



2025-2026
PRESIDENT'S REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Steve Shirley

With another summer nearing the home stretch and preparations fully underway for a new fall semester at Minot State University, this is a time to reflect, pay gratitude, and say “thank you” to each of you reading these words. This President’s Report features highlights about several accomplishments from this past year. You have perhaps read or heard about some of these milestones recently, but I want to emphasize a few that made 2025-26 such a special year at MSU.

We began last fall with our largest incoming freshman class in 15 years. These 400-plus new first-year students, along with strong numbers of new transfer students and new graduate students, are a crucial part of our overall enrollment strategy, and it was a wonderful way to begin this school year. As importantly, our current registration numbers for this upcoming fall are close to last year’s figures, meaning we should have back-to-back years of very strong new student numbers.

It has also been a momentous year with the many physical renovations that have occurred (and are currently occurring) across campus. From a modernized second floor of the Student Center, to a home for our new innovation engineering program, to enlarged classrooms to accommodate our growing nursing program, to upgrades in our business, science, exercise science and rehabilitation, and computer science areas, to renovations in the Minot State Dome along with our new student-athlete Nutrition Center, to the demolition of 100-year old Dakota Hall, to the purchase of a downtown Health Center West facility from Trinity Health, the past 12 months (and the next 12 with some work yet to be done) have been transformative and will position MSU very well for future growth.

The past year has also been focused on preparing to launch our newest academic programs at MSU, including a Bachelor of Science in Innovation Engineering, Master of Science in Mental Health and Substance Use Counseling, and Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance. A special word of thanks to all faculty and staff



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who have been building the curriculum as we prepare to welcome students into these programs this fall. These three degrees represent areas where MSU can make a meaningful difference helping address critical workforce shortage issues.

Another remarkable highlight noted on page two is an all-time record of \$15 million in private support that was contributed to the MSU Development Foundation this year. Among these gifts, we had several very large donations that will have long-lasting impacts for decades, along with many donors taking advantage of North Dakota's Challenge Grant matching program and Endowment Tax Credit program. Notably, over 90% of the dollars raised this year are earmarked specifically for scholarships, academics, and academic facilities. These designations are at the core of MSU's purpose and will make a true difference as we continue educating and providing opportunities for today's and tomorrow's students.

I hope to see you back on campus in mid-September as we celebrate 100 years of Homecoming. It will be a busy few days on campus with lots of activities, and I sincerely hope you are able to join us and reconnect with friends and classmates.

Finally, and most importantly, THANK YOU! Thank you for all your support in helping MSU continue to serve our mission and keep moving forward in the best interests of the Minot community, North Dakota, and the broader societal impacts our students and graduates fulfill. None of these initiatives or milestones are possible without your support and trust in this campus and our team. We are most fortunate to have such a loyal family of alumni, friends, and donors who continue to lift up MSU and our students.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and as always...

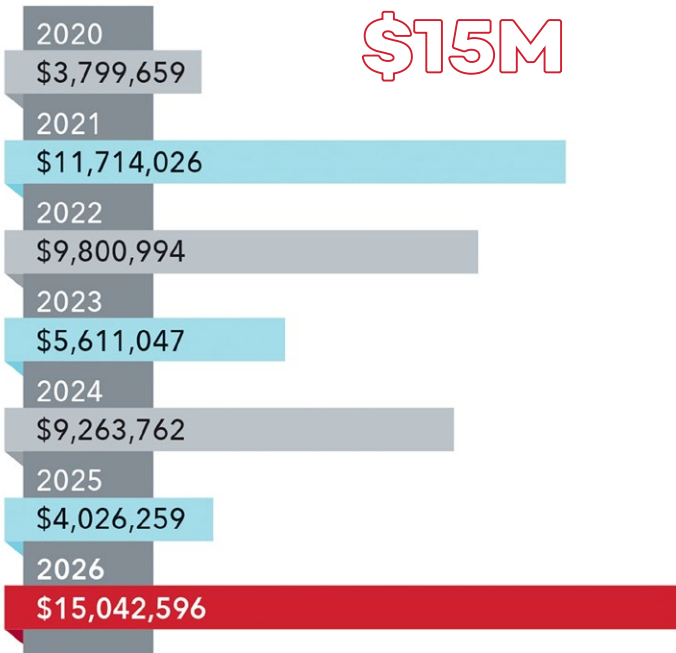
GO BEAVERS! ::::



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DONOR IMPACT

Total Support By All Donors



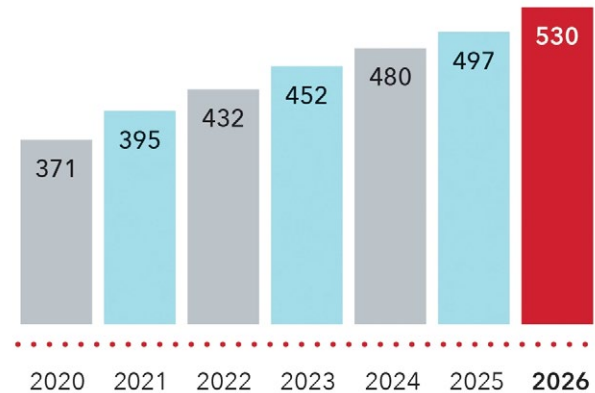
Growth of Endowed Funds Supporting Scholarships and Programs



In fiscal year 2026, endowed funds provided \$2.4 million in support of Minot State, with 76% of the funds supporting student scholarships and academic programs.

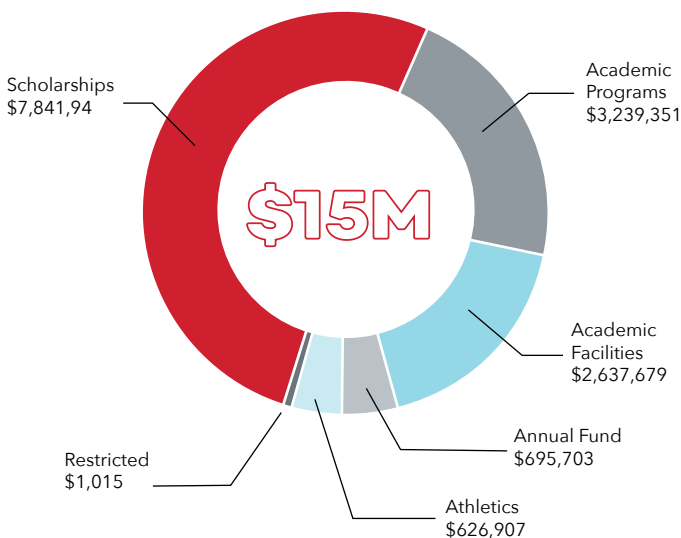
Endowed funds continued positive growth, reaching a total of

530



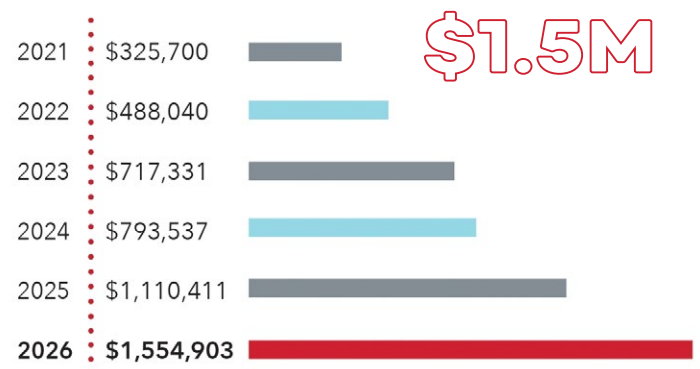
Donor Gift Designation

The \$15 million in total donor gifts were distributed among five University priorities.



