

SAFE OPEN 2021

VACC TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Finlandia University has worked closely with the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department and relied upon the guidance of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC to carry out its primary mission of providing a safe living and learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff, as well as for our neighbors. Through effective planning, Finlandia succeeded in providing safely distanced in-person instruction and serving students on campus for the 2020-2021 academic year.

While most were indoors, Finlandia's nursing program was ready to help fight the pandemic in any way they could. By fall 2020, nursing students aided in the testing of over 400 people in just a few days. Their efforts identified a handful of asymptomatic cases that could have spread through the campus community if not caught. After a surge in cases near the end of 2020, the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) contacted Finlandia and asked to mobilize the nursing students in their case interviewing efforts. This was only the beginning of a continuing

series of selfless devotion by Finlandia Nursing students, faculty and staff. They didn't want to be recognized, they just wanted to help.

In March, Finlandia announced plans for a return to in-person instruction for fall 2021. Following the message, Finlandia launched a new initiative to track how many individuals within the campus community had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

By April, Finlandia had announced plans to host #CrushCOVIDWeek in the hopes of getting more of its campus community signed up for COVID-19 vaccinations. Finlandia's nursing program started the week off by aiding in an on-campus vaccine clinic with the Men's Hockey Team lending arms. The week also included vaccine educational sessions, a remembrance ceremony and culminated in a car smash sponsored by Ed's Salvage.

VACC TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Launched in July, the FinnU Vacc to School Challenge aims to educate, promote and incentivize students, faculty and staff for getting vaccinated. A major pillar of the challenge is getting those who receive their vaccines to report them through the reporter tool.

"We are part of a community here at Finlandia University. Rooted and open, we dedicate ourselves to academic excellence, spiritual growth and service. Finlandia's number one priority is to carry out this mission by educating its students in a healthy and safe manner. One community, one goal and one number. 70%."

Students received this message in August along with a video from President Johnson announcing the goal of reaching a 70 percent campus-wide vaccination rate along with a temporary masking requirement. The new initiative announced additional prizes for vaccinated students along with multiple on-campus COVID-19 vaccine clinics through UGL and WUPHD scheduled over the following weeks as the university continued to assess risk factors both on and off-campus.

ONE COMMUNITY,
ONE GOAL AND
ONE NUMBER. **70%**

Over the course of a month and a half, the university went from 30 to over 70 percent vaccinated, 10 students won semester textbook awards and prizes were also drawn for ski passes, a Nintendo Switch, gift cards, a MacBook Pro, AirPods, Beats headphones and more. Cash grand prizes for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 were awarded when the university reached 70 percent.

FINLANDIA NURSING TEAMS UP WITH NATIONAL GUARD

On Sept. 28, Finlandia hosted a free, open-to-the-public COVID-19 vaccine and testing clinic at the Finnish American Heritage Center. Finlandia Nursing teamed up with the Michigan National Guard (MING) to administer the vaccines and antigen tests. Finlandia partnered with MING on the shared and continued initiative to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus as well as in our neighboring community.

