

Fall 2007

NEIU Magazine- Fall 2007

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Staff, NEIU Magazine, "NEIU Magazine- Fall 2007" (2007). *NEIU Magazine*. 19.
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INAUGURAL EDITION • 2007

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

M A G A Z I N E



***Inauguration of
President Sharon K. Hahs***

*A Celebration of Learning
in the Global Community*

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Inaugural Traditions

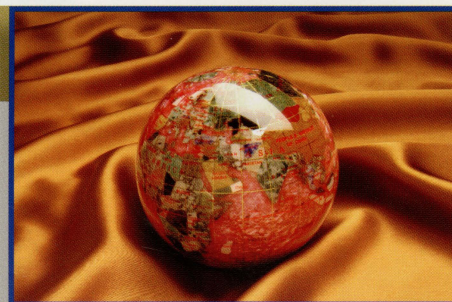
Presidential Stole

The Presidential Stole, blue with the logo of Northeastern Illinois University embroidered in yellow, corresponds to the colors of the University. It is a symbol of the office of the president and is worn by President Hahs during official ceremonies.



Ceremonial Orb

During the installation, Northeastern Illinois University's orb was presented to President Hahs. It symbolizes that the Board of Trustees entrusts her with the care of the members of the University community as well as with the responsible stewardship of the University's resources. It is carried before her during any official processional or recessional.



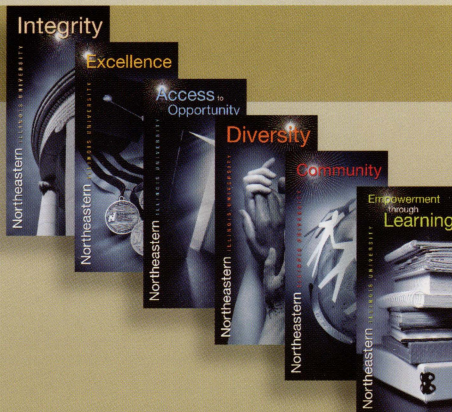
Medallion and Seal

The medallion and chain were presented to President Hahs during the installation ceremony. They are symbols of her position as President of the University. The decorative features of the cast medallion incorporate the University seal. Combining both traditional and contemporary elements, the seal of Northeastern Illinois University represents the history and mission of the institution.



Value Banners

As a public institution of higher education, Northeastern Illinois University is committed to a set of six values (see back page) that, taken collectively, guides our actions and interactions as we work together to prepare graduates for the responsible exercise of citizenship in a global society. For the Inauguration, there was a ceremony to publicly affirm these values as well as to adopt ceremonial banners displaying the values. These six banners are part of official University ceremonies.



Greetings from President Hahs



I was pleased and honored to be part of so many wonderful inaugural events spanning September 4 through 12. These events were thoughtfully organized by the Presidential Inauguration Committee. The committee was chaired by Walter W. Dudycz, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and co-chaired by Vicki Román-Lagunas, Associate Provost.

It was a special time for me and for the University. I was grateful that our University mission and values were reflected in the inaugural theme "A Celebration of Learning in the Global Community."

We began with a keynote address by State Senator Iris Y. Martinez on Tuesday, September 4, followed by a reception and a lively performance by the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater.

On Wednesday, we dedicated The Presidents Garden at the northeast corner of the Ronald Williams Library on campus. This project was a delightful surprise (since I am an avid gardener) and unique among inaugural events.

That evening I hosted a dinner in my home for members of the 1867 Founders Society, individuals who have designated a gift for Northeastern in their estate plans. Other events included the very special Celebrating Traditions and New Beginnings Ceremony and the Inaugural Block Party.

The official Inauguration Ceremony was held in the NEIU Auditorium on Friday, September 7. I deeply appreciated the participation of President Emeritus Jerome Sachs and President Emerita Salme Harju Steinberg. The ceremony was wonderfully conceived and executed, full of special meaning.

The Inauguration Ceremony was immediately followed by a reception, and later that evening we celebrated at the Inaugural Dinner and Gala. The first graduate of our Presidential Scholars Program spoke at the gala. Georgia Logothetis (B.A. '03 English), attorney, described the importance of financial support she received as a Presidential Scholar. As part of the inaugural activities I announced that we have set a goal of doubling the number of Scholars, to 24, over the next two years. These scholarships help to attract excellent students, who in turn help to foster a culture of student success that is so important to all Northeastern students.

