industries."



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT



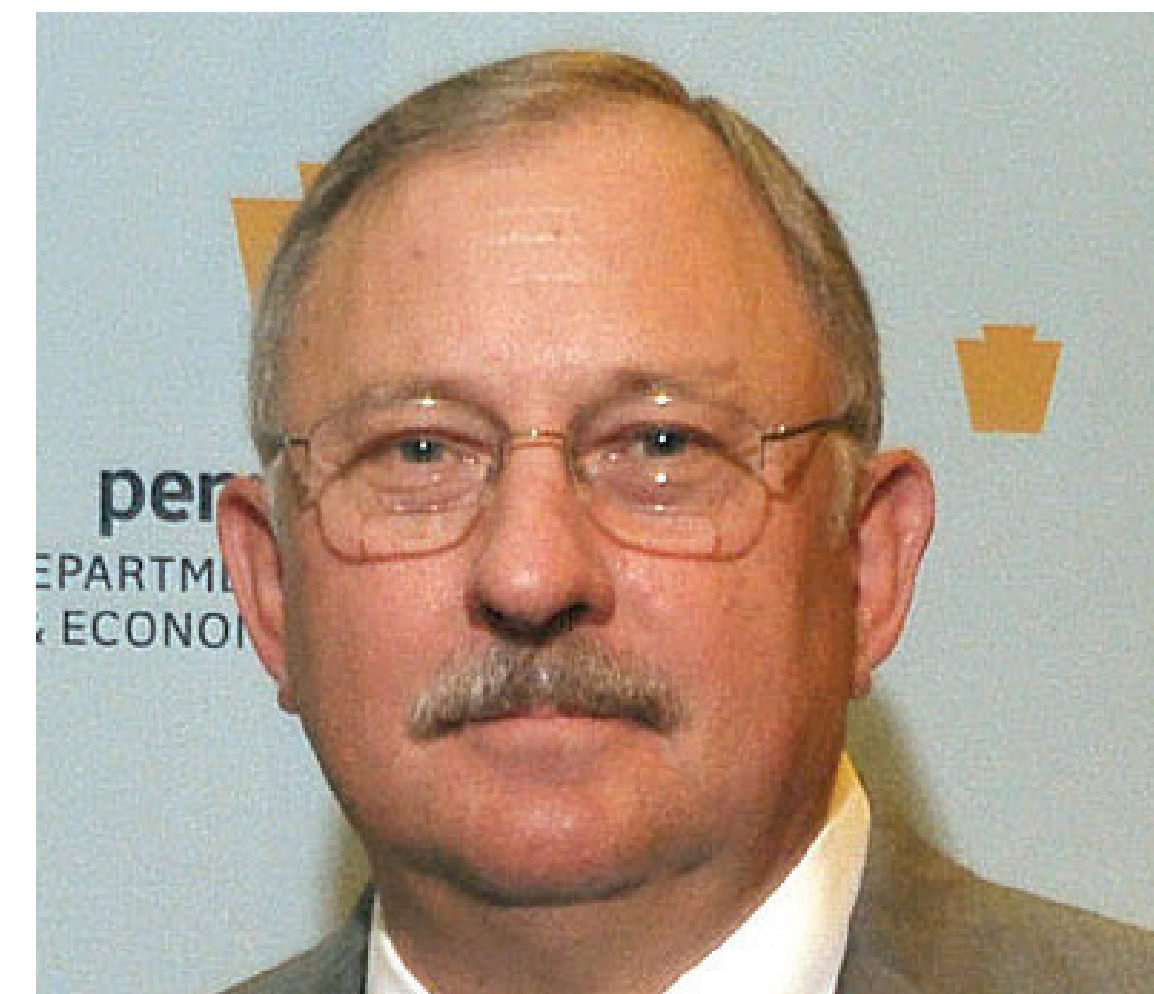
BOB ESCH

The foundations learned in the United States Navy have served Bradford resident Bob Esch well in a remarkable career. After four years of military service, he returned to the area and decided to go to college. He attended St. Bonaventure University and earned a Bachelor of Science in History.

After college, Esch went to work in the oil and gas industry for what is now known as American Refining Group, Inc. His career saw him progress from project engineer all the way to vice president in a career that spanned nearly 40 years. However, his career would not be complete without mentioning his extensive community service. Retirement has meant increased opportunity for community leadership, including service on NPRC's Board of Trustees. Presently, NPRC is one of around a dozen boards he serves on.

While Esch became a trustee in 2020, he was one of the original advocates for creating the institution we know as NPRC today. The friendships he made helping to create NPRC are ones he cherishes. He's also proud of what the College has become but knows there are opportunities forthcoming. "I'm pleased with the direction of NPRC, but there are many businesses and students we can continue serving or assist for the first time. I want NPRC to be a bigger leader in the region and to continue growing its enrollment. This institution allows students to fulfill their dreams and aspirations of pursuing college opportunities right here in a place they call home."

Learn more about Esch's service and our impressive group of trustees [online](#).



PART-TIME FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

RUTH BARNES SHAW

Dr. Ruth Barnes Shaw is unquestionably a passionate Instructor of Fine Arts at NPRC, but in addition to this title, she's incredibly proud of being mom to her son J.D., wife of 29 years to her husband Jim, and a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America for over 20 years.

Teaching was not a path she expected to embark on when she initially moved from rural Ashville, New York, to New York City after high school. She moved to the Big Apple to study at the Parsons School of Design, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts, a Master of Fine Arts, and impressive experience working in textile design. The next several years after college were spent in the city designing textiles for the clothing industry. After a few years, she returned home to western New York and launched her own business and, eventually, shifted to work in radio for a handful of years.

While there's no denying she has an incredible voice for radio, she felt in her heart something was missing. This led her to head back to school, this time at the SUNY University at Buffalo, where she earned a master's degree in art history and a PhD in history. She has spent time in education at Jamestown Community College and Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. She shared about NPRC, "Coming to NPRC is one of the best things that's ever happened to me. My students have been amazing, and my coworkers are absolutely fantastic."



NPRC STAFF SPOTLIGHT



SUZIE SMITH, BUSINESS INSTRUCTOR

From community college student to doctorate degree, Dr. Suzie Smith dreamed big. Her career as a learner and instructor has taken her around the country and the world but brought her to NPRC in July.

Smith began her college career at Glendale Community College in Arizona, where she earned an Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. She continued to Purdue University to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Professional, Technical, Business, and Scientific Writing; DeVry University to earn a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Leadership; and the University of Maryland Global Campus where she earned Master of International Management/International Marketing Management and a Doctor of Management in Community College Policy and Administration.

Smith has taught for institutions such as Southern New Hampshire University, the University of Hawai'i, Maryland Global Campus, and Carrington College. Presently, Smith lives in Hawai'i, but has also lived abroad in both England and Japan as a proud military spouse. She's also a mom to her seven-year-old daughter and a pup named Monty.

Her background in business and higher education will be an asset to NPRC. But more important to any class she teaches, her relatability to NPRC's students will be most impactful. She shared, "It was nice to see an institution who was looking to build a program and looking for someone full time. It excites me to help adult students who are looking to better their lives and who need someone to believe in them and to give them that extra little motivation to help them do great things."

