

CAS CONNECTIONS

2024 FALL TERM | ISSUE 11 | NOVEMBER 19, 2024

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings CAS Community,

Welcome to another vibrant edition of CAS Connections! We always love to share with you the many exciting developments in our programs and the accomplishments of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

In the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), we prepare our students for rewarding and meaningful lives that will have an impact in the world through the work they do and the ways in which they participate in their communities. Our liberal arts and sciences curriculum encourages students to explore the realm of possibilities that exist in our offerings and find and pursue their passions. Our students can be confident that the knowledge they gain and the skills they cultivate will prepare them for a rewarding professional life.

The CAS Career Readiness initiative is all about helping students understand—and providing them with the language to articulate—how what they learn across the liberal arts and sciences curriculum sets them up for success by giving them the very skills and abilities that employers seek, regardless of their major. We know it's not always clear to students how what they learn in their English or Sociology class actually equips them with marketable job skills. Students may wonder, for example, if they study history, does that mean they'll be a historian? Or if they major in biology, do they have to become a doctor? In the CAS, we teach students not only the subject they choose, but also *how* to learn, and this equips our students to be prepared for a variety of careers in an ever-changing work landscape.

We help students understand the Core Competencies they are acquiring and honing so they can see the full array of knowledge and skill sets they bring to the table, knowing that these skills are in demand. This isn't just our belief—this is what employers tell us is important to be successful and competitive in their careers.

Certainly we know that the liberal arts and sciences cultivate broad-minded, well-rounded, and free-thinking individuals who help us sustain a democratic and humane society. It is these very elements that also prepare our students for rewarding careers and to do the meaningful work of the world.

As you read our newsletter, we hope you keep in mind these many dimensions of the College of Arts and Sciences and how we help students leverage their passions into rewarding professions for the benefit of all.

All the best,
Tim Libretti
Interim Dean

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Quen Everett Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies



What are your career goals?

I would like to complete a Master's in Library & Information Science in order to become a Librarian. I really want to have a job in which I'm in service to the community but also where my love for books and knowledge is useful.

What do you like about NEIU so far?

I love NEIU! I love how many of the courses being offered are accessible to people with different lifestyles, and not just the "traditional college student." As someone who is back in college after discontinuing my education over a decade ago, I appreciate the option of taking online, hybrid, and/or in person classes. I've also had some incredible professors that I am grateful to have learned from.

What else should we know about you?

I work at one of the last remaining feminist bookstores in the U.S.! And I play drums and would like to start a band (just in case anyone who reads this wants to be in a band).

Is there anything else you want to share?

"All that you touch, you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change." -Octavia Butler

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Denise Cloonan Cortez World Languages and Cultures

What are your research interests?

I have been at NEIU since 1997. I am currently chair of World Languages and Cultures, ELP, SAELL and TESOL as well as coordinator of the Peace Corps Prep Certificate Program. I am a Romance Linguist with interests in dialectology of Spanish and regional literature with eye dialect: *literatura campesina y literatura minera*. In grad school, I was pursuing a Ph.D. in literature and began taking linguistics courses to complement my literary analyses, and then decided to switch to a linguistics Ph.D. and so I am able to blend both fields together—my dissertation was an empirical study involving 350 students and I analyzed how their cultural background influenced their reading comprehension and interpretation in Spanish.

What is your favorite thing about NEIU?

My favorite thing about NEIU is the students. We have such interesting students who are eager to learn and it is rewarding to see the impact that our graduates make in the community. Many of our undergraduates come back for our grad programs and that is a testament to us and the work that we all do here. Working at NEIU is a labor of love; I have seen NEIU change dramatically over the last 27 years and I have adapted to those changes. We are in a good place right now with strong leadership, but we still need to put in a lot of effort and I like to believe that I positively contribute to the well-being of our community here.

What are your hobbies?