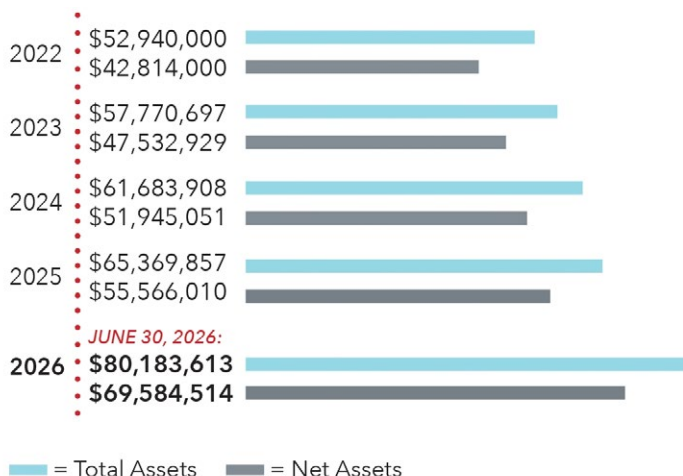
Annual Excellence Donations

The Annual Excellence Appeal invites donors to support the areas of the University they are most passionate about. Each gift – regardless of size – provides critical support for students, academic programs, athletics, and campus initiatives.



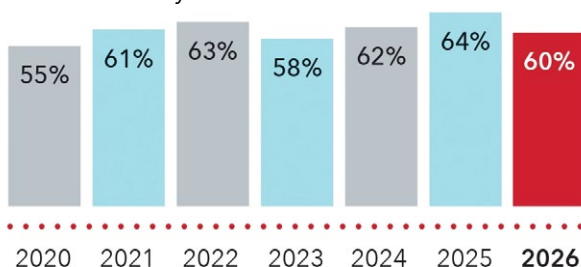
Development Foundation

Total Assets **\$80.2M**



Faculty and Staff Giving

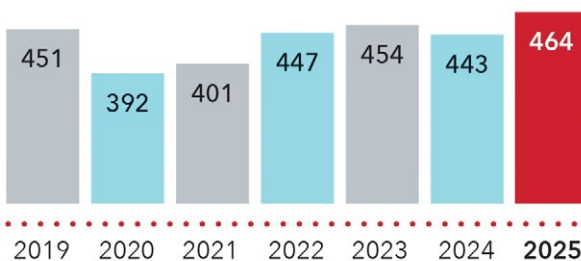
60% of all faculty and staff give to MSU financially.



President's Club Members

The President's Club recognizes donors with annual contributions of \$1,000 or more.

464



Minot State's annual Giving Day once again delivered remarkable results for the Minot State Development Foundation. During the 24-hour fundraising event on April 8, the MSU community came together to make 1,783 gifts totaling \$461,193. The total set a new Giving Day fundraising record for the Foundation and provided support for scholarships, academic programs, athletics, and other initiatives across campus.

The success also marked the second consecutive year Giving Day contributions exceeded \$450,000. Since its launch in 2018, Giving Day has generated \$2,711,127 in support of Minot State University, demonstrating the extraordinary generosity of the MSU community and its commitment to student success.

\$461,193

Total raised

1,783
Gifts



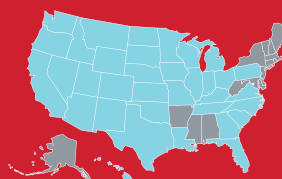
52 Projects assisted

1,119
Donors



197
MSU faculty & staff donors

Gifts from **36** states and **7** countries



Australia
Brazil
Canada
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Save the date!

GIVING DAY 2027
Wednesday, April 7

ANNUAL AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS



By Michael Linnell

Michael & Debra AHMANN



Michael and Debra (Urness) Ahmann have spent their lives investing in others.

It began first as educators, then as mentors and school leaders, and now as supporters of future teachers through a new Minot State University scholarship.

Their combined careers in North Dakota education span more than six decades and reflect a shared belief that every student deserves a place to belong. That commitment began at Minot State, where both found the foundation for careers centered on service and learning.

Michael '73/'75 grew up in Minot and graduated from Bishop Ryan High School knowing he wanted to attend Minot State, following in the footsteps of family members who valued education.

But it was a formative experience working alongside his father, Alvin Ahmann, at the family service station that ultimately shaped his career path.

His father welcomed individuals with disabilities from the local vocational workshop to gain real-world work experience at the station. Michael's memories of those early opportunities helped instill the importance of inclusion and dignity for every individual.

"That philosophy encouraged me to pursue a career in special education," he said.

At Minot State, Michael earned degrees in special education and elementary education before beginning his career as a teacher in Belcourt. He later returned to MSU to complete a master's degree in special education administration, launching a 37-year career in special education teaching and administration in Bottineau, Minot, and Bismarck. He retired from Bismarck Public Schools in 2010.

Throughout his career, Michael witnessed major changes in special education, including expanded inclusion opportunities and increased collaboration between educators and families. In a 2003 article he wrote for Bismarck Public Schools, he reflected on how schools evolved from separating many students with disabilities to creating more unified learning environments focused on helping all students succeed.

Debra '75/'89 also credits Minot State with shaping her life and career. Born in Rugby, she spent part of her childhood in California before returning to North Dakota following the loss of her mother, Blanche Urness. Like Michael, she was inspired by educators in her family, including her father, Dale Urness '54, an MSU alumnus and teacher.

She first earned a degree in recreational leadership under legendary Minot State professor Gary Leslie '61 before stepping away from the classroom to raise the couple's three children. When their children entered school, Debra returned to Minot State to pursue degrees in elementary and early childhood education – a field she describes as her true passion.

Over a 28-year teaching career in Minot and Bismarck public schools, Debra became known for her dedication to young learners and her belief in nurturing children's curiosity, creativity, and confidence.

"Each year brought a new set of minds and bodies as they began their journey in the big school," she said. "Helping them love school and the process of learning kept me coming back each fall."

The Ahmanns say Minot State's culture of leadership, community involvement, and respect for others helped shape the educators they became. In 2024, they established the Mike and Debi Ahmann Scholarship to support future teachers pursuing degrees in special education, elementary education, and early childhood education.

