

SPRING 2023

NEXUS



100% PLACEMENT

**DISCOVER THREE NMC PROGRAMS WHOSE
GRADS GET HIRED IMMEDIATELY**

P. 10

**Transfer student
success**

P. 8

**HS seniors can save with
Michigan Achievement
Scholarship**

P. 16



Northwestern
Michigan
College

NEXUS

THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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**FINE ARTS INSTRUCTOR
GLENN WOLFF**

DOUBLE GOLD FEELS GOOD

Last year, for the second time, *Nexus* won a gold national award for community college magazines. “Great design, great feel, great job,” the judges said.

Initially, that generic comment underwhelmed me. On the other hand, “great feel” is what we want readers to experience. Achieving that involves meticulous planning, but also a pinch of alchemy. This issue, that alchemy is the Art and Culture feature on p. 18, which resulted because I happened to go on a bike ride one August afternoon.



Pedaling along the Boardman Lake Trail, I spotted NMC instructors Glenn Wolff (above), Rufus Snoddy and a student painting a mural on the backside of a warehouse. *Right place, right time!* While I snapped pictures with my phone, another NMC instructor

pedaled away with, yes, a great feeling. I hope it transcends the page.

Other stories in this issue also offer great feelings. Taxpayers and students can feel great that three NMC programs have 100 percent employment (p. 10.) Students and families can feel great that they can tap new state scholarships targeted to both high school graduates and adult learners (p. 16.) *Everyone* should feel great after sampling the deliciousness at Merlyn’s Patisserie. (p. 20.)

Will *Nexus* earn a third gold? This issue, you can also be a judge. Scan the QR code to take a reader survey. Your input will help us improve the magazine magazine, and could win you a Lobdell’s gift card!. Thanks for reading. **N**



Cari Noga

TAKEAWAYS



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OLD MISSION AEROBATICS

INSTRUCTOR Brad Wortman pilots a Super Decathlon into a loop maneuver during a fall color tour over Old Mission peninsula. Wortman learned to fly in the Air Force and has been teaching at NMC for 12 years.

The Decathlon is one of 14 planes in NMC's fleet and is used for tailwheel and aerobatics training, a distinguishing aspect of the NMC Aviation program. NMC is seeking state funds to expand its aging hangar and add more planes in order to enroll more students and help address the U.S. pilot shortage. See p. 12.

► *Learn more:* nmc.edu/aviation

NMC PRESIDENT NICK NISSLEY
JOINED NEW STUDENTS IN A
WELCOME PADDLE ON WEST BAY.



PASSION + PURPOSE = SUCCESS

2022 was a busy year at Northwestern Michigan College as we finished year one of our new strategic plan, NMC Next! It is one of the most comprehensive in the college's history with five strategies, 60 objectives and more than 150 action steps informed by hundreds of stakeholders. While that might seem daunting, I've felt positive energy and excitement across the college as we join together and rise to the challenge. It's a thrill to see teams collaborating and then celebrating when our progress trackers grow farther into the green on our public dashboard. The blend of passion and purpose creates a palpable sense of joy knowing our hard work is paying off for our students. You can see for yourself throughout this magazine! For instance, my kayaking trip with students helped advance Strategy 2, Objective 1, to increase students' sense of belonging. The next page shows an example from each strategic goal.

Strategy 1 calls for every student to have at least one experiential learning project. Students wrote, illustrated and translated "In the Sky/En el Cielo", a bilingual children's book. Instructors Jim Bensley and Alissia Linguar will deliver the book to children in Guatemala on a study abroad trip in May.

Strategy 2 calls for increased student success coaching to improve persistence. Coach Erica Whiting retained 80 percent of her student cohort.

Strategy 3 sets objectives in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Student and Grand Traverse Band member Cherrie McSaubey demonstrated Native American dance for Indigenous People's Day.

Strategy 4 calls for community partnerships. NMC is collaborating with Team Elmer's and Northwest Michigan Works! for a free heavy highway construction course that begins this month.

Strategy 5, Institutional Distinction, called for creation of a new culinary-maritime certificate that trains students to work as chefs on ships, who are high in demand. It debuts this fall.

I am excited to see where we go, and grow, together in 2023!

Handwritten signature of Nick Nissley.

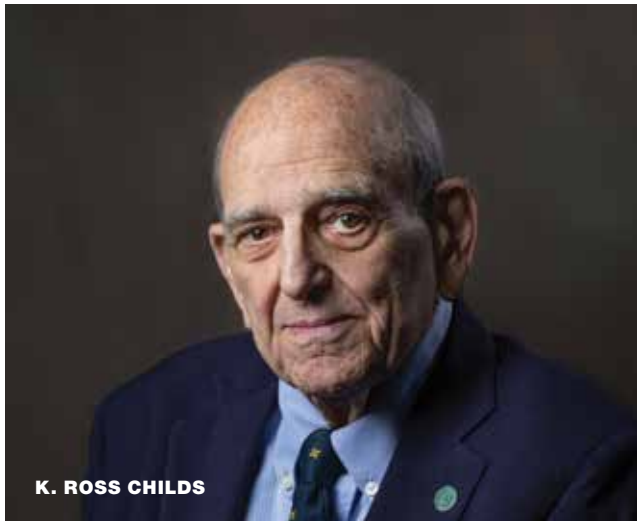
NMC NEXT

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR COLLEGE. OUR FUTURE.



