MSU receives national community service award

Minot State University was named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteerism, service learning and civic engagement. MSU is the only North Dakota university or college to earn this award in 2013.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual honor roll award, recognized 690 colleges and universities for their impact on critical issues.

“We’re more than pleased to receive this Presidential Honor from the Corporation for National and Community Service,” said David Fuller, MSU president. “While we’ve felt for some time that we were reaching out to the community in many special ways, being on this honor roll validates those achievements and gives us incentive to continue to connect with groups in need as well as assist in solving society-based concerns and issues.”

Examples of Minot State volunteer, service-learning or civic-engagement projects include:

• The Adult Health Maintenance Clinic, a hands-on service-learning experience for students to assist senior citizens in Henry Towers with vital health concerns.

• Freezin’ for a Reason, the MSU Student Social Work Organization promoted awareness and raised donations to assist the homeless in the region.

• Champions of Character/Dream Catchers Day, an opportunity for youth with disabilities to participate in a baseball game, with MSU student-athletes as teammates.

• An MSU Honors class organized a cleanup and block party for a neighborhood devastated by the 2011 Mouse River Flood. The class shared its story, which resulted in the Minot Area Community Foundation’s "Adopt a Neighborhood" program. The program facilitated volunteer groups, businesses or nonprofit organizations’ collaboration with neighborhood leaders in the flood zones.

Higher education institutions on the honor roll are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.
‘Punked in the Magic City’
Sarah Aleshire and Rick Watson, Minot State University Division of Humanities faculty, will ponder the highs and lows in Minot’s punk/rock music history in “Punked in the Magic City” Tuesday (March 19). This Northwest Art Center lecture, free and open to the public, is in Aleshire Theater at 7 p.m.

From Liberty Tavern to Pangea House, from bars to churches to basements, local punk/rock music has continually reinvented itself and built community, often without a “place” to call its own.

“The energy and resources required to first create space, to then create meaning, is not sustainable in the long term,” Aleshire said. “The result is a visible ebb and flow of people trying and failing and trying again anyway.”

Watson will perform several songs, including his own “little PunkT life song,” which reflect Minot’s punk/rock subculture.

A question-and-answer period and informal reception will follow the presentation.

‘Reading for Rugrats’ collecting books through March
Minot State University’s “COMM 324: Community Relations” class is sponsoring “Reading for Rugrats.” This program is designed to help deployed Minot Air Force Base personnel who wish to leave lasting memories in their absence. “Reading for Rugrats” is currently soliciting donated books and offering to produce audio recordings of parents reading to their children. Families will be provided an audio CD at the semester’s end.

“I think the idea behind ‘Reading for Rugrats’ is very unique and can leave a great impact on these families,” said student Josh Sandy, broadcasting (public relations) major.

“This project was the outcome of three entities: my course, the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning and Minot’s RSVP+. Together, we wanted to help the community and engage students in an active way,” said Audra Myerchin, assistant communication arts professor. “The students are excited about the project and proceeded without reservations.”

Collection bins for books are at Old Navy, Main Street Books, Minot Air Force Base, Goodwill, Minot Public Library, MSU Post Office, Beaver Brew Cafe, Arrowhead Mall and Restore. The class will collect books through March 31.

For more information, contact Myerchin at 858-4238 or audra.myerchin@minotstateu.edu.

MSU helps with College Goal Sunday
Minot State University staff members will participate March 24 in the sixth annual North Dakota College Goal Sunday in Old Main 314, 1–3 p.m. Their mission is to help college-bound students and their families complete and submit college financial aid applications online.

This is a free event for students interested in furthering their education after high school. College Goal Sunday’s objective is to get students on the right track toward applying for aid to pay for college.

Most colleges, universities and vocational and technical schools in the nation require students seeking federal financial aid, including grants and loans, to complete the Free Application
for Federal Student Aid. Because many types of aid are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, this form should be completed as soon as possible after Jan. 1. April 15 is the priority deadline for North Dakota state aid, while colleges and universities have campus priority deadlines too. While forms may still be submitted after April 15, students may miss financial aid opportunities.

“At College Goal Sunday, we help students complete the FAFSA properly and before important deadlines,” said Merri Jo Connole, assistant financial aid director. “Usually, it only takes an hour of their time.”

As an added bonus for participants, all students who complete a FAFSA at North Dakota College Goal Sunday will receive a flash drive and be eligible for a drawing to win a $1,000 scholarship. The Bank of North Dakota’s College Planning Center is donating the scholarship.

Participants should bring the following documentation to College Goal Sunday:

- Social Security Number (students’ and parents’)
- Alien registration card (if not U.S. citizen)
- 2012 Federal Tax Return and W2 (students’ and parents’)
- 2012 untaxed income records (veteran non-education benefits, child support, worker’s compensation)
- Driver’s license (if applicable)
- Information on savings, investments, business assets and farm assets (if applicable)

Twenty-one sites are participating. For specific time and site information, visit http://www.collegegoalnd.org or contact 1-800-554-2717 or collegegoal@nd.gov. North Dakota College Goal Sunday is also on Facebook.

For questions related to the Minot site, contact the MSU Office of Financial Aid at 858-3375.

