Andreasen connects history of Minot State and Valley City State
Bethany Andreasen, professor of history, will present “McFarland & Co.: Connections Between Minot State and Valley City State” Feb. 25 in the Conference Center, 7 p.m. Andreasen’s lecture is part of the Northwest Art Center lecture series.

“Over the years, these two institutions have had a great deal in common,” Andreasen states. “The training of teachers for the state served as their defining mission for the early decades of their existence. Both experienced the expansion and growing pains of the transition from normal school to teachers college, state college, and finally, state university status.”

Andreasen’s lecture will identify important individuals who were connected to both schools, and examine the careers of a few who played important roles in the development of Minot State.

“Chief among these are George McFarland, one of the most influential educators in the history of North Dakota, who served many years as president of each institution, and Huldah Winsted and Lester Hartnett, who were students at Valley City and longtime members of the faculty at Minot,” said Andreasen.

Andreasen joined MSU’s faculty in 1991. She teaches courses in 19th and 20th century American history, as well as African American history and the history of women. Her research focus is on American social and cultural history, and she is currently engaged in a comparative history project examining the development of normal schools in North Dakota and Saskatchewan from 1890 to 1930.

Andreasen has worked with numerous students on a variety of local history projects, including the Downtown Minot History project for the Minot Downtown Business and Professional Association, and research for the Eastwood Park Association. She is the founder and director of the Digital Minot Project, an online archive and museum of local history. She is co-director, with Dan Ringrose, of the Minot’s Common Heritage project, which seeks to digitize historical materials held by community members. She currently serves on the North Dakota Humanities Council board of directors and the Institute of Regional Studies Press advisory board at North Dakota State University.

The lecture is free and open to the public. An informal reception will follow the program. This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.
Pictured is George McFarland, who served as president of both Minot State and Valley City State, pictured in 1911. For questions, contact nac@minotstateu.edu.

--Avis Veikley, Northwest Art Center director