Greetings, North Park Students, Faculty, and Staff:

On Tuesday, February 23, almost 500 North Park staff and faculty (491 to be exact!) came together for a 90-minute Campus Connection on Microsoft Teams. Board Chairman David Otfinoski and President Mary K. Surridge expressed deep gratitude to the community for its collaborative work in successfully managing the pandemic while also ensuring our students’ continued educational progress. And they framed our path forward through North Park Next— the strategic planning process that will empower the University to meet the challenges facing all of higher education—and to create a thriving future for North Park.

Members of the President’s Cabinet provided the community with the same updates they had provided to the Board of Trustees at last week’s meeting. VP Stenmark supplied updates on the University’s financial position, and VP Scola shared our enrollment outlook. Provost Johnson updated the community on our HLC reaffirmation of accreditation work, and on the collaborative on-going work in the Academic Program Review and Enhancement process. Melissa Velez Luce, executive director of operations, Office of the President, presented the value of North Park’s designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution – and of our campus-wide training in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. And VP Nevels outlined the powerful Six-Fold Framework, through which North Park will live into its Intercultural distinctive.

President Surridge then introduced Credo’s Jennifer deCoste, who will lead North Park’s strategic planning and implementation work, including a review of our administrative structures and facilities to make sure
they are right sized and properly resourced. Dr. deCoste provided an excellent presentation on Credo, its collaborative process, and the timeline for creating our strategic plan through North Park Next.

The President ended the meeting with prayer, and with this Bible verse: “Let us not become weary in doing what is good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9.)

If you were not able to attend the Campus Connection, you can view a recording on the North Park Next web page. And if you have any questions, you can send them to next@northpark.edu.

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**Please Use the Campus Clear App**

The Pandemic Response Team is urging all students, staff, and faculty to get in the habit of using North Park’s free smartphone app, **CampusClear**, every morning. If you screen yourself for symptoms and submit the result every day, it will help us tremendously in monitoring campus health. It will help us get testing and care quickly to those who might need it.

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**Big Win for Women’s Hoops on Senior Day Saturday and Beyond**

The North Park women’s basketball team has enjoyed a four-game winning streak, beating Elmhurst once, Augustana twice, and Carthage in a thriller. This past Saturday, the women crushed Augustana on our home floor for senior day, earning a dominant 82-55 win. In the win, five North Park Vikings posted double-digit scoring totals, including senior guard Sinead Molloy, who led the team with 14.

**From left to right in the photo above:** senior Sinead Molloy, head coach Amanda Crockett, assistant coaches Annie Shain and Sam Ervin, senior Zakiya Newsome, and senior Dana Jump, long-time team manager.

The Vikings take their 7-3 record into a home game against Illinois Wesleyan tonight at 7 p.m.
TIP OF THE WEEK

Not all masks are created equal, and not all masks provide the same protection. When choosing a mask, pay attention to how well it fits, and how many layers it has—and consider getting one with a nose wire. A nose wire is a metal strip across the top of the mask that helps you improve the fit. Or, consider double masking. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have detailed information on how to make sure you are masking for maximum protection.

Keeping you in the loop

The University is reporting all cases that involve campus community members. Check out our new Campus Alert System Dashboard.

Until next week: mask up, keep your distance, and stay healthy!