



**Board of Trustees**  
 1701 E. Front Street  
 Traverse City, MI 49686-3061  
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**nmc.edu**

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**Mission** | We deliver lifelong learning opportunities to transform lives and enrich our communities.

### **Meeting Agenda**

Monday, February 23, 2026

Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center

Room 106/107

5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Review of Agenda and Approval of Additions, Deletions, or Rearrangements

#### **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- E. Freshwater Research and Innovation Center
  - *Greg Luyt, Chair, FRIC Board of Directors*
  - *Matt McDonough, Treasurer, FRIC Board of Directors*
  - *Jason Slade, Secretary, FRIC Board of Directors*

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Each person wishing to address the Board during public comment must be present and shall provide their name, address, city, phone, and issue to be addressed on a form provided prior to the meeting. The topic addressed should be related to business within the jurisdiction of the Board. Forms will be collected and given to the Board Chair prior to the call for order.

Comments will be limited to (3) three minutes in length per speaker. The Board will take public remarks into consideration, but will not comment at the time of input.

#### **UPDATES**

- F. President's Update—*Nick Nissley*
- G. Board Chair Update—*Mark Keely*

### **CONSENT ITEMS** (Pursuant to Policy A-105.00 Consent Agenda Items)

These items will be adopted as a group without specific discussion. When approving the meeting agenda, any Board member may request that a consent agenda item be moved to the regular agenda for discussion or questions.

Recommend that the following items be approved:

- H.** Minutes of the January 26, 2026, regular meeting
- I.** Strategic Plan Timing and Milestones—*Jason Slade, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives*
- J.** Enrollment Report—*Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies*
- K.** Financial Report—*Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration*
- L.** Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications—*Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications and Change Initiatives*
- M.** Advancement Report—*Katharine Marvin, Vice President of Advancement*
- N.** Executive Committee—*Mark Keely, Committee Chair*
- O.** Fellows Nominating Committee—*Andy Robitshek, Committee Chair*

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**P. Appointment of Fellows** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Other)

Recommend that Doug Bishop, Jim & Diana Huckle, and Peg Jonkhoff be appointed 2026 Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College with all honors and privileges pertaining hereto.

**Q. Conditions for Boardman Lake Campus Sale Proceeds (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Finance)**

Recommend approval of the conditions for the net proceeds of the Boardman Lake Campus sale, as presented in the corresponding memo, including the establishment of a segregated, board-designated fund and the stated parameters on use, oversight, and reporting.

**R. Funding for Freshwater Research and Innovation Center** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Finance)

Recommend authorization to invest \$2 million in funding for the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center, contingent upon the anticipated closing of the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus real property.

**S. Geothermal Project Financing** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Finance)

Recommend authorization to utilize up to \$5,000,000 of the anticipated Boardman Lake Campus sale proceeds towards the Front Street Campus geothermal project.

**T. Evisions Argos Reporting Renewal** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Finance)

Recommend authorization for administration to renew a three year contract with Evisions for the Argos reporting system, for a total three year cost of \$167,378.

- U. Door Access Controller Replacements** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Finance)  
Recommend authorization the administration to enter into contract with People Driven Technology for the replacement of 100 door access controllers at a cost of \$132,765.71 to be funded by the Plant Fund.
- V. Firewall Replacement** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Finance)  
Recommend authorization for administration to enter into a contract with Frontier Computer Corp for the replacement of the Firewall system at a cost of \$96,747.28 to be funded by the Technology Plant Fund.
- W. Special Liquor License** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Other)  
Recommend authorization for the organization, through its duly authorized officers, make application to the Liquor Control Commission for a special events tasting and wine auction license to be in effect on Friday, April 24, 2026, for the Taste of Success event held at the NMC Hagerty Center.
- X. Housing and Meal Plan Rates** (Pursuant to Policy A-106.00 Educational Services)  
Recommend approval of Housing and Board Rates for the 2026-2027 fiscal and academic year.

## REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS

Confirm requests made by the Board that Require administrative follow-up information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

*All Board meetings are open to the public.*

March 23, 2026 - NMC Hagerty Center, Room C

April 27, 2026 - Timothy J Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

May 18, 2026 - Timothy J Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107 *\*\*Third Monday*

June 22, 2026 - Timothy J Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

July 20, 2026 – Aeropark Campus, Parsons-Stulen Room 222/224 *\*\*Third Monday*

August 17, 2026 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107 *\*\*Third Monday*

September 28, 2026 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

October 19, 2026 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107 *\*\*Third Monday*

November 23, 2026 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

December 14, 2026 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107 *\*\*Second Monday*

January 25, 2027 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

February 22, 2027 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

March 22, 2027 - NMC Hagerty Center, Room C

April 26, 2027 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

May 24, 2027 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107

June 28, 2027 - Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center, Room 106/107



Freshwater Research  
& Innovation Center

# Update



## Freshwater Research & Innovation Center

Innovating Water Technology from the Great Lakes

*Our Purpose:* To empower northern Michigan as an epicenter of water innovation by connecting education, research, industry, and community for sustainable growth in BlueTech.

*Opening  
Spring 2027*



Freshwater Research  
& Innovation Center

# Building Design

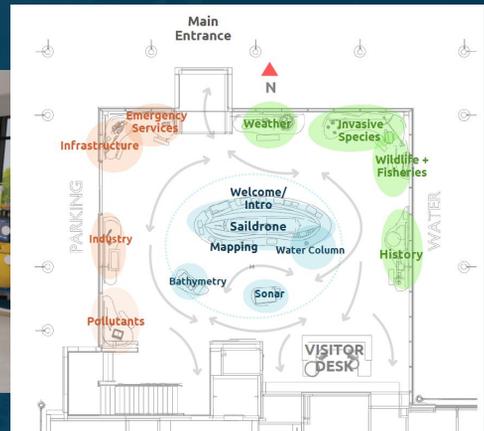


Freshwater Research & Innovation Center

# Public Exhibit Space



West Group Inc.



Freshwater Research & Innovation Center

## Funding and Build-out

Construction & Equipment:	\$ 28,870,853
Debt Service on Pledges:	\$ 224,250
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 29,095,103</b>

Committed: \$27,226,571 (~94% of goal)

**Construction Gap: \$ 1,868,532 // \$1.9 m**

### Additional Keys for Success:

- Funding for initial operations
- Programming for start-ups and commercialization
- Incentives for BlueTech Challenge winners
- Chief Innovation Officer or CEO driving tenant attraction
- Stable operational funding



Freshwater Research  
& Innovation Center

## Tenant and Partner Attraction

### Commitments:

- Discovery Pier
- NMC's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute
- NV5
- Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (FishPass)
- Wave Lumina

### Pursuing:

- Michigan Technological University
- Grand Valley State University
- NOAA
- USGS
- Early Start-ups (too many to list)



Freshwater Research  
& Innovation Center

## What's Next...

- **Construction Management** - Continue working with The Christman Company to maintain timing for a spring 2027 opening
- **Tenant Attraction** - Continue to buildout relationships with potential tenants and partners
- **Promotion** - Develop and implement a stronger promotional and awareness campaign
- **Governance** - Buildout Board of Directors based on strengths and needs
- **Fundraising** - Building, debt service, and successful launch



# Questions?





**MEMO**  
*Office of the President*

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**To:** NMC Board of Trustees  
**From:** Nick Nissley, President  
**Subject:** February Mid-Month Update  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026

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Dear Board of Trustees,

Since our January Board meeting the following are key updates.

**Boardman Lake Campus**

Following the Board's adoption of the resolution authorizing the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus at the January 26 meeting, I promptly executed the Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA). Since that time, the earnest money has been received and the environmental survey and due diligence process is underway. Additionally, immediately following the January Board of Trustees meeting, we convened with Miller Canfield and Cunningham-Limp to ensure that we understand the tasks remaining to advance this to closing, and have clear accountabilities - e.g., *who* will do *what* by *when*.

At this stage, a closing is anticipated for late March or early April. The Board will be kept informed of key developments and milestones as the process moves forward.

Proposed language outlining the Board's intended use of the sale proceeds, as suggested by Trustee Lundquist, will be reviewed by the Executive Committee on February 17 in advance of the full Board meeting on February 23.

**Honoring Jack Segal**

As I prepared my remarks for Jack Segal's funeral service, last week, I was reminded - what an extraordinary instructor he was, and how truly fortunate we were to have someone of his caliber and passion teaching here at NMC.

As you know, upon his retirement, after an illustrious career as a senior US diplomat and Foreign Service officer, Jack co-chaired the International Affairs Forum with his wife Karen.

Today, the IAF is a thriving and beloved institution in our community, thanks to the tireless dedication of Jack and Karen.

Jack brought his experience as a senior US diplomat and Foreign Service officer into our NMC classrooms, teaching courses and leading conversations on world affairs through the International Affairs Forum and our Extended Ed offerings. As you know, in 2024, Jack and Karen were named NMC Fellows, the college's highest honor, in recognition of their extraordinary service, leadership and generosity.

In doing my homework, preparing my comments for the funeral, Laura Stevens shared some statistics that speak to Jack's impact as an NMC instructor:

- Jack taught over 75 classes with Extended Education, over the past almost 15 years, since he started in 2012.
- He had an average of 40 people per class (and, we often had to cap enrollment due to room constraints).
- Jack filled over 3000 seats during those 15 years teaching with Extended Education.

These are extraordinary contributions by a passionate community member and NMC supporter – an NMC instructor – who helped us live into our vision, *our aspiration to be a global community*. And, an instructor whose role modeled our values: *learning, integrity, collaboration, respect, inclusion, innovation, stewardship, and excellence* were his hallmarks also.

I simply want to share this as a reminder of what a special place NMC is, and what truly amazing people make NMC that special place. Thanks for all that you do as trustees, encouraging us to make actionable our 'people first' strategy - to nurture and develop such amazing talent that makes learning at NMC unique, meaningful and valuable, and truly exceptional. Special thanks to you, Laura Stevens and Alex Tank, who worked so intimately with both Jack and Karen over these past 15 years, in both Extended Education and the International Affairs Forum. While this is a profound loss, I am sure that Jack's legacy will live on here at NMC, in our community, and throughout the world.

