

Staying Connected

Minnesota West
FOUNDATION

September 2010

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.

Minnesota West
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Canby • Granite Falls
Jackson • Pipestone • Worthington

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Minnesota West Graduates Nearly 700 Students in May Ceremonies

Minnesota West Community and Technical College graduated a total of 694 students from the five campuses of the college.

The Granite Falls Campus graduated one hundred and thirty-three students in thirty-three different program areas and degrees. The commencement speaker was Granite Falls Campus instructor **Leslie Bauman** who was awarded the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award. **Victor Zavala**, student senate president, gave the student response.

The Canby Campus graduated seventy students in nineteen different program areas and degrees. The commencement speaker was **Dr. Diane Graber**, retiring Provost at Minnesota West and the student response was given by **Wayne Hanson**, an Electrician graduate.

The Worthington Campus graduated two hundred and fifty-five students from nineteen different program areas and degrees. The

commencement speaker was **Le Lucht**, retiring Spanish instructor at Minnesota West and multicultural affairs coordinator for the college.

The Pipestone Campus graduated one hundred and ten students from twenty-eight different program areas and degrees. The commencement speaker was **Dr. Jeff Williamson**, the new Provost at Minnesota West and the student addresses were given by **Sonya Iverson**, a Message Therapy graduate from the Pipestone Campus, and **Gabriel Penaredondo**, a Surgery Technology graduate from the Luverne Center.

The Jackson Campus graduated one hundred and twenty-six students from ten different program areas and degrees. The commencement speaker was **Dr. Steve Frantz**, the MNSCU System Director for Student Life/Disabilities and the student address was given by **Tim Janzen**, student senate president.

"Minnesota West continues to be proud of our students, and the very good things that our graduates are doing for our college and our community!"

- Dr. Ric Shrubbs, President



Granite Falls Graduation Ceremony

Canby

Dr. Dan Prust – Dental Instructor Retires

In May 2010, as the 2009-2010 school year came to a close, so did a chapter of life for **Dr. Daniel Prust**. After 12 years as the Dental Assistant Program Director on the Canby Campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Dr. Prust has retired. Dr. Prust came to Minnesota West in 1998 following his retirement from the United States Public Health Service Indian Health Service on the Pine Ridge Reservation and Sisseton, SD. “We are grateful for the years and wisdom Dr. Prust invested in our Dental Assisting program at Minnesota West” stated Canby Campus Dean, **Rebecca Weber**.



Dr. Dan Prust and Teresa Noyes

Granite Falls

Paul Mohns – Collision Repair Instructor Retires

After more than twenty years of teaching Auto Body at first the Jackson Campus, and most recently the Granite Falls Campus of Minnesota West, **Paul Mohns** retired after the 2009-2010 school year. Mohns states that he “will miss the great people that I have worked with at Minnesota West and watching the students grow so much in their time here.” Mohns is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren, and of course continuing his hobby of working on cars. Mohns resides in Jackson, Minnesota.

Jackson

Larry Griffin – Farm Management Instructor Retires

Larry Griffin started in October 1968 at Jackson Vocational School as instructor of Production Agriculture (the two year young farmer training program). He served in that position until July 1, 1983 when he went to work for Response, Inc. in Jackson. Griffin was rehired as FBM instructor in July 1992 and served in that position until June 30, 2010.



Larry Griffin

Pipestone

In 2002, **Jim Stout** accepted the plumbing instructor position on the Pipestone Campus, nearly 30 years after receiving a bachelor’s degree in education. Right after completing his formal education, the family plumbing business needed his help so his dream of teaching was put on hold. Stout’s years of experience working in the plumbing industry in Pipestone is just what was needed for him to reach his goal of becoming a teacher – just 30 years later. May of 2010 was when Stout finally hung up his wrenches and retired completely from the plumbing industry. He plans to work part-time as building manager for *Whispering Winds* apartments and follow his grandchildren to all their activities.



Jiim Stout

Worthington

Minnesota West Community and Technical College agriculture instructors **Jeff Rogers** and **Rolf Mahlberg** are gearing up for a new fall schedule for students – to continue their education online during the busy harvest season. The program is set up to get students into class at the beginning of the school year, introduce them to the subject matter and then, when harvest arrives, send them out to their farms and

complete on-site assignments. After the five-week online program ends (and hopefully harvest will be wrapped up), the students will return to the classroom for the remainder of the semester.

