

# Staying Connected



December 2008

A newsletter for the alumni & friends of Minnesota West Community & Technical College

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The Minnesota West Foundation is a private non-profit, 501 (c)3 tax exempt organization.

The Minnesota West Foundation believes in affordable and accessible educational opportunities for students. Because of this belief and commitment to education, the Minnesota West Foundation provides funding for scholarships and development opportunities for the students attending Minnesota West Community and Technical College.



Canby • Granite Falls  
Jackson • Pipestone • Worthington  
Centers in Fairmont, Luverne, Marshall

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Equal Opportunity Educator/Employer  
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State Colleges and Universities System  
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## Dr. Richard (Ric) Shrubbs

*Becomes Third President at Minnesota West – Dr. Ron Wood Retires*



Dr. Ric Shrubbs

Worthington – **Dr. Richard (Ric) Shrubbs** began his duties as the new president of Minnesota West Community and Technical College on July 1st, replacing the retired **Dr. Ron Wood**. Dr. Shrubbs was approved as the new president by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees after recommendations from Chancellor **James McCormick** and from a committee made up of local community members, Minnesota West staff and faculty and other MNSCU personnel. Dr. Shrubbs, 49, was the vice-president of academic and student affairs at Terra State Community College in Fremont, Ohio. Previously, Dr. Shrubbs was the dean of general education and director of the Clinton County campus at Southern State Community College in Ohio, associate professor, program director of technical communication and assessment coordinator at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and English faculty member at Pearl River Community College at Poplarville, Mississippi. He has also served with the United States Army as an intelligence specialist.

Dr. Shrubbs holds a doctorate in educational leadership and supervision of instruction from the University of Southern Mississippi; a

master's degree in business administration from William Carey College in Mississippi; a master's degree in English from Southeastern Louisiana University; and a bachelor's degree in English from Lee University in Tennessee.

Dr. Shrubbs, and his wife Julie, currently reside in Worthington, and hope to find a permanent home after their home in Ohio sells.

Shrubbs said he was attracted to the Minnesota West position because of the mix of liberal arts classes and the technical classes on the campuses.

MNSCU Chancellor McCormick said, "Dr. Shrubbs is an outstanding fit for Minnesota West Community and Technical College. He will be a strong addition to the leadership team of our colleges and universities and will bring new perspectives and fresh insights from his experiences in other states."

Dr. Ron Wood retired after ten years as president of Minnesota West, and currently is working as an adjunct faculty and golf coach for Minnesota West.



Dr. Ron Wood



# Campus Updates

## Canby

Minnesota West Community & Technical College hosted the first Sustainable Energy Symposium on September 11, 2008 at the Canby Campus. The focus of the Sustainable Energy Symposium was to promote opportunities available in energy education and employment throughout Southwest and West Central Minnesota. **Bill Klyve** from Otter Tail Power Company opened the event with 'Quick & Easy Energy Saving Tips', and **Ralph Groschen**, Senior Marketing Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was the keynote speaker. Mr. Groschen was instrumental in the development and execution of Minnesota's nation leading ethanol and biodiesel programs. Attendees were then able to participate in concurrent educational sessions to further their knowledge of Wind Energy, Biotechnology, Biofuels, Powerline Technology, and /or Geothermal Heating.

Industry representatives including Outland Renewable Energy of Canby, MN; Energy Maintenance Services (EMS) of Gary, SD; AES Wind Generation of Lake Benton, MN; Vestas Americas of Portland, OR; Otter Tail Power Company of Fergus Falls, MN; Archer Daniel Midlands of Marshall, MN; and the Worthington, MN based biotechnology firm Prairie Holdings Group closed the event with a 'mini' Career Fair.



Ralph Groschen - MN Department of Agriculture



BPA Officers: Coral Dee Bogan, of Montevideo, MN, Samantha Rhoda, of Clara City, MN, and Janice Peters, of Montevideo, MN

## Granite Falls

The Granite Falls Campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College is proud to announce that students **Coral Dee Bogan**, of Montevideo, MN, **Samantha Rhoda**, of Clara City, MN, and **Janice Peters**, of Montevideo, MN, have been elected to state officer positions for the College Division of Business Professionals of America (BPA).

