



staying Connected

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE VOL. 4, NO.1, DECEMBER 2006



President's Forum

By Ronald A. Wood, President, Minnesota West Community and Technical College



Faces of Ron Wood

The academic year 2006-2007 has a great deal of meaning to Minnesota West. January 2007 represents the tenth anniversary of the merger of Southwestern Technical College and Worthington Community College. The year also represents a period of time in which the four technical campuses, Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson and Pipestone, are at or near their fortieth anniversary and the Worthington campus is celebrating its 70th anniversary. The ten years since the merger has seen tremendous change both physically and academically for the five campus college.

Falls and Pipestone we have added state of the art science labs to compliment our technical programs and assist in the delivery of liberal art programs on the campuses. In Jackson we have added a massage therapy and cosmetology lab to expand our offerings. In Granite Falls we have also redesigned our manufacturing labs and added a new ethanol training lab. We are also in the process of adding a smart classroom with seating for over eighty individuals at Granite Falls. We hope the near future holds an addition to and renovation of the gym in Worthington, an addition to and renovation of the west end of the campus in Granite Falls, major renovations of academic support areas in Canby, Jackson and Pipestone. Bringing us into the 21st Century has been a major focus of the last decade.

While it is not part of the physical structure of the five campuses, Minnesota West has changed how it reaches out to the region to make education and training available to the citizens. Minnesota West has sites in both Fairmont and Marshall to provide training and learning opportunities. The Marshall site opened in city hall in 2000 with the hope of moving to a new facility within the next few years at the Minnesota Emergency Response and Industrial Training Center (MERIT Center) site. Fairmont is our most recent outreach site located in the Southern Minnesota Education Center. A most exciting partnership has just been formed and we will

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be opening the Luverne Educational Center for Health Careers in the late spring. This is a partnership between Sioux Valley Regional Health Systems, the City of Luverne, and Minnesota West.

Finally, not from a physical perspective but a virtual perspective, the changes over the last ten years in the use of technology have been phenomenal. In 1997 there was less than one full-time equivalent student taking on-line courses at the College. Today, over 20% of our student population takes courses through the use of the Internet. During this ten year period we have provided a virtual communication system for our students and prospective students. Today, through our on-line course platform and our WEB site, we can exchange information with our students and staff rapidly and efficiently. We have recognized the geographical constraints placed upon our regional population and opened doors to education through technology.

As the technology has changed so has our ability to offer a wider array of programming to our students. We have become state leaders in providing training on-line and through a traditional classroom in the field of alternative energy. Today we offer the only programs for the training of technicians in the ethanol and wind energy industries. The two programs were developed several years before the current energy crisis. At that time, the emerging markets in the United States and the natural resource base in the region for the generation of energy through ethanol and wind seemed a natural fit for the College.

In the health care industry an

alarming fact is that the average age of health care workers is climbing at the same time that the need for the workers is increasing, the impending crisis shortage in the field looms ever closer. Initially we became part of a Federal grant to develop a nursing outreach program. As part of the grant, we developed on-line course work that provided the theory component of the nursing program any place. It allowed the College to more than double the number of nursing graduates. The program won a national award for creativity and success. Working with the regions' primary health care providers we are continuing our work to develop a replacement workforce for the current aging health care workers. Two programs scheduled to begin in August 2007 are Radiologic Technologist and Surgical Technician. These complement our existing Medical Laboratory Technician and Medical Assisting programs.

Another area that has rapidly changed in the region is the development of bioscience research and production opportunities. In a partnership with Prairie Holdings, a multi-firm bioscience holding company, the local school district in Worthington and the College, a bioscience laboratory technician program was developed and implemented to meet the shortage of trained technicians. This is a unique partnership in that Prairie Holding developed a lab in their facility for the College to hold classes. It provided the opportunity for students to work side by side with senior researchers and be trained on the most current equipment. It also gave high school students the opportunity to shadow these same researchers to comprehend

the depth and breathe of the career while taking a high school biology course linked to the College program. Meeting the needs of the community in partnership with business makes for a successful program and healthy regional economy.