With North Dakota continuing to face an educator shortage, the scholarship reflects the couple's enduring commitment to the profession that defined their lives.

"Teaching and supervising teachers made our lives full and rich," they said. "We hope this scholarship will help students achieve their goal of becoming educators and continue making a difference for future generations." ::::

ANNUAL AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are the pathway to a dream. They can be the difference between a future attained and a future that remains out of reach. To date, 530 scholarships have been established by individuals, organizations, and families wishing to empower generations of students.

SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Art

Art Scholarship Endowment
Floyd Fairweather Art Scholarship Endowment
Harvey and Arlone Twyman Scholarship
Robert Schwieger Scholarship Endowment
Rosanne Olson Arts Scholarship Endowment
Tom Willis Scholarship Endowment
Walter Piehl Arts Scholarship Endowment

Music

Amstutz/Sundet Woodwinds Scholarship Endowment
Arthur and Rebecca LaBrant Scholarship Endowment
Bert Skakoon Music Scholarship Endowment
Bert Skakoon Strings Scholarship Endowment
Beverly (Buchwitz) Huber Scholarship Endowment
Dorothy Van Sickle Music Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Ira-Paul Schwarz Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Joseph M. and Jackie Hegstad Scholarship Endowment
Evelyn Sampson Music Scholarship Endowment
Frances Leach-Blanche Lynch Memorial Scholarship
Gary Stenehjem Organ Scholarship Endowment
Gay Gidley King Scholarship Endowment
Gwenlyn Lawlar Scholarship Endowment
Harold Schwan Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Harvey and Arlone Twyman Scholarship
James M. Feller Scholarship Endowment
Jeanne M. Sandberg Music Endowment
Jim and Norma Swanson Choir Scholarship Endowment
John and Patricia Strohm Music Scholarship Endowment
Judy A. Spitzer Scholarship Endowment
Langemo Family Scholarship Endowment
Lyle C. Hanson Scholarship Endowment
Mary Lou Soukup Excellence in Music Education Scholarship Endowment
Mary Lou Soukup Music Scholarship Endowment in Honor of Lucy and Louis W. Wieman
Mike Berg Scholarship Endowment
Minot Symphony Association Scholarship Endowment
Minot Symphony League Scholarship Endowment
MSU Division of Music Student Teacher Scholarship
Music Division Scholarship Endowment
Ralph Wallin Keyboard Scholarship Endowment
Robert O. "Red" Wuttke Scholarship Endowment
Ruth Schell-Overholser Endowed Fellowship
Ruth Schell-Overholser Scholarship Endowment
Sally Thomas Violin Scholarship Endowment
Stockman Sisters Music Scholarship Endowment
Tim L. and Lynn M. Smith Scholarship Endowment

Professional Communication

Vadell Family Scholarship Endowment

Summer Theatre

Langemo Family Scholarship Endowment
Minot State University Summer Theatre Scholarship Endowment

Theatre

Harold and Verna Aleshire Scholarship Endowment
Harvey and Arlone Twyman Scholarship

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Paul and Sherri Tefft Scholarship Endowment in memory of Carl Kalvelage, Galen Brown, and Floyd Fairweather

English Literature and Writing

Bram Davidson Writing Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Jonathan Wagner Scholarship Endowment
Harvey and Arlone Twyman Scholarship
Myrtle Nordwick Cantana Scholarship Endowment

Geography

Huldah Winsted Geology and Geography Scholarship Endowment

History

Dr. Jonathan Wagner Scholarship Endowment
Dr. N.M. Lillehaugen History Scholarship Endowment
Harold Schwan Memorial Scholarship Endowment

Honors Program in Engagement and Scholarship

Fred and Bernice (Cooley) Buchwitz Scholarship Endowment
Philip and Barbara Fallis Scholarship Endowment

Humanities

Division of Humanities Scholarship Endowment

Sociology

Frances Bane Crockett Scholarship Endowment
Merton and Karen Johnsrud Scholarship Endowment
Paul Morrison Scholarship Endowment
Sarah Martinsen Scholarship Endowment
Social Science Division Scholarship Endowment
Virginia P. George Scholarship Endowment

World Languages

Dr. Jonathan Wagner Scholarship Endowment
Genevieve Rammell Multilingualism Award
Helen Hoar Memorial French Scholarship Endowment

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, MATH, AND TECHNOLOGY

AgCountry Scholarship
Brekka E. Kramer Scholarship Endowment
Mary E. Wilson Family Scholarship Endowment
Pat and ReNae Wheeler Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS

Aas Family Scholarship Endowment
Adelaide and Eleanor Johnson Scholarship Endowment
Adelaide Johnson Scholarship Endowment
Ardella and Clinton Larson Scholarship Endowment
Beck Family Scholarship Endowment
Ben and Theresa Wald Scholarship Endowment
Bev Alex Scholarship Endowment
Blaine and Kathy DesLauriers Scholarship Endowment
Brady Martz & Associates Scholarship
Brock and Tiffany Teets Scholarship Endowment
Chris Lindbo Scholarship Endowment
College of Business Scholarship Endowment
College of Business Scholarship Endowment
Craig and Bonnie Van Sickle Scholarship Endowment

DAK Jam Scholarship Endowment
Dale D. Atwood Scholarship Endowment
David and Dolly Gowan Scholarship Endowment
Don and Betty Skari Family Scholarship Endowment
Don L. Barber Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Doris A. Slaaten Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Byron and Chris (Gay) Blowers Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Richard Schlapman Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Tom and Anita Seymour Scholarship Endowment
E. James McIntyre Scholarship Endowment
Edson and Margaret Larson Scholarship
Ernest B. Selland Legacy Scholarship Endowment
F. Bruce and Diane Walker Scholarship Endowment
First Western Bank & Trust Scholarship
Gate City Bank Scholarship
Hummel Family/Burger King Scholarship Endowment
Integrity Viking Funds Business Scholarship Endowment
Irene, Joe, Mary, and Tom Probst Family Scholarship Endowment
J. Bernard Busse Scholarship Endowment
Jan Barlow College of Business Scholarship Endowment
Janis Ann Dislevy Trust Endowed Scholarship
Jay and Dyanne Altringer Scholarship Endowment
John and Nicole Carlson Scholarship Endowment
John William Ross Theisen Scholarship Endowment
Kevin and Joan Mattson Scholarship Endowment
Lee Badertscher Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Lindbo Family Scholarship Endowment
Magic City Networking Business Scholarship Endowment
Marilyn Joy Selland Scholarship Endowment
Marv and Barb Semrau Scholarship Endowment
Mary (Buchwitz) Quandt Scholarship Endowment
Mel Hoover and Spencer Hoover Business Scholarship Endowment
Michael and Nancy Lucy Scholarship Endowment
Michael and Susan Hummel Scholarship Endowment
Montana-Dakota Utilities Scholarship
Old National Bank/Bremer Bank Scholarship
Ove Jorgensen Merit Scholarship Endowment
Pat and Mary Kay Jones Scholarship Endowment
Peoples State Bank of Velva Scholarship
Peoples State Bank of Velva Scholarship Endowment
Randy and Pat Burckhard Scholarship Endowment
Richard L. Muus Business Scholarship Endowment
Robert and Ilze Sando Scholarship Endowment
Robert Torgerson Scholarship Endowment
Roger Mergenthal Scholarship Endowment
Ron and Donna Hensen Scholarship Endowment
Stephanie J. and Richard L. Strom Scholarship Endowment
Ted and Joan Brinkman Scholarship
Terry and Gail Johnson Scholarship Endowment
Terry and Lynne Summers Scholarship Endowment
Tim and Allison Vallely Scholarship Endowment
Tim and Laura Mihalick Scholarship Endowment
Todd and Della Erickson Family Scholarship
Vicky and Rich Campbell Scholarship Endowment
Yvonne Schultz Scholarship Endowment