BPA emphasizes skills in teamwork, planning, leadership, citizenship, delegation, self-confidence, motivation, and public speaking. These three Minnesota West students have begun their duties on the BPA State Executive Council and have commenced preparations for upcoming state and national Workplace Skills Assessment Program competitions. According to Bogan "experiences in Business Professionals of America give you an education that money cannot buy."

## Jackson

In a recent telephone call, Muth Electric representative, **Amy Tlam**, was happy to inform **Rob Arp**, instructor at the Jackson Campus of Minnesota West that the electrician program would be the recipient of 7000 feet of standard 1/2 inch EMT conduit. The conduit is in 10 feet lengths and is a staple item in Jackson's electrician program. Instructor, **Jerry Deuschle** stated, "The conduit donation will aid the students by providing ample materials for a variety of lab experiences." The Jackson Campus has been a regular stop for Muth Electric when recruiting workers. Muth Electric has seven locations in South Dakota including: Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Huron, Aberdeen, Watertown, Rapid City and one in Omaha, Nebraska.



7000 feet of standard 1/2 inch EMT Conduit - Jackson Campus





2008-09 Project House

### Pipestone

The 2008-09 on-site project house built by the carpentry, plumbing and heating, ventilation, & air conditioning students will use as many green building techniques as possible. Minnesota West Community and Technical College students are focusing on energy efficiency and conservation.

Minnesota West carpentry instructor **Luke Olson** said, "Given the increased consciousness about the need to preserve resources, builders someday are not going to have a choice but to build green." In addition to energy efficiency, the carpentry students have included many custom features into the project house. Features

include: three bedrooms on main level, master bedroom with walk in closet and attached bath, natural gas fireplace with custom maple surround, custom kitchen with solid maple cabinets, deck made of recycled composite material, stucco front and steel siding on the other three sides. The knowledge gained by students at Minnesota West will help them educate future consumers on green technologies as they make construction or remodeling choices. This building project will be completed for the February 22, 2009 open house where community members can tour and view this energy efficient home.

### Worthington

After nearly a decade of hoping, planning and working, the culmination of many dreams took a giant step toward reality during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Worthington Area YMCA and City of Worthington Aquatics Center on Sunday, November 2, 2009 on the grounds of Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington.

Minnesota West President **Richard Shrubbs** praises former president **Ron Wood** in his efforts to make the unusual partnership work, proving that corporate and civic entities could work together. "This is the ushering in of a new era of collaboration and teamwork," he said. The new YMCA is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2009 at the Minnesota West, Worthington campus.



Frog Dissection in the Fairmont Center

### Luverne

At the Luverne Center, students are focusing their education in healthcare and preparing for career caring for others in need. On October 21st, the Student Senate and their advisor, **Sue Reisch**, went to the Luverne Senior Center to serve lunch to the center visitors as well as playing games, talking and just spending time with the group. "It is really important to us that we are helpful and play a positive role in the community," said **Kimberly Xiasongkham**, Student Senate President. "We just wanted to come out, share some of our time, and make sure everybody has a good day today."

### Fairmont

Minnesota West - Fairmont Center began offering courses at the Southern Minnesota Education Campus Building in August, 2006. This education opportunity, for both traditional and adult students, brings higher education to the local community. Students have the opportunity to complete an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree by taking classes in Fairmont and online. The Fairmont Center also offers courses in business, accounting, medical secretary and coding, administrative assistant, etc. Students can choose from day, evening, or online classes to fit their schedule.