The following week, we enjoyed celebrations at the other NEIU campuses including the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, El Centro and the Chicago Teachers' Center. It was truly "A Celebration of Learning in the Global Community."

My inaugural address "NEIU: The University of the Future" has been printed on the following pages. I hope you will get a sense of Northeastern today and where we are going in the future.

Sincerely,

Sharon K. Hahs
President



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NEIU: *The Univ*

*Inaugural Address of
President Sharon K. Hahs
September 7, 2007*



University of the Future

Members of the Board of Trustees; distinguished guests, students, staff and faculty: I am deeply honored to stand before you today, and to receive these symbols of office and the charge of leadership. I accept them with humility and with great joy. I pledge to you my full commitment to the duties of this office and to the stewardship of this extraordinary university.

For over 30 years I have taught and served in public regional universities – institutions where the emphasis is on students, the focus is on learning. Although research is always a part of the core values of those drawn to making a career in American universities, it is in the public regional universities, like NEIU, that the task of preparing people for citizenship in America and in the world finds its place as the central mission. It is a mission and a commitment I share. I began my career as an assistant professor in chemistry. Although in time my commitment to the broader issues of learning and teaching led me to administration, I still retain my love of the beauty and complexity of the natural world. It is with special gratitude that I welcome today my first chemistry professor and the person who inspired me to become a chemist, Dr. Wendell Hess. Dr. Hess is the delegate from my undergraduate institution, Illinois Wesleyan University. Dr. Hess, please stand and let us thank you for coming and representing Wesleyan here today.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my long-time friend and honored colleague, Dr. David Werner, Chancellor Emeritus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the delegate representing that institution today. Joining him are several colleagues from SIUE. I will ask Dr. Werner and my good friends from SIUE to stand and be recognized. Thank you all for coming.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the members of my family – most especially my husband Billy and our daughters Cara and Ona and their families. I would ask all of you, and our dear friends not yet acknowledged to please stand. Thank you for coming!

I would also like to express my gratitude on behalf of the entire University community to

my predecessor, Dr. Salme Harju Steinberg, now President Emerita, for her long and distinguished service to Northeastern Illinois University. Dr. Steinberg, please stand and let us thank you.

And finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Inaugural Planning Committee. The Committee was created in May; the members are listed in the program. I attended its first meeting. I asked the Committee to plan – in consonance with the mission and values of the University – a ceremony and additional events which would celebrate and reflect the character of NEIU: to make it meaningful for the entire University as well as the region; to celebrate learning and teaching; to model collaborative work; to honor the global character of NEIU; and to continue or begin new traditions. You have done all these things – and I thank you. Many of these people are very busy right now and may not be present; would those of you who are present please stand so that all of us can thank you.

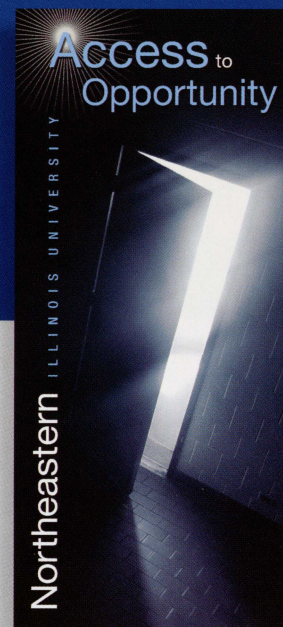
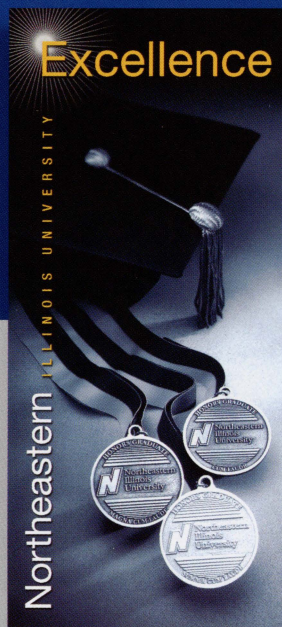
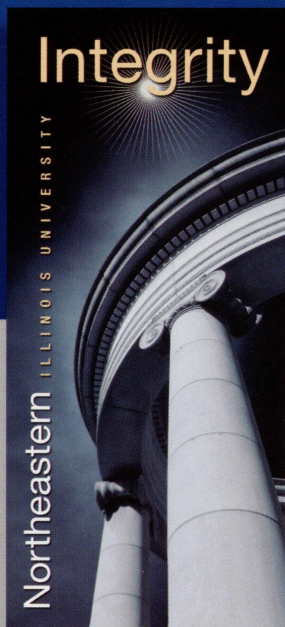
Today, in this lovely, modern setting it takes some imagination to appreciate the rich history of Northeastern. One hundred and forty years ago, in 1867, a group of visionary civic leaders in Chicago – people whose names are largely lost to us today – decided Chicago needed a teachers college – or to use the 19th century term – a normal school. It was a time of uncertainty and great opportunity. The nation had just survived what remains even today the most deadly war in its history – a war where its very existence was at issue. Illinois had given much to that war – thousands of soldiers, the general who led the Union to victory, and the president who defined the nation for succeeding generations. Chicago was then, as now, one of the most dynamic cities in America. It had been barely two years since the war had ended; the president who inspired the nation was dead. The nation, though wounded, was in the process of a great transformation – the Industrial Revolution. Chicago attracted entrepreneurs and immigrants. Then, as now, people of vision realized that education was essential to the nation's progress. Education requires teachers. What we know today as Northeastern began as an experimental

