

MINUTES
NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – Library Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (4:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL TAKEN:

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

ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Etienne and supported by Trustee Pretty that the agenda be approved.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Pretty and supported by Trustee Keiswetter that the minutes of the February 25, 2025, Regular Meeting, be approved as written.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

5. STUDENT SUCCESS

Athletics Director Ashley Antonishen noted that the Women's Basketball team had a remarkable season and qualified for post-season play. She introduced three Women's Basketball Players:

- Arika Taylor is a Freshman from Joliet, Illinois. After earning her associate degree, she plans to pursue a 4-year degree in Business.
- Ceara LeBlanc is a Freshman from Brimley, Michigan. After earning her associate degree, she plans to attend Central Michigan University to study Event Management. Ceara also plays on the Women's Volleyball team.
- NiKalyn Gunsell is a Sophomore from Flint, Michigan. After completing her associate degree, she plans to attend Oakland University and plans to coach basketball as well.

The players noted that their favorite things this season were the notable improvement in their playing over last year and making new friends. They greatly enjoyed the overnight trips for away games.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

President Finley shared the following communications:

- a. Volleyball's Camille Wardin Commits to Walsh University

On March 5, 2025, Camille Wardin (Saginaw/Nouvel Catholic Central) officially signed her letter of intent, solidifying her commitment to continue her academic and athletic journey at Walsh University this fall, located in North Canton, OH.

The dominant middle hitter leaves behind a legacy of record-breaking performances at North Central Michigan College rewriting the volleyball record books.

Wardin was named to the NJCAA Region XII All-Region team, a historic first for Timberwolves volleyball. On a national level, she concluded the season ranked #11 in NJCAA DII for hitting percentage.

While volleyball is her primary focus, Wardin's commitment to her team extended to the basketball court. Stepping up when needed, she played seven games during her freshman season and rejoined the squad this year, playing a crucial role in the program's resurgence. She will graduate this spring as the all-time blocks leader in both volleyball and basketball.

Wardin will join the Walsh University Cavaliers, an NCAA Division II member competing in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC). The Cavaliers, who reached the G-MAC semifinals this past season, are poised to strengthen their roster with Wardin's exceptional talent.

A link to the full article can be viewed here:

https://www.ncmctimberwolves.com/sports/wvball/2024-25/releases/wardin_signs

b. Basketball All Conference Awards

March 12, 2025, the Michigan Community College Athletic Association announced the basketball season awards with two Timberwolves earning honors.

- *Jalen Williams (Joliet, IL/Joliet Central) earned 3rd Team All-North honors after an impressive season. Williams displayed exceptional ball control, speed, and scoring ability, averaging 13.5 points per game and finishing with a 60% free throw percentage.*
- *Jackson Raymond (East Jordan/East Jordan) was recognized with Northern Conference Honorable Mention for his standout season. Raymond totaled 43 three-pointers and 26 steals, making a strong impact on both ends of the court.*

The Timberwolves have shown resilience and growth throughout the basketball season. Their hard work and determination, even during challenging moments, have set the foundation for future success. With continued effort, the team is ready to come back stronger in the seasons ahead.

The full story can be found here:

https://www.ncmctimberwolves.com/sports/mbkbb/2024-25/releases/All_Conference

c. Bay Bluffs Shared Two Team Members Earned Medication Aide Cert Training

On March 7, 2025, the Petoskey Chamber featured a press release from Bay Bluffs, celebrating two Medication Aid Certification Graduates.

Dawn Weston and Keisha Tompkins, completed the Medication Aide Certification training program. As the top two students in their class, their achievement marks a significant milestone for both their careers and the future of healthcare at Bay Bluffs.

The Medication Aide Certification program has already received widespread recognition for its impact on long-term care facilities across Michigan. By providing CNAs with the opportunity to expand their roles, the initiative helps address staffing challenges while ensuring high-quality, resident-centered care.

A link to the press release can be found here:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/bfa0f7f1101/461b0363-412d-42f4-b9d3-faa5cb979cd9.pdf>

d. 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholarship (PTK)

On February 28, 2025, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society shared that NCMC student Grace Spalding, has been named a 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar and will receive a \$1,250 scholarship.