I love all animals! I adopt as many rescue animals as I can. I have one TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release Program) cat (the ones with the notch on their ear) and two rescue dogs. However, apart from the domesticated animals, I love the great apes. I am a strong advocate for their protection from human intervention/habitat loss. Orangutans are my favorite and I have promised myself that I will take a trip to Borneo to see the orangutans in sanctuary. I sponsor one orangutan, named Koprul, in Borneo on a sanctuary island and I sponsor two chimpanzees, Kareem and Gracie, in Georgia under the care of Project Chimps. I probably should have become a primatologist. I proudly carry my green BOS (Borneo Orangutan Survival) Foundation water bottle to all NEIU meetings. A word of warning from my (loving?) son: "Don't let my mom trap you in a conversation about the apes, you'll be sorry!"

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



Stephen Tallackson & Judith Mendelsohn Tallackson

What did your educational paths look like?

When we were attending NEIU in its first four years [at the present campus] from 1961 to 1965 when it was Chicago Teacher's College North (CTCN), every student was only being prepared to be elementary or high school teachers. Consequently, EVERY student had Education as their Minor and then picked a non-Education Major. In the early and mid-1960's, this was considered an educational innovation when other teacher preparation programs at other colleges had students major in Education.

Judi's degrees: B.A. in music history with a minor in education from CTCN (NEIU); M.A. in reading from Roosevelt University; M.A. in English as a second language (ESL) from Indiana University Northwest.

Steve's degrees: B.A. in history with a minor in education from CTCN (NEIU); M.A. (and ABD) in history from the University of Chicago.

What are you doing now?

Judi: After being an elementary school teacher in the Chicago Public Schools from 1966 to 2003, Judi has been involved in a number of volunteer activities. She does programming for Alzheimer's and dementia patients at an Adult Day Care Center in Valparaiso, Indiana once a week. She delivers Meals on Wheels to shut-ins once a week. Finally, she volunteers twice a month at a local food pantry. She has done babysitting for our three grandchildren (who are now 17, 12 and 9) when they were very young.

Steve: After teaching U.S., Modern World, and African History, and being an Academic Advisor for History, Social Studies Teaching, and Political Science majors for 10 years at Purdue University Northwest (both Hammond and Westville campuses) from 1991 to 2022, I have been an Adjunct Instructor teaching a two-semester sequence in African History at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Both Judi and I have been Board members at Temple Israel in Gary, Indiana for a number of years. I have been the Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee of Temple Israel for the last decade helping organize various multi-racial and interreligious activities.

What do you remember about your time at CTCN (NEIU)?

Steve:

- CTCN only had 2,100 students when we were there in the early and mid-1960's. A good aspect of being a "small" school, you felt you got to know a lot of the students, despite the fact that we were a commuter school and a lot of students left after their last class to go to part-time jobs.
- Because we were solely a teachers college, preparing us for a female dominated profession, 80% of CTCN's student body were women. The early and mid-160's was still a decade before Title IX and its requirements for female inter-collegiate sports. Consequently, CTCN had NO inter-collegiate sports against other schools. We had no football, basketball, or any other games to go to, unlike our friends who went to other colleges.
- I was fortunate to have Professor June Sochen as the instructor in several of my history courses and she showed me how the study and teaching of history could be stimulating and challenging.

Judi:

- I remember Professor Harold Berlinger, who taught many of my Music History courses and who was a great professor.
- The gym was not finished, so we had a lot of non-athletic choices to meet our physical education requirements. I took Bridge and I still play twice a month.

Do you have any advice for current students?

