

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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ENROLLMENT UPDATE:

Overall, the headcount for Fall 2023 is up +3.3% (+227 over Fall 2022) to 7,197. Student Credit Hours are also strong overall, up + 2.1.

Strong **New First-time Freshman** class of 1,542 (+135, +9.6%). **New First-time Transfers** also up +14.0% (+54). Combined with other undergraduate segments, the total UG class is up +2.3% (+150).

Graduate population up +14.4% (+77)

Global Campus is up considerably at +46.4% (+248, n=782) driven largely by increases in the Applied Workplace Leadership program from grant-funded educational opportunities made available to Michigan teachers.

Our **1st to 3rd semester retention rates** also saw important gains coming in at 75.8% which is an increase of +2.5 points over last year (Fall 2022 1st to 3rd rate was 73.3%).

Reports from around the state find that:

- 5 of the 14 other Michigan public universities have enrollment increases; 6 report decreases and one reports flat enrollment.
- A few of those who are up are also benefitting from the Talent Together and Grow Your Own state programs (CMU/down but down less than past years, LSSU/flat, Michigan-Flint/reporting up, Wayne State/haven't reported; privates – Alma, Adrian, Aquinas and Davenport)

NMU's TUITION ADVANTAGE UPDATE:

56 students received NMU's Tuition Advantage for the fall – 19 from the UP and 37 from downstate – receiving a collective \$48,000 for this semester. A reminder that students had to be Michigan Achievement Scholarship recipients to qualify for the Tuition Advantage, which works as final gap funding.

The 19 UP students had grade point averages that ranged from 2.27 to 4.03 with an average of 3.13 while the downstate students had a range of 1.92 to 4.07 for a 3.29 average. Overall, the average GPA was 3.20.

When we look at our institutional aid, the primary need-based grant program is our NMU Board of Trustees Grant of which Northern awarded \$694,698 this fall. This number will climb throughout the year as aid is finalized for students entering at various points of the academic year.

PILLAR PRIORITIES:

Each pillar leader has been asked to work on a **priority project** for their area that can be completed/implemented within this academic year. The pillar priority projects are:

Academic Affairs – implementing a three-phase project to create an **inclusive campus devoid of barriers** to meaningful educational and work experiences.

Finance and Administration – completing upcoming **sustainable, student-centered campus infrastructure** projects.

Northern Student Experience – designing a **more connected commuter community**.

People, Culture and Wellbeing – developing **greater diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) on campus, expanding professional development opportunities for employees, and finding new ways of promoting wellbeing for all.**

Student Affairs and Success – **redesigning NMU’s advising program**

SOME GENERAL UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Northern is in the process of launching two leadership searches: **Provost and Assistant Vice President – Diversity and Inclusion**. Both are using executive search firms to assist with the searches, although they are different firms for each search. Finalists for both positions are expected to be on campus mid-fall semester with selections made by the end of the semester. The posting for the AVP/DI will be public the week of Sept. 11; the provost search is in the final stages of updating the position description.
- Northern’s Department of Psychological Science just received a **\$413,000 National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation award** to facilitate human neuroscience research that could transform the field. NMU previously worked with an electroencephalogram (EEG) system with 64 electrodes that can be positioned on the scalp to record electrical activity emitted by the brain. With the NSF award, NMU will acquire two high-density EEG systems with 256 electrodes each. The research slated to be done with the EEG systems could have implications for those with depression, anxiety or addiction disorders.
- As part of Northern's commitment to sustainability, NMU Dining Services has partnered with Partridge Creek Farm and its sister company, Partridge Creek Compost, to divert food waste from the university for use in creating compost. It is **NMU’s first large-scale composting program**.
- Northern will be making the **draft of its carbon neutrality by 2050 plan available to the campus community and public in early October for feedback**. Once the feedback is reviewed, the plan will be revised, as needed, before being presented for official approval later this academic year.
- **Academic Affairs division has asked the Center for Teaching and Learning to put together an AI work group** to advise NMU entities on best practices and strategies to stay abreast of, or ideally ahead of, the evolving landscape of AI as it applies to higher education.
- NMU’s **Cosmetology program debuted this fall a new natural hair cultivation certificate** this fall so that students will be prepared to provide services for all hair types when they start working in professional salons. The program aligns with NMU's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and has been an ongoing student need.
- **NMU ranks fourth among small public schools nationwide that have been designated 2023-24 Military Friendly Schools** by VIQTORY Media. Northern is making its **sixth-consecutive appearance in the Top 10**, and is the only Michigan institution to achieve that upper tier within the category.

- **Northern took over Mackinac Island on August 18-20 with its Arts and Athletics Showcase.** The NMU women's volleyball and soccer teams competed against Central Michigan and Northwoods, respectively, while students and faculty from NMU's theater and dance program performed a Broadway Showcase at the Mission Point Resort Theatre and a Wildcat Spotlight Variety Show. A successful weekend.
- **Northern begins its work to update its mission and vision statements, complete the process of moving the ongoing work of the interim strategic plan focus areas into university operations, and to develop a new strategic plan this semester.** One major event planned for this fall is a community dinner in November where external campus stakeholder will be asked their ideas of what Northern should do and be in the future.