

President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees
Dr. Fritz Erickson
Friday, April 29, 2016

Since the NMU Board of Trustees last met in February, here are some of the accomplishments and activities at Northern Michigan University.

Congrats in Order

- I haven't had a chance yet to share with the board that Marsha Lucas of the Chemistry Department has accepted the position of pre-professional advisor, assisting our pre-med, pre-dental, pre-chiropractic and pre-PA students.
 - Marsha has a great passion for helping students and she has a wealth of experience in the medical field. Northern is extremely fortunate to have a person with her background and experience to guide our pre-professional students.
 - Marsha assumes the position on May 1. We thank Dr. Rob Winn for being the pre-professional advisor for the past four months.
- Also we congratulate Chris Kibit, hospitality and tourism management professor, who was named a semifinalist for the Hermann G. Rusch Chef's Achievement Award, presented by the American Culinary Federation.
- We have the most amazing food on this campus – whether in our dining halls, our food service programs, or our Hospitality Management program.

Facility Upgrades

- The first phase of the Forest Roberts Theatre renovation was completed in time for the final production of the year, *The Secret Garden*, to take place there. Much of the first phase work involved upgraded lighting and mechanical systems. Phase 2, which will modernize the lobby, begins this summer.
- The cosmetology salon also had a facelift as well. Its upgrades included new lighting, air-handling systems, individualized workstations and styling chairs, as well as manicure-pedicure workstations. There is also a new remote-controlled demonstration camera with high-definition, wall-mounted monitor that allows an instructor to show a procedure through zooming.

Strategic Planning

- The Strategic Planning and Budgeting Advisory Committee has been created and has started meeting. It is a large group—about 40 people – that provides a broad variety of campus-wide representation (faculty, staff, administrators, students).
- The Program Incentive Fund has begun its work. To date, one initiative has been approved for funding, one is near approval, and three more are in the pipeline.
 - Academic Affairs and a committee of faculty are overseeing this process.

Miscellaneous

- The logo launch went exceptionally smoothly. There were many people involved in the logo project and I want to publicly acknowledge the hundreds, if not thousands, of hours involved in redesigning the new academic and athletic marks. The public response to date has been

overwhelmingly positive.

- Typically in this President's Report, I highlight at least one athletics achievement. I'm not going to do that right now other than to say that like our teams did this winter, the spring Wildcat athletic teams are doing very well. I will give a more in-depth report on their achievements at the next board meeting as they will have completed their seasons by then.

Finally – Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

- Shirley Brozzo of the Multicultural Education and Resources Center helped Northern students create a dynamic, interactive campaign called "Remove the Label" campaign, which has received a lot of positive attention on campus.
 - The campaign was designed to raise awareness about the damaging impact of stereotypes. It encouraged the campus community to assess people based on their individual traits rather than categorize them according to negative assumptions, misinformation or unfair generalizations.
 - I'd like you to watch a 1 ½ minute video that explains the campaign.
 - <http://www.nmu.edu/removethelabel>