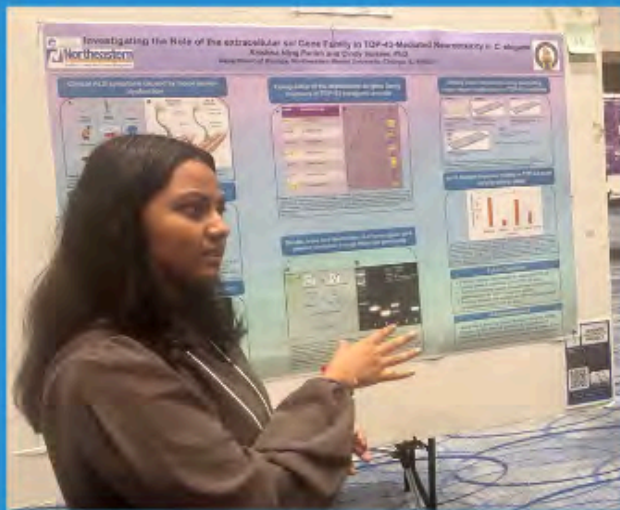
Steve: Be prepared for multiple careers. Unlike Judi, who had one employer in her career, after my first college teaching job was eliminated, I worked in city and federal government jobs for around 20 years, before returning to college teaching in my 40's (part-time) and 50's (full-time).

Is there anything else we should know about you?

We have two sons in their 50's. After our last child graduated from college in 1997, and we had no more tuitions to pay, we have been fortunate to go on overseas trips nearly every year. We have been to the vast majority of European countries, Africa three times, Asia twice and South America once. Also, we graduated together in December, 1965 from CTCN and got married in August, 1966. We have lived in first Miller Beach and now Ogden Dunes in Northwest Indiana since 1973. We celebrated our 58th wedding anniversary this year.

CUSP STUDENT FEATURE

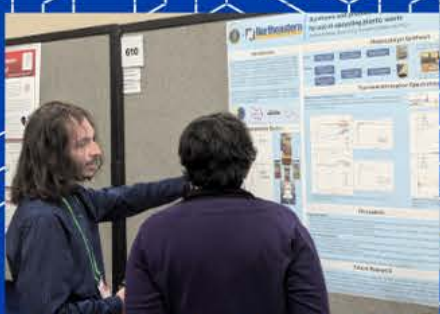
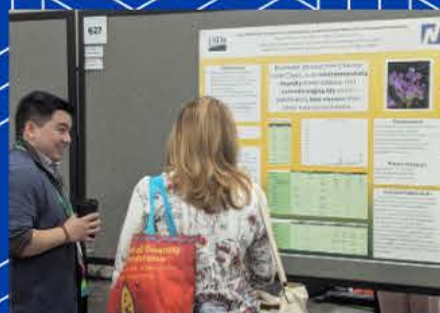
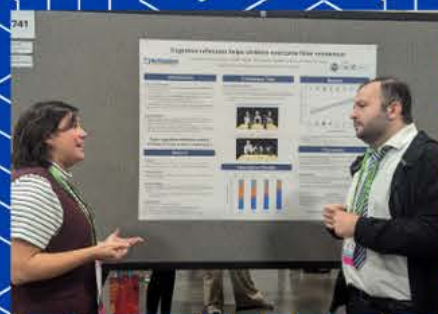
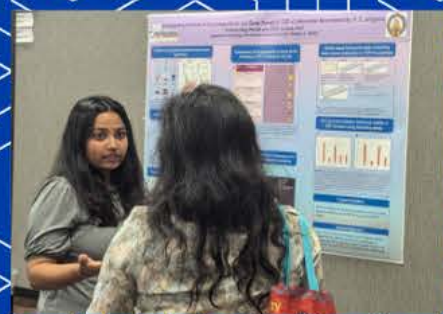
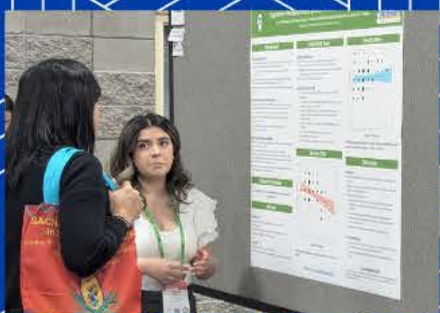
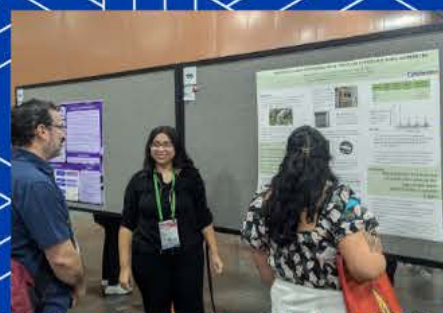
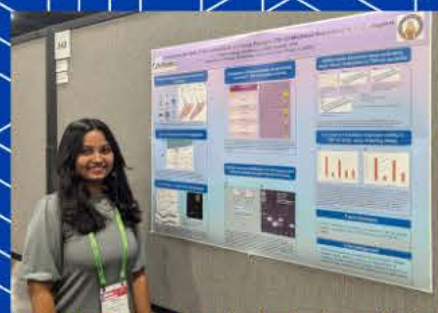
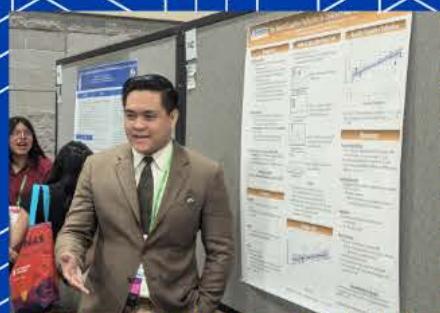
The College of Arts and Sciences aims to raise \$150,000 for the College Undergraduate Scholars Program (CUSP). This program will support student research and creative opportunities that are vital to student success. But don't just take it from us—see what one of our students has to say about their CAS-funded experience:



Krishna Parikh Biology

"This summer research opportunity was a crucial turning point in my academic path, affirming my choice to pursue an MD-PhD program. By engaging in practical scientific investigation, I managed to connect basic research with its possible clinical uses. This encounter enhanced my ability to analyze and solve problems, while also deepening my understanding of the significant effect research can have on patient outcomes. It inspired me to pursue a profession that integrates caring for patients with innovative research, enabling me to make an impact on both scientific findings and practical medical progress. This experience, coupled with NEIU's welcoming and inspiring environment, has made my transition as a transfer student from India incredibly enriching, further fueling my drive to contribute meaningfully to the field of medicine."

[Click here to support students like Krishna!](#)



At the end of October, 33 students and 8 members of faculty and staff traveled to the SACNAS 2024 NDiSTEM Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The students come from a wide variety of majors, including Psychology, Computer Science, Math, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry. Of these students, eight received travel awards to attend the conference, and most of the students participated in the SCSE Summer Research program. There were also students in attendance who participated in research with the ARCOS STEM Academy, USDA, CASA, and Northwestern SROP programs.

Two students, Christina Esparza-Cassidy (Psychology) and Michael Noonan (Chemistry), won awards for their poster presentations at the conference. Also, Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Joe Hibdon won a Presidential Service Award for his dedication and impact in advancing STEM diversity and inclusion.

Congratulations to the award winners and to everyone who attended the conference!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CAS

11th ANNUAL PRE-LAW ALUMNI PANEL

Thinking of Law School?



TUES NOV 19, 2023
6 PM - 8 PM Via Zoom

We are excited to announce the 11th Annual NEIU Pre-Law Alumni Panel. This event is not to be missed for anyone considering law school. Meet our panel of NEIU graduates who are practicing attorneys or currently attending law school. The panel will discuss:

- How NEIU prepared them for law school
- Financing law school
- Their law school experience
- The current job market
- Questions & Answers!

