

Watch a video recording of President Surridge's message [here](#).

## Summer Update

July 14, 2022

Dear members of the North Park campus community:

I pray that the summer weeks are allowing you some valuable rest and family time, and trust that North Park's July Fridays are providing some much-needed flexibility for time away. I write today with good news and updates for all who serve North Park University.

### **Compensation increases and restoration of retirement benefits!**

I am happy to report that our Board of Trustees recently approved our budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2023. Included in our proposal for the Board's consideration, **was a 3% increase in compensation for all faculty and staff (full- and part-time) and full restoration of retirement benefits.** These increases in compensation are effective as of July 1, 2022, and will be reflected in your next paycheck. Increased pay for adjunct faculty contracts will be realized beginning in the fall semester (effective August 29).

I am very grateful for your patience and for your continued service and support of our students in ways that go so far above and beyond. As you know, we have been working to mitigate a significant structural deficit over the last four years – a deficit that had eventually reached \$4 million.

As a result of difficult but necessary strategic adjustments and disciplined management of our operational budget, a \$4 million deficit was turned into a \$3 million-plus surplus at the close of our most recent fiscal year, June 30, 2022 (which includes federal relief funding for higher education, and generous support from our alumni and friends). Given the current challenging higher ed climate, this is a remarkable achievement. For North Park, this represents the first such positive fiscal year-end performance in many years.

**Without the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff such positive financial momentum would not have been possible. The Board's vote to approve increased compensation and restoration of retirement benefits reflects their acknowledgement of your hard work and their support of this positive financial momentum.**

I am grateful that the Board agrees with and supports the Senior Team's desire to invest the significant portion of this surplus back into in the exceptional people who deliver our mission every day.

If you have specific questions about these adjustments to your base salary and retirement benefits, please contact the Office of Human Resources at [hr@northpark.edu](mailto:hr@northpark.edu) and THANK

YOU, for your outstanding service and support of the mission of North Park and our students.

### **New academic programs will lead to increased enrollment and revenue**

We are launching three very promising new programs in the coming academic year. After careful feasibility studies and encouraging enrollment projections, North Park University has announced this summer the launch of a new Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management (SCM); a Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DEMSN); and a co-ed competitive Esports team within the Athletic Department.

The [SCM](#) curriculum is focused on solving real and current operational and logistics challenges that are disrupting the global supply chain. The degree will prepare graduates for positions as supply chain managers, professionals, and logisticians – a field expected to grow about 30% before 2030, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Direct Entry MS in Nursing is designed for students who already possess a bachelor's degree in another discipline but now wish to enter the field of nursing. The program leads to a Master of Science in Nursing and prepares students for the NCLEX RN license exam. It is a full-time, campus-based degree program that combines engaging classroom instruction, training in the Kathy J. Holmgren Simulation Lab, and clinical rotations with local, affiliated providers. The first cohort is scheduled to begin on January 17, 2023, and there will be three start times for future cohorts – January, May, and August.

The [Vikings' Varsity Esports program](#) will operate as our 19<sup>th</sup> intercollegiate sport. Esports is a rapidly growing form of competitive, organized video gaming, viewed by millions of fans monthly, online and in person. The Chicago City Council is on board with competitive programs in development and approved a \$30 million arena known as Surge Esports Stadium to be built on Chicago's South Side. North Park will join the National Association of College Esports (NACE) and has begun a national search for our first coach and recruiter for Esports. Participation will begin this fall, and intercollegiate competition is scheduled to start in the fall of 2023.

**All of this important work is true to our mission, compelling to prospective students, relevant to employers – and should result in new net revenue, allowing our university to advance as a healthy and thriving institution with the ability to invest in our mission and our people.** Many thanks to all who are working to bring these compelling new programs to fruition at North Park!

### **Looking ahead**

We are planning for a strong 2022-23 academic year – and have the skilled and talented community we need to put those plans into action. Additionally, we continue to move through our strategic planning process, which will increase our velocity and momentum by elevating and operationalizing our three distinctives – Christian, city-centered, and intercultural. That work is underway, and we invite your participation, as we continue building our very compelling model for Christian higher education.

We have held two campus-wide strategic planning input sessions and look forward to two more sessions Wednesday, August 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday, August 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. I sincerely encourage everyone to accept our invitation to make their voices heard and their ideas known as we create our future together through North Park Next. Please [click here](#) to RSVP.

Watch for further campus updates as the summer progresses.

With gratitude to all,

Mary K. Surridge  
President