

Ahoy Crew,

Here's the "All Hands on Deck" update (3/22, 1959hr):

Four days ago, when we called for "All Hands on Deck!" we had no way of knowing just how many hands would answer the call. The response has been overwhelming and heartening.

The GinGins (a.k.a. the Faculty ad hoc response committee) continue to focus on developing and promoting *True Northland*, a financially sustainable, mission centric model. We've synthesized the input from this week's community visioning meetings, and we've created a draft *True Northland*. We are meeting tomorrow (Saturday, 3/27) with representatives of campus constituencies to "truth test" the first draft. We'll use initial input from staff, students, and faculty to refine/improve the model before sharing it more widely. Look for the public roll-out of the *True Northland* model early next week on the [TrueNorthland](#) website. We'll also host a couple of presentations next week (stay tuned for details).

There are, of course, many additional tasks that must happen simultaneously. Our community has self-organized, using the "All Hands on Deck" metaphor-driven workplan. Groups are starting to coalesce and differentiate. Here are some key players:

- Student Organizing Committee (Chairs: Baz, Sofia, Em)
 - Purpose: Mobilize students
 - Current efforts:
 - They've formed the *Care Crew* to support our community (e.g. shoveling snow, helping with meals, walking dogs, providing childcare, etc.). They have sign-ups for [helpers](#) and for [people who could use some help](#).
 - Planning a "Camp-In" for April 3 – 7. This will be a 5-day celebration of community, filled with workshops, teach-ins, community meals, and camping on the mall. Please reach out to Em if you would like to help plan the event. They especially need strong leaders who would be willing to be a "manager on duty" at night, and people who can help with food preparation and serving. Alumni and the greater community are welcome to attend and/or help.
- [Northland Forever](#) (contact: Brontë Gross)
 - Purpose: Northland Forever "aims to gather and unite the Northland College community – alumni, locals, and stakeholders, to create positive change for the college during a troubled period of its existence."
 - Current efforts:
 - Collecting pledges "to provide a way to donate free from the influence of the Board of Trustees, to provide a way to donate that will **not** be used to help the school close, and to create an incentive (i.e. money) to ensure that Northland's administration and board of trustees follows the plan that the community is creating and building." They launched their website yesterday at noon, and by 6pm today they'd already received 75 pledges, totaling \$41,200, with an average donation of \$540.
 - "All Hands Call" Strategy Zoom meeting Sunday, March 24th at 1 p.m. central. They're looking for people willing to assist with fundraising, legal questions, and communications and marketing of all types.
- Cheq Bay Collective (contact: Jade and Gremlin)

- Purpose: Mobilize community members and share information
- Local Business leaders (contact: Jamie Tucker)
 - Current project: drafting an “Open Letter” to the Board of Trustees and President Dayton. The letter will also be published in the Ashland Daily Press.

We are feeling the love of the community—**Thank you** to the Bohemian Hall for donating space for the Cheq Bay Collective’s community meeting last night. **Thank you** to NCSA for delivering snacks to the GinGins, PR, and visioning teams. **Thank you** to the City of Ashland Parks & Recreation department for hosting the “Save Northland” party tonight at the Bretting Center. **Thank you** to Honore at the Ashland Baking Company for donating supplies to the Northland Food Center to prepare for tonight’s party. And **thank you** to Danny Simpson and crew at the Food Center for baking all day to be ready for the event.

Our local businesses are raising money to support us. It means so much to see our community making a strong statement that they care about Northland:

- Chequamegon Bay Food Co-op will be donating 5% of sales next Wednesday, March 27th
- Bay City Cycles has a \$1028 match and challenge, which, as of 6pm today, has raised close to \$5,000

Personal note: Last week, a couple of days after the “bombshell” announcement from our Trustees and College President, I was brought to tears when a friend who works in Admissions told me that a prospective student opened an email from Admissions, letting them know about the “situation” at Northland and, within 4 minutes of opening the email, they had paid their deposit. Prospective students are continuing to put down deposits and are still coming for campus visits. One prospective student told me they were even more excited to come to Northland now that they see what kind of community we are. How wonderful to work at a school where, even when the Trustees threaten to close it, students still want to come here!

The motto of Outward Bound seems to fit the moment:

To serve, to strive, and not to yield,

elizabeth
she/her/hers

Elizabeth K. Andre, Ph.D.
Professor of Outdoor Education
Northland College
1411 Ellis Avenue
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
715-682-1324