teachers' college, Cook County Normal School in Blue Island, Illinois.

Over the years the name would change, the location would change, the mission would change, but the commitment to learning and teaching would continue from generation to generation. In 1961 what was, by then, called Chicago Teachers College North moved from the Sabin School to this beautiful site. We achieved University status a decade later, in 1971, and became what we are called today, Northeastern Illinois University. The University has not only changed and grown, but it has expanded to address specific urban needs. In 1966 we established our Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies as an important expression of our commitment to inner city communities and especially to our African American community; just three years later, in 1969, we established our El Centro campus with a special focus on service to the large, diverse, and growing Latino community; in 1978 we founded the Chicago Teachers' Center, offering professional development programs for urban teachers and administrators; and in 1996 we joined the University Center of Lake County as a founding member of a consortium of public and private universities offering college-level coursework in Lake County. To complete the picture, this mix of essentially urban locations and partnerships also includes the Gensburg-Markham Prairie, which the University acquired in 1973. Consisting of 100 acres of unspoiled Illinois prairie land, it is located just south of Chicago – a beautiful preserve for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

This rich history tracks the dynamic growth of the city and the region. While keeping faith with its original mission – to provide an important resource for students from Illinois – today Northeastern attracts students from all over the world and is poised to become a model of regional public education with a truly global mission.

From the very beginning in 1867 students sought us out for the quality of our programs. While statistics on the first century are not easily available, just since 1961 over 55,000 people have graduated from Northeastern. I am constantly meeting people with stories



to tell about how NEIU changed their lives. These people cherish this institution. I've met researchers, political leaders, teachers and university professors, artists, CEOs, and men and women involved in business who each tell me their own versions of the NEIU story. People who walked, biked, rode buses and trains, or drove through heavy traffic to attend Northeastern – often while working at full or part-time jobs and caring for family. The degree often required a long-term commitment lasting years. This story is ongoing. And what did these students find when they came to NEIU – the same thing that students today find: High quality academic programs; serious and hard-working students; and a committed and talented faculty and staff. Like Chicago itself – the city of broad shoulders, to use that famous phrase – NEIU has been the institution that gets the job done.

Shortly before I became President, the Higher Learning Commission visited the campuses as part of our 10-year review for reaffirmation of our institutional accreditation. Under the leadership of President Steinberg, this review went very well. The final report has been received, and the Higher Learning Commission had very positive things to say about our University.

The one substantive comment we received about areas needing attention was strategic planning. We are already working to address this. Since the first step in planning is a clear understanding of who we are and what we believe in, last spring, on University Day, we began a conversation about our institutional values. Over the course of the spring, all constituents of the University were involved in a collaborative process that resulted in the adoption of a University Statement of Values.

We celebrate those Values today; we see them displayed here on Banners – Integrity, Excellence, Access to Opportunity, Diversity, Community, and Empowerment through Learning. These values and our Statement of Mission serve as the foundation, and guide, for our planning initiatives.