I would be remiss if I did not say that we continue to offer and enhance our traditional agricultural programs, continuing education and customized training programs, liberal arts programs, manufacturing programs, service and professional sector programs, trade programs and transportation programs as we have through the long history of the former colleges that now comprise Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Ten years in the development and still moving forward to serve the region. All is not perfect. The one challenge we continue to be faced with as a Greater Minnesota institution is the reduced funding from the state and our governing body. With a stable enrollment base we are continually challenged by funding that moves to larger metropolitan institutions. We have seen this challenge as an opportunity to create stronger ties with our local governments and businesses. Many of the changes over the decade could not have taken place without our partners in southwest Minnesota. As I close my comments I only ask that as we assess the value of Minnesota West Community and Technical College to southwest Minnesota and that as the opportunity prevails to support us through financially contributions, partnerships or political statements of the need to maintain a strong and viable community and technical college in the

Minnesota West Foundation

The Minnesota West Foundation has experienced tremendous growth over the past 3 years. Since 2003 the Foundation's assets have increased over 157%! As the end of 2006 approaches we ask that you continue to help us grow. What we have discovered in this timeframe is that while our annual giving has been outstanding, we need to work on increasing our endowed assets. I am asking you to consider supporting us in this endeavor! Please take some time to carefully consider how you can support us in this mission. Endowment means long term security for the growth of our organization. I have included a donation envelope in this publication that I would challenge all of you reading this to consider how you can help insure that we can continue to help students achieve their educational goals. Every gift makes a difference!

As many of you are aware the State of Minnesota has had a rich history of supporting

higher education. Unfortunately, that support is eroding and, in fact, over the last 25 years the state has only increased its funding per student by slightly over \$100 while at the same time inflation has increased multifold.

This makes funding education for our students increasingly difficult. We recognize that it is our duty and responsibility to help fill these gaps as much as possible. The college had done an excellent job of trying to keep tuition increases down while not sacrificing the quality of education we provide, but we need your help! Please take this opportunity to invest in the education of the students of southwest Minnesota!

Contact Heidi Heckenlaible, Executive Director, Minnesota West Foundation for more information. Phone 507-372-3475 or 1-800-657-3966 Or email heidi.heckenlaible@mnwest.edu

Want others to know what you've been up to?

Whether you attended classes in Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Pipestone, or Worthington you are an alumni of Minnesota West Community and Technical College and we want to hear from you! We also want you to know that there are services available to you as an alumnus of Minnesota West! We have Career Center offices on each of our five campuses. Career Services include career counseling, resume assistance, job application, and job placement. These services are provided at no charge to Minnesota West students, alumni, and employers.

Use this form to update us on your information! Please list any career changes, awards, honors, marriages, births or memorial information you'd like to see in a future Staying Connected.

Name (including maiden): _____
 Graduation year(s): _____ Major/Program: _____
 Name of Institution: _____
 Campus Attended _____
 Mailing address (include city, state and zip): _____

 Home phone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Employer: _____ Position: _____
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 Notes: _____

Return to: Minnesota West Foundation Office
 1450 Collegeway,
 Worthington, MN 56187 or Email alumni@mnwest.edu

COST OF EDUCATION COMPARISON		
Tuition	1980-81	2006-07
State Appropriation	\$3,593	\$3,722
State % of Tuition Costs	79%	50.4%
Student Debt	\$597	\$28,250

◆◆ Diesel Technology Program Receives Donation

The Diesel Technology Program on the Canby Campus received a 1998 Dodge pickup from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council (MSR&PC) to use as an educational tool. "This pickup was the first biodiesel demonstration pickup in the state and it played an important role in moving biodiesel forward," said David Fier, soybean producer from Taunton, MN and a member of the Board of Directors of the MSR&PC. "There is a lot of history and valuable data in this truck."