### **Freshwater Research and Innovation Center**

[The Freshwater Research and Innovation Center](#) remains on track for a Spring 2027 opening, with construction progressing. Concrete/foundation work is underway and steel will be delivered this month. Fundraising continues to be a priority with approximately \$1.7M still needed to finish the full buildout of the facility, as the contractor has given a March deadline to identify space that will need to be "shelled out" if a funding gap is not closed. The next FRIC Board of Directors meeting is February 16, 2026. Partnership activity this past month has included visits to Central Michigan University to meet with researchers, and hosting workforce and innovation sessions with the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR), both virtually and in-person.

Additionally, NMC’s maritime and freshwater programs are key to the recently released [Michigan Maritime Strategy](#). Governor Whitmer shared a draft of the strategy last week; a first-of-its-kind roadmap to grow investments and innovation while protecting freshwater resources. Both NMC and FRIC figure prominently in this state strategy. In a [Record Eagle article](#) about the plan, this past weekend, Jason Slade expressed our confidence that NMC could develop academic programs and workforce training to meet the needs of blue-tech industry looking to grow in the region and provide more opportunities for graduates and students. In the article, he said, *“I would like to see these strategies used as a roadmap to grow and diversify industry sectors in the region. Given our strong manufacturing base, access to water, and nimbleness to respond to the needs of industry, I am hopeful Michigan and the Traverse City region will be attractive to established or emerging businesses.”*

### **Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) and Beyond Visual Line of Sight**

The UAS Program is participating in the Performance Enhancement Sustainability Review (PESR) process, to strengthen NMC’s position as a national leader in uncrewed systems, with a focus on academic excellence, recruitment, and workforce-aligned credentials. Key initiatives include development of a Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) curriculum aligned with the anticipated FAA Part 108 rule, an Avionics Technician Certification, and a continued leadership role in the NorthSky Consortium - to expand industry partnerships and BVLOS infrastructure centered at the Yuba flight facility.

Externally, the region continues to gain national visibility, including designation of the “National All Domain Warfighting Center” as one of three official U.S. drone training sites, and growing interest from the U.S. Coast Guard in local UAS testing and training. A \$27 million infrastructure proposal is pending to extend the flight corridor to Traverse City, with governance initially led by federal and state partners and the potential for NMC’s participation over time.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan, *Anchor and Edge* (2026 - 2029)**

The implementation of preliminary action steps and identification of baseline metrics and targets is underway for the plan’s three strategies, focused on: (1) Future-Focused Education; (2) Student Success, Retention, and Enrollment; and, (3) Vibrant College Community. Strategies and objectives will be verifying the incorporation of four “strategic drivers” consisting of: (1) living our brand; (2) community partnerships; (3) stewardship; and (4) putting ‘people first’. Objective teams and the Office of Research, Planning & Effectiveness (ORPE) have been meeting regularly to advance this work. The Board of Trustees will receive an update during the February board meeting on our proposed timing and a deep dive of *Strategy 1: Future-Focused Education* in March.

### **75th Anniversary**

While NMC’s official 75th Anniversary events don’t kick off in earnest until April, there is no shortage of exciting anniversary-related activities to keep the celebration going

throughout the winter months. Tune in to WNMC's morning show on the last Thursday of each month to participate in NMC's 75th Anniversary-themed trivia. And if you're looking for even more fun, consider signing up a team for the Alumni Program's Trivia Night at Right Brain Brewery on Friday, February 27. These events offer fun, connection, and a great way to shake off cabin fever while celebrating 75 years of NMC—more details are available on the 75th anniversary website: [nmc.edu/75](http://nmc.edu/75).

### **Advancement Division**

Planning is underway for this year's Scholarship Open (save the date for Thursday, August 6), and the committee is energized as preparations move forward. After successfully bringing the event back last year, the group is excited to reintroduce elements from Scholarship Opens of the past—this time with special touches in recognition of NMC's 75th Anniversary. The golf outing will be a meaningful way to celebrate this milestone year while directly supporting student scholarships.

This month also marked the launch of the Student Managed Investment Fund, an exciting new experiential learning opportunity for NMC students. Led by Foundation Board Treasurer Chris Lamb (Old Mission Investments), Vice President Katharine Marvin, and accounting instructor Steve Rice, the group held its first meeting on February 3 with strong student interest. The student group is designed to introduce students from all academic backgrounds to the fundamentals of investing through hands-on experience, including the management of a small portion of the NMC Foundation's investment portfolio. This long-anticipated initiative reflects NMC's commitment to real-world learning opportunities that prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Katharine Marvin, the College's VP of Advancement, continues to realize exceptionally strong Foundation performance. The Foundation team, at 50% through the fiscal year, has raised \$3.29 million, or 76% of their \$4.3 million goal for the year. Total fundraising activity, which along with cash and pledges, includes newly documented planned gift intentions and in-kind gifts, totals \$11,096,924. This exceeds even the best "Be What's Possible" campaign year, which saw total fundraising activity just over \$10,000,000. Simply, this is outstanding work being done by our Foundation team!

### **MCCA's 2026 Legislative Priorities Announced**

MCCA has released its [2026 legislative priorities](#), focused on advancing student success, talent development, and community vitality, including increased operations funding for community colleges, expansion of Michigan Reconnect to age 21, codification of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, modernization of dual enrollment and Early Middle College, capital outlay project authorizations and reduced match requirements, and new investments in campus infrastructure, technology, and safety.

## **Points of Pride**

- Terri Gustafson, Director of Academic Affairs and Educational Technology, was selected to be part of the **Educause 2027 Top Ten Issues in Higher Education Panel**. The group will work over the next 8 months to identify the top issues influencing institutional leadership decision-making in the coming year. Last year's [report](#) included cybersecurity, AI, technology literacy for the future workforce, and building a data-centric culture—all topics embedded in our new strategic plan. I will join her this month for a half-hour interview in February with the folks at Educause to discuss the things that are top of mind for a higher education leader.
- On Saturday, January 17, 2026, more than 180 students, employees, and their families attended the **10th Annual “Welcome Back to NMC Ice Skating Event”** at Howe Arena (welcoming folks back to the New Year). In the ten-year history of this event, this was the highest attendance we have ever had—an exciting milestone that truly reflects the strength of our campus community. We are currently assessing student (and employee) interest in “learn to curl” sessions in collaboration with the Traverse City Curling Club.
- On January 22, the **Mobile Food Pantry** served 173 households, 558 people total. Of those, 226 were children, 75 seniors, and 33 veterans, with 36% of households self-identified as NMC affiliated households. There is a lot to unpack when we look at those numbers - but most significantly is the shift of need coming from our community.
- **College for Kids** registration for the 2026 season opened last week. Kristy Jackson, Program Manager with Extended Education & Training, has put together over 90 classes from "Bucket Drumming with the Archipelago Project," to "Taylor Swift Bracelet Making Party," to "Power Up! Hydraulics & Circuits," and so much more! Kristy has collaborated with over 35 instructors - NMC staff, faculty, and community members, including area K-12 teachers. This summer, College for Kids includes community partner programming such as SEEDS and The Great Lakes Children's Museum. Kristy worked with each instructor to extend the learning day to 3 hours per class for Grades 1-6 (camps run from 9-noon or 1-4 p.m.) to better meet family needs. Thank you, Kristy, for providing such high-interest, enriching summer camps here at NMC for our community's youth.
- Last week, I learned that I was selected for **Phi Theta Kappa’s Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction**, the honor society’s highest honor for community college presidents and chancellors. The award is made that much more special knowing that it's a student-initiated award, and earned through my commitment to and engagement with our students. While it's 'given' to me, it's an award that we've all earned and contributed to (staff and board) - given how central *learning* is to our values, and *future-focused education* is to our strategic plan.

### **Trends in Higher Education Articles**

Below are relevant articles that speak to trends, risks, challenges, and opportunities in community colleges, to help keep us informed and to invite conversation about how NMC is addressing such issues. This month, I'm sharing:

- [Good fall enrollment growth, but...](#) - *Community College Daily*
- [MSU to offer AI studies across all majors](#) - *Bridge Michigan*
- [Michigan free college program boosted adult enrollment, study finds](#) - *Higher Ed Dive*
- [Why community colleges must recenter learning in community life](#) - *Community College Daily*

### **Upcoming Dates of Note**

- February 14 - GLMA Alumni Association Celebration (Great Wolf Lodge)
- February 23 - Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting (TJNIC 106/107)
- March 23 - Student Government Association Dinner and Regular Monthly Board Meeting (Hagerty Center)
- March 30-April 5 - Spring Break (No Classes)
- August 6 - Save the Date for NMC's Scholarship Open at the Resort



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## MEMO

**To:** Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees  
**Cc:** Dr. Nick Nissley, Ed.D.  
**From:** Gabe Schneider, Founder/Principal, Northern Strategies 360  
**Date:** February 12, 2026  
**Re:** **State/Federal Legislative Update**

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### State

#### **FY27 Budget**

This week, Governor Whitmer unveiled her FY27 budget executive recommendation. Included were several items important for community colleges:

- Flat funding for community college operations funding
- Funding to support expanding Michigan Reconnect to age 21
- Additional funding for the Community College Guarantee
- \$20 million for dual enrollment reimbursement to K-12 school districts
- \$33.3 million in ITEMS funding for infrastructure and deferred maintenance for community colleges (Specifically grants of a min of \$1 million to each community college based on enrollment levels)
- Maintains FY27 tuition restraint levels established in the previous budget (4% or \$199/student)
- Continuation of MPSERS payments

#### **Work Project Cuts: Sixty by 30 Grant**

After finding out that our three year \$1.2 million dollar workforce grant was cut as a result of House Republican actions last year, we have been actively navigating a process that has been less than clear in terms of certainty and probability. This includes having the Attorney General rule that funds could be spent, having House Republican's sue the Attorney General, having a judge issue a temporary order once again pausing funds and then receiving communication from MiLEAP saying that our funds were no longer encumbered. As a result, we are currently in a position of receiving reimbursement payments from the state for our grant expenditures. We are also working with Rep. Roth on a \$1 million Legislative Directed Spending Item to ensure that funds are available for this program going forward.