At its most basic level, planning is about asking important questions, gathering data and information to inform our discussions, and working together to find the best answers. As we consider our future, we will ask questions such as:

- *How do we assure that our academic programs are excellent?*
- *What are the most critical contemporary programs of study?*
- *How do we use data and information to improve what we do?*
- *What does it mean to be an Hispanic Serving Institution?*
- *How can we best assure the stewardship and expansion of our resources?*
- *How do we continually strengthen our linkage and service to primary and secondary education?*
- *How do we make NEIU every year a better place to learn?*

Some of you have heard me say that NEIU is the University of the Future. Admittedly, it sounds like a catchy phrase. It is a catchy phrase. It is also our wonderful reality. This past February I attended a Higher Education Legislative Briefing in Springfield. At the briefing an Illinois Status Report was presented which included a demographic projection of high school graduates in the year 2018. The projection for the state as a whole

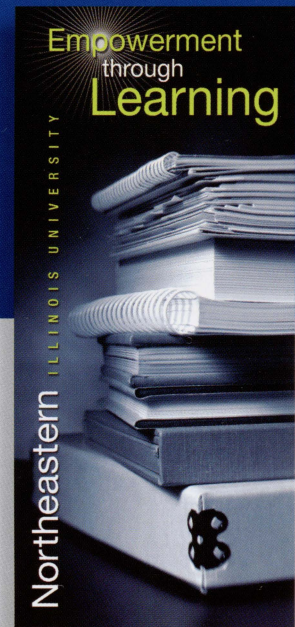
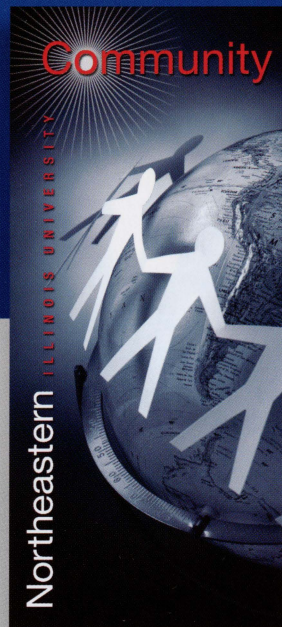
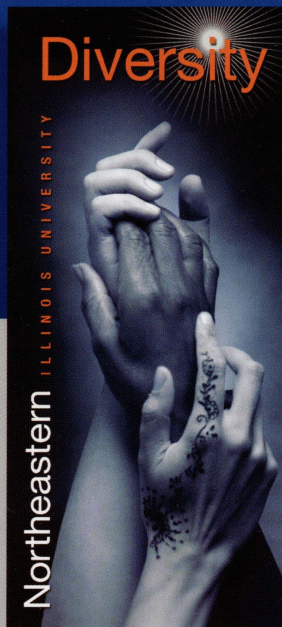
11 years from now reads very much like the demographic profile of NEIU's student body today. Let me run down the numbers, using the categories from the Report:

- *In 2018 Illinois will have roughly 56% white students; today NEIU has 48%;*
- *Illinois will have 13% black students; today NEIU has 11%;*
- *Illinois will have 0.4 % Native American students; NEIU has 0.3%;*
- *Illinois will have 8% Asian Americans; NEIU has 9.5%;*
- *And Illinois will have 23% Hispanic students; today NEIU has 25%.*

Literally, the future is now at NEIU; we are the University of the Future. This is an extraordinary learning environment. A gift.

As the University of the Future we must meet the challenges of the future now. We will focus on student needs and outcomes – from admission to graduation. To begin, we have formed the Enrollment Management Council. The Council is charged with oversight of enrollment approaches, data and appropriate measures of success, as well as identifying ways to build and improve a culture of student success.

Critical to the goal of fostering a culture of student success is attracting excellent students. To this end we will expand the Presidential Scholars Program, the most prestigious merit-based scholarship at Northeastern. We have established the goal of doubling the number of presidential scholars, to 24, in the next two years. We have already received a positive response to this, and we are grateful to those who



have contributed. While these scholarships obviously benefit the individual recipients, they also contribute to establishing a culture of student success.

As we focus on student success, we will celebrate learning and teaching. Today I am pleased to announce the Audrey L. Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award – an award that recognizes the importance of teaching and celebrates distinguished teaching. Nominations will begin next spring; recipients will be recognized at December commencement ceremonies. Professor Emerita Audrey Reynolds, would you please stand so that we may recognize you and thank you for your gift.

Given our commitment to prepare students for an active role of leadership in the global community, I am asking the faculty to consider the development of an undergraduate major in Global Studies. It might consist of an appropriate core with a variety of specializations such as Latino and Latin American Studies, African and African American Studies, Asian Studies, languages, the arts, environmental science. The peoples of this world are bound more tightly together today than ever before. Diversity, which for years had a very domestic agenda, has broadened as a concept to include literally the whole world. Few institutions are as prepared to take up diversity as a central tenet of their mission as is Northeastern. In embracing diversity we're not just asserting a goal but proudly affirming a reality. Northeastern is poised to become a major player, by example, in the evolution of American higher education.