## *Meet the Foundation Board of Directors*



**Diana Anderson**  
COO, Southwest  
Initiative Foundation  
(Past Chair)



**Amy McCoy**  
IT Professional,  
The Schwan Food  
Company  
(Secretary)



**Shirley Anderson**  
School Counselor,  
Jackson County  
Central



**Marjean Ossefort**  
Investor, Investment  
Centers of America  
/ 1st State Bank  
Southwest  
(Treasurer)



**Sherry Benton**  
Retired  
(Vice Chair)



**Jim Rima**  
Retired



**Gary Hoffmann**  
Retired (Chair)



**Pat Stanley**  
Switch Tech  
and Community  
Representative,  
Frontier  
Communications



**Laurie Jensen**  
Director of Clinic  
Operations, Sanford  
Health Adrian,  
Luverne, Worthington



**Todd VanEpps**  
General Manager of  
Southwest Minnesota,  
Frontier  
Communications

## *The Need for Your Support*

During these very difficult financial times for individuals and businesses, the students of Minnesota West need your help more than ever. The New York Times reported in the spring that student loans are becoming more difficult to secure, especially for students at two year colleges, and the cost of attending college continues to increase. The Minnesota West Foundation is committed to making college affordable for our students, but we need your donations, even during these difficult times, to help put the world within our student's reach. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift today!



## 2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients



Jason Citrowske

### **Jason Citrowske – Canby**

Jason is a second year diesel student at the Canby campus. He is focusing his studies on agricultural equipment because he grew up on a farm and would like to work with farmers on repairing farm equipment when he graduates. He has received the Canby Diesel and the Erwin Neuharth scholarships. Jason graduated from Dawson-Boyd High School in 2007 and chose Minnesota West because it was close to home, the class sizes are small and the friendly atmosphere on the campus. Jason played football, baseball and was active in FFA in high school, even going to State FFA for Ag Mechanic three years in a row. Jason lives in Dawson and works in addition to going to school. He also completed an internship with Kibble equipment in Montevideo during the summer of 2008 to gain experience in working on farm equipment.



Holly Sandhurst

### **Holly Sandhurst – Worthington**

Holly Sandhurst is a second year student at the Worthington Campus, who is working on her Associates in Arts degree with a plan to finish her degree at the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota. Holly is the recipient of the Minnesota West, and the Mooty scholarships. Holly is a 2007 graduate of Worthington High School. She was active in mentoring and cheerleading in high school and continues to be active in cheerleading at Minnesota West. In addition to her cheerleading, Holly is a student ambassador at Minnesota West and works full-time. Holly chose Minnesota West because she knew her credits would transfer to another college to complete her degree, and the cost of Minnesota West was more affordable, especially with the scholarships she received.

## Why Do People Give to the Minnesota West Foundation?

### **Granite Falls Campus Left in Bequest by Community Member**

The Minnesota West Foundation was pleased to receive \$68,731.82 donation from the estate of Amy Narvestad. The money has been designated for the Granite Falls Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Amy and Carl Narvestad were life long residents of Yellow Medicine County, and the Granite Falls area. The Narvestad's believed that a strong community needs education and that for communities to survive in the 21st century the agricultural income that has been lost over the years needs to be replaced by dynamic industries. Contact the Minnesota West Foundation if you are interested in making a major impact on the students of Minnesota West Community and Technical College by supporting the foundation in your estate plan at **1-800-658-2535** or **james.smalley@mnwest.edu**.

### **East River Electric Power Cooperative**

East River Electric Power Cooperative gives to the Minnesota West Foundation because the graduates are well trained and bring the skills to the positions the company desires in their employees. East River Electric has been giving for about fifteen years through the East River scholarships. The company benefits from providing the scholarship opportunities by having students hear about East River as an employment opportunity and fill a workforce need for the company. The company has always been a strong supporter of area educational institutions and the communities the company provides services. The company takes great pride in being able to provide financial support to youth as they continue their education. East River Electric Power Cooperative is a wholesale electric power supply cooperative serving 20 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally-owned electric system, which in turn serve more than 84,000 homes and businesses and about 250,000 consumer in 41 counties in eastern South Dakota and nine counties in western Minnesota.