Diesel Technology Instructor Peter Girard is thrilled with the added hands-on learning opportunities the Dodge pickup will provide students. "This will be the first engine my students can work on that has been exclusively run on biodiesel fuel." Girard states students will conduct useful tests and gather their observations and provide a detailed analysis of the engine's

condition to MSR&PC. The report will supply MSR&PC with important information about biodiesel's effects on engine wear and other performance issues.

A member of the Association of Diesel Specialists(ADS), the Diesel Technology program on the Canby Campus is 1 of 10 ADS TechSmart Schools Nationwide.



Generous Visitors come to share with Carpentry Program

Darrell George and Brian Johnson from Building Products Inc. of Sioux Falls gave a presentation on James Hardie siding products and Azek trim boards and the proper application of each to students in the Carpentry Program on November 1, 2006. Power tools valued at almost \$900 used for the installation of James Hardie siding products were donated to the Carpentry Program at the conclusion of their presentation.



◆◆ Local Banks Support Erickson's 2,300 Mile Bike Ride for Minnesota West Part-Time Students

Once was not enough. Twice was not enough. No, even four times was not enough for Bob Erickson, who stopped at all five campuses of Minnesota West during his fifth 2,300-mile bicycle tour this past September. Each year Erickson rides to raise money and public support for part-

time students who attend the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Erickson is the chair of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation. During the trek Erickson tours all 53 campuses in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.



Pictured from left to right: staff member, Sharon Wieneke; part-time scholarship recipients: Elise Ellingson and Dave Murphy; "Biker Bob" Erickson; and Jim Grove, Jackson Campus CEO.



Ag Students Receive Scholarships

The Oliver Tractor Company awarded \$500 scholarships to 4 Ag students on the Worthington campus. Pictured are this year's recipients: Chirs Nuffer, Michael Bos, Mark VanDyke, and Joel Hoffman.

◆◆ Wind Energy Technology is Generating Interest

Wind Energy Technology is the newest technical program at the Canby Campus. The program began in the Fall of 2005 and since then has more than doubled its enrollment. The career of a Wind Energy Technician includes everything from installation and repair to troubleshooting of wind energy towers.

The Canby Campus recently completed the construction of a new \$120,000 lab for the program. That lab will soon be filled with state-of-the-art equipment students will use to monitor the wind turbine that is also located on campus. The turbine stands 110 feet tall with 25 foot blades. It is projected to produce 15% - 20% of the needed power

for the Canby Campus. With the first wind turbine erected by a MnSCU institution, Minnesota West leads the state in instruction of this cutting edge industry.

The Wind Energy Technology program is further enhanced through partnerships with companies which include Energy Maintenance Service, LLC (EMS) of Gary, SD and Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation of Pipestone, MN. EMS supports the program by donating equipment, serving on the Advisory Board, and helping to develop the on-campus Scada Control system. They also hired the first students of the program in an effort to increase their work experience during the summer months.

◆◆ Cosmetology Program Added at the Jackson Campus



Minnesota West has expanded its Cosmetology program to the Jackson campus, where classes will begin spring 2007 semester. Prior to this, Cosmetology was only offered on the Pipestone campus. The Jackson campus will offer training in manicurist and esthetician as well. A full salon complemented by the massage therapy program will make for a spa experience for local patrons at the Jackson Campus.

Ms. Cynthia Pohlman has accepted the Cosmetology faculty position at the Jackson Campus. Ms. Pohlman graduated from St. Cloud Beauty College. She has a cosmetology license, a cosmetology instructor's license and a school manager license. Currently she is the manager/cosmetologist at Cutting Image in Lakefield, MN.

◆◆ Minnesota West partners with Smith Trucking for new program

Thanks to a new program offered in conjunction with Minnesota West and Smith Trucking, potential truck drivers can learn from professionals, spend training time behind the wheel and eventually, drive like pros.

