Capital Campaign Update – We continue to meet with donors to secure the match for our new Automotive Diesel Technology Center. Many companies and individuals have made financial commitments which will become available during the first of the year (2015). This campaign has served as a vehicle to unify our staff, faculty, alumni, and supporters.

Strategic Planning – We are in the process of reworking our Chancellor’s Council into a Strategic Advancement Team. This shift will put a higher priority on establishing our goals and objectives and, more importantly, will hold people accountable for meeting those objectives. Each member of the team will be responsible for a particular aspect of the plan and will provide monthly progress reports. This group will also serve as the brainstorming mechanism to help solve problems so all initiatives can move forward.

New Veterans Success Center (VSC) - Northern officially opened a new VSC on November 12, 2014 located in Hagener Hall 115. The office contains a computer lab and resources dedicated to our veterans. It is an inspiring place where veterans can study, eat, or just hang out.

New Veterans’ Success Coordinator - Denise Rugg is our new Veterans’ Success Coordinator. She obtained the rank of sergeant prior to leaving the Marine Corps. She has two degrees, one in Television Production and Performance and the other in Psychology. She is part of our Student Success Division and will help Veterans achieve their educational goals.

Hunter Chandler Received Montana Athletes in Service Award – The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) gave their annual Montana Athletes in Service Award. Chandler received the award for Northern as he has been volunteering in Havre, Fort Belknap, Hays, Dodson, Rocky Boy, and Bozeman, Montana. He has put in many hours helping with the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Line.

Political Leadership Program - Mike LaValley was selected to participate in George Washington University's (Washington D.C.) Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP). LaValley is a 2013/2014 Student Excellence Award Recipient and four-year basketball letterman. LaValley will graduate from Northern in December.

New Alumni Associate - Becka Stone is our new Alumni Associate. She will help increase alumni membership, awareness about Northern’s goals and help with alumni events in the community.

Faculty Workshops – Our Extended University hosted two faculty workshops. The first workshop taught them how to shoot and edit video for use in their online courses. The second workshop, taught by Dr. Erik Bean, was on using the AutoCorrect feature of Microsoft Word to give students feedback that is at once lightning-quick, detailed, and consistent. Over 25% of our faculty was in attendance for each of these workshops.

Christmas Parties – We hosted our annual Christmas parties on December 13 and 14. The Saturday event was geared for the staff and faculty and Sunday was geared toward the community. There was an incredible amount of support and enthusiasm toward the new building and the direction Northern is going.