



Questions received from Hollywood-North Park Community Association
March 2015

1. Will NEIU host another open-forum style community meeting to discuss the expansion plan, the current construction timeline, and the disclosable aspects of the dorm development plan? Specifically, when will we have access to the conceptual plan, the transaction and financing plan, and the project schedules for student housing and on-campus development? Will the community have access to the complete impact studies? Can you now disclose the name of the company(ies) selected to complete the impact studies, the criteria used to select this/these company(ies), and any relationship to NEIU or American Campus Communities?

During the March 2 meeting of the Northeastern Neighborhood Network, members discussed the possibility of a public forum to be hosted at NEIU's Main Campus. There were many suggestions offered regarding timing, format and logistics. President Hahs expressed her willingness to participate and provide a venue to interact with the community.

The University approved a preliminary conceptual plan that is subject to adjustment and revision as the project evolves. As such, Northeastern can provide an overview of the plan:

- The project will provide 440-beds (110 units) of apartment-style housing on the west side of the campus core in a single, six-story "L-shaped" building.
- Two types of accommodations will be provided to attract the ideal market depth.
- Units will be fully furnished and will include fully appointed kitchens
- Community amenities will include laundry facilities, fitness center, study and social lounges, and a mailroom.

The finance and transaction plan will be available after the scheduled Bond Closing on May 7, 2015. The projected start of construction is May 7, 2015, with anticipated completion August 2016.

Impact studies like the one on traffic/parking for which NEIU is currently soliciting feedback is currently in its early stages. Members of the public and NNN have submitted their input, which will help design the impact study. No vendor has been identified, and one will not be selected until NEIU has a better understanding of the scope and requirements of this study. The University will continue to accept feedback through May.

2. NEIU has indicated that student housing is part of a plan the Board has developed to improve enrollment and enhance the value of the school to its core and foreign student populations. Could the Board disclose the studies or other research it relied upon to determine that student housing is a factor in achieving these goals? Could the Board disclose what other commuter campus transitions were studied to inform NEIU's plan? Could the Board disclose their projections for how student housing will impact the intended areas of improvement over 3-5-10 years?

The University's decision to build its first student residence halls was a product of a Strategic Plan process that started in 2007 and culminated a year later. In 2008, Northeastern hosted

several public forums and received feedback from both inside and outside the University. More than 600 people, which included many in the community, helped to shape this plan. The University does not currently have enrollment projections that could be specifically attributed to the planned residence halls.

3. NEIU has indicated that part of its expansion plan is to contribute to economic development in the community. How does this relate to the mission of the University? What elements of the expansion plan contribute to economic development? What quantifiable goals does the University include in the economic development aspect of the plan? How and when will the community be involved in this aspect of the plan?

The University's plan to provide a residential life component to the student experience has been in the works since it was formalized in the 2008 strategic plan. NEIU's service to its students includes providing housing, which has been shown to improve retention and graduation rates among student residents.

The residence hall that is planned for the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr calls for street-level retail space that would help enhance an area that is currently in an economic redevelopment zone. The University's goal is to bring more student consumers and new retail opportunities to the area. The addition of an affordable, supportive living and learning environment close to academic programs and student services will greatly enhance our ability to recruit and retain students. Northeastern is the last public university in Illinois to add a student housing program; we are at a competitive disadvantage without it.

The community has been involved since the development of the 2008 strategic plan. The University is open to any and all input from the community, and it receives it on a regular basis. In 2014, NEIU established the Northeastern Neighborhood Network, which is made of members of local civic organizations, neighbors and University administrators. NNN meets several times a year, so it can discuss community issues and provide feedback that would inform NEIU's decision-making process.

4. We understand the student housing aspect of the project has been broken up into three phases, with phase 1 being developed on campus at Foster between St. Louis and Central Park, and assuming the eminent domain case is successful, phase 2 being developed on Bryn Mawr between Kimball and Bernard. The university has been clear that further on-campus development of student housing would not be feasible. How does the university expect to accommodate phase 3 without further expansion of footprint into the neighborhood? Can the university commit in writing to no further use of eminent domain to seize private property to accommodate student housing or other campus expansion?

During the NNN meeting on March 2, President Hahs announced that the first phase of residence hall construction would take place on NEIU's current 67 acres of campus, just south of the Parking Facility. A third phase is merely hypothetical and would not be considered until the University initiated both Phase 1 and Phase 2, which is planned for the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr. If a third phase were to happen, it would be a smaller project than the first two and would be located on NEIU's current 67 acres.

Northeastern has no plan to expand its campus beyond its Residence Life project on Bryn Mawr. The University's authority to acquire property through eminent domain is rooted in the Illinois

Constitution and exercised in accordance with authority granted to Northeastern by the Illinois Legislature. Northeastern will not make a commitment that undermines the state constitution or the will of the state legislature.

5. The university's website speaks to the issue of civic engagement and volunteerism as a form of alumni participation in university-community culture. HNPCA is gathering information about the university's over-all presence in the community to inform the membership's perception of NEIU's role in our neighborhood. Could the university provide a list of their other civic engagement priorities, timelines, and achievements?

