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

December 2010

Staying Connected

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By President Ric Shrubb

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.

December 2010

With the support of the banking industry
throughout the state, the Minnesota
Legislature passed a law last year which
allows colleges to keep up to half of our
financial reserves in a local bank. First State
Bank Southwest submitted the winning bid
for this right, which means that $2.5 million
dollars will be kept in the region with the
interest from that money being spent on
local community projects.

The college is in high gear with the process
of re-accreditation through the Higher
Learning Commission. This process looks
at all aspects of the college to ensure we
are serving our students at the highest
levels. Many of the Higher Learning
Commission’s reviews and input sessions
are open to the public, and we encourage
all our constituents to visit our Web site to
participate in this process.

The list of good things we’re doing far
exceeds the brief mention we can deliver
here, so let me be sure to communicate
the most important message of all,
which is Thank You all for your
strong support of the students,
staff and faculty
at Minnesota West
Community and Technical
College!
Canby
The Canby Campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College is excited to announce a long awaited addition to the Wind Energy Technology program. AES Wind Generation of Lake Benton, MN generously donated a blade from a Zond 750 wind turbine for student use. The blade measures 76 feet in length and weighs approximately 8,000 pounds. The blade will be used as a training tool in on-campus courses ranging from Wind Energy Fundamentals to Rigging to Airfoils, Blades & Rotors. Students will have the opportunity to observe the overall components of a wind turbine blade as well as construction materials used to form it. Students will study the blade twist, taper and aerodynamic characteristics which improve the overall efficiency of the airfoil. “We are very thankful to AES Wind Generation for their continued support of our program and the development of our students,” stated Wind Energy Instructor Laceson Town. “Having this blade on our campus will create fantastic hands-on learning opportunities for years to come.”

Granite Falls
The students in the Granite Falls Campus PC Maintenance and Repair Class recently completed building two custom machines that will be used by the Computer Support Technology program to test components and scan and diagnose different computer systems for viruses. The custom built machines are designed for ease of use and are easy to add and remove hardware from. The machines include two fans for cooling with different settings and lights, and can each hold up to four hard drives to test and scan. In addition to these machines, the class also worked in teams to build six different computer workstations. This was a class project used to replicate what students might do on the job if they are working at a computer repair company.

Jackson
The computer lab on the Jackson campus on Minnesota West Community and Technical College now has a current piece of equipment for students to learn network routing, subdividing networks, controlling network access and more, all thanks to an approximately $60,000 donation from college vendor CISCO Systems. After months of talks between CISCO and Brian Tonsager, the network administrator for all nine Minnesota West campuses, a free upgrade of an out-of-date hardware card capable of running the newest software was installed this month. The donation was made possible only because it would be utilized in an educational situation. “Computer careers instructor Terri Pelzel doesn’t get money to spend to get a piece of equipment like this,” Tonsager continued. “She gets maybe $5,000 a year. This is a luxury, and students will benefit from this.

Pipestone
The 15th Annual Holiday Mixer was held on the Pipestone Campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College November 23, 2010. A Trail of Trees was on display for guests to view and vote for their favorite tree decorated by each to the programs on campus. More than 200 people from the Pipestone area came to enjoy the holiday spirit and treats. Winning the Student Senate decorating contest in the Most Festive Division was the Business Department, Most Humorous Division was taken by the Plumbing Program. This annual event is sponsored by the staff and faculty as well as the Student Senate of the Pipestone Campus of Minnesota West.
**Worthington**

On October 4th, the presidents of the colleges and universities that make up the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System as well as the Chancellor and other senior leaders at MNSCU came to the Worthington Campus for their monthly Leadership Council. This is the first time the Leadership Council has not met at the System Office in St. Paul in recent memory. The visit offered a chance to show the metro schools and System Office staff the amenities as well as the challenges of providing high quality education in rural Minnesota. The visit included dinner at Worthington's **Historic Dayton House** as well as local business stops in downtown Worthington. The presidents and the System Office staff also had the opportunity to partake in the **World Market** in Worthington which highlighted products and services offered by diverse businesses in Worthington.

