Foundation Receives Large Estate Gift

Dorothy Fenstermacher was long-time supporter of Worthington Campus

Dorothy Fenstermacher was a long-time supporter of the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West, both financially and in donating musical instruments to the fine arts program. In 2007, Dorothy donated her baby grand piano to the music department when she moved out of her home; this piano is often used at events throughout the campus to celebrate Dorothy's gift. In 2009 when Dorothy was moving to Colonial Manor in Lakefield, she donated her prized harp to the music program and that has been used at both music events as well as for Minnesota West Foundation events on the campus.

When Dorothy passed away in August, 2011, she left one of the largest single gifts ever to the Minnesota West Foundation ever; leaving $200,000 to the Worthington Campus. At her request, the money will be split between scholarships for music students and scholarships for general Worthington Campus students.

Dorothy was born on a farm near Miloma, Minnesota and graduated from Okabena High School. She then attended the Mounds-Midway School of Nursing in St. Paul, Minnesota before working at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. She eventually continued her nursing work in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she met her husband, Warren. They married in 1949 and lived in Telford, Pennsylvania.

She began to take piano lessons in Worthington, she also took harp lessons in Sioux Falls when her teacher in the Twin Cities retired. Dorothy was also active in attending college activities including the musicals and plays performed at the college.

"Dorothy was a true lady, in every sense of the word. She was well-read, could talk about any subject, was an avid bridge player, had a great sense of humor, and was caring and concerned about the changing world." – Le Lucht

To join the Minnesota West Foundation's Legacy Society – where generous donors leave the foundation in their estate plans – please contact the Minnesota West Foundation at 507-223-7252.
Canby
The Canby Campus hosted its annual Xtravaganza on March 15, 2012. This was a great opportunity to check out the newly remodeled Diesel building, check out the latest in equipment on display, and enjoy a Whopper! In attendance was over 350 alumni, community members, current and prospective students. Prospective students were able to shadow our technical programs as well as gather information on Financial Aid, Scholarships, Admissions, and receive course information. The Diesel Technology students hold this event each year as a fundraiser for their program field trip and scholarships. Electrical students in Skills USA also held a part in this event by selling pie and ice cream to raise money for their trip to nationals.

Granite Falls
Four students from the Granite Falls Campus, along with two students from the Canby campus, attended the Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA) DC Summit March 10th through March 13th, 2012. As a part of this trip, students were given training on advocacy and meeting with legislators, as well as meeting with the US Green Building Council and touring the White House and Capitol. The students met with Congressman Collin Peterson, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Senator Al Franken. Items of discussion included Pell Grant funding, student loan interest rates, and textbook costs.

Jackson
Just a year ago, Jackson’s computer major Micah Hopper left his BPA national presidency with a speech in front of 6,000 students at the base of the Washington Monument in the nation’s capital. Now as an alumni, Hopper has been hired as executive director of the state BPA’s post-secondary division. Hopper says, “I am so proud of my local chapter. They continue the tradition of excellence by bringing home an amazing list of top 10 awards including two first places and five 2nd places at the State Leadership Conference held in Mankato in February.” Members from the Jackson Campus, performed very well in both individual and team competitions. Those placing 1st-5th move on to compete at the national level. The group is now making preparations to attend the National Leadership Conference which will be held in Chicago, April 25-28. Approximately 6,000 students from all three levels of BPA will come together to test their skills and knowledge against other students. Nationals is the final culmination of a year spent working on studies, skills, & fund raising. The following is a list of BPA members placing in the top five in one or more categories: Chris Cain, Julie Jackson, Pam Nosbusch, Sam Olson, Deb Schwager, Mike Schowalter, Anthony Thiessen and Bridget Thiessen. In all, the Jackson Chapter brought home 35 awards including Model Chapter Trophy and Advisor of the Year Award. Jackson Campus is starting an alumni chapter Fall 2012. To participate, past members should contact terri.pelzel@mnwest.edu.

