

NMC Board of Trustees

Chris Bott

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

My name is Chris M. Bott and I am running for one of two six year terms on the NMC Board of Trustees. I am a Native of Grand Traverse County, growing up in a small community south of Traverse City know as Hannah. I attended St. Mary's Elementary School and graduated from St. Francis High School in Traverse City. I am a 1983 graduate of Northwestern Michigan College earning an Associate's Degree in Accountancy. I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree – Accounting from Ferris State University and a Master of Science Degree – Taxation from Grand Valley State University. I am a Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years' experience.

For the past 18 years I have operated my own CPA practice specializing in income tax planning and consulting services for individuals and closely held businesses. My past community and board experiences include being a member of the NMC Business Administration/Accounting Advisory Committee, Munson Regional Healthcare Foundation board member and Munson Manor Committee Chair.

For the past 17 months I have had the privilege to serve as an appointed trustee on the NMC Board of Trustees. I currently serves on the Audit Committee (Chair), the Building Site Committee, the NMC Foundation Board, and I am the board representative to the Michigan Community College Association.

What are the two (2) biggest opportunities for NMC you would like to see advanced?

Ongoing efforts to establish a Bachelors of Nursing Program at NMC. This will require legislative changes that will allow Community Colleges to offer Bachelorette programs in communities that demonstrate a specific need for such a program. This will allow NMC to help meet the demand for Nurses in Northern Michigan. Having the ability to establish programs under this model will open the door for other degree programs.

Expanding International opportunities by bring more foreign students to NMC and fostering more student abroad and Faculty exchanges with foreign institutions. This will help enhance the college's ability to give our students and Faculty international exposure and prepare them for a global workforce.

What is NMC's role in economic development and job creation in our region?

NMC plays a critical role on many fronts. Helping to train a workforce in many technical and skilled areas is a primary educational role of NMC. NMC currently has numerous Degrees & Certificate of Achievement programs to help meet the needs of students starting out in a particular area of study or students/employees that seek to gain added knowledge and training.

NMC provides training services to employers with onsite events and with support through both the Northern Michigan Lean Learning Consortium and the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center.

NMC currently is administering funds granted through the Michigan New Jobs Training Program with currently over \$3,404,128 of funds leveraged creating 536 jobs with 33 employers.

NMC is also one of the sponsors of the second annual Grand Traverse Area Manufacturing Summit with a focus on importance, impact and benefits to employers, of maintaining robust on-the-job safety programs.

Helping regional employers with their training needs helps them to expand their workforce and grow operations which has a direct impact on the local economy.

NMC Board of Trustees

Michael Estes

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

I'm a semi-retired businessman, a three term mayor of Traverse City and a community involved citizen with service on a host of boards ranging from Oryana, TC Light & Power, Community Mental Health, the National Cherry Festival, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and others. Along with my wife Rhonda we have resided in Traverse City for 29 years where we have raised our three children who in turn have blessed us with four grandchildren. With an MBA from WMU I have worked for the government, the private sector and been self-employed in a host of positions in finance and related fields. During my down time I sail, hunt, fish, bike and/or golf depending on the season.

What are the two (2) biggest opportunities for NMC you would like to see advanced?

The NMC board needs to focus on maintaining and furthering quality post high school education at an affordable price, especially for the residents of Grand Traverse County. Additionally, to meet the educational requirements for good paying local jobs, the college must have the ability to meet those educational requirements by offering the appropriate training.

What is NMC's role in economic development and job creation in our region?

NMC in and of itself, is not expected to actually create any significant number of new jobs. As an educational institution, the college must serve the public good by providing the education and training that are required of both today's job market and the jobs of the future. NMC can accomplish this goal by developing a strong working relationship with local job creators and by additional interface with our high schools to better understand career interests.

NMC Board of Trustees

Michael Haynes

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

I am a retired Orthopaedic Surgeon who was a shared owner of a three-man single specialty practice for 25 years. We managed a small business and grew to seven surgeons by the time I left to become Chief Medical Officer/Vice President of Medical Affairs at a major Detroit teaching hospital where divisions reporting to me included Physician Services, Pharmacy, and others with a combined budget of over \$200 million.

During my career, I headed a one-year process to create a Physician Hospital Compact to advance shared professional and administrative goal, which lead to improved communication, patient safety programs and economic efficiency.