#### **Legislative Directed Spending Items (LDSI)**

We are working with Senator Damoose, Representative Roth and Representative Coffia on submitted several LDSI requests. These include \$1 million for the Sixty by 30 grant (Roth sponsor, Coffia co-sponsor), \$10 million for the Student Services Hub (Coffia sponsor, Roth co-sponsor) and supporting Discovery Pier in a \$3 million request to complete the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (Roth sponsor, Coffia co-sponsor).

#### **Capital Outlay**

We continue to work with Kelley Cawthorne on a strategy for funding for the Osterlin Student Services Hub. This includes seeking a LDSI as well as a Capital Outlay Planning and Construction Authorization. As part of the Governor's FY27 budget, scoring of FY27 Capital Outlay projects was also released. NMC's Student Services Hub dropped to 6<sup>th</sup> out of 14 projects scored.

**Michigan Reconnect Expansion (Reconnect 21)**

We continue to support passage of legislation that would permanently expand the Michigan Reconnect program to age 21. This includes supporting SB 232 and 233 which passed the Senate and is currently referred to the House Appropriations Committee. We are also working to ensure that Traverse Connect and the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance also include this in their regional priority list for 2026.

**Federal****FY26 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations**

Congress passed the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill and rejected proposed cuts and eliminations of student aid and other critical programs. Overall, programs received level funding or a minor increase.



**To:** NMC Board of Trustees  
**From:** Nick Nissley, President  
 President's Council  
**Subject:** February 2026 Executive Summary

### Notes regarding Key Items on February Agenda

- Due to scheduling challenges, the Board's Fellows Nominating Committee was unable to meet until February 18, 2026, to select the 2026 honoree(s).
- Three action items on this month's agenda relate to authorization for the use of net proceeds from the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus. General conditions are outlined in the accompanying memo. In addition, it is recommended that \$2 million be invested in FRIC and \$5 million be allocated to financing the Campus Geothermal Project. Both authorizations are contingent upon the anticipated closing of the sale this spring.
- Additional action items include replacement of door access controllers and the campus firewall, as well as authorization of a special liquor license for the April 24 *Taste of Success* event.
- Finally, the 2026–2027 Housing and Meal Plan Rates are presented for approval in advance of Fall 2026 registration, which begins March 11, 2026.

### Financial Report—Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration

- For FY26, through January 31, 2026, the College's general fund has net revenue of \$7.8 million compared to net revenue of \$7.7 million through the same period last year.
- Our financial projection for FY26 anticipates a net surplus of \$1.2 million for the year ended June 30, 2026 driven by higher than expected enrollment and stronger than expected investment income.
- We request action from the Board this month to recommend 1. Conditions for the anticipated Boardman Lake Campus proceeds and 2. Using \$5.0 million of the Boardman Lake Sale proceeds as a down payment for the campus geothermal project.

### Enrollment Report—Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies

- Spring 2026 contact hours were up 4.3% over the spring 2025 cycle.
- Total headcount was up 1.2%
- Dual Enrolled and Early College enrollment was up to 19.3% of headcount which is the highest ever.

**PRMC**—Diana Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications & Change Initiatives

All media categories were up. Paid media was up modestly with an enrollment ramp up, but also impacted by increased competition.

*Paid Media*- ↑

- Applications: 93
- Accounts: 99

**Strategic Plan 2026 - 2029** – Jason Slade, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

- The February board packet contains the Strategic Plan memo outlining the cadence for updates to the Board of Trustees. As currently designed, the strategies will be heavily reviewed in detail March - May. After this deeper dive of the vision, actions, key performance indicators and alignment, the monthly update will focus on successes and opportunities as well as strategic drivers. The goal is for the board to see how the strategic plan is driving the work across the college. As with NMC's practice of Plan-Do-Check-Adjust, we can evaluate the effectiveness of this approach as time goes on.
- The March 2026 update will focus on the objectives of Strategy 1 - Future Focused Education.

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
Monday, January 26, 2026  
Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center  
Room 106/107**

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees present:** Laura J. Oblinger, Kennard R. Weaver, Kenneth E. Warner, Mark B. Keely, Jody N. Lundquist, Pamela T. Horne

**Trustees remote:** Andrew K. Robitshek (via Zoom from New Hampshire)

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Diana Fairbanks, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Stephen Siciliano, Jason Slade, Lindsey Lipke, Kyle Morrison, Kathryn DePauw, Lindsey Dickinson, Hollie DeWalt, Katharine Marvin, Becca Richardson, Warren Call, Brenda McLellan, Claire Karner, Beth Friend, Bobby Peplinski, Amy Shamroe, Laura Stevens, Elizabeth Sonnabend

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented, with a note that item S will include consideration of a resolution to authorize sale of the Boardman Lake Campus.

As Trustee Robitshek participated remotely, his attendance did not count toward the quorum of in-person trustees, nor could he vote toward any action items.

**ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**Reading of Notice and Proof of Service**—The notice of the annual meeting was read with proof of service on January 19, 2026, sent by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations.

**Report of Secretary**—Secretary Pam Horne reported the 2025 Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees Annual Meeting minutes were approved on February 24, 2025, and are available online at the 2025 Trustee Meeting Materials and Minutes website along with all other regular meeting minutes.

**Report of Treasurer**—Treasurer Andy Robitshek reported the annual financial audit for Northwestern Michigan College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, was accepted by the NMC Board of Trustees on October 20, 2025, and is available online at the NMC Audit Reports website NMC Audit Reports website.

**Verification of Residential Address and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**—Trustees were asked to provide their current address where they registered to vote as a renewed verification for the calendar year 2026. Trustees were also provided with Conflict of Interest Disclosure statements for 2026 and asked to return the completed and signed statements to Lynne Moritz in the President's Office by February 2, 2026.

**Election of Officers**—Trustee Warner nominated Mark Keely as Chair, which was supported unanimously among those trustees present in-person. Trustee Oblinger made a motion to propose the following slate of officers for 2026: Jody Lundquist for Vice Chair, Pam Horne as Secretary, and Andy Robitshek as Treasurer. Trustee Ken Warner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Proposed regular meeting dates through June 2027 were acknowledged.

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

**East Bay Beach District Corridor Improvement Authority**—Claire Karner, Director of Planning & Zoning for East Bay Charter Township, presented on the East Bay Beach District Corridor Improvement Authority and the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) that is being proposed to fund the public infrastructure projects.

**Extended Education and Training Annual Report**—Director Laura Stevens presented on the 2024-2025 Annual Report for Extended Education and Training.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was public input offered by Warren Call.

## UPDATES

**President's Update**—President Nick Nissley reviewed the timeline and process to date that has led to recommendation to authorize administration to enter a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Grand Traverse Tribe of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for sale of the Boardman Lake Campus real property. Nissley highlighted positive mentions of the college at the recent Traverse Connect Policy Conference, provided an update on the 60x30 state grant, and recognized the college's loss of English Instructor Nancy Gray. Lastly, Nissley thanked Trustee Oblinger for her three years as chair. Oblinger's term continues through December 31, 2026.

**Board Chair Update**—Chair Mark Keely thanked Trustee Oblinger for her generosity and time spent over the past year in preparing Keely to serve as Chair, as well as her passion and love for the college.

**CONSENT ITEMS**—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Laura Oblinger, the following items were approved by a unanimous vote as a group without discussion:

- Minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting and closed session
- Minutes of the January 22, 2026, study session
- Enrollment Report
- Financial Report
- Investment Gains and Losses Quarterly Report
- Public Relations, Marketing, & Communications

Advancement Report  
Policy Committee  
Winter MCCA Board of Directors Meeting

## ACTION ITEMS

**Resolution to Authorize the Sale of the Boardman Lake Campus Real Property**—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Kennard Weaver, recommending the Board adopt a resolution authorizing administration to enter into the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Grand Traverse Tribe of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus as presented, and to take all other actions and execute any additional documents necessary to complete the sale, under the condition that the proceeds be placed into a Board-designated fund. There was discussion to consider adding language to the resolution to further define the use of the proceeds; it was requested to deliberate on the additional language at the February meeting and, at this time, to only consider the resolution language proposed by legal counsel. The motion passed with support from all trustees present in-person.

**Welding Certificate Changes**—Ken Warner made a motion, seconded by Laura Oblinger, recommending the Welding Certificate Level I be discontinued and a Welding Certificate Level III be established, effective Fall 2026. The motion passed.

**Special Liquor License**—Laura Oblinger made a motion, seconded by Jody Lundquist, to authorize for administration to temporarily suspend NMC's liquor license in Lobdell's - A Teaching Restaurant to accommodate 45th Parallel Vines and Wines teaching seminars as presented. The motion passed.

**Security Incident and Event Management Software**—On a motion by Kennard Weaver, seconded by Pam Horne, it was recommended to authorize the purchase and contract agreement with SentinelOne in the amount of \$70,396.10 to complement our current cybersecurity tools to improve NMC's resilience to cyber attacks. The motion passed.

**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—Confirmed requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

- Further discussion regarding Board-designated fund, review proposed language from Trustee Lundquist

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President's Office and Board Operations.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

Mark B. Keely, Chair

ATTESTED

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Pamela T. Horne, Secretary

**To:** NMC Board of Trustees

**From:** Nick Nissley, Ed.D.  
Jason Slade, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Subject:** *Upcoming Timing and Milestones for the Anchor and Edge, NMC's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan*

**Background:** At the December 15, 2025 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the strategies for the 2026 - 2029 strategic plan. Currently, leadership teams for all three strategies are drafting action steps, metrics, and KPIs for Year 1 of Anchor and Edge which officially begins on July 1, 2026. In preparation for the upcoming year, this memo serves as an overview of how updates will be shared and of the continued development that is occurring.

