



[Two Commencement Ceremonies](#) - In order to reduce the number of people in the Armory Gymnasium, Northern held two commencement ceremonies. The [first commencement ceremony](#) was at 10:00 a.m. and was for the College of Arts, Sciences & Education and the College of Health Sciences graduates. [The second ceremony](#) was at 2:00 p.m. and was for the College of Technical Sciences graduates. MSU-Northern had 633 students receive a total of 1081 degrees (267 females, 366 males, 153 certificates, 484 associate degrees, 405 bachelor degrees, and 39 master degrees).

[Nurses Pinning](#) – In spite of COVID restrictions, 20 nursing graduates were able to receive their well-earned Nurses' Pin. The event was closed to the public, but each recipient was allowed to invite five guests to attend. The event was recorded and is available on [YouTube](#).

[Advisory Board Meetings](#) – Throughout the semester, MSU-Northern was busy conducting virtual advisory board meetings for various programs. These boards are essential to make sure that our programs are meeting the needs of industry. They provide a way for industry to make recommendations to our curriculum, and an opportunity for Northern to partner with industry and recruit students.

[ACEN Virtual Campus Visit](#) - MSU-Northern College of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, conducted a virtual campus visit for their continued accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for the ASN and the RN-BSN nursing programs.

[New Health Assessment Tools](#) - Our health sciences students are learning how to use several specialized health assessment tools like a BodPod and the Quark metabolic cart to test significant changes in the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems in a person who has had COVID or has been quarantined.

[Wrestler of the Year](#) - After winning his first NAIA championship, MSU-Northern's Isaac Bartel was named the Cascade Collegiate Conference Men's Wrestler of the Year. Bartel, a senior 197- pound grappler, became a four-time NAIA All-American after winning his weight class at the NAIA National Championship. He never finished below third place in his collegiate career, taking third as a freshman, followed by back-to-back runner-up finishes.

[Survey on Harmful Algal Blooms](#) – As part of a research grant, MSU-Northern conducted a survey to determine public awareness of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that occur on Beaver Creek Reservoir and Bear Paw Lake in Beaver Creek Park. Algal blooms have occurred on Beaver Creek Park lakes yearly since 2017, including the summer of 2020.

[2021 Media Festival](#) - The Spring 2021 Media Festival showcased audio, video, and other media projects created by MSU-Northern students, staff, and faculty. The goal of the Media Festival is to promote and celebrate diverse media creation and usage in face-to-face and online classrooms at Northern.

[Academic All-Conference](#) – Ten Lights and Skylights basketball athletes were named Academic All-Conference this year by the Frontier Conference. This accomplishment was achieved by being at least a sophomore student athlete and maintaining at least a 3.2 GPA.