NMC

- 1) Future-Focused Education
- 2) Student Engagement & Success
- 3) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- 4) Community Partnerships & Engagement
- 5) Institutional Distinction & Sustainability



K. ROSS CHILDS

K. ROSS CHILDS, NMC TRUSTEE 1937-2022

Community leader K. Ross Childs passed away September 7, 2022 at the age of 85. His two decades of NMC trustee service included two years as board chair. A longtime Rotarian, he was proud to watch a chapter of Rotaract, a student Rotary group, launch at NMC in 2021. Childs and his late wife, Helen, also supported NMC philanthropically for 35 years. NMC honored his service to the college in 2022 by naming Childs an NMC Fellow, the college's highest honor.

Following this recognition, friends endowed a scholarship fund in his honor.

➤ *Memorial contributions may be made and designated for the Ross & Helen Childs Fund online at nmc.edu/give*

MICHIGAN'S FIRST WET TECH DEGREE COMING FALL '23

A new associate degree in water quality environmental technology coming next fall will further expand NMC's leadership in water-related programs as well as serve industry demand in the new blue economy.

The new Wet Tech degree, the first in the state, is part of NMC's strategic plan, NMC Next. It joins four other NMC water-related degrees and programs:

- An associate's and a bachelor's in **Marine Technology**, the only one in the world.
- An associate's in **Freshwater Studies**, the first in the nation when it was created in 2009.
- **The Marine Center** - professional development and training in marine systems, geospatial technologies and land surveying.
- **Great Lakes Maritime Academy** - Trains deck and engineering officers for the commercial shipping industry.

"This program will focus on training a workforce supporting the direct monitoring and cleanup of waters within the Great Lakes watershed and focusing on the direct impact to the quality of our water resources," said Great Lakes Water Studies Institute Executive Director Hans VanSumeren.



CATERING HOCKEYTOWN NORTH

NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute marked ten years catering the Detroit Red Wings training camp, held in September at Centre ICE area. Team Performance Dietitian Lisa McDowell gave GLCI a five-star review for their service to 68 players, including 2022 National Hockey League rookie of the year Moritz Seider, third from left.

"Your team, led by Patty Cron-Huhta (second from left) took on a Herculean task to prepare delicious, nutritious homemade food from scratch. I've seen many training tables around the nation, (and) some of the finest hotels in New York City, Chicago, LA, etc. cannot hold a candle to your team," McDowell said. Also pictured: GLCI chefs Bob Rodriguez, left, and Jim Morse, right.

2022 WILLARD SMITH AWARD RECIPIENTS

NMC Dean of Students Lisa Thomas, left, and counselor Jackie Jorgensen, right, were named the recipients of the award, given in recognition of the individual or organization that has made the most significant service contribution to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Following revelations of sexual assault and harassment in the maritime industry in 2021, Jorgensen and Thomas provided input and training to support and protect GLMA cadets as well as help shipping companies develop strong policies and programming around prevention and response while at sea. They worked with federal regulators, industry partners, GLMA and cadets. “The hope is that our cadets will set sail and have amazing experiences, but in the event that something happens out there it is important that we have safeguards in place,” Jorgensen said.



photo by Andy Wakeman

\$12K GRANT WILL FUND TRAINING AND INCREASING EARLY CHILDCARE WORKFORCE

Early Childhood Development program coordinator Chery Bloomquist received a \$12,000 grant as part of the Caring for MI Future initiative. Funded by the American Rescue Plan, the grant seeks to increase the number of students receiving the Child Development Associate credential while ultimately increasing Michigan’s early childhood workforce.



AFTER DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, PHOENIX KNIPE EARNED A GED AND ENROLLED AT NMC, WHERE HE'S THRIVED.

HOME SWEET CAMPUS

Anticipating transfer, an NMC student moves past challenges, loads up on credits and finds his niche.

FROM HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT to Big Ten university is an unlikely path, but with NMC in between, Phoenix Knipe is forging forward and making it his own.

After starting at NMC a year ago, in just three semesters he's earned 66 college credits and expects to be able to transfer into the University of Michigan or Michigan State with senior status in fall 2023. He plans to major in neuroscience, possibly with a double major in computer science.

"I love learning. I want to be a professor some day," says Knipe, of Traverse City. "I max out my credits every semester."

At just 19, Knipe has already learned a lot about life, too. At 16, he moved out of his family's home due to "different worldviews" with his parents. Then he dropped out of Traverse City West High School so he could work more and support himself. On his 18th birthday he took the GED and then enrolled at NMC.

While he chose NMC for its affordability, the caliber of instructors and the depth of campus life and support has been better than Knipe ever imagined.

"I've had great professors here. I'm very glad I went here," he says. Science instructors like Tamara Coleman in biology and Mike Franklin in physics steered him to his chosen major.

Coleman was thrilled to see Knipe find direction in her Human Anatomy & Physiology class. The entire class, herself included, had to readjust to the face-to-face setting, after two years of virtual instruction.

"He started off being a back-row kind of student who

blossomed into this confident and competent leader in our class. It was wonderful to see," Coleman says.

A turning point came when she turned the mechanics of the science of stress from a lecture into an experiential lesson. Coleman taught Knipe and his classmates how to manage stress in their own lives through deep breathing, body scans and visualization. He started visiting her office regularly, borrowing books to explore material further.

"He was like a sponge. He wanted to take in as much information as he possibly could. I really loved to see that, in him, in any student. To grow that

much was really outstanding," Coleman says. "He's a brilliant young man."

Beyond academics, Knipe lives on campus in North Hall, is a member of NMC's varsity Esports team, for which he receives a scholarship, and works as a lab assistant in the chemistry lab. A travel lover, he's looking forward to studying abroad with the biology department in Iceland this spring. **N**

"HE STARTED OFF BEING A BACK-ROW KIND OF STUDENT WHO BLOSSOMED INTO THIS CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT LEADER IN OUR CLASS. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE."

