

2004 Community Attitude and Awareness Survey

NMC sponsored a community attitude and awareness survey of our six-county service area in November of 2004 to find out what people think about the college. Research is an important activity at NMC and includes regular student satisfaction surveys, focus groups, and a series of community breakfasts with various constituent groups.

The 2004 survey was conducted by Mitchell Research & Communications, Inc. of Lansing who surveyed 400 residents within the six-county service area of NMC. It has a margin of error of $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% level of confidence. Some of the results include:



What do people think about NMC as an organization?

- Valuable asset to regional economy: 94% agree
- Manages its finances responsibly: 92% agree
- Good reputation in the community: 99% agree
- Delivers excellence in everything we do: 91% agree

What do people think about the learning opportunities at NMC?

- Academic reputation: 89% excellent/good
- Transfer preparation: 87% excellent/good
- Instruction for vocational/technical fields: 89% excellent/good
- Tuition/fees, compared with other schools: 79% excellent/good
- Availability of financial aid: 78% excellent/good
- Percent of respondents who have taken online classes: 12%
- Of the other 88%, over half would take college classes for credit if they were offered online: 51%

What do people think is important?

- Personalized attention: 96% very/somewhat important
- Small class sizes: 94% very/somewhat important
- Providing classes for personal interest: 89% very/somewhat important
- Providing cultural events/activities: 92% very/somewhat important

What do people think about NMC's relationship with the community?

- Overall favorable rating: 88% very/somewhat
- Provides information openly to public: 94% agree
- Source of information: People get most of their information about NMC from college publications, brochures, etc. or contact with the college (18%), compared with newspapers (13%), television (8%), and radio (6%)
- Contact with NMC: 83% of respondents have had some contact with NMC by attending an event, taking a class, or visiting the campus

Complete copies of the surveys cited in this report are available by contacting the NMC College Relations Office at 231 995-1021.

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

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Northwestern Michigan College

Alumni Updates

1950's

Kluzak, Richard E. 1952-54
520 Third Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Mr. Kluzak graduated from NMC with an Associate of Commerce degree and earned a bachelor's degree at Ferris State College in 1956. After working in accounting for most of his career, he is now retired.

Stevens, John R. 1954-56
405 Parnell Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Mr. Stevens studied liberal arts at NMC. He retired as a professor from Lake Superior State University in 2000. He is a Democratic Party volunteer, does research in ancient cultures, and is involved in a group developing recreation trails.

1960's

Grams, Leone K. (Bigelow) 1964-66
2049 W. Swanson Ct., Muskegon, MI 49444

Ms. Grams studied liberal arts at NMC and graduated from Western Michigan University in 1968. She worked for the Michigan Department of Social Services/Family Independence Agency for 32 years, retiring in 2002.

Olson, Patty J. (Bloomquist) 1966

Ms. Olson said "Mr. Terrell (Ethics) gave me the jump-start I needed to make a difference in my world." In 28 years, she has been a teacher, a union president and a principal in the Traverse City Area Public Schools.

She also teaches "Introduction to Teaching" (EDU 101) at NMC and encourages others to make a difference in the lives of young people.



Northwestern
Michigan
College

The Nor'Wester is published by the NMC College Relations Office. Alumni news and updates should be sent to:

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Message from the President



Timothy J. Nelson

In this issue of the Nor'Wester, I'm pleased to share with you some results of our latest Community Attitude and Awareness Survey. We were grateful to find such positive results and to learn new ways to serve our region.

From the beginning, NMC has always been responsive to community needs. Indeed, it was the community's need for higher education opportunities which established this college in 1951 and which has guided its growth for over 50 years.

Thank you for your interest in NMC. We hope you "Find it here."

Timothy J. Nelson, President

Three NMC Instructors Receive National Recognition

Three NMC instructors are recipients of the 2004-05 NISOD Excellence Award (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) which recognizes outstanding contributions to teaching and learning. The winners are Stephen Drake, Deirdre Mahoney, and Mark Puchala. The recipients will be recognized at the 2004-05 International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Austin, Texas on May 29-June 1, 2005.

The goal of NISOD is to reinforce the primacy of teaching—central to the mission of community colleges—and to celebrate both instructors and programs that make good on the promise of the "open door." The following comments reflect this year's winners' answers to the question, "What does teaching excellence mean to me?"