Accounting

Accounting Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Richard C. Walker Scholarship Endowment
Gary Hovdestad Accounting Scholarship Endowment
Joan Houston Scholarship Endowment
Megan (Perdue) Awalt Scholarship Endowment
Pearl Stusrud Scholarship Endowment

Business Administration

Don L. Barber Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Luther and Diann (Witham) Hanson Scholarship Endowment

Finance

Burt and Gwen Traub College of Business
Scholarship Endowment
Dacotah Bank Scholarship
Dr. Richard Schlapman Scholarship Endowment
Janis Ann Dislevy Trust Endowed Scholarship
Jerry Michael Stai Scholarship Endowment
Jordan and Tasha Nelson Scholarship Endowment

Severson Entrepreneurship Academy

Severson Entrepreneurship Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF MATH, DATA, AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Tom and Anita Seymour Scholarship Endowment
Pat and ReNae Wheeler Scholarship Endowment
Schaefer Berg Scholarship Endowment

Computer Information Systems

Dr. Lori Willoughby Scholarship Endowment
Xcel Energy Scholarship Endowment

Computer Science

Agnes and Ray Ladendorf Scholarship Endowment
Erma Fahlgren Scholarship Endowment
Integrity Viking Funds Computer Science
Scholarship Endowment
Math and Computer Science Scholarship
Endowment
Montana-Dakota Utilities Scholarship
Robert and Jennifer Feller Scholarship Endowment
Robert L. Holmen Scholarship Endowment

Cybersecurity and Operations

Don Selk Cybersecurity Scholarship Endowment
Hugo/Flossie Henke Scholarship Endowment
John and Laurie Schwan Cybersecurity Scholarship
Endowment

Data Science

Don Selk Data Science Scholarship Endowment

Math

Agnes and Ray Ladendorf Scholarship Endowment
Blaine B. Kuist Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Don Hanson Hoopster Scholarship Endowment
Erma Fahlgren/Hatyon Scholarship Endowment
Frank and Olga Bauman and Donald Bauman
Scholarship Endowment
Gordon R. Olson Applied Math Scholarship
Endowment
Mary (Buchwitz) Quandt Scholarship Endowment
Math and Computer Science Scholarship
Endowment
Robert L. Holmen Scholarship Endowment
Theodore "Ted" Grandall Scholarship Endowment

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Blaine and Kathy DesLauriers Scholarship
Endowment
Brekka E. Kramer Scholarship Endowment
Darrell and Joann Henry Scholarship Endowment
Irene, Joe, Mary, and Tom Probst Family Scholarship
Endowment
Michael and Nancy Lucy Scholarship Endowment
Minot Eagles Aerie 2376 Scholarship Endowment
Pat and ReNae Wheeler Scholarship Endowment
Trueblood Family Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Addiction Studies

Brady Oberg Scholarship
Dr. Richard Sheldon Psychology and Addiction
Counseling Scholarship Endowment
George Shipley Addiction Studies Scholarship
Endowment

Criminal Justice

Arthur T. Wilson Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Balas Family Scholarship Endowment
Beall Law Scholarship
Criminal Justice Scholarship Endowment

Dan Draovitch Scholarship Endowment
Gary Holum Scholarship Endowment
John and Wendy Schaffer Criminal Justice
Scholarship Endowment
Judge Everett Nels and Mary Olson Scholarship
Endowment
Judge Wallace D. Berning Scholarship Endowment

Psychology

Dr. Richard Sheldon Psychology and Addiction
Counseling Scholarship Endowment
Julia Burke Scholarship Endowment

Social Work

Donna Stevick Scholarship
Ernest B. Selland Legacy Scholarship Endowment
Inspiritus Community Health Foundation - Social
Work Scholarship
Jim Wahlberg Social Work Scholarship Endowment
Kay Erickson Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Michael and Susan Hummel Scholarship
Endowment
Sarah Martinsen Student Social Work Organization
Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE SERVICES

Adelaide and Eleanor Johnson Scholarship
Endowment
Adelaide Johnson Scholarship Endowment
Agnes and Ray Ladendorf Scholarship Endowment
Audrey and Steve Sidener Scholarship Endowment
Balas Family Scholarship Endowment
Benjamin and Jennifer Slind Scholarship
Endowment
Bernadine H. Kunkel Scholarship Endowment
Black-Neuharth Education Scholarship Endowment
Bruce and Linda Christianson Scholarship
Endowment
Daniel Sluke Endowment
Delta Kappa Gamma - Nu Chapter Scholarship
Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship Endowment
Diana and Mark Turner Education Scholarship
Endowment
Don and Betty Skari Family Scholarship Endowment
Don and Joyce Anderson Scholarship Endowment
Don Hanson Hoopster Scholarship Endowment
Donald and Audrey Lilly Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Elaine Larson Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Jonathan Wagner Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Steven Shirley Family Scholarship Endowment
Duane and Roberta Johnson Scholarship
Endowment