Pipestone
Jackie Otkin, Campus Dean, is pleased to announce that Joe Brust of Russell, MN accepted the faculty position for the HVAC program. Brust brings 15 years of skilled experience to the program, including the past four years being self-employed with Brust Mechanical. Otkin stated, “We are pleased with not only the experience Joe brings to the program, but also the energy and excitement about the industry. He believes in hands-on education.” This 1995 RTR graduate learned the industry the hard way – as an apprentice. Brust believes that it took him four years of on-the-job training to get the background and “know how” that a student could get from a good two year program. According to Brust, learning what not to do was the most challenging when learning the industry on the job. He became interested in teaching while working at Bisbee Plumbing and Heating in Marshall, MN where he taught Minnesota State Plumbing Code to plumbing apprentices. Brust says “I enjoy sharing what I have learned and hope that students can benefit from the lessons I learned the hard way.” Brust resides in Russell, MN with his wife Tammy and their three children, Mason, Morgan and Dawson.
Worthington
The Law Enforcement program has been given full approval by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MNSCU) and the Minnesota Peace Officer Standard and Training Board (POST) to provide the clinical skills component, a necessary requirement for students to be eligible for licensure. Since 2004 Minnesota West has been approved to provide instruction to students in the academic component of the Professional Peace Officer Education Program (PPOE) but was required to contract with Hibbing Community College in order for students to complete the clinical skills component. Minnesota POST licensure requires that students complete both academic and clinical skills components prior to being eligible for licensure testing. Minnesota West Law Enforcement program has now been approved by MNSCU and the POST board to provide both of the required PPOE components in order for students to test for licensure eligibility and students will no longer be required to attend a second institution. Law Enforcement Coordinator, Mark Holden, stated, “Approval of the clinical skills component has been a long time coming. We have been pursuing this approval since 2004 and met road blocks from moratoriums on new programs, to the rejection from other established skills providers. With cooperation from MNSCU and the dedicated hard-work of Law Enforcement Program Administrative Assistant, Angie Hoffman, Minnesota West was able to complete the new detailed application process for the skills component and can now provide its students with the educational requirements necessary to become eligible for licensure.”

Fairmont
Fairmont Center student, Catherine Olson, recently joined the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce Board. Catherine will serve as a non-voting member on the board for one year and will provide input on what is needed for the post-secondary educational community in the Fairmont area. Catherine is currently pursuing an Associate in Arts degree and plans to pursue a 4-year degree in Education after completion of her studies at Minnesota West. Being a part of the Chamber Board will provide Catherine with a better understanding of the Fairmont business community and acquire experience that can be listed on her resume.

Luverne
The learning center in Luverne is undergoing an exciting expansion project. The center is expanding into what used to be the former medical center. The expansion project includes some exciting new additions for the center. The new space includes an additional ITV classroom – bringing the total number of ITV studios at Luverne the three, a large classroom space, three new Medical Assisting lab/classrooms, faculty offices, student services offices, and a larger new lobby and entrance with computers, study tables and couches and chairs. The expansion should be complete and up and running by the beginning of the fall semester.

Redwood Falls
A new permanent sign was installed early in 2012 at the Minnesota West Redwood Falls Center location. This replaced a temporary sign that had been in place almost since the center's opening in 2009. The new sign, along with a newly installed end cap on the Center's awning, provides the college with a much more visible and permanent presence for prospective students and for the Redwood Falls community. Full time enrollment at the Redwood Falls center topped 50 students in Spring 2012 and continues to grow.

Customized Training
The Customized Training Services Fire Safety Training program launched its new live burn structure fires mobile training simulator in March, 2012 at the final training sessions for the Dawson and Hendricks Fire Departments. The structure fires simulator is equipped with two separate live burn rooms to simulate a two room fire, insulated stainless steel panels, thermo-couplers for tracking the temperature and heat during the training, and built in sprinklers for extinguishing the fires. According to Daryl Bartholomaeus, Fire Safety Training Coordinator “This is a significant improvement in the quality of the training we are able to provide to our fire fighter’s throughout our region and allows us to monitor and control the safety of the training environment for everyone involved.”
Rebecca Weber, Canby Campus Dean, is proud to announce the addition of a new scholarship opportunity for the students on the Canby Campus. The Robert T. Olson, MD & Joan (Jody) Olson Scholarship is a $1,000 award now available to students. In memory of her late husband, Dr. Robert T. Olson, and her own tireless efforts in support of the Canby Campus, Jody Olson felt it was time to create a named award. “We have been donors and supporters of the Canby Campus and the Minnesota West Foundation for years, but now this [award] will be named,” stated Olson. After interacting with students in the community, Olson decided there should be a scholarship geared toward those who are single parents. “They have committed to an education in an effort to create a better life for themselves and their kids,” she explained. “Along with that, it is very important to me they have a determination to succeed.” An experienced school board member on many levels, Olson says education remains close to her heart. “A high school education alone isn’t enough. Today’s opportunities demand a focus on specific and realistic skills and technical knowledge.”

Did You Know...

Did you know that “Staying Connected” is published three times a year? Only one issue is mailed to save on postage and printing costs, but you can receive it via e-mail by sending your contact information to foundation@mnwest.edu or check out back issues on the foundation website at www.mnwest.edu/foundation.

