



111th COMMENCEMENT

2022

Saturday, May 28
11:00 a.m.

COMMENCEMENT

2022

Processional*

Stevie Matier, Drummer
Superior Brass

Invocation*

Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings, Teaching Fellow

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Karl I. Solibakke, President

Investiture

Dr. Alan Brew, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Address to Graduates

Linda Mack, Board of Trustees member
Dr. Karl I. Solibakke

Senior Class Address

Aja Gregg, Class of 2022

Music for Graduates

"In My Life" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, arranged by Roger Emerson
Members of Northland College Choir, directed by Chris Hulmer

Presentation of the Class of 2022

Dr. Karl I. Solibakke

Conferral of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees

Dr. Karl I. Solibakke
Linda Mack
Dr. Alan Brew
Dr. David Ullman, Assistant Professor of Geoscience and Faculty Council President

Northland Hymn*

Members of Northland College Choir

Charge to the Class of 2022

Dr. Karl I. Solibakke

Honor Song*

Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings

Closing Remarks

Dr. Karl I. Solibakke

Recessional*

Superior Brass

Student Marshals

Alexander Patterson,
Director of Admissions and Staff Council President

Nicolle Grueneis,
Post Office Manager

Faculty Marshal and Macebearer

Michele Small,
Professor of English and Modern Languages

Reading of Names

Dr. Joseph Cooper,
Dean of Students

*Please stand as you are able

INVESTITURE AND CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

2022

Today, as you prepare to receive the baccalaureate degree, it is appropriate to invest you with the symbols of that degree, the baccalaureate cap and gown.

The academic apparel worn by faculty and degree candidates has been worn by scholastics since the late Middle Ages. The wearing of this common attire places the common concern of academics—the search for truth—above individual personalities. For centuries, gowns and robes have been worn by judges, clergy, and scholars, symbolizing recognition and achievement—there is great pride in this noble tradition.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and trustees of Northland College, I am honored to invest you with the baccalaureate cap and gown. I charge you with the responsibility to wear these symbols in keeping with Northland's vision of the ongoing liberation of the human spirit and our deepening commitment to a sustainable future.

Today, you will receive a diploma from Northland College. At that time, you will join thousands of others in a very special community. Wherever you go, and whatever you do, you carry the legacy of Northland with you. During your time here, you have learned much and have come to understand many of the challenges of the world. You have also demonstrated insight into the efforts required to address those challenges. Throughout your life, I hope your Northland education will lead you to integrate the knowledge, skills, understanding, and values that will help you work for the common good.

Remember that you are the spirit of Northland. You are a part of us who remain here, and we are a part of you. Follow the path of those who have gone before you, and make a way for those who come after you. Go forth in knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, secure in your faith in truth and humanity, and confident of your ability and responsibility to make this a better world. In this task, may you have the strength to do what you must do and the courage to be who you must be.



CLASS SPEAKER

2022

Aja Gregg, Class of 2022

Originally from 1,800 miles away in Florida, Aja Gregg came to Northland College in 2018 to pursue her dream of playing college basketball while pursuing her education. Aja initially planned to study biology with a goal of attending dental school afterwards. Like so many students here, her aspirations and passions evolved as she was exposed to countless influential faculty, staff, and opportunities that would shape and inspire her research interests and career path.

In addition to being a successful student athlete and leader on and off the court, Aja was selected to be part of the McNair Scholars Program through the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Through this opportunity, Aja has conducted extensive research on barriers faced by first-generation students and presented her findings on a national scale. Aja also served as the Don Chase alumni relations intern for Northland where she strengthened alumni engagement and support for fundraising for College initiatives.

Aja inspires others in that she cares for all she does, whether it is schoolwork, basketball, or other activities at the College. Her positive outlook, can-do attitude, and kindness embody the Northland spirit and is representative of her extraordinary character.

Now graduating with a degree in sociology and social justice and a minor in psychology, Aja has been accepted to West Virginia University where she will pursue a graduate degree in their sociology and anthropology program. Just as her Northland faculty did for her, Aja aims to become a sociology professor in order to inspire others to create social change in their community and beyond.



NORTHLAND COLLEGE HYMN

Margaret Ristvedt
arr. Gil Vickers

Life is made of high - ways built by hu - man hands,
Make us build - ers might - y of ev' - ry - thing that's good,

5

On them all are toil - ing from near and dis - tant lands,
Make our path - ways bright - er as we do things we should,

9

Some build straight and true, oth - ers lose their way,
Help us to be kind to those who need our care,

13

Help us make our roads more fair as we la - bor day by day.
Fa - ther help us do Thy will, and a high - way shall be there.