“With online as an option for five weeks during the middle of harvest, we think we can really support that student to be engaged in production ag or in their ag business career,” said Mahlberg. “Then, on a wet day or when they’re able to get caught up, they’ll be able to access the lessons and assignments and be able to engage with us as instructors in something that supports both their education and their career.”



Education Evolves Through Time - Sherry Carlmark

“Education isn’t going to stop for that five weeks,” said Mahlberg. “We’ll still be here; we’ll still have our office hours if a student wants to meet with us.” Students will do on-farm labs during the five-week online course. “We want to be viewed as progressive,” said Mahlberg. “We love face to face (teaching) more than just about anybody. We really like our ag students, but we do not want to be viewed as (being) status quo. Ag moves forward, so does the media that the education is delivered with.”

Fairmont

Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Fairmont Center and Presentation College were awarded the *Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF)* “Picture it Painted” grant for a mural project in the student commons area. The mural entitled *Education Evolves Through Time* was painted by local artist, **Sherry Carlmark**. The mural was created to depict the history of the building and how it has been utilized for education over the years. Feel free to stop by the Fairmont Center office for a tour of the facility and a peek at the mural project.

Luverne

Jackie Otkin, Pipestone Campus Manager, was pleased to announce **Katie Heronimus** as the new site manager for the Luverne Educational Center for Health Careers. Heronimus has her Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and Biology from Mount Marty College located in Yankton, SD but is no stranger to southwest Minnesota as she has been teaching the past three years at Adrian Public schools. She originally hails from Welcome, MN is a graduate of Martin County West High School in Sherburn, MN. Otkin stated, “Katie’s science education background is an excellent fit for the Luverne Center, since the center’s focus is on health careers.”



Katie Heronimus

Redwood Falls

The Redwood Falls center opened its doors on August 1, 2009, and began the school year with 5 students taking classes through Redwood Falls. This fall, 2010, over 35 students are enrolled in a combination of online and ITV classes through Redwood Falls. Community support for the center has been very positive.

Make an Everlasting Donation

Did you know you can leave the Minnesota West Foundation in your will, or estate documents? Some donors have even left the Minnesota West Foundation as the beneficiary in their life insurance plans. These gifts can allow a person to make a substantially larger gift to the students and program at Minnesota West than they could during their lifetime. Contact the foundation office at 1-800-658-2535 if you are interested in these opportunities.

Student Spotlight



Gabriel Penaredondo

Gabriel Penaredondo – Surgery Tech Graduate – Luverne Center

Gabriel Penaredondo came to Minnesota West after completing his psychology degree at the University of Minnesota in 2009. Gabriel did not want to pursue a graduate degree in psychology, so at the urging of a friend he began to look for a technical degree program. Gabriel found the Surgery Technology program at the Luverne Education Center for Health Careers and liked what he saw in the program and the people. Gabriel liked that the Surgery Technology program was accredited and that it was close to home for the Worthington native. He graduated from Worthington High School in 2005. After taking a break from school over this summer, Gabriel will begin a position with Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Gabriel says that students need to pursue something they love to do, not just a four-year degree.



Rachel Pavelko

Rachel Pavelko – Associate of Science Graduate – Worthington Campus

Rachel Pavelko had a good reason to come to Minnesota West, or several good reasons. Rachel wanted to continue her sports career in college and wanted to be active in student activities, which Minnesota West provided. Rachel was active in volleyball, basketball and softball as well as being involved in student senate, and student ambassadors. Rachel ended up with All-Conference, All-Conference Academic honors as well as becoming the second Minnesota West athlete to ever be named to the NJCAA All-American team in softball. Rachel was also comfortable with Minnesota West because her older sister, and current Bluejay volleyball coach, **Marie (Pavelko) Johnson** attended the Worthington campus. The ability to be very active in extracurricular activities and stay close to home led the Worthington High School graduate to Minnesota West as well as the ability to pursue her studies in science. Rachel said her ability to juggle so many activities and her studies was not as difficult as it may sound because all her coaches stressed that academics came first, and that sports and other activities was a reward for doing well in the classroom. Rachel is currently studying pharmacy at South Dakota State University.

www.mnwest.edu/foundation

The place you can go to for all the information you need about the Minnesota West Foundation, including donating with your credit card! You can also find the foundation's 2008-2009 audit and the 2008-2009 tax return on the website.