The Minnesota West “Family Tree”

Many people, including our alumni, are confused about how they “became” Minnesota West Alumni. With this “Family Tree” you can follow how your graduation from a previous campus and/or college has morphed into Minnesota West Community and Technical College. While the names may have changed, the strong commitment to our students and communities has not. Through alumni giving, you can support the current students of your alma mater – no matter which campus you originally were a part of.
**Fluid Power Receives Donations from Businesses**

The Fluid Power program on the Granite Falls Campus received equipment donations from Hartfiel Automation, Pneumadyne and Pneu-Motion – all three businesses are operated by fluid power graduates. The equipment will be used by the students in their training.

**Carpentry Students Attend Builders Show in Orlando**

Seven students from the Pipestone campus carpentry program, along with instructor John Dahle, attended the National Association of Home Builders International Builders Show in Orlando, FL, February 8-12, 2012. With more than 51,000 attendees, an exhibit floor with over 900 exhibitors, and roughly 350 members of the media on the premises, the nation’s home builders once again displayed the pride and resilience that characterizes the building industry. Students from Minnesota West had the opportunity to see the exciting new products and services that exhibitors are offering in more than 300 building industry categories. In addition to the exhibits, students also attended the various education programs related to green building, project management, building science, and advanced framing techniques. Generous funding provided by the National Association of Home Builders and the Home Builders Association of the Sioux Empire helped to make this trip a reality for the Pipestone students.

**Alumni Weekend**

The Minnesota West Foundation hosted Alumni Weekend in February on the Worthington Campus. The highlight of the weekend was the celebration of the 1971-1972 Men’s Basketball State Championship as well as the 1991-1992 Women’s Basketball State Championship.

**Culture Corner Holiday Event**

For the past three years Le Lucht, Minnesota West instructor and coordinator of diversity and multicultural affairs, has partnered with the Nobles County Collaborative to host a holiday event that highlights cultural celebrations from around the world. Again this year, over twenty different countries/cultures were represented, sharing traditional food and dress with visitors. The proceeds from this event is used to provide a scholarship to a Worthington Campus student who is not a United States citizen.
Two Earn All-Minnesota Academic Honors

Jennifer Scholtes and Katherine Kazemba are honorees from Minnesota West Community and Technical College for the 2012 All-Minnesota Academic Team. This honor recognizes two-year college students for their leadership, academic achievement and community and college service. The accomplishments of these students are an excellent representation of the extraordinary education offered in the MnSCU system. The All-USA Academic Team is promoted annually by Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society which provides scholarships, scholastic recognition and promotes excellence at two-year colleges.

Women’s Basketball Coach, Mike Fury, Wins 400th Game!

Mike Fury reached a milestone not very many coaches get to reach. In January, Fury picked up his 400th collegiate win. To put that in perspective, only 40+ Division 1 college basketball coaches all time have reached that milestone. His first win came in 1981 against Sioux Falls and his 400th came in a 70-35 thrashing of Central Lakes.

In his 31 years at Minnesota West, Fury has led teams to nine division championships, seventeen state tournament appearances, four state consolation championships, six third-place finishes, two second-place finishes and two State Championships – in 1984 and 1992. The 1984 team finished third in Region 13 and the 1992 team finished second. Last year’s squad finished second as well. Fury has been named Minnesota College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1992, 1997 and 2011.

A graduate of Fulda High School, Fury attended Worthington Community College and led the Bluejays to two State Championships. During his sophomore year he earned All-State and All-Region honors. After his two years at the community college, Fury ultimately graduated from Hamline University in St. Paul. His wife Karen attends every home game and travels to every conference road game. His daughters, Gretchen and Sara Jo, saw most of their dad’s games growing up and both of them ended up playing for Minnesota West after high school. Now, Gretchen and Sara Jo bring their kids to games every now and then. Fury has three grandchildren, ages 8, 5, and 2 with another one on the way.

“It’s kind of a neat thing. You look up to someone so much and you have so much respect, so it’s fun to be a part of that.” says assistant coach and former Bluejay star Rosalie Hayenga-Hostikka. “His players look at him with so much respect, I think sometimes you watch him coach and he’s yelling and getting intense. It just amazing how different he is with the players and things behind the scenes. People don’t get to see that sometimes. But I think you’d find a lot of former players that have great respect for him and enjoy the time they played here tremendously.”

(Courtesy; Jocelyn Syrstad, Worthington Daily Globe)

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 507-223-7252.**
1940s

Ethel (Koster) Rodriguez – 1944, Science, Worthington – Ethel is living in Fairview Park, Ohio with her husband Ferdinand. Ethel earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in Clinical Laboratory Science in 1946 and worked as a medical technologist in Ithaca, New York where they raised their family. Ethel and Ferdinand have two adult daughters.