**Fairmont**

The Fairmont Center recently started its 5th academic year of course offerings at the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus. The center is currently providing service to approximately 75 students in a variety of degree programs such as Liberal Arts, Business, Accounting, Administrative Assistant, and Post Secondary Enrollment Options. An active student group continues to provide monthly activities for students such as Halloween Night, Game Night, Spa Day at the Jackson Campus Cosmetology Salon, and much more. We encourage all alumni and community members to stop by the center for a quick tour.

**Luverne**

The Minnesota West – Luverne Center's Student Senate recently received a very high honor. With the spirit of the election season this fall, Student Senates across the state set goals to see which campus could receive the highest percentage of their student body to register to vote. On October 22nd the Voter Cup Contest winners were announced at the Annual Minnesota State College Student Association Conference. The Voter Cup award was presented by Minnesota Secretary of State **Mark Richie**. The Luverne Center was one of two institutions across the state to receive the Voter Cup Award by having 82% of their student body register to vote!

**Redwood Falls**

The Redwood Falls Center is continuing to make its presence more known in the Redwood Falls area. Lettering on the side of its building was recently added, and a new, permanent sign along the main street in front of the building is being constructed by Redwood County. Additionally, a new awning over the entrance to the center is being added this winter with Minnesota West lettering. "The biggest challenge with our center right now is letting people know we are here," stated **Michael Van Keulen**, Center Director. "These steps will go a long way in building our brand in Redwood Falls."

**Customized Training**

Customized Training Services - Fire Training Program received a donation of a new, full size fire hydrant training prop from the City of Pipestone Public Works and Water Department. According to **Daryl Bartholomaus**, Fire & Industrial Safety Training Coordinator, Minnesota West's Fire Safety Program is the only one in the region to have this one-of-a-kind fire hydrant training prop. The Fire Training program conducts fire safety training programs serving nearly 90 volunteer fire departments throughout Southwest Minnesota delivering an average of 15,300 hours of training annually.
Student Spotlight

Maria Anguiano – Cosmetology – Jackson Campus

Maria Anguiano is a first year cosmetology student who came to Southwest Minnesota in 1998 after growing up in Mexico. She graduated from Worthington High School in 2004. After some time off and beginning her family, she has two daughters ages four and two, Maria wanted to get back to school. She decided she wanted to go to school for cosmetology and began taking classes at a cosmetology school in Worthington. However, the school was not a good fit for Maria and she began looking at the cosmetology program on the Jackson Campus of Minnesota West. Maria met with the staff at Minnesota West and liked what she found so she began the enrollment process. During that process, there was an issue with her diploma from high school and the issue was going to keep her from enrolling for the fall semester. She met with Jim Grove, the retiring campus administrator for the Jackson Campus, and Jim helped her through the enrollment process and worked with Maria to clear up the issues with her diploma. Maria was allowed to enroll in the cosmetology program on time and begin her school courses. Since beginning her program, Maria has enjoyed her time with the instructors and the other students in her program. She continues to work part-time while going to school and raising her two children. Maria says her plans are to finish her program and find a job to support her family.

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.

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 2009-2010 audit and the 2009-2010 tax return on the website.

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.
Minnesota West Foundation Launches Legacy Society

The Legacy Society allows a person to make a substantially larger gift to the students and programs at Minnesota West through their estate planning. These donors are the initial class of Legacy Society Donors.

Rod Schmidt – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
When he graduated high school, the University of South Dakota offered him a scholarship, but it was Worthington Community College Track Coach, Arlen Patrick, who came to Schmidt’s home and offered him a chance to be successful at a smaller campus and community and told Schmidt that he would get him housing and a job, necessities for the financially strapped Schmidt. Schmidt says the decision to forgo USD for WCC probably saved his life; he feels he would have probably dropped out and been drafted into the armed services and sent to the Vietnam War. Instead, Schmidt took Patrick’s offer and began working as a janitor and living in a house with other athletes. The challenge for the track team was to win the state title, and when Schmidt won his final race and the WCC team won the state tournament, Schmidt told Patrick that it was time to move on to a bigger school and more opportunities than were present at the time in Worthington. When he completed his degree in sales, he had several job offers. After climbing the corporate ladder at both Shell Oil and Mobile Oil, Schmidt was working in management and a top sales person living in Manhattan in New York City. After twenty years, Schmidt decided it was time for a different phase of his life, and he moved to Sioux Falls. The Rod Schmidt Endowment will support students from similar life situations as Rod had and students who need an opportunity to succeed.

Dennis & Marie Weeks – Worthington, Minnesota
Growing up in Southwest Minnesota, both Dennis and Marie Weeks found education to be an important calling for their lives. Both attended South Dakota State University, and both ended up teaching at schools in Iowa. Dennis decided to get into the insurance business and found that he wanted to ensure that his six children were able to attend college, so he took out a life insurance policy that could be used to pay for college when his children needed the money. When Weeks lost his best employee to the local bank, Weeks decided it was time to sell the insurance business and get back into education. That decision led him to Worthington Community College in 1996 to become a math and physics instructor. As his children got older and that life insurance policy moved from being a safety net, to a college education helper and finally to supporting his children purchasing their own homes, Weeks was left with a policy that had no more purpose for the family. Weeks was fond of the school and the opportunity Minnesota West had given him to return to teaching so he decided that endowing student scholarships at the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West was a terrific way to share his financial resources. Weeks continues to teach one section of physics each semester at Minnesota West, even after his retirement.

Dale & Joanne Carlson – Worthington, Minnesota
Dale Carlson came to Worthington Community College as a biology instructor in 1966 and ending up staying for over thirty years as an instructor and administrator. Carlson taught a variety of biology courses for both student majoring in biology and non-majors. In 1978 he began his administrative career becoming the acting dean of instruction for two years before moving back to the classroom. In 1987 Carlson became the dean of academic services, and after WCC merged to become Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Carlson was named the executive vice-president of instruction until his retirement in 1998. Dale grew up in Strandquist, MN before completing his undergraduate work at Bemidji State College (Bemidji State University now), his master’s degree from the University of South Dakota and his doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University in 1979. He taught at Stephen High School in Stephen, MN before coming to Worthington High School in 1964 and then came to WCC. Joanne grew up near Abercrombie, ND and completed her undergraduate degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. She taught home economics in Thief River Falls and in Stephen. They were married in 1962 and have three daughters. The Carlson’s wanted to make this gift because of the time spent in the Worthington Community and in appreciation of the college and the students who attend the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West.
Pipestone Campus Ranked among Top 50 Two-Year Colleges

The annual ranking of “America’s Best Colleges” was published in the September/October issue of Washington Monthly magazine. Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Pipestone campus ranked #30 on the list of Top Community Colleges in the Country. The rankings are based on data provided by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, established by the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin, and graduation data from the U.S. Department of Education. Student engagement data comes from surveys of students at about 650 community colleges. “While all the community colleges on the list are inexpensive, have open admissions and are largely unknown outside their local communities, they stand out in teaching and helping students earn degrees,” wrote Kevin Carey, policy director of Education Sector, a Washington, D.C. based think tank, in Washington Monthly. “When it comes to quality of instruction they outperform not only their two-year peers, but many elite four-year research universities as well. At the best community colleges, teaching comes first.”

State Championship Banner for Women’s Golf

There wasn’t a state championship banner hanging in the Minnesota West gym for the women’s golf team until now. The Lady Jays shot a 302 on the second day of the MCAC Region 13 tournament, holding off Rochester by two strokes for the state title. MW head coach Ron Wood said, “It’s really an exciting day because it’s been a crazy year for golf.” The weather hasn’t allowed MW a full schedule this year, but the Lady Jays played like they were in mid-season form anyway. “We’ve faced them two or three times this year and we have never been able to beat them, and we beat them today,” Wood said of Rochester. “We just played very steady golf. We did not throw any strokes away.” Wood said. “It’s nice to go to the nationals with a state championship team. In terms of the state with regions, we were the best teams in the region in the state, too. We’re coming home with a lot of hardware.”

Nursing Program Receives NLNAC Accreditation

Minnesota West Community and Technical College is pleased to announce that the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC) is awarded Accreditation until 2015 for the Associate Degree Nursing Program; this program prepares students to take the Registered Nursing licensure exam. Ruth Van Heukelom, Director of the Associate Degree Nursing Program comments, "We are pleased to offer high quality nursing education. Accreditation from the NLNAC affords increased job opportunities for our graduates. NLNAC accreditation also facilitates a smooth transition to schools that offer advanced degrees in nursing.”

