

COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING INFORMATION

TITLE	College Council		
DATE	November 21, 2025	TIME	9am – 10:30am
LOCATION	EGF 301, TRF 461F	RECORDER	Topanga Brown
TRI-CHAIRS	Shari Olson, Adam Paulson		
PARTICIPANTS	Members: Kirsten Michalke, Maura Nelson, Brian Larson, Abdul Chamma, Ron Dvergsten, Shannon Nelson, Heather Koland, Michelle Benitt, Amanda Johnson, Alyssa Montgomery, Erin Bulger, Trisha Stromsodt, and Topanga Brown Guest: Joseph Agbeko		

I = Info, **D** = Discussion, **A** = Action

MINUTES

TYPE	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION TAKEN
I	Check-In	
I/D	Northland Lecture Series Proposal- Joseph	<p>Purpose of this proposal: educate, recruit, show case the importance of colleges in the community, and showing meaning for class content.</p> <p>Potential issues include: budget, attendance, lack of sponsors- The President's Office will sponsor \$5,000 as a last resort. Other sponsor ideas were the Foundation, local businesses, student senate, local high schools, and departments within the college.</p> <p>An idea to gauge interest and gather funds is to send a letter to the community.</p> <p>Volunteers for this workgroup are Kirsten, Adam, Alyssa, Trisha, Abdul, and Joseph as chair.</p> <p>The council members voted to recommend the proposal for approval to the president.</p>
I/D	Committee Updates: 1. Advancing Equity – Kirsten 2. Well-Being Work Group – Becca/Topanga	<p>1. Received equity report and will go over it with group next meeting. The speaker series can be funded by the welcoming grant we received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be partnering with the international student's group for an event in the Spring- Cultural booths with international foods. Mental health first aid dates- TRF December 5th and EGF February 13th. <p>2. It was determined as a conflict of interest to have Stacy Englund contracted for mindfulness minutes. Will leave the idea open if someone else becomes available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoga has been going well, low attendance in TRF but high in EGF. Last sessions the week of 12/8.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking into massage chairs on both campuses that would be available for students and employees. This initiative is supported by student senate and the president's office.
I/D	Open Agenda:	<p>1. Questioned business after hours hosts and coordinators. Northland hosts BAH every other year; we hosted last year so we will not be hosting this year.</p> <p>2. T4 event had over 600 people (grades 7-8) visiting each day. Some programs cancelled the day before or the day of the event. Bus drop-off went well this year and the lunch areas were not over crowded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were new people running the event this year, so there were some miscommunications. Presenters did not get their schedules and classrooms were overcrowded. They are still waiting for post-event survey results to come back. Should we do a similar event in TRF? We would need a group of people to commit to volunteering. Should Northland students help with teaching? Questioned if the expo event is much different than T4. Where would programs get funding for materials? T4 materials were costly for some programs. When using Perkins funds for materials, it cannot be brought home with students. Want at least 2 people scheduled for each session in case of absences. Would the age range be different? Faculty have to rearrange their class schedules in order to volunteer for these events, and many can't be involved in multiple throughout the year. Questioned why Northland is paying for expenses when T4 is the one coordinating the event. Northland paid for the venue costs and all meals. Recommendation- Maura Nelson to present information at Faculty Shared Governance Council in December.
I	Check Out	
NEXT MEETING		
DATE	December 19, 2025	TIME 9am – 10:30am LOCATION EGF 301, TRF 461F

[View results](#)

Respondent
46 Joseph Agbeko

5644:27

Time to complete

1. Proposal Topic: Insert topic or proposal name:

Introducing Lecture Series-- We will call it Northland Lecture Series

2. Pick one or more of the following:

- ☐ Information Sharing
- ☐ Feedback
- ☐ Problem solving
- ☐ Needs recommendation

3. **Business Case:** What are the issues/challenges/problems/opportunity that this proposal will provide a solution for? Will it provide improved efficiency for the college for the benefit of students or the community?

The idea is based on the theory that actually hearing and meeting an artist, novelist, scientist, historian, actor, or politician whose work one has admired or studied in class raises the learning experience to a higher plane and makes education more powerful and more memorable.

4. **Background Statement:** Provide background statement on the need that has been identified. Include the need identified, and any prior actions taken in relation to this proposal.

