

President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees

Dr. Kerri Schuiling

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NATIONAL RECOGNITION:

- **Northern was named the top Division 2 school in the nation in the 2022 Higher Education Social Media Engagement Report released by Rival IQ.** The social media analysis company said NMU dominated D2 overall by ranking 5th on Facebook, 9th on both Instagram and Twitter and 12th on Tik Tok through “prolific posting and high-quality content.”

Congratulations to Chief Marketing Officer Derek Hall and the entire University Marketing and Communication staff, especially the student media team that constantly puts up engaging content on all of Northern's many social media channels.

- **The American Indian Science and Engineering Society has again selected Northern for its list of Top 200 Colleges for Indigenous Students.** The list appears in the group's annual Special College Issue of its quarterly magazine, *Winds of Change*. Congratulations to NMU's Center for Native American Studies faculty and staff, and interim CNAS director Dr. Marty Reinhardt, as well as the School of Education, Leadership and Public Service for once again being recognized for providing support and opportunities for our indigenous students.
- **NMU was among 18 higher education institutions nationwide featured in an *Outside Magazine* article titled “These Schools Can Help You Break into the Outdoor Industry.”** The article discussed the demand for future adventure-industry workers and highlighted NMU's Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management Programs. You may recall that Northern added a new graduate-level program to its offerings in this area that began this fall: *Administration of Outdoor Recreation and Nature-Based Tourism*. Congratulations to the Department of Health and Human Performance.

STUDENTS BEING RECOGNIZED: I'd like to highlight four NMU students today --

- Medicinal plant chemistry major **Rev Derek Baluyut [BALL-you-at]** has been chosen as a **2022-23 American Chemical Society Scholar**, and with that designation receives a renewable scholarship of up to \$5,000 per academic year.

The award goes to undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups in the chemical sciences, majoring in chemistry-related disciplines, and intending to pursue chemistry-related careers. Over the past summer, Rev participated in the nationally acclaimed Research-Intensive Summer Experience at Rutgers University, where outstanding undergraduates from diverse backgrounds engaged in cutting-edge research. Rev is a first-generation student, Army combat veteran, Filipino-American and McNair scholar.

- Criminal justice major **Jersey Hoover** was one of five college students statewide selected for the **2022 John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship** for engagement of others in outdoors activities and natural resources. After graduating, she plans to attend the Michigan Conservation Officer Training Academy and join the state as a conservation officer.
- Senior **Chloe Holt** received a **Student Honor Award from the Society for Health and Physical Educators of Michigan**. The award recognizes students who excel in scholarship for both professional and community service. Chloe is pursuing secondary education degrees in health and physical education as well as mathematics. She hopes to become a high school teacher of math, physical education and health in inner-city, low-income schools.

- **Northern’s 2022 Student Veteran of the Year is Nick St. Onge**, a junior outdoor leadership and management major. While with the U.S. Army, Nick was stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., in the 10th Mountain Division and 10th Combat Aviation Battalion where he was the communication security custodian as well as the physical security inspector.

His military awards include the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terror Service Medal. Nick is currently the president of the NMU Student Veterans of America chapter, is a member of the Marquette County Veterans Alliance, and he volunteers with the Marquette County Search and Rescue Team and with the non-profit, community food initiative “Grow K.I.” It is Northern’s privilege to recognize Nick’s past military service and current community service.

CURRENT NMU INITIATIVES:

- **COLD CASE CLASS:** Northern offered a cold case course this semester, assisting the Michigan State Police in re-examining a decades-old U.P. homicide. Students digitized all of the case materials. To be admitted to the course, students needed to apply and be selected, and successfully complete background checks.

They all had to agree to, work in a secure area within the Criminal Justice Dept in order to participate in the course. The course was very well received by students and law enforcement. Next semester a new student cohort will examine another U.P. cold case. NOTE: The first Cold Case Course was offered in 2011 by then Department Head Dale Kapla. Other universities are offering these types of courses and the result is some cold cases are being solved, or at least, new clues are being discovered.

