



# NEBRASKA TRANSITION COLLEGE

NTC NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 5

JULY 2019

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## A Letter From The Executive Director

Happy July 2019!

It has been a while since we have sent out a newsletter, and I would like to apologize for that. As you can see from the content of this newsletter, a LOT has happened between then and now.

As you read about everything that is going on, I invite you to reflect on the inclusion and integration of our work – not just for our students, but also our volunteers, collaborations, and community partners. As we work to build NTC, we strive to fulfill our vision by seeking relationships and classroom space within our communities and with people and organizations who understand the need and are willing to help meet the need. When we build in this way, there is no reason any community across the state (or country) cannot have NTC curriculum and infrastructure at their doorsteps. This has been our vision from the start.

The necessary ingredients for our students to thrive are classroom space, business collaborations, instructors, and places to live. I've just described every community across the state.

With that in mind, we can only scale at the rate our support grows. At the moment, we have one person on our staff (me). One person simply cannot do the work necessary to meet the need in front of us. Additionally, while we have the best volunteers on the planet, we can't ask them to give more than they have already given. This year, we will be working hard to double our staff by adding a full-time Program Director. This will allow us to have a full-time focus on our curriculum development, so our students can continue to progress.

With your continued (and growing) support, our network will expand, and we will truly become "Nebraska" Transition College.

With overflowing gratitude,

Dr. Stuart Stofferahn  
Executive Director

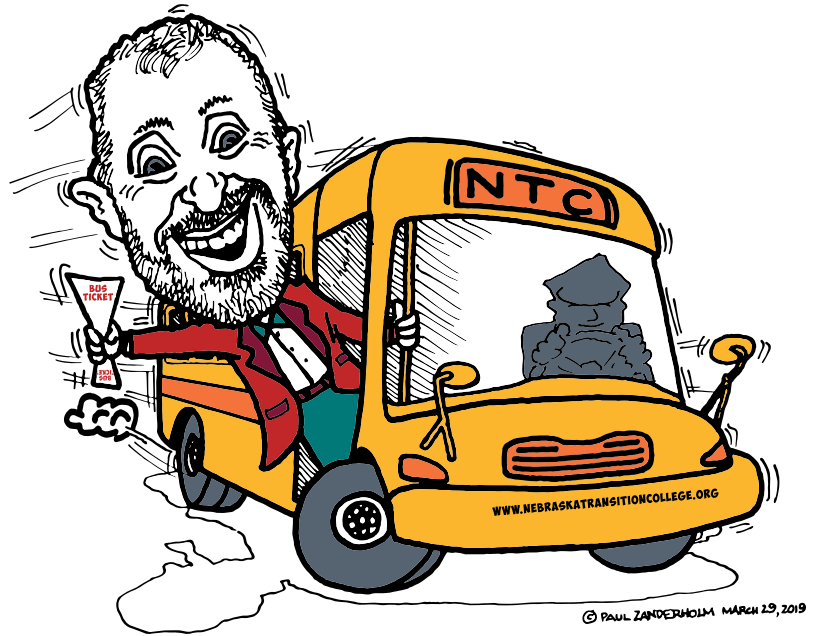


**The mission of Nebraska Transition College is to empower individuals with autism or other disabilities to learn, work, and live within our communities.**

# THANK YOU !

Our "I've Got a Ticket to Ride!" fundraising campaign ended on May 31st, and we would like to THANK YOU for your involvement and your contribution! To maintain the pace we have charted and to keep the tuition for our students as low as we can, our goal was \$10,000. We came up a little short, but we had a GREAT showing at \$6,277 (which included contributions from the Give To Lincoln Day).

**Way to go NTC donors!!**



## Nebraska Transition College makes it's NATIONAL DEBUT!

If you haven't read the story yet, [you can read it here](#). Or, if you prefer, [you can read it here](#), with the ASSOCIATED PRESS!

One of the most spectacular takeaways is this statement by Erin Ziegelbein when she said that "It [NTC Classes] helped me to get this job."

**It. Helped. Me. To. Get. This. JOB!!!!**

As we build our curriculum, we focus on projected outcomes (the things we expect our students to learn from the class). After just two classes, Erin (and her outcomes were not unique) was able to use the skills she learned to help her find employment – a critical outcome on the pathway toward independence.

