



staying CONNECTED

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

SUMMER 2018 IN THIS ISSUE

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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 students attending Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Seasons OF SUCCESS



Fall



Winter



Spring



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

From the **PRESIDENT**

On Friday, May 11th, Minnesota West concluded its spring graduation activities, which included commencement ceremonies on each of our five campuses over the course of a week and a half. A whirlwind of activity, to be sure. When everything was completed, we collectively graduated 624 students, who can now call themselves "alumni" of our great college.

At each commencement exercise and the associated celebrations, the sense of community between the students who choose to attend Minnesota West and those choosing to serve our students was powerful. Although we have our challenges, it is the strong connections between our students, faculty, staff, and supporters which enable us to fulfill our mission.

During commencement season, it is inevitable that we reflect on what we have accomplished over the course of the year:

- Completion of a new indoor Powerline training facility at our Jackson Campus
- Groundbreaking for new residence halls at our Worthington Campus
- Ranked as the #1 Community College in Minnesota and the #3 college online nationally
- Great success in our athletic programs
- A 6% increase in enrollment at a time when many institutions saw falling enrollment

- Revitalized and retooled programs such as Carpentry, Mechatronics, Automotive Tech, and PowerSports
- Strengthened relationships with area high schools to provide hands-on training in high demand technical skills.



As always, we thank you for your support of Minnesota West. It is your continued advocacy and support which positions Minnesota West to provide the critical financial support so many of our students warrant. Nearly \$100,000 of scholarships were awarded through the collective efforts of our Foundation, an amount we were also able to replenish due to the generosity of alumni and friends of the college.

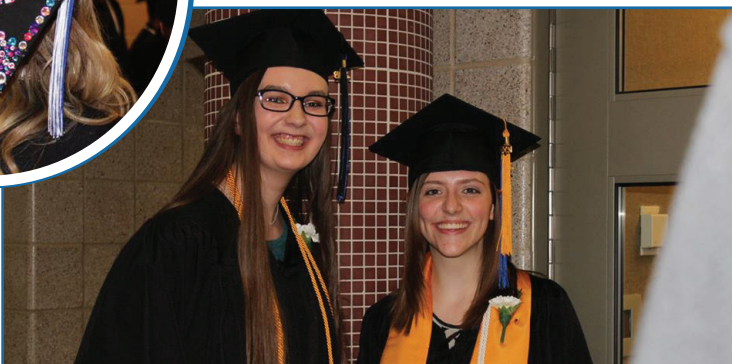
Enjoy your summer. It is a treasured commodity in Minnesota. We look forward to another successful year in 2018/19!

Sincerely, your president

Terry Gaalswyk, Ph.D

Graduation 2018

Minnesota West graduated 624 students this spring across our five campuses and two learning centers, which span a total of 19 counties and 21,000 square miles.



Comings & Goings

This past year, the Minnesota West family said goodbye to a number of longstanding employees, who retired after many years of dedicated service.



SHARON BALSTER
Administrative
Assistant
24 Years



JAMES LIEPOLD
Maintenance
20 years



LES KVAM
Customized
Training Instructor
17 years



TAMMY NEYENS
Admissions Processor
13 years



CRYSTAL STROUTH
Registrar
32 years



DAN ROOS
Faculty & Dean
35 years

Minnesota West also welcomed the following new employees in 2017-18

- Heidi Tarus – Biology Instructor
- Alyson Helgeson – Child Development Instructor
- Deanna Rowe - Tutor
- Abby Vercauteren – Tutor
- Jill Arp – Resource Specialist
- Richard Laumb - Maintenance
- Aaron Poor Bear – Men's Basketball Coach
- Wayne Verdoorn – Soccer Coach
- Dan Hattum – Sociology Instructor
- Theresa Ireland – K12 Collaboration Manager
- Kari Larson – Admissions Processor
- Jaymes Six – Pitching Coach
- Angie Houselog – Office & Administrative Support

Welcome back to the following alumni, who have come back to Minnesota West to share their talents with us!