“We felt there was a market demand for drivers,” said President Wood. “This has always been a dream we’ve had, but there was just no way we’d have enough trucks.” Enter Smith Trucking, with its fleet of 71 semi tractors and its 105 employees, many of them seasoned drivers.

Beginning in the spring of 2007 students will take eight weeks of classes and then receive hands-on training — with a lot of driving experience — for another eight weeks. Additionally, students will learn how to cope with traffic, back up a semi in difficult conditions, take good care of a semi truck, work with refrigerated cargos, maintain the truck’s logbook and work with the Global Positioning Systems in the up-to-the-minute trucks of Smith Trucking. They’ll also learn about image and public relations, as well as budgeting on the road and trip planning and the lifestyle of a trucker.

President Wood enjoys a moment in the driver’s seat of a semi after signing a partnership agreement with Smith Trucking partners Mike and Pat Smith, and Smith Trucking President - Phil Smith.

Minnesota West Community & Technical College, in partnership with Smith Trucking, will offer the truck driving program beginning in January of 2007 on the Worthington Campus. The training program provides the knowledge and practical training needed to succeed in this growing industry.

WHY CONSIDER A CAREER IN TRUCK DRIVING?

Stability: The United States economy would not function without truck drivers. Currently in Minnesota there are 36,461 truck drivers. This makes truck driving one of the largest occupations in the state.

Outstanding Wages: In addition to stability, the salary is good. The median wage for truck drivers in Minnesota is \$18.00 per hour for drivers based in southwest Minnesota.

Opportunity: The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development reports that truck driving ranks in the list of Top 25 Occupations with the most job vacancies.

In an industry that provides job stability, great pay and a variety of lucrative opportunities for qualified drivers, the question should be, why not a career in truck driving?

*Data is obtained from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development website.

SMITH TRUCKING - WORTHINGTON, MN

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Worthington Campus
1450 Collegeway
Worthington, MN 56187

For more information, contact the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West at 372-3400 or 1-800-657-3966

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◆◆◆ ***Instructor Duane Carrrow and Novatech, Inc. Partner to Develop Simulator***

In the spring of 2007 Minnesota West's Renewable Energy Technology Program, at the Granite Falls Campus will begin using a first of its kind Virtual Ethanol Plant Simulator, which was designed by program instructor Duane Carrrow in cooperation with Novatech, Inc.

Carrow has been working closely with engineers at Novatech, Inc. to design this simulator which will allow students to work at computer control panels in the classroom that simulate the actual workings of an ethanol plant, from start-up to shut-down, along with every detail in between. This brand new simulator will be used in the Renewable Energy Technology program's final semester to give students the most realistic training possible before going to

work in the industry. "The simulator is real-life, we are able to program glitches and bugs into it so that the students have to troubleshoot and are able to learn to solve problems as quickly as possible. In an ethanol plant, every second of downtime is costing the plant money, they need to get back up to full operation as quickly as possible" stated Carrrow.

The Renewable Energy Technology program offers two different options for training. An online Base Certificate in Renewable Energy, which focuses strictly on ethanol production, as well as a full two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree which can be obtained by taking a variety of online and on campus courses.



◆◆◆ ***Auto Body goes Virtual at the Granite Falls Campus***

The Auto Body and Collision Repair programs at the Granite Falls Campus are benefiting from the purchase of a new "Virtual Paint Booth". This new, state-of-the-art piece of equipment is helping the instructors teach painting in a more efficient and cost effective manner than was done in the past. "Students must reach a 90% proficiency level on the virtual painting before they are able to get into the paint booth, this saves time, supplies, and most importantly teaches the students to be better painters and more efficient" says first-year instructor Del Bresson. The machine is computerized, so the students are able to see the product through virtual reality goggles and can practice on many

different panels of a car. They are then able to immediately see the results of their work. This new equipment also features a virtual welding component which will be added to the curriculum within the next year.



