

MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:

PRESENT: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Etienne that the agenda be approved as written.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Wozniak and supported by Trustee Shirilla that the minutes of the March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting be approved as written.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

5. STUDENT SUCCESS

President Finley introduced Troy Johnson. Troy will be graduating next week and is the outgoing Student Senate President. He recently travelled to Lansing with President Finley and Thunder, to attend the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Capitol Day and represent the student perspective. When asked about his interest in politics, he described it as the “right amount of chaos”.

Troy shared that he is from Alanson and received a Presidential scholarship to attend North Central. His favorite class has been English 112 with Shae Long-Kish, which inspired his career goals to become an English instructor. He will be attending Central Michigan University next fall.

In his role as Student Senate President, Troy has become much more involved on campus and has greatly enjoyed planning weekly student events for students that have had great turnouts. Student Senate also provided the opportunity to work with a great group of students.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

President Finley shared the following communications:

- a. MiLEAP Hunger-Free Grant awarded to support Campus Cupboard

On April 17, 2026, MiLEAP issued a press release announcing nearly \$500,000 in Hunger-Free Campus grants awarded to eight Michigan colleges and universities.

North Central Michigan College was among the recipients, receiving a \$45,050 grant. These funds will support the relocation and expansion of the Campus Cupboard, increase refrigeration and freezer capacity, and enhance inventory and reporting systems. The grant will also enable expanded services, including weekend food bags, emergency meal vouchers, and extended access hours.

For more information about MiLEAP's Hunger-Free Campus Activities grant initiatives, [visit the MiLEAP website](#).

b. College Announces Commencement Ceremonies May 8

In the April 22 edition of *Harbor Light News*, details of North Central Michigan College's 66th annual commencement ceremony were announced. The ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Petoskey Plastics Arena, with nearly 300 degrees and certificates being presented. A reception honoring graduates will follow.

Frank Ettawageshik, a respected Northern Michigan leader and former Tribal Chairman of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, will deliver the commencement address.

In addition, the College will confer an honorary degree of Community Service upon former trustee Phil Millard in recognition of his longstanding leadership and dedicated service to North Central.

The full story can be found here: <https://www.harborlightnews.com/articles/college-announces-commencement-ceremonies-may-8/>

c. Project Connect

On April 23, *UpNorthLive* reported on the wide range of free resources offered during the Project Connect event at North Central Michigan College.

Businesses and organizations from Emmet, Charlevoix, and Antrim counties participated in the event, which featured more than 70 booths set up in the college's gymnasium. Known as a "day of service," Project Connect provided community members with convenient access to a variety of essential resources.

The news story can be seen here: <https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/more-than-70-booths-offer-free-resources-at-project-connect-emmet-charlevoix-antrim-north-west-central-michigan-college-flood-resources>

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

Real Talk

Dr. Scott LaDeur, professor of government and Dr. Dominic Borowiak, professor of English are co-facilitators of the Real Talk program which has been implemented here on campus for a little over 5 years. There have been five cohorts with 36 participants, and a sixth cohort is scheduled to begin in May.

Real Talk is about bringing together full-time and adjunct instructors in cohorts consisting of 6-8 who commit to a three-year program of an annual week-long summer training and monthly cohort meetings. The Real Talk pedagogy centers on building stronger connections between faculty and students and

improving classroom culture - all with an eye toward increasing student persistence, retention, and completion.

Over the last five years with the assistance of Dr. Erin Sonneveldt, they have collected a lot of data around the effectiveness of the program. At Dr. Strom's request, they presented at professional conferences to share the implementation and findings and receive feedback from other experts in the field.

Presentations included the League for Innovations' Innovations Conference in Indianapolis, and the Council for the Study of Community Colleges in Salt Lake City. Their work was very well received,

Real Talk serves as a mechanism to create campus culture and feel connected to the campus community, as well as bounce ideas of peers and try new things. This mechanism is something many other institutions are looking for and it's important to note this is cutting-edge, important work.

They thanked the college, the Board, Dr. Finley, and Dr. Strom for supporting these efforts as well as their attendance at the conferences.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Tom Zeidel, Vice President for Finance & Facilities, was asked by Chair Pretty to provide a financial report for March 2026. Tom certified that the financials as of March 2026 are within the adopted tentative budget for 2025-26.