Along this same line, we will be seeking private funds for an endowed professorship in

Global Studies. This would be Northeastern's first professorship. This concept has already found an important supporter, Dr. Bernard Brommel. Dr. Brommel has designated half of his newest gift to the University of over \$150,000 to be used to further the goal of establishing the Global Studies professorship. I want to express my personal gratitude for this wonderful gift. Dr. Brommel has designated this as a salute to President Emerita Steinberg and myself. And we thank him. Dr. Brommel has designated the other half of his gift for student scholarships, addressing another critical need. Professor Emeritus Bernard Brommel, would you please stand and allow us to recognize you and thank you.

In 2017 – just a decade from now, we will celebrate our sesquicentennial – our first 150 years. In 2017, it is my hope that today's students will look back on their time here as one of the most important phases of their lives; that they will look back on the NEIU of today as inspiration for their own commitment to making the world a better place, to resolving conflicts with dialog while maintaining a commitment to ethical principles, to viewing the planet as a gift deserving of careful stewardship, to peace as a fundamental right and not just a tenuous interlude between conflicts.

And, as described in our University Value of Empowerment through Learning – I expect our graduates to be leaders in their personal and professional lives. I take a very broad view of leadership. I'm from the generation that remembers the stirring words of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., individuals who boldly and publicly set the bar for national leadership. But leadership also embraces the quiet and even the

deliberately anonymous who lead by example in their organizations, their homes, and their daily interactions with their fellow citizens of the world.

By the time we celebrate our sesquicentennial, I also expect Northeastern to be recognized as a leader among public regional universities for its dedication to its urban mission, for the quality of its students and the success of its graduates, for the diversity of its learning environment, for its collaborative character, and for the emphasis it places on stewardship of all of its resources.

To make another leap in time, although I don't expect to share that day, I look forward to 2067, the 200th anniversary of the University. My hope is that when students of today look back on a life well-lived, they will have cause to be grateful not just to those people of vision who made this institution a reality 200 years earlier, but also to all of us here today who reaffirmed that vision for the students of today and for the generations that would follow.

So, while we build on a solid foundation, and are sustained by confidence in the essential goodness of the task before us, we know there is work to be done. Let us go forward together. Let us reaffirm the vision of those who began this journey 140 years ago, and let us fulfill our duty to carry that vision forward and to build upon it for the benefit of this and future generations. Thank you.

Inaugural Events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Keynote Address

A Celebration of Learning
in the Global Community

Performance by
Ensemble Español
Spanish Dance Theater

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Dedication of
The Presidents Garden
Northeast corner of the
Ronald Williams Library

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Celebrating Traditions
and New Beginnings
Ceremony

Block Party

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Inauguration Ceremony

Inaugural Reception

Inaugural Dinner
and Gala

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Inaugural Celebration at
Carruthers Center for
Inner City Studies

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Inaugural Celebration at
Chicago Teachers' Center

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Inaugural Celebration
at El Centro



State Senator Iris Y. Martinez presented the keynote address "A Celebration of Learning in the Global Community"



Performance by
Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater



President Hahs demonstrated her gardening skills at the dedication of The Presidents Garden

Children from the NEIU Child Care Center performed during the Celebrating Traditions and New Beginnings Ceremony



President Hahs lit the NEIU Peace Fire with Dan Creely, professor, health, physical education, recreation, and athletics, at the Inaugural Block Party



The newly inaugurated President Hahs with the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees at the Inauguration Ceremony



President Emeritus Jerome Sachs and President Emerita Salme Harju Steinberg with President Hahs at the Inauguration Ceremony



President Hahs received the University Orb at the Inauguration Ceremony



R. Shayne Cofer, professor, music, conducted the Northeastern Illinois University Wind Ensemble



Inaugural Events



Walter W. Dudycz, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Presidential Inauguration Committee, spoke at the Inaugural Dinner and Gala



Inaugural Dinner and Gala in NEIU's Alumni Hall

President Hahs at the Inaugural Dinner and Gala



Inauguration celebration at NEIU's Chicago Teachers' Center



Artwork and a mural were presented to President Hahs as part of the inauguration celebration at El Centro

Inaugural Gala Showcases Academic Excellence

On Friday, September 7, Northeastern Illinois University's Alumni Hall was transformed into an extraordinary site, reminiscent of an outdoor garden where men in tuxedos and women in floor-length gowns gathered to celebrate the installation of President Sharon K. Hahs at the Inaugural Gala.