—TAMARA COLEMAN

TRANSFER 101

About half of NMC students transfer to another college or university. NMC advisers work individually with students to ensure NMC credits will transfer to their desired school. Transfer fairs and visits are also held on campus. Transfer guides, by major and school, are available online.

► [More info: nmc.edu/transfer](https://nmc.edu/transfer)



AVIATION

Bryan Linck, 39, First Officer
with Republic Airways

Graduated: 2020

Starting salary: \$55,200



100% PLACEMENT

**Aviation
Marine Technology
Police Academy**

GRADUATES OF THREE NMC PROGRAMS GET HIRE IMMEDIATELY

Last summer, when Marine Technology student Tyler Smith finished his internship with eTrac, Inc. in Alaska, he was thrilled to get a full-time job offer, a full 18 months before he'll graduate.

"They gave me a standing job offer," says Smith, 38, at right who marvels at the concept of an employer willing to wait for him. His previous degrees, including a bachelor's and a master's, led him to bounce around both the job market and the country, following career opportunities.

But early and multiple job offers aren't unusual for Marine Technology, one of three NMC programs that can boast of 100 percent employment upon graduation.

"Our industry is starving for people," says Dave Bernstein, a program manager for Geodynamics, a North Carolina employer. He attended and recruited students like Smith at the Lakebed 2030 conference, which NMC hosted on the Great Lakes campus last September.

NMC's Marine Technology program offers the college's newest bachelor's degree, the only one of its kind in the world. It has become a prestigious credential for an emerging economic sector known as the "blue economy."

Aviation and Police Academy, two other top programs in terms of employment, have a longer history on campus. Industry changes and an aging workforce are driving demand for these graduates (airline pilots, for example, have been opting for early retirement since Covid, and also have a mandatory retirement age of 65). The fields have also grown more diverse, specialized and sophisticated.

NMC offers top-notch instruction in all three areas—here, graduates from each program share their stories.



MARINE TECHNOLOGY STUDENT TYLER SMITH, ABOVE, IN ALASKA DURING HIS INTERNSHIP. AT LEFT, WITH NMC'S RESEARCH VESSEL THE NORTHWESTERN.

AVIATION

TYPICAL TIME TO COMPLETE PROGRAM:

TWO YEARS (ASSOCIATE DEGREE)

TYPICAL STARTING SALARY:

\$70,000, PLUS SIGN-ON BONUSES OF \$50,000+

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

PILOT FOR AIRLINES, CORPORATE OR CHARTER AIRCRAFT, AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY. AIR TOURS, PIPELINE PATROL, AIR AMBULANCE, FERRY AIRCRAFT FOR BROKERS AND DEALERS, PROFESSIONAL FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR.

T

here's a global pilot shortage," says NMC Director of Aviation Alex Bloye. "If a student graduates, they are getting a job."

2020 graduate Bryan Linck, 39, can verify that.

"I'd always had this voice in the back of my head that said I wanted to be a pilot," says Linck, of Traverse City. He decided to heed that voice after tiring of a previous career in education and nonprofits, so he returned to school at NMC.

Linck completed the aviation program in a year, earning a scholarship as well. He worked as a flight instructor for a year and a half to accrue the flight hours required to become a commercial airline pilot, and is now a first officer for Republic Airways.

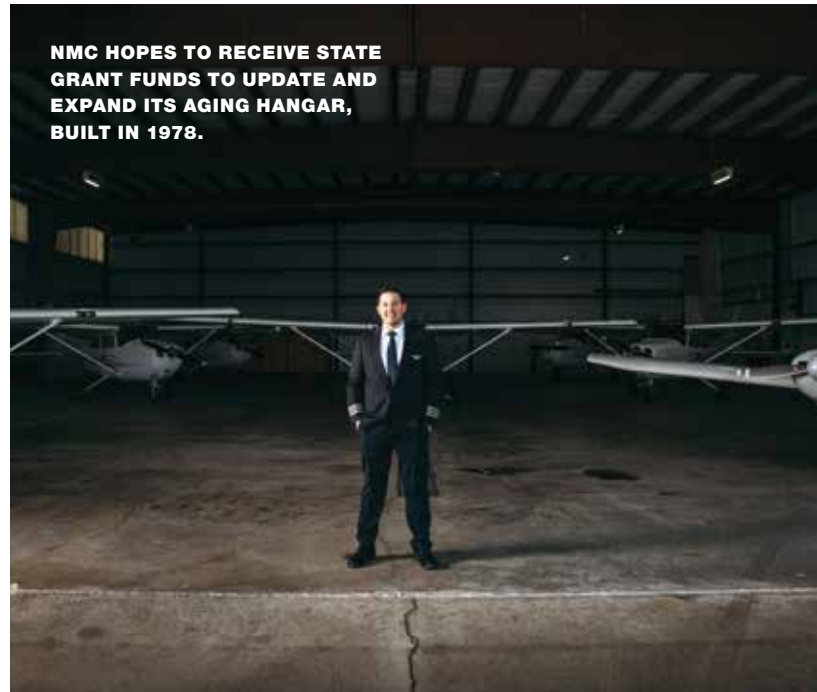
"Aviation is just an incredible career that offers unlimited opportunities for learning, growth, and earning potential," says Linck, who expects to advance to captain within the next year, which will more than triple his starting salary. He lives in Traverse City with a work schedule that alternates between a month flying out of Chicago and a month conducting employee training at Republic's Indianapolis headquarters.

NMC graduates stand out in the job market, Bloye said, due to Aviation's "venture learning" philosophy. That means getting in the cockpit the first semester, flying in all seasons and weather conditions, overnight and with passengers.

"Every flight student in the country is getting the same qualification on paper. Our venture learning approach truly puts out a more confident pilot," Bloye says. "They have experienced more things in more environments than most graduates in the United States."

