Dark Sidewalks Shed Light On Campus Safety

Kyle Hoffman Staff Writer North Hall resident Rachel Staff Writer Colby felt unsafe as she biked through concerningly-dark patches of Northwestern Michigan College's campus sidewalk en route to a restaurant near campus. The 21-year-old student "ambassador" asserted herself, as she has shown the ability to do throughout her first semester at NMC, by meeting with staff earlier this fall in an attempt to solve the problem. It's not the only campus safety concern that NMC faces, and it may not be the last problem that Colby will tackle. Her initiative begs the question: Does NMC provide an environment that ensures students consistently feel safe on campus?

Many students may feel unsafe walking through the various unlit or poorly-lit stretches of sidewalk around campus. The walk along the volleyball and basketball courts between East and North Hall is one of the darkest stretches.

Colby's meeting with faculty worked. NMC is working on installing five additional light posts at that area by the end of the calendar year. That is just one of the many steps she has taken to make NMC a safer and more comfortable environment—and she plans to take more.

Colby is passionate about improving the sense of safety for herself and others, as a woman but also as a rape survivor. "I was very vocal, I wasn't going to be quiet about it," she said. Her experiences motivated her to help others that have to go through what she did. "[My previous college] has an amazing Title IX program," she said. "They ended up helping me so much and it was a very simple process for me."

Putting herself in the public eye and being vocal about her assault has given Colby confidence that advocacy works. "I ended up having a girl tell me 'I saw how you got justice for what happened to you and I'm going to do the same thing and go forward with my case,' and that was a big moment for me. Not being quiet about this makes a difference."

Colby has seized every opportunity to make a difference. She recently joined the Campus SaVE Advisory Board, a group of students and faculty that address safety issues on campus. She is also working to revive the NMC Voices student group. The group is an advocacy and support group focusing on sexual assault awareness and creating a safe space for students of all genders.

(Cont.pg3)

NEWS



NMC in History

Campus Day, 1959

The first Campus Day was held in 1955. The annual event, typically held in late autumn until 1965 when it became a spring event, brought students and faculty together to improve the campus grounds. NMC's main campus was located on acres of heavily wooded area filled with underbrush, tree stumps, branches, and rotted logs that needed to be removed for development. A government surplus bulldozer, named Ezmeralda, obtained in 1957 would have students shouting "Ezzie does it!" whenever she tackled a big job during this 1959 Campus Day.

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News in Brief

Thanksgiving Holiday Reminder— No Classes Wednesday, Nov. 24 (5 p.m.)– Sunday, Nov. 28.

NMC's Board of Trustees met in a special session on Monday, Nov. 15 to fill the vacant trustee position left by Michael Estes last month. The board unanimously appointed Andrew Robitshek. He will hold the position until the next regular community college election in November 2022.

Michelle Seman is the new archivist and librarian. Seman succeeds Ann Swaney, who retired in October after 38 years with the college, or more than half of NMC's entire 70-year history. Semen has a master's degree in library and information science with a concentration in archives from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

NMC families who applied and were chosen for the Food for Thought Thanksfor-Giving project will be able to pick up their Thanksgiving meal boxes on Monday, November 22 at the Physical Education building from 2-4pm. The 50 local Big Brothers Big Sisters families can pick theirs up at Bill Marsh (1621 S. Garfield Ave.) on the same day from 5:30-7:30pm.

NMC has hired Lansing-based lobbyist firm, Kelley Cawthorne, (who will be paid \$30,000 over six months) to advocate for a \$5 million Osterlin renovation to turn it into a hub for student services, as well as two other NMC projects. The Osterlin project will be submitted as part of NMC's five-year capital outlay plan for the state's 2023 fiscal year.

Non-Discrimination Policy Notice

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NMC Campus Safety(cont.)

After being inactive for a few years, the group once again meets on Tuesdays to discuss the planning of events that focus on sexual assault and prevention. They are looking at brainstorming the best ways to raise money and awareness for organizations like the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, and and others like it. The group is also discussing having separate meetings focusing more exclusively on support for survivors of sexual assault.

It's important to remember that campus safety applies to more than the main campus. NMC offers virtually the same safety resources at all campuses, but safety at The Great Lakes Maritime Academy has been a specific note of emphasis.