# Notes & News

**Roger Nelson** of Ivanhoe and **Elwood Bakke** of rural Canby proudly represented Marble Lutheran Church's historical presence in the Canby/Hendricks area when they presented the Minnesota West Foundation with a \$30,000 donation to fund scholarships for area students interested in pursuing a nursing career. According to Nelson, the congregation is able to make this gift to the Minnesota West Foundation thanks to the generous estates of long-time Marble Lutheran Church members, **Henry and Burmie Lindahl** and **Carol Olson**.



Dr. Ron Wood, Dawn Gordon, Director of Nursing, Representatives of the former Marble Lutheran Church: Elwood Bakke, Delphine Bakke, Roger Nelson and Vangie Nelson



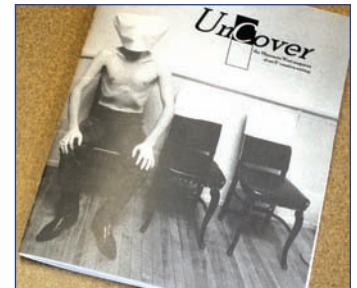
Duane Carrow

The Marketing Service Group of Edina, MN recently donated 1800 feet of PEX plastic pipe for domestic water, 1000 steel clamps, valves, fittings and several PEX crimping tools to the Plumbing program on the Pipestone Campus. Students will use the supplies while working in their mock-up lab area in their shop.

**Leslie Bauman**, Accounting Instructor and BPA Advisor from the Granite Falls Campus, was awarded BPA Advisor of the Year.

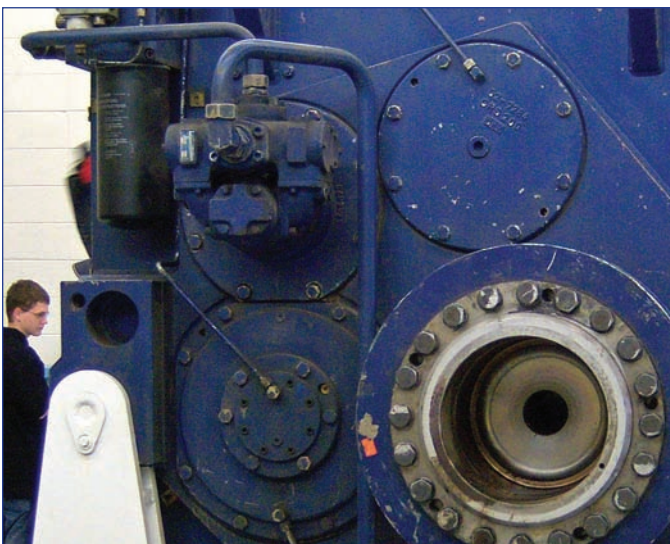
**Duane Carrow**, Director of the Minnesota Energy Enterprise Center at the Granite Falls Campus, was awarded for Excellence in Curriculum Programming for his work in development of the Renewable Energy Technology Program by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

**John Joosten**, Assistant Dean of Career and Technical Education, was honored by the Southwest Minnesota School Counselors Association at their quarterly meeting in Worthington on April 2, 2008 for his 35 years of providing counseling to students. Joosten, who previously served as Campus CEO on the Granite Falls Campus, is retiring in 2009.



First Edition, *Uncover Magazine*

The Wind Energy Technology Program has received an equipment donation from Vestas. Their donation of a 14,000lb gearbox was previously utilized in a Vestas V44 600Kw Wind Turbine. For ease



14,000lb Gearbox from a Wind Turbine



Plumbing Students, Pipestone Campus





Robert Roesler

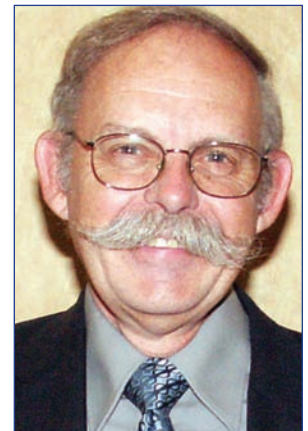
of use within the wind energy lab area, a special trailer was designed and built for the gearbox by SMI Hydraulics Inc. in Porter, MN.