Northeastern Illinois University has a rich tradition of civic engagement and service dating to its founding as a teacher training institution in 1867. As the only public four-year institution designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution in the Midwest and one of the most diverse institutions in the country, NEIU has built on this tradition of engagement and service through a wide range of curricular and co-curricular offerings on its main campus on the north side of Chicago. These offerings are further complemented by the work done through the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies located in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, the El Centro campus in the Avondale neighborhood and the Center for College Access & Success (formerly known as the Chicago Teachers Center) in the Wicker Park neighborhood.

The University's strategic plan which was developed in 2008 includes a vision statement that highlights NEIU's urban mission; it also focuses in its strategic goals on Urban Leadership and the importance of building upon the university's rich tradition of community involvement. Each year, the University develops a work plan that includes specific objectives focusing on this goal of urban leadership and its action steps.

Additionally, Northeastern boosted its community outreach through the initiation of formal partnerships with 10 community organizations during the last academic year in order to better serve its neighboring communities. Those organizations are:

- Cambodian Association of Illinois
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association
- St. Augustine College
- Pan-African Association
- Korean American Association of Chicago
- Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago
- Korean American Community Services
- La Casa and the Resurrection Project
- Family Focus
- Latin United Community Housing Association

Northeastern faculty and students are benefitting from partnerships with these organizations, and the clients of these organizations are now more easily able to access the educational opportunities at Northeastern.

Northeastern is actively involved in the **American Democracy Project**, a multi-campus initiative focused on public higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens for our democracy. The project began in 2003 as an initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), in partnership with The New York Times. An example of this involvement may be found in their acceptance into ADP's new Economic Inequality Initiative Co-hort.

Northeastern was also selected in the spring of 2012 to be a part of National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' (NASPA) **Lead Initiative on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement**. This network of 92 NASPA member colleges and universities committed to encouraging and highlighting the work of student affairs in making civic learning and democratic engagement a part of every student's college education. Northeastern's work with Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement was highlighted along with two other institutions in the cover story in NASPA's Leadership Exchange magazine in the summer of 2013.

In support of its mission, the University has established partnerships with business and community groups, social service and government agencies, and other educational institutions. These partnerships work to promote academic excellence among traditionally under-served populations. Below are just a few examples of the partnerships and programs that illustrate NEIU's commitment to community involvement:

The **Chicago ENLACE Partnership** fosters the academic success of Hispanic students both at the high school and college level.

The **Center for College Access and Success** at Northeastern Illinois University develops collaborative partnerships that engage entire communities to help students succeed both academically and socially. Founded in 1978, we are an innovator in creating model programs that translate visions for school improvement into concrete action. As an academic educational unit of Northeastern Illinois University, we are in a unique position to respond to the needs of these communities.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is one of the most active grants at Center and has been part of the Center since 1999. Making college real for students is the primary goal of the GEAR UP program. More than 14,317 Chicago GEAR UP Alliance students, their parents, teachers, and school and district staff participate in this program which strives to improve student academic performance and increase the postsecondary awareness. Northeastern Illinois University serves as the lead institution and fiscal agent for the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance (CGUA) which is a partnership with six other local postsecondary institutions: DePaul University, Loyola University, National Louis University, Roosevelt University, Truman College (Chicago City Colleges), and the University of Chicago.

The **NDCI (Network for Dissemination of Curriculum Infusion)** connects education to life realities of students by preparing current and future teachers to seamlessly integrate prevention of drugs, violence and other problems into kindergarten through high school curricula.

The **Student Leadership Development** Office serves as the home for most of the student focused community service and civic engagement programming at NEIU. Included among SLD's civic engagement programming are:

Alternative Spring Break trips provide students with the opportunity to make a difference in the community around Chicago and beyond into the world. The 2015 Alternative Spring Break trips involve a variety of issues including food insecurity, homelessness, poverty, immigration and environmental issues. The trips will include the following locations:

- Appalachian Mountains, Harlan County, Kentucky – This trip will provide exposure to the Appalachian area, its people and its culture. Topics will include coal mining, mountaintop removal, the sustainable development activities the area is engaging in, and local social issues (homelessness, drug abuse, elder care, flood relief, etc.).
- Arizona/Mexico Border – This trip will cover topics such as immigration, border control, the global market, sweat shops, and the relationship between Mexico and the United States. Group stays with Border Links in Tuscan, AZ.
- East St. Louis, IL – Students will travel to East St. Louis to stay at Hubbard House, an organization that provides housing, food and program support to the economically disadvantaged. The theme of the trip will revolve around food insecurity and homelessness.
- Tantre Organic Farm, Michigan - Besides a great deal of manual farm labor, this ASB focuses on broader issues of sustainability with visits to nearby natural areas, an ecology center and a recycling/re-use project. Participants should be prepared for cold weather (many layers) and physical labor (sturdy boots). The final days of this year's trip will involve a visit to the Jeanie Wyle Community in Detroit for some immersion in the urban farming scene.