- Solomon Derby – Carpentry Instructor (Carpentry, 1999)
- Lance Baumann – Electrical Instructor, Jackson Campus (Electrician, 2001)
- Taylor Lupton – Assistant Basketball Coach (Liberal Arts, 2014)



A VISIT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Minnesota State Chancellor Devinder Malhotra's goal last fall to visit all 54 campuses within the Minnesota State system finally came to completion in May when he visited the Canby Campus of Minnesota West. His visit included a conversation with longtime Canby Campus supporter, Jody Olson, as well as a special gift from Pipestone, MN.

Jody's late husband, Dr. Robert Olson, was instrumental in the creation of Canby Area Vocational Technical Institute in 1965. Jody continues that legacy through an annual scholarship, and she is a stalwart advocate of the college in the Canby community.

Chancellor Malhotra was also presented with a sacred ceremonial Lakota pipe carved by Ray Redwing, a Vietnam Navy veteran, member of the Santee Dakota Nation, and pipe carver who worked at Pipestone National Monument for over two decades. The pipe represents the four directions from which the four winds come: North brings the cold, cleansing winds of winter; South stands for warmth and growing; East is where the sun rises, bringing a new day; and West is the source of thunder and rain, which provides our lakes, streams, and rivers. As the Chancellor stated, "I was deeply moved by this gift, and the wisdom behind it will be an inspiration as we respond to our challenges and to the headwinds facing higher education."

PHILANTHROPY Corner

IRA RMD'S: THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

By: Cliff Vrieze

In the previous newsletter, we mentioned qualified charitable distributions (QCD). The following is a more in-depth look at this donation tool, as seen through the eyes of one person who uses this donation vehicle.

When I turned 70 in March 2015, I read that I needed to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from my traditional IRA in the year I turned 70 ½. Since it had been invested as pre-tax income, the initial investments and any investment gains that resulted were now taxable. Here is what I learned:

FACTORS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

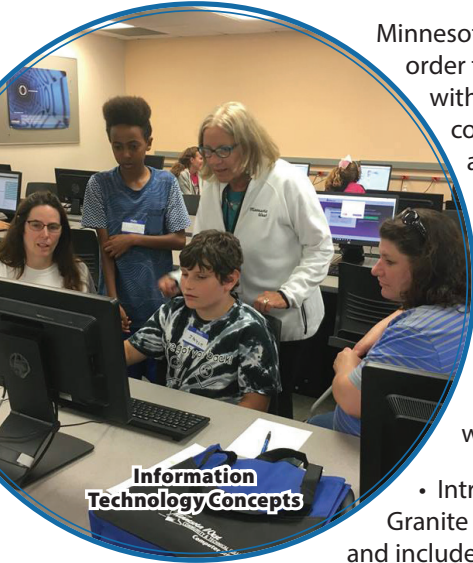
1. Be sure you know the correct year in which you need to start taking your RMD's. As a general rule take the RMD in the year you turn 70 ½ so you do not double up taking two years' worth of RMD's in the same tax year. Also if you do not take your RMD annually, there is a 50% federal income tax penalty for failure to do so.



Philanthropy Corner (continued on page 6)

PROGRAM UPDATES

CAREER PATHWAYS



Minnesota West continues to partner with local high schools in order to introduce students to technical education. Working with a local service co-op and a United Way grant, the college offers several pathways of educational learning and hands-on exploration to area high school students in high demand career path areas.

Opportunities began in the fall semester of 2017 with 54 students from ten high schools participating in Introduction to Medical Careers. The interest and demand areas expanded for spring semester 2018 and included:

- A Nursing Assistant class located on the Granite Falls campus, which included ten students from four high schools.
- Introduction to Manufacturing and Engineering, based at the Granite Falls campus, also incorporated a job seeking skills component and included 14 students from four high schools.
- Information Technology Concepts, taught in a hybrid model, which is both hands-on and online instruction, and included nine students from three schools.
- Basic Mechanics, based on the Canby campus, included four local high school students.
- Introduction to Education, based in Worthington, with 15 high school students enrolled and more offerings to come in the fall.



