

Ahoy Crew,

Here's the "All Hands on Deck update" (3/25, 2200hr)

It's been two weeks since the Northland College President and Trustees rocked our world with their surprise announcement that we must raise \$12M in 23 days or risk closure of our school. The shock knocked us back on our heels for a couple of days, but we quickly collected our wits, and organized ourselves. The strength of our community is on full display.

Community support continues to sustain us. **Thank you** to Sara, Paige, Mandy, and crew from the City of Ashland Parks & Recreation Department, who raised over \$20,000 during their "Save Northland Party" Friday night. **Thank you** to the bands who played, the businesses and individuals who contributed to the silent auction, and the people who prepared and donated food and beverages. **Thank you** to Em, L, Sofia, and Audrey, members of the NCSA Care Crew, who cooked and delivered delicious soup, bread, and GinGins candy on Saturday as we put in a long day of compiling data, drafting a plan, and conducting focus groups. **Thank you** to Jean, Peg, Audra, Alden, Phoebe, Karsten, Sally, Kristen, Lilly, and Greta--the neighborhood kids who raised \$332.15 through bake sales. **Thank you** to Cole and Annalee who, as I was starting to write this update, texted to ask if they could shovel my snow.

Progress Made:

The GinGins (a.k.a. the Faculty ad hoc response committee) continue to focus on developing *True Northland*, a financially sustainable, mission centric model.

- Earlier this morning we shared a draft of True Northland with the campus community.
- We developed this draft from the data that came from the three visioning sessions last week.
 - Two focus groups help us "Truth Test" and refine the draft—one on Saturday with students, staff and faculty, and one on Sunday with faculty, staff, and alumni.
 - After each focus group, we worked to incorporate the feedback and refine the draft. The document we sent out this morning was *much* improved because of the feedback we received—thank you to those who spent your weekend involved in this project.
- This afternoon we hosted two online meetings to discuss the draft and hear comments, questions, and reactions.
 - A total of 86 participants joined online.
 - We were thrilled to have members of the Bad River, Menomonee, and Oneida Nations join the discussion. Miigwech!
 - If you have any input to share, whether or not you were able to join a call, we've set up an email address to collect feedback: TrueNorthland.feedback@gmail.com We'll remove all identifying information, compile the feedback, and make it available.
- True Northland timeline for edits, and roll-out
 - The GinGins are working to incorporate feedback and create a 2-page Executive Summary
 - Look for an updated and public version tomorrow (Tuesday)
 - The Faculty Council meets tomorrow and we will discuss next steps

Groups that self-organized through the “[All Hands on Deck](#)” metaphor-driven work plan are moving full steam ahead:

- [Northland Forever](#) – a group that “aims to gather and unite alumni to create positive change for Northland during a troubled period of its existence”
 - Gathered over \$95K from 141 pledges, as of 6pm tonight. They are an “alternative fundraising venue that is controlled by alumni instead of Trustees.”
 - [Work Groups](#) are now available through Northland Forever
 - [Email pressure campaign](#)
- [Save Northland](#) – a student-run group, has produced beautiful videos of Northlanders telling their stories—why they love it here; what this school and community means to them; why it’s worth saving.
- The Student Organizing Committee
 - Continues to plan the April 3 – 7 “Camp In.” The start of this event coincides with the day the Trustees have set as the “deadline”
 - *Care Crew* continues to support our community. They have sign-ups for [helpers](#) and for [people who could use some help](#).

Our community’s efforts are attracting media attention:

- See the [WDIO story](#) on the City of Ashland Park & Recreation Department’s fundraiser Friday
- Letters to the editor
 - Retired professor, Cindy Dillenschneider, calls Northland “[the glue that holds our region together](#)” in the *Ashland Daily Press*
 - University of Minnesota Duluth professor Grant Anderson argues in the *Duluth News Tribune* that, [given pressing environmental and social challenges, our region can’t afford to lose Northland](#).
- [Northland Forever](#) will be talking with Pat Kreitlow on [UpNorthNews Radio](#) at 7:30am tomorrow, Tuesday Mar 26, describing their efforts and what is being envisioned for the future of Northland College. Listen on the following stations:
 - Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire 93.5 The Tap WCFW HD-2
 - Wausau Bull Falls Radio WCXO FM 98.9 AM 1230
 - Waukesha-Milwaukee The ‘Sha WAUK FM 101.1, AM 540
 - Wisconsin Rapids Locally Grown Radio WFHR AM 1320
 - Hayward Buzz of the North WBZH AM 910
 - Amery Lake Air WLAK FM 107.5, AM 1260
 - La Crosse The Eagle WLCX AM 1490

Please attend to your emotional and spiritual wellbeing:

- A group of pastors is leading a nondenominational prayer service of gratitude and grief Tuesday, March 26th, 4 – 5:15 p.m. in the Alvord Theater
- A group of local tribal members will be facilitating a healing circle on Thursday, March 28 at 5pm in the Alvord Theater. The event is open to the public.

Personal note: I was talking with Angela and a group of students, and we were reflecting on how these past two weeks—while being stressful in so many ways—have also been filled with a sense

of purpose, connection, and the very human experience of being *truly with* other people while trying to do something difficult. Angela mentioned that in her class “Sociology of Community,” they call this *communion*—a deep connection to place, to others, to the sense of being fully alive.

Thank you for being on this journey and bringing your best selves,

elizabeth
she/her/hers

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