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For Greene, experience counts



Northeastern, said Jack Greene, "still flies the flag of co-op and experiential learning very high." Greene's affiliation with Northeastern began 40 years ago, as a co-op student in the College of Criminal Justice; he's been dean since 1999, and now he begins a new role: vice provost for experiential education. [More>](#)

Telling stories, preserving history

The university's effort to keep Lower Roxbury's history alive has gathered steam after the hiring of a project coordinator with long ties to the community.

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Senate: Raise minimum funding for faculty development

Faculty senators on Wednesday discussed the size and allocation of professional developing funding for tenured and tenure-track professors. [More>](#)



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Faculty in the news

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- Law professor Richard Daynard talks with The Wall Street Journal about [Philip Morris' preparations for an aggressive global push](#).

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Northeastern, said Jack Greene, "still flies the flag of co-op and experiential learning very high."

He's proud to be maintaining that flagpole. Greene's affiliation with Northeastern began 40 years ago, as a co-op student in the College of Criminal Justice.



He's been dean of that college since 1999, and recently took the added post of special adviser to the provost on experiential education. Now the latter role is expanding, and Greene will become full-time vice provost for experiential education, coordinating both the logistics for and the academic research on integrating classroom learning with real-world experience.

"It's a very exciting opportunity — to try to link together the many experiential components of Northeastern," said Greene, who formally begins his new post in mid-February.

"Northeastern was firmly built on cooperative education. We expect that we will continue to have the lion's share of our work in the cooperative education arena. But there are other opportunities that can benefit from the relationships that cooperative education has created for us — with employers, with governments, with civic groups," he said.

Citing President Joseph Aoun's "keen" interest in international experiences, Greene said among his priorities will be working to create "experiential platforms in cities around the world." That means, he said, finding ways to connect co-op jobs with study-abroad or even distance-learning possibilities, potential faculty research centers, housing and even groups of alumni to provide social networks for students on site.

The current freshman class, Greene noted, is the first bound by the university's new core curriculum, which requires an experiential learning component. Co-op, except in certain cases, has always been voluntary, so "it's the first time that the university has stated that as a requirement."

Those students, in part, will help Greene decide the future of the university's experiential program. He said he will "engage our student body early and often and in as many ways as possible" to help set a course.

But he'll also be coordinating faculty efforts to research and define the benefits of experiential learning.

"President Aoun challenged the university ... to be the intellectual leader" on experiential learning, Greene said. That includes "building out models of learning, models of faculty development."

"There's a huge intellectual component to this process," he said. "This is not vocational (education) ... We're not training people for today's workplace. We are providing students with learning experiences so that they can survive in multiple jobs and careers that they will have over their lifetime."

Listen to a podcast of the Voice interview with Jack Greene at <http://www.northeastern.edu/neuhome/videos/jackgreene.mp3>.

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The university's effort to keep Lower Roxbury's history alive has gathered steam after the hiring of a project coordinator with long ties to the community.

Lolita Parker Jr., a photographer and documentary-film researcher, said she has already collected 15

oral histories from longtime residents of the neighborhood — sometimes roughly mapped as Harrison Avenue in the southeast to the MBTA tracks in the northwest, and Massachusetts Avenue on the east to Melnea Cass Boulevard on the west.

And she has also been collecting what she calls "material culture" — tangible remains of the neighborhood's storied past. "Some people might call it trash-picking," Parker said, laughing. "I'm an above-ground archaeologist."

The Lower Roxbury Black History Project spring from a meeting university President Joseph Aoun held with Roxbury clergy early in his presidency. They urged him to commit Northeastern to capturing the neighborhood history that was slipping away as residents died or moved out.

Northeastern administrators and faculty joined with neighborhood residents and Rep. Byron Rushing to begin planning the project. Parker was hired just before Thanksgiving.

A southern California native, she was hired just out of high school. to compile oral histories of people displaced by a highway project.

Parker said she always liked listening "while the old people were talking" in her family — and her future career was further boosted by her grandfather's and father's interest in photography and her father's hobby of building his own audio equipment. "I came from a long line of nerds," she said.

She attended the now-closed Garland Junior College in Boston in the mid 1970s, and while there, accompanied a classmate who was doing work in the Orchard Park area of Roxbury. "I had never seen the inner city before. I was a country girl," Parker said. "Here I was, standing at a burned-out shell, with trash around me, and I could almost touch the Prudential. I wondered, why does it look like this here?"

When she returned to Boston in 1993, after film school in California, and got a job researching a documentary on Dudley Square, she found the answer: "There were political and economic reasons why neighborhoods looked like they looked," she said.

She started a photography business in Boston, capturing neighborhood events and scenes, and in 2001 returned to the film world to help



research a documentary on the Madison Park Development Corp. Through that project she met Roxbury photographer Vincent Haynes. "I helped him digitize his old photos; he told me stories and took me on drives to show me what used to be where," Parker recalled.

She learned that Roxbury "looked poor, but it was very rich in social networks and community spirit."

Haynes' brother, the Rev. Michael Haynes, a longtime Roxbury community activist and former state legislator, helped create the Lower Roxbury history project and offered the invocation at Aoun's inauguration last spring.

Parker said her work history and breadth of contacts in the community, along with her skills — "cultural sensitivity, interviewing technique, research technique" — make her uniquely qualified to coordinate the history project.

Beyond that, Parker said, "I was called to do this work. I'll do whatever it takes to get this story told."

(in photo Lolita Parker Jr. with the Rev. Michael Haynes)

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Faculty senators on Wednesday discussed the size and allocation of professional development funds.

The Senate passed, 24-11 with one abstention, a resolution calling for a \$2,000 "floor" for all tenured and tenure-track faculty.



Economics professor Steven Morrison, speaking for the Senate Agenda Committee, said the measure would be "helpful for morale."

Engineering professor Stephen McKnight echoed the morale argument, and noted that request for funds would still require serious purpose and administrative approval. "This is not mad money," he said.

Michael Vaughn, professor of physics, said faculty professional development "is not an option. It's part of the job."

But James Stellar, dean of arts and sciences, said his college grants each faculty member \$1,000 already, and argued that his system of allowing department chairs the discretion to allocate additional funds — another \$1,000 per faculty member is granted to the department — is fair and reasonable.

Some department chairs, including David Massey of mathematics and William Sanchez of counseling and applied psychology, also supported the system of letting chairs decide how best to allot development funds. "They trust me that I'll have the right discretion," Massey said of his faculty.

Carol Hafner, professor of computer and information science, pointed out that many faculty receive multimillion-dollar funding and wouldn't need the \$2,000 fund. And given budget constraints, she said, "A dean doesn't have a huge amount of money to throw around."

Provost Ahmed Abdelal, who chairs the Senate, said there are "close to 650" tenured and tenure-track faculty, of whom about 200 are "significantly funded" through grants or other means.

"So one-third of the faculty doesn't need this money," he said. "We really don't have so much money that we should be spending money when it's not needed."

The Senate amended the proposal to remove a sentence calling for the \$2,000 minimum regardless of other funding sources.

Gerald Herman, assistant professor of history, said the university has for many years budgeted \$1,000 per faculty member for development, and called the \$2,000 figure "an inflation adjustment."

Richard Daynard, professor of law, said that while department chairs may prefer to disburse funds to up-and-coming or highly productive

faculty, others need it as well. "If you think they're deadwood, you don't want them getting deader and deader," he said.

Nursing professor Carol Glod, who chairs the Senate Agenda Committee, said that while the university has "a limited budget ... I feel this is a top priority."

The proposal heads next to President Joseph Aoun for consideration.

(in photo Professor Steven Morrison)

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