- **OUTDOOR INNOVATION CENTER:** Northern is one of four project partners awarded a \$700,000 Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the creation and management of the Marquette Outdoor Venture Innovation Center – or the MOV Center. The Center will accelerate the growth of small businesses in the outdoor recreation industry and establish a talent pipeline for high-quality, new-economy outdoor recreation jobs. The Innovate Marquette SmartZone wrote and submitted the grant, but we are pleased to be one of the grant partners as the MOV Center will involve Invent@NMU, the Sustainability Hub for Innovation and the Environment (SHINE), and several academic departments in providing applied learning experiences and interdisciplinary credentials relevant for outdoor industry careers.
- **RECORD-SETTING RECRUITMENT EVENT:** Our annual Presidential Scholars Competition set an attendance record with 562 competitors this fall, surpassing the previous high of 457. A shout-out to the Admissions staff for the excellent job they do each year putting on this event, and to the hundreds of faculty, staff and student volunteers who meet with the competitors and their families.

ALUMNI SHOUTOUT: I want to recognize four alumni on recent accomplishments --

- First, congratulation to **Cody Mayer**, a 2020 NMU graduate and former ASNMU president, who was recently **named mayor of the City of Marquette**. At age 25, he is the youngest to serve as Marquette mayor.
- Another former ASNMU representative, **Logan Hartz will have work he did during his University of Tulsa Law School internship end up on the desk of the president of the United States**. Logan completed clemency applications for four clients serving federal prison terms for nonviolent cannabis crimes. His work involved talking with the inmates to get their stories, doing legal research and writing a memorandum for each client attached to an application for clemency that goes to the U.S. Pardon Attorney and then to the U.S. President.

- Alumna **Roxanne Daust** received the **2022 Evergreen Award of Marquette County**, given to individuals who are dedicated to supporting and mentoring women and girls. Roxanne worked her way up from teller to president of Range Bank. Her 2017 appointment as president made her Range Bank's first female chair and chief executive officer in 131 years. She also serves as a member of NMU's Business Advisory Council. We thank her for her ongoing support of NMU and congratulate her on this honor.
- 2012 graduate **Megan Persons** is one of the *Grand Rapids Business Journal's* “40 Under 40” award recipients this year, honoring dynamic young professionals who have achieved personal success and are making significant civic contributions to West Michigan.
- 2014 graduate **Matthew Bizoe [BYE-zoe]** was chosen one of 16 individuals selected by the **Michigan Arts and Culture Council for its 2022-23 cohort of Rising Leaders**. Megan is the enrollment equity coordinator for Grand Rapids Public Schools and is very involved in community organizations. Matthew is the marketing manager for Krasl [Crawls] Art Center in Saint Joseph, Mich., and is responsible for developing marketing strategies for exhibitions, education, and events, including the nationally recognized Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff.

IN ATHLETICS: We always enjoy our Wildcat sports and this fall four teams did particularly well.

- The **cross-country team** finished 13th of 31 teams at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championship, marking the programs 13th consecutive top 15 regional finish. That’s quite a streak.
- The **women’s soccer team** made second NCAA Tournament appearance, losing a close 1-0 game to Maryville University. NMU was 13-4-5 for the year and GLIAC Tournament runners-up. Congratulations to them.
- The **volleyball squad** was one of 64 teams selected for the NCAA Division II Tournament. NMU bowed to the Midwest Region’s top-seeded team, Quincy University 3-0 in the first round. The ‘Cats were 23-9 on the year and finished second in the GLIAC for the regular season.
- And, for a second straight year, the Northern women’s **Club Rugby Team** finished third at the National Collegiate Rugby Championships – Small College Division. This year NMU beat St. Scholastica 58-7 in the third-place game after losing to eventual national champ Endicott College 31-19 in the semifinal contest.

The NMU squad was greeted in Houston, Texas – the tournament site – by a group of NMU alumni there to cheer them on. Congratulations to the team and coaches, and thanks to Alumni Board of Directors member Kurt VanWormer, who helped to organize the Green and Gold cheering section.

SENDOFFS: We send heartfelt best wishes to two groups --

- **NATIONAL GUARD:** Best wishes to the nearly 100 local National Guard members being deployed to Kuwait, including 30 who are NMU students. A deployment ceremony was held at the Superior Dome last Saturday. They will be kept in our thoughts in the coming months.
- **MIDYEAR GRADUATES:** And a sincere congratulations to our more than 550 midyear graduates, including almost 400 who are participating in Saturday’s commencement ceremony. We the faculty, staff and administrators of NMU are proud of each graduate and wish our graduates great success in all their future endeavors.