An October letter from the U.S Maritime Administration condemned a recently reported sexual assault of a cadet on her year-long sea assignment. The Great Lakes Maritime Academy is one of only six in the nation, so although the specific reported incident did not happen at NMC, it is a problem that had to be addressed.

"I want you to know we stand with the survivors of sexual assault and harassment and condemn the actions reported in this incident," NMC President Nick Nissley's October news release read in response to the incident.

NMC has shown the ability to react properly to safety issues, but it's important to be proactive for such an everchanging problem.

NMC Safety Resources Have Room For Improvement

On a technical level, NMC seems to have policies and tools that should make students feel secure. The college has emergency phones in most parking lots and throughout each campus. There is an optional emergency alert system that uses SMS text messaging. Campus Safety offers a 24/7 escort service that can be used by calling (231) 995-1111 and a security officer or student patroller will escort you where you need to go.

IEWS

NMC enforces Title IX, which includes the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (Campus SaVE) Act, which reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and amends The Clery Act. All of this means that NMC has strict policies and procedures in place meant to protect students from sexual misconduct.

The college provides the means for easy reporting of misconduct, attempts to ensure the protection and confidentiality of survivors and reporters, and makes sexual crimes transparent on campus. These protections apply to rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic/ dating violence, any unwanted or unconsented sexual contact, and more.

However, not all of this information and access to these resources are easy to find. Many places on NMC's website show off the 24/7 escort service, but one must navigate multiple layers of links to learn how to use it—if one can find it at all.

On the "Ask Us About" page for date rape and sexual assault, two links to outside nonprofits are included but there is no mention of support resources on campus. There is only a link to contact Jim White, Assistant Director of Campus Safety & Security. NMC offers sources of support and counseling, but the information is tucked away in the bottom corner of NMC's campus safety homepage, and many links that should have such information do not. The resources don't provide the help that they should if it takes a sit-down investigation to

find them.

According to the annual Campus Security and Safety Report and Annual Fire Safety Report, from 2018-2020 there were 2 reported rapes, 1 burglary, 2 domestic violence cases, and 3 stalking offenses. There were no reported murders, statutory rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, or hate crimes.

A similar report from Alpena Community College shows that they had no murders, rapes, burglaries, assaults, robberies, or domestic violence charges, and only 1 stalking offense from 2015-2017.

Muskegon Community College reported no murders, rapes, burglaries, aggravated assaults, robberies, and domestic violence cases, but reported 2 stalking offenses and 2 sexual assaults from 2018-2020.

These reports aren't direct comparisons though. Alpena Community College and Muskegon Community College have about 1500 and 4500 students, respectively, compared to the roughly 3600 students at NMC. While there is a slight trend, the sample sizes and low cases don't warrant a definitive conclusion.

While it is important to examine the statistics and resources in order to define how safe campus *is*, it is also important to consider how safe campus *feels*. By listening to the students and assault survivors brave enough to use their voice, NMC can help ensure a positive learning environment for all.

Students, survivors, and allies interested in joining the NMC Voices student group can email the faculty advisor Brittany Hanbury at <u>bhanbury@nmc.edu</u>, or Rachel Colby at colby10@ mail.nmc.edu.



03

FEATURE

The History of Native American Heritage Month

Ally Licht November is national Native American Staff Writer Heritage Month. People across the United States celebrate the achievements and cultures of Native peoples as well as reflect on the somber history of the colonization of Native peoples by white settlers.

The roots of Native American Heritage Month come from Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian who convinced the Boy Scouts of America to reserve a day to celebrate the "First Americans". This led to Reverend Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe and president of the annual Congress of the American Indian Association, to command the United States to also observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day. In 1916, the first American Indian Day in a state was declared by the governor of New York. Then in 1986, President Reagan established "American Indian week" which correlated with Thanksgiving. Since 1995, each president has announced that November would be a whole month dedicated to Indigenous peoples.

The National Congress of American Indians states that there are 574 federally recognized "Indian Nations" (also called tribes, pueblos, communities and native villages) in the United States. 229 of these nations are in Alaska and the remaining 345 are spread across 35 other states. Some tribes are unrecognized on the federal level but have state recognition. These federally unrecognized tribes find difficulty in obtaining federal funding and treaty protections.