Duane D. and Lois M. Dockter Scholarship
Endowment
Edith Carpenter Rose Scholarship Endowment
Elementary Education Scholarship Endowment
Ernest B. Selland Legacy Scholarship Endowment
Frank and Olga Bauman and Donald Bauman
Scholarship Endowment
Gehard M. Halvorson and Marian Lund Halvorson
Scholarship Endowment
George and Christine Hegstad Family Scholarship
Endowment
Glen Bonness Scholarship Endowment
Helen Gaheen Myhra Scholarship Endowment
Irene Snippen Nelson Scholarship
Jay and Sheree Diede Scholarship Endowment
Jeff and Tammy Risk Scholarship Endowment
John and Phyllis Landsiedel Scholarship
Endowment
John F. and Veronica Grimes Scholarship
Endowment
John Henry and Josephine Marie Huesers
Scholarship Endowment
Judith E. Howard and Peter J. Hugret Educational
Scholarship Endowment
Kiwanis Club of Minot Scholarship Endowment
Learning Tree Scholarship
Lucille Loftesnes Scholarship Endowment
Mabel Olsgaard Elementary Education Scholarship
Endowment
Mabel (Swensrud) Stevick Scholarship
Margaret Ann Brooks Memorial Scholarship
Endowment
Mark and Gloria Sanford Scholarship Endowment
Mark and Wendy Slotsve Scholarship Endowment
Michael and Nancy Lucy Scholarship Endowment
Mike and Debi Ahmann Scholarship Endowment
Minot Area Retired Teachers Association Scholarship
Munson Family Scholarship Endowment
Naomi E. Adams Scholarship Endowment
Nels T. and Oline Blikre Scholarship Endowment
Ole and Sarah Joraanstad Scholarship Endowment
Olga Peterson Minot Model Alumni Association
Scholarship Endowment
Pat and Jackie Limke Family Scholarship
Endowment
Pat Sheldon Elementary Education Memorial
Scholarship Endowment
Physical Education Academic Scholarship
Endowment
Power of 1 Scholarship Endowment
Q Elementary Education Scholarship Endowment
Ralph Hubbard Memorial Scholarship Endowment

"Thank you for
another year
of support and
encouragement,
allowing me to
do my best."

Lily Savelkoul
Lansford

Randy and Pat Burckhard Scholarship Endowment
 Roger Mergenthal Scholarship Endowment
 Ron and Donna Hensen Scholarship Endowment
 Ron and Linda Garcia Scholarship Endowment
 Ruth Knudson Strom & Clyde Strom Future Teachers Academic Scholarship Endowment
 Sandra (Koolmo) Dilland Scholarship Endowment
 Scott Lindgren Scholarship Endowment
 Stephanie J. and Richard L. Strom Future Teachers Academic Scholarship Endowment
 Steve Beutler Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 Theodore "Ted" Grandall Scholarship Endowment
 Todd and Della Erickson Family Scholarship
 Todd Magnuson Scholarship Endowment
 Tonya and Todd Hunsford Scholarship Endowment
 Wilhelmina Thompson Scholarship Endowment
 (Z) VEST Scholarship Endowment

Special Education

Bane-Sather Scholarship Endowment
 Carah (Heidbreder) Quamme Scholarship Endowment
 Elsie May Deeter Hearing Impaired Scholarship Endowment
 Fern Batterberry Scholarship Endowment
 Florence Lake Scholarship Endowment
 Frances V. Leach Scholarship Endowment
 Hooterville Flion Lions Edwin R. Hovrud Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 Keith and Patricia White Scholarship Endowment
 Marlys Haagenson Johnson Scholarship Endowment
 Michelle Kincheloe Tollefson Scholarship Endowment
 Mike and Debi Ahmann Scholarship Endowment
 Robert and Jo Ann Skabo Scholarship Endowment
 Ruth E. Loucks Special Education Scholarship Endowment
 Sertoma Club of Minot Scholarship Endowment
 Special Education Scholarship Endowment
 Vicky and Rich Campbell Scholarship Endowment

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Irene, Joe, Mary, and Tom Probst Family Scholarship Endowment
 Michael and Nancy Lucy Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Bob and Pat Nelson Communication Disorders Scholarship Endowment
 Communication Sciences and Disorders Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 Don and Sandie Sivertson Scholarship Endowment
 Dr. David Williams Scholarship Endowment
 Dr. Lesley Magnus Scholarship Endowment
 Edna Gilbert Scholarship Endowment
 Hearing and Training Center Scholarship Endowment
 Inspiritus Community Health Foundation - CD Scholarship
 Keith and Patricia White Scholarship Endowment
 Leisa and Kevin Harmon Communication Sciences and Disorders Scholarship Endowment
 Lucille Loftesnes Scholarship Endowment
 Lunday Scholarship Endowment
 N.R. Faulkner Scholarship Endowment
 North Dakota Speech, Language and Hearing Association Scholarship Endowment
 Sertoma Club of Minot Scholarship Endowment
 Sheryl Fursteneau Sharp Scholarship Endowment

Susan Haanstra Elsom Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 Terry and Ann Zeltinger Scholarship Endowment

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Alma M. (Bratlien) Arends Scholarship Endowment
 Anna L. Indergaard Nursing Scholarship
 Betsy Nokleby Scholarship Endowment
 Betty Jean Halvorson Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Clarence M. Kringlee Scholarship Trust Fund
 Corbin Okeson Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Department of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Endowment
 Donald and Frances Tank Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Dr. Elizabeth Ann Pross Scholarship Endowment
 Dr. Jamie and Justin Hammer Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Dr. Richard E. Dormont, MD, Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Duane and Carol Branson Scholarship
 Elma Severson Scholarship
 Emma L. Misner Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Ernest B. Selland Legacy Scholarship Endowment
 Evelyn R. Nielsen/Mary (Nielsen) Smith Scholarship Endowment
 Fabricius-Steinle Scholarship Endowment
 Finneseth Scholarship Endowment
 Francis Vee Scholarship Endowment
 Grace Fisher Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Gunnar Solberg Scholarship Endowment
 Helen Chatfield Shurr Scholarship Endowment
 Hillside Scholarship
 Inspiritus Community Health Foundation - Nursing Scholarship
 Janelle (Jehlicka) Verhey Scholarship Endowment
 Janice Smith Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Jim and Karen Jensen Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Joan Love Christianson Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 John and Leslie Coughlin Scholarship Endowment
 Keith and Elema Cunningham Scholarship Endowment
 Leona R. Rubbelke Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 Leonard Boehmer Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 Lois Bellet Williams Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Loretta F. Holub Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Maloney Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment
 Margaret Bruce Scholarship
 Mark Ronde Memorial Scholarship
 Minot Moose Lodge Scholarship Endowment
 Nels T. and Oline Blikre Scholarship Endowment
 Orma and Halvor Nesheim Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 Otto R. and Irene E. Johnson Scholarship Endowment
 Patrick Kelly Muus Memorial Nursing Scholarship Endowment
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Biology

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 Rebecca Hill Medical Lab Science Scholarship Endowment

How to donate to an existing endowment fund

You can donate to an endowment fund in any amount as often as you like. With no minimum amount required, you can contribute in a variety of ways, from once-in-a-lifetime, to annually, or monthly.

Donations can also be made in honor of or to memorialize someone special.



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2025-26 NEW ENDOWMENTS

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Mark and Wendy Slotsve Scholarship Endowment
Mike and Debi Ahmann Scholarship Endowment
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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

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Department of Science

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"Your support is helping me continue pursuing my goals of earning a degree in professional communications with a minor in marketing. Please know that your generosity is truly making a difference in my educational journey."

Sonja Andersen
Minot



» Establishing a SCHOLARSHIP

CREATING A NAMED SCHOLARSHIP

through the Minot State University Development Foundation assists students and leaves a legacy at Minot State University. It is also a meaningful way to honor family and friends.

There are two types of scholarships.