Bloye expects the pilot shortage to continue for at least another decade—which means NMC's 130 current aviation students are in the catbird seat.

NMC HOPES TO RECEIVE STATE GRANT FUNDS TO UPDATE AND EXPAND ITS AGING HANGAR, BUILT IN 1978.



AVIATION AIMS TO INCREASE ENROLLMENT

1 new plane = 10 students

With a pilot shortage, why not train more students? In its strategic plan, NMC Next, NMC hopes to do exactly that— but more hangar space and airplanes are needed first.

A \$7 million request to the state of Michigan would allow the hangar expansion, which in turn means more student planes. Three more planes are needed to serve the targeted increase of 30 students by June 2024; the program currently has 130 active students.

"We really feel like we owe it to our students to offer more availability, more space and more flight time," Aviation director Alex Bloye says.

nmc.edu/aviation

"Aviation is just an incredible career that offers unlimited opportunities for learning, growth, and earning potential."

—Bryan Linck

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

TYPICAL TIME TO COMPLETE PROGRAM:

4 YEARS (BACHELOR'S DEGREE)

TYPICAL STARTING SALARY:

\$75,000-\$85,000

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

MAPPING AND HYDROGRAPHY, MARINE CONSTRUCTION, EXPLORATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING. OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE CAREER OPTIONS.

A

lpena native Shane Perkins' family military background led him to the Army straight out of high school. While enlisted, he picked up scuba diving as a hobby, and considered a career in commercial diving after discharge. Then he learned many

diving jobs were being eliminated by ROVs, remotely operated vehicles.

He'd also worked with robotics when stationed in Afghanistan. His Veterans Affairs benefits covered the expense of a bachelor's degree, so from Germany, his last station, Perkins, now 36, started looking for college programs. NMC's Marine Technology seemed ideal.

"I could bridge my love of diving and marine environment with working with robotics," he says.

With his wife still in Germany, Perkins fast-tracked his education, completing the program in three years. Since his 2018 graduation he's worked for Fugro, the largest subsea geodata company in the world, which came on campus to recruit. His job conducting offshore geophysical surveying allows him to spend half the year with his family in Germany, and work in 30- to 60-day stints at offshore sites all around the world, from Myanmar to Canada.

Perkins has advanced steadily, and credits the comprehensive nature of NMC's program, which included project management, oceanography, electronics and data processing, as well as international experience with a capstone project in Indonesia.

"We were exposed to a lot of different aspects. I think that's helped me get promoted along the way," he says. "When you are put in a leadership position you see the whole picture. [NMC's] program was perfect for that."

Shane Perkins

36, senior technical coordinator, Fugro Americas

Graduated: 2018

Starting salary: \$82,000



"When you are put in a leadership position you see the whole picture. [NMC's] program was perfect for that."

-Shane Perkins

100%

Aviation
Marine Technology
Police Academy

Cam & Olivia Drzewiecki

23, deputies, Leelanau County Sheriff's Department

Graduated: 2021

Starting salary: \$41,600 each



L

eelanau County Sheriff's deputies Cam and Olivia Drzewiecki both turned to NMC's Police Academy to make their dream careers in law enforcement a reality.

Throughout Michigan, law enforcement agencies need

many more like the couple, who graduated, married, and joined the department all in 2021. At a Michigan sheriff's conference last fall, 68 out of the 70 counties represented all had vacancies, says Mike Shea, under-sheriff in neighboring Grand Traverse County.

"We are bleeding police officers. They are leaving the profession at an alarming rate," Shea adds.

Beginning this fall, NMC will respond to that urgency with a restructured one-semester Police Academy expected to double the number of graduates. Students will receive the same training by attending full time for 16 weeks, instead of part-time as they do now for the nine-month academic year.

The need for law enforcement personnel is so great that the state of Michigan has created a \$30 million fund for recruitment and training. Police agencies can apply for up to \$20,000 per student to send recruits

POLICE ACADEMY

AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE PROGRAM:

ONE SEMESTER BEGINNING FALL 2023

AVERAGE SALARY:

\$54,202 (INDEED.COM), \$68,500 (INTUIT MINT.COM)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

ONSHORE CAREER OPTIONS. LOCAL POLICE AND SHERIFF'S AGENCIES, MICHIGAN STATE POLICE.

through training. The condensed format will make NMC much more attractive to such employed recruits, Police Academy Director Gail Kurowski says.

"I'm hoping to service our community up here," Kurowski says. "There are agencies up in the U.P. that are [having to send] people all the way to the Detroit area."

Shea, a 2005 NMC alumnus himself, expects it will. He has one candidate in mind already, a corrections officer who is interested in becoming a certified officer.

"The sixteen-week program is going to be huge," he says. "We can potentially create a pipeline."

New recruits will get top-notch instruction from current or former law enforcement officers NMC hires.

"They want to help you succeed and turn you into the best police officer," Olivia Drzewiecki says. Both add that the scenario-based virtual reality simulation training and unmanned aerial systems training available at NMC are among the most current in the profession. NMC's Police Academy is the only one in the state to offer UAS certification as part of its training.

"They want to help you succeed and turn you into the best police officer."

-Olivia Drzewiecki

"When you piece it all together, it helps you be the best police officer you can be," Cam said.

Scholarships for each helped pay for their education, and both graduated without debt. **N**



Take the Nexus reader survey

by Jan. 31 and be entered to win
a Lobdell's gift card!





‘A gold mine in our

Upcoming high school graduates got an early gift from the state of Michigan last fall: the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.

