

**North Park University**  
**Mathematics and Statistics**

**Wes Lindahl**

Wes Lindahl, BA in math, class of 1976, MS in Applied Math from the University of Minnesota and Ph.D. in Administration and Policy Structures from Northwestern University, currently dean of the school of business and nonprofit management at North Park.

A degree in math at NPU teaches a person how to think, how to solve problems, and how to work with people. The last one may surprise you, but we often worked on problems in study groups and had to use the skill and knowledge provided by each member of the study group to be successful.

Certainly the study of math helps a person to think logically, but people don't realize the tremendous creative aspect of math. As you look for ways to solve problems, develop proofs, etc. you are stretching your creative mind in a huge way. I have become a better thinker through this experience.

My career has been very eclectic. My current position does not involve much in the area of math, but during my career development I used my math background a lot (e.g., research for my doctoral dissertation and resulting book which involved mathematical models). More broadly, learning to think, dealing with a team, and being innovative at work are all things that came from my math degree.