Endowed scholarships

- Designed to be permanent
- Requires a minimum commitment of \$15,000
- Can be funded immediately or built over time
- Funds are invested, and earnings provide annual scholarships
- The principal remains untouched, allowing the scholarship to continue in perpetuity

Annual scholarships

- Can be established with a gift of any amount
- Provides immediate student support
- Scholarship funding is awarded only while contributions continue
- Does not create a permanent endowment

Scholarship criteria and selection

As a scholarship donor, you choose the scholarship name and establish the selection criteria.

Scholarships may be awarded based on:

- Academic achievement
- Financial need
- Area of study or interest
- Geographic origin
- Merit or other donor preferences

A selection committee reviews student applications and selects recipients based on the donor-established criteria.

Donor recognition and student impact

Each year, scholarship contributors are notified when recipients are selected and receive information about the award and recipient(s). Many students also write thank-you notes, and in some cases donors and recipients have the opportunity to meet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact the MSU Development Foundation at 701-858-3890 or 1-800-777-0750 ext. 3890.

Minot State signs multiple MOUs in 2025-26

Minot State University's commitment to offer high-quality education where, when, and how it is needed to a diverse, multi-generational student population is evident in the University signing seven Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) in 2025-26. The most recent MOU was announced on April 20 between Minot State and Williston State. The strategic partnership will help address shortages in the region by extending course and program offerings to students who may not otherwise have access to them. The focus is to offer MSU's Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Science in Corporate Fitness and Wellness Management, and Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and Rehabilitation degree programs through in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online delivery.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT



MSU collaborated with Bismarck State College to offer a dual degree program: BSC's Bachelor of Applied Science degree with a major in foundations of teaching paired with MSU's Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a major in special education or early childhood education.

Minot State's Department of Nursing has multiple MOUs to expand educational opportunities for nurses. New agreements in 2025-26 with North Dakota State College of Science, Bismarck State College, and Williston State College, along with Northland Community Technical College in Minnesota, are in addition to previous agreements with Dakota College at Bottineau and Lake Region State College.

OLD MAIN SOCIETY AND SLAATEN-SANDBERG LEGACY SOCIETY



By Veronica Corey

Ryan & Hope ANDERSON



With deep roots and connections to Minot, Ryan and Hope (Faulkner) Anderson have two big drivers when it comes to giving back: help those institutions that are critical to our community and help those in need.

When Hope's father, Neal Faulkner '77, passed away in 2022, the couple wanted to find the perfect way to give back and to pay homage to his legacy by creating an endowment in his name for other students pursuing the same major, with a preference to applicants with military experience or family members who have served.

"Both my parents were Minot State grads, including my mom, Denise (Holten) Faulkner '72, and my dad, who received his bachelor's degree in education and master's in speech-language pathology," Hope said. "He was kind of a private person. He didn't really like to have a lot of accolades, but we wanted something to honor him. He had ties to the military in Minot, and that's what brought him here. He was from Ohio. We thought that would be a neat way to honor him and to keep a legacy."

The Andersons have seen firsthand the commitment MSU shows students. Their son, Luke Anderson, graduated in the winter of 2023. This further cemented their decision to give to Minot State.

"Neither of us even went to MSU," explained Ryan, vice president and senior architect at Ackerman-Estvold. "We understand the impact that it's had on family members' lives. Obviously, our son and (Hope's) parents, but I think the impact that MSU has on our community is great. It's so important to us, not only in honoring my

father-in-law, but also in keeping things moving forward with MSU and our community. The impact that the University has on the students and the city of Minot, I think it is so important."

The former FACS (family and consumer science) teacher turned Koselig at 106 shop owner, Hope knew all too well the hurdles that students pursuing such a demanding but deeply rewarding career path would entail.

"Having gone into education and understanding that, especially in speech, in the communications disorders area, you need a master's degree," she said. "That is a lot of schooling and a lot of money, especially starting out. It's not a huge scholarship, but it can relieve the burden a little bit."

Hope also shared the importance of giving back to Minot State and the opportunities it creates.

"We understand that a small university often gets overlooked when they're trying to get funding," she said. "Minot State is pretty broad with what they offer for a small school. I think that's because of all the things that they've done to keep it growing and expanding."

"If people don't give, it's not going to be able to stay at the level of quality of schooling that it has been, and we want to see it thrive for future generations." ■■■

OLD MAIN SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Old Main Society recognizes donors who have an exceptional lifetime of giving to the Minot State University Development Foundation. This prestigious group includes the most loyal and generous of Minot State alumni and friends whose vision and leadership enables the University to empower generations.

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The Minot State University Slaaten-Sandberg Legacy Society recognizes the thoughtful generosity of those who have made a planned gift to the MSU Development Foundation to benefit Minot State University. Membership is open to anyone making a deferred or planned gift, such as bequests, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, and life insurances.

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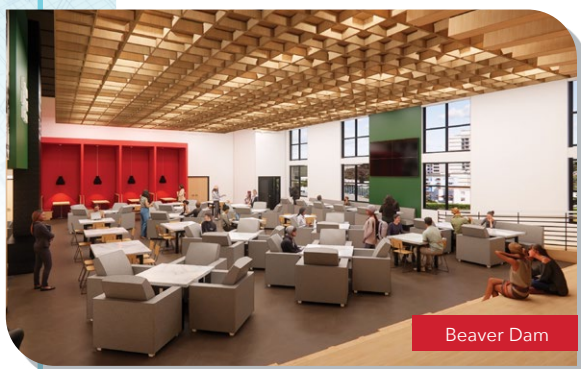
CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT



Minot State to offer degree in engineering, master's in counseling, cybersecurity

Minot State University announced a new bachelor's degree in innovation engineering and two new master's degrees, one in mental health and substance use counseling and one in cybersecurity and information assurance, all beginning in Fall 2026. In September, MSU announced it is adding its first-ever bachelor's degree in engineering, previously offering a pre-professional path with a science-emphasized curriculum. The three new programs are in response to meeting the rising demand for engineers in western North Dakota, particularly in the energy-producing Bakken Formation, the ongoing need for healthcare professionals in mental health and counseling, both regionally and nationwide, and the growing global demand for cybersecurity professionals.

.....CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION



Beaver Dam



Dakota Hall



Innovation engineering workspace



Hoffman Auditorium, Cyril Moore Science Center
(Currently in design phase)

Minot State University continues to invest in the future of its campus, and Summer 2026 has been marked by significant progress across multiple renovation and construction projects designed to enhance the student experience.

The Student Center renovation project, which began in the spring, is transforming the building's second floor into a modern, student-focused environment. The \$3 million renovation includes updates to the Beaver Dam, Student Government Association offices, and the MSU Life office. Fully funded through student activity fees approved by the student body, the project is expected to be completed in August ahead of the Fall 2026 semester. The redesigned space emphasizes flexibility, collaboration, and student engagement through a more open floor plan and the restoration of natural light by reopening existing window spaces that have long been part of the building's structure.