Created by bipartisan legislation, the Achievement Scholarship makes 2023 graduates eligible for annual scholarships in amounts up to:

- **\$2,750** at a Michigan community college, renewable for up to three years
- **\$4,000** at a Michigan private college or university, renewable for up to five years
- **\$5,500** at a Michigan public university, renewable for up to five years

A diploma and demonstration of financial need on the FAFSA are the only requirements. NMC’s Office of Financial Aid estimates up to 200 area high school

New Michigan Achievement Scholarship is the latest way families can cut college costs by choosing NMC

graduates could qualify, and NMC could award between \$300,000–\$400,000 in Michigan Achievement scholarships.

The community college scholarship would cover about half of NMC’s tuition for one year, said Vicki Beam, owner of Michigan College Planning in Traverse City.

“By cutting the cost in half, essentially, they would not have to take as much out in a student loan,” Beam said. “It’s being generous, in a lot of ways.”

The scholarship aims to push Michigan closer to achieving its Sixty by 30 goal of 60% of adults with a skill certificate or college degree by 2030.

Traverse City Central High School counselor Kim Fleming expects the scholarship to both relieve and reassure students about taking on the cost of higher education. “The financial need of our students has increased over the past few years. I think the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship will help the senior class of 2023 be more confident about their decision to seek a post-secondary credential,” she said.

“We are thrilled to offer high school graduates this opportunity, on top of the more than \$1 million in donor-created scholarships NMC already offers,” said NMC President Nick Nissley.



backyard'

Early College & dual enrollment

High school students can also reduce college costs through two long standing programs: Early College and dual enrollment. For Early College, students take NMC classes during high school and attend for one year after graduation to earn an associate degree. For dual enrollment, they take NMC classes of their choice during high school which can then transfer toward a degree at another college or university. Tuition for both programs is paid by the local school district, not students.

“They can be leaving high schools with a pretty good chunk of credit under their belt,” Beam said. “We have a gold mine in our backyard.”

Michigan Reconnect

For those past high school, NMC also participates in Michigan Reconnect, a state scholarship that offers free in-district tuition (Grand Traverse County residents) to adults 25 and over who do not already have a college degree or certificate. Total NMC Reconnect participation stands at 400 students who have received \$562,804.

NMC economic impact data shows that people with an associate degree earn \$8,500 more per year than someone with only a high school diploma.

“With Michigan Reconnect and now Michigan Achievement, there’s never been a better time to improve your earning potential through higher education,” Nissley said. **N**

