

Smoke-Free Campus (proposed policy)

Proposed Effective Date: August 1, 2009

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the level of exposure by students, employees, and the general public to environmental tobacco smoke. It is designed to regulate smoking on the campus and property of Northeastern Junior College to improve the public health of persons on college property. The U.S. Surgeon General Report of 1996, entitled "The Health Consequence of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke," concluded the following:

- Involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy non-smokers, and
- The simple separation of smokers and non-smokers within the same air space may reduce, but does not eliminate, the exposure of non-smokers to environmental tobacco smoke.
- The scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified second-hand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, a substance known to cause cancer in humans. The EPA does not recognize a safe level of exposure to Group A carcinogens.

Scope

This policy applies to all Northeastern Junior College employees, students, and visitors. This policy covers all college owned, leased, or operated buildings, property, and grounds under control of the college.

Definitions

The **college** is a "school" and "public educational facility" governed by the Community Colleges of Colorado System (CCCS) and the State of Colorado.

The **grounds of the college** include buildings, parking lots, athletic fields, lawns, and any other outdoor area under control of the college, including any vehicle located on such grounds.

Smoking material includes lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, electronic cigarette, hookah, or other product that can be smoked in any manner or form or that emits secondhand smoke, including ash, cigarette butts or filters, or cigar stubs.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Northeastern Junior College to comply with the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (in effect July 1, 2006), which prohibits smoking within all buildings of educational institutions. It is also the policy of the college to declare the entire college grounds and properties as a smoke-free campus. Therefore smoking is prohibited in buildings and vehicles on college property, as well as the entire grounds of the college.

Smoking is prohibited in each of the following enclosed areas:

- Enclosed areas designated as places of employment including but not limited to work areas, private offices, conference and meeting rooms, classrooms, lounges and cafeterias, hallways, restrooms, elevators, stairs, stairwells, residence hall rooms, and all other enclosed spaces and buildings.
- Vehicles owned, leased, or provided by the college.
- Privately owned vehicles when operated or parked on the grounds of the college.
- Equine facilities located at the Logan County Fairgrounds.
- The NJC Greenhouse.

Smoking is prohibited in each of the following outdoor areas:

- The entire grounds of the college.
- The seating and parking areas of college outdoor sports complexes or other entertainment venues where members of the general public may assemble.
- The Ropes Course, outdoor practice and competition equine arenas, college-owned and leased equine stables, NJC agricultural properties.

All college employees, students, and visitors must extinguish any smoking material prior to entering the grounds of the college.

Included in this policy is the prohibiting of the sale, sampling/distribution, advertisement/marketing, and promotions of all tobacco products on college property or at college-sponsored events.

Responsibilities and Enforcement

All members of the NJC community are responsible for observing the provisions of this policy and share responsibility for compliance. Any employee, student, or visitor violating the smoke-free policy will be asked to discontinue using the smoking product and will be provided with educational literature. Disciplinary measures would be reserved for repeat infractions or those that interfere with the College's academic or workplace needs. Ten dollar (\$10) fines and educational sanctions may be imposed on students for repeated violations. Supervisors will be responsible for managing this policy with their employees within their respective areas. Visitors who fail to comply with the policy may be prohibited from remaining on or returning to campus.

The Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (C.R.S 25-14) cites lawful provisions for general smoking restrictions in indoor areas and within 15 feet of building entrances (25-14-204). Violations of the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act are considered Class 2 Petty Offenses (25-14-208), as enforced by local law enforcement agencies.

Northeastern Junior College will assist with compliance by providing smoking cessation resource information and materials to assist staff and students in overcoming their reliance on and addiction to nicotine.

****DRAFT****

~~February 25, 2009; March 4, 2009; March 9, 2009;~~ March 25, 2009