

March 2, 2023

NMU Campus Community,

It was hard to hear this afternoon's news about [Finlandia University](#) (FinnU) in Hancock making the decision to close. As you can imagine this was not an easy decision for the University to come to, and I'm sure you join me when I say Northern community members will do all that we can to support the 400 or so FinnU students and 170 faculty and staff.

Finlandia has asked Northern and other institutions to partner in its teach-out endeavors and we have readily agreed to do so. Northern and Finlandia are in the process of signing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for NMU to do the following regarding the teach-out partnership:

- Extend guaranteed admission to qualified Finlandia students;
- Have NMU admissions counselors work directly with FinnU students, providing them personalized attention to evaluate and support their individual needs regarding academic program planning and course registration. A [webpage](#) for FinnU students to access information on how to receive this guidance has been created;
- Have colleges and academic departments address students' specific needs regarding NMU graduation requirements for FinnU students close to degree completion;
- Work with the Higher Learning Commission to navigate the accreditation aspects of the teach-out partnership.

Finlandia offers several programs that overlap with NMU programs, including nursing, criminal justice, psychology, and business. We will work with students in FinnU programs not offered at Northern, including physical therapy assistant, sports management and healthcare management, to review NMU alternatives that may be a good fit.

Students who participate in the teach-out with Northern will ultimately earn an NMU degree. We'll work with flexibility to ensure both the integrity of an NMU degree and the time invested in studies.

Academic Affairs will coordinate most of the tasks outlined in the MOU. The contact for questions is Leslie Warren, Interim Associate Provost (906-227-2920, lwarren@nmu.edu).

I'll thank everyone in advance for welcoming Finlandia students into the NMU community. If you have colleagues at Finlandia, I encourage you to reach out to them to

see in what other ways NMU might be able to help with this tremendously difficult upcoming transition.

Brock Tessman, NMU President