Stephen Drake, mathematics instructor, said, "Learning excellence is the result of always being focused on creating a powerful learning environment for students, using every conceivable idea to encourage student growth."



Deirdre Mahoney, communications instructor, said, "The pursuit of information, ideas, and wisdom sustains me. I am devoted to knowledge and to sharing all I learn with my students."



Mark Puchala, music instructor, said, "I'm inspired to strive for excellence in the classroom because of my students' trust. They chose NMC for many reasons, but the bottom line is that we will do something for them that will make their lives better and more meaningful."

NMC University Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

In the fall of 1995, the NMC University Center was launched with the promise of “Opening New Doors” to higher education opportunities for residents of northern Michigan. Since then, over 10,000 students have come through those doors and participated in the over-50 bachelor’s completion, advanced degree and certificate programs available from 11 Michigan universities.



Ryan McClellan

“It was very good news for me when I found out the University Center was here,” Ryan McClellan of Alden, Michigan, said. He’s a student at Ferris State University through the UC, studying to become a secondary social studies teacher. “The Ferris staff have been awesome,” he said.

With a wife, three young sons and a full-time job as a warehouse manager at Wimsatt Building Materials in Williamsburg, McClellan said he wouldn’t have been able to get a teaching degree without the University Center. “The commute would be too much,” he said. “Now I’m planning to student teach in spring of 2006 in Kalkaska or Central Lake.”

Another FSU student at the UC, Danial Oberski of Traverse City said, “I love the UC because a lot of people in this area want to complete their degrees.” Oberski is completing a Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum degree and is currently teaching for the Traverse City Area Public Schools’ and NMC.



“We are pleased to be able to provide professional degrees that allow graduates to work in their desired specialty areas in schools, clinics, hospitals, and community agencies,” Marguerite Cotto, NMC Vice President for Lifelong and Professional Learning, said. “We’ve also been able to expand offerings in teacher education to address state and national trends, especially in the area of special education, reading, and early childhood development.”

For more information, call the NMC UC at 231 995-1777 or on the web at: www.nmc.edu/uc

“Mo” Bolmer Boasts GPA of 3.9 at Age 83



Maury “Mo” Bolmer

After a long career with Union Carbide in New York, Maury “Mo” Bolmer moved to Traverse City with his wife in 1993 and enrolled at NMC, starting with computer classes. “I told the instructor that I had been driving a car for 65 years and wanted to feel as comfortable in front of a PC as I did behind the wheel.”

He does. “I spend at least an hour a day at my computer now,” he said. Bolmer has also kept taking classes, accumulating over 60 credits and an impressive grade point average of 3.9. With a BS in Engineering Physics from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, however, he doesn’t need any more credentials. “I like being around young folks and learning new things,” he said, “and taking classes for credit is good motivation.”

In addition to computer classes, he has studied religion—Eastern and Western—with David Terrell; and history—American Civil War, Vietnam War, Western Civilization, 20th Century Europe—with Jim Press. Bolmer brings his own experience to the topic of war as a veteran of World War II with three years in the Southwest Pacific.

“I admire this school a great deal,” Bolmer said. “The instructors are good and they respect the needs of the students.”

Bolmer has also been a donor to NMC’s Annual Campaign. “I believe in education,” he said, “and I liked being able to give to support a student. I know some students who have benefited.” Currently enrolled in the “American Experience” class, he’s not sure what he’ll take next. “I’ll check the schedule,” he said.

Alumni Updates

1970's

Brown, Beverly (Warren) 1969-71
212 East Glenguile, Parchment, MI 49004
bcd3brown@yahoo.com

After studying liberal arts at NMC, Ms. Warren earned a B.S. in Recreation and Youth Leadership from Michigan State University. She worked for the State of Michigan for nine years as a Recreational Therapist. After her son David was born, she returned to Western Michigan University to become an elementary teacher and is currently teaching second graders at Gull Lake Community Schools. "I truly enjoyed the time I spent at NMC."

Johnson, Steven C. 1972-74
9817 Park St., Six Lakes, MI 48886

Mr. Johnson studied Parks & Recreation Administration at NMC. After 11 years in upstate New York, he returned to Michigan to be near his family. He looks forward to the NMC Barbecue, where he hopes to see many of his old friends.