Another major summer milestone was the completion of Dakota Hall's demolition. Funding for the demolition was originally approved during the 2023 legislative session after MSU deemed a renovation of the nearly 100-year-old structure was not viable, with work initially scheduled for Summer 2024. However, the utility tunnels beneath the building required additional infrastructure work before demolition could proceed. Additional funding was secured during the 2025 legislative session, allowing the project to move forward. The former site has now been restored to green space.

Construction is also underway in the Gordon B. Olson Library to support Minot State's newest academic program, innovation engineering. Located in the library's southeast corner, the new space will continue the lower level's ongoing transformation, which in recent years has added the Northwest Arts Center and the University's Academic Support Center. The innovation engineering addition will feature more than 6,200 square feet of advanced workspace, including offices, laboratories, and a conference room designed to foster creativity and collaboration. The project was supported by funds allocated for academic facility renovations by the North Dakota Legislature.

As part of Minot State's continued commitment to addressing workforce shortages in western North Dakota, renovations are also underway within the Department of Nursing in Memorial Hall. The project will expand classroom space to support larger annual nursing cohorts and strengthen hands-on learning opportunities. These updates align with Minot State's partnership with Dakota College at Bottineau to develop a Health Center Institute in downtown Minot, further expanding clinical and simulation opportunities for nursing and allied health programs.

In addition, Minot State's ongoing classroom modernization efforts will bring upgrades to Old Main, the Cyril Moore Science Center, and Memorial Hall throughout the summer. These projects were funded by the North Dakota Legislature and bolstered by the MSU Development Foundation through private donations and Challenge Grant matching funds.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Kalvin & Keri LARSON

»» MINOT



By Michael Linnell

When Calvin '13 and Keri (Nelson) '13 Larson talk about supporting Minot State University, they don't see it as giving back.

They see it as paying forward the opportunities that shaped their lives.

The couple's connection with Minot State began as student-athletes and eventually led to successful careers and a family.

"This is the college that provided us with our educations and stable jobs," Keri said. "There are so many students who need opportunities, whether they're the first in their family to go to college or continuing a family tradition. It's great when students get those opportunities, and it feels good to help give back."

Their story started in 2009.

Kalvin, a Minot native and Minot High graduate, arrived on campus to continue his football career under head coach Paul Rudolph '89. Keri came to Minot State from Kenmare, drawn by the University's nursing program and an opportunity to play volleyball.

While Keri spent one season on the volleyball court before focusing on nursing, athletics became an important part of both students' college experiences. For Calvin, football taught lessons that continue to influence his leadership style today.

Those experiences were made possible in part through scholarships, something both Larsons remember when they think about supporting current students.

"In nursing school, I received a couple of scholarships," Keri said. "It's such an honor to be considered for those opportunities, and it's helpful when you're paying for tuition, books, and everything else."

Kalvin agrees.

"Being able to apply for and receive scholarships was huge," he said. "Now, everything has only gotten more expensive."

Kalvin initially considered studying business and finance before discovering geology.

"Truth be told, I was looking for the most outdoor degree Minot State had," he said.

The timing proved ideal. As the Bakken oil boom accelerated during his college years, opportunities in geology and energy production expanded across western North Dakota. After graduation, Calvin joined

Baker Hughes before moving to Creedence Energy Services in 2019. Today, he serves as vice president.

He credits Minot State's geology and science programs with helping develop the critical-thinking skills he uses every day.

"One of the biggest things Minot State taught me was critical thinking," he said. "The professors really instilled that problem-solving mindset, and that's something I use every day."

Football also left a lasting impact.

"Coach Rudolph is one of my favorite coaches I've ever had," Calvin said. "Accountability, work ethic, showing up, being coachable – those are all things that still matter in my career today."

Keri found similar support in Minot State's nursing program. She recalls accessible faculty, hands-on learning experiences, and strong partnerships with local healthcare providers that prepared students for the profession.

"The professors were very good about guiding us and helping us understand what we needed to know," she said. "I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. I have a picture of myself when I was about 3 years old wearing a nurse's cap."

After graduating in 2013, Keri joined Trinity Health's pediatric clinic, where she has now spent more than 13 years caring for children and families in the region.

The two first met at Minot State through mutual friends. Calvin jokes that he already knew who Keri was because her volleyball highlights seemed to appear on the local sports broadcasts every night.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Today, they are raising three children – Krew, Kayah, and Kendri – while remaining active supporters of the University that brought them together. Through their philanthropy, they hope future students will benefit from the same support that helped launch their own journeys.

"Every little bit helps," Calvin said. "As people come together and support students, those efforts build into something really meaningful. Minot State opened doors for us, and we want to help create those same opportunities for the next generation."

"That's how you create opportunities for the people coming after you. If everybody chips in a little, it can make a big difference." ❖❖❖

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Since 2008, Minot State University has recognized its most generous annual donors by welcoming them into the President's Club. Membership in the President's Club is open to all donors making annual contributions totaling \$1,000 or more to any area of campus.

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"Thank you for
 your kindness and
 encouragement. I look
 forward to the day I can
 give back to others in the
 same meaningful way
 you have supported me."

Shaylyn Gunsch
 Beulah

BEAVER BOOSTERS



By Mike Stetson

Matt & Amanda WEIDLER



For football coach, baseball coach, and physical education teacher Matt Weidler, the road to Minot State was a simple path coming from 25 miles away in Velva.

The lasting impact of attending Minot State and competing for the Beavers made it a simple decision for him and his wife, Amanda, to give back to his alma mater.

The longtime Beaver Boosters members established the Matt and Amanda Weidler Scholarship Endowment.

"It's a wonderful opportunity, and we're in the position where we can do something to help a student get an education," Matt said.

That new scholarship will make it possible for future student-athletes to follow in Matt's footsteps.

A 2009 graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, Matt returned to his roots at Velva High School. He currently teaches physical education, has been the Aggies baseball coach for the past 13 years, and moved into the role of head football coach prior to the 2023 season. In his second season as head football coach at Velva, he guided the Aggies to the 2024 Class A state title.

"The connections I made during my time at Minot State really helped to make me who I am today," said Matt, who adds that the influence of Terry (Ferebee) Eckmann '81/'82, professor in teacher education and kinesiology, and former head football coach Mike Sivertson sticks with him and guided him down his current career path.

Following in Matt's footsteps is a bit of a tradition in the Weidler family, as Matt's younger brothers, Tommy '13 and Josh '14, and cousin Brendan '11, all played football for Minot State.

A defensive end and linebacker for the Beavers, Matt's impact as a player was felt on the field through his standout play, which included him earning First Team All-Dakota Athletic Conference honors as a senior in 2008.

During his four-year career, he played in 32 games, recording 109 tackles and 11 quarterback sacks. During his senior season, Matt intercepted a pass and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown in a 44-35 win over Valley City State.