Endowed Scholarship

You can make leave a permanent legacy with the college through an endowed scholarship. Endowed scholarships exist to provide scholarships to students in perpetuity because the donated principle is never spent while the interest from the donated sum is given out as scholarships. Are you interested in honoring a family member or leaving a legacy yourself? Contact the foundation at 1-800-658-2535.

Mike & Micha Armitage



Mike & Micha Armitage

Mike (Canby, 1992 & Granite Falls, 2006) & Micha (Canby, 1993)

Mike and Micha both came to the Canby Campus of Southwestern Technical Institute in the early 1990s because it was close to home and provided them both with an opportunity to learn a trade in something they were interested in. Mike graduated in Construction Electrician in 1992 while Micha graduated with an Accounting diploma in 1993. Mike went on to receive a second degree, in computer support, in 2006. Mike and Micha met in Mike's second year and Micha's first year at Student Senate meetings, which they were both active during their time on campus. They both feel that it is important to give back to students who may need help with the costs of their education and hopefully help in the student's successful education. Mike is the Information Specialist on the Canby Campus of Minnesota West and Micha is the Financial Aid Specialist on the Canby Campus. Mike and Micha have two children, **Trent** and **Taylor**.

FoundationNews

Lueck Elected Treasurer

The Minnesota West Foundation Board of Directors elected new officers at their May meeting. Remaining in their current positions were **Gary Hoffmann** (Chairperson), **Sherry Benton** (Vice-Chair) and **Amy McCoy** (Secretary) and the board elected **Kim Lueck** as the new Treasurer of the organization.



Kim Lueck

UpcomingEvents

Evening with the Stars

The Minnesota West Foundation is holding the *Evening with the Stars* fundraising event on **Saturday, November 13, 2010** on the Worthington Campus. This event features student and local talent. There is a dinner served at **6:30pm** with a silent auction to raise money for scholarships. Cost is \$20 per person. Please contact the foundation office at **1-800-658-2535** or foundation@mnwest.edu for more information.

Culture Holiday Event

The Minnesota West Foundation and the Culture Corner of the Worthington Campus will again be co-hosting a culture holiday event on **Friday, December 10, 2010**. Last year, funds raised from this event led to a \$500 scholarship being awarded to a student of diverse background in the Spring. Please contact the foundation office at 1-800-658-2535 or foundation@mnwest.edu for more information.

Alumni Weekend

The Minnesota West Foundation will be hosting an Alumni Weekend on **Saturday, February 5, 2011** in Worthington. Join us for the Women's basketball game beginning at **1:00pm** with the Men's basketball game at **3:00pm**. More information will be available later.

Mills receives Ph.D. in History

David Mills, history instructor on the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West, received his PhD in History from North Dakota State University this spring. Mills' dissertation was titled, "*Cold War in a Cold Land: Fighting Communism on the Northern Plains.*"

Voss Received Prestigious Award

Lori Voss, Vice President of Administration at Minnesota West, was a recipient of the 2010 International Exemplary Leadership Award from the Chair Academy at the 19th Annual International Leadership Conference in Minneapolis. Voss was nominated and chosen to receive this honor for the leadership she provided to her colleagues and college during the national fiscal crisis in 2009. "Lori carried our institution into safe territory by gathering data, presenting it reliably, and guiding our college cabinet through difficult decisions," says **Richard Shrubbs**, President of Minnesota West. The Chair Academy was established in 1992, with a mission to design and promote world-class training programs and services to advance academic and administrative leadership for post-secondary institutions world-wide in an era of change.

Fluid Power Skills Competition

The Granite Falls Campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College is proud to announce that second year Fluid Power Technology student **Murdock McNickle** of Bath, South Dakota placed third in the 2010 Minnesota Fluid Power Skills Competition, held at Hennepin Technical College this spring. The annual Skills Competition brings exceptional students from each of the four technical colleges providing 2-year Fluid Power programs to this state level competition.

