President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees
Dr. Fritz Erickson
Friday, February 19, 2016

Since the NMU Board of Trustees last met in December, here are some of the accomplishments and activities at Northern Michigan University.

Strategic Planning and Realignment

- Academic Investment Fund ($1 million) – Academic Affairs has developed a process for submitting proposals that has been vetted through several faculty groups. Will be announced to the campus soon.

- Faculty of Jacobetti Complex programs were asked to do a review of programs and growth opportunities by February 11. They have completed that review and have sent me a report with several recommendations that the executive leadership is now considering.

- We are in the process of selecting our Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee and providing that group an outline of its responsibilities.

- Are scheduling a Town Hall Forum for after spring break to discuss all the various initiatives.

Diversity Recruiting

- Jessica Cruz began on February 1 as NMU's new chief diversity and inclusion officer.
  - Meeting the campus community
  - Looking at national and statewide minority student population trends, and developing strategies for NMU
  - Will travel with the Native American Student Association on its spring trip bus tour to U.P. high schools to share Native experience and promote NMU
    - Trip similar to Black Student Union trip to Detroit and Chicago last fall – that netted 42 applications
- Students and staff doing follow-up with the 42 applicants this winter.

NMU in the Community

- NMU geography students have designed and launched a recycling survey that was included in Marquette utility bills, as part of an effort to work with the City of Marquette to gather information on community recycling knowledge and habits, and then to make recommendations for improvement.

- NMU held an interest meeting for the idea of a CommUniversity Grants Office with area non-profit organizations in January.
  - Great meeting. Lots of interest. Lots of ideas. Lots of questions about the details.
  - We are continuing the conversation.

- NMU's outdoor recreation leadership management program has received a grant to explore sustainable eco-tourism in Alger County
  - Professors Scott Jordan and David Kronk and their students will examine the existing nature-based tourism in Alger and investigate how the creation of a Sustainable Eco-tourism Alliance Organization could provide economic benefits.

- Recently NMU has held two job fairs, an open house at Jacobetti Complex, and a month-long series of financial aid workshops in central U.P. high schools.

- NMU Alumni Association helped to coordinate a warming tent at last week's U.P. 200 and that was extremely well received by the community.
  - Sub-zero temps
  - Great chance for me and other administrators and staff to meet alumni and community members
  - Good exposure for Northern

University events

- Last weekend started the weeklong celebration of NMU's WinterFest.
  - Have been different activities each day and night.
    - Things like human sled-dog races, airband competition.

- Town Hall Forum held on February 11 to get an update on the university's Transparency Project, which is part of NMU's accreditation process of continuous improvement.
  - Project committee getting great feedback and ideas on ways to improve NMU's processes and procedures regarding campus-wide decision-making transparency and community
  - Thank you to Sook and Thomas for doing Transparency Project interviews with committee members

- Wildcat Weekend – Saturday, March 19
  - One of top student recruitment events
  - We expect about 200 prospective students and 700-800 family members
  - Held twice a year – once in fall, once in winter
  - Attendees get introduced to campus, meet with financial aid staff, visit academic departments where they talk with current students and faculty, and attend an NMU and tour the city of Marquette

- 23rd Annual "Learning to Walk Together" Traditional Pow Wow, March 12, sponsored by the Native American Student Association with assistance from the Center for Native American Studies

Important University Anniversaries

- Invent @NMU Reception – 1 Year Anniversary in October
  - Nearly 150 ideas have come through the door, 25 products in production/research
  - Lauded by Governor, honored by Marquette's 40 Below Group with the Next Generation Best Place to Work Award
  - Featured as part of the Innovate Marquette SmartZone's entrepreneurial panel event on February 12

- DeVos Art Museum is celebrating its 40th year on campus
  - Plays vital role in bringing classic and modern art to the campus and community, especially important in its ongoing work with K-12 students
  - DeVos' loan of prints by renowned wildlife photographer George Shiras III (1859-1942) to the Museum of Hunting and Nature in Paris has received worldwide media attention
    - Shiras developed breakthrough methods for photographing animals at night in natural habitats (taken mostly in U.P.)

- Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP) is celebrating its 25th anniversary
  - In 25 years, 952 student fellows contributing 106,624 volunteer hours
  - BOT member Tami Seavoy has been an SLFP mentor for all 25 years

Honors and Accomplishments

- A team of NMU athletic training majors won the quiz bowl event at the Michigan Athletic Trainers Society's Annual Student Education Conference. Fifteen state schools participated. NMU's team will represent Michigan in the Great Lakes Athletic Trainer's Association quiz bowl in March.

- NMU's education master's programs were again rated among the top 20 (No. 18) most affordable online teaching degrees in the U.S. as rated by the SR Education Group.
  - NMU offers online master's in learning disabilities, reading K-8, reading specialist K-12, administration and supervision and instruction, the latter also available with an American Indian emphasis.

- Assistant English professor Monica McFawn Robinson received a $25,000 creative writing fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, one of 37 writers from 17 states selected to receive the grants.

- NMU professor Jessica Thompson and undergraduate student Jose Aburto won the Top Paper in Environmental Communication Award at the National Communication Association Conference where Jose also gave a presentation.

- English/theatre student Tim Grams was honored as the Region III winner of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Prize for innovative work by a graduate student. Tim's research has focused on Shakespeare and gender roles.

- On the staff side, Kathy Richards, associate vice president for engineering and planning/facilities, received the Certified Educational Facilities Professional (CEFP) credential from APPA, the association dedicated to leadership in educational facilities.

- Alumnus Pete Stobie was named the Outdoor Educator of the Year by the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education for bringing science and nature into the classroom. Alumna Erika Morrison, a Graveraet kindergarten teacher, is the recipient of the Michigan Reading Association's K-6 Educator Award.

Winter Wildcat Athletics Success

- Men's and women's Nordic ski teams have been having quite an impressive season.
  - NMU won the men's and women's Central Collegiate Ski Association titles
  - At U.S. Nationals in January, the Wildcats won the College Cup for a third-straight year and had 1 U.S. title (Ian Torchia, 10K freestyle) and 11 top 10 finishes (8 men, 3 women)
  - NMU has 8 current skiers, 1 alumnus and 1 future Wildcat, on the U.S. Junior and Under-23 National Teams competing at the World Championships this week in Romania
  - This weekend, Northern is the host of the NCAA Regionals out in Ishpeming at the Al Quaal Recreational Area
    - Looking to do well there in qualifying for the NCAA Championships on March 7-12 in Colorado.

- NMU's men's and women's swimming and diving teams had a strong year
  - Both finished 3rd at recent GLIAC Championships
  - Coach Heidi Voight was selected as the GLIAC Men's Coach of the Year
    - Heidi coaches both squads for NMU

- Hockey is currently 13-11-6 this year
  - In addition to the 6 ties, also have four one-goal losses (Would be 23-11 if those 10 games had gone our way.)
  - NMU is in the battle for home playoff series, 4 points out of fourth and five points out of a second-place tie with two games in hand on two front-runners.
  - Home this weekend vs. Alabama-Huntsville
  - Will close the regular season vs. Michigan Tech, March 4 – 5, home-and-home
    - March 5 will be the annual "Wildcat Night Across the Country"
    - Expect about 16 Wildcat gatherings in 8 or 9 states

- Women's basketball has had some heart-pounding, last-second victories of late to keep its GLIAC playoff hopes alive.
  - May be peaking at the right time. Have gone 10-5 since January 1
  - Playoffs start March 1

- Men's basketball team saw some significant improvement throughout the season.

- Have hired our women's lacrosse coaching. We welcome head coach Emilia Ward and assistant coach Ashley Glenn.

- Our new men's soccer coach David Poggi signed 20 athletes to National Letters of Intent for the inaugural season this fall.