There are 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan. Locally, the closest federally recognized tribe is the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in Suttons Bay. This Band is the people of the Three Fires Confederacy, the Odawa (Ottawa), the Ojibwa (Chippewa), and Bodowadomi (Pottawatomi) people. Historically, they traded with the French and the English people who came to their land. As a tribe they have suffered many hardships, including having to cede their land in Michigan to the United States Government and treaties they had made with the federal government were broken, leaving them without federal or state assistance. Since then, they have been re-recognized by the federal government and have grown to have thriving tribal economies and have created many assistance programs for their members. There is also the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians located in Harbor Springs.

According to the Grand Traverse Band (GTB) Newspaper, a publication by the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the GTB heritage library is hosting multiple events to celebrate Native American Heritage month, including storytimes and history teachings as well as interactive events such as Gooni-Ginebek (Snow Snake) workshops. This event will be held November 20th from 12-2pm where the public can come make and learn about the history of Snow Snakes.



Indigenous dancers celebrate at a traditional pow-wow on NMC's campus, 2019

For Native American heritage month, the *Traverse City Record Eagle* recognized Anishinaabek neighbors of the region. One story about Krystina John, a former NMC student and Anishinaabe member, stated that "if there's one thing she would like her non-Native American neighbors to understand, it is the importance of spreading awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, the thousands of unmarked graves of boarding school children, and cultural appropriation." If you are interested in learning more, NMC offers courses in Native American history and Elementary Anishinaabemowin.



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Free Concerts for NMC Students Return in 2022

Welcome back to the Dennos Museum Center and Milliken Auditorium!

Craig Hadley

Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Dennos Museum

Did you know that you get FREE concert tickets to all Dennos concerts? Simply bring your student ID by the Dennos Museum Center during our normal operating hours (currently Wed – Sun, 11 am – 4pm), and pick up your free tickets to some of the best blues, folk, jazz, and world music concerts available in our region.

This season feels like a long time coming in many ways. As always, you have some of the best seats in the county with great customer service provided by staff and volunteers, high quality audio, and an opportunity to meet the performer after the show.

Per NMC campus policy, safety measures will include masking for all attendees, as well as following any state-mandated guidelines. The Dennos Concert Series staff and volunteers appreciate continued flexibility as we return to live performances while considering the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community.

And so without further delay, we are pleased to present our upcoming concert series schedule!

2022 Dennos Museum Center Concert Series Schedule

AGUANKÓ Saturday, January 8, 2022 — 8:00 PM

SWEET WATER WARBLERS Wednesday, January 26, 2022 — 8:00 PM

TORONZO CANNON Saturday, February 12, 2022 — 8:00 PM

THORNETTA DAVIS Saturday, March 5, 2022 — 8:00 PM

BASSELANDTHE SUPERNATURALS Saturday, March 19, 2022 — 8:00 PM

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III Friday, April 15, 2022 — 8:00 PM

TECHNOLOGY



What the Tech?! Cobots Are Coming to a Lab Near You!

JASON SLADE, Director of Technical Academic Area The last few months I have been dreaming about robots. Not just any robots, but collaborative robots. In this recurring nightmare, this

collaborative robot (or cobot for short) slowly takes over my life. First, it helps with a few mundane tasks. Next, I assign it more difficult activities or things I don't want to do. And finally, it just replaces me! I never know what happens next—as I wake up screaming!

I kid! I kid! Well, maybe I am only half joking! Cobots are the next evolution of robots in manufacturing and we will hopefully see them creep into our everyday lives. But let me back up.

Manufacturing is experiencing what is considered the fourth industrial revolution. Think of all of the things you have been buying off of Amazon during the pandemic. Every item was produced through a manufacturing operation streamlined to increase speed and improve efficiency, resulting in higher profit margins.

This desire for profitability drives "revolutions" or mass changes on the factory floor. Previous revolutions included the dawn of mechanization and steam power, followed by mass production, automation in the 1980s, and now to the idea of "smart" manufacturing. This new wave of manufacturing consists of the Internet of things (IoT): sensors, monitoring systems, 3D printing, cybersecurity, collaborative robots and more.

Collectively, these technologies are known as "Industry 4.0" and manufacturers are jumping in with both feet. Why? Because if they don't, another company will and soak up the profit margins, leaving those who stood idle by the wayside.