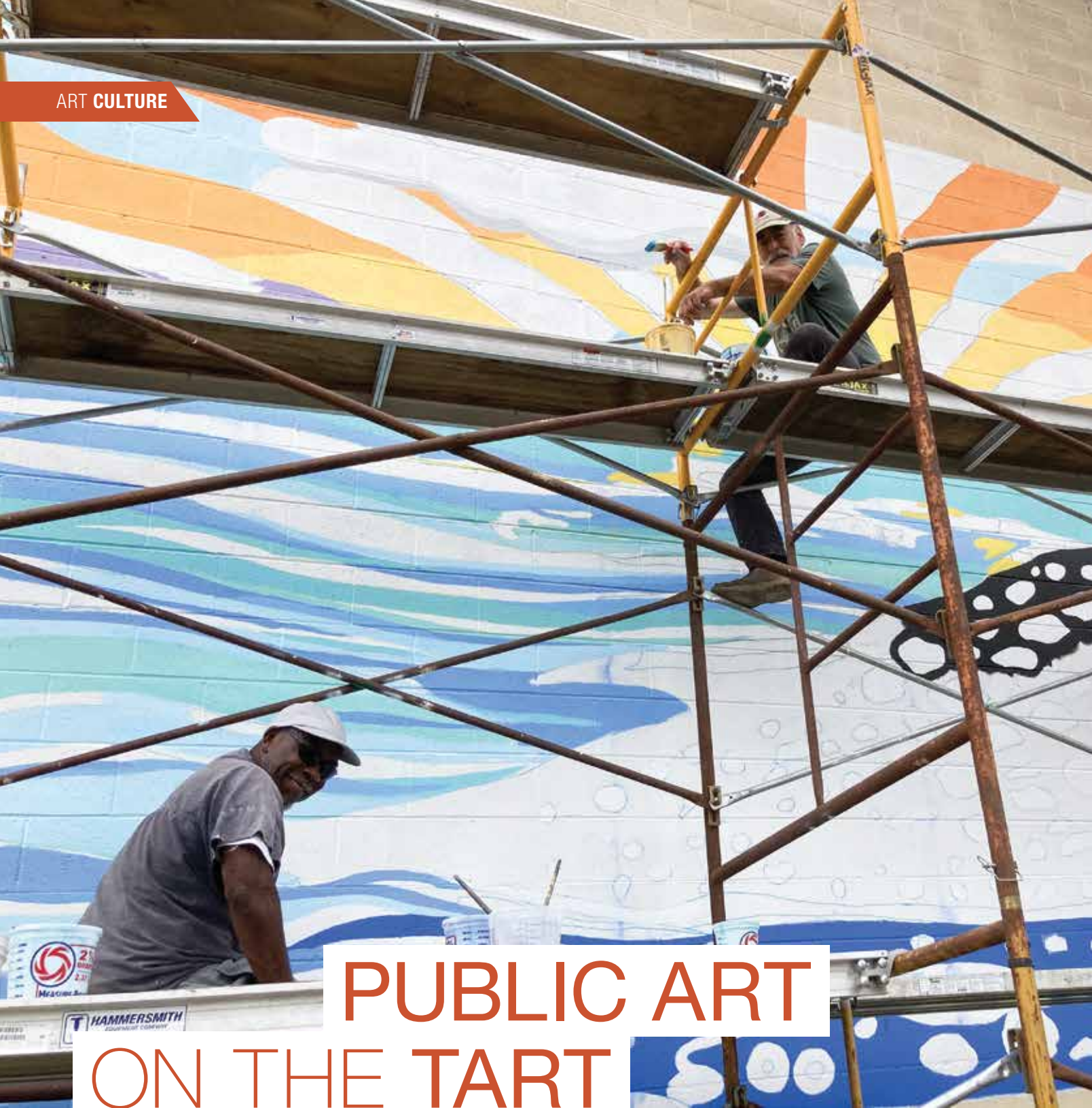


25+, no degree.
nmc.edu/reconnect



HS class of 2023
nmc.edu/miachievement





PUBLIC ART ON THE TART

‘Boardman Serenade’ mural graces new trail

BOARDMAN Lake Trail users are engaged aesthetically as well as physically with the mural by NMC Fine Arts instructors Rufus Snoddy and Glenn Wolff and students Logan Hudson and Kiah Anderson (not pictured). Located on the trail’s east side, the 14-x-30-foot mural north of

the University Center is one of three pieces of public art on the Traverse City loop. It opened last July to throngs of users—more than 1,100 per weekday and up to 1,700 on weekends. Wolff said the mural offered an experiential learning opportunity to the art students. **N**



LARGE PHOTO:
NMC INSTRUCTORS
RUFUS SNODDY, LEFT,
GLENN WOLFF, MIDDLE,
AND STUDENT LOGAN
HUDSON WORK ON
THE MURAL IN AUGUST.

ABOVE: SNODDY,
WOLFF AND MARY
BEVANS GILLETT OF
THE NORTHWEST
MICHIGAN ARTS &
CULTURE NETWORK,
WHICH COMMISSIONED
THE MURAL.

LEFT: HUDSON
PAINTS THE LOON.





Jun Dupra (right)

- NMC general associate degree, 2009
- NMC Culinary Arts degree, 2014
- Before Merlyn's: Red Ginger (sushi chef), Stella, Wolfgang Puck's Spago-Beverly Hills, Trump International Hotel & Tower-Chicago, Grand Traverse Resort

Anna Mae (Dupra) Kucharski (left)

- NMC accounting associate degree, 2007
- Attended GLCI 2008-2010
- Before Merlyn's: Stella, Red Ginger, Grand Traverse Resort, Nine Bean Rows

GROWING UP IN MANILA, Anna Mae Kucharski loved to cook. But due to the tropical climate in the Philippines, stoves didn't have ovens. When she entered the baking kitchen at the Great Lakes Culinary Institute (GLCI), she knew she'd discovered her culinary calling.

"I had never baked in my life. That was just it," says Kucharski, who studied accounting until that fateful Introduction to Baking class.

Kucharski, 38, and her brother Jun Dupra, 35, now fuse French and southeast-Asian flavors with their business, Merlyn's Patisserie. Named for their mother, Merlyn's debuted at the Traverse City Farmer's Market last May, selling out their inventory of 800 croissants and "cruffins" to devotedly enthusiastic customers every Saturday. The most popular flavor: Ube, which comes from a purple, yam-like vegetable.

"We wanted to put our roots in it," says Dupra, who says his sister inspired him to enroll in GLCI after he initially chose visual communications.

Merlyn's confections are crafted in rented commercial kitchen space three days a week. For the winter, they're at Traverse City's indoor farmer's market Saturdays at the Grand Traverse Commons. On social media, find them at [instagram.com/merlyns_patisserie/](https://www.instagram.com/merlyns_patisserie/) or [facebook.com/merlyns.patisserie](https://www.facebook.com/merlyns.patisserie). "More surprises" are in store for their second year; eventually they aspire to a brick-and-mortar location.

"It's just going to get better," Dupra promises. **N**

MERLYN'S PATISSERIE

Culinary alumni siblings fuse French and Filipino flavors at Farmers Market





RASPBERRY GELEE

- 255 g Raspberry puree
- 112 g Water
- 224 g Sugar
- pinch Salt
- 21 g Cornstarch
- 10 g Gelatin sheet

Soak the sheet gelatin in water to soften. set aside.

Mix raspberry puree, water, sugar, and salt and bring to a boil.

Mix cornstarch and water and add to pot. Mix and cook out the starch.

Add the bloom gelatin to hot mixture and stir until dissolved.

Strain to a container and let cool.



CHOCOLATE GLAZE

- 24 g Gelatin sheet
- 200 g Water
- 340 g Sugar
- 150 g Valrhona cocoa powder
- 180 ml Heavy cream

Soak the sheet gelatin in water to soften.

Bring everything else to a boil and stir in gelatin to dissolve. Set aside to cool.



FIND MERLYN'S GLUTEN-FREE RASPBERRY CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE ON THE DESSERT MENU AT RED GINGER IN DOWNTOWN TRAVERSE CITY.



ALUMNI NOTES

1 GARRETT PORTER AND DAKOTA PORTER (Business Administration 2018), right, landed a \$200,000 deal for their company, ActionGlow, on the ABC show Shark Tank in November 2022. The brothers formed the company, which manufactures patented LED lighting kits for sports gear, ten years ago. Garret Porter said they considered the late NMC instructor George Beeby, who taught Introduction to Business, “a valuable member of the ActionGlow team.”

EDWIN ANDERSON (Engineering 1969) retired from a career with US Steel and now resides in Ludington, Michigan.

RACHEL ANDERSON (Education 2007) is the new principal of Lake Ann Elementary School, in Lake Ann, Michigan.

MIKE BOGROFF (Turf Grass Management 2001) is now Golf Course Superintendent at The Pines Country Club, in Morgantown, West Virginia.

