

NTC NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2019

Dr. Stuart P. Stofferahn
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Sam Comfort President Mike Chittenden Vice President Beth Baldwin Secretary Greg Hackbart

Treasurer **Board Members**

Tina Henderson Dan Williams Jake Dwinell Cindy Mowery Kady Wendt Jamie Gibson Lyle Wheeler



INSIDE THIS

WINTERFEAST

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN 2

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nebraska Transition College WinterFEAST

Dave Nelson, Executive Chef at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel and Jeff Hanson, Head Brewer at Green Flash Brewing Company have teamed up to bring us an exquisite five-course meal specifically created to pair with the sometimes subtle, sometimes pronounced nuances of hops, malt and yeast.

Saturday, February 16 • 6:00 PM • Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel Tickets can be purchased on the homepage of our website:

www.nebraskatransitioncollege.org

MENU:

Hoppy Birthday - American Pale Ale

Root Vegetable Blini with Black Tobikko and Cured Lemon

Sea to Sea - Zwickel Lager
Braised Mussel with Beer Beurre Blanc

Magic Rooster Quad - Belgian-style Quad
Magic Rooster Guad Granita

Eldo IPA - India Pale Ale
Spiced Beef Tender with New Potato

Atypical Imperial Wheat Porter – Imperial Wheat Porter
Semifreddo

Tickets will be available for a limited time. Looking to secure your Valentine's Day plans early? This is the PERFECT venue! Want to get a jump on beating those wintertime blues? Food, drink, and jocularity to the rescue! Looking for a place to be on a cold, winter night with seven of your closest friends (and 92 jovial acquaintances)? Purchase a table and join us for a REALLY fun evening - and support a fantastic mission all at the same time! DON'T WAIT TO GET YOUR TICKETS! The space is limited, and they will be gone before you know it! (See graphic, page 3)

1

Nebraska Transition College and Southeast Community College . . . a match made in heaven!

Nebraska Transition College and Southeast Community College have come together to form a collaborative relationship that will bring class offerings to the 88th and O campus in Lincoln, NE – starting THIS SPRING, April 2019! Our first class is specifically designed for employers who want to learn more about inclusive employment, and the other two are our student "101"



classes in two curriculum streams – Pre-vocational and Vocational, and Wellness. We have designed the offerings to run successively if registrants would like to take both classes but do not have the flexibility to commit to more than one evening.

The classes will be offered through <u>Southeast Community College Continuing Education</u> department, and they will be available for registration in early February 2019. Our first classes will be offered at a GREATLY reduced rate while we continue to build and adjust. Class size will be limited due the specialized nature of the courses, but don't worry – we will continue to offer classes each semester! Our curriculum is research-based and taught by highly trained, highly qualified instructors with years of special education and transition experience.

Our curriculum is designed to help empower a pathway to independence through employment and community support systems. Eligibility requirements will be generally the same as those found on our website under "Programming", and you can find them by <u>clicking here</u>. Please keep in mind that our eligibility requirements are meant to be as inclusive as possible taking into consideration the design and purpose of the curriculum. Reach out to us if you have any questions or need clarification. We LIKE the gray area!

Introduction to Inclusive Employment

If you are reading this description, you are an employer, and it is likely you are curious about disability employment and inclusive hiring initiatives. The purpose of this class is to help you create a program that successfully integrates people with disabilities into your own workforce. Class meets one evening each week over eleven weeks. Participants will engage in interactive activities promoting hands-on learning. Topics will include disability categories, awareness of implicit biases, myths/fears associated with hiring people with disabilities. Class will meet Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM, April 4 – June 13. Maximum 15 registrants.

Soft Skills to Pay the Bills

Soft Skills to Pay the Bills focuses on everyday interpersonal skills that job seekers need to succeed on the job. Communicating clearly and appropriately, remembering work directions, working well with others, and problem solving will be among the topics covered. Class will meet Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM, April 4-June 13. Maximum 15 registrants.

Unlocking Your Best Self

Social and emotional wellness focuses on everyday strategies and skills to develop self-esteem, self-awareness, problem-solving and interpersonal skills. Topics such as mindset, personal strengths, safety, relationships, stress, time-management, and goal-setting will be covered. This course will foster healthy behaviors that lead to improved social and emotional wellness outcomes. Class will meet Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 PM, April 4 – June 13. Maximum 15 registrants.

