

Fall 2021 Campus Update

Dear North Park faculty and staff,

The fall semester is off to a thriving start at North Park University!

The joy and appreciation of seeing students, faculty and staff return to in-person living and learning in our campus community, provides strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

With our highest priorities guiding our work – the health and safety of our campus community and ensuring the successful educational progress of our students - I express deep thanks to all North Parkers. Thanks to our students for their motivation to stay together and maintain protocols, our faculty for their excellent preparation and execution in the classroom in this new semester, and to our staff for their outstanding support throughout.

The strength of our campus planning for Fall 2021 and the excellent implementation by North Park's Pandemic Response Team, are evidenced in our [campus dashboard](#) to date. Watch for this dashboard to be updated and posted weekly.

With high vaccination rates and low positivity rates in robust testing, North Park continues to provide a very safe campus environment. Please do your part in contributing to the health and safety of our community. We thank God for His provision and protection.

- **Recruitment Momentum**

Thanks to the strong results from our colleagues across the entire Enrollment Management team, and collaboration with the team in Student Engagement, North Park opened with record enrollment in our first-year incoming class. Seeking strong persistence in our returning students, we continually pursue effective ways to provide a challenging and supportive environment for all North Parkers on their path to the completed North Park degree.

- **New SRA Cohort for NPTS**

North Park Theological Seminary welcomed its first student cohort at a second site for the School of Restorative Arts (SRA) at Logan Correctional Center, a woman's detention center in Logan County, Illinois. A total of 19 Logan students are enrolled in the MA in Christian Ministry (MACM.) With gratitude to God, and our commitment to their success, we welcome these new students to theological education in our Seminary.

- **North Park Next**

Through **North Park Next** we are committed to creating our strong future together, promoting sustainable growth, and building a financially healthy institution. Our academic curriculum will be centered in our mission and compelling to current and prospective students – and our administrative structures and campus facilities must be designed to support our students of today and tomorrow.

North Park's Administrative Efficiency and Prioritization (AEP) process is now underway. The committee conducting this work is populated by representative members across the university, providing balanced perspective and input as we review institutional operations, administrative structures and investments. Many thanks to this collaborative group of colleagues and their willingness to serve and lead. Departments will soon have opportunity to support this effort and report on how they support the University's mission, and how they contribute to the experience and success of our students.

The goal of the AEP process is to identify new needs and opportunities, efficiency of services, and ensure that our administrative structure is designed and built specifically to meet the University's mission, goals and priorities. The AEP recommendations will be presented to the President and Cabinet, for review and recommendation to the Board later this year.

All of the important work of **North Park Next** will put our university in a position to thrive. It is aimed at building a healthy institution that is true to our mission, compelling to prospective students, relevant to employers, and financially sustainable. It will result in a strategy map to propel us forward with a detailed plan to guide our work and investment in the coming months and years. And through **North Park Next**, we will secure the healthy margin we need to advance our mission, reward innovation, and improve compensation and support.

- **University Convocation**

On Monday, September 27 at 10:30 in Anderson Chapel we honor the publications and promotions of our gifted faculty in the university and seminary. Additionally, we will officially welcome and install three new members of the President's Cabinet, Provost Michael Carr; Vice President for Student Engagement, Dr. Frank Gaytán; and, Chief of Staff, Melissa Vélez-Luce. Please join in this celebration of scholarship, leadership and service.

- **Thank you!**

Finally, thank you for your prayers and encouragement, and for your devotion to North Park.

We thank God for the clear evidence of His presence, protection, and provision throughout our 130-year history. We seek His guidance and wisdom each day as we create a thriving future together for the students and the university we love.

With deep gratitude and respect for your important place in our North Park story,

Mary K. Surridge
President

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, because He who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10:23