◆◆◆ ***Minnesota West Community and Technical College Helps Create Trained Workforce for Suzlon Rotor Corporation***

The Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) awarded a \$25,000 grant to Minnesota West Community and Technical College to help train a workforce for Suzlon Rotor Corporation.

Suzlon Rotor Corporation recently opened a manufacturing plant in Pipestone that manufactures the blades and nose cone units for wind turbines. To meet the training needs of their workforce, Suzlon partnered with Minnesota West to develop a customized training program. The grant from SWIF helped Minnesota West develop this program by helping to fund a trip to India for Minnesota West instructors and core Suzlon employees. To date, Suzlon has hired nearly 120 employees.

"The future development of this viable industry will create jobs and stimulate the economic development of rural Minnesota, enhancing lives and communities throughout the region and the state," says Dawn Regnier, director of professional development and training at Minnesota West.



◆◆◆ ***Construction Update***



It's done! The new science lab on the Pipestone Campus is now completed and ready for classes. Located in the main hallway of the campus, the new lab is fully equipped and brings our lab facilities up to code. Chris Schafer, Interim Campus CEO said, "It will be great to keep all science classes and labs right on campus."



The Summer of 2006 meant construction on the Granite Falls Campus. Projects included moving the Robotics and Manufacturing Engineering Technician programs to the 300 building with new equipment and a new PLC lab and classroom. Also, construction meant a brand-new and much needed Science Lab for the campus which is used primarily by Renewable Energy Technology, Liberal Arts and Nursing students on the Granite Falls Campus.

◆◆ *Machine Tool Instructor says
“It’s all about the Students”*

Ron Arneson, in his 28th year of teaching Machine Tool Technology at the Granite Falls Campus, still says that the best thing about his job is the students. Just ask Ron’s family, they’ll tell you that everywhere they go “He is always running into former students and he loves to hear about where they are at and what they are doing now.”

Arneson graduated from Minnesota West with a diploma in Machine Tool Technology in 1971, and worked as a first year instructor alongside Dave Yeager. Since then, he has enjoyed keeping the courses up to date with the latest technology in precision machining by talking regularly with industry experts and with advisory board members. Arneson also enjoys taking his students on tours of machining companies in Minnesota and South Dakota to give students a true taste of what jobs in the industry are like and to

help them make connections with future employers.

2nd Year Students Bill Lund and Chris Borning said of Arneson “He’s a great teacher to work with because he’s always willing to help out. He expects a lot from us, but he likes to have fun, too.”



◆◆ *Nursing instructor still passionate about teaching*

Sixteen years of teaching is definitely proof of Shari Olson’s passion for sharing her skills and knowledge of the nursing profession. Olson says the greatest reward for teaching comes from witnessing student



success and seeing them working as nurses. “I still get excited to teach all that I can in my field,” Olson said, “Hopefully, I can project the compassion we need as nurses at all levels.”

Shari started her career in medicine with a medical assistant diploma in 1977, and then continued on to earn a practical nursing diploma in 1980. She moved on to earn a bachelors of science in nursing in 1987, which was followed by a Masters Degree in Vocational & Technical Education, both from South Dakota State University. As well as teaching, Shari is currently working as a RN in the Women’s Center at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

◆◆ *20 plus years of teaching on the Canby Campus still gives Electrical Instructor a charge*

Jim Brewers began his relationship with the Canby Campus when he graduated from the Construction Electrician program in 1980. Prior to his college career, Jim had worked with an electrical contractor for eight years. This work experience gave him the expertise to serve as substitute teacher while he was still a student. After graduation, he continued work with that same electrical contractor and then started his own business. Jim then started teaching part-time in Canby in 1986 and two years later he started in the position he still occupies today, full-time Electrical Instructor.