MODERATOR

Marcellus Moore
Northwestern Law 1998
NEIU Foundation Board



Meet Our NEIU Alumni Panelists



SIR WILLIAMS

NEIU: 2005
Major: Crim Just
Univ/Wis Law: 2011
Owner, SWJD Consulting



WENDY JETER

NEIU: 2022
Major: Justice Studies
L2 Mitchell Hamline Law
Class of 2026



SANDER WEINER

NEIU: 2014
Major: Philosophy
Chicago Kent: 2017
Associate Attorney at
Wicker Smith



ALEJANDRA ESCOBAR

NEIU: 2017
Major: Political Science
UIC John Marshall: 2020
Associate Attorney at
Nextlevel Law, P.C.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.neiu.edu/pre-law-events>

RSVP NOW



FOR PRE-LAW ADVISING CONTACT:
DAVID NISSIM-SABAT
DIRECTOR OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL ADVISING
[HTTPS://CALENDLY.COM/DNISSIM](https://calendly.com/dnissim)

PRESENTED BY THE
PRE-LAW SOCIETY



ESL-BILINGUAL ENDORSEMENT



CPS COHORT



Informational Sessions
Tuesday 11/19/24 @ 5 - 6pm
Tuesday 12/3/24 @ 5 - 6pm

Meeting ID: 346 119 8693

ZOOM LINK

- ✓ NEIU Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) & Bilingual/Bicultural Education (BLBC) courses
- ✓ ISBE-Approved
- ✓ Evenings
- ✓ 1.5 Year Completion
- ✓ 1x-2x/week
- ✓ HyFlex Format
- ✓ Negotiated Tuition



ma-delreal@neiu.edu



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@NEIUTESOL



@neiu.tesol



/NEIUTesProgram



linktr.ee/neiutesol





CHICAGO FILM SOCIETY

Fall 2024 Film Series

Wednesday, September 11 @ 7:30pm
PRACTICALLY YOURS
Directed by Mitchell Leisen (1944)

Wednesday, October 2 @ 7:30pm
VAGABOND
Directed by Agnès Varda (1985)

Wednesday, October 9 @ 7:30pm
SPECIAL EFFECTS
Directed by Larry Cohen (1984)



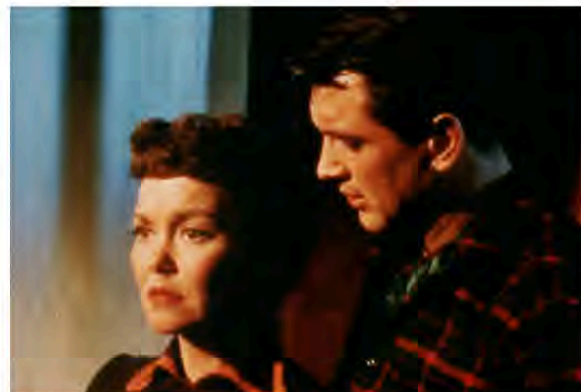
Wednesday, October 16 @ 7:30pm
TROUBLE IN PARADISE
Directed by Ernst Lubitsch (1932)

Wednesday, November 6 @ 7:30pm
SIMPLE MEN
Directed by Hal Hartley (1992)

Wednesday, November 13 @ 7:30pm
MOONLIGHT AND PRETZELS
Directed by Karl Freund (1933)

Wednesday, November 20 @ 7:30pm
ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS
Directed by Douglas Sirk (1955)

Wednesday, December 11 @ 7:30pm
THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE
Directed by Gunther von Fritsch
& Robert Wise (1944)



Wednesday Nights in the NEIU Auditorium (E-106)

Sponsored by the
Department of Communication, Media and Theatre





DISCOVERING THE WORLD THROUGH GIS

WWW.GISDAY.COM



GISday

10 AM to 1 PM / Wednesday, November 20 in the Student Union

Hands-on workshop 1 PM to 2 PM in CBM 158

Contact t-liu1@neiu.edu for questions

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES EDUCATION PROGRAM

CASEP TEACHER LEADERSHIP



POWER HOUR!

FALL 2024 @ NEIU

Get Connected.

Thursday, November 21st

Pedroso Center (B Building)

With Mrs. Olga Nuñez-Johnson

**'24 Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award Winner
Waters Elementary School, Chicago Public Schools**

POWER HOURS are held from 3-4 PM

@ NEIU 5500 N St. Louis Ave., Chicago, IL

- **Educational & Engaging Guest Speakers!**
- **Community Building Activities!**
- **FREE Sandwiches!**

Questions? Contact Jeremy Babcock

j-babcock@neiu.edu

www.neiu.edu/CASEP

THE 82:STUDENT

EDITION **LWH 2005**

Thursday Nov. 21, 3-4:00 pm



THE STAGE IS BEING SET!!