ADAPTING TO INDUSTRY NEEDS

Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson announced the introduction of two new program enhancements in Automotive Technology and Powersports Technology to begin in the fall of 2018. Recognizing the industry needs to fill technical positions more rapidly, the college is delivering a new model of training that will shorten instructional time and decrease the overall cost of the training program. Under the accelerated education model, prepared students will be enrolled in college for just two semesters (one academic year) and be ready to begin their new career.

The new enhanced program plan is based on the required outcomes of the Auto Service Technician (AST) model of the National Automotive Technical Education Foundation (NATEF) certification program. The instruction includes a more concentrated schedule to enhance mechanical and electronics skill development.

Graduates need to be ready to be productive technicians as soon as they hit the industry site. Strong mechanical skills and comprehensive diagnostic skills are paramount to meet the needs of industry partners.

Under this new training model, students will experience more lab focused activities that embrace industry certifications and specialty technical skills included in the NC3 programs. These skills are all defined by industry associations that support the technical skill standards required across the transportation industries.



Athletic Highlights

VOLLEYBALL

Bluejay head volleyball coach, Marie Johnson, was named the Co-Coach of the year in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference (MCAC) Southern Division, leading the LadyJays to an 11-6 record and entry into the Region XIII playoffs.



PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Andrea Hinkeldey was named to the MCAC All Southern Division 1st Team and the MCAC All State 2nd Team.
- Katherin Ihnen, Nichole Rowe and Andrea Hinkeldey were named to the MCAC All Academic team.
- Andrea was also named to the Elite 17 team for her accomplishments both on the court and in the classroom.
- Nichole Rowe was name NJCAA Academic All American

LADYJAY BASKETBALL

The LadyJay basketball team finished the season 24-6 and were named the Southern Division Champions for the first time in 25 years. Their season ended with a dramatic, 2-point, double overtime loss in the Region Championship game. The LadyJays also finished 10th in the nation in team GPA.



PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ashlynn Wabeke was named to the MCAC All Southern Division Honorable Mention team.
- Andrea Hinkeldey finished her career 7th on the all-time career scoring list and 8th on the all-time rebounding list.
- M'Kayla Mike and Avery Van Roekel were both named NJCAA Academic All Americans.
- Emily Haubrich finished 8th all-time in assists at MN West.
- Katherin Ihnin finished her career with 1,064 points and is 4th on the all-time career scoring list. Katherine also broke the single-game scoring record at Minnesota West, with a 48-point performance on Dec 2nd, 2017, and she broke the record for career rebounds and single season rebounds, a record that had been held since 1979. She was also the player of the year in the MCAC and 2nd team NJCAA All American. She was also named to the WBCA 2 year college All American Honorable Mention Team and was named to the



All-Academic team. Katherine's team jersey has been sent to the National Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, TN, where it will hang in the "Ring of Honor" for the next year.

WRESTLING

Retired head coach Bob Purcell was inducted into the NJCAA Wrestling Hall of Fame in February.



Wrestling had two NJCAA National Qualifiers this year - Wallace Michael @ 157lbs and Hser Eh Pwae @ 125lbs.

BLUEJAY BASKETBALL

Aaron Poor-Bear was the Region XIII Coach of The Year, guiding the 16-11 Bluejays to a surprising Region XIII Championship and a trip to the NJCAA Division III National Basketball Tournament in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. The Bluejays finished the national tournament in 8th place.

PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Alex Brown was the Region XIII Player of The Year.

BASEBALL

The Minnesota West baseball team advanced all the way to the MCAC Southern Division Championship game this season!



PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Aramis Linares, and Decker Quintana were named All Southern Division
- Jean Perez was named All Southern Division and All State.
- Joel Barker and Jeremie Garcia were named All Southern Division, All State, and All Region
- Nathaniel Owens, Carlo Zorlo, Darius Johnson, and Eduardu Toussett were named NJCAA Academic All Americans

FOOTBALL

PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS:

The following players earned MCAC player of the week honors this season:

- Caleb Tinklenberg, Reginald Colson III, Peyton Kendrick, Michael Preuss
- Reginald Colson was also NJCAA Player of the Week in September, as the number one receiver in the nation.

