MSU-Northern Announces Cross Country Coach
Friday, February, 2015
MSU-Northern News Services

Havre - MSU-Northern's recent decision to start men's and women's cross country teams brought an immediate need for a coach, and so the search began. Northern found their perfect fit within Northern's own faculty. Assistant Professor of Health Promotion Chad Spangler will fill the position, and since the team will begin competing in the fall of 2015, he will begin recruiting immediately.

"I'm very pleased that Chad Spangler has accepted the position of head coach for our new men's and women's Cross Country teams. He's very qualified for the position and brings with him a high degree of professionalism," said MSU-Northern Chancellor Greg Kegel.

Spangler said that Northern will begin building a team and the foundation for the program with mass advertising to the surrounding high schools and junior colleges. Following that step, Spangler will make personal visits to students, aiming to secure commitments from ten male and ten female students to launch the teams.

Spangler has many qualifications that make him an obvious choice for Northern's new cross country coach. He said, "The main reason I am right for this job is because I am incredibly enthusiastic about both running and college education. Growing up I watched my dad jog with his friend most nights of the week; I rode my bicycle with them whenever they'd let me tag along. I ran in every local fun run my parents would let me sign up for. I thought running was so cool."

Together with his innate love for running, Spangler has in-depth training and experience to bring to the table. He has worked at multiple hospitals and health centers. He earned his bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies - biology from MSU-Northern, his master's in health and human performance - health promotion/psychology from the University of Montana, and his doctorate in public health - epidemiology from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Northern's choice to start the cross country program has a two-fold reasoning behind it. "We want to help grow our athletics programs and do what we can to help the Frontier Conference," Northern's Athletic Director Christian Oberquell explained. For the Frontier Conference to be affiliated with the NAIA in cross country, six teams must participate within the Conference. Northern aims to lead by example with this cross country endeavor in hopes that other qualifying colleges will follow suit.

The entire MSU-Northern family is eager to see this challenging sport make a mark in Northern's history. The implementation of the program, under Spangler's leadership will bring solid students and strong athletes onto campus, bringing more pride and accomplishment to the MSU-Northern Lights.