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Contact: Scott Sorenson  
Northland College  
715-682-1850  
ssorenson@northland.edu

## **Buckley Returns to Lead LumberJack Hockey**

Ashland, Wis., July 7, 2023 – Northland College Men’s Hockey alum Shane Buckley is returning to his alma mater to lead the LumberJack Men’s Hockey program, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Dan Schumacher announced on Friday.

“The selection process was extremely difficult,” said Schumacher. “There were so many qualified candidates that expressed interest. With that said, Shane came in with a detailed plan of action to lead LumberJack Hockey into the future. He has a passion for Northland College and the surrounding area, and his coaching and recruiting experience was exactly what we were looking for in a coach.”

Buckley, who graduated from Northland in 2013, returns after five seasons, four of which he spent as head coach for West Virginia University’s American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) D1 program. While there, the Mountaineers improved their record each year under his leadership, culminating in the program’s first winning season in nearly a decade during the 2022–23 season. In addition, the Mountaineers have made three straight appearances in the College Hockey Mid-America playoffs after ending a six-year drought in 2021. Buckley also helped drive recruiting efforts for the entire program during his time in Morgantown, leading to a third ACHA program at WVU joining the D1 and D2 ACHA teams on campus.

“Words can’t describe how excited I am to return to Northland,” said Buckley. “I have to thank President Chad Dayton, Dan Schumacher, Assistant Director of Athletics Scott Sorenson, and the search committee for giving me the chance to return to a place that I love. I have a definitive vision for LumberJack Hockey, and we will do everything we can to make that vision come to life.”

Prior to West Virginia, Buckley worked five seasons as an assistant and head coach at the high school level in Wisconsin for Ashland High School and Chequamegon/Phillips (Team SEaL). While coaching at Chequamegon/Phillips, the program won the Wisconsin Hockey Coaches Association’s State Academic Award for highest collective team GPA in the state.

Originally from Iron Bridge, Ontario, Buckley first came to Northland College in 2009 after playing two years of Junior A hockey in northern Ontario. During his time as a LumberJack athlete, he competed for both the hockey and baseball teams, earning multiple Academic All-Conference awards in both the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference and National Collegiate Hockey Association. He graduated from Northland in 2013 with degrees in elementary education and broad field social studies education. Upon earning his degrees, Buckley spent seven years working in various capacities as a teacher, coach, and athletic administrator in Park Falls, Wis., Washburn, Wis., and Morgantown, W.Va. He is also a Level 4 USA Hockey-certified coach.

Northland College's Athletics Department offers fourteen NCAA Division III teams in the sports of baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. In the 2022–23 academic year, 42.3 percent of Northland College students were athletes.

Northland College is a private environmental liberal arts college located just blocks away from Lake Superior in Ashland, Wisconsin. Founded in 1892, the College adopted a bold new mission and made history in 1974 as the first college in the country to fully integrate an environmental focus with its liberal arts curriculum. Today, Northland College is a powerful and intimate learning community of about five hundred students from across the United States and beyond.

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