The following players were name to the 2017 MCAC All-Academic Team:

- Caleb Tinklenberg, Peyton Kendrick, Adonis Finny

Jackson Campus CELEBRATES ITS LEGACY

The Minnesota West Foundation hosted the first ever Legacy Event on the Jackson Campus of Minnesota West on April 13th, 2018. The event highlighted the three "legacy" programs on the Jackson Campus – Powerline Technology, Automotive Mechanics, and Construction Electrician - that have been in existence since the college opened in 1965. Alumni, current faculty and staff, and students battled an incoming winter storm to celebrate and reminisce. Former Jackson campus president Dennis Finstad served as the keynote speaker for the evening, which was held in the newly constructed, 7200 sq. ft. Powerline training facility.



Scholarship SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to new scholarship dollars this past academic year! Our goal was \$100,000 from September – December. Although we fell slightly short, raising \$83,000 during that time period, we more than made up for it from January – May with an additional \$120,000 in donations.

Congratulations to all Minnesota West Scholarship winners this past academic year! 156 scholarships were awarded to 132 different students for a total of more than \$95,000 in scholarship monies.



Philanthropy Corner (continued from page 2)

2. Talk to your investment advisor. My investment advisor asked me if I needed the RMD proceeds for my family or if I might wish to donate them. I indicated that I preferred to donate the RMD, which would also decrease my income taxes by \$500-\$800/year. He then asked if I itemized my income taxes. If I was going to itemize, I could take the RMD myself, put it in my checking account and then make the donation myself to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. If I took the standard deduction, I had to be sure the donations went directly from the brokerage firm to the 501(c)(3). (With the new federal income tax law, the standard deduction for seniors is now \$26,600, which significantly raises the bar for itemizing deductions).

3. Every year my RMD percentage will increase. In 2015 it was 3.65% of my IRA balance. This year, 2018, it will be 4.05%. If I live to be 87, my RMD percentage will be 7.46%, or twice the 2015 rate. My tax savings will also be greater if I directly donate to a 501(c)(3).

4. Call your brokerage company before making a charitable donation. When I finally found the Vanguard direct donation forms on the internet, the more I read and tried to complete the forms the more confused I became. So I called Vanguard to be sure I was completing the forms correctly. I also learned that my particular brokerage account does not verify that my donation is going to a 501(c)(3). That is my responsibility, along with retaining the donation acknowledgement from the charity. Some brokerage accounts require verification and some don't. That's another reason to call.

This year my RMD was completed with a 15 minute call to Vanguard. They sent me the check already written out to the Minnesota West Foundation, which I then forwarded along in the mail.

Not every brokerage company probably does it that way, but I still believe it is important to call yours to be sure your donation is handled correctly. This includes conveying accurate information about your charitable organization, such as name, address, etc. And of course, you can ask any questions you have. I ask a lot of questions.

5. Keep your paperwork. At tax return preparation time, I forgot to tell my tax preparer that my RMD was made directly to the Minnesota West Foundation. He assumed it was a normal donation that would be part of an itemized deduction. Fortunately, I caught the error, and my tax return was adjusted. If I had not caught it, the error would have cost me about \$800 in additional federal income tax.

Happy Donating! Cliff Vrieze, Minnesota West Board Member and Retiree

Please Note: The information provided here is general and educational in nature. It is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, legal or tax advice. We recommend consulting with your tax advisor or attorney before making significant financial decisions.

Alumni Updates

What have you been up to? We would love to hear from you!

Go to www.mnwest.edu/profile-update & update us on life since Minnesota West.

Also, "Like" us on Facebook and message us your selfie!  www.facebook.com/minnesotawest

1960s & 70s

Dale Bisbee (1969, Architectural Drafting) - Dale retired as a Construction Project Manager from Kraus Anderson Construction Company in Minneapolis after 43 years in the construction business. He and his wife Debbie live in Hamel, MN.