But the technology that is really drawing interest is the cobot. Traditional robots have been around for decades. However, robots are dangerous! In a manufacturing facility, robots operate behind screens, guard rails and have floor scanners all for the purpose of shutting down the process immediately if a human encroaches. This is due to the fact that robots don't stop. They are designed to go from point A to point B and will go through anything in their way.

I have heard horror stories of robots going through pick-up trucks in auto assembly plants due to the robot programmer screwing up the coordinates. They are highly effective but are meant to be left alone (much like dragons).

Cobots on the other hand, are designed to work *with* a human. They have sensors that detect changes in current or acceleration, and react accordingly. You can think of these as "bump" sensors that detect or feel objects in their pathway, which then stops or slows down the cobot. So if a human walks into the cobot's path, a brush against the robotic arm will result in the cobot pausing or stopping. This drastically reduces the potential of a human getting injured, or worse, killed.

Because of this safety feature, the cobot is perfect to work side-by-side with humans, hence the name "collaborative". With the shortage of employees, companies are looking for labor alternatives and cobots are great candidates to fill this gap. Starting at just over \$30k (which is "cheap" for new automation), the cobot can work on a manufacturing process right next to a human.

For example, a local company here in TC was sorting parts by hand, picking up the tiny components, and then putting them on a grid for later assembly. This was time consuming and required two people to complete the task. With labor shortages, a cobot was brought in to do this work. The cobot now performs the sort and the two people are used in other stages of the operation. In another example, a part was washed multiple times after being machined. This job is tedious for a human but it's necessary. Swapping a cobot in its place freed the employee up to do other higher skilled or more needed tasks.

Did the cobot replace the human? No. It freed the employee up to do higher skilled tasks and also created a new job as a cobot programmer. Unlike a traditional robot, the cobot can be reprogrammed relatively easily and repurposed for another job. Small companies may move their cobot around two or three times a shift.

This is not the case for traditional robots that are designed to stay in one place and do the same task over and over again. The programming of the cobot can be learned in a short time and requires only basic electrical or controls knowledge and some training on the programming interface used by that brand of cobot. But once learned, the programmer can implement sophisticated robot functions and sequencing.

NMC is fortunate to be the recipient of an Industry 4.0 grant focused on this technology. This grant is a partnership with local manufacturers, MIWorks!, Traverse Connect, and others and will result in a new learning lab in the Parsons Stulen Building on Aero Park Campus. A Universal Robot (UR) cobot will be part of the lab and allow students to learn the basics of cobot operation, safety, programming, and more. This lab will come online in late Spring 2022 and be open for training and employer use. The cobot will also be integrated into our EET 233 and EET 234 - PLC application courses.

Don't be surprised if these cobots transition from the manufacturing floor and start entering day-to-day life, including working at McDonald's and assisting in the service industry. They are here to stay and the "Industry 4.0" technology used to produce them will only make them cheaper. Soon, you will be having the same dream as me!

OPINION

Recent Abortion Challenges May Impact Women's Access to Higher-Ed

Rachel Bonesteel Staff Writer The political fight over reproductive rights has been waging for well over a

century, and has reached a pivotal point in recent months. Texas Senate Bill 8, which passed Sept. 1 2021, banned nearly all abortions after 6 weeks of pregnancy.

Before the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, abortions were illegal, dangerous, and resulted in deaths—roughly 200 per year. The varying availability all over the country led to dangerous back-alley abortions or self-induced abortions for women seeking to

terminate pregnancies. Women of color faced a 30% higher mortality rate than white women when taking part in these illegal and unsafe methods.

For medical providers who offered them, it meant risking jail time and the loss of their medical license. That is why most medical providers were not performing these procedures prior to Roe v. Wade. People with limited to no medical training were left to perform abortions in cars, secret offices, hotel rooms, bathrooms and, quite literally, back alleyways.