My volunteer work included 28 years as the team physician for Detroit Catholic Central, my alma mater. I founded a free Orthopaedic Clinic at a Mercy facility during that time. Additionally, I have served on the Select Care Board of Directors.

I have been an active member of my Traverse Community since moving here full-time after my retirement, as President of the TC Community Gardens at Historic Barns Park, volunteering at the TC Film Fest, and co-organizing our annual Slabtown block parties.

What are the two (2) biggest opportunities for NMC you would like to see advanced?

I will continue to advance Health Occupation Studies. Munson has become a regional medical center providing tertiary medical services to Northern Michigan. We need well-trained professionals and technicians to deliver these services. NMC is a partner with Munson to build programs and facilities to achieve this. I have been involved in training residents and teaching medical students and nurses for over 30 years. I have the medical advisor to a surgical tech program at another Community College. I want to ease the path to a 4-year BSN degree for local students to help fill a serious nursing shortage at Munson.

I have experience bringing professional groups and administrators together for shared goals in the hospital setting. I will apply this experience to help heal the unnecessary and harmful rift between administration and faculty at NMC. By careful listening and exploring all sides of an issue, I hope to find the shared goals of students, staff, faculty, administration and the community and to develop a mechanism to realize those goals.

What is NMC's role in economic development and job creation in our region?

NMC should be an incubator for ideas and provide a testing ground for those ideas. Technology is changing so rapidly that training of a specific skill is not sufficient to prepare a student for these expected changes. Education must include training in critical thinking and creative application of knowledge to novel situations. The ability to manage life long learning should be a skill that students achieve at NMC. My experience as a surgeon and as a hospital administrator has confirmed that. These are the students that will add value to our community both in their work and in their civic activities.

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Rachel Johnson

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

As a member of the management team at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, I get to work with local businesses and citizens throughout our rural service territory. In order to grow, our commercial and industrial businesses need employees skilled in the trades that NMC teaches. And, many of the residential members we serve rely on affordable credential and degree programs to re-enter the workforce or advance their careers.

I serve on the Zonta Board of Directors, the Networks Northwest Board of Directors, and the Chamber Government Relations Committee. As an alumna of the Leadership Grand Traverse program, I understand the scope and depth of resources and needs in our community. I am an active volunteer for Freedom Builders, Munson Manor, and Mid-Michigan Honor Flight. From students to veterans to local businesses, I believe my community involvement gives me unique insight into the issues impacting those I will represent as a trustee.

Prior to coming to Cherryland, my entire professional career was spent in education. As the Assistant Registrar at Pepperdine University, I experienced firsthand the financial, bureaucratic, and political challenges that colleges face. As a former instructor at both Penn State and NMC, I know the care and commitment that faculty members invest in their classrooms. I believe that my connections with the local community and my understanding of the challenges and trends that are changing higher education will serve the voters of Grand Traverse County well.

What are the two (2) biggest opportunities for NMC you would like to see advanced?

First, I would like to see the continued growth of degree and credential programs in key areas where we have workforce shortages such as healthcare. This means strengthening partnerships with organizations like Munson and leveraging local facilities for programs like the surgical tech program. In addition, we must continue to lobby at the state level to offer 4-year degrees in areas that our local employers desperately need staffing, like nursing.

Second, I believe NMC can help attract new businesses to our community by growing globally-relevant training programs such as fresh water studies and unmanned vehicle programs. Already we are seeing our local students recruited far outside our region from program areas like maritime studies, automotive technology, and culinary studies. The word is getting out that NMC is training the labor force of the future and I believe we will see local business growth and investment as a result. As a community and board of trustees it's important that we continue to support opportunities to grow these programs.

What is NMC's role in economic development and job creation in our region?

NMC is vital to the economic, social, and cultural health of our region. In addition to NMC's direct economic impact, NMC helps raise the local "human capital" by educating potential workers and the demand for human capital by helping local businesses create jobs for skilled workers. I've outlined above some of the ways that NMC can further support our local businesses and the regional economy in these areas.

I also think that NMC has an exponential impact on the community. From lifelong learning programs to the Dennon Museum to the International Affairs Forum, NMC's presence in our community is one of the many reasons people want to come here. Cultural health attracts people to this region. Those people buy homes, fill job vacancies, start businesses and create new jobs and various other activities that contribute to the overall economic health of our area.