Roger Bottelberghe (1971, Auto) - After 47 years with Einspahr Auto Plaza (formerly Einspahr Ford) in Brookings, SD, Roger retired from his career as an automotive technician. Congratulations, Roger!

Randy Reimers (1978, Electronics) - Randy has been working in server and network administration with Scholarship America in St Peter, MN since 2015. He and his wife, Cindy, live in St. Peter.

Tony Texley (1979, Supermarket Management) - Tony started his career in 1979 with Super Valu in Willmar, MN, and then worked for the next 15 years in an agricultural warehouse. Since then, he has been with Cub Foods for the past 19 years. He and his wife, Kerry live in Willmar, MN.

1980s

Barry Kooiman (1982, Electronics) - Barry is currently living in Flandreau, SD, where he works for the US Postal Service.

Bradley Milbrath (1986, Liberal Arts) - Bradley has spent the past 30 years in Law Enforcement and is currently the Sheriff for Waseca County in Minnesota.

1990s

Jeff and Melissa Ahlschlager (1991, Powerline, Human Services) - Jeff is currently a Power Lineman at Nobles Co-Op in Worthington, MN, and Melissa is a Social Worker with the Jackson County Central Middle School in Lakefield, MN.

Deborah Perry (1992 & 93, Human Services & Liberal Arts) - Deborah currently owns her own social work practice, specializing in anxiety and trauma. She and her husband live in Waukesha, WI.

Troy BaumannFreund (1992, Nursing) - Troy completed his Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2014 from Old Dominion University in Norfolk VA. He is currently stationed at the Naval Hospital Guam as a nurse practitioner, and also serves as the Assistant Specialty Leader for all FNP's in the Navy.

Jeff Dahna (1993, Telecommunications) - Jeff is a former Telecommunications instructor and program advisor at Minnesota West. He is currently the General Manager of The City of Windom Telecom Department - Windomnet.

Tim Wartner (1995, Fluid Power) - Tim is the owner of "Hydraulic World," which sells, services, and designs fluid power and motion control products in Sioux Falls, SD.

Gwen Post (1997, Nursing) - Gwen is the Chief Nursing Officer at Sanford Medical Center in Worthington, MN.

Jennifer Klein (1997) - Jennifer is working as a librarian at Rock Valley, IA Elementary School

Kathleen Hattendorf (1997, Liberal Arts) - Kathleen is a Physical Education/ Adapted Physical Education Teacher in the Heron Lake Okabena School District in Minnesota.

Adam Henning (1998, Construction Electrician) - Adam began working for the City of Adrian, MN in 2015 as the Public Works Superintendent. He

previously had his own contracting business.

2000s

Michelle Brunk (2000, Human Services) - Michelle currently works as a Special Education Teacher on District 518's Special Education Assessment Team in Worthington, MN.

Jeff Bullerman (2001, Agriculture) - Jeff is an area farmer with 3B Farms near Adrian, MN.

Kristi Robinson (2001, Liberal Arts) - Kristi was recently named to the Top 20 under 40 Best Young Leaders of Northwest Iowa. She currently serves as the executive director of Love In the Name of Christ of O'Brien County, or Love INC.

Joshua Ling (2002, Liberal Arts) - Josh is a Special Education Teacher who specializes in Developmental Adapted Physical Education at Proviso Area Exceptional School in Maywood, IL. Joshua also finds time to work as a Coordinator for Special Olympics Basketball and Assistant Football Coach for Plainfield East High School in Plainfield, Illinois.

Ben Krohn (2002, Agriculture) - Ben is a farmer and Crop Insurance Agent with Compeer Financial in Worthington, MN.

Kayla Clarke (2003, Dental Assistant) - Kayla is a Dental Assistant at Shetek Dental Care in Slayton, MN.

Kurtis Myrllie (2005, Liberal Arts) - Kurtis is an Account Manager for Wyhe's Choice Fundraising, which is based out of Lester, IA.

Melissa DeGroot (2005, Liberal Arts) - Melissa is a Human Resource Specialist at Bedford Industries in Worthington, MN.