2 JAY CASSENS (Aviation 2004) With years of



diverse aviation experience, Jay is now a senior airport development and real estate rep for Federal Express Corporation (FedEx). In addition, he’s an instrument-rated pilot and FAA certified unmanned aircraft pilot and serves as an adjunct professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s school of business.

3 RACHEL PLAMONDON (General Studies 2013, Web Design 2012) has joined Unite Digital,

LLC, based in Southeastern Michigan, as a software engineer.

KENNETH HILLIER (General Technology 1975–1980) is now retired from a career in industrial maintenance and lives in St. Petersburg, Florida. He remembers NMC fondly and says, “Keep up the good work!”

4 CHRISTINA (DOBRANSKY) HINDS (Education 1996) has been announced as deputy superintendent of Northview Public Schools in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

5 BRIAN JACKSON (Engineering Tech-UAS 2017) fondly remembers that he started at NMC the same fall that his daughter started kindergarten! He is now a staking engineer with Cherryland Electric Cooperative in Traverse City.

6 MICHELLE KENNEDY (AA 1973, Nursing 1975) has amazing memories of her time at NMC. She has recently retired from a long career in nursing and lives in Sitka, Alaska, where she’s a successful bead artist.



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TIMOTHY NIXON (Maritime, 1979) was recently named one of Wisconsin's top 50 lawyers, through Super Lawyers®, which recognizes top lawyers via a multiphase selection process of peer nomination, independent research and peer evaluation. Timothy currently practices out of the Green Bay office of Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.

ANDY REPKE (Aviation, 1986) is based in Massachusetts, and is a 20,000+ hour Safety Officer/ Captain flying a KBED Based Global 6000, with several safety awards including Gold Seal CFI, numerous FAA Wings Awards, and NBAA 17,000 business safety award.

LINDSEY (MULLER) SORENSON (Education 2006) is now a consulting manager with Vynamic, a healthcare industry management consultancy headquartered in Philadelphia.

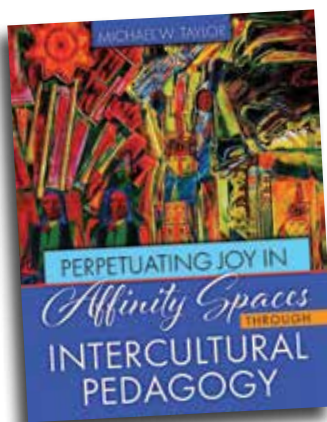
7 MICHAEL W. TAYLOR (Education 1986) is now a full professor of education at University of Mary in North Dakota. He recently published a college text Perpetuating Joy in Affinity Spaces Through Intercultural Pedagogy and will have another book coming out in 2023. And in April 2022, three of his children all graduated from the University of Mary!



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2023 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI - NOMINATIONS OPEN

Since 1988, Northwestern Michigan College's Outstanding Alumni award has recognized graduates and past students for significant professional achievements and/or exemplary leadership in the local or global community. Nominees for this award should have demonstrated accomplishments that reflect NMC's values of lifelong learning, innovation, integrity, and collaboration.

Have someone in mind?

Find more information and the nomination form at nmc.edu/alumni. Submit nominations online or by mail by March 1, 2023.



Have some news you'd like to share?
Send your updates to alumni@nmc.edu
or visit www.nmc.edu/alumni

Join us on social media at:

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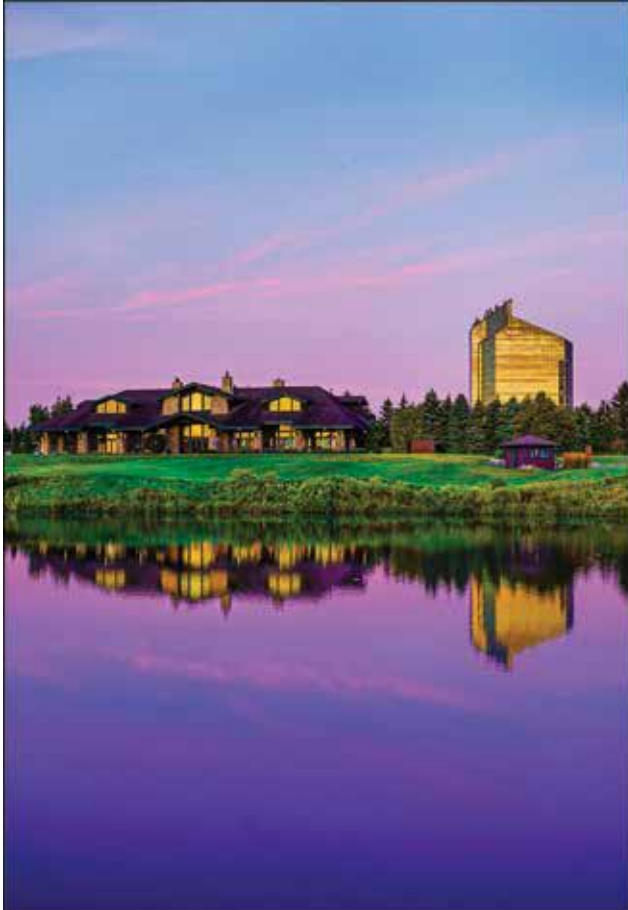
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CALENDAR

JANUARY

16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Free admission to the Dennis Museum Center
 Part of NMC's Embrace The Dream programming celebrating MLK and Black history.
Visit nmc.edu/embrace-the-dream for complete schedule.

18 and Wednesdays through Feb. 22 **1** **Disrupt & Dismantle film series**
1 and 2:30 p.m.
Dennis Museum Center, free
 Part of NMC's Embrace The Dream programming celebrating MLK and Black history.
Visit dennismuseum.org/events/films for titles and summaries.

