

President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees
Dr. Kerri Schuiling
Friday, April 29, 2022

I'd like to start by highlighting several recent student accomplishments.

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Caro Els, a graduate student in Health and Human Performance, was the winner of Northern's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) graduate student competition in February. As NMU's winner, she competed at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools 3MT competition a few weeks ago where she advanced to the last round as one of eight finalists out of 43 participants. Caro's presentation was titled, "Maximum External Load During Max Squat Protocol with Different Abdominal Stabilizing Maneuvers."
- Senior economics major Max Steele was selected to speak at the Association for Private Enterprise Education Conference in April, as part of the Young Scholars Program. His presentation was titled, "A 10-year Recovery Analysis of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in Michigan's Upper Peninsula," which examined the U.P.'s economic recovery after the Great Recession. Max partnered with Assistant Professor Joshua Ingber on his research. Max also recently published a paper with Dr. Weronika Kusek, associate professor of Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences, about housing price dynamics in the U.P.
- Three chemistry majors recently presented their research at the national American Chemistry Society Conference in San Diego, which had 12,000 attendees this year. Presenting were seniors Gino Pacificio, Tyler Watson, Haylee Kuehl-Weisser.
- Sophomore political science major Gwendolyn Feamster was one of 25 selected from more than 200 applicants to serve on the Michigan Department of State's Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force. The task force members will serve as civic engagement liaisons for their campuses and the Secretary of State's office throughout 2022. Their role is to inform students about voting rights, promote awareness of the newly redistricted electoral maps, and combat and dispel election misinformation.

FACULTY AWARDS:

- Six Northern undergraduate students and one graduate student are participating in cutting-edge chemistry research with Professor Yu "Leo" Liu, who is among 14 faculty members nationwide who recently received two-year summer research grants from Organic Synthesis Inc. Professor Liu's project advances green chemistry by eliminating the use of metal-based catalysts, instead using a more environmentally friendly solvent: water.
- Congratulations to Dr. Paul Mann on being the recipient of the 2022 Stephen Young and Tricia Kinley Distinguished Faculty Award, which is NMU's top honor for significant professional contributions to teaching, scholarship and service. He will be recognized at tomorrow's commencement ceremony. Dr. Mann is the associate dean and director of the School of Clinical Sciences. In addition to his work as an administrator and teacher, Paul is a member of the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center and is involved in glioblastoma research. His major focus is developing rapid molecular diagnostic methods for glioma biomarkers.

Throughout the pandemic, Paul has taken on an expanded role as part of Northern's COVID Response Team and COVID Advisory Team. His expertise has been vital to assisting with the University's many mitigation efforts.

Paul joined the NMU faculty in 2014 after 27 years in the U.S. Army where he served in various lab management and educational assignments. He holds a doctorate in pathobiology and biomedical studies, a certificate in clinical laboratory science, and a bachelor's degree in chemistry. We sincerely thank Paul for his work at Northern over the years, especially during the pandemic.

- Additional 2021-22 faculty award recipients are:
 - **Diana Lafferty**, Biology, Excellence in Teaching Award
 - **Grace Chaillier**, Center for Native American Studies, and **Kathryn Johnson**, History, Excellence in Part-time Faculty Teaching Award
 - **Christi Edge**, Education, Leadership and Public Service; and **Josh Sharp**, Biology, Excellence in Scholarship Award
 - **Ryan Stock**, Earth, Environmental Geographical Sciences, Faculty Emerging Leadership Award
 - **Melissa Romero**, Nursing, Excellence in Online Teaching Award.

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES:

- NMU held the first-of-its-kind Great Lakes Cannabis Education Conference on April 19. The conference highlighted the best practices in cannabis teaching and research, summarized the industry's current state and developing trends, and provided insights from employers and expert on skills and competencies required to succeed in the industry. There were more than 125 attendees, including many NMU students.
- NMU's social work students recently had a rare opportunity to participate alongside faculty members and community clinicians in a full-day Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) training on campus. More than half of the 45 attendees at the training were NMU students and several recent graduates of Northern's Master of Social Work program also participated.

ALUMNI SHOUTOUT:

- I want to recognize three recent graduates whose Marquette-based startup, Kall Morris Inc., known as KMI, won the \$10,000 grand prize in a national virtual pitch competition put on by Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc., for research on aerospace technology. The KMI founders are Adam Kall and Austin Morris, both of the Class of 2018, and Troy Morris, Class of 2016. Their company plans to build a series of sustainable orbital spacecraft to collect small pieces of space debris. Congrats to that Wildcat trio.

IN ATHLETICS:

- Congratulations to the NMU National Training Site weightlifting team that won the University National Championship coed division title for a second consecutive year. National champions on the men's side were Lukas Zielke, Gage Senty, and Ryland Shriver. On the women's side, Ella Holden was the national runner-up at 55 kilograms.

- In other athletics news, at the conclusion of the women's basketball season, Coach Troy Mattson announced his retirement in June after 17 years leading the program and 40 years with NMU Athletics. In addition to leading the women's program for nearly two decades, Troy was the associate head coach of the NMU's men's program from 1994-2005 and a member of that program's coaching staff since 1988. He was also the women's tennis team coach from 1994-2003. And, he was a point guard for the Wildcats from 1982-85. As the women's basketball leader since 2005, Troy guided the Wildcats to 240 victories, second most in program history. His squads earned three NCAA Tournament berths and qualified for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament for the past 11 straight years. Congratulations to Coach Troy Mattson on an outstanding NMU career.

MENTAL HEALTH

- NMU campus is undergoing a mental health assessment by former Trustee, Mr. Jim Haveman. He is already here and has started. He is dedicated to NMU and will bring recommendations forward on what is best for the entire campus community.