Kelly, Becky D. 1970-72
6131 S. Lime Lk. Road, Cedar, MI 49621

After studying liberal arts at NMC, Ms. Kelly earned a B.A. from Michigan State University in 1974. She's been in the banking industry for the last 30 years, and started her own consulting business five years ago. "I love living in Leelanau County."

1980's

Ball, Bernie 1981-82
6828 Country Lane, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
bernieb5@hotmail.com

Mr. Ball studied psychology at NMC and earned a Masters in Social Work at Wayne State University. He worked in community mental health from 1989-1994, and in the employee assistance sector from 1994-2001. He also had a private practice from 1997-2001. He is a drunk driving expert, determining if multi-drunk-driving offenders deserve to have driving privileges reinstated. Learn more on his website: www.bernardball.com/Homepage.html

Johnston, Elizabeth A. (McNeil) 1979-80 & 1981-84

1000 Sumner Blvd., Safety Harbor, Florida 34695
Ms. Johnston received an A.A. from NMC and a B.A. in English and Theatre in 1988 from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She works at Nielsen Media Research in Oldsmar, Florida as an IT Software Quality Specialist.

Sapulski, Wayne S. 1978-81
Mr. Sapulski graduated from the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. He is a noted Great Lakes lighthouse author, historian and photographer who gives frequent public speaking presentations on regional lighthouse preservation and restoration activity. Last June he filled in for Governor Granholm as the keynote speaker at a major regional lighthouse conference held in Traverse City.

NMC Honored with Hughes Bequest

The Northwestern Michigan College Foundation has been honored by the receipt of a bequest on behalf of the Robert T. Hughes Family Trust which designates endowment funds for three areas of NMC: the Great Lakes Maritime Academy; Dennis Museum Center; and the Helen Osterlin Concert Series.

Robert Hughes died on September 6, 2003 at the age of 86. He had owned and operated Hughes Chemical, an adhesive business founded by his grandfather in Detroit. Mr. Hughes honorably served with the United States Army during World War II and was very involved in the communities he resided in during his lifetime.

A philanthropist and long-time resident of Traverse City, Mr. Hughes served as treasurer of "Friends of the Traverse City District Library," treasurer for the Cherryland Humane Society's "Doggy Banks" and was an active member of the Grace Episcopal Church. His wife,



NMC Fellows Robert Hughes, and George Ryan.

the former Ruth H. Haidt, a member of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, preceded him in death in 1991.

Major gifts, such as the Hughes bequest, are a meaningful and lasting tribute to the memory of a civic leader. They accomplish the dual role of honoring the legacy of a unique individual while fostering programs that cultivate the lives of many in the community, now and into the future.

NMC Alum Returns to Classroom for Third Time

"There's no such thing as being done with education," Dan VanHouten said, and he's living proof. After an early stint in the Coast Guard, he came to NMC for the first time in 1977 and graduated with a general business degree, going to work at Cherrybend Electric.

In 1980 he started his own electrical contracting business which lasted until 1990 when he and his wife decided to move to Florida. "We wanted a warmer climate, but only stayed a year," he said. "We didn't like the humidity." Returning to Traverse City, VanHouten worked for a couple of other electrical businesses before landing a job with United Technologies in 1997 and returning to NMC to complete an electro-mechanical maintenance degree.



Dan VanHouten

He's still at UT which has since become Lear Corporation. "But nobody knows what the future holds for manufacturing," he said, so he's returned to NMC to enroll in the new Power Systems Program. "With all the changes in energy, there's a need for more medium-size power plants," he said. "You've got to keep yourself marketable."



Newsbriefs

See You at the Barbecue, May 22

The 49th Annual NMC Barbecue is Sunday, May 22, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the weather is going to be beautiful! It's bound to be beautiful after the thunder and lightning, not to mention the downpour, of last year. The event will feature the same wonderful picnic lunch, live entertainment, children's activities and classroom displays as always; it's a tradition! Tickets are \$5 in advance; \$6 at the door, and are available at NMC, Oleson's Food Stores, area banks and credit unions, and area elementary schools. For more information, call 231 995-1020.