Science Olympiad captivated participants

The Minot State University Division of Science hosted a regional Science Olympiad March 12 for sixth through 12th grade students from around the state.

Science Olympiad events tested knowledge, laboratory skills and design and engineering. Session titles included “Mousetrap Vehicle,” “Science Crime Busters,” “Meteorology,” “Fermi Questions,” “Thermodynamics” and “Robot Arm.”

The winner of the high school division was Minot High School Magic City Campus, and the winner of the middle school division was Jim Hill Middle School.

To read the full article, go to www.minotstateu.edu/news/000635.shtml.

Area students to compete at Northwest Regional History Day

March 25, the Minot State University History Department will host the Northwest Regional History Day on the first and second floors of Old Main, noon–3 p.m. Junior and senior high school students will compete with displays, papers, performances, websites and documentaries around the theme of “Turning points in history: People. Ideas. Events.”

The students are divided into junior and senior level, as well as individual and group levels. The junior level comprises grades 6-8. Meanwhile,
senior level is grades 9-12.

“It is great to see students having fun with history. More than anything, this helps the students with their knowledge about history in various formats from performances to documentaries,” said Ernst Pijning, history professor.

Winners will advance to the State History Day competition April 5 at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

MSU students, faculty and staff and community members are welcome to attend and view the displays. For more information, visit http://history.minotstateu.edu:8080/historyday.

Pijning and Toni Schwartz, INBRE administrative coordinator, are organizing Northwest Regional History Day. For questions, contact Pijning at 858-3509 or ernst.pijning@minotstateu.edu and Schwartz at 858-4490 or toni.schwartz@minotstateu.edu.

NISC CEO to discuss ‘Emerging Technologies’

Vern Dosch, National Information Solutions Cooperative president and chief executive officer, will speak on "Emerging Technologies" March 20 in the Westlie Room at 8 a.m. His presentation is free and open to the public.

NISC, an industry leader, is an information technology cooperative that develops and supports software and hardware solutions for its member-owners. These member-owners are primarily utility cooperatives and telecommunications companies from across the nation.

After beginning his career in the utility business in 1975 with a Bismarck distribution cooperative, Dosch worked for Basin Electric Cooperative as a financial analyst and a leverage lease management analyst. He started at North Central Data Cooperative in 1985 as office manager and advanced to general manager. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Mary.

MSU students on ‘Who’s Who’ list

“Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges” selected 12 juniors and seniors from Minot State University for inclusion in the 2013 edition. A campus nomination committee and editors of the annual directory chose the students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. They will be honored at a luncheon April 10 at noon in the Conference Center, third floor of the Student Center.

The honorees, listed by hometown, class rank and major, are Stephanie Deutsch, Watford City, senior, mathematics education; Brittany Diegel, Edgely, senior, communication disorders; Kaylee Dockter, Bowbells, senior, biology and chemistry; Karissa Erdmann, Goodrich, senior, elementary education; Camille Fanner, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, senior, communication disorders; Molly Fritel, Hazen, junior, elementary education; Emily Gordon, Dickinson, senior, communication disorders; Kallie Holmen, Minot, senior, elementary education; Jessica Rosin, Minot, senior, biology; Rebecca Ryan, Williston and Menomonie, Wis., senior, music education; Markus Wilson, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, senior, biology and chemistry; and Chelsey Zietz, Kenmare, junior, athletic training.

To make a reservation for the luncheon, contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs by April 5 at 858-3299 or 1-800-777-0750, ext. 3299.
Chamber sponsors legislative forums

Tom Seymour, business information technology professor, chairs the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee. The committee hosts Saturday legislative forums at the North Dakota State Fair Center, 9 a.m. Remaining dates are March 16 and April 6.

The forums give attendees a chance to meet with Minot legislators and ask questions. The format includes a moderator who asks questions submitted in writing by the audience.

In the galleries

March 13-April 5 — "Codex," an art exhibit by Micah Bloom, MSU assistant art professor, Hartnett Gallery. "Codex" explores the post-flood struggle between nature, humanity and the printed word.

Faculty and staff achievements

The Office of Public Information proudly shares the many accomplishments of faculty and staff with the campus community in every issue.

Tom Alexander, project director with the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, was recently re-elected chair of the Minot Housing Authority board of directors.


Kevin Neuharth, associate communication arts professor, participated in 10-minute play selection and devised theatre performance at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 19-26. He also advised Irene Ryan Scholarship audition nominees. Aili Smith, assistant communication arts professor, presented a movement workshop at Region V KCACFT.

Tom Seymour, business information technology professor, chaired a Higher Learning Commission visit to the University of Akron March 4-6.

Jerry Stai, assistant finance professor, provided an in-service on investment management to the Sisters of St. Francis in Denver, Feb. 15-18.

NDCPD selected four MSU students to participate in its interdisciplinary internship program during the 2013 spring semester. Jolynn Webster, NDCPD research associate, mentors the interns, Jessika Hall, Hannah Harvey, Nicole Malawski and Amanda Strang. Each completed MSU’s “Disability in Society” course during the fall semester and was chosen based on an application and interview with a selection committee. The internship allows students to gain real-life experiences and to participate in service-learning activities to support individuals with disabilities and their families.

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