Every term, the Creative Writing Minor Committee runs **The 82: Student Edition**, open only to writers making work within our Creative Writing classes.



This event is hosted by the Writing & Literature Collective

Refreshments will also be served

TAKE NEIU'S

CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY



Please take the HEDS Diversity and Equity Campus Climate Survey! The purpose of the survey is to collect information about your perceptions of how NEIU supports diversity and equity, and your experiences with discrimination and harassment at NEIU.

Your participation is **VOLUNTARY**.

The questionnaire takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. NEIU is committed to ensuring that our campus has an inclusive, engaging and supportive environment, and your participation in this survey will help us work toward this goal. Your participation is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time without penalty or prejudice. If you choose not to participate in the survey, your decision will not affect your right to any of the services or resources provided by NEIU.

Your responses will be **ANONYMOUS**.

The survey is being administered by an independent organization, the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS). They will exclude any personal information, such as your name, email address, student or employee identification number and your IP address, from the data they send to our institution. We have also agreed to the organization's requirements for maintaining the security and confidentiality of the data they send us.

As a thank you for participating in the survey, you will have a chance to enter a drawing for a few prizes at the end of the survey.

The survey will be open until Nov. 29, 2024.

If you feel unsettled during or after the survey and would like to talk to someone about your personal experiences, please contact:

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
For information regarding eligibility and accessing EAP services, please visit ComPsych.com or call ComPsych toll-free at (833) 955-3400.

The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
Call or text: 988

Human Resources
hr-office@neiu.edu
Phone: (773) 442-5200

Take the survey here!

JOIN US FOR A
**MATH
HOLIDAY**

Party

5 DECEMBER

ACTIVITY HOUR

3-4PM

**MATH COMMUNITY CENTER
BBH 364**

FOOD

FRIENDS

FUN

See you there!



Anth 367: Cars & Vehicular Cultures

Winter 2025 / Online

From design, performance, and safety, the sociomaterial significance of motor vehicles is integral to modern life.

Whether a coming of age vessel or transportation technology, cars mobilize agency, often mediating feelings of nostalgia, fantasy, wonder, and even terror.

This **accelerated winter course** examines the global history, development, and diversity of car cultures.

Drawing from ethnographic research on vehicular subcultures and the automobile as a designed object, topics range from hot rods, land yachts, and e-cars, to traffic, rideshares, and autonomous vehicles.

Learning activities involve participating and observing people and cars, and a car advertisement analysis project.

Come take the ride!

SAVE THE DATE!

Chicago River Student Congress

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 • Northeastern Illinois University

Free Food. Free T-Shirt. Live Animals.

Join other like-minded students to celebrate the Chicago-Calumet River system. Discover its role as a living scientific laboratory and source of inspiration. Learn about college preparedness and career planning. Explore volunteer opportunities and jobs in the environment. Register to attend, present a workshop, display, poetry or river artwork!

Registration is FREE!

chicagoriver.org/education/student-congress



Friends of the Chicago River



ADD SUSTAINABILITY, GEOGRAPHY, AND MAPPING TO YOUR RESUME SKILLS



**Enroll in these Spring
2025 Classes!**
Open to all majors!



GES 374 Research Methods:

Hybrid M 7:05-9:45pm
(conduct a social science research project)

GES 345 Medical Geography:

Hybrid W 7:05-9:45pm
(spatial / ecologic aspects of disease)

GES 350 Climate Change: International Policy and Politics:

Hybrid T & TH 1:40-2:55pm
engaged learning boundary crossing
(climate policy, mitigation, adaptation)

GES 308 Conservation Psychology:

Hybrid T & TH 12:15-1:30pm
engaged learning boundary crossing
(env. values, attitudes, behavior)

GES 359 Environmental Planning:

TH 7:05-9:45pm
(land use, resource planning, tools for ecologically-sound planning)

GES 391 Intro to GIS:

Hybrid T 7:05-9:45pm
engaged learning boundary crossing
(mapping data, research, display)

GES 360 Environmental Justice and Activism:

Hybrid Fridays 9-11:50am
(equity, grassroots action, organizing)

GES 328 Wildlife Resource Management:

Saturday 9-11:15am
(values, conservation principles, policy)

GES 337 Cultural Geography:

Online
(cultural landscape of various world regions)

GES 390 Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing:

Online
(remotely detected data methods / interpretation)

NEED HELP? GES@NEIU.EDU

Apply for the **SUMMER MERIT SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications are due February 1st, 2025

The College of Arts and Sciences provides a limited number of Merit Tuition Scholarships for interested and deserving undergraduates (Second Bachelor's candidates are not eligible) within the College of Arts and Sciences. **These scholarships are generally granted for three to six credit hours and students must be enrolled at least half-time.** Scholarships will be granted on the basis of the student's intended major, status, intended Career/Educational Goals, transcripts and/or ACT/SAT scores, and letter of recommendation.

To be considered for selection, applicants must meet the following criteria

- Transfer and NEIU continuing students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25.
- Students who have earned 45 credit hours at NEIU must be declared majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Transfer students with over 45 total hours must declare their major in the College of Arts and Sciences by their second semester at NEIU.
- Entering Freshmen must be in the top 15% of their graduating class or have a minimum ACT score of 24 or SAT of 1110.

Applicants must submit a complete application including:

- The name and email address of a faculty member who has agreed to complete a faculty recommendation form.

This award may be withdrawn in instances of substantiated academic misconduct or other violations of University standards pertaining to proper student conduct.

Application Deadlines:

- **Fall:** May 15
- **Spring:** October 1
- **Summer:** February 1

The College Merit Tuition Scholarship Committee will review all applications and notify applicants approximately one month after the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Awards to prospective and declared majors in the College of Arts and Sciences are highly competitive with the College intent on awarding to the most deserving students.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Donate to

CUSP

What is CUSP?

CUSP stands for College Undergraduate Scholars Program. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is raising money to provide students with valuable research and creative opportunities they would not otherwise have. We empower students on the CUSP of success!

What does the CUSP do?

Each year, the College of Arts and Sciences funds dozens of student-faculty research projects and creative endeavors and sends our students to national conferences and exhibitions to present their work. Our students routinely win awards at these events, receiving recognition for their work and standing out from students from all over the nation.

What's the benefit?

These research and creative opportunities build confidence and capacity in our students and help them realize they can positively impact the world through the learning they are doing with College of Arts and Sciences faculty.

Why donate?

We want to create a sustainable funding stream to support student research projects, creative endeavors, student conference and exhibition travel, and more. With enough support, we can fund any project a student can dream up!

[Learn more about CUSP here](#)

[Donate here!](#)

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM

Giving Tuesday is almost here and we need your help!

You don't have to donate to help us meet our goal of raising \$150,000 to support the meaningful research and creative activities experiences for our students that we know launch them to success.

You can simply join our fundraising team and help spread the story and attract donors with our easy-to-use CUSP fundraising toolkit, which gives tips on using social media to share the story and provides student testimonials to share with your audiences. Our students are the best advocates in explaining why supporting them is a great return on investment!

As we approach Giving Tuesday on December 3rd, please consider helping out.

We have already raised \$38,000, AND we have a donor who will pledge \$5,000 if we can raise \$15,000 by the end of the year.

Let's do this! If we get all of you sharing our student stories and news of our campaign, we can easily reach our goal with everybody just raising a little bit! The toolkit explains it all and shows just how easy it is to help out.

So join the CUSP Campaign!

[Click here to access our fundraising toolkit!](#)

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Pre-Professional Advising information

CAS Website

Follow us on social media!



Click here to **SUBSCRIBE** to CAS Connections!