T.C. Light & Power Makes Gift to Great Lakes Campus

The Traverse City Light and Power Community Investment Fund has given \$45,000 to the Great Lakes Campus Campaign and, in recognition of this grant, NMC has designated the corridor and debriefing room in the Great Lakes Maritime Academy building. "We have a responsibility to invest our resources in the community we serve," Phill Orth, Light and Power Board Member, said. "The vision of our Community Investment Fund is to enhance the quality of life in the Traverse City area by supporting the values we all share. The NMC request fits this vision."

WNMC Launches Morning Show

Since December 2004, WNMC (at 90.7 FM) has entered the 6:00 a.m. drive-time market with a unique format of "two guys and a microphone," debating and defining local issues with local guests. "People feel a lot more engaged with the station," said Eric Hines, WNMC Director, who co-hosts the show with Peter Strong. "As a public radio we want to be more involved with the community."

"Our main focus now is getting listeners involved with features such as 'Ask the Brain Trust'," Hines said. "On this segment, listeners provide both the questions and the answers." The Brain Trust is us.

Alumni Updates

1990's

Kinney, Marjie A. 1989-91
1120 Hele St., Kailua, HI 96734
marjekin@hotmail.com

Ms. Kinney received an Associates degree from NMC and a Bachelor's in Child Development and Teaching from Michigan State University. She moved to Hawaii in 1997 and "absolutely loves it." She is a nanny and is very active in her church.

Norton, Eric J. 1987-90
2447 Dawn Drive, Sidney, NE 69162
e_norton@hotmail.com

Mr. Norton received an AAS in Commercial Art from NMC and a BFA in Visual Communications from Kendall College of Art and Design. He works in Sidney, Nebraska, as a Senior Internet Marketing Specialist for Cabela's. He enjoys visits to the Rocky Mountains, outdoor pursuits with his sons, and wearing his Red Wings jersey in Denver, Colorado.

Snow, Julie L. (Spetebroot) 1990-93
3221 South Lachance Road, Lake City, MI 49651
slushpuppy@flxtek.net

Ms. Snow earned an associates degree in communications from NMC, and earned the Communications Division Scholarship in 1993. She has worked at newspapers in Michigan and Ohio. For 11 years she has been a machinist at T&L Precision Lathe. She writes short stories and is writing a novel. She likes to spend time on trails in the woods with the Cadillac Jeepers Club. She lives in Lake City with her husband and two children.

Tell us about yourself for publication in Nor'Wester

Last	First	Initial
Maiden Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone ()	Work ()	
email address		
May we print your address?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
What years did you attend NMC?		
What programs of study?		
Social Security Number		
Tell us about other educational opportunities, occupations and recent activities.		

Mail to: NMC Alumni Office, 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686
Email to: cpaul@nmc.edu

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For Alumni & Friends of
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Jerry Williams Retires After 35 Years with GLMA

After eight years on a nuclear submarine with the U.S. Navy, Jerry Williams was looking for a land-based job so that he could be closer to his wife and children. Although he was looking in southwest Michigan, he happened to be in Traverse City in the summer of 1969 when the “Allegheny” training ship arrived and the Great Lakes Maritime Academy was getting started.

The rest, as they say, is history—and Williams has shared a good deal of his with NMC and GLMA. He began teaching in the Engine Program at the Maritime Academy in the spring of 1970 and is now retiring at the end of May. “It’s been a great job,” he said, “When I get frustrated behind a desk, I can always go turn a wrench somewhere.”

Over the years, Williams has seen many changes in the Maritime Academy as it’s

grown from a dozen cadets to over a hundred. “We started out in the freezer building along with Auto Tech, Drafting, Electronics, and punch-card computers,” he said. “Then we moved to the remodeled Maritime building and finally back into Auto Tech while waiting for our new building.”

“I’ve enjoyed every building we’ve been in,” Williams said, “This new one is fantastic because I have a classroom next to my lab.” The curriculum has changed along the way, too. “We see more electronic control of everything,” he said. “When I started, I used a slide rule for the first two years and then bought a calculator for \$100 that would only add, subtract, multiply and divide.”

Looking ahead to retirement, Williams intends to trade his sailboat in for a trawler and go down the Mississippi.



Jerry Williams

“Part of the fun of boating is finding it and fixing it,” he said.

Thanks, Jerry, for finding NMC.
Happy travels!