Dental Assisting Program Receives ADA Accreditation

Minnesota West Community and Technical College is pleased to announce the Dental Assisting program has again been awarded Accreditation by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. The accreditation process includes a comprehensive self-analysis of resources, curriculum, policies and operational standards and on-site interviews with administrators, instructors, staff and students to ensure that the program meets accreditation standards. Accredited programs receive a follow-up site review every seven years. Dental Assisting Program Director, Teresa Noyes stated, “We are very happy to have successfully completed the Accreditation process. It is imperative for the success of our students that our program is approved by the ADA.” Upon completion, students will take national and state examinations leading to certification and registration in their field.

According to Efin Weness, Agricultural Tax Advisor...

“Gifting grain to a charitable organization can be a very viable and desirable option for cash-method farm proprietors. Farmers cannot claim the commodity gift as an itemized deduction, but sidestep both the income tax and Social Security tax on donated commodities by not including them on the Schedule F.”

**Items to Note:**

- A farmer will gift the grain to the charity (such as Minnesota West) and let the charity decide what to do with it and when to sell it. If the farmer sells and tells the elevator to “send the check” to the charity, it is **NOT** a charitable gift.
- A farmer may wish to take the grain to an elevator and store it and get a warehouse receipt in the name of the charity and then present the warehouse receipt to the charity. Again, the key to the donation lies in the farmer gifting the grain to the charity.

Please let us know your intentions before you make your grain donation by calling Jim Smalley – Executive Director of the Minnesota West Foundation to discuss arrangements for accepting your gift of grain.

Jim Smalley 507-372-3475 or 1-800-658-2335 or james.smalley@mnwest.edu

**THE MINNESOTA WEST FOUNDATION**

1011 First Street West - Canby, MN 56220

Notes&News
1970s

Ryan Anderson – 1971, Worthington – Ryan lives in San Ramon, CA with his wife Sharon and is self-employed. Ryan and Sharon have two adult children.

Lynne (Almhjell) Liepold – 1971, Fashion Merchandising, Pipestone – Lynne lives in Heron Lake, MN with her husband James. Lynne is the marketing coordinator for the Jackson Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Tom Neeb – 1972, Worthington – Tom is living in Los Banos, CA with his wife Cindy. He is the Director of Special Projects for the Los Banos Unified School District. Tom taught in Alaska, Minnesota, Colorado and California before working at Los Banos the past twenty-one years. Tom and Cindy have two college-age children. Tom remembers his long-time friend and classmate Bruce Amundson, who is teaching at Minnesota West in Worthington.


Jim Fischer – 1973, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Jim lives in Clara City, MN with his wife Marlys and is the Fluid Power Instructor at Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Jim and Marlys have two adult children.

Phil Knutson – 1973, Electronics Technician, Jackson – Phil is living in Andover, MN with his wife, Cora. They have three adult children.

Teresa (Sullivan) Noyes – 1978, Dental Assistant, Canby – Teresa is living in Porter, MN and is a dental assistant instructor for Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Peter Girard – 1978, Diesel Technology, Canby – Pete is living in Canby, MN with his wife Sandra and working as the Diesel Technology Instructor for Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Pete and his wife have three adult children.

Lynn (Lauer) Vander Plaats – 1978, General Secretary with Shorthand, Pipestone – Lynn lives in Ward, SD with her husband Michael and works for Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Pipestone as Student Services Advisor. Lynn has worked for the college for almost 30 years and began working there the summer after her graduation. Lynn and Michael have three adult children.

1980s

Connie (Skovlund) Karl – 1981, Accounting, Canby – Connie is living in La Crosse, WI with her husband David and their two children. Connie works for the La Crosse Burlington Credit Union.

Leslie (Schulz) Bauman – 1983, Accounting, Granite Falls – Leslie is living in Montevideo, MN with her husband Mike. Leslie is an Accounting Instructor for Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Leslie and Mike have seven children.

Dan Schmitt – 1985, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Dan is living in Farmington, MN with his wife Sherry and working at John Henry Foster. Dan and Sherry have three children.


Brad Christensen – 1987, Accounting & 1999, Computer Support, Granite Falls – Brad lives in Granite Falls, MN with his wife Maria and their two children. Brad is an information technology specialist with Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Lauriann (Zobel) Martinez – 1987, Optometric Assisting, Granite Falls – Lauriann is living in Sioux Falls, SD with her husband Roberto and their two children.