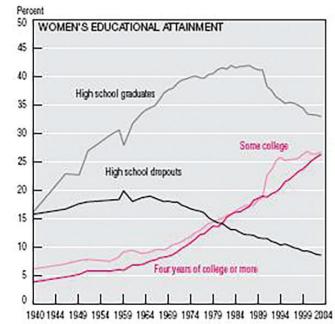
Roe v. Wade changed that and allowed for safe and legal abortions to be performed on those who need or chose it. The Supreme Court ruling guaranteed access to a safe legal abortion based on a women's constitutionally protected "right to privacy". Companies such as Planned Parenthood made the newly legalized procedure even more accessible in more than 600 locations.

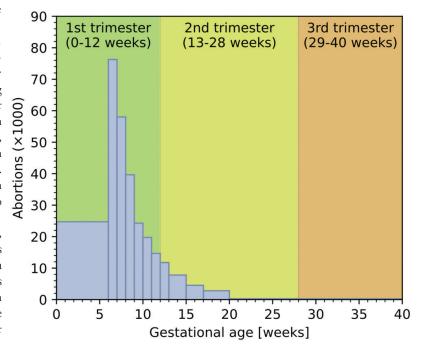
With more control over their lives, more women began to enter into postsecondary education and reach higher in their careers. In the decade following the Roe v. Wade decision, the number of women aged 20-24 enrolled in school increased by approximately 50%, with only 16.7% of the population enrolled in 1973 and 21.2% by 1984. For comparison, the number of men enrolled grew about 20%, with 25.2% enrolled in 1973 and 26.3% in 1984.

The ability to have a safe abortion, including options to prevent pregnancies such as birth control pills, IUDs and a variety of other birth control methods became more accessible than ever in the 1990's, helping women achieve more and not have to set aside their aspirations for a family if they didn't want to.

This fall, NMC had 1,811 female students and 1,486 male students enrolled in classes—a 4.6% increase in females from recent years. As we hope to see both genders' enrollment increase, the numbers are promising as women continue to further their education and careers in Northern Michigan. NMC's primary age demographic is students ages 18 to 30—the ages women are most likely to be affected by abortion restrictions and bans.

Here in Michigan, laws predating 1973 would come into effect should Roe v. Wade be





overturned—banning abortions for Michiganders. Experts do not foresee this happening and Governor Gretchen Whitmer has pushed an order to repeal the 1931 law that criminalizes abortion as a felony except when to save the life of the person carrying the child. Despite the Roe v. Wade decision making this law inactive, Whitmer's attempt to repeal it is to protect the right of Michiganders to a safe and legal abortion, should the unexpected happen.

Today, hundreds of thousands of women are trailblazing into previously male-dominated fields. Having complete control over their own bodies,

> and ultimately their entire lives, has led to great progress in society simply by allowing more women into these previously male-dominated spaces.

> Taking away access to birth control methods and safe abortions could set women back. With a higher global population rate and more teen pregnancies than before the 1973 ruling, a higher death rate due to unsafe and illegal methods are expected. If history is any sign of what could come, a decline in college enrollment among women, and fewer earning higher degrees, can be expected. For many women, having a child is a large financial, mental, and physical commitment, especially for those without a strong support system, and extra schooling quickly becomes unattainable. This limits the quality of life for both mother and child.

Although experts do not expect Roe v. Wade to be overturned soon, Texas Senate Bill 8 demonstrates an alarming step back towards how we once were and brings about questions of what's next. And it is not the only law the Supreme Court is ruling on.

The court will take up the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization beginning Dec. 1. The Mississippi abortion law prohibits abortions after 15-weeks on the claims that fetuses have made important physiological development and that there is a larger risk for the mother's health. The Jackson Women's Health Organization, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi, cannot provide abortions after 16 weeks due to in-state restrictions. These strict restrictions do not outlaw abortions, but they are inhibiting those who attempt to get them.

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NMC University Center

07

FEATURE

NMC's Culinary Institute Prepares For Change

Kathryn DePauw

There may be big changes for Editor in Chief Culinary Arts students come fall 2022. The department is instituting broad changes in how classes are run in addition to modifying the Culinary Arts Associate's Degree and the current Baking Level I Certificate. A new Baking Level II Certificate and a Culinary Arts Level I

Certificate will also be available. This might change the plans of students like Molly Salter, a first-year student currently enrolled in the Associates in Culinary Arts and Baking Certificate I program. "I actually own and run a business out of my house right now and my goal is to one day make an actual brick and mortar store," said Salter.