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND SYMBOLS

Lake Superior Stones

Beginning in the fall of 2008, incoming students at Northland College received a stone collected from the south shore of Lake Superior as part of Northland's Convocation. The stones are shared with students to symbolize their connection to the Lake Superior watershed and their new home at the College. The students are asked to sign or initial their stone in a way they will recognize in years to come. The stones are then kept together in acknowledgment of the formation of a new class. In the intervening years, the stones for each future graduation class are displayed in the Ponzio Campus Center. Today, the graduating class of 2022 claims their Lake Superior stone as a keepsake in remembrance of their time at Northland College on the shore of Lake Superior.

Symbols of the Academy—Academic Regalia

Symbols of learning have accompanied academic tradition since medieval times. The academic apparel of cap and gown are far from archaic because they reflect an egalitarian spirit and a call to service highly appropriate for our age. The robe unites scholars to the community of learning in all times and places and positions our common search for the truth above individual personality. Just as the clergy and judiciary wear robes to signify their responsibilities toward the larger community, scholars wear caps and gowns to express commitment to truth and demonstrate to the world a belief in the value of learning.

Color added to the edges of robes and hoods can be used to signify the academic discipline studied, the level of degree earned, and the institution awarding it. The width of edge colors signify bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees, as does the length of the hood. The Doctor of Philosophy robe traditionally bears three velvet stripes on the sleeve, with a hood of dark blue velvet and lining and chevrons of the doctoral school colors. The robe and hood of other terminal degrees also features velvet edging and lining in the colors of the discipline.

Symbols of the Academy—Mace

The origination of the mace dates back to medieval times when it was first used as a weapon. Medieval European bishops, forbidden the use of the sword, were allowed to enter battle with a mace, often an iron or steel club. By the 16th century, the mace, a symbol of authority, was embraced as a ceremonial object by colleges and universities to symbolize the power and authority of education above the power of the sword.

Traditionally, the mace is carried as part of formal academic occasions by the grand marshal. Northland's mace is handcrafted from recovered underwater yellow birch and walnut, once harvested from local forests. When displayed, the mace is placed on a stand of bird's eye maple trimmed with feather birch, also important hardwoods of the Lake Superior basin. The mace's crest displays the College seal and a highlighted outline of Lake Superior. The staff of the mace has a symbolic double helix of chrome, and brass representing Northland's interdisciplinary emphasis of liberal arts and the environment. Below the helix are three rings, composed of polished brass, chrome and burnished brass, representing a student's education, personal growth, and the movement from self to community to the world. Beneath these rings are engraved plates naming each of Northland's presidents and their years of service. The mace was designed and donated in 2008 by Professor Emeritus Bruce Alan Goetz.

Graduation with Honors—Gold Honor Cord

The gold honor cord represents academic achievement at the highest level. Students who earn a cumulative grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 graduate Cum Laude; students who earn a cumulative average between 3.7 and 3.89 graduate Magna Cum Laude; and students who earn a grade point average of 3.9 or better graduate Summa Cum Laude.

Flags

The flags represent the graduates' sovereign homes. Besides the United States, the other nations represented include:

- Canada
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Kingdom
- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Mashkiizibing
- Lac Courtes Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Oodaa-waa-zaaga'iganiing
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Waaswaaganing
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Miskwaabikong
- Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission flag representing eleven member Ojibwe tribes of the 1837, 1842, and 1854 Ceded Territories

Commencement Trees

The trees that adorn the stage are placed there in honor and recognition of the Class of 2022. The saplings symbolize the growth and accomplishments of all the graduates and offer acknowledgement of new beginnings. The trees will be planted on the Northland College campus to provide climate resilience, shade, and comfort in tribute to the hard work and perseverance of the graduating seniors. This year's trees are Frostbite Apple, a cold-hardy tree with an apple that is tangy and very sweet, and Evans Bali Cherry, with fragrant white flowers in the spring and bright red cherries by mid-summer.

Military Veterans Award

Northland College honors the dedicated service our military veterans have provided for our nation, and we recognize graduating veterans for their selfless service with the Northland College veteran medal. The gold medal bears the seal of Northland College with the veterans distinction embossed on the award.

Engraved Stones on Wheeler Hall

Northland recognizes the achievements of each graduating class by engraving their year into one of the brownstone blocks that make the foundation of Wheeler Hall, allowing each class since 1892 to leave a lasting mark on the campus.