Nebraska Transition College would like to introduce you to the newest additions to our board of directors!

Jamie Gibson

Jamie is the Director of Field Management, Midwest Region, for Cystic Fibrosis with more than 23 years of development and fund-raising experience. She has volunteered or served on the boards of many non-profits and has also led them as an executive director. She has a nephew who is 23 years old with autism, and while he is high functioning, his life has been complicated, filled with periods of difficult situations that required a lot of patience and assistance. Her goal is to work with the board and ED on developing a short-term fundraising and development plan in 2019 while working to flush out a strategic plan for 2-5 years into the future. Jamie will co-chair our development committee.

Lyle Wheeler

Lyle is an attorney in Lincoln, NE, and he has been working with NTC since the early days of incorporation. He works with many nonprofits and is subsequently frequently asked to serve on many boards – which has made him very selective. As our time together increased, Lyle became more and more excited at the potential of NTC and the positive impact it will have within the community. Serving NTC as a member of our board was the natural next step. While he will bring legal expertise to the discussion, he has also been a very successful entrepreneur with considerable business experience. He will serve on the development and finance committees. In his words, he "believes this organization is poised to thrive and make lasting impacts for individuals, families, and the community."

Kady Wendt

Kady is a ten-year veteran special education instructor, who is extremely passionate about seeing students succeed and gain independence for a thriving adult life. She is currently serving her third year as the Project SEARCH instructor with the Papillion La Vista Community Schools. She currently leads a team of two education professionals providing real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent-living skills to help students with significant disabilities make successful transitions to a productive adult life. Kady has her Master's in Educational Administration Pk-12 from Chadron State College. She also holds a Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education K-12 and a BA in Psychology from Hastings College. Kady will head our programming committee with NTC.



Nebraska Transition College presents Winterfeast.

Come join us in celebrating the launch of a very unique project... **Atypical Ale.** A Collaborative Project.

Saturday, February 16th 2019 at 6:00pm Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Winterfeast. A five-course meal, each paired with a specific beer. Proceeds to benefit Nebraska Transition College

VIP: \$100/ticket (also includes Atypical Ale beer glass, elevated table service, Individual: \$75/ticket

Table: \$65/ticket (must purchase 8 tickets)

For tickets and additional details: www.nebraskatransitioncollege.org



A Letter From The Executive Director

Happy New Year!

2018 was one for the books! Our amazing supporters have provided the financial means to create programming that will be offered this April 2019, with more class offerings this summer and fall. We continue to reach more and more people with our mission and vision, and our board continues to be visionary in its approach.

I don't know about you, but I can't WAIT to see what 2019 brings! In fact, how about some hints on what we are working on?



Southeast Community College Programming Collaborative Relationship

We expect this relationship to continue and expand. We will be offering three classes starting in April but look for more offerings this summer. This fall will offer a re-set to the classes we have offered, but it will also be an adjustment for everyone as we shift to semester classes instead of quarter.

Atypical Ale Project

As you have read in the newsletter, we are offering a delectable dining experience on February 16th. I hope to see you all there to help me savor the pairings of Dave Nelson and Jeff Hanson. It will be an unforgettable experience. This project has served to bring businesses together to collectively support the mission of NTC, but also to serve the community by hosting events meant to shine a light on how we can come together to meet challenges. Watch for this to really gain speed this year. For a sneak peek, check us out on FB: Atypical Ale Project.

Omaha Connections

Putting the cart before the horse is probably even a little early, but I am just so excited about the conversations we have been having with several people and organizations in Omaha that I can't keep it in anymore! Suffice it to say, watch for more news on this front in the coming months.

Development

I hope at some point in the future, you can meet Jamie Gibson. Mentioned earlier in this newsletter, she joined the board in December and will co-chair our development committee – specifically as it relates to fundraising. She brings a wealth of experience in this area, and she will have an incredible impact in 2019 and beyond as she leads this area of development. In fact, she has already had an impact, as she made herself available to us during the entirety of our Giving Tuesday, Giving November campaign. It is no coincidence that we met 150% of our goal.

Volunteers

We will have more and more options for volunteers to serve in varied roles. Yes, there is ALWAYS fundraising to do, but there will also be event planning, coordinating, and programming options as well. Stay tuned!

Before we know it, 2019 will be half-way over! Hang on . . . it's going to be a wild ride!

From all of us at NTC -

Dr. Stuart Stofferahn Executive Director