While we certainly don't expect every student to find employment after just two classes, we think we can celebrate in the fact that it is a wonderful first step in curriculum development and implementation!

**Nebraska Transition College . . .  
Learning. Working. Living.**



KAYLA WOLF, Journal Star



KAYLA WOLF, Journal Star



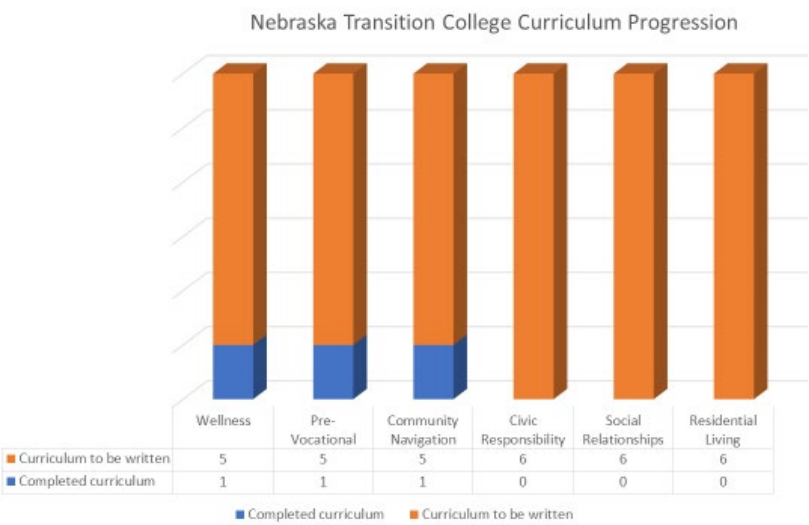
# Development and Programming: Not one without the other

If our donors are the heart of NTC, the programming and curriculum are its soul.

While development and fundraising are perpetual, we are working to focus our general fundraising efforts on two months – May and November. While a little unconventional, we are not raising money as much as we are raising active donors who have the capacity to give \$25 twice a year.

You read that correctly. **Just \$25 twice a year.** To get us on a firm foundation, we need to raise **2,000 active donors** who are willing to invest \$25 two times a year, in May and November. While larger donations are always accepted, we are striving to involve as many people as we can in this dream to make our communities more inclusive and integrated. We believe we can do it; we believe you are out there!

This donor foundation will help us pay for continued program expansion. Currently, we offer three classes in two communities. However, progression for our students and extension into more communities depends on curriculum that builds on the previous class – ultimately leading to an independent study in each curricular stream. How is that progression coming?



This bar graph encapsulates the challenge nicely – and it shows the importance of a strong donor base. While at first glance, blue doesn’t dominate the space. However, the curriculum we have written (blue) to this point has been done by dedicated, highly credentialed individuals working nights, weekends, and holidays on a volunteer basis. In light of this consideration, NTC is extremely fortunate to have three quality classes to offer – classes that have already proven significant outcomes.

But if we are to grow at the pace we anticipate student growth will occur, we will need to focus on staff growth in addition to keeping tuition costs low.

Our development and fundraising focus this fiscal year will be two-fold: (1) Secure enough funding to add a full-time Programming Director, and (2) continue to offer classes to students at an affordable tuition.

This is where you come in. Currently, we have 229 active donors. 229 beautiful, compassionate, big-hearted donors. We need to build upon this group of wonderful people, so we can truly be the measure of greatness that cares for those most vulnerable. If you did not participate in our May fundraiser, and you would like to help make up the difference, you can still help by going to [www.nebraskatransitioncollege.org](http://www.nebraskatransitioncollege.org) and clicking the “donate” button.

If you are moved by the mission and vision of NTC and you would like to help us take a big first step in accomplishing our goals this year, you can also make that contribution now.

Please spread the good word and work of NTC, celebrate the continued progress toward inclusion, and get ready for a year full of promise!

## New NTC Collaborations

We have two new collaborations we would like to share with you!

### NTC-ACN

From our inception, it has been our goal to extend opportunities to prospective students in communities across Nebraska. We started in Lincoln, and now we are very happy to announce that we will be offering classes in Omaha this fall - thanks to our new collaborative relationship with Autism Center of Nebraska (ACN)! ACN provides a comprehensive scope of services for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, and our classes will be held at their 90th & Q location. Class descriptions, dates, and times will be announced late July/early August. For more information about ACN, check their website at [autismcenterofnebraska.org](http://autismcenterofnebraska.org).

