Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Welcome to the first Division of Student Affairs Annual Report! This is an opportunity to reflect on the division’s accomplishments this past year and highlight the creative and collaborative contributions of our students, faculty, staff and administrators. Together, we have made many enhancements to the division this year, and we will continue to assess our effectiveness, seek out best practices, and explore new innovations for our division.

This year, we have been engaged in strategic planning for Student Affairs. The planning process involved faculty, staff, and students in the development of our five-year plan. Our division’s strategic planning emphasizes enhancing student engagement for diverse learners at an urban university. Our strategic plan speaks to an understanding of our diverse University community, our commitment to inclusion, to developing opportunities for creating a global learning community, preparing students to become active citizens, and our pledge to celebrate multiculturalism. As a Division, we have reaffirmed our commitment to continue to assess our effectiveness, seek out best practices, and support innovation.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every staff member in the Division of Student Affairs as well as Northeastern faculty, staff, and students for their feedback, enthusiasm, and support of our work this year. I am pleased to share this report with the University community.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Ross III, Ph.D.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

“Together, we have made many enhancements to the division this year, and we will continue to assess our effectiveness, seek out best practices, and explore new innovations for our division.”
Student Disability Services Streamlined

Student Disability Services (SDS) streamlined the accommodation request process to create a one-stop shop for students. Other initiatives included enhancing connections with the Chicago community and increasing the SDS social media presence.

Advances in the Student Conduct System

The Student Conduct Code and all related documents were updated, including replacement of legal and antiquated terminology with terminology rooted in student development and the community standards philosophy. In addition, Student Rights and Responsibilities converted all official student conduct files (1980-2012) to PDF files, which will be stored in a database until a formal online conduct management system is acquired.

Heritage Conferences

The Asian/Global Resource Center (AGRC) Heritage Conferences encouraged the university community to engage in dialogue to raise our collective consciousness on issues relevant to a broad spectrum of issues and celebrate diversity. The conferences included: the 18th Annual Equity in Action Conference, "Immigration and Social Justice," 14th Annual Interfaith Conference on Interfaith Relationships; and 15th Annual Polish-American Heritage Celebration.

Safe Zone Training

The LGBTQ Resource Center provided Safe Zone LGBTQ Ally training and Trans+ 101 workshops to over 175 members of the NEIU Community. The workshops were designed to educate the university community about sexual orientation and gender identity issues, create a visible network of allies to provide support to members of Northeastern’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) communities, and provided accurate information and resources about sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

HERstory Month

Over 20 events and programs recognized National Women’s History Month during March 2013. HERstory Month made a concerted effort to incorporate the 2013 national theme, “Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics STEM”. Events included the Women in STEM bus tour, Why Feminism Matters Conference, and Northeastern’s first Women’s Retreat. The events were sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center, the Women’s Resource Center, Student Leadership Development, Women’s and Gender Studies, and student organizations Latinas In Power (LIP), Sigma Gamma Rho, and the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB).

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Northeastern was selected as one of 25 institutions to participate in the “American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ (AASCU) Campus and Community Civic Health Initiative. This initiative, which is a component of AASCU’s American Democracy Project, is designed to study the civic health of campuses and their surrounding communities. The Civic Health Working Group included representatives from a wide range of university constituencies to help the university access its current state of civic health and determine what type of support is needed to strengthen the civic health of the campus.

Northeastern was also selected as one of 50 lead institutions in NASPA’s Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Initiative. NASPA has made a commitment to encourage and highlight the work of Student Affairs in making civic learning and democratic engagement a part of every student’s college learning experience.

Speaker Donna Brazile takes the podium at the May 2013 commencement ceremony.

STATISTICS

STUDENTS COMPLETING ACADEMIC PLAN (BY SEMESTER)

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<td>FALL</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>226</td>
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MORE FYE STUDENTS COMPLETED AN ACADEMIC PLAN WITH THE ADVISING CENTER.

The Academic Plan Assignment is designed to help first year students understand their path to a degree, including General Education requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. Students complete a two year academic plan indicating which courses they intend to take during their first two years.

INCREASE IN COUNSELING SERVICES

During Fall 2012, counselors provided more than twice the number of crisis appointments to the Northeastern community (a 109% increase) compared to the previous fall.

TUTORING STRONG AT THE LSC

The Learning Support Center conducted more than 5,300 tutoring sessions in the Fall of 2012.

GRADUATES MARCHING (BY SEMESTER)

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<th>AUGUST AND DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
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641 students took 5,308 tutoring sessions during Fall 2012.

1,994 writing sessions

1,994 MATH sessions

1,971 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE sessions

13% MATH

24% WRITING

37% ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

1% ACADEMIC COACHING

+109% HOURS OF COUPLES COUNSELING

*Academic Coaching sessions are individualized skill-building experiences, designed to help students develop and retain core skills needed to succeed in their scholarly pursuits.

In the AASCU Campus & Community Civic Health Initiative, Northeastern was selected as one of 25 institutions.

Selected as
1 in 25
in The AASCU Campus & Community Civic Health Initiative.
Meditation and Reflection Space
Based on student feedback, a conference room in the Student Union was designated as a meditation and reflection space. The room is now in constant use by students.

Alternative Spring Break in High Demand
Applicants for Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips to Guatemala, Arizona, Oklahoma and the local Chicago trip increased 135% from the previous year. After review of applications and interviews with over 170 applicants, 49 students and four faculty and staff participated in the trips.

Centralized Public Information Initiative
The Centralized Public Information Initiative provided new flat-screen monitors throughout the Student Union, Information Center, Village Square and several other buildings on the main campus beginning in Summer 2013. This information system gives up to date information on upcoming events, local and national news, and other important information.