***Board of Trustees Updates and Milestones:***

- **March 23, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 1: Future-Focused Education**
  - Focus for the first year
  - Share baseline metrics, potential goals and key performance indicators
- **April 27, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 2: Enrollment and Student Success**
  - Focus for the first year
  - Share baseline metrics, potential goals and key performance indicators
- **May 18, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 3: Vibrant College Community**
  - Focus for the first year
  - Share baseline metrics, potential goals and key performance indicators
- **June 22, 2026** - **No update.** June BoT agenda is usually heavy with college business.
- *Milestone - Preliminary phase complete, Year 1 actions launch (aligned with fiscal year)*
- **July 20, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategic Drivers Focus - Living Our Brand and People First**
  - Focus for the first year
  - Share how strategic driver was used to improve the plan
- **August 17, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategic Drivers Focus - Community Partnerships and Stewardship/Sustainability**
  - Focus for the first year
  - Share how strategic driver was used to improve the plan
- *Milestone - Fall 2026 academic semester begins*
- **September 28, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 1: Future-Focused Education**
- **October 19, 2026** - **No update.** October BoT agenda is usually heavy with college business.

- **November 23, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 2: Enrollment and Student Success**
- **December 14, 2026** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 3: Vibrant College Community**
- *Milestone - Spring 2027 academic semester begins*
- **January 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategic Drivers Focus - Living Our Brand and People First**
- **February 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategic Drivers Focus - Community Partnerships and Stewardship/Sustainability**
- **March, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 1: Future-Focused Education**
- **April, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 2: Enrollment and Student Success**
- **May, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 3: Vibrant College Community**
- **June, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **No update.** October BoT agenda is usually heavy with college business.
- **July, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategic Drivers Focus - Living Our Brand and People First**
- *Milestone - Fall 2027 academic semester begins*
- **August, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategic Drivers Focus - Community Partnerships and Stewardship/Sustainability**
- **September, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 1: Future-Focused Education**
- **October, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **No update.** October BoT agenda is usually heavy with college business.
- **November, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 2: Enrollment and Student Success**
- **December, 2027** - Board of Trustees Meeting - **Strategy 3: Vibrant College Community**



**Northwestern  
Michigan College**

## MEMO

Student Services &  
Technologies

**To:** Dr. Nick Nissley, President  
**From:** Todd Neibauer, VP for Student Services and Technologies  
**Date:** February 16, 2026  
**Subject:** February 2026 Enrollment Report

### Spring 2026

Contact hours for the 2026 spring finished up 4.3% over the same time in the Spring 2025 cycle with an increased headcount of 1.4%. Strong growth in high school enrollment helped secure an eighth straight semester of enrollment growth. There was an all time high of 613(+58) early college and dual enrolled students which comprised 19.3% of headcount.

### Other Count Day Reports

- [Student demographics report](#)
- [Program enrollments](#)

	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	△
<b>Inquiries</b>	1,438	1,671	1,816	1,630	-10.2%
<b>Applicants</b>	1,417	1,634	1,787	1,602	-10.4%
<b>% Applied</b>	98.50%	97.8%	98.4%	98.3%	-0.1%
<b>Admits</b>	1,063	1,183	1,345	1,258	-6.5%
<b>% Admitted</b>	75%	72.4%	75.3%	78.5%	3.2%
<b>Admits Registered</b>	685	798	864	808	-6.5%
<b>% Admits Registered</b>	64.40%	67.5%	64.2%	64.2%	0.0%
<b>Prior Admits Registered</b>	0	1	0	8	0.0%
<b>Retained Students</b>	2,072	2,037	2,186	2,255	3.2%
<b>% Retained</b>	66.80%	64.7%	67.2%	65.2%	-2.0%
<b>Return Students</b>	116	117	99	118	19.2%
<b>Average Contact Hours</b>	10.34	10.37	10.57	10.89	3.0%
<b>Total Headcount</b>	2,871	2,952	3,149	3,188	1.2%
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	29,688	30,621	33,288	34,717	4.3%
<b>Tuition</b>	6,022,546	6,629,938	7,122,148	7,824,287	9.9%

(Resources: Digital Dashboard – Same Date Comparison SP2023-2026)

### Michigan Community Colleges - Spring 2026

	% change in credit hours	% change in headcount	Total credit hours	Total headcount
Alpena	0.1%	-1.8%	13,242	1,517
Delta	6.1%	2.6%	58,493	6,866
Glen Oaks	0.1%	-9.0%	11,360	1,333
Gogebic	1.2%	-0.6%	8,145	867
Grand Rapids	3.7%	0.1%	101,002	11,972
Henry Ford	2.1%	0.9%	115,863	12,403
Jackson	0.5%	0.1%	45,023	5,613
Kalamazoo Valley	9.6%	6.3%	45,358	5,260
Kellogg	5.7%	1.6%	31,121	3,832
Kirtland	1.0%	-2.9%	12,538	1,419
Lake Michigan	2.0%	-5.0%	21,686	2,362
Lansing	8.5%	5.3%	92,048	10,235
Macomb	5.1%	1.9%	145,281	15,985
Mid Michigan	3.1%	-0.1%	28,674	3,706
Monroe County	8.5%	4.9%	21,102	2,586
Montcalm	17.8%	14.1%	14,953	1,971
Mott	8.0%	7.7%	61,417	6,537
Muskegon	5.1%	-2.1%	32,108	3,995
North Central Michigan	0.5%	-3.3%	13,490	1,658
Northwestern Michigan	4.5%	1.2%	29,991	3,188
Oakland	9.4%	5.2%	133,692	15,016
Schoolcraft	9.4%	7.3%	85,300	9,439
Southwestern	10.7%	9.1%	20,697	2,078
Washtenaw	1.5%	1.0%	93,097	11,371
West Shore	5.0%	4.0%	10,326	1,226



**MEMO**  
Administrative  
Services

**To:** Dr. Nick Nissley, President

**From:** Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance and Administration

**Date:** February 13, 2026

**Subject:** Summary Report for the General Fund as of January 31, 2026

The attached reports summarize the financial results for the General Fund as of January 31, 2026. The seventh month represents 58% of the year.

**Month End Results**

*The month-end reports are interim and not a reflection of actual year-end results.* The timing of revenue and expenses fluctuates throughout the year and will affect year-end results.

As of year-to-date January 2026, the General Fund shows a surplus of \$7,839,923 with revenues exceeding expenses. Revenue increased by 3% compared to the same period in January 2025 due primarily to timing of receipts. Expenses increased by 4% over the same timeframe.

**Revenue (letters refer to the attached General Fund summary)**

- A. Tuition and fees: For Spring 2026, the budget was set at 34,048 contact hours for a total budget revenue of \$7,850,278. Actual Spring contact hours were 34,717 with an actual revenue of \$7,824,287. Spring revenue is under budget by \$25,991.
- B. Property Taxes: Tax revenue is recorded as payments are received. The overall increase for the fiscal year is expected to be 5% over the previous fiscal year.
- C. State Sources include operational appropriations, personal property tax payments and MPSERS offset payments. State appropriations payments began in October 2025.
- D. Actual year-to-date investment income recorded for fiscal year 2026 reflects interest and dividend income only. Unrealized gains or losses are held on the balance sheet during the year and will be recognized at fiscal year-end. Year-to-date realized gains and losses are shared quarterly in the investment memo.
- E. Both Private Sources and Other Sources are timing and event-dependent.

**Expenses**

- F. Salaries and benefits are tracking at budget.
- G. Overall expenses are under budget at this time.
- H. Capital Outlay reflects expenditures budgeted through the allocation of COAT dollars.

Northwestern Michigan College  
Unaudited

*Summary Report for General Fund Accounts  
Fiscal Year 2026, Period 07*



Funds	Accounts	2025-2026 Adjusted Budget	YTD Activity	% of Annual Budget
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>				
50	<b>Revenues</b>			
	Tuition and Fees	27,071,058	18,210,944	67.27%
	Property Taxes	15,714,472	11,160,326	71.02%
	Other Local	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	*
	Local Sources	42,785,530	29,371,270	68.65%
	State Sources	11,550,000	5,522,398	47.81%
	Federal Sources	0	0	*
	Private Sources	1,346,714	478,561	35.54%
	Investment Income	400,000	584,274	146.07%
	Other Sources	<u>702,025</u>	<u>275,534</u>	39.25%
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>56,784,269</b>	<b>36,232,038</b>	<b>63.81%</b>
60	<b>Labor</b>			
	Salaries and Wages	26,169,965	13,363,201	51.06%
	Benefits	<u>10,846,688</u>	<u>6,277,272</u>	57.87%
	<b>Total Labor</b>	<b>37,016,653</b>	<b>19,640,474</b>	<b>53.06%</b>
70	<b>Expenses</b>			
	Purchased Services	4,824,433	2,589,577	53.68%
	Supplies and Materials	3,708,350	2,023,455	54.56%
	Internal Services	141,840	49,120	34.63%
	Other Expenses	1,667,718	985,307	59.08%
	Institutional Expenses	2,023,730	1,142,227	56.44%
	Maintenance and Renovation	2,459,578	1,427,616	58.04%
	Prof Develop, Travel and Events	731,955	298,282	40.75%
	Capital Outlay	<u>145,812</u>	<u>190,183</u>	130.43%
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,703,416</b>	<b>8,705,766</b>	<b>55.44%</b>
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>52,720,069</b>	<b>28,346,240</b>	<b>53.77%</b>
80	<b>Transfers</b>			
	Transfers	4,064,200	71,364	1.76%
	<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>4,064,200</b>	<b>71,364</b>	<b>1.76%</b>
	<b>Total Expenditures and Transfers</b>	<b>56,784,269</b>	<b>28,417,604</b>	<b>50.04%</b>
	<b>Net Revenues over (under) Expenditures</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,814,435</b>	



**Northwestern Michigan College**  
**Comparison - Fiscal Year to Date**  
**General Fund**  
**Jan 2026 vs. Jan 2025**

**INTERIM**

This statement does not  
reflect year-end results.