Michael Hoppe – 1989, Worthington – Michael is living in Shakopee, MN and owns Corporate 4 Insurance Agency. Michael remembers his time at WCC as one of the best years of his life with the great students, teachers and coaches, especially former football coach Don Varpness. Michael is also a member of the NJCAA Hall of Fame for his time on the WCC football team when he played with current Minnesota West coaches Jeff Linder and Scott Barber.

1990s

Gary Olsen – 1992, Construction Electrician, Jackson – Gary is living in Ihlen, MN with his wife Marcine and is a Wind Energy Technology Instructor for Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Gary and Marcine have four children.

Beth (Jueneman) Van Orman – 1992, Psychology, Worthington – Beth lives in Worthington, MN with her husband Troy and their son. Beth is the Psychology Instructor at Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Rosalie Hayenga-Hostikka – 1992, Worthington – Rosalie is living in Worthington, MN with her husband T.D. She teaches biology and physical education at Minnesota West Community and Technical College where she is also the softball head coach and basketball assistant coach.

Lynel Honerman – 1993, Worthington – Lynel is living in Boulder, CO.

Deanna Scott – 1994, Business Management, Worthington – Deanna is living in Luverne, MN and working at the Minnesota Veteran’s Home in Luverne and also works with her daughter selling insurance. Deanna has two children.

Scott Williams – 1996, Worthington – Scott is living in Worthington and stationed at the Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. Scott is a Master Sergeant for the Air Force. He and his wife, Tammy, have two adult children.

Jeff Sexton – 1997, Telecommunications, Jackson – Jeff is living in Ankeny, IA with his wife Kristi and their two children. Jeff is working for Avaya as an account manager after spending time in the Twin Cities, Washington, DC, New York City and New Hampshire. Kristi works for the Madrid School District. He is happy to be back living close to home.
Nolan Lindner – 1998, Collision Repair Technology, Granite Falls – Nolan is living in Watertown, SD with his fiancé Heidi and working with Terex Utilities as a certified welder and owns Kranzburg Color and Collision Repair. Nolan is also completing his bachelor’s degree at Mount Marty College.

2000s
Kiri (Lokken) McCarty – 2006, Medical Secretary, Granite Falls – Kiri is living in Waterton, MN with her husband Dustin and their son. Kiri and Dustin were married in June. Kiri is working as a Home Health Bookkeeper at the Chippewa County Montevideo Hospital in Montevideo, MN.
Matthew Loeslie – 2006, Law Enforcement, Worthington– Matthew is living in Lynd, MN with his wife Marcia and their one daughter. Matthew is working for Customized Training for Minnesota West Community and Technical College as the Law Enforcement Training Coordinator as well as still working part-time for the Marshall, MN police department.
Diana (Keeler, Zirbel) Portz – 2008, Medical Assistant, Worthington – Diana is living in Jackson, MN with her husband David. Diana is a paint prepper at Agco. Diana has two children and two grandchildren.
Sonya (Petersen) Iverson – 2010, Massage Therapy, Pipestone – Sonya is living in Ruthton, MN and working at Preferred Massage in Marshall, MN. Sonya has two children.
Brandon Vanderwerf – 2010, Law Enforcement, Worthington– Brandon is moving to Mankato, MN to finish his bachelor’s degree.
Jason Rasmussen – 2010, Machine Tool, Granite Falls– Jason is living in Redwood Falls, MN.

Alumni Keep us informed of what you are doing by updating your information at: www.mnwest.edu/alumni.

Did You Know...
This publication, “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 see past issues on the foundation website at www.mnwest.edu/foundation.

February 5, 2011
The Minnesota West Foundation will be hosting an Alumni Weekend on February 5th, 2011 in Worthington. Join us for the Women’s basketball game beginning at 1:00pm with the Men’s basketball game at 3:00pm. The weekend will feature a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the men’s basketball state championship as well as an alumni event following the basketball games. For more information contact the foundation office at 1-800-658-2535 or foundation@mnwest.edu

Left to Right: Seated- Gary Thom, Connie Wussow; Standing-James Erickson, Darrell Skallerud, Harlan Anderson, all Granite Falls Campus graduates who work at MTS Systems Corporation in Eden Prairie, MN.