Elias Constans (2006, Powerline) - Elias is a Power Lineman at Nobles Co-Op Electric in Worthington, MN.

Brianne Einck (2006, Liberal Arts) - Brianne is a 1st Grade Teacher at Adrian Elementary in Adrian, MN. She and her husband live near Wilmont, MN with their two sons.

Tim Anderson (2006) - Tim is an Electronics Technician for Marshall Municipal Utilities in Marshall, MN.

CJ Nelson (2006) - CJ is the Programs Director for the Worthington, MN Area YMCA.

Craig Doty (2006, Liberal Arts) - Craig recently became the Head Men's Basketball Coach of Emporia State University in Emporia, KA. He is a three-time national champion basketball coach.

Laura Hoffman (2007, Nursing) - Laura is currently a Quality Improvement Advisor for Vizient, Inc. where she works to assist leaders of large academic medical centers through their transition to value based care. She is also currently pursuing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

Tara Einck (2007, Administrative Assistant) - Tara is a Loan Assistant with Prairieland Economic Development Corporation.

Kayla Hoffman (2007, Business Management) - Kayla is a Public Relations and Marketing Director at Greater Regional Medical Center in Creston, IA.

Amanda Robinson (2007, Liberal Arts) - Amanda currently serves as an Area Sales Manager for Doherty, where she manages Business Development Managers and 6 staffing offices across the Twin Cities and Western Wisconsin.

Forrest Murphy (2007, Wind Energy) - Forrest is currently a Wind Manager with Duke Energy in Canby,

MN.

Jeremiah Schutt (2007, HVAC-R) - Jeremiah lives in Winnebago, MN with his wife and two children. He is currently working as an HVAC technician for Royer's, Inc., a small plumbing, heating, air conditioning and mechanical contracting company. He is also the Mayor of Winnebago.

Alex Solem (2008) - Alex is a Wildlife Biologist with The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

Christopher Aggen (2008, Liberal Arts) - Christopher is a Health and Physical Education Teacher and Varsity Girls Basketball Coach for Jackson County Central Schools in Minnesota.

Nick Ahrens (2008, Liberal Arts) - Nick is a Quality Assurance Supervisor with Bedford Industries in Worthington, MN.

John Hubbard (2009, Liberal Arts) - John is an Industrial Tech. teacher for Worthington Middle School in Worthington, MN.

Sarah Schnieder (2009) - Sarah works in e-commerce for Houzz.com. She also has her own startup, sboji.com - a sunglasses company that sells sustainable eye wear made from bamboo, recycled skateboards and other naturally sourced materials.

2010s

Hayley Brandl (2010) - Hayley is a Radio Personality with Radio Works and manages Hayley Beal Photography in Worthington, MN.

Hannah Engelkes (2010, Nursing) - Hannah is an Interim Director of Nursing and Staff Development at The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in George, IA.

Tyler Skow (2010, Liberal Arts) - Tyler currently works for Minnesota West as a Bluejay Football Assistant Coach as well as working as a Property Manager for the Bluejay Villas in Worthington, MN.

Val Slinger (2010, Medical Lab Technician) - Val is a Medical Lab Technician with Merck in Worthington, MN. Her son Dalton will become a Bluejay this fall as he enters our Law Enforcement Program!

Jenna Donkersloot (2010, Liberal Arts) - Jenna is a Certified Nutrition Coach for Profile by Sanford in Worthington, MN.

Michael Schei (2011, Law Enforcement) - Michael serves as a deputy for Nobles County, MN, where, along with his K9 partner, he received the United States Police Canine Association's 2017 Detector Case of the Year for Region 12.

Sarah Maurer (2011) - Sarah is a school based Mental Health Therapist with Maple Lake and Kimball Schools in Minnesota.

Weston Mathiesen (2011, HVAC) - Weston owns and operates WM Plumbing and Heating, LLC in Pipestone, MN.

Katie Muller (2012) - Katie is a Radiologic Technologist with Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Health Center in Flandreau, SD.

Alyson Drooger (2012, Liberal Arts) - Alyson is currently the Program Coordinator at the Boys & Girls Club of Moody County in Flandreau, SD.

