



# NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SNELICK

The year 2025 soared by, and as I look back, I'm grateful for the many important milestones and accomplishments NPRC has achieved.

From making substantial progress toward completing our initial accreditation process, to finalizing three new degree pathways, to seeing our annual number of students served reach four digits for the first time; this past year has been filled with milestones that both inspire pride and energize us for all that 2026 will bring.

Our first cohort of Paraeducators Pathways Program students recently completed their associate degrees in education studies, and I could not be prouder of them for this remarkable achievement. This program exists because of the generosity of so many across our communities and the dedicated work of our faculty and staff to ensure its success. While our inaugural cohort now joins the ranks of proud NPRC alumni, we know this program is going to continue to change lives and brighten futures for local educators. I personally cannot wait to celebrate the largest graduating class in the College's history in May 2026.

In Workforce Development, it has been a pleasure to see the growth of our non-credit online programming through our partnership with ed2go. Learners across Pennsylvania are taking advantage of nearly 1,000 different courses offered, and it's leading to a growing student population for the College. Additionally, our Community Development department continues to build strong relationships and offer exciting programming alongside a growing number of community partners.

The year 2025 featured many noteworthy milestones, but the theme for this year was unquestionably growth. To all the learners, team members, community partners, and anyone in between who joined our welcoming community, it is so exciting to have you here with us as we aim to make 2026 even better for Northern Pennsylvania Regional College and our communities.

Thank you to everyone for all you do for the College and the communities we serve across Pennsylvania. I hope your holiday season was special, and that 2026 is a year of tremendous prosperity for all.

Sincerely,

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

### January 15 — **First Time Home Buyers Series**

NAVIGATING THE HOME SEARCH - WELLSBORO

### January 17 — **3D Discovery with zSpace**

KANE

### January 19 — **Registration Deadline**

CDL - ERIE & ST. MARYS

### January 20 — **Classes Begin**

SPRING 2026

### January 22 — **First Time Home Buyers Series**

MAKING THE DEAL - WELLSBORO

### January 24 — **3D Discovery with zSpace**

EMPORIUM

### January 26 — **Registration Deadline**

CDL - MANSFIELD

### January 26 — **Leveraging AI for Grant Writing**

ERIE

### January 29 — **Homesteading Series**

BUDGETING AND BARTERING - KANE

### January 29 — **Envisioning Excellence**

ERIE

### January 30 — **Community Breathwork Session**

ERIE

### February 25 — **Homesteading Series**

GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS - KANE

### February 26 — **Nurse Aide Training Start**

TITUSVILLE

### March 18 — **Open Registration**

SUMMER 2026

### March 23-29 — **Spring Break 2026**

# NPRC NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## RCCA AWARD

NPRC was named the recipient of the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Workforce Development & Innovation Award. This national recognition highlights NPRC's efforts to address critical rural healthcare needs through targeted EMT training initiatives. The program offered low-cost or free-of-charge emergency medical services courses thanks to the generosity of local municipalities, public safety professionals, and organizations around the region. NPRC's commitment to accessible, affordable, and community-focused workforce training was noted by RCCA 'as a powerful model for rural-serving institutions nationwide.'

NPRC enabled 33 rural community members to become nationally certified EMTs, with more than 20 additional certifications possible as students who successfully completed the program have up to two years to test for their national certification.

The award was presented to Adam Johnson, NPRC's Vice President of Workforce Development, at the RCCA's 2025 Annual Conference held September 17 to 19 at East Central College in Union, Missouri. He shared, "I was incredibly proud to accept the Regional Community College Alliance Innovation in Workforce Award on behalf of NPRC. This recognition is a testament to the incredible dedication, creativity, and collaboration of the entire team who made this vision a reality."

Learn more about this honor [here](#).



## RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLIANCE (RCCA) STUDENT SUCCESS ACADEMY

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) has been selected as a participant in the Rural Community College Alliance's (RCCA) inaugural Student Success Academy, a national opportunity available to its members. NPRC Vice Presidents, Dr. Ben Malczyk and Jennifer Cummings-Tutmaher, are joining colleagues from Highland Community College in Highland, Kansas for this grant-funded initiative.

NPRC is centering their project on creating affordable, sustainable, career-focused pathways for regional students in the field of primary and secondary education through the College's program for paraprofessionals.

"We are looking to be a part of the solution of providing quality educators for our schools," notes Cummings-Tutmaher. NPRC's Paraeducator Pathways Program allows working paraeducators throughout Pennsylvania to earn their teaching credentials while never leaving their communities and continuing to work at their jobs as paraeducators.

