

Neosho County Community College is turning 80 and you are invited to the party! And it's going to be quite a party! Through the generosity of the NCCC Foundation, a separate entity that raises money for the College, the party is absolutely free!

We have a full day of activities planned, which includes cutting the ribbon at our new Arceneaux Family Baseball Complex! This new \$670,000 building was built with about \$500,000 from the out district fee fund and the rest through generous contributions by many, many people including a wonderful gift from the Arceneaux Family.

The out district fund comes from a special fee that we charge anyone who takes classes from NCCC and lives outside Neosho County. This fee is primarily used to update and expand the Chanute campus. It has paid for a new gym floor, renovated our nursing and science labs, added the softball facility and built a large part of the Ottawa Campus - just to name a few of its uses. All of the enrollment from locations that we serve outside our taxing area provide a nice amount of revenue that we use to make our campus better and achieve the Trustees' Facilities Master Plan. The baseball complex is just another example of this fee at work to make NCCC a better college.

For 80 years the people of Chanute and, after 1968, all of Neosho County have supported this college in order to raise the quality of life for everyone. In 1968 we opened the current campus of NCCC in Chanute, leaving behind the third floor of the high school where we had our humble beginning. NCCC named its first president that year – JC Sanders. NCCC has had five presidents before me, each has advanced our institution a bit further. I am very proud to be part of the select group given this awesome responsibility.

In the 1970s we expanded our service area to Franklin County and the northern half of Anderson County. There we built and opened new facilities and offered a wide range of programs first through a small campus and now with an award winning facility in Ottawa which opened in 2011.

We have grown from just a handful of students in 1936 to as many as 3,100 students located throughout Southeast Kansas through our many physical locations, and the world, thanks to our online campus. We have enrollment centers and classes in Independence, Lawrence, Pittsburg, and Garnett and at every high school in our service area and beyond. This year we added classes at Yates Center and coming soon to La Harpe.

We have taken this awesome responsibility and achieved some of the highest graduation and success rates in the state, created award winning programs, seen high achieving athletics, and have one of the highest first year salaries for graduates of any college or university in the state.

It has been 80 wonderful years of enriching the lives of our communities and our students. You have been a part of that success and we want to thank you. For all of our alumni, our supporters, our voters and taxpayers – this party is for you, to say thank you for helping so many students achieve their educational dreams.

There is something for everyone! Here is a list of the events, and it is all FREE:

- 1:00pm - Ribbon cutting of the baseball complex and inflatables for the kids are open
- 2:00pm - NCCC Baseball "World Series" – (the loser of the game has to paint the outfield fence so the teams are VERY motivated to win)
- 3:00pm - The bluegrass group The Oliphants will perform (near the Student Union)
- 4:00pm - Open house at the baseball complex. I think you'll be impressed!
- 5:00pm - Free T-Shirts while they last (near Student Union) We have about 1,000 shirts in various sizes. One per person please.
- Also at 5pm The 60's, 70's and 80's Rock group The Past Blasters take the outdoor stage near the Student Union
- 5:30pm - Free dinner inside the Student Union thanks in part by a generous donation by the Mih Family
- 7:30pm- FIREWORKS! Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a 15-20 minute fireworks display near the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Allen (Sorry to any pets in our neighborhood. My dogs hate fireworks.)
- 8:00pm - Free to the first 250 people is admission to NCCC Theatre's production of "Book of Days" in the NCCC Auditorium in Sanders Hall.

Wow! That's quite a party if you ask me! Special thanks goes to Ben Smith, Kyle Seufert, Loyd Builders and all of our subcontractors for getting the Baseball Complex ready on time for the party after the rainiest summer ever! Thank you to Claudia Christiansen and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, to the NCCC Foundation for support, and for the gift from the Mih Family for making this day possible. But mostly, thank you to all of NCCC's supporters for making our College what it is today.

Now let's party!

If you have any questions or comments about the college please send them to me at [binbody@neosho.edu](mailto:binbody@neosho.edu).