The lecture series clearly aligns with and supports Northland's Mission to transform the lives of students and our communities through a welcoming, supportive, and integrated learning environment.

It also reflects the college's Vision to be the premier choice for providing exceptional education that transforms lives and strengthens the communities we serve.

In addition, the series embodies our Foundational Principle, as it helps increase educational access, support student success, strengthen partnerships, and advance equity in the communities we serve.

More broadly, the lecture series promotes excellence in service, teaching, and learning, while providing lifelong educational opportunities—further reinforcing the college's commitment to its core values.

5. Select how this aligns with the Strategic Directions and Priorities of the College:

ACCESS - Meets students where they are to ensure all have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

- ☒ Expand recruitment to underserved populations.
- ☐ Provide flexible learning opportunities.
- ☐ Remove financial barriers for students.
- ☐ Provide clear pathways for students.
- ☐ Remove student enrollment barriers.
- ☐ Streamline transition from pre-college services to programs.

6. Select how this aligns with the Strategic Directions and Priorities of the College:

STUDENT SUCCESS - Improve outcomes, success, and completion through quality programs, advising, and student development.

- ☒ Support students in achieving their educational goals.
- ☐ Provide high-quality, relevant, engaging, and rigorous coursework.
- ☒ Create a vibrant, supportive, and welcoming environment for students.
- ☐ Provide exceptional student support services.
- ☐ Provide individualized services to increase retention and support learning, education, and career goals.
- ☐ Close equity gaps to improve success for all students.

7. Select how this aligns with the Strategic Directions and Priorities of the College:

PARTNERSHIPS – Strengthen partnerships with school districts, institutions of higher education, employers, and community organizations.

- ☒ Expand collaboration with education partners.
- ☒ Increase community engagement.
- ☐ Expand employer partnerships.
- ☒ Respond and adapt to the ever- changing market and partner needs.

8. Select how this aligns with the Strategic Directions and Priorities of the College:

ADVANCING EQUITY – Create an inclusive culture where all can reach their full potential.

- ☒ Embody a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.
- ☒ Ensure equitable access to resources for historically underserved individuals.
- ☒ Ensure our campus community represents a rich array of experiences and viewpoints.
- ☒ Establish community bonds through an understanding of our common humanity.

9. Identify and describe Interests

College and Community

10. Identify if prior work has taken place or exists

Inaugural -Brand New

11. Identify key stakeholders and areas of partnership

Academic and Student Affairs

12. What is the estimated Cost?

Between 2k-10k Annually

13. Other

14. Have you consulted with your supervisor and have supervisor support? (President, VP, Dean, Director)

☒ Yes

☐ No

15. Have you consulted with the supervisor and department impacted by this proposal and have their support? The department members impacted can attend the council meeting to provide additional information and answer questions.

☒ Yes

☐ No

16. Project Sponsor: (Name of the sponsor (supervisor) who will be accountable for this proposal providing the scope and deliverables.)

John Fields

17. Project Team Members:

Northland Lecture Series Committee—made up of faculty, staff, and administrators

18. Additional Information

Northland Lecture Series Process

Each year, members of the Northland Lecture Series Committee—composed of faculty, staff, and administrators—invite and review speaker suggestions from a wide range of contributors, including faculty, staff, students, community members, and professional agents.

Early in the calendar year, the committee meets to evaluate the suggestions and recommend five to seven potential speakers, typically in rank order, to the college president for consideration for the upcoming academic year.

Speaker selection is guided by several key criteria, including educational value, level of expertise, diversity of topic, cultural representation, audience appeal, alignment with the college's reputation, and overall affordability.

Each speaker is also expected to serve as a strong role model for Northland students. After reviewing the committee's recommendations, the president selects two or three speakers from the list or may propose alternative options.

Once the final list is approved by the president, the committee chair proceeds with contacting agents and securing bookings. If projected fees or associated costs exceed the established budget, the chair may collaborate with the president to identify co-sponsors, explore additional funding opportunities, or consider more cost-effective alternatives.

Once contracts are finalized, speaking dates are confirmed, and the new lecture series is officially announced and promoted throughout Northland's service area—highlighting the college's continued commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and lifelong learning.

19. Attach files if applicable

20. If your project/idea is recommended for further review by the Council. Below are the types of information you'll be asked to provide:

Cost Details

Cost

Savings/Increased

Revenue/Cost

Proposed Timeline