It was moved by Trustee Fought and supported by Trustee Etienne that the financial report and statement of bills be accepted as submitted.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. PTK Inductees Present Golden Apple Awards

On Wednesday, March 11th, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society inductees presented Golden Apple Awards to a most impactful instructor or staff member in their life.

This year's recipients were:

Corey Lansing, Scott LaDeur, Breann Wozniak, Jerry Bruscher, Ann Gorney, Thea Murray, Ann Morningstar, Shana Kingma, Robin Bell, Angela Zastrow-Thayer, David Montgomery, Kristin Jardine, Isis Arsnoe, Jeff Lockridge, Erick Haight, Jenny Maginnis, Wendy Kresnak, and Mary Brower

These award recipients play an important role in preparing the next generation by providing outstanding instruction and mentorship. Thank you, and congratulations to all!

b. NCMC Hosts Job Fair

On April 8, North Central hosted a job fair in the Athletic Center, welcoming 67 employers and more than 130 attendees. This included students, alumni, and community members.

Feedback from participating businesses was quite positive. Thank you, Wendy Kresnak, for organizing this event.

c. Senator Damoose Campus Visit

On Monday, April 20, State Senator John Damoose visited North Central's campus. He presented officers of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society with tributes recognizing their commitment to their higher education. Following the presentation, he toured the CATIE Project construction, including the new Technology Center and the expansion of the Health Education and Science Center.

d. Criminal Justice Program Inactivation

In concurrence with the recommendation from the Curriculum Review and Academic Policies (CR/DAP) Committee, three Criminal Justice programs will be inactivated:

- Criminal Justice (AAS)
- Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement (AAS) with Kirtland Community College
- Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement (AAS) with Northwestern MI College

Rationale:

Enrolled majors decreased 66% over the most recent 5-year review period, from a high of 53 to a low of 18. For majors planning to transfer, the AA Concentration in Criminal Justice is the more appropriate degree to pursue. Additionally, police academies no longer require a college degree for admission, so there is little incentive to earn an AAS prior. The real value today lies in a four-year criminal justice degree, which allows graduates to work in the FBI, CIA, etc. or pursue a law degree.

e. Hires for: Grants Mgr, Annual Giving Mgr, and Head Women's Volleyball Coach/Academic Advisor

The Personnel Committee has been notified, and we'd like to share the following administrative replacement hires for your reference:

Maria Fantozzi has been hired as our Grants Manager. Maria has worked at NCMC as the Administrative Assistant to the Foundation Office since May of 2025.

Ally VanAntwerp has been hired as the Annual Giving Manager for the Foundation. Ally has worked at NCMC as a Financial Aid Associate since December of 2024.

Ann Skufca was hired as our Head Women's Volleyball Coach and Academic Advisor; she started earlier this month. Ann comes to NCMC with years of secondary school and collegiate athletics experience.

She has held several positions in community services. Most recently, Ann was the Student & Family Engagement Director & Head Volleyball Coach at Warren Local School District in Ohio.

Please join me in welcoming Ann to the Timberwolf team, and congratulating Maria and Ally on their new positions at the College.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Fought provided a brief report: the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, April 21 to review March Financials, and receive a report from the Foundation.

The Foundation presented some changes in the level of significant contributions that carried naming rights for the dental hygiene project to better coordinate with potential contributions.

Since the changes did not alter anything pertaining to the College's policy of granting naming rights for significant contributions, the committee accepted the Foundation's revisions. It is unnecessary to bring a proposal to the full Board at this time as it is unknown how donors will respond to the Foundation's appeals.

As decisions are finalized regarding building names, they will be presented to the full Board for approval.

11. OLD BUSINESS. None.

12. NEW BUSINESS. None

13. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

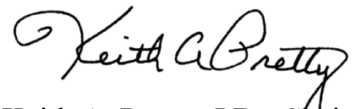
14. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Trustee Etienne motioned, and Trustee Fought supported the meeting be adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

AYES: Trustees Etienne, Fought, Keiswetter (via phone), Pretty, Shirilla and Wozniak

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Kromm



/S/ Keith A. Pretty, J.D., Chairman



/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary