

Staying



CONNECTED

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

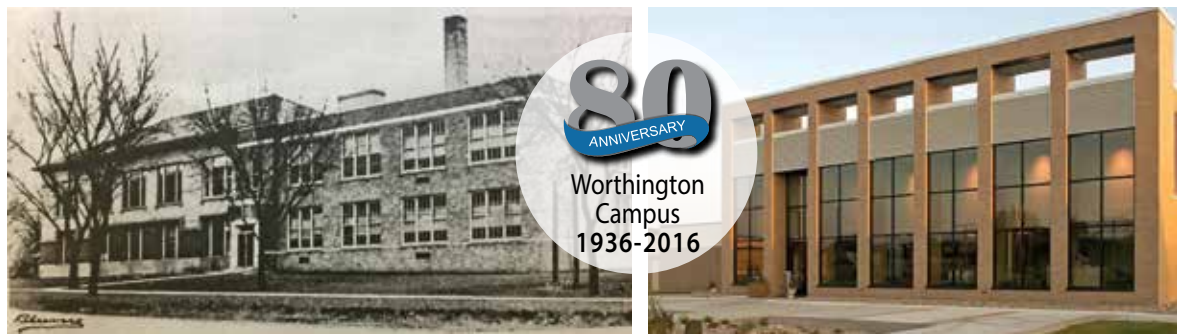
SPRING 2017

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Anniversaries
- Awards
- Student Success
- Annual Report
- Donors
- Program Updates
- Faculty Updates

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.



80
ANNIVERSARY

Worthington
Campus
1936-2016



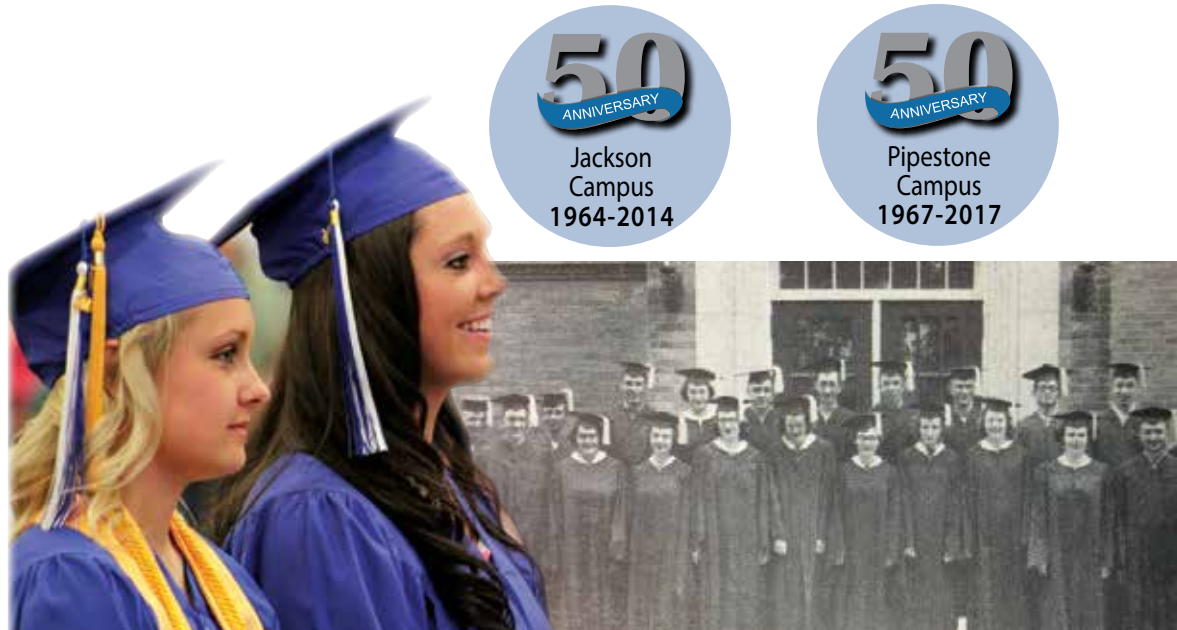
50
ANNIVERSARY

Granite Falls
Campus
1966-2016



50
ANNIVERSARY

Canby
Campus
1966-2016



50
ANNIVERSARY

Jackson
Campus
1964-2014

50
ANNIVERSARY

Pipestone
Campus
1967-2017



Canby • Granite Falls • Jackson
Pipestone • Worthington
Luverne • Marshall

From the PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends of Minnesota West,

It is my pleasure to share with you our re-energized Foundation Newsletter. It is also my honor to introduce myself as the President of Minnesota West Community & Technical College. Since starting with this wonderful institution on July 1, 2015, I have been working in partnership with our faculty, staff, and administration to serve our students and our communities.

Having worked with community & technical colleges in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska, I discovered that the opportunity to serve the students of Minnesota West greatly aligned with my professional calling. Minnesota West is a proven higher education provider, one with an accomplished record of service reflective of those who choose to attend the college and those who choose to serve – highly credentialed faculty and service-centered staff and administrators.

I am proud to serve an institution which continues to be recognized as a top 150 community college in the nation! A college with persistence and graduation rates well above our peers, a college ranked in the top 5 of online two-year institutions, a college rooted in the values of our southwestern Minnesota communities.

As we look forward to re-connecting with our constituencies beyond the classroom, I ask that each of you take this opportunity to share with us more about yourself. We are extremely proud of our alumni and our community partners, and we look forward to being more deliberate in recognizing your accomplishments. When you succeed, we succeed.

Sincerely, your president

Terry Gaalswyk, Ph.D

AWARDS and HONORS

Minnesota West Achieves Numerous Honors

Bestcolleges.com has ranked Minnesota West one of the top 25 online two-year colleges in the country for three years in row (2015-2017).

Accredited Schools Online ranked MN West second among two-year colleges in the state of Minnesota in 2016 for its online education.

The Center for Digital Education (CDE) ranked Minnesota West Community & Technical College 6th in nation in the Mid-Sized Colleges Category in 2016 for its demonstrated innovative uses of technology, including online courses and mobile environments, mobile apps, secure platforms and wireless networks.

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Minnesota West Community & Technical College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges for 2016.

Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting the military and civilian worlds, designated Minnesota West Community & Technical College a Military Friendly® School in 2016 & 2017 for providing the best opportunities and conditions for student veterans to pursue civilian higher education training. Additionally, Barb Staples, Minnesota West Registration Processor & Veterans Certifying Officer, received a Certificate of Excellence in 2015 (for complying and assisting veterans with educational benefits at Minnesota West from the Veterans State Approving Agency of Minnesota.)



STUDENTS PLACE AT **SkillsUSA 2016**

Minnesota West was represented by six Electrical students at the SkillsUSA competition held in Bloomington, MN on April, 2016. Jared Benjamin, Collin Kor, Chuck Lacy, Nate Greiner, Matty DuHoux, and Kyle Rockensock competed at the event. Benjamin continued on to represent Minnesota West at the national competition in Louisville, KY, in June, 2016.



FLUID POWER COMPETITION

Fluid Power Technology student, Brandon Benson, of Tracy, MN placed 1st in the 2016 Minnesota Fluid Power Skills Competition, held at Alexandria Technical College on April 21, 2016. Brandon was awarded a \$600 prize from the Fluid Power Society for his placement. He was also awarded the Outstanding Student Award for 2016, which included a \$150 check.



MINNESOTA WEST WRESTLER PLACES 7TH AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Lamont Cannon, the sophomore 141-pound wrestler from Minnesota West Community and Technical College, placed 7th at the 2017 NJCAA Wrestling Championships in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Cannon, a Michigan native, won four out of five matches on Day 1 of the tournament. In his first match on Day 2, he lost 3-2 (on riding time), but rebounded to win the seventh place match. After also having placed seventh nationally as a freshman, the 2017 result makes him a two-time All-American.







BPA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Students from the Granite Falls Campus attended the Business Professionals of America 2016 National Leadership Conference, in Boston, Massachusetts May 5-9, 2016. Kristin Quist, Jeshua Thao, Mark McClain, Markus Quist, Maddie Jensen, and Preston Meyer competed, and all received national placings in various events. Another contingent of Minnesota West BPA students is preparing for the 2017 national conference in Orlando, FL.

Scholarships

During the 2016-17 academic year, the Minnesota West Foundation distributed 110 scholarship awards, totaling \$90,380. Four new memorial scholarships have been added for the 2017-18 school year.

-  Steve Johnson Memorial Scholarship – Steve Johnson was an avid supporter of Lady Jays Basketball. The scholarship is for students on the Worthington Campus.
-  Steve Ladner Memorial Scholarship – Steve Ladner was a maintenance technician who approached his job with positivity and enthusiasm. The scholarship is for students on the Granite Falls Campus.
-  Ray Crippen Memorial Scholarship – Ray Crippen was a tireless community advocate and supporter of Minnesota West. The scholarship is for students on the Worthington Campus.
-  Tim Hansen Memorial Scholarship - Tim Hansen was both a student and instructor in Wind Energy at Minnesota West. The scholarship is for students on the Canby Campus.

Dear Alumni and Friends of Minnesota West,

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of the Minnesota West Foundation, I am pleased to present this annual report for 2015-16. This will be followed by our annual report for 2016-17 in the next six months. This report recognizes the many supporters of the students and programs at Minnesota West, and it provides a snapshot of our Foundation's fiscal health.

2015-16 was a transitional period for our college and our foundation. The college brought on a new president, Dr. Terry Gaalswyk, on July 1, 2015, after a one-year interim presidency of Dr. Barbara MacDonald. And the Foundation hired a new executive director, Michael Van Keulen, on July 5, 2015, after a two-year interim with VP of Administration Lori Voss leading the Foundation. With our leadership in place, we are looking forward to setting a new course with our Foundation as we re-engage with alumni and work to serve our local communities and students.

A Foundation is only as strong as the organization it supports, and we are very excited to see the continued re-vitalization of our campuses. Our Granite Falls Campus has seen the expansion of its Fluid Power program into a more encompassing Mechatronics Program; we have brought back Precision Machining to that campus as well. Carpentry will be making a return to our Pipestone Campus. And our Welding program in Jackson is flourishing. These are just a few of the great things that are happening with technical training across the region, and the Minnesota West Foundation will continue to reach out to alumni and industry partners alike to help support the college however we can.

I would like to thank all of our donors for their generous support of the Minnesota West Foundation and Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Sincerely,
Kevin Paulsen
Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Paulsen, Pipestone (President)
Rick Dalrymple, Worthington,
(Vice Chair & Secretary)
Harry Davis, Redwood Falls
Larry Griffin, Jackson
Rita Christianson, Granite Falls

STAFF

Michael Van Keulen,
Executive Director

Summary Statement of Activities for the year ending June 30, 2016

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
OPERATING REVENUES & SUPPORT	\$237,439	\$153,792		\$391,231
OPERATING EXPENSES				
✱ Program Services	\$239,399			\$239,399
✱ Supporting Services	\$131,007			\$131,007
✱ TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$370,406			\$370,406
Operating Increase in Net Assets	(\$132,967)	\$153,792		\$20,825
NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$19,553			\$19,553
Change in Net Assets	(\$113,414)	\$153,792		\$40,378
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$236,001	\$925,805	\$68,260	\$1,230,066
Net Assets – End of Year	\$122,587	\$1,079,597	\$68,260	\$1,270,444

The complete audit report for the Minnesota West Foundation can be found at www.mnwest.edu/foundation

*We thank the following donors for their generous support
of the Minnesota West Foundation!*

2015-2016 Donors to the Minnesota West Foundation

Great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you see any discrepancies, please contact the Minnesota West Foundation. This list includes both cash and in-kind donations.

FRIENDS (\$1 - \$99)

Alvin Sachen
Amber Luinenburg
Bill & Lauri Keitel
Brian & Elizabeth Winsel
Bruce Amundson
Canby Classic Cinema
Carolyn Weber
Chuck & Amanda Lecy
Clifford & Karen Vrieze
Curt & Mary Melby
Dale & Joanne Carlson
Daniel Jenniges
David & Ellen Copperud
David & Kathryn Roslansky
David Thun
Dennis & Mary Finstad
Diane Graber
Diane Vangness
Donald Craig
Donald Shaw
Donna Wentz
Dorothy Sietsema
Douglas & Talana Mathiowetz
Edward Schell
Gregory Haubrich
Harold & Rosemary King
Iva Barber
James Howell
Jerry & Judy Fiola
Jess & Tammy Berge
Jill Callison
Jodi Christensen
John VanDyke
Keith or Barbara Turpin
Kevin & Betty Oeltjenbruns
Kile Behrends
Larry Griffin
Laurel Berg
Lee Johnson
Lonnie & Pamela Gades
Luke Warkentin
Lynne Liepold
Marcia Johnson
Marianne Behrens
Marion Cashel
Mark Anderson
Michael & Donna Van Keulen
Pamela Davids
Paulette Wiesen
Randy & Theresa Holinka
Rebecca Weber
Richard Mork
Robert Roesler

Sharon Jansen
Terry Morrison

SUPPORTERS (\$100 - \$499)

Bart & Peggy Cavanaugh
Beth Van Orman
Blake Meshke
Brad Christensen
Chris Swoboda
Christensen Metal Yard
City Looks
Dan Roos
David & Angela Laughton
David & Mary Miklethun
David Madison
David Walker
Dona Anderson
Early Risers Kiwanis Club
Fred Tilstra
Galen Benton
Granite Falls Kiwanis
Jason Turner
Joan & Philip Clark
Le Lucht
Leslie Bauman
Lori & Rick Voss
Lori Alderson
Lynn Vanderplaats
Mark Holden
Martin Marietta Materials
Mary Winter
Micha Armitage
Mid-States Wool Growers Association
Murlaine Rieger
Pamela Jensen
Peter Girard
Rita Miller
Robert & Anne Aby
Rolf Mahlberg
Ronald Schwint
Runnings of Canby, MN
Russ & Jan Rickers
Sandi Mead
Scott Anderson
Suzanne Iverson
Teresa Noyes
Terry Peterson
Valerie Klumper
United Food & Commercial Workers -
Local 1161

BENEFACTORS (\$500 - \$999)

Brian Beck
Canby Farmers Grain Co
Daily Globe
Dawn Regnier
Demester Communications, LLC
Dennis Hampel
Federated Rural Electric
Jeff & Lou Ann Williamson
Joel Kunze
Minnesota Elks Assoc.
Minnesota Rural Electric Assn
Nobles County Integration Collaborative
PEO Chapter EJ
Pipestone Vet Services
Stearns Electric Association Trust
Todd McMichael

PATRONS (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Ben & Meeta Baliga
Bruce Portnoy
Crow Wing Power
DeMuth Insurance Agency
Dennis & Gail Long
East River Electric Power Coop
Graham Tire Company
Granite Falls Bank
Joan Olson
Lincoln, Lyon Electric
Melanie Gorman
Muth Electric
Otter Tail Power Company
Pizza Ranch Worthington
Premier 1 Supplies LLC
Remanco Hydraulics, Inc.
Rotary Club of Canby
Sanford Health Regional Hospital
State Farm Insurance-Jason Vote
Terry & Sherry Gaalswyk
Vernon & Ardyce Anderson
Worthington Regional Healthcare Foundation

CHAMPIONS (\$10,000 - \$99,999)

AT & T Corporation
Hartfiel Automation
Kahler Automation
Sanford Health Corporate

PLATINUM CHAMPIONS (\$100,000+)

John W. Mooty Foundation Trust

Program UPDATES

Energy Center Grant

The Minnesota Energy Center was awarded a \$5.5 million grant in June 2016 from the Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund. The grant will fund leading edge research to ensure the growth, development, and delivery of renewable electric energy technologies throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota Energy Center was established by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in 2012 to develop partnerships with business and industry that ensure alignment with the current and future workforce needs of the state's energy industries. Minnesota West Community and Technical College and St. Cloud Technical and Community College are the co-campus leads in the Energy Center.

New Powerline Facility Groundbreaking

Minnesota West broke ground on a new \$2.5 M powerline technician training facility in October, 2016. Powerline technician students have had to do much of their training outside since the program was first introduced at the Jackson campus in 1966. The new indoor facility will allow students hands-on training throughout the year. The facility is projected to be completed by June, 2017.



Welding

The new Minnesota West welding lab opened in the Fall of 2015 on the Minnesota West Jackson Campus, with a significant equipment grant by AGCO. Minnesota West subsequently received an Academic and Student Affairs Award for Excellence in Curriculum Programming for its Welding Certificate Program. The Excellence in Curriculum Programming is for programs that produce graduates ready to take on the challenges of life after college and demonstrate they are in-demand by having consistently high enrollments and high graduation rates.

Precision Machining Returns to Minnesota West

The Precision Machining program at the Minnesota West Community and Technical College returned to the college this year. The two-year 'Machine Tool' program was discontinued in 2009, following the retirement of instructor Ron Arneson.

The updated program offers a one-year, 35-credit program that will train students for work in utilizing blueprints, precision measurement instruments, gauges, hand tools, and a variety of manual and CNC (computer numerical control) machines. Graduates will be able to create precision parts for a wide-spectrum of industries including medical, computer, aerospace, automotive and recreation.

New instructor Raymond Louwagie is a former graduate of the Machine Tool program. He has served as an instructor and currently runs his own facility, HR Tooling and Machining.

"It's now a one year program, which I believe is going to be better for non-traditional students and people thinking about a career change," said Louwagie. "The person who enjoys this type of work will have a unique combination of hands-on and mental skills. I know the industry is happy to see it back."

A Change in Name but Not in Quality

In the Fall of 2016, the Granite Falls Fluid Power Technology Program changed its name to Mechatronics and expanded its reach to include the Worthington Center for Career Education. Not only did the name change, but so did the course offerings and delivery method, allowing for hybrid theory courses and creative campus labs to accommodate the incumbent workforce. Rebecca Weber, Granite Falls Campus Dean stated, "The Mechatronics program brings forward the input and expertise of the industry to the classroom and labs. Industry collaboration has been key in retooling the curriculum to better prepare students for the workforce." Partners in the program retooling have included, among others, JBS of Worthington, CASE IH, and The Schwan Food Company.

Mechatronics prepares students for a wide variety of technical positions in the areas of robotics, industrial manufacturing and maintenance, fluid power, instrumentation, electronics and process control automation.



STAFF and FACULTY UPDATES



Dr. Shannon Fiene, Mathematics instructor, was a recipient of the 2016 Board of Trustee Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Fiene was one of only four instructors from across the state of Minnesota to receive the prestigious award. Dr. Fiene also received the 2016 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Central Region Faculty Award. The ACCT represents more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. The ACCT recognizes exemplary members in the categories of Trustee Leadership, Equity, Chief Executive Officer, Faculty Member, and Professional Board Staff Member.

Vice President of Administration Lori Voss was awarded the 2016 Chancellor's Award in December of 2016 in St. Paul. The award recognizes leadership for excellence in financial management and facilities management. It also recognizes the significant contributions and outstanding efforts of special employees at Minnesota State colleges and universities.



Kris Babler became the new head men's Bluejay Basketball coach in 2016. Babler was most recently the head coach at Rainy River Community College. Minnesota West also began offering club soccer for the Fall 2016 athletic season, with Babler coaching the men's team and John Gossom coaching the women's. Gossom has experience while in the Czech Republic building athletic teams. He holds a U.S. Soccer coaching license and played soccer in the past.

Retired farm business management instructor Clifford Vrieze was announced as the Region III winner of the 2016 ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award by The Association for Career and Technical Education. Vrieze was one of five finalists considered for the national title.



Dean of Management Education Paul Lanoue was chosen as one of eight finalists in the 2016 U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance Contest (USFRA) Next Class of Faces of Farmers & Ranching. The contest highlights dedicated farmers and ranchers who are enthusiastic about how food is grown and raised in the U.S.

✂ CLIP AND RETURN ✂

DO WE Have Your Information CORRECT?

We are re-booting our alumni and donor newsletter!

We want to be sure we have your information correct -- all we ask is that you fill out the information below and MAIL IT BACK IN THE PRE-ADDRESSED, POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE... Thank You!

Here is what we have on file: Is this correct? YES NOT QUITE You have the wrong person. I have no affiliation with this college.

Name

Correct Info: _____

Address

Email

Phone

Program of Study

Campus:

Year Graduated

DOB

FLUID POWER GRADUATE RETURNS

1997 Minnesota West Fluid Power graduate, Michael Pate, returned to Minnesota West recently for a tour of the campus with his daughter, Rachel.

Pate, a native of Texas, was attracted to the Granite Falls Campus Fluid Power program as a high school student because he worked in a hydraulics shop and enjoyed it, and his dad started looking around for schooling and found Minnesota West Community & Technical College.



Pate is now the president, owner, and founder of DNP Americas in Alvin, Texas. The company manufactures hydraulic quick couplings and hydraulic valves - "A lot of the components that go into the systems that we learned about in this school", notes Michael.

When asked about the career preparation he received from Minnesota West, Pate immediately responded, "Priceless. When I came here, I didn't know what a cylinder was, I didn't know what a pump was. All I knew was a little bit about hydraulic hose and fittings. I still use my training for what I did last week and what I did the first week out of school. I went straight to Nigeria, Africa after graduating and got a lot of experience. I was a little scared but the education kicked in. If it wasn't for it, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Michael's daughter, Rachel, wants to follow in her dad's footsteps and is a junior in high school making plans after graduation.

NURSING ALUM GIVES BACK EVEN AFTER DEATH

Lori Beck, Minnesota West 1990 Nursing graduate, class president, and honors graduate, believed in compassionate care, in giving back, and in helping others. Lori loved her experience at Minnesota West. She also knew the struggles of being a nursing student and how the little things helped.



Lori recently passed away after a battle with cancer. But her husband, Brian, wanted to keep her memory alive by donating over 120 pieces of nursing attire, numerous shoes, sphygmomanometers, and stethoscopes to the Minnesota West Nursing program to help students as they start their careers.

Lori had most recently been in nursing in White Bear Lake. She is remembered for her passion in nursing and care for her patients.



Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage PAID
Permit #86
Marshall, MN
56258

1011 First Street West
Canby, MN 56220

