

**President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees**  
**Dr. Kerri Schuiling**  
**Friday, December 10, 2021**

Despite the ongoing pandemic, it's been a busy fall semester, with many accomplishments and recognition of our University.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Northern honored Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 11 with a Land Acknowledgement ceremony. The multi-language sign, which is located near the Thomas Fine Arts and McClintock Buildings, recognizes that our campus is located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibway, Odawa, and Potawatomi people. It was designed by Reese Carter, an illustration and Native American Studies major. Thank you to Dan Truckey, who chaired the committee responsible for the development of the ceremony and sign.

**BEING RECOGNIZED:** I'd like to congratulate a few individuals for recent recognitions.

- Harger Boal, coordinator of Disability Services, earned a Director's Challenge Coin from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for his service to veterans at NMU in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. In nominating Boal, NMU Veterans' Services Coordinator Mike Rutledge said the shift to 100% online instruction when the pandemic started was challenging for many veterans. Some had not been in a regular classroom for several years and had to suddenly adjust to a virtual learning environment. Mike said Harger realized many veterans have undisclosed disabilities and offered his services to any veteran who was struggling without requiring proof of a diagnosed disability. This resulted in NMU seeing only a minimal number of veterans withdrawing from coursework – much less than many Michigan schools. Thank you for your work, Harger.
- English Professor Robert Whalen received a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support *George Herbert: Complete Works*, now under contract with Oxford University Press. This is the project's fourth NEH award. As the project's co-editor, Rob oversees an international team of textual scholars, literary critics, and Latinists, including a 14-member board of expert advisers.
- Professor Stacy Boyer-Davis was selected to receive the 2021 Accountant Teaching and Excellence Award from the Michigan Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The award recognizes educators in the profession for their crucial role in growing the CPA pipeline. Boyer-Davis was recognized for her efforts in developing NMU's 4+1 MBA program, which allows students to sit for the CPA Exam and earn their MBA in five years.
- Senior Natalia Correa has earned an American Chemical Society Scholar Award in the amount of \$5,000. The renewable scholarship is given to undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups majoring in chemical sciences. Natalia is believed to be NMU's first-ever ACS Scholar recipient. Correa is majoring in medicinal plant chemistry.

**NEW PROGRAMS:**

- Northern's Sustainability Hub for Innovation and the Environment (SHINE) recently announced a new partnership with Grand Rapids-based nonprofit People First Economy. This project involved students in Dr. Jes Thompson's Social Responsibility business course providing technical assistance and sustainability expertise to area businesses. The goal is to help businesses implement positive and measurable place-based impacts related to diverse workforces, sustainable supply chains, carbon footprint reduction, environmental stewardship, and community impact. The program is funded in part by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Ideally, the project will involve 15-20 businesses each semester. Currently, Donckers has applied. It is likely to become the first B Corp-certified business in the U.P. and one of only 19 in Michigan.
- NMU's Center for Rural Health, directed by Elise Bur, has received in excess of \$315,000 through grants and direct donations since July 2021. Her current focus is on a two-year planning grant to develop a feasibility study, business plan, and capital campaign plan for a light produce processing facility in either Marquette or Alger counties which help address food insecurity amongst UP residents. At the same time, it will build upon the economy of our farmers because it will increase how much they can grow because it provides the ability to freeze and process their products (they will not have to immediately sell products once they are harvested).

**IN ATHLETICS:**

- The new women's wrestling program began competition in November. Coach Tony DeAnda, who coached at Northern when there was a women's freestyle wrestling program as part of the United States Olympic Education Center, has 10 student-athletes on his squad this year.
- We're excited about how well Northern's hockey program is doing right now. The Wildcats swept Minnesota-Duluth, who came into last weekend's series ranked No. 1 in the nation, by scores of 5-4 and 5-2 at the Berry Events Center last weekend. Northern has now gone 8-1-1 for the past 10 games.