7th Annual Wellness Fair and Golden Eagle 5K
Campus Recreation hosted the 7th Annual Wellness Fair, which included the following activities: blood pressure screenings, fitness assessments, chair massages, structural analysis, nutrition information, group fitness classes, and a Zumba party. Sponsors included Athletico, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Pro-Holistic Institute, and Galler Life Center. The 6th Annual Golden Eagle 5K was held on the main campus in spring 2013. A total of 128 Northeastern students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members participated—66 percent were students. Sponsors included Whole Foods, Athletico and Quartet Copies.

Students Chosen for Science Fellowships
Two Proyecto Pa’Lante students, Angelina Jaimes and Jose Zavala, received fellowships in the National Science Foundation-sponsored Undergraduate Research Mentoring in New Biology (URM) Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). The URM program provides an opportunity to work with distinguished faculty mentors in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and other campus research units. The students received a monetary stipend and on campus housing at UIUC.

University Family Handbook
A new university family handbook was distributed to the families of new students during the 2013 orientation season. This handbook was designed to help families better support their students’ transition into the institution. The handbook includes important information on University programs and services, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Financial Aid, Academic and Career Advising, academic support resources, and information on university programs and services.

Student Affairs would like to recognize some of the extraordinary co-curricular work in which our faculty are involved.

Professor Pam Geddes, Ph.D., Biology, describes her experiences collaborating with Student Affairs:

“I am currently one of the SACNAS: Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science Chapter Advisors, and serve as a research mentor for undergraduate and graduate students in the Biology department. In addition, I am a member of the Biology Department Advising Committee and I serve as a departmental advisor since 2010. I previously participated in the Applied Learning and Engaged Scholarship (ALES) Committee and I recently participated in the workshop to become an ally for undocumented students. I have also participated in the Ask Me! Campaign since I came to Northeastern, served as a high-school science fair judge, mentored high-school students in their research projects, and presented highlights of my research to Junior High and High School students as part of Chicago Teacher’s Center Summer Academy GEAR UP program.

Through my participation in several activities that involve students, both academically and extracurricularly, I have been able to witness incredible growth and transformation in many of the students I have interacted with. Because academic success goes hand in hand with engaged participation and involvement beyond classroom walls, I strongly believe supporting the mission of Northeastern’s Student Affairs is key to a heightened student experience, increased student retention, and better preparation of future professionals.

The impetus for my involvement with Student Affairs has always been the tremendous potential for success that our students have. I feel I am at a place where I am able to help students realize their unique potential and achieve their success, not only academically but also as citizens, members of our community, and future professionals.

I’m driven by the aspiration to make things work better and more efficiently for our students. No matter how well we may think things are working, there is always room for improvement. It is when we get involved and participate that we can effect such change.”

Pam Geddes, Ph.D.
Department of Biology

“The impetus for my involvement with Student Affairs has always been the tremendous potential for success that our students have.”
The Division of Student Affairs at Northeastern Illinois University actively supports and engages its diverse community of learners through excellent programs and services that enhance students’ personal development, leadership skills, and intercultural competencies to engage in a dynamic global society.

MISSION

The Division of Student Affairs will be a national leader in urban higher education and among Hispanic Serving Institutions through its promising practices to support student success.

VISION

The Division of Student Affairs embraces the University’s core values and contributes to student success through:

Civic Leadership
We encourage empowerment through learning as we educate students to be active citizens that lead with integrity and create change within their University, local community, and in the world.

Social Justice
We celebrate diversity and encourage the idea of equal participation within our society and foster in our students a commitment to creating a more equitable and just world.

Holistic Support
We support access to opportunity and are committed to excellence by providing quality programs and services to meet students’ personal, academic, and career needs.

Experiential Learning
We enhance the University community by providing hands-on learning and reflection opportunities for students that enrich their educational pursuits.

VALUES

STUDENT AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Faculty Profile

Vicki Byard, Ph.D.
English and Women’s and Gender Studies

Student Affairs would like to recognize some of the extraordinary co-curricular work in which our faculty are involved.

Professor Vicki Byard, Ph.D., English and Women’s and Gender Studies and Coordinator of the First-Year Writing Program, describes her experiences collaborating with Student Affairs:

“For students who perceive of education and “the real world” as separate entities, Student Affairs is often the bridge that helps them begin to connect the two. My involvement has taught me to attribute greater value to Student Affairs for the role this division plays in student retention and success.

Although I have been a faculty member at Northeastern for over twenty years, it is only through my involvement with Student Affairs that I have developed many friendships with students who have never enrolled in my courses. Building relationships on campus differently—by regularly interacting with students not in my courses and with staff beyond Academic Affairs—has been personally satisfying. It’s motivated me to continue to pursue relationships that transcend customary boundaries, as I’m doing this summer with grants I received for a faculty/student research community and a subsequent faculty/student research project. Thus, the insights I have gained from Student Affairs are also enhancing how I function in my role as faculty.

I’m particularly committed to improving the campus experience for transgender students. I want to raise awareness… so that these students can be positively impacted by their educational experiences and can lead more productive lives following graduation.”
### student PROFILE

**Congratulations to Pedro Solis**, a Proyecto Pa’Lante student who in a national search earned the position of USDA Forest Service intern in western Colorado. This fall, Pedro will work on a forest restoration project and collect GPS data for use in GIS applications. He will work with scientists from Colorado State University and community stakeholders in a collaborative setting.

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**Pedro Solis**

**Proyecto Pa’Lante**

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“Being in the city, sometimes you have to experience nature. The most important things are fieldwork and experience.”

- Pedro Solis