

Ahoy Crew,

Here's the "All Hands on Deck" update (3/28, 2232hr):

It's been 17 days since the College President and Board of Trustees blindsided everyone by threatening to close our college if they didn't raise \$12M by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. In just over two weeks, our community has organized and produced a vision and model of a financially sustainable mission centric way forward.

Our community continues to be beautiful in its care and support. **Miigwech** to the Jason Schlender (Lac Courte Oreilles) and Esie Leoso (Bad River) for facilitating the healing circle tonight, and **miigwech** to Northland professor Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings and Indigenous Cultures Center director Barb Lundberg for hosting. **Thank you** to the maintenance crew who set up the stage for the bands at Friday's fundraiser party. **Thank you** to the EVS/Housekeeping staff that has been setting up for events and working hard to clean up after. **Thank you** to Alison Spaude for delivering enchiladas and Lauren Duffy for delivering homemade hummus to power the GinGins through a long workday.

#### Progress Made:

- True Northland vision
  - Tuesday, March 27th, the faculty overwhelmingly endorsed bringing forward *True Northland*, the vision that emerged from the community visioning meetings, focus groups, and rounds of feedback.
    - *True Northland* is a living document that will continue to evolve as our community refines and implements its vision.
    - The current draft lives at [TrueNorthland.org](http://TrueNorthland.org) and is also attached
  - Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> the GinGins (a.k.a. faculty ad hoc response committee) met Wednesday, with President Dayton and asked him to share *True Northland* with the Board of Trustees. President Dayton shared it with them later that day.
- How can you help?
  - [Please sign this letter of support for True Northland](#), the community-developed, mission centric plan. This letter calls on the Board of Trustees to:
    - Keep the college open, and
    - Move forward with the community-led vision
- Voices of Support
  - The esteemed [Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer](#) wrote a letter supporting and drawing attention to "the grassroots efforts of students, alumni, staff, faculty, administration, and community members to save an institution that is very important."
  - The State Bar of Wisconsin asked Wisconsin Lawyers to rally to support Northland. Attorney Tyler Wickman remarked, "Northland College helps recruit professionals to the north and our rural areas because of the culture it brings and the employment opportunities for other professionals."
  - Beloved Professor Emeritus, Rev. David Saetre, shared a [message](#) that brought many to tears.
- Fundraising efforts
  - [Northland Forever](#)

- They are collecting pledges as “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.
    - Pledges have been streaming in at a rate of \$940.70/hour since the website launched 178 hours ago, for a total of \$167,444.60, as of 9:22 p.m. tonight
  - The [Delta Diner](#) fundraiser
    - Friday, March 29, from 8-2pm the Delta Diner will be offering a unique one-time menu of established and new dishes. All food/non-alcoholic beverage gross receipts for the day will be donated to Northland
    - Between now and end of day Friday, they will donate 25% of all [gift card](#) sales to Northland
  - *If you know a foundation or donor who is likely to resonate with our mission and vision, please use the attached documents to introduce our cause.*
- Media Coverage
  - Professor Dave Ullman spoke today with Fox 21 Duluth—look for this story soon
  - Wisconsin Public Radio gave the community-led efforts [extensive coverage](#)
  - Abigail Gentry is producing videos for TikTok, like [this one from today](#)

Personal note: There is a difference between naïve optimism and hope. Naïve optimism is irrational and can blind us from the work that needs to be done. In contrast, “hope can be nurtured by good work, openness to life, and rising above our lesser selves. Hope, real hope, comes from doing the things before us that need to be done in the spirit of thankfulness and celebration, without worrying about whether we will win or lose.” David Orr, “[Hope in Hard Times](#)”

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