The very first edition of UnCover the Minnesota West magazine of art & creative writing was unveiled in the fall of 2007. More than 80 pieces of writing and 60 pieces of artwork were submitted for the publication. The UnCover editorial staff was lead by sophomore **Tina Gonzalez**, freshman **Kevin Miller**, **Elizabeth Phelps**, and **David Phommaracksa**, and English Instructor **Karsten Piper**. For a copy of UnCover contact [karsten.piper@mnwest.edu](mailto:karsten.piper@mnwest.edu)

**Robert Roesler**, Farm Management Instructor for Minnesota West Community and Technical College, was honored July 9, 2008 by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). Robert was presented NAAE's Outstanding Service Award. NAAE represents the needs and concerns of over 12,000 agriculture teachers at the middle school, high school, post-secondary and adult levels of instruction. NAAE offers professional development opportunities, legislative advocacy, leadership development education,

technical in-service and many more services and opportunities.

**Al Brudelic**, Dean of Management programs at Minnesota West and South Central College, was honored July 9, 2008 by the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) at their annual summer conference in St. Cloud. Al received the Presidential Award of Merit. This award is presented to individuals who "have a lifetime commitment of devoted support for Minnesota agriculture and agricultural education". Al is a frequent presenter at professional and area agricultural meetings.



Al Brudelic

## Alumni Updates

### 1970s

**Ryan Anderson** – 1971, Worthington – Ryan is retired and living in San Ramon, California with his wife Sharon (Wilson) Anderson who is a field executive for State Farm Insurance. They have a son, Matthew, living in Long Beach and a daughter Macy, living in Las Vegas.

**Connie Beckius** – 1972, General Secretary, Jackson – Connie lives in Sherburn, Minnesota with her husband Ron, who is retired. They have two daughters and two grandsons, ages 6 and 8. Connie works in reception and admissions at the Jackson Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

**Irene (Sweeney) Kreger** – 1972, Clerical, Canby – Irene lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and works for JP Gasway.

**Sandi Mead** – 1973, Liberal Arts, Worthington – Sandi lives in Worthington, Minnesota and works in the library and academic resource center (LARC) on the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College. She has a daughter Sara who is a graduate of Minnesota West and a son John who is attending Minnesota State Mankato.

**Gene Rupp** – 1975, Tool Die and Mold Making, Granite Falls – Gene is living in Waconia, Minnesota and works for Escha, Inc. in Plymouth as senior tool design engineer. Gene is in charge of the injection mold design and tooling design for Escha.

**Lynn Vander Plaats** – 1978, General Secretary with Shorthand, Pipestone – Lynn lives in Ward, South Dakota with her husband of 30 years. They have two sons, one daughter and two granddaughters. Lynn started working at Pipestone Vocational Technical Institute after graduation until her first son was born. After taking a few years off, Lynn came back to the college. Currently, Lynn is the Student Services Advisor at the Pipestone Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

### 1980s

**Rex Angeli** – 1980, Supermarket Merchandise and Management, Pipestone – Rex is living in Iron River, Michigan with this wife and two daughters. Megan is a sophomore in high school, and Hilary is in her third year at Michigan Tech. Rex works as a propane technician and truck driver for Krist L.P. Rex is also one of the few Five Star Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge dealers in the nation and has been a dealer for nine years.

**Stuart Melheim** – 1980, Machine Technology, Granite Falls – Stuart lives in Celeste, Texas and works at L-3 Communications.

**Elaine (Erickson) Sook** – 1982, Pipestone – lives in Marshall, Minnesota.

**Diane (Maeyaert) Buesing** – 1982, Accounting, Granite Falls – lives in Marshall, Minnesota and works for The Schwan Food Company.

**Pam (Schiller) Davids** – 1982, Fashion/Retail Merchandising and Management, Pipestone – Pam is living in Pipestone, Minnesota and is the bookstore/business office manager on the Pipestone Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

**Julie (Hoffmann) Triplett** – 1986, Accounting/Data Processing, Granite Falls – Julie is living with her husband Patrick and their three children in Danube, Minnesota. Their three children include Steven, 18, who is a PSEO student at the Granite Falls campus of Minnesota West, Lance and Tiffany who attend school at Renville County West. Julie works for Heartland Community Action as a teacher assistant/aide in the Head Start program in Olivia.