	YTD 1/31/2026	YTD 1/31/2025	\$ Diff	% Diff	Comments
<b>Revenue</b>					
Local Sources:					
Tuition & Fees	\$ 18,210,944	\$ 16,551,349	\$ 1,659,595	10%	Increase is driven by higher fall and spring enrollment in FY26
Property Taxes	11,160,326	10,585,005	575,321	5%	Timing of property tax payments received
Total Local Sources	29,371,270	27,136,354	2,234,916	8%	
State Sources	5,459,669	6,370,997	(911,328)	-14%	Primarily due to one time MPERS reimbursement received in FY25
State PPT Reimbursement	62,729	71,206	(8,477)	-12%	Higher LCSA/PPT payment received in FY25 than in FY26
Private Sources	478,561	644,509	(165,948)	-26%	Timing of Foundation gifts
Investment Income	584,274	514,784	69,490	13%	Higher interest income from Investments in FY26
Other Sources	275,534	327,119	(51,585)	-16%	Primarily due to timing of insurance claims activity between fiscal years; partially offset by higher administrative fees earned in FY26 from NJTP activity
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>36,232,037</b>	<b>35,064,969</b>	<b>1,167,068</b>	<b>3%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries and Wages	13,363,201	12,736,599	626,602	5%	In line with budget; primarily impacted by increases in faculty wages and staffing changes at the professional salary level
Benefits	6,277,272	5,971,164	306,108	5%	In line with budget; impacted by changes noted above
Purchased Services	2,564,087	2,895,627	(331,540)	-11%	Primarily due to cost savings recognized from facilities transition during FY25; partially offset by higher EduStaff activity in FY26
Supplies & Materials	2,023,455	1,914,097	109,358	6%	Primarily impacted by increased printing expenses with new branding initiatives and higher furniture/fixture expenses in FY26; partially offset by timing of international trip expenses
Internal Services	49,120	73,577	(24,457)	-33%	Timing of internal charges
Other Expenses	985,307	819,031	166,276	20%	Primarily due to increased promotional/marketing expenses, higher Native Tuition waiver, and higher student assistance expenses (which offset by Foundation reimbursements) in FY26
Institutional Expenses	1,142,227	1,103,998	38,229	3%	Primarily due to higher electric and heating fuel expenses in FY26; partially offset by timing of insurance payments
Maintenance & Renovation	1,427,616	1,300,886	126,730	10%	Primarily due to higher software maintenance expenses and equipment maintenance expenses in FY26
Professional Development	298,282	332,862	(34,580)	-10%	Timing of Professional Development Events
Capital Outlay	190,183	108,559	81,624	75%	Timing of capital expenses (\$49,999 Maven Technologies [simulator for law enforcement training], \$35,299 multiple vendors for East Hall flood damage, \$56,993 Lark Lawn and Garden [salt spreaders and related equipment for facilities], \$9,198 BSB Communications [down payment for emergency communication system], \$23,200 Byte Technology [Smart Cabinet Vending Systems], \$15,494 Bouma Corporation [Flood Repairs Scholars Hall])
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>28,320,750</b>	<b>27,256,400</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>	<b>4%</b>	
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>71,364</b>	<b>139,139</b>	<b>(67,775)</b>	<b>-49%</b>	Primarily due to timing of Indirect grant costs, strategic fund support for rebranding, and Aviation flight hours transfer
<b>Total Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>28,392,114</b>	<b>27,395,539</b>	<b>996,575</b>	<b>4%</b>	
<b>Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,839,923</b>	<b>\$ 7,669,430</b>	<b>\$ 170,493</b>	<b>2%</b>	



**Northwestern Michigan College**  
**Comparison - Month Over Month**  
**General Fund**  
**Jan 2026 vs. Dec 2025**

**INTERIM**  
This statement does not  
reflect year-end results.

	YTD 1/31/2026	YTD 12/31/2025	Jan 26 Activity	Dec 25 Activity	Comments
<b>Revenue</b>					
Local Sources:					
Tuition & Fees	\$ 18,210,944	\$ 14,975,818	\$ 3,235,126	\$ 1,459,382	Primarily due to the allocation of spring fees in January (allocations for semester fees are allocated at the beginning of fall/spring semesters); also impacted by higher flight fees in January
Property Taxes	11,160,326	7,445,265	3,715,061	324,581	Timing of tax collections received
<b>Total Local Sources</b>	<b>29,371,270</b>	<b>22,421,083</b>	<b>6,950,187</b>	<b>1,783,963</b>	
State Sources					
State PPT Reimbursement	5,459,669	4,219,236	1,240,433	1,235,184	Consistent with prior month
Private Sources	62,729	62,729	(0)	-	
Investment Income	478,561	247,504	231,057	115,000	Timing of quarterly Foundation support
Other Sources	584,274	443,634	140,640	33,943	Higher interest activity from investments in January
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>36,232,037</b>	<b>27,592,988</b>	<b>8,639,049</b>	<b>3,193,895</b>	Primarily due to timing of insurance claim payment received in January and NJTP Fees
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries and Wages	13,363,201	11,504,932	1,858,269	1,960,641	Consistent with prior month
Benefits	6,277,272	5,111,156	1,166,116	802,254	HSA payments issued in January
Purchased Services	2,564,087	2,174,170	389,917	364,489	Consistent with prior month
Supplies & Materials	2,023,455	1,663,078	360,377	184,349	Due to timing of fuel expenses, and higher class supplies, furniture/fixture, and printing expenses in January
Internal Services	49,120	45,351	3,769	17,479	Timing of internal events/charges (including opening conference, leadership council, HR new employee orientation)
Other Expenses	985,307	859,305	126,002	114,969	Consistent with prior month
Institutional Expenses	1,142,227	931,914	210,313	204,316	Consistent with prior month
Maintenance & Renovation	1,427,616	1,211,027	216,589	172,369	Higher equipment maintenance expenses and software maintenance expenses in January
Professional Development	298,282	278,481	19,801	19,759	Consistent with prior month
Capital Outlay	190,183	151,489	38,694	27,521	Timing of capital expenses (\$49,999 Maven Technologies [simulator for law enforcement training], \$35,299 multiple vendors for East Hall flood damage, \$56,993 Lark Lawn and Garden [salt spreaders and related equipment for facilities], \$9,198 BSB Communications [down payment for emergency communication system], \$23,200 Byte Technology [Smart Cabinet Vending Systems], \$15,494 Bouma Corporation [Flood Repairs Scholars Hall])
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>28,320,750</b>	<b>23,930,903</b>	<b>4,389,847</b>	<b>3,868,146</b>	
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>71,364</b>	<b>73,993</b>	<b>(2,629)</b>	<b>78,877</b>	Primarily due to timing of Indirect grant costs, strategic fund support for rebranding, and Aviation flight hours transfer
<b>Total Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>28,392,114</b>	<b>24,004,896</b>	<b>4,387,218</b>	<b>3,947,023</b>	
<b>Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,839,923</b>	<b>\$ 3,588,092</b>	<b>\$ 4,251,831</b>	<b>\$ (753,128)</b>	



**Northwestern Michigan College**  
**Income Statement Projections - General Fund**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2026**  
**As of 2/12/2026**

**INTERIM**  
This statement does not  
reflect year-end results.

	<b>FY25 Actual</b>	<b>FY 26 Budget</b>	<b>YTD 2/12/2026</b>	<b>FY 26 Projected</b>	<b>Difference vs. Budget</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Revenue</b>						
Local Sources:						
Tuition & Fees	\$ 25,184,473	\$ 27,071,058	\$ 18,530,854	\$ 27,977,606	906,548	Enrollment was higher than expected in both Fall / Spring
Property Taxes	14,890,963	15,714,472	12,032,261	15,723,436	8,964	In line with budget
<b>Total Local Sources</b>	<b>40,075,436</b>	<b>42,785,530</b>	<b>30,563,115</b>	<b>43,701,043</b>	<b>915,513</b>	
State Sources	14,631,009	11,400,000	5,459,669	11,811,836	411,836	Currently trending slightly above budget due to payments from MPERS; partially offset by MPERS expenses
State Property Tax Reimbursement	207,430	150,000	62,729	125,457	(24,543)	Trending below budget
Private Sources	2,050,126	1,346,714	478,561	1,496,714	150,000	Timing of Foundation gifts
Dividend and Interest Income	936,834	400,000	492,980	985,960	585,960	The College continues to take advantage of a favorable interest rate environment
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	968,867	-	-	-	-	Not projected due to volatility of unreal. losses; see quarterly investments memo (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct)
Other Sources	814,132	702,025	310,073	825,104	123,079	Increase in extra sales including administrative fee revenue and office rental income trending above budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>59,683,834</b>	<b>56,784,269</b>	<b>37,367,127</b>	<b>58,946,114</b>	<b>2,161,845</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>						
Salaries and Wages	24,788,478	26,169,965	14,506,667	25,926,820	(243,145)	Trending near budget
Benefits	13,335,231	10,846,688	6,409,583	10,991,806	145,118	Trending near budget
Purchased Services	4,832,160	4,824,433	2,775,050	4,930,180	105,747	Trending above budget due to impacts of EduStaff
Supplies & Materials	3,375,137	3,708,350	2,055,705	4,048,542	340,192	Trending above budget for classroom supplies and international trip expenses
Internal Services	147,374	141,840	49,192	145,438	3,598	In line with budget
Other Expenses	1,326,644	1,667,718	1,024,904	2,116,357	448,639	Trending above budget for student assistance expenses (offset by Foundation gifts), recruiting expenses, Native tuition waivers, and non-professional development travel expenses
Institutional Expenses	2,188,867	2,023,730	1,261,629	2,206,525	182,795	Budgeted for increases in utilities; electric, water, and sewer expenses are currently each trending slightly above budget
Maintenance & Renovation	2,292,543	2,459,578	1,466,848	2,613,896	154,318	Maintenance of equipment and maintenance of grounds trending above budget; partially due to outsourced services for ground services
Professional Development	634,906	731,955	307,185	767,055	35,100	Increased activity in PD events and travel
Capital Outlay	825,084	145,812	190,183	502,771	356,959	Trending above budget due to equipment and building expenditures
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>53,746,424</b>	<b>52,720,069</b>	<b>30,046,944</b>	<b>54,249,389</b>	<b>1,529,320</b>	
<b>Transfers Out (In)</b>						
Plant Fund - General Maintenance	1,400,000	1,750,000	-	1,750,000	-	Budgeted transfer for maintenance of capital
Plant Fund - Technology Maintenance	600,000	650,000	-	650,000	-	Budgeted transfer for maintenance of technology
Plant Fund - Aviation Capital Fund	553,819	690,000	289,378	690,000	-	Budgeted transfer for Aviation equipment fund; based on revenue, calculated using tach hours
Plant Fund - Aviation Debt Services	250,000	814,200	-	814,200	-	
Plant Fund - New Capital Projects	500,000	750,000	-	750,000	-	Transfer current year surplus towards new projects
Plant Fund - Debt Services	500,000	110,000	-	110,000	-	
Bd Designated - Strategic Projects	850,000	325,000	-	325,000	-	Budgeted transfer for strategic projects, plus \$150k in additional surplus
Bd Designated - Funds for Transformation	150,000	75,000	-	75,000	-	Budgeted transfer for funds for transformation
Restricted Fund - GLMA Direct Support	(908,167)	(1,100,000)	-	(1,100,000)	-	Transfer MARAD restricted funds to the general fund to support academy operations
Program Specific - Yellow River	(291,264)	-	-	(291,000)	-	
Program Specific	(29,250)	-	(150,239)	(275,000)	(275,000)	
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>3,575,138</b>	<b>4,064,200</b>	<b>139,139</b>	<b>3,498,200</b>	<b>(566,000)</b>	
<b>Total Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>57,321,562</b>	<b>56,784,269</b>	<b>30,186,083</b>	<b>57,747,589</b>	<b>963,320</b>	
<b>Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,362,272</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,181,044</b>	<b>\$ 1,198,525</b>	<b>\$ 1,198,525</b>	