Paraprofessionals of all ages and backgrounds enroll in NPRC's associate degree in education studies and attend remotely. Upon graduation with their associate degree, they then can utilize NPRC's partnership with Wilson College, or other partners, to transfer and enroll in bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education and special education to earn a teaching credential. This partnership means that paraprofessionals can continue working at their jobs in school districts while earning the credentials to become teachers. In doing so, they will not have to leave their job or home.

"With NPRC's recent approval to participate in the federal financial aid program for students, we can help NPRC students earn an associate degree with little to no debt. This means earning a teaching degree isn't out of reach for people either physically or financially anymore," according to Cummings-Tutmaher.

NPRC is focusing efforts on establishing career pathways that connect degrees and work-ready certificates with real jobs in the local communities. The College's participation in the RCCA's Student Success Academy will result in a template for building out locally relevant, affordable Career and transfer pathways for all eight of NPRC's associate degrees.

This grant-funded opportunity began at the RCCA 2025 Annual Conference in September and will include interactive sessions throughout the year to ensure ongoing progress.

To learn more about our Paraeducator's Pathways Program, head to our [website](#).



# RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLIANCE (RCCA)

## FUND DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

NPRC's Advancement team, President Susie Snelick and Advancement Coordinator, Jill Lasecki, were selected by the Rural Regional College Alliance (RCCA) to take part in the Fund Development Academy alongside three fellow member institutions. This grant-funded opportunity provides dedicated sessions with a seasoned advancement professional who is actively supporting the College's growth in advancement and fundraising.

This program kicked off in September at the 2025 RCCA Annual Conference and will conclude at the 2026 annual conference. Advancement is important not just for the sustainability of the College, but also for the benefit of our learners for years to come. President Snelick and Jill will lead both public and industry-focused forums to develop our donor relations with industry and community leaders across the region in late spring of 2026. These forums will help inform others of the success of NPRC and the value our institution provides to the region. They will leave with a better understanding of how far their contributions towards the College could go and how to establish successful collaborations within the College.

Whether it is establishing scholarship pathways for employees or community members, donating to the College's emergency fund, supporting equipment and technology upgrades, or making any other type of meaningful gift, these community events will help to push NPRC's advancement efforts to the next level. Advancement Coordinator, Jill Lasecki, shared, "I am hopeful that by participating in this academy it will set up the Advancement Department to develop relationships with industries and community entities that we can collaborate with while also providing a donor base for the benefit of our students. I feel this will impact me as a professional by giving me the guidance and tools to make the Advancement Department a viable NPRC department and a champion for student scholarships."

If you or anyone you know is interested and able to make a pledge of financial support, no matter the amount, contact Jill Lasecki by email at [jlasecki@rrcnpa.org](mailto:jlasecki@rrcnpa.org) to coordinate or contribute [online](#).



## NEW CLASSROOM LOCATION IN WARREN

NPRC has officially added five classrooms at the Administrative Center, at 300 Second Avenue in Warren. Construction began on April 14 and wrapped up in October. Located on the third floor, these classrooms will provide spaces for students to attend classes and for instructors to teach from. The rooms will also serve as flexible areas for students to study, conduct meetings, and complete group work when they are not in use for class time.

The five classrooms combine to provide seating for 92 seats and will feature video conferencing technology, mobile tables and chairs, and Wi-Fi accessibility. These rooms will begin hosting academic courses at the beginning of the Spring 2026 term. NPRC will also use these rooms for community programming and workforce development courses. With college approval, these spaces will also be available for community use. These rooms can be the perfect place to host small meetings for local businesses and non-profits in Warren County.

To reserve a room in Warren or at one of our additional locations around the region, complete the form on [this webpage](#).



## NEW BOARD MEMBER

Scott Olewine of Warren County joined the Board of Trustees at Northern Pennsylvania Regional College on Friday, January 9.

Olewine is an experienced business professional with a strong background in finance. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and holds several professional designations from The American College. Olewine is the Founder and Managing Partner of Olewine Financial Group, LLC in Warren. "It's an honor to be part of an institution that invests in our rural communities by making a quality education affordable and accessible to everyone."

Check out more about Olewine [here](#).



## STUDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

### HEATHER WILLIAMS

Heather Williams did not have to leave her native Warren County to find an institution of higher education that supports her professional goals. At NPRC, she's been able to remain in her full-time role at MSC Industrial Supply Company as an On-Site Solutions Specialist at Matco Tools in Lakewood, New York, while also studying to complete a degree in business, which she plans to wrap up in 2026.

It's been far from the smoothest road for Williams in recent years as not only is she working full time and handling several classes, but she lost her truest hero, her father Mike, this spring. "When I enrolled in NPRC, I knew how excited and proud he was that I had gone back to school. It was the second semester for me, Spring 2024, that we found out he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in April. Despite his battle, he pushed me and encouraged me to really focus on my studies even with everything happening around our family."