### NTC loves Lincoln City Libraries!

Continuing our mission to be inclusive and integrated, we have extended our class location to one of the branch libraries in the Lincoln community. This could not have been done without the help and dedication of Pat Leach, Director, Lincoln City Libraries, and the Lincoln City Library staff. Our students in our Public Transportation (And More!) class will headquarter at the Anderson Branch Library this fall and hop on the bus at the stop just outside the door.

Hats off to our newest community collaborators!

## Fall Class Dates Are Set!

That's right, fall is JUST AROUND THE CORNER, and we now have TWO locations for our classes – Omaha and Lincoln!

### Omaha Courses

Unlock Your Best Self  
Soft Skills to Pay the Bills

### Lincoln Courses

Unlock Your Best Self  
Soft Skills to Pay the Bills  
Public Transportation (and more!)

All classes will begin the first week of October and will end the second week of December.

Our registration procedure is in the process of being completely re-structured, so we can ensure our curriculum will meet the needs of our students. As with all new processes, there are bound to be some glitches. Please be patient as we work to serve our students more effectively.

Registration will take place in two phases. These two phases will be on-going and concurrent leading up to our class start dates.

Phase I: Application

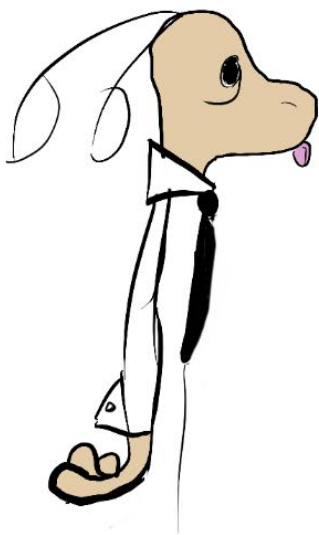
Phase II: Interview

**We will release the open date of our application process no later than August 1, 2019.**



**NEBRASKA  
TRANSITION  
COLLEGE**

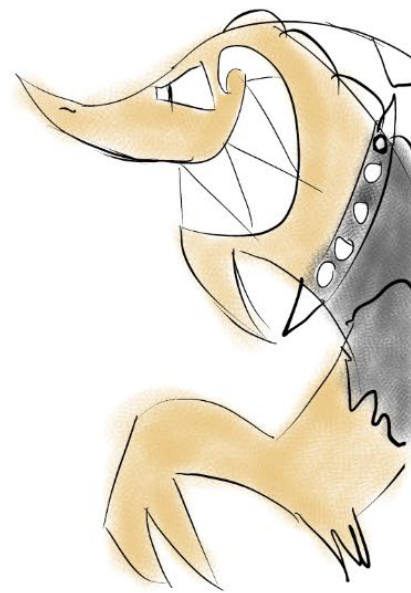
## Jake's Comic Strip



How we see Bark's world



How Bark sees his world



Note from Dr. Stofferahn: I don't know about you, but I believe this is Jake's most poignant panel yet. As he does so well, Jake invokes humor as he illustrates a very challenging endeavor: Understanding facial expressions and body language.

## The Unknown Good - A NTC Production in Partnership with KZUM FM

Everyone has a story to tell. Within those stories, there is heartbreak, joy, struggle, resiliency, and celebration. There is also grace, loving, kindness, inclusion, compassion, and inspiration.

**The stories – and the people – are all around us. Unknown.**

That is the premise to the format of our podcast, The Unknown Good. Even better, it will be produced and co-hosted with help from any of our students who might be interested in this opportunity! We will interview everyday people – common Joes and Janes. People we know a lot, and people we know a little – because everyone has a story to tell.

Support for our podcast comes from Green Flash Brewhouse & Eatery and Cassi Ohlin and the Nebraska Realty High-5 Team. Be sure to check them both out on Facebook and all the other social media outlets.

Our first podcasts will be released toward the end of this month, and our scheduled releases will take place twice each month. Pictured in our logo is Leo Seravalli – our first producer and co-host! Stay tuned – literally!