Each year, SLD organizes several different **days of service** that allow students to impact the local Chicagoland community. Days of Service planned for 2014-15 included:

- **National Day of Service and Remembrance September 11th** where the university collected toiletries and other personal items for military personnel serving in Afghanistan
- USA WEEKEND Magazine and "Points of Light" have joined together to sponsor "**Make A Difference Day**" in October where students helped to paint modular classrooms at Palmer Elementary School in the North Mayfair neighborhood of Albany Park.
- **MLK Day of Service** where students worked with students across Chicago with projects at a wide range of CPS schools
- **Cesar Chavez Day of Service:** As a Hispanic Serving Institution NEIU places emphasis on this program. The program for 2015 was again developed in collaboration with community organizations and schools in the Albany Park area including the North River Commission, Peterson Garden Project, Global Gardens Refugee Training Farm, and Roosevelt High School. In honor of Chavez's history with agriculture the Chavez Day will continue its support of urban gardens in the North Park/Albany Park area. New in 2015 are service opportunities in Gompers Park. These opportunities were developed in response to the loss of hundreds of ash trees throughout the North River Area from Emerald Ash Borers and are a direct result of partnerships developed with the North River Commission's Environment Committee. Projects were designed to raise awareness in the community of the impacts of the Ash Borer infestation and to support the health of the remaining trees. One of the many positive results of these new service opportunities was the addition of two more partners, Open Lands and the Chicago Park District.

- **Earth Day:** This program will be held in April. It's anticipated that service projects will include support to neighboring parks and clean up in neighborhoods around NEIU's Main Campus.

Each year, one week before Thanksgiving, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor National **Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week**. During this week, Northeastern takes part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness in Chicago and around the world. As a part of this program students raise funds for the international charity, Oxfam and collect funds for Thanksgiving Baskets for local families in need.

Northeastern has historically worked closely with the North River Commission on a wide range of community initiatives dating back to the establishment of the North Park Nature Center and Village Complex over 50 years ago. Art department faculty and Cultural Events staff have worked closely with NRC's Arts Committee in the development of the Sculpture Garden in Ronan Park and with the development of several murals in the North River Area. The university hosted a gathering of area principals and aldermen this past fall which focused on ways to improve schools in the North River Area and is planning to host a similar program in the fall of 2015. A pilot program is being developed where computer science students help local civic organizations with their websites. There has also been strong involvement by faculty and staff on several projects related to stormwater management and flooding in Albany Park.

Campus Recreation is another department at Northeastern that is extremely active in the community. Its facilities are in high demand by many local high schools including Peterson Elementary (flag football), Northside College Prep (Swimming & Diving), and Von Steuben High School (Baseball, Water Polo, and Soccer). Campus Recreation also hosts Special Olympics of Illinois programming (Floor Hockey & Basketball), Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (Wheelchair basketball) and Albany Park Community Center (sports programming). Aquatics staff have also provided swimming lessons for students at the Northside Learning Center. The following are NEIU Campus Recreation's community partners:

Sports

Powerstrikers Soccer Club (Youth soccer)
 Chicago Aviators (adult baseball)
 Liga Deportiva Sander (Ecuadorian Soccer & Volleyball leagues)
 Hamlin Park Baseball Association (youth baseball)
 Evolution Volleyball Academy (youth volleyball)
 Truman College (Men's Basketball)
 Tibetan Alliance of Chicago (multi-sport tournament)
 DePaul University (Baseball & Water Polo Clubs)
 Northwestern University (Baseball Club)
 Loyola University (Baseball Club)
 Chicago Inter Handball (Team Handball Club)
 Ambassador Nursing Home (staff basketball league)
 AHEPA Charity Basketball Tournament
 Ballin' for a Cause Charity Basketball Tournament
 Special Olympics of Illinois (Floor Hockey & Basketball)

Wichita State University (women's basketball)
North Park University (women's tennis)

Schools

Von Steuben High School (Baseball, Water Polo, Soccer)
Taft High School (LaCrosse)
Northtown Academy (Baseball & Soccer)
Muchin College Prep (Volleyball & Basketball)
Northside College Prep (Swimming & Diving)
IHSA Regional Baseball Playoffs
Peterson Elementary (flag football)
Albany Park Multicultural Academy (soccer)
Roosevelt High School (LaCrosse)

Camps

Kids Playing Summer Camp
DePaul College Prep Ram Camp

Instructional/Clubs

Max Multi Sport Triathlon Club
Chicago Underwater Hockey
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (Boccia, SCUBA, Military Sports Camp, Wheelchair basketball)
Northside Aquatics Club
Iguanas Swim Club
Irving Park YMCA Swimming
Learn SCUBA Chicago
Chicago Latin Fitness

Community/Service Groups

Albany Park Community Center (sports programming)
Division of Children and Family Services (Families Holiday Party)
AVON Walk (Volunteer training site)
Korean Baptist Church (annual gathering)
Pirchei Agudath Israel (swimming)
Shedd Aquarium (High school robotics competition)