Through it all, Williams continues to be persistent and has become a Dean's List student several times in her college journey. She is hopeful to continue advancing in her career in the coming years. "My journey at NPRC has been one of growth and resilience, shaped by challenges that I have faced, and creating a better version of myself professionally, while also gaining more confidence. To anyone feeling stuck in a job or thinking they can't start over, hear this: Life has no strict timeline. You can begin a new chapter any day — embrace the possibilities and take the first step."

Read more about Williams [here](#).



### JESSICA HERZING

Jessica Herzing is NPRC's most recent addition to the Board of Trustees. She currently serves as Commissioner Chair for the County of Cameron while also working for Judd A. Schager, CPA, as a Senior Staff Accountant. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Central Penn College and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her volunteer work includes serving as a Project Coordinator for the Cameron County Project as part of the Community Heart and Soul Initiative, as a board member for the Community Education Center of Elk & Cameron Counties, and as Audit Committee Chair for Pennsylvania Humanities.

"I am honored to be a member of the Board of Trustees of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. Having served on NPRC's Advisory Committee for several years, I've seen first-hand the impact this institution has had on rural students and communities across our region. NPRC is not just providing affordable education—it's creating pathways to opportunity, stability, and meaningful careers. Service to my community has always meant investing in efforts that bring real, lasting change, and NPRC embodies that mission. I have enjoyed supporting the College's continued growth and commitment to accessible, high-quality education for all."

Learn more about NPRC's Board of Trustees [here](#).



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

## SIX&KANE

Six&Kane is one of the many gems in Kane, Pennsylvania. This unique building certainly is unlike any other, not only in town, but throughout the Allegheny National Forest. The craftsmanship and commitment to sustainable energy practices make it one of a kind and a place NPRC is proud to call home in McKean County.

In 2019, the West Penn Energy Fund (WPEF), in collaboration with 63 North Fraley Street, LLC, purchased a vacant and decaying three-story commercial building on US Route 6 in Kane, Pa with the vision of transforming the building into an ultra-energy efficient building that would have positive economic benefit to Kane and the surrounding PA Wilds region. Hence, the name: Six&Kane. This building underwent an extensive three-year renovation to become the first Passive House EnerPHit Plus office building in North America. That renovation utilized mainly local trades and materials whenever and wherever possible as part of WPEF's mission. Originally built as a two-story brick building between 1897 and 1898, it was significantly refurbished thanks to the West Penn Energy Fund between 2019 and 2022. Today, NPRC occupies one of the second-floor spaces.



From the virtual reality programming series, to Day of Learning, to celebrating holiday cheer, and even hosting board and community meetings, this location has made a true difference for the College. But this is only the beginning of what it can offer. Project Manager for Six&Kane, Kristi Krott, shared, "To gather, to think, and to learn is the motto of Six&Kane. We strategically select tenants that embody that mission, and NPRC does exactly that. This is a space in a relaxed setting for learners and community members to enjoy. It allows for the perfect blend of hybrid education in a rural setting. We love having NPRC as a tenant and what they provide for the Kane community and beyond."

To learn more about the history and our neighbors within the Six&Kane building, check out their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

## AUSTIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Austin Area School District continues to stand out as one of NPRC's valued community and educational partners. The district has helped to enroll nearly 20 students in dual enrollment courses at no cost this school year. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are taking advantage of the free college courses offered for high school students across the Commonwealth through the Summer 2027 term.

"NPRC has been an integral part of our community here in Austin for a few years and we are thankful to have added these resources for our high schoolers in terms of dual enrollment courses," noted School Counselor Carrie Burgett. "I've personally seen students gain confidence and realize that they are capable of doing well in college courses. Our district has invested two periods per day for students to complete their courses in and I know the College has invested in us by allowing these courses to be free, as well as their IT department helping us to get ready for these courses in less than two weeks' time."

Professionals employed in the district also have taken advantage of courses from NPRC. Before the start of the 2025-26 school year, all staff members completed CPR and first aid training led by Gregg Trisket and Rob Mosher from NPRC's public safety sector of the Workforce Development division. This training ensures employees are ready in case life-saving measures become necessary. "It was awesome for our whole staff to do this as a part of one of our in-service days. It was a very hands-on learning experience, and they were very patient with us to ensure we understood what was needed. Overall, it was a great training."



In addition to partnering with NPRC to provide opportunities for high school students and staff training, the Austin Area School District continues to be a long-standing community location for NPRC students to complete associate degrees and certificates in the evenings. For those seeking in-person higher education across Potter County, Austin remains a convenient and accessible place to take courses.

We are #NPRCProud of this fantastic partnership, and Austin Area Schools echo this excitement. "We are looking forward to growing our opportunities for students alongside NPRC. The team at NPRC is accessible and knowledgeable. I know more school districts will and should follow suit in building relationships with the College."