Greetings, North Park Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Our continued safety efforts are important and appreciated! Thanks to masking, social distancing, and hand washing, we have kept our case count fairly low, currently averaging about four per week. But, in the words of Eric McQuaid, Head Athletic Trainer and a key figure in our Pandemic Response Team:

“As we’ve seen time and time again, things can pivot. We need to stay vigilant and keep up what we’re doing.”

We have a good plan, and it’s working. Let’s stick with it!

Congrats to Helen Uriostegui, ODIL Honoree

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has chosen senior Helen Uriostegui for its Honors Convocation Diversity Award.

ODIL cited Helen’s leadership and sustained commitment as the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) Vice President; Lighthouse Scholar; member of the Hispanic Serving Institution Student Auxiliary Board; and charter member of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting as some of the reasons she was chosen for this prestigious award.

“Helen’s career at North Park embodies ODIL’s 2020-21 theme of ‘Impact Over Intent’ entirely,” said ODIL Director Sharee L. Myricks and ODIL Assistant Director Marcus Payne II in the announcement.

Watch here for more ODIL winners, to be announced at the Annual Multicultural Awards ceremony on March 26.

Congrats, Helen, and thanks for your contributions to North Park!
The North Park Women’s Softball team, shown here pregame, opened the season on Monday, March 8, sweeping a doubleheader against Concordia University Chicago, 10-1 and 6-5. Next up? Millikin, tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Go Vikings!
Dr. Rebecca Ryan, Interim Dean of the School of Music, Art, and Theatre, says the music department hopes to offer students some hybrid options for spring recitals. One option would allow for a limited in-person audience for degree recitals which would let students’ immediate families attend, as well as a handful of faculty and fellow students. Live music for the first time in a year? Progress! (Shown above: Michael Ronnet and Justize Gottman, pre-pandemic.)

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

On the hunt for a vaccine? While the White House has promised that the majority of Americans will receive a Covid vaccination by mid-summer, there are ways to snag a shot without spending hours online searching for an appointment. New apps are springing up, such as Dr. B, that aim to pair people with extra doses that would be discarded if not used. It’s worth … a shot!

**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!