1960s

Linda (Anderson) Lintelman – 1966, Court Reporting, Jackson – Linda is living in Round Lake, Minnesota with her husband Kurt. They have two adult sons.


Gayle (Hansen) Flohrs – 1968, Education Secretary, Jackson – Gayle is living in Ormsby, Minnesota with her husband Allen. She works for the Pamida pharmacy. Gayle and Allen have two adult children.

Gene Pelzel – 1969, Construction Electrician, Jackson – Gene is living in Heron Lake, Minnesota with his wife Delores. Gene is self-employed; he and Delores have two adult children.

1970s

Jean (Resch) Hintz – 1971, General Secretary, Jackson – Jean is living in Northfield, Minnesota with her husband Kevin. Jean works at Hvistendahl, Moersch, Dorsey & Hahn, PA. Jean and Kevin have three adult children.

David Bohm – 1974, Automotive Mechanics, Jackson – David is living in Osakis, Minnesota with his wife Wendy. After working as a mechanic for nine years after graduation David became the manager for the NAPA Auto Parts store in Osakis and continues to work there. David and Wendy have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Amelia (Yahnke) Petersen – 1976, Jackson & 1983, Accounting, Jackson – Amelia is living in Fairmont, Minnesota and works for the Fairmont Area Schools.

Rick Fliss – 1977, Governmental Accounting, Granite Falls – and Cindy Fliss – 1976, Secretarial, Granite Falls – Cindy and Rick are living in Matthews, North Carolina. Rick is working for ADP as the enterprise solutions manager and Cindy is working as an inventory auditor for Costco. They have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

Bo Ba Nguyen – 1978, Jackson – BoBa is living in Fort Worth, Texas and working at Sandstone Village.

Susan (Van Beest) Harder – 1979, Liberal Arts, Worthington – Susan is living in Griffith, Indiana with her husband Dan.

1980s

Dean Berg – 1981, Electronics Technology, Granite Falls – Dean is living in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma with his wife Jill. Dean works for On First Page SEO. He and Jill have three children.

Michelle (Hansen) Lammers – 1981, Legal Secretary, Granite Falls – Michelle is living in Redwood Falls, Minnesota with her husband Jeff. Michelle is work for the Redwood Area Hospital as a financial systems analyst; she and Jeff have three children.

Lisa (Gluth) Madsen – 1981, Optometric Assistant, Granite Falls – Lisa is living in Morgan, Minnesota with her husband Jeff. Lisa works for Affiliated Community Medical Centers as an optometric assistant. Lisa and Jeff have three adult children.

Bradley Snyder – 1981, Accounting, Granite Falls – Bradley is living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with his wife Michele. Bradley is the co-owner and vice-president Midamerica Motoplex, a powersports dealership.

Corrine (Hess) Hancock – 1982, Legal Secretary, Granite Falls – Corrine is living in Marshall, Minnesota with her husband Harold. Corrine works for the North Star Mutual Insurance Company.

Jeffrey Kocak – 1982, Electronics Technology, Jackson – Jeffrey is living in Yankton, South Dakota with his wife Jean and their four children. Jeffrey works for MtronPTI as the Director of quality systems.


Les Anderson – 1983, Automotive Technician, Jackson – Les is living in Alden, Minnesota with his wife Keeley. Les is working for Hinkley Chevrolet in Wells. Les and Keeley have two children.

Christine Norman – 1983, Liberal Arts, Worthington – Christine is living in Minerva, Ohio with her husband Ralph and works for the Minerva Area Christian School as a music teacher and program director. Christine earned her bachelor’s degree in education from Malone College in Canton, Ohio and her master’s degree in education from Ashland University. She has also taught preschool, second and third grade while also teaching violin. Christine remembers being active in the InterVarsity Campus Ministry while at WCC. She and Ralph have three adult children.

Gary Onken – 1983, Accounting, Jackson and 1987, Worthington – Gary lives in Winandom, Minnesota with his wife Mary. Gary works for the US Postal Service as a mail handler/sales-service associate. Gary and Mary have two adult children and seven grandchildren.

Wayne Loeschke – 1984, Auto Body, Granite Falls – Wayne is living in Milbank, South Dakota with his wife Tracy and their three children. Wayne is self-employed.

Connie (Tindeland) Stromseth – 1984, Optometric Assistant, Granite Falls – and Dean Stromseth – 1984, Body, Granite Falls – Connie and Dean are living in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Connie works for the medical center in Hutchinson and Dean works for the US Post Office. Dean and Connie have three children.