Students are nominated for the academic team by their college administrators. Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service.

Coca-Cola Academic Team members will be recognized in both local and statewide ceremonies. They were also recognized internationally during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, PTK Catalyst, in Kansas City, Missouri, April 3-5.

e. Dr. Strom won PTKs Distinguished College Administrator Award

On February 17, 2025 – the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society named Dr. Stephen Strom a Distinguished College Administrator! This prestigious award celebrates college leaders who go above and beyond in their commitment to student success. His dedication and impact are truly inspiring—and it hasn't gone unnoticed by our students, who were the ones to nominate him.

Distinguished College Administrators were also honored at PTK's Annual Convention held at the Kansas City Convention Center April 3-5.

f. NCMC Summer Learning Academy Program Registration Open

North Central Michigan College's Summer Learning Academy returns this year with an exciting lineup of hands-on, interactive programs designed to inspire young minds. Running from June 23—August 21, the nine-week academy offers engaging learning experiences for students entering grades 3 through 8. With morning (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) and afternoon (1 – 4 p.m.) sessions available, children can explore topics like robotics, art, nature, music, and even babysitting certification.

All classes take place on North Central's Petoskey campus, providing a dynamic learning environment with access to college facilities.

A link to the full press release can be found here:

<https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/summer-learning-academy-2025.html>

g. NCMC Offers Free College Prep Program This Summer

April 15, 2025, North Central Michigan College (NCMC) announced we are now accepting registrations for Timberwolves Thrive, a free four-week hybrid summer program designed to help students build confidence, sharpen study skills, and prepare for college success by Fall 2025.

The program is open to first-time and returning students who have earned a high school diploma or GED. Students planning to attend any Michigan college are welcome. However, participants must apply and be accepted to NCMC (at no cost) to access the college's learning management system.

Timberwolves Thrive runs July 28 – August 22 on the Petoskey campus, with in-person sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays and additional online coursework. Students can choose between two sessions:

A link to the full press release can be found here:

<https://www.ncmich.edu/community-events/news-and-press-releases/ncmc-offers-free-college-prep-program.html>

h. Thank You Letter from Foundation

March 20, 2025, the College received a letter from Chelsea Platte, VP of Advancement and the Executive Director of the Foundation.

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 to the NCMC Foundation, given in honor of John Fought's many years of service to the Board. Your gift has been designated for the Trustee Memorial Scholarship and is a fitting tribute to Mr. Fought's service to the College and the greater community.

On behalf of the College and the Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for investing in North Central, our students, and the future of our community.

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

Professor of Marketing and AFPS President Chet Jessick shared that NCMC's Librarian, Kendra Lake, will be recognized this Thursday with an Outstanding Persons in Education (OPIE) award.

Professor Jessick noted that he attended the NEA Higher Education Conference in Philadelphia this March. While there, he co-presented a 90-minute session with the theme "Cultivating Team Growth Through Shared Intent and Action".

English Faculty Mary Brower shared photo collages from her ENG 238 class, Environmental Literature and Writing. The class did a series of poetry installations in the natural area. She introduced one of her students, Noah Doederlein who spoke to the exciting things happening in the class. Noah noted the class explored three themes of Winter Water Wonderland through short stories, poetry and novels. The class was uniquely grounded in this community and cross-curricular teaching. He noted they will be visiting the U of M Biological Station as they continue to study the UNESCO-recognized Obatawaing biosphere.

Professor Jessick also spoke to Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) being incorporated into the Business Education curriculum, and the importance of cross-curricular teaching to the future success of our students.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Tom Zeidel, Vice President for Finance & Facilities, was asked by Trustee Rasmussen to provide a financial report for March 2025. Tom certified that the financials as of March 2025 are within the adopted tentative budget for 2024-25.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

President Finley shared the following:

a. NCMC Hosted Job Fair

On April 9, 2025, North Central hosted a job fair on campus in the Athletic Center gymnasium. We had a great turnout! From internships to full-time positions, it was incredible to see so many exciting opportunities in one place! Thank you to our Career Development Specialist, Wendy Kresnak, for organizing this successful event!

b. Logo Wrap on Vehicles & Pellston Airport Sign

Many of you may have seen the new college vehicles and noticed that they are now wrapped in North Central branding. There is also a new North Central sign located at the Pellston airport to welcome visitors to our area and let them know this is 'Timberwolf Territory!' Thank you to the marketing team for bringing these visions to life!

c. NCMC Offers Full-Tuition Scholarship for Graduating Home School Senior

North Central is proud to continue its commitment to making higher education accessible by offering a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship to a graduating home school senior within our service area. This competitive scholarship covers tuition and mandatory fees for four consecutive semesters (fall and winter) and is valued up to \$17,000 for out-of-district students.