**Northwestern  
Michigan College**

## MEMO

Public Relations, Marketing  
& Communications

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**To:** Nick Nissley, President

**From:** Diana Fairbanks, Associate VP of Strategic Communications and Change Initiatives

**Date:** 2-16-26

**Subject:** January 2026 Monthly Report

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January was a good media month with growth across categories. Paid was up modestly month over month. We continue to see increased competition in digital marketing from other colleges and universities which impacts campaign performance and cost. Earned media performance with total mentions but sentiment dipped slightly to 98% positive or neutral with coverage of a new student group launch. The student group event and the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus got the most coverage. NMC Now highlighted the [top 75 alumni](#) and [the Blue Tech Challenge](#). Shared media followers continue to increase with highest performing posts including Aviation Florida trip and Police Academy exams. NMC Public Relations, Marketing and Communication key performance indicators for January 2026 include:

*Paid Media-* ↑

- Applications: 93
- Accounts: 99

*Earned Media-* ↑

- Media mentions: 174
- Positive/neutral sentiment: 98%
- Publicity value: \$155,400

*Owned Media -* ↑

- *NMC Now:*
  - Subscribers: 1,418
  - Open Rate: 31%

### *Shared Media* ↑

- Facebook followers: +6.6% YOY
- Total followers: 14,995
- Instagram followers: +13.7% YOY
- Total followers: 4,524




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**To:** NMC Board of Trustees  
President Nick Nissley, Ed.D.

**From:** Katharine Z. Marvin, Vice President of College Advancement

**Date:** February 23, 2026

**Subject:** Advancement Division Update

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### Update on Philanthropic Activity

As of January 31, 2026, the fiscal year is 59% complete, and we have achieved 81.95% of the budgeted goal of \$4,300,000 in cash/pledge activity, with \$3,524,060 in new gifts and pledges having been recorded.

#### FY25 Total Dollars Raised Through the NMC Foundation

\$3,321,715	Total cash gifts and pledges received to date (including The Fund for NMC)
\$202,345	Gross event revenue
<b>\$3,524,060</b>	<b>Total raised through donations and event revenue</b>
+ \$8,469,350	New documentation of planned gift intentions
<u>+ \$38,466</u>	In-Kind Gifts
<b>\$12,031,876</b>	<b>Total Fundraising Activity</b>

Of the total raised (cash, pledges, and planned gifts), donors are impacting the following areas of the college as of January 31, 2026:

- Unrestricted gifts to the Fund for NMC - \$198,575 (1.7% of total giving)
- Scholarships, both restricted and endowed funds - \$5,864,961 (49.7% of total giving)
- Program support and capital projects at NMC - \$5,727,529 (48.6% of total giving)

#### Foundation Initiatives

- The Foundation Team is having the best fundraising year in its history. Cash and pledge activity is at \$3,524,060 (81.95% of goal). Total Fundraising Activity, which along with cash and pledges includes newly documented planned gift intentions and in-kind gifts, totals \$12,031,876. This exceeds even the best Be What's Possible campaign year, which saw Total Fundraising Activity just over \$10,000,000.
- Major gifts (\$25,000+) secured since our last report include:
  - o \$25,000 to a new endowed memorial scholarship for nursing students
  - o \$700,000 planned gift to the GLMA Scholarship Fund
- 75th Anniversary initiatives and events continue throughout the winter months. Tune in to WNMC's morning show on the last Thursday of each month to participate in NMC's 75th Anniversary-themed trivia. And if you're looking for even more trivia fun, consider signing up a team for the Alumni Program's Trivia Night at Right Brain Brewery on Friday, February 27. More information at [nmc.edu/75](http://nmc.edu/75)
- This month marked the launch of the Student Managed Investment Fund, an exciting new experiential learning opportunity for NMC students. The student group is led by its student president, with guidance from Foundation Board Treasurer Chris Lamb (Old Mission Investments), Vice President Katharine Marvin, and accounting instructor Steve Rice. The student group is designed to introduce students from all academic backgrounds to the fundamentals of investing through hands-on experience, including the management of a small portion of the NMC Foundation's investment portfolio.

- Planning is underway for this year's Scholarship Open (save the date for Thursday, August 6!), and the committee is energized as preparations move forward for a special 75th Anniversary edition of the beloved golf outing.

### **Advancement Division Initiatives**

- The Denno Museum Center drew a full house in Milliken Auditorium twice in the last month. On February 4, the Denno screened *The Librarians*, a film about book bans in Texas, followed by a reflection on how these themes connect to our local libraries. The Denno also had a packed auditorium of nearly 500 local elementary school students who attended a presentation by Paleo Joe on fossils. Paleo Joe's exhibition *Trilobite Treasures* is on display now through May 31, 2026.
- The International Affairs Forum and Central Michigan University's Hart-Milliken Speaker Series have launched a new partnership that brings nationally recognized voices to northern Michigan while connecting students from CMU, NMC, and area high schools to the conversation via livestreamed engagement. Designed as an annual collaboration, the partnership debuts on February 19 with Kori Schake, Ph.D., a leading foreign policy scholar and former senior U.S. government official, underscoring a shared commitment to civil dialogue and public education. Together, IAF and the Hart-Milliken Speaker Series are expanding access to high-level policy conversations and laying the groundwork for meaningful collaboration across campuses and communities.
- How much do you know about NMC's 75 year history? Tune in to WNMC (90.7 FM) during the morning show on the last Thursday of the month to hear 75th Anniversary Trivia with Station Manager Eric Hines and longtime librarian and archivist Ann Swaney.

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Executive Committee Minutes**  
 Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
 Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center  
 Room 14 (Lower Level)  
 1701 E. Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

Committee Chair Mark Keely called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Keely, Jody Lundquist, Kennard Weaver

Others Present: Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Troy Kierczynski, Jason Slade

**President’s Update**—The Grand Traverse of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians requested an extension to complete Phase II environmental due diligence for the purchase of the Boardman Lake Campus. This phase should take approximately 4-5 weeks and should not significantly impact the closing date. President Nissley provided an update on Governor Whitmer’s budget that was recently released and 60x30 grant funding. Nissley also announced that the NMC Foundation’s endowment has crested \$75 million, which is fitting for the college’s 75th anniversary. This month, the NMC Foundation Board will be considering supporting a campaign, and Nissley highlighted the fundraising to date in FY26.

**Conditions for Boardman Lake Campus Sale Proceeds**—President Nissley summarized the memo that outlines conditions for the use of net proceeds from the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus (BLC). In addition to the general conditions, it is recommended that \$2 million be invested in FRIC and \$5 million be allocated to financing the Geothermal Project. Both authorizations are contingent upon the anticipated closing of the sale this spring.

**Geothermal Project Financing**—Vice President of Finance and Administration Troy Kierczynski recommended applying \$5.0 million of the anticipated proceeds from the BLC campus sale as a down payment on the Geothermal Project. This action would reduce total interest costs for the College by more than \$4.5 million over the 30 year duration, and reduce annual debt service payments and impact to the general fund. Prior to the sale of BLC, administration’s financing plan was to issue bonds for the remaining financing needed after subtracting the \$2.7 million Dept of Energy grant. Bonding scenarios from PFM (NMC’s bond advisor) were shared to support this recommendation.

The committee unanimously supported bringing both the Conditions for the BLC Sale Proceeds and the Geothermal Financing memos to the full Board for consideration at their meeting on February 23, 2026.