Deanna (Deutsch) Ernster – 1985, Optometric Assistant, Granite Falls – Deanna is living in Tea, South Dakota with her husband Keith and working at Family Eye Care Center. Deanna and Keith have two adult children.

Bill Maxwell – 1985, Robotics and Flexible Automation, Granite Falls – Bill lives in Lakeville, Minnesota with his wife Sandy. Bill is an engineer IV, Productivity Team Leader for Thermo King, and has been awarded two patents and three president’s awards for his work. Bill and his wife have two adult children. Bill remembers studying hard for the entrance exam and the great support he received from instructors at Granite Falls. He credits his time in at Minnesota West with what he has been able to accomplish.

Ryan Remmers – 1985, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Ryan is living in Ocoee, Florida and works for SMC USA.

Terri (Miller) Moore – 1987, Nursing, Worthington – Terri is living in North Mankato, Minnesota and is working at the VA Health Care System as a psychiatric staff nurse. Terri has one adult daughter.

Michael Moret – 1988, Worthington – Michael is living in Hutchinson, Minnesota and works for the 3M Company.
1980s (continued...)
Lisa (Dunham) Mueller – 1988, Accounting, Pipestone – Lisa is living in Flandreau, South Dakota with her husband Chris. Lisa is the senior staff accountant at Royal River Casino. She has two adult sons.
Tomi (Zierke) Swanson – 1988, Liberal Arts, Worthington – Tomi is living in Kasson, Minnesota with her husband Joel. Tomi is the technology integration specialist in the Kasson-Mantorville School District and coaching first and second grade basketball. Tomi and Joel have two young children.
Karen (Pitt) Knutson – 1989, Optometric Assistant, Granite Falls – Karen lives in Cologne, Minnesota with her husband Chad and their two children. Karen is an ophthalmic assistant at the Lakeview Clinic and works for an ophthalmologist and an optometrist.

1990s
Darrel Ponto – 1991, Ag Production Management, Worthington – Darrel is living in Reading, Minnesota with his wife, Sara and their two children. Darrel is working at AgCo in Jackson where he works with AgCo dealers to repair equipment and report those issues back to the engineering and production staff.
Danielle (Pinckney) Brower – 1996, Administrative Assistant, Granite Falls – Dani is living in Cottonwood, Minnesota with her husband Jon and their three children. Dani is a daycare provider and foster mom while Jon works for North Star Insurance in the IT department.

2000s
Luc Fueston – 2000, Computer Science, Worthington – Luc is living in San Lorenzo, Ecuador. He works for space150.
Crystal (DeVos) McKeen – 2003, Medical Administrative Assistant and Administrative Assistant, Granite Falls – Crystal is living in Canby, Minnesota with her husband Brian. Crystal is an insurance biller for Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.
Greg Tracy – 2003, Agriculture, Worthington – Greg is living in Sibley, Iowa with his wife Tami. Greg works at Asgrow/DEKALB as a district sales manager. He and Tami have a two year old daughter.
Jill (Tracy) Handley – 2005, Liberal Arts, Worthington – Jill is living in Burlington, Kansas with her husband Dusty. Currently Jill is caring her their one year old son.
Leah Vandestroet – 2005, Dental Assistant, Canby – Leah is living in Sherman, South Dakota and works for McKennan Hospital. Leah is an admission representative after working as a dental assistant for 5 years. She is planning a Nov. ’12 wedding to long-term boyfriend Rory.
Kyle Bitterman – 2009, Liberal Arts, Worthington – and Andrea (Kohlhof) Bitterman – 2008, Massage Therapy, Pipestone – Andrea and Kyle are living in Ames, Iowa where he is about to complete his Bachelor’s degree in speech communications from Iowa State University. Kyle is also about to be commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserves. They have one young son.

2010s
Kari Omlie – 2011, Accounting, Canby – Kari is living in Glencoe, Minnesota.

Minnesota West Tribute!
The Granite Falls Historical Society is hosting a tribute to Minnesota West on June 24, 2012 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Granite Falls. More information can be obtained from Barb Benson at 320-564-3743 or on the Minnesota West Facebook and Twitter pages closer to the event.

Stay Connected with Facebook Too!
Join the Minnesota West Facebook fan page to learn even more about your favorite campus...or even find a classmate!
www.facebook.com/minnesotawest

Want to Join the New Legacy Society?
The Legacy Society allows a person to make a substantially larger gift to the students and programs at Minnesota West than they could during their lifetime. Contact the foundation office at 507-223-7252 if you are interested in these opportunities.

Redwood Falls Learning Center