Throughout his 20 plus years on the Canby Campus, he has no doubt left a lasting impression with many of his students. And likewise, there have been numerous students that left an impression on Jim, namely ‘Renville Boys’ Class of 2002. “They were

just a really fun bunch to have in class,” he notes. Jim has been the Skills USA advisor for the last 10 years and thoroughly enjoys watching the students compete at the state and national levels. In fact, he attributes one of his most memorable moments in his 21 years to the Skills USA National Competition in Kansas City.

◆◆ *“Stolen Weather” - Minnesota West Instructor, Karsten Piper, Edits Poetry Collection*



Karsten Piper, English instructor on the Worthington Campus, spent the past year on sabbatical studying poetry and writing

at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. With his advisor, the poet Douglas Dunn, Piper edited “Stolen Weather”. “Stolen Weather” is a collection of literary work written by eleven poets also studying in Scotland over the past year. The collection includes five poems written by Piper. The book was published in a limited run by Castle House Books, an imprint of the University of St. Andrews.

“Stolen Weather” is available at the Worthington Campus Library and Academic Resource Center.

◀◀ **“Growing Green at Minnesota West”**
by Rolf Mahlberg

Excerpts from an article published in the October, 2006 edition of the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educator’s AG IN ACTION magazine.

The Worthington greeted its fall 2006 crop of students with the addition of a new greenhouse. The greenhouse is equipped with all the newest state-of-the-art technology, allowing for ease of operation with limited management from the instructor.

The structure is wired to a laptop computer to allow for status review from a remote site if necessary. The controllers located within the greenhouse provide regulation of temperature, humidity and lighting. The structure is also equipped with an anemometer to prevent structural damage. If wind speeds increase to dangerous levels the controller closes both the ridge and side vents eliminating risk of wind damage.

As the 2006 academic year began, hundreds of plants were up and growing. Students are now busy growing corn and beans to be used for experiments and taxonomy. The students are also working with soybean cyst nematodes on various resistant strains of soybeans, observing the effectiveness of different varieties against this pest.

(Rolf Mahlberg has been an Ag Instructor at Minnesota West for 27 years and in the education field for 32 years.)



◀◀ **Biotechnology at Minnesota West:**

Ryan Mahlberg (yes – son of Rolf) was recently hired as the Biotechnology faculty member for the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West. Mahlberg comes to Minnesota West from Camas, Inc. (a biotechnology company in Le Center, MN) where he served as a Laboratory Scientist.

After graduating from Minnesota West with an AS degree, Mahlberg transferred to Minnesota State University-Mankato where he earned, with honors, his B.S. degree in Biotechnology. He is currently working on his master’s degree in biology at MSU-Mankato.



Mahlberg leads the Biotechnology Lab Tech program for Minnesota West, which includes a joint venture with the Prairie Holdings Group of Worthington. This partnership allows Minnesota West students the opportunity to work side-by-side with area researchers in state of the art labs located onsite at the Prairie Holdings research training facility.

◀◀ **Sioux Valley, Minnesota West Community & Technical College, City of Luverne to Open Joint Educational Center**

A new joint venture between Sioux Valley Health System, Minnesota West Community and Technical College and the Luverne Economic Development Authority will create a training program for technical health-related careers. The Luverne Educational Center for Health Careers, a post-secondary education training facility to be housed in the former Sioux Valley Luverne Hospital will provide two healthcare technician curriculum programs when it opens in the fall of 2007. By 2013 the facility hopes to offer several additional healthcare technician curriculums and a senior Nursing Bachelor’s of Science program.

Luverne Economic Development Authority. Jill Wolf expects the facility is to create new jobs and attract students to Luverne.

“Across the United States, the healthcare industry has identified shortages of trained individuals in a wide range of healthcare career fields. We are proud to collaborate with Minnesota West and the City of Luverne to bring quality training to students interested in entering these in-demand careers,” said Ed Weiland, President of Sioux Valley Regional Health Services.

“Through this partnership we will provide students an opportunity to train for an exciting and rewarding career, while staying close to home,” said President Wood. “We’re looking forward to bringing our high-standards for academic excellence to Luverne,” he said.