Several toasts were made to President Hahs, including one very special toast by Georgia Logothetis (B.A. '03 English), attorney, and the first graduate of the Presidential Scholars Program.

The Presidential Scholars Program is the most prestigious scholarship awarded by the University.

It funds full, merit-based awards to cover tuition, fees and books for entering freshmen who have demonstrated academic excellence.

Currently, three new scholars from each freshman class are awarded scholarships through the Presidential Scholars Program, for a total of 12 scholarship recipients on campus each academic year. Prior to the start of Inauguration week, President Hahs turned the focus of her Inaugural celebration to the Presidential Scholars Program. "These scholarships help to attract excellent students, who in turn help to foster a culture of student success that is so important to all Northeastern students," President Hahs announced. "Since attracting excellent students is an important component of the University's global mission, it is my goal to double the number of Presidential Scholars in the next two years."

Two Presidential Scholars who recently benefited from receiving this award are

Haley Mitria, an English major, and Jesse Foresto, an intended elementary education/biology major. Mitria, whose parents were going through a divorce during her senior year of high school, was working full-time while attending classes and still unsure of how she was going to afford her dream of a college education. "If it hadn't been for the generosity of the University, I really would not have been able to attend college," Mitria said. "There are some amazing, hardworking people at Northeastern, and everyone at the University seems to be there either to learn themselves, or to help others learn."

"...it is my goal to double the number of Presidential Scholars in the next two years."

Foresto, who suffered the loss of his mother at the age of five, was raised by a single father who struggled financially in order to spend as much time as he could with his three children. "I have learned that having a solid foundation is essential to success, and Northeastern is preparing me to succeed in my career," said Foresto. "There are high standards that are demanded by NEIU to maintain the Presidential Scholarship. I want and need to make the most of my time here by working hard and developing academically."

The Presidential Scholars Program is changing the lives of students at NEIU. With the continued support of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University, President Hahs' initiative to double the number of recipients will become a reality. To learn how to support the Presidential Scholars Program, contact the Development Office at 773-442-4208 or by e-mail at alumni@neiu.edu.



Georgia Logothetis (B.A. '03 English), attorney, and the first graduate of the Presidential Scholars Program.

Statement of Values

As a public institution of higher education, Northeastern Illinois University is committed to a set of shared values that, taken collectively, guides our actions and interactions as we work together to prepare graduates for the responsible exercise of citizenship. We, the NEIU community, believe it is critical for our democracy to create a space in which the commitment to these values results in a thriving educational community that transforms the lives of all. As we take stock of the present and look to the future, these values serve as the touchstone for planning how we will best achieve the educational mission entrusted to us.

Integrity

NEIU is accountable to those we serve and to those from whom we receive support. We are committed to honesty, respect, and transparency in our words and our actions. In that regard, we work to be good stewards of the resources we are entrusted to use. This includes human, physical, fiscal, and environmental resources.

Excellence

In our pursuit of and commitment to excellence, we value the highest quality of learning and teaching, scholarship, and service. We value opportunities and experiences that support personal and professional development for all members of our community. In all that we say and do, we are committed to the process and products of excellence.

Access to Opportunity

NEIU values access to opportunity; we value a welcoming environment which provides appropriate support as well as encourages mutual responsibility for and commitment to learning.

Diversity

NEIU values the inclusion of a broad spectrum of students, staff, and faculty in the life of the University. We celebrate and foster global perspectives. We encourage the open and respectful expression of ideas and differences in thoughts, experiences, and opinions.

Community

As a commuter institution, NEIU has a special obligation to provide an environment that is supportive, nurturing,

and participatory. Such an environment is characterized by civility, fostering humanity and engagement, and creates a sense of community through inclusion, mutual respect, and empowerment. NEIU values our metropolitan setting as a laboratory for learning, and we foster partnerships for learning, research, and service throughout this dynamic region to promote the public good.

Empowerment Through Learning

NEIU is dedicated to creating a culture that provides life-long learning opportunities for all members of the University community. We are especially committed to transforming students' lives by engaging them in an educational experience that empowers them to graduate with the skills and knowledge to become effective leaders and citizens in their personal and professional lives.



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