

FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORTHPORT PROMISE STEERING COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

CAMPAIGN TO FUND COLLEGE TUITION FOR GRADUATES BEGINS

Northport, MI – Funding that could allow Northport High School graduates to attend any public post-secondary educational institution in the state of Michigan tuition-free has moved several steps closer to reality with the formation of a steering committee to make the Northport Promise a reality for students attending Northport, Michigan's K-12 program.

“With the promise of paid tuition for college courses or technical training for students who attend Northport schools for the full 13 years of their education and pro-rated tuition payments for those who are there for a portion of their educational career, we're confident we can stop the declining enrollment in the Northport Public Schools and aid the school system in becoming the world class district it has the potential to be,” said Northport Promise organizer Sally Viskochil.

The Northport Promise steering committee recently began work on fund raising, criteria setting, an assessment of the endowment needed to fund the Northport Promise, an assessment of the number of additional students the Northport school can accept and developing communications about the Northport Promise to further its fund-raising efforts.

The group will be one of seven major community projects featured at the upcoming Northport-Omena Summit, scheduled for February 14, 2007 at 5 p.m at the Northport School Auditorium. There area residents will hear presentations by seven organizations that represent new initiatives or opportunities for the Northport-Omena area and have the opportunity to talk directly with those representatives at a post-presentation reception.

The Northport Promise steering committee, led by Viskochil, includes the following:

- Communications and Public Relations: Lisa Drummond, Kristi Fischer, Irene Huck, Elaine Stuckey, Ruth and Scott Walker.
- Fundraising: Beth and Dave Dickinson, Rick Huck, Aaron and Kathy Sahs.

- Planning: Doug Drummond, Amy Kohler, Thea Kellogg, Jeff Stuckey and Jeff Tropsf.
- Special Events and Speakers Bureau: Andy Thomas.

Volunteers who would like to become involved in the Northport Promise effort should contact Sally Viskochil at 218.7485 or 386.5529 or Ruth Steele Walker at 386.5674 or 233.2113.

Any inquires about establishing a fund or donating funds for the Northport Promise can be directed to the Leelanau Township Foundation office at 386.9000.

The Northport Promise program is modeled after the successful Kalamazoo Promise announced in 2005. The Kalamazoo Promise, in just two years, has begun revitalizing the city's school district. It is credited with increasing enrollments by 1,000 students this year after several years of losing 250 students per year. Ninety percent of Kalamazoo's 2006 graduating class went on to college, up from 78% of the previous year's graduates.