23 **2** **Lobdell's reservation line opens: (231) 995-3120**
Open for lunch Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. starting Feb. 8

FEBRUARY

2 **Lobdell's World Cuisine prix fixe lunch and dinner**
 Also February 16, March 2, March 16 and April 6. \$30 for lunch, \$55 for dinner.
Reservations: (231) 995-3120

16 **International Affairs Forum lecture series: India**
 Continues third Thursday of each month through June.
tciaf.com for speakers and topics.

23 **Academic World Quest**
Hagerty Center
 World affairs quiz bowl event for high school students.

24 **NMC Concert Band & Grand Traverse Chorale**
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

26 **NMC Choral performance, featuring the NMC Chamber Singers, Canticum Novum and the NMC Children's Choirs**
 3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium*

MARCH

2 **Career Fair**
 3-6 p.m. (tentative), Hagerty Center
Check nmc.edu/careerfair for updates
 Open to the public as well as NMC students

APRIL

22 **Spring Jazz Ensemble Showcase featuring NMC Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble**
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

28 **NMC Concert Band**
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

A Taste of Success
 Tickets \$100
nmc.edu/tasteofsuccess

30 **NMC Children's Choir performance**
 3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium*

MAY

5-11 **Northern Michigan Startup Week**
 A week of events promoting entrepreneurship, including student pitch competitions.
<https://nmsw.co/>

6 **3** **Commencement**
 2 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
 *Tickets available at the door or at MyNorthTickets.com, (800) 836-0717



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Take the Nexus reader survey

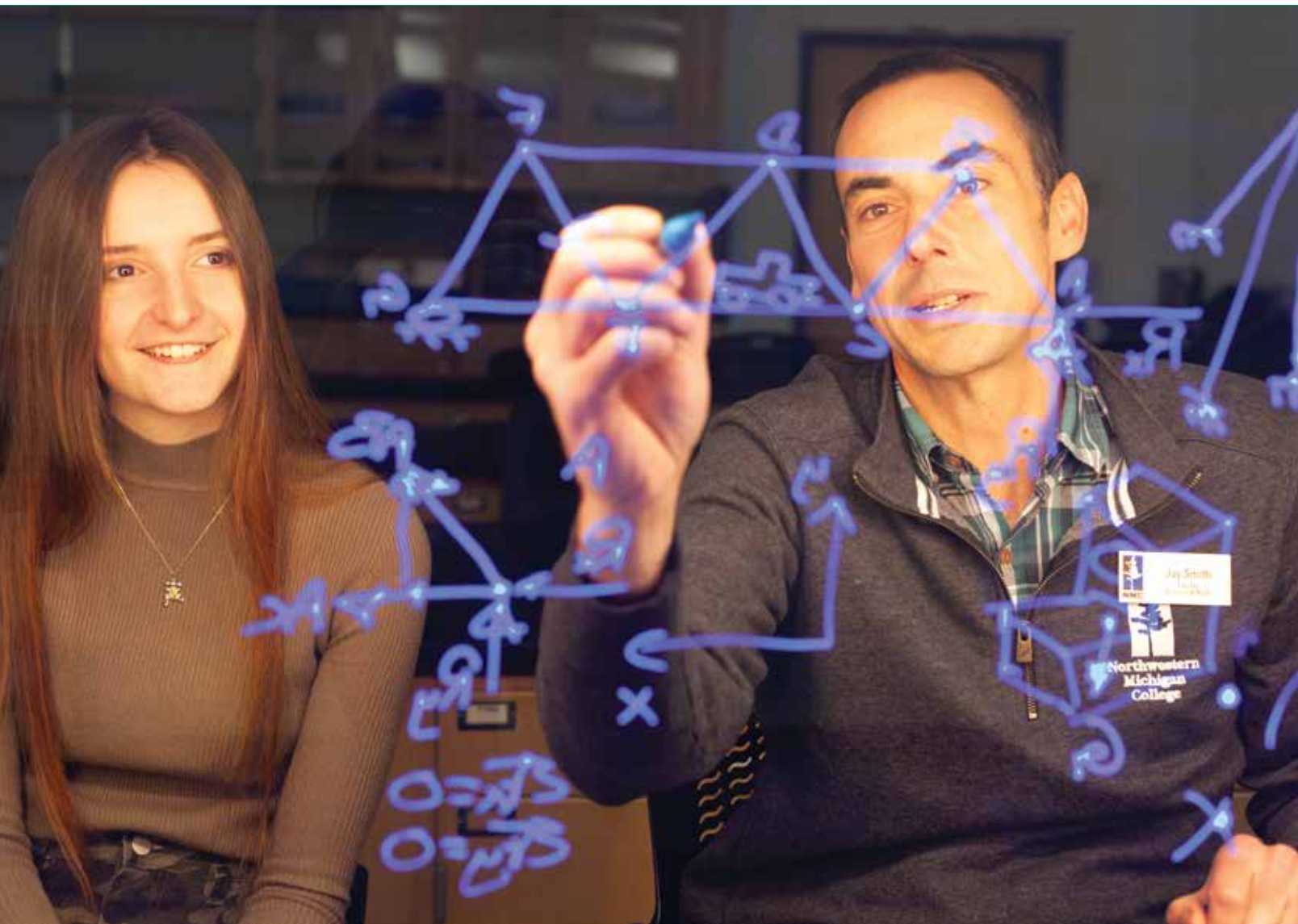
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NMC engineering instructor Jay Smith, right, works with first-year student Serenity Bentz, left. When Bentz transfers to Michigan Technological University for her bachelor's degree in civil engineering, she will have saved up to \$40,000 in tuition by starting at NMC.

nmc.edu/engineering