She hopes to add her name to the growing list of Great Lakes Culinary Institute (GLCI) graduates who have added to the reputation of the city's "foodie" scene. Although her business, Bee Marie's Cupcakes and Macarons, is doing well, Salter believes she still needs the culinary program to fulfill her lifelong dream. "I might look into [the Baking Level II Certification], absolutely," Salter said. "The main thing is obviously cost."

The program's offerings of both general education, which include some business and operations classes, and specialization in baking, were perfect for her. And students can expect an even more adaptable program once the planned changes are in place.

Committee Addresses Department Struggles

These changes are the result of the Reimagining the GLCI Committee NMC president Nick Nissley chartered in early 2021. The committee was charged with addressing the large deficit of the program. With steep overhead costs and declining enrollment, the committee's goal is to cut the culinary deficit in half in three years.

The program's deficit had increased from just over \$59,000 in 2014, to over \$300,000 in 2020. At the same time, enrollment has declined from 131 students in fall of 2014 to 56 students in 2020 for the associates program, and from 27 to 11 students in the culinary arts certification program.

Community college enrollment is down across the board. A recent Axios article details the downward trend over the past five years, which left colleges, on average, with 10% fewer students pre-COVID. Once the pandemic hit, that number dropped another 8.6%. NMC has trended slightly worse than the national average, with fall enrolment dropping approximately 21% during that time.

Deciding to restructure a department during a global pandemic may seem a bit strange. "I am a believer that there's no better time than the present," said Nissley. "In other words, given the financial and enrollment challenges, we must address the challenge now. Or, we risk the challenge becoming insurmountable. I've been impressed by the GLCI faculty and staff-working through this tremendous challenge, especially during a pandemic!"

"It's important for me to be clear, the report produced did not make any judgment on our people-who I believe are doing good work serving our students."

The committee developed a two-pronged approach. The first was a revamping of the classes and certificate programs offered to students in order to increase enrollment. "We are now becoming a culinary educational hub," said Les Eckert, Director of the GLCI. "We want people to come to us for their culinary educational needs. Whether that means smaller certificates, so that you're not in it longterm to get a big degree, you're in it for specific needs. Shorter certificates. Certificates that stack."

The hope is to attract professionals, new students, "foodies", and hobbyists. Eckert is also currently looking at developing immersive classes or several day courses for community members at all levels to learn new skills.

Sustainability and farm-to-table methods are proving to be more of a shift in the industry than a passing trend and will be incorporated into the new curriculum. There is also a new Maritime certificate in the works, which will focus on culinary skills used while cooking and serving on the



Gail Eickenroth proudly holds a loaf of bread during a baking class

water. The department is also looking at offering shorter semesters in order to increase student retention rates and offering credit for work experience. This will allow students to avoid starting at the bottom, and for their education to pick up where their work training leaves off.

They may be on to something. Students like Gail Eickenroth, currently enrolled in the baking certificate program, are drawn to the specialized options, which save money. Her mother discovered the baking certification option on NMC's website. "All those cooking classes would probably be useful to me at one point," said Eickenroth. "But, I mean, it was really nice that they had the opportunity for me to just ... hyper-focus on that one specific path."

In order to help control program costs, there will be a general focus on increasing instructional efficiency by condensing courses, where appropriate, and minimizing food waste in the kitchen. While the plan requires a reduction in labor costs, it does not require layoffs.

"It's important, if we're raising the standards of our program—and showcasing the value that we have to offer in our educational programs-we also have to ensure that our faculty has superb training and our facility is current and up-to-date," said Eckert.

The second "prong", and next phase, of the Reimagining the GLCI Committee's plan is to discover a way to make Lobdell's more profitable. The restaurant is only open for about a third of the time so making it a year-round operation could be an option, if the right community partner can be found. The committee has until March to finalize a plan to increase revenue at the restaurant

The culinary arts institute has a long road ahead of it, but changes are happening quickly. With a clear path laid out, the program can tackle a post-pandemic reality with high hopes and continued community support. "In two to four years, I would like to see our enrollment increase, but increase because we have opened the doors and we've made our programming more accessible to a variety of potential students," said Eckert, adding, "We have lofty goals, but you know, sometimes lofty goals make you dream bigger."



Lobdells is a teaching restaurant housed at NMC's Great Lakes