**Freshwater Research and Innovation Center Funding Request**—Administration is recommending that \$2 million be invested in the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center (FRIC) to address a fundraising gap, contingent upon the closing of the Boardman Lake Campus sale agreement. The investment avoids the need to “shell out” space or take on more debt service, while also

allowing Discovery Center Pier and NMC to shift focus to operations and occupancy. There was discussion regarding the remaining construction amount of \$1,922,457 versus \$2 million. Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Jason Slade stated the remaining \$77,543 would be dedicated to operational expenses. The committee unanimously supported recommending this investment to the full Board of Trustees, with the following additions to the memo:

- Clarify that in June 2024, the Board of Trustees authorized a \$3 million investment in FRIC
- Explicitly state that with the proposed \$2 million additional investment, \$1.9 million will go toward remaining construction expenses, while the remainder will be for operational expenses
- Explain that NMC and Discovery Pier are the two members of the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center nonprofit and share the revenue and expenses associated with the project

Kennard Weaver moved, seconded by Mark Keely, to recommend that the proposed \$2 million additional investment in FRIC be placed on the February 23 agenda for consideration at the regular meeting of the full Board of Trustees. The motion was unanimously supported by the committee.

**East Bay Beach Corridor Tax Increment Financing**—The committee reflected on the East Bay Beach Corridor Improvement Authority and proposed Tax Increment Financing presentation that was shared by East Bay Charter Township at the January meeting . The committee expressed concern regarding the impact of the TIF on the general fund and future tuition rates. Further data on the estimated impacts was requested, along with legal advice on potentially seeking exemption from the TIF.

**Review of February 23, 2026, regular meeting agenda**—Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations, reviewed the draft agenda for the upcoming meeting of the full Board of Trustees.

**Public Input**—There was no public comment offered.

**Other Discussion**—VP Slade shared the current FRIC Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Fellows Nominating Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
President's Office Conference Room  
Tanis Building  
1701 E. Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

Committee Chair Andy Robitshek called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present: Andy Robitshek (via phone), Pam Horne, Mark Keely

Others Present: Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz

**Timing of 2026 Fellows Celebration**—While the committee normally meets at the end of one calendar year to review nominations for the following year, due to calendar conflicts the committee delayed meeting until February. Given this shift in timing, the committee discussed whether to adjust the celebration date (typically the 1st Thursday in June). The committee unanimously prefers keeping the event in June.

**2026 Fellows Nominations**—The committee unanimously recommends to the full Board of Trustees that Doug Bishop, Jim and Diana Huckle (Diana, posthumously), and Peg Jonkhoff be recognized as 2026 Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College. It was noted that while Policy A-103.00 Committees states, "No more than two honorees shall be recommended to the full Board, except for exceptional circumstances," the committee strongly recommends these timely recognitions during the college's 75th anniversary year.

**Other Discussion**—There was discussion regarding communications to the honorees, and their nominators. The Board of Trustees will take official action to consider the recommendations at their regular meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026.

**Public Input**—There was no public comment offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President's Office and Board Operations



MEMO  
Administrative Services

**To:** Board of Trustees  
**From:** Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance & Administration  
**Date:** February 10, 2026  
**Subject:** Conditions for Boardman Lake Campus Sale Proceeds

The purpose of this memo is to establish formal parameters for the estimated \$27 million in net proceeds to be received upon closing the Boardman Lake Campus sale this Spring.

**Proposed Action Item:**

Administration shall adhere to the following conditions regarding the net proceeds of the Boardman Lake Campus sale, subject to closing:

- The proceeds shall be deposited into a segregated, board-designated fund;
- Proceeds shall be used solely to advance capital and strategic priorities identified in the College's strategic plan and campus master plan;
- Proceeds shall not be used for routine operating expenses or ongoing salary or benefit obligations;
- The Board shall approve all disbursements of \$50,000 or more from such fund, or \$75,000 or more for construction and renovation projects, as outlined in **Board Policy A-106.00—Items for Specific Board Approval**; and
- Administration shall report at least annually to the Board of Trustees regarding the balance, usage, and investment activity of such fund.

**Background:**

In June 2024, the Board of Trustees approved *NMC Thrive: A Campus Plan for a Vibrant College*. This 10-year facilities plan is ambitious in both its vision and price tag, including an estimated \$77-\$94 million in housing projects, \$11-\$14 million in space migration-related renovations (including Osterlin), \$2 million in placemaking projects, \$15 million in energy infrastructure overhaul, and \$8-\$9 million in program-specific building renovations.

On December 15, 2025, the Board of Trustees approved the College's Strategic Plan, *Anchor and Edge: Modernizing for What's Next*.

The proposed action language above provides clarity for administration for capital and strategic planning purposes, and enhances public transparency.



**MEMO**  
Strategic Initiatives

**To:** Executive Committee, NMC Board of Trustees  
**From:** Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives;  
 Secretary, Board of Directors, Freshwater Research and Innovation Center  
**Date:** February 10, 2026  
**Subject:** Freshwater Research and Innovation Center \$2m Funding Request

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This document serves as an update of the activities associated with Freshwater Research and Innovation Center development in preparation for the Board of Trustees meeting on February 23, 2026.

**PROJECT UPDATE:**

- June 2023                    \$15m awarded by the State of Michigan
- December 2024           Construction bid release
- September 2025           Construction start
- March 2027                Construction complete

<b>EXPENSES AND FUNDING</b>	
Construction	\$28,870,853
Debt Service on Multi-Year Pledges	\$224,250
Initial Operations and Programming	\$77,543
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$29,172,646</b>
Committed	\$27,172,646
Remaining	\$2,000,000

Construction is ahead of schedule, with a potential opening prior to March 2027. Cement work has gone in and steel will be on site mid-February. Final design elements are being implemented and the public-facing, educational lobby is being refined.

Tenant attraction is ongoing with commitments from NV5, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (FishPass), Discovery Pier, and Northwestern College's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute. Outreach and follow-ups continue as we work toward the optimal blend of occupants. The Freshwater Research and Innovation Center Board of Directors enters

its second year and is in the process of expanding from 9 to 11 directors. NMC and Discovery Pier are the two members of the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center nonprofit and share the revenue and expenses associated with the project. Expenses and funding efforts are summarized below.

**FUNDING COMMITTED (to date):**

Fundraising efforts continue. Additional funds will be used towards construction, operations, programming (start-up support, business development), outreach, and promotion as well as a long term vision of entrepreneurs, researchers-in-residence, and industry partnerships.

State of Michigan - Direct Appropriations	\$15,000,000	Discovery, NMC, Traverse Connect, 20F, MTU
Federal Earmark	\$300,000	Discovery, NMC, Traverse Connect, 20F, MTU
Rotary Camps and Services	\$3,000,000	Discovery
Northwestern Michigan College	\$3,000,000	NMC (Board of Trustees authorized in June 2024)
Discovery raised funds	\$5,733,501	Discovery
NMC Foundation raised funds	\$133,490*	NMC Foundation

*\*Does not include non-fundraising activities such as legal advice, building design support, etc.*

**REQUEST:** Recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve \$2m to close the funding gap on the Freshwater Research and Innovation Center and provide initial operational support. This avoids the need to “shell out” space or to take on more debt service. In addition, it allows the focus of DCP and NMC to shift from fundraising to operations and occupancy. Authorization of this funding is contingent upon the anticipated closing of the sale of the Boardman Lake Campus real property.



MEMO  
Administrative Services

**To:** Board of Trustees  
**From:** Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance & Administration  
**Date:** February 13, 2026  
**Subject:** Campus Geothermal Project Update and Financing Recommendation

The purpose of this memo is to update the Board on the scope, cost, and timeline for the Campus Geothermal Project, and provide a final recommendation on financing.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize administration to utilize up to \$5,000,000 of the anticipated Boardman Lake Campus sale proceeds towards the campus geothermal project.

### **Geothermal Project History**

The following timeline is intended to provide a brief history on how the campus geothermal project formed and advanced to its current state:

- **June 2021**—Recognizing NMC’s aging energy infrastructure, administration contracted with GMB, an engineering firm out of Holland, MI, to conduct an energy study for our steam boiler plant on main campus. Our primary steam boiler system on main campus (aka the “Power House” Building / power plant) fulfills heating needs for five central campus buildings: *Scholars Hall, Osterlin, Tanis Building, Biederman Building, and Health Science Building*. The study highlighted the long-term financial and environmental benefits of ground-source energy.
- **March 2022**—NMC submitted congressionally directed spending request for \$2.7 million through Senator Stabenow’s office, to seed this projected \$15.0 million project.
- **August 2022**—Senator Stabenow backed the request, and NMC was appropriated the full \$2.7 million in the Federal 2023 [Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill](#) (pg. 106) in the form of a Federal grant under the Department of Energy (“DOE”).
- **July 2023**—DOE released grant application package to NMC, initiating a cumbersome, year-long application process.
- **September 2024**—DOE formally awards \$2.7 million to NMC and holds project kick-off meeting in December 2024.
- **March 2025**—NMC administration developed and released an RFP for geothermal system design, procurement, and installation.

- **March 2025**—Board Study session on campus master plan, where the board indicated desire to advance and expedite the geothermal project and suggested exploration of alternative financing arrangements.
- **April 2025**—NMC Board of Trustees approves administration’s recommendation to contract with The Christman Company (“TCC”) as design-builder, approving a contract amount of \$1,240,540 for technical audit and design services funded by the DOE grant (50%) and Plant Fund Reserves (50%).
- **May 2025**—TCC began technical audit, energy modeling, test boring.
- **September 2025**—TCC began conceptual design work; design options presented to NMC with preliminary cost estimates. Cherry Lot determined to be ideal location for borefield.
- **February 2026**—TCC produced final schematic design budget estimate, tagging the project at \$20.3 million. Osterlin Building mechanical, engineering, and plumbing work removed from the scope of this project; will be addressed in separate renovation project.

### **Financing Update**

TCC’s final schematic design budget dated February 9, 2026 estimates the project cost at **\$20,271,000**. After applying our \$2,700,000 DOE grant, NMC’s financing need is reduced to \$17,571,000. In August 2025, the Board of Trustees authorized administration to issue tax-exempt bonds in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000.

However, given the timing of our anticipated sale of the Boardman Lake Campus (“BLC”) with proceeds of approximately \$27,000,000, administration feels it is prudent to apply *a portion* of the BLC proceeds as a down payment on the geothermal project. This is advantageous for NMC for two reasons:

1. It will reduce total borrowing costs for NMC and our taxpayers.
2. It will mitigate the immediate and long-term debt service burden on the College’s operating budget, allowing for greater investment into Strategic Plan initiatives and operating flexibility.