Dayton Williamson (2012, Liberal Arts) - Dayton is employed with Cambridge Technologies in Worthington, MN, where autogenous animal vaccines are produced.

Alumni Updates (continued)

Cali Mischke (2012, Radiologic Technician) – Cali is a Radiologic Technician with the Pipestone County Medical Center.

Nicole Lohr (2013, Nursing) – Nicole is a Registered Nurse with Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center in Pomona, CA.

Logan Ahlers (2013, Liberal Arts) - Logan is currently a Community Manager with the Bluejay Villas on the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West, which are scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.

Mara Eichenberger (2013, Liberal Arts) - Mara is a Kindergarten Teacher at Round Lake Brewster Elementary in Brewster, MN.

Dina Lubben (2013, Nursing) – Dina is a nurse at the Minneapolis VA Hospital in Specialty Medicine. She is also an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran.

Kayla Beatty (2014, Nursing) - Kayla recently began a new position as Director of Nursing at Avera Tyler Sunrise Manor in Tyler, MN.

Leah Duitsman (2014, Liberal Arts) – Leah is an employee at Brentwood Intensive Residential Treatment Services in Marshall, MN, which works with adults with mental illness.

Stephen Brunk (2014, Liberal Arts) - Stephen works in Information Technology for A&B Business Solutions in Sioux Falls, SD.

Lindsey Drooger (2014, Liberal Arts) - Lindsey is a Leasing Manager for Peak Campus, a student housing company, in Minneapolis.

Eric Koob (2014, Liberal Arts) Eric is a Finance

Manager for North American Truck and Trailer, Incorporated, based in Sioux Falls, SD.

Trent Carlson (2014, Liberal Arts) – Trent is a Physical Education and DAPE (Developmental Adapted Physical Education) Teacher at MACCRAY High school in Clara City, MN.

Tiffany Gehl (2014, Liberal Arts) – Tiffany is in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Alyssa Thier (2015, Nursing) – Alyssa is a School Nurse at Prairie Elementary in Worthington, MN.

Emily Williamson (2015, Liberal Arts) - Emily is the Leasing and Marketing Coordinator for the Bluejay Villas in Worthington, MN.

Erik Jass (2015, Liberal Arts) – Erik is currently a Surveyor for the Minnesota Department of Transportation in Windom, MN.

Colin Meinders (2015, Law Enforcement) – Colin recently returned to Worthington, MN to begin his new career with the Worthington, MN police department after serving as a Patrol Officer for the Waseca, MN police department for two years.

Melanie Baures (2015, Nursing) - Melanie is currently a Perioperative Nurse with First Light Health System in Mora, MN.

Abbie Landgaard (2015, Liberal Arts) - Abbie is an Account Manager with Spectrum Marketing Services in Moorhead, MN.

Renae Schuch (2015 & 2017, Liberal Arts, Business Management, Nursing) - Renae was recently named

as Pipestone County's Veterans Service Officer (VSO) and Deputy Emergency Management Director. A 10 year veteran of the U.S. Navy, she is the first woman to serve as Pipestone County VSO.

Hanna Bosma (2016, Nursing) – Hanna is a nurse at Sanford Medical Center in Worthington, MN

Sarah Vogl (2016, Child Development) – Sarah is the infant teacher at the SMSU Child Care Center. She recently graduated from SMSU in Marshall, MN with a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Studies.

Shawna Cowan, (2017, Medical Lab Technician) - Shawna is a Medical Lab Technician with the Mayo Health System in Fairmont.

Dani Hermeling (2017, Radiologic Technology) – Dani is a Radiologic Technologist at Renville County Hospital in Olivia, MN.

CORRECTION: In the "Alumni Updates" section of our last newsletter, we incorrectly stated that Tae Nordby and Haley Gravenhof (2004, 2014, Liberal Arts) are both expectant moms. This was an unfortunate typo. The correct statement should have been that they both style children and expectant moms at their jobs with Main Street Kids in Worthington. However, they are NOT expectant moms themselves.

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