Electrical Skills USA Competition

Minnesota West had seven Electrical students from the Canby Campus compete at Skills USA in Minneapolis, MN. We are proud to announce that we placed in all categories. **Tyler Robertson** took 1st Place in Residential Wiring for PSEO. **Scott Van Ruler** took 5th Place in Residential Wiring and **Jarad Ortmann** took 3rd Place in Industrial Motor Controls. Other participants were **Aaron Schultz**, **Tony Roeschlein**, **Jeremy Perry**, and **Tyler Ronne**.

Student Leaders Attend MSCSA

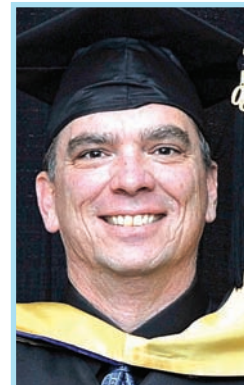
Minnesota West Student Senate leaders from Luverne, Pipestone, Canby, Granite Falls and Jackson campuses attended a MSCSA (Minnesota State College Student Association) Spring General Assembly in Breezy Point, MN. MSCSA is an association of the Minnesota public two-year college students, which works to ensure accessible, quality, and affordable public higher education while providing students with representation, leadership development, and communication across the state.

Bauman Named Teacher of the Year

Leslie Bauman, instructor for the accounting program, has been named the Minnesota West Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010. This is an honor that is awarded after a nomination and application process, after which students meet and go through criteria to choose the recipient. Bauman graduated from the Granite Falls Vocational Technical Institute, which is now Minnesota West. Bauman also has a Bachelor's degree and Master's degrees from Bemidji State University. Bauman also serves as advisor and advocate for the college's chapter of Business Professionals of America.

Matthews Receives Teaching Award

Dave Matthews, math instructor, was awarded the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award on behalf of the Minnesota Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. The Distinguished Teaching Award is intended for educators who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at a two-year college in Minnesota. Matthews was nominated by a member of the association for the award and was chosen out of approximately 150 individuals throughout the state of Minnesota for the award.



David Mills



Leslie Bauman

Four Former Students Retire from Minnesota West

Ron Arneson

Ron Arneson retired this year after 31 years of teaching machine tool on the Granite Falls Campus of Minnesota West. Ron came to Minnesota West in 1978 after a career at Chandler Industries in Montevideo. Ron is a 1971 graduate of the Machine Tool program on the Granite Falls Campus. Ron says he greatest highlight has been helping students find work and especially those students who stay in the region and work in the machine tool field. He says he often runs into former students in the area and enjoys talking to former students who are now working in the machine tool field. Ron says he will spend time with his wife Kathy, and their two children, Amy and Andrea and their four grandchildren, Kasey, Mason, Noah and Ella and work on training his new puppy. Ron says it was enjoyable to work with the staff and faculty at the college and see the students succeed in their education.

Gary Gillin

Gary Gillin came to his alma mater in 1988 as the enrollment manager on the Pipestone campus, which involved recruiting students and marketing for the campus, when the college only consisted of technical campuses in, Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson and Pipestone. Gary eventually became the Dean of Communication and Enrollment when the technical campuses of Southwestern Technical College merged with Worthington Community College and he served in that capacity until his retirement in 2010. Gary also served as Pipestone campus manager for the last year of his tenure. Gary graduated from Worthington Junior College in 1971 and Pipestone Area Vocational Technical Institute in 1973 and his wife, Pat, graduated from Pipestone in 1974. Gary says he fondly remembers his time at Minnesota West and cherished the opportunity he had in helping students pursue their dreams.



Gary Gillin

Le Lucht

Henrietta Le Lucht has taught Spanish for 39 years; 16 years of that has been at Minnesota West as a full time faculty member. She has also served as faculty association officer, PTK advisor, Chair of the Humanities Division, campus leader for the Center of Teaching and Learning; she is a certified Survival Spanish instructor. Le graduated with a Masters from the University of South Dakota, she has previously graduated with a Bachelors Degree from Augustana College and is a graduate of Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Le graduated from Minnesota West in 1969 and her husband Larry graduated in 1972. Their three children are also Minnesota West graduates; Mark graduated in 1986 and lives in Seattle, Carla graduated in 1995 and lives in Willmar and Matt graduated in 2000 and lives in Topeka.



Le Lucht

Ron Thomton

Ron Thomton retired after eighteen and a half years of service at Minnesota West. Ron started in 1991 with Customized Training by implementing a Correctional Officers training program for the staff at the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minnesota. In 1993 he began coordinating Law Enforcement Continuing Education programs for local and regional police departments and sheriff's offices. Ron graduated from the Law Enforcement program in 2009. Ron says he is enjoying his time off, but also stays busy using his degree by working part-time for both the Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Department and the City of Granite Falls Police Department. He remembers fondly his years at the college, and his co-workers together with the officers and friends he met, worked with and shared memorable experiences with.

1960s

Steve Brown – 1963, AA, Worthington – Steve lives in Dayton, Ohio with his wife **Rhonda**. They have one adult son. Steve is retired.

1970s

Robert Atkinson – 1975, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Robert lives in Massillon, Ohio with his wife **Maggie**.

1980s

Scott Preuss – 1981, Construction Electrician, Canby – Scott lives in Luverne, Minnesota with his wife, **Jennifer**. They have three children and two grandchildren. Scott is the electrical inspector for Rock, Nobles and Pipestone Counties and owns his own inspection business.

Brenda (Rude) Growe – 1982, Drafting/Design, Granite Falls – and **Jerry Growe – 1983**, Drafting/Design, Granite Falls – Brenda and Jerry live in Glenwood, Minnesota with their three children. Brenda is a machine designer/CADD operator for WASP, Inc which specializes in ground equipment and conveyor equipment. Jerry is a machine designer for Douglas Machines in Alexandria which specializes in case packaging machines.

Sondra (Helmke) Rademacher – 1987, Private Legal Secretary, Jackson – Sondra lives in Mankato, Minnesota with her husband **James**. After working as a human resources manager for twenty years, Sondra took a job with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development as a Business Service Specialist.

1990s

David Howell – 1991, Powerline, Jackson – David is living in Coldwater, Michigan with his wife **Amy** and their daughter **Carly**. David has been working as a lineman with Coldwater Board of Public Utilities ever since he graduated and currently is in charge of a crew for Coldwater. He and Amy like to spend time watching Carly play basketball and softball.

Brenda Crossfield – 1994, AA, Worthington – Brenda recently completed her seminary school at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and will begin her pastoral work with First Lutheran Church in Prairie Village, Kansas after her ordination this summer.

John Hovland – 1995, Wind Energy, Jackson – John is living in Lake Benton, Minnesota with his wife, **Gail**, and their daughter. John is the site manager for Frontier Pro Services, a wind energy company. John and his family enjoy spending time with the activities around Lake Benton and traveling.

Christopher Streich – 1995, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Christopher is living in Hazel Run, Minnesota with his wife **Denise** and their two young children. Christopher works for SunSource.

Eric Swartz – 1996, Electric Utility Technician, Jackson – Eric is living in Clever, Missouri with his wife of eighteen years, **Joetta** and their two children. Eric has worked for Southwestern Power Administration in Springfield for the past four years as a power dispatcher.

Joel Zinnel – 1999, AA, Worthington – Joel lives in West St. Paul, Minnesota.

2000s

Kirt Anderson – 2000, Robotics, Granite Falls – Kirt is living in Coon Rapids, Minnesota with his wife **Anne** and their two young children. Kirt works for TEC Trainer, LLC.

Cole McDaniel – 2005, Graphic Communications, Canby – Cole is living in Apple Valley, Minnesota with partner **Lance** and their two children. Cole is the owner/manager of a salon and works as a hairstylist after working in graphic arts for a year after graduation then pursuing hairstyling.

Larry Tjeerdsma – 2010, Wind Energy, Canby – Larry lives in Elkton, South Dakota with his wife **Dawn** and their two daughters and one son. Larry works for TricoTCWind in Lake Benton, Minnesota.

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