Applications were due April 4, 2025, and the recipient will be announced in May. In addition to this scholarship grant, Presidential Scholarships are also awarded to graduating seniors from each of the 25 high schools in our service area.

d. Breakfast Meeting with Bob Graham

On Thursday, April 3rd, President Finley met with former North Central President, Bob Graham, in Mattawan Michigan. Bob spoke fondly of his time at North Central, and he shared a few of his favorite stories from days past. He spoke very highly of his peers Ann Irish, Dick Smith, and John Fought.

e. HLC Visit Team Report

President Finley was happy to report that 18 of 18 core components were met! Thank you to trustees Keith, Dan, and Janelle for the important role they played in this outcome, and all the trustees for the support provided. Thanks also to Chet and all the Faculty for their important contribution to this success.

Finally, thanks to all in this room and across campus for the great teamwork. This outcome means we can focus forward instead of being saddled with addressing deficiencies.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Pretty shared that the Finance & Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, March 18, and yesterday, April 21, 2025, to review February and March Financials, review the Single Audit Report, discuss CATEE Project updates and bid recommendations, the STEP Center, and other business.

i. Single Audit Report

Background: As a part of the audit of the College's June 30, 2024 financial statements, the auditors also audit the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and the College's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Because this report solely covers federal aid and grant programs, it is referred to as the "Single Audit Report". This is the report that you have before you.

The auditors expressed a clean opinion on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards found on page two of the Single Audit Report. They also gave what amounts to a clean report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with requirements of the federal programs. Finally, the auditors reported that the College has prepared Corrective Action Plans to address two minor matters of noncompliance that did not impact their clean opinion.

It was moved by Trustee Pretty and supported by Trustee Shirilla that the board accept the Single Audit Report on the College's participation in various federal financial aid programs during the year ended June 30, 2024, be accepted.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ii. Skilled Trades Education Pathways (STEP) Center Architect

Background: NCMC's STEP Center Project was ranked #1 amongst the 2026 Capital Outlay requests. In order to move forward with planning and fundraising efforts, it is necessary to retain the services of an architect to begin the design process. To retain design consistency with the CATEE Project, the committee recommends that we continue to work with Cornerstone Architects, Inc of Grand Rapids, MI. The College has requested permission to contract with Cornerstone Architects for the design phase of the STEP Center.

It was moved by Trustee Pretty and supported by Trustee Krom, that the Cornerstone Architects; Inc. be retained to undertake the design of the Skilled Trades Education Pathways (STEP) Center.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

iii. CATEE Phase II – Remaining Bid Package

Background: During the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting, we reviewed and discussed a Preliminary Bid Recommendation Letter from Clark Construction for Bid Release 5 – the balance of bids. This letter was provided on Monday evening as an addendum to your board packet. The Finance & Facilities Committee recommends proceeding with the proposed bid package.

It was moved by Trustee Pretty and supported by Trustee Etienne that the Board accept Clark Construction's proposed Bid Recommendation Letter for the Bid Release 5 Package of the CATEE Phase II Tech Center and Nursing Center Project. This package includes recommendations for the remaining 14 bids. To commence this work, the Board approves a signed Prime Contract Change Order for Clark Construction in the amount of \$11,340,927.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT.

None.

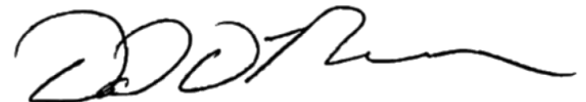
14. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Trustee Shirilla motioned, and Trustee Etienne supported that the meeting be adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



/S/ Daniel D. Rasmussen, Chairman



/S/ Melissa Keiswetter, Secretary