“This is a great opportunity to utilize our former hospital building and bring an exciting higher education opportunity to our community,” said Jill Wolf, Director of the



Pictured is Senator Jim Vickerman; Senator Doug Magnus; Andy Steensma, Mayor of Luverne; President Wood; Ed Weiland, President of Sioux Valley Regional Health Services; and Members of Luverne City Council

◆◆ Minnesota West Community and Technical College Opens Fairmont Center

The Minnesota West Fairmont Center opened August 1st within the Southern Minnesota Education Center (SMEC). Chancellor James H. McCormick approved the two-year higher education pilot project to be managed by Minnesota West Community and Technical College earlier this summer.

According to President Wood, "Fairmont has long desired a permanent higher education presence within the City." Through the assistance and persistence of State Representative Gunther, State Senator Rosen, the City of Fairmont, Minnesota West, and the Office of the Chancellor the dream will become reality.

"This pilot project is a great example of

how various groups have worked together to provide higher education opportunities for Fairmont citizens," said Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor James H. McCormick.

The Southern Minnesota Education Center is located in a building formerly owned by the Fairmont School District. "The building has been completely modernized and takes advantage of 21st Century technology and will more than meet the needs of Minnesota West students in this area," said President Wood. Classes will be taught in three delivery modes; the traditional face-to-face classroom setting, via interactive television (ITV) along with online delivery. Minnesota West is a state leader in both the use of on-line and ITV course delivery.



◆◆ Carter Partnership:

Minnesota West Honored as Finalist for the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration

Former Senator and astronaut John Glenn was the keynote speaker and presenter of Minnesota Campus Compact's 2006 Carter Partnership Award held Oct., 30th at the River Centre in St. Paul.

Senator Glenn spoke as few others could to the courage it takes to explore undiscovered territory – the territory of true service and citizenship. Through his work with the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, Senator Glenn shared his devotion to public life with others and inspiring new generations of citizens and leaders.

The Carter Partnership Award is named for President and Mrs. Carter as a tribute to their lifelong efforts to develop and support safe, healthy, and caring communities throughout the world. In public office and in their daily lives, they have consistently supported public improvement efforts based on cooperation, mutual learning, and shared responsibility.

The 2006 event recognized five Carter Partnership Award finalists (including one award recipient) and twenty applicants.

Minnesota West was honored as one of the five finalists for the Kids Connections program.

Kid Connections partners:

- Minnesota West Community and Technical College
- Nobles County Integration Collaborative
- Prairie Elementary
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Southwest Minnesota



The other Carter Partnership finalists included:

- Bethel/Frogtown/Summit-University Community Partnership
- Bruce Vento Elementary/Century College: Bridging Elementary to College
- Center for Small Towns (U of M, Morris)/City of Morris Partnership
- Hancock/Hamline University Collaborative

◆◆◆ *Minnesota West Wins Regional Award*

The National Council of Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) awarded Minnesota West Community and Technical College's Marketing and Public Relations department a 2006 Medallion Award at the District 5 conference held in Omaha, Nebraska Sept 24 – 26.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medallions are awarded to the top three entries in each category for projects completed between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

Minnesota West received a Silver Award for a Television Commercial/PSA Single. The 30 second commercial was the marketing department's concept and it was produced

by KSFY Television in Sioux Falls. The commercial promotes online education and aired in numerous areas and you might have seen it during local Super Bowl commercial breaks last year. The college took second place behind the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.

NCMPR is the only organization of its kind that exclusively represents marketing and public relations professionals at community, technical and junior colleges. District 5, consists of community, technical, and junior colleges in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba.

◆◆◆ *Worthington Campus hosts Fine Arts Festival*

The Worthington Campus served as the 2006 Host of the Fine Arts Festival Oct. 16-18th. The Festival (which was coordinated by Minnesota West Art Faculty Member - Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien) was open to community and technical college students and faculty across the State of Minnesota.



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