**Sharon (Koster/Mock) Lobdell** – 1986, General Secretarial, Granite Falls – Sharon lives in Clarkfield, Minnesota and works at the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council.

(continued)

**Kim (Erstad) Carlson** – 1987, Psychology, Worthington – lives in Richfield, Minnesota with her husband, Robert. Kim works as an account manager for major and national accounts at Health Partners of Minnesota. She received her bachelor's degree from South Dakota State and her Master's degree from St. Mary's University.

**Sandra (Friesen) Strube** – 1987, Business, Worthington – lives in Mt. Vernon, Washington.

**Brad Reich** – 1989, AA, Worthington – Brad lives in Waconia, Minnesota and is a CPA and partner at Baune, Dosen & Co, LLP in Minneapolis. Brad received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Minnesota- Mankato and married his high school sweetheart, Colleen. They have three boys ages 10, 8, and 6.

## 1990s

**Melissa (Harberts) Ahlschlager** – 1991, Human Services, Worthington – Melissa is living in Worthington, Minnesota and works as a school social worker in the Jackson County Central Schools.

**David Keith** – 1992, Worthington – David lives in Schereville, Indiana and works for the United States Department of Justice.

**Joshua Theisen** – 1995, Pipestone – Joshua lives in Pine City, Minnesota.

**Angie (Getzel) Brantner** – 1996, Canby – Angie lives in New Market, Minnesota and is self employed.

**Sara Saunders** – 1996, Medical Secretary, Granite Falls – Sara lives in San Diego, California and has been working as a radiologic tech in cardiac catheterization for Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla. However, Sara was recently accepted in to the Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner program at Stanford Medical School.

**Donna (Nelson) Lehnhoff** – 1998, LPN, Worthington – Donna lives in Revere, Minnesota with her husband of almost three year. Donna works as a charge nurse at St. John's Lutheran Home in Springfield. Donna has been at St. John's for almost ten years. Her son, Cody, is a 2007 graduate from the electrician program in Jackson.

**Jason Heacock** – 1998, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Jason is living in Milaca, Minnesota and works for Mille Lacs County.

**Chad Jurgensen** – 1999, Worthington – Chad lives in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Rebecca Larson** – 1999, Associates in Arts, Worthington – Rebecca lives in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

**April (Schettler) DeSchepper** – 1999, Graphic Communications, Canby – April is living in Tracy, Minnesota with her husband Joe DeSchepper, who is a 1997 graduate from Canby and works as an engineering technician for the Soil and Water Conservation in Marshall. April is working for Tracy Publishing Company in composition.

## 2000s

**Anthony John Glassmaker** – 2001, Agronomy Production, Worthington – Anthony is living in Sheldon, Iowa and works for the Midwest Farmers Cooperative.

**Nathan Jansen** – 2002, Worthington – lives in Wauconda, Illinois and works for Midwest Bank and Trust Company.

**Erin (Mathews) Mastbergen** – 2005, Canby – Erin is living in Pipestone, Minnesota.

**Kiri Lokken** – 2006, Medical Secretary, Granite Falls – Kiri is living in Watson, Minnesota with her boyfriend and their eight year old son Branson. Kiri is working at the Chippewa County/Montevideo Hospital and recently took a position in the business office as a clinic biller after working in the admissions department.

**Chan Briggs** – 2006, Carpentry, Pipestone – lives in Worthington, Minnesota and owns his own business called Seal Deep, LLC.

**Michelle (Ketchum) Shrum** – 2006, Nursing, Worthington – and **Scott Shrum** – 2008, Nursing, Worthington – Michelle and Scott live in Woodland Park, Colorado which is northwest of Colorado Springs with their two children, Emily, 8, and Michael, 7. Both Michelle and Scott work at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs.

**Lisa Dame** – 2007, Law Enforcement, Worthington – lives in Calumet, Iowa and works for the Y.E.S. Center.



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