The College’s bond advisor, PFM, estimates that a \$17,500,000 bond issuance repaid over 30 years at 4.75% interest would carry annual average debt service requirements of \$1,116,000 and total interest costs over of \$15,978,000. Whereas, a \$12,500,000 bond issuance (implies using \$5,000,000 of BLC proceeds towards the campus geothermal project) carries average annual debt service of \$805,000 and total interest costs of \$11,438,000. A schedule of bonding scenarios is attached to this memo for further context, which also includes NMC’s existing debt schedules.

Other local municipalities such as Grand Traverse County (Project Alpha) and City of Traverse City (Governmental Center) are facing similar financing considerations for their near-term projects.

### **Tax Incentives—Inflation Reduction Act**

Administration seeks to maximize available tax incentives for this project. While the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (“OBBBA”) phased out or eliminated certain wind and solar-related tax credits established under the Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”), the incentives for geothermal energy projects survived. NMC’s geo project qualifies for the IRA’s Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit

(i.e. “ITC” or IRS § 48E). The credit provides for an automatic 6% base rate incentive (of total project costs), which can be increased to 30%—a 5x multiplier—if NMC follows prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements. An additional 10% bonus credit is available for following domestic content requirements, meaning any steel, iron, or manufactured products used in the system must meet certain US-produced requirements, and another 10% bonus credit for projects conducted in an “energy community” [Traverse City qualifies as an energy community].

This incentive, however, is slightly reduced for projects using tax-exempt financing.

Assuming compliance with IRS section 48E incentives, we estimate a potential incentive for NMC of 30-50% of the project costs, or **\$6-10 million**, claimable only after the system is placed into service. Assuming such incentives are earned and received on the back end, administration recommends earmarking it for debt service or other capital needs.

**MEMO**

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**To:** Dr. Nick Nissley, President  
**From:** Todd Neibauer, Vice President for Student Services and Technologies  
**Date:** February 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Reporting Platform Renewal

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**Board Authorization Requested**

Authorize the administration to renew a three year contract with Evisions for the Argos reporting system, for a total three year cost of \$167,378.

**Background**

In 2023, the Board originally approved the purchase of Argos reporting system and Information Technology Services has been converting NMC's administrative reports from our previous, now decommissioned reporting system.

Since that time Argos has been used to replace and consolidate reports. Conversions of previous reports continue and new reporting requests are being provided through this system.

The newest version of this tool includes Argos X, which lays the foundation to leverage AI enhancements to the capabilities of the reporting tool.

**Funding Source**

The funding source is from the General Fund.



**Northwestern  
Michigan College**

## **MEMO**

Systems & LAN Management

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**To:** Dr. Nick Nissley, President  
**From:** David Hosler, Director of Systems & LAN Management  
**Date:** 2/12/2026  
**Subject:** Door Access Controllers

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### **Recomendation**

Authorize the administration to enter into contract with People Driven Technology for the replacement of 100 door access controllers at a cost of \$132,765.71.

### **Background/Scope of Work**

NMC sought a quote to replace 100 of our aging door access controllers to maintain campus security and system integrity. The existing controllers have reached their end of life and can no longer receive critical firmware updates. Maintaining a secure perimeter during this time is essential, and running outdated hardware poses a security risk. Also, with the inability to patch vulnerabilities, we have reached the operational limits of the current hardware. This results in potential security gaps which would be alleviated by the replacement. This replacement was planned for within the Plant Fund.

### **Bid Analysis**

NMC has analyzed the requirements for the replacement controllers. We have solicited a quote from our sole provider for this specific component. We have selected to purchase the replacement controllers from People Driven Technology. The total expenditure for this solution is \$132,765.71. People Driven Technology is the sole authorized provider for these components for our system.

### **Funding Source**

The total amount of \$132,765.71 will be funded by the FY26 Plant Fund deferred maintenance budget, which has an available balance of \$677,000 (\$1,073,000 of \$1,750,000 spent through 1/31/26).



**Northwestern  
Michigan College**

## **MEMO**

Systems & LAN Management

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**To:** Dr. Nick Nissley, President  
**From:** David Hosler, Director of Systems & LAN Management  
**Date:** 2/12/2026  
**Subject:** Firewall replacement

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### **Recomendation**

Authorize the administration to enter into a contract with Frontier Computer Corp for the replacement of the Firewall system at a cost of \$96,747.28.

### **Background/Scope of Work**

NMC sought bids to replace our aging Information Technology Firewalls to provide a higher level of security and utilize the additional bandwidth provided by the new ISP contract. Increasing the level of firewall protection during this time when so many students and employees are accessing information remotely is essential.

The current firewall configuration utilizes two pairs of firewalls in high availability. The new configuration would reduce the configuration to a single pair of firewalls running in high availability mode. The advancements in firewall technology allow us to accomplish the same level of security with a single pair of firewalls, at a significant reduction in cost.

### **Bid Analysis**

NMC has analyzed and reviewed potential replacement systems. We solicited hardware and software bids and two responded. We have selected to purchase the Palo Alto Network Firewall system from Frontier Computer Corp, who was able to secure preferred pricing. The total expenditure for this solution is \$96,747.28, for the hardware, three years of premium support, and three years of security subscription updates. The other quote received was from Presidio in the amount of \$116,112.66.

### **Funding Source**

The total amount of \$96,747.28 will be funded by the FY26 Technology Plant fund, which has an available balance of \$488,000 (\$187,000 of \$675,000 spent through 1/31/26).



## MEMO

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**To:** The Board of Trustees and President Nick Nissley

**From:** Katharine Marvin, VP of College Advancement and Executive Director for the NMC Foundation

**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Subject:** Special License for Taste of Success event

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April 24, 2026 is the annual fundraiser held on behalf of the Great Lakes Culinary Institute. A Taste of Success raises significant scholarship and program support each year.

### Action Requested

As we did last year, we are requesting Board of Trustee approval to file with the State of Michigan for a special events tasting and wine auction license for April 24, 2026, which would allow a broader range of activities to be carried out as part of the Taste of Success event.

### Rationale

Under the leadership of event committee chair Timothy Young, we have seen a significant uptick in support for the Taste event, with an increase in participation from both area winery associations, WOMP (Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula) and LPVA (Leelanau Peninsula Vintners Association), and several other community organizations. We also now receive increased and upgraded donations from individuals and businesses to support the activities associated with this event. Under the College's current liquor license, we are restricted in how we can use wine offered for the event and with the special event license, we can utilize opportunities such as a wine auction.

### Background

The process of receiving special event licenses was regularly followed prior to NMC opening the Hagerty Center and having a long-term license. The Board of Trustees last approved a special event license for the Taste event in 2025. Upon Board of Trustees approval, staff will complete the application process as quickly as possible to ensure the license is in place for the event. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to a tremendously successful event.



MEMO  
Administrative Services

**To:** Board of Trustees

**From:** Todd Neibauer, VP for Student Services and Technologies  
Troy Kierczynski, Vice President of Finance & Administration

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Subject:** 2026-27 Housing and Meal Plan Rates

***Board Authorization***

Board authorization is requested for housing and meal plan rates for FY27.

Recommendations:

- **Residence Halls:** We propose a 2.7% adjustment to East Hall and North Hall room rates. The change amounts to \$87-\$100 per semester, or \$175-\$200 annually per resident hall student.
- **Apartments:** We propose a 2.7% adjustment for the College Drive Apartments and a 2.6-2.9% adjustment for the Front St Flats Apartments, which are in higher demand. The change amounts to \$25-\$30 per month per unit.
- **Meal Plans:** We propose a 2.6% increase to meal plan option 1, a 3.1% increase to meal plan option 2, and a 3.5% increase to meal plan option 3. The proposed change in each plan amounts to \$50 per semester, or \$100 annually per student.

***Residence Hall Room Rates — Proposed***

Following are the recommended annual housing rental rates for FY27:

Residence Hall	Unit Description	FY25 Rates	FY26 Rates	FY27 Rates	% Change
North Hall	Double Room*	\$6,200	\$6,400	\$6,575	2.7%
North Hall	Single Room	\$7,000	\$7,200	\$7,400	2.8%
East Hall	Double Room	\$5,950	\$6,150	\$6,315	2.7%
East Hall	Single Room*	\$6,400	\$6,600	\$6,780	2.7%

*\*limited availability*

### ***Apartment Rates — Proposed***

Following are the recommended monthly apartment rental rates for FY27:

<b>Property</b>	<b>Unit Description</b>	<b>FY25 Rates</b>	<b>FY26 Rates</b>	<b>FY27 Rates</b>	<b>% Change</b>
College Drive	2 Bedroom (semester lease)	\$950	\$980	\$1,005	2.6%
College Drive	1 Bedroom (semester lease)	\$825	\$850	\$875	2.9%
Front St. Flats	2 Bedroom (semester lease)	\$1,100	\$1,150	\$1,180	2.6%
Front St. Flats	1 Bedroom (semester lease)	\$975	\$1,020	\$1,050	2.9%

Dorm residents and apartment leaseholders have access to free laundry and the NMC Fitness Center.

### ***Meal Plans – Background and Proposed Rates***

The NMC residence hall housing contract stipulates that all East hall residence students must choose a meal plan at the Hawk Owl Cafe. Meal plan balances can be transferred from Fall to Spring, however, any balances left at the end of the Spring semester are not refunded. In addition, there are no meal plan refunds after the start of classes.

Following are the recommended meal plan rates for FY27:

<b>Meal Plan Rates – Academic Year</b>	<b>FY25 Rates</b>	<b>FY26 Rates</b>	<b>FY27 Rates</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Meal Plan - Option 1	\$3,700	\$3,800	\$3,900	2.6%
Meal Plan - Option 2	\$3,100	\$3,200	\$3,300	3.1%
Meal Plan - Option 3	\$2,700	\$2,800	\$2,900	3.5%