As for Minot State's impact on Matt, he was inspired to make a small initial donation of \$5 to the Vision Fund following his graduation.

But it started his tradition of giving back to his alma mater, something important to him and Amanda, a graduate of the University of North Dakota and a nurse practitioner in the cardiology department at Trinity in Minot.

The couple's oldest daughter is following in her mother's footsteps, attending UND, while Matt says he'd be proud to see any of his four kids attend Minot State, but added, "We let them choose their own path."

Matt actively follows Minot State on the field, attends games, and adds that he feels proud of the University's progress over the nearly two decades since he graduated.

"Minot State helped make me the teacher and coach that I am today," he said.

A great reason for Weidler and his family to give back to his alma mater. ...



BEAVER BOOSTER MEMBERS

The Beaver Booster Club's mission is to secure scholarship funds to support the academic and athletic pursuits of the almost 500 student-athletes at Minot State University. Your support helps our coaches recruit the best and the brightest, while making our student-athletes' experience first class.

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Trevor Jungman
Escondido, California



"As a senior student-athlete, I have poured and sacrificed a lot in pursuit of my education goals. To see that being rewarded through scholarships is meaningful to me in more ways than you can imagine."

Nursing celebrates 100% NCLEX-RN pass rate

As of September 2025, all Minot State University Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates who sat for the National Council Licensure Examination-RN (NCLEX) in 2025 achieved a 100% first-time pass rate. The NCLEX is the standardized national exam for entry-level nurses to obtain a nursing license in the United States, Canada, and Australia. MSU had 42 students test during the 2024-25 academic year, including December 2024 grads who tested in 2025. The 100% pass rate is the second perfect outcome in the past three years.



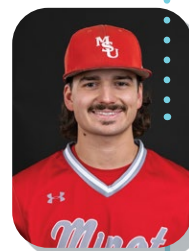
MSU alumni help lead Team USA to unprecedented heights

Minot State University alumni David Hoff '90, Corey Gorder '01, and Eric Woodbeck '07 helped Team USA Sled Hockey to a gold medal at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina in early March. Hoff, as head coach, and Gorder and Woodbeck as assistants, guided the team over rival Canada 6-3 to win its fifth consecutive gold medal. It was a banner year for USA Hockey overall at the Winter Olympics in Milan, taking home gold in men's, women's, and sled hockey.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Millions, Meldrim earn NSIC Elite 18 awards

Minot State University's Raivyn Millions and Conner Meldrim each earned the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Elite 18 Award for softball and baseball, respectively. As part of the NSIC 25th Anniversary celebration during the 2016-17 academic year, the NSIC Elite 18 Award was instituted to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the NSIC Championship level in his or her sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among his or her peers. The NSIC Elite 18 award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NSIC's 18 Championships.



Cheer on Beaver basketball in *Hawaii* OCT. 30 - NOV. 1

Join Minot State men's basketball in Honolulu when they compete in the **2026 Hoops in Hawaii Tip-Off Classic**. Special fan packages include game admission, hotel stay, and more. For more information contact coach Randall Herbst, randall.herbst@minotstateu.edu.

MINOT STATE FACULTY AND STAFF



By Veronica Corey

Jacob THRAILKILL & Sophia RAMMELL-THRAILKILL



Sophia Rammell-Thraikill and Jacob Thraikill know the importance of investing in their community.

The pair not only contribute their time and effort but are constantly seeking out new passion projects to highlight at Minot State.

Sophia is the chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, coordinator for world languages, and associate professor of Spanish and linguistics at MSU. When she came to interview in 2019, she was drawn to the people in Minot and on campus.

Shortly after moving to Minot, she met her husband at the Minot Lions Club. The couple married in 2021 and have a son who recently had his first birthday.

Jacob, a Minot native and wealth management advisor for Northwestern Mutual, understands that supporting a local university like Minot State can benefit the community.

"When you give to your local university, whether you're alumni or not, you are investing in your community, you're investing in the infrastructure here, but more importantly, you're investing in your neighbors," he said.

The couple each found their own passions and work to support students to find theirs as well. Sophia has always had a passion for multilingualism, while Jacob took on co-coaching the Minot State Trap Shooting Club.

This past Giving Day, they sponsored gift challenges for the Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Studies and the Trap Shooting Club.

"Both of our parents and extended family have philanthropic values, efforts, and lessons that they

want to pass down," Jacob said. "We've always been about helping wherever we can. And specific to Minot State, there's a scholarship area that Sophia is passionate about for multilingualism. We wanted to fill a need there, scholarship-wise. We started in that area, and then, when I became one of the coaches for the trap shooting team at the college, we added that scholarship. It's under club sports and not the main athletic division, so there aren't any real scholarship opportunities for students. I wanted to make a difference there for those students."

They also support other areas, including the Northwest Arts Center, professional communication, art, performing arts, and many others.

"It's worth supporting Minot State, not just because I work there, but for the vast cultural opportunities that it brings to Minot," Sophia said. "We have the Minot Symphony Orchestra, theater productions, and the Northwest Arts Center. We have a lot happening on campus that Minot, as a city, can really enjoy."

The Thraikills know that any support can go a long way, and there are many ways to do so at Minot State.

"We want to continue to bolster and support the things that we're already giving to and magnify impact in those areas," Jacob said. "Beyond that, I think it's just sharing the story and teaching people how to be philanthropic. You don't need millions of dollars to be philanthropic. A lot of companies, like mine, will support your philanthropic efforts through matching grants and similar initiatives. There are a lot of ways for people to give."

"There are more ways to give back, including volunteering," Sophia added. "If you don't have money to give, you can give time." ■■■

MINOT STATE FACULTY AND STAFF

Minot State University is fortunate to have members of our faculty and staff devoted to academic excellence and enriching the Minot State experience. Their loyalty and commitment is appreciated greatly.

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» Minot State reports largest first-day freshman class in 14 years

Minot State University saw its largest first-day freshman class in 14 years in Fall 2025, reporting a total of 415 new freshmen, representing a 15% increase over 2024. MSU was also up 4% in transfer students, with 273 students, marking the largest fall transfer class in five years. Combined with new graduate students, the total number of new students at MSU is the largest since 2020. MSU also experienced a considerable increase in Canadian students, with an 8.9% rise. Minot State's Hometown Pride Scholarship, now in its fourth year, continues to attract local students, as MSU saw a 4.4% increase in students from Ward County.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



MSU awarded grant to enhance STEM, research for rural students

- The North Dakota Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) is pleased to announce that its partnering institutions have been approved for a National Science Foundation (NSF) E-CORE award for their Sustainable Programs Advancing Research and Knowledge across North Dakota (SPARK-ND) proposal. MSU will receive \$480,000 in funding over the next four years to support these efforts. SPARK-ND, funded by NSF under their EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement (E-CORE RII) program, aims to build a sustainable science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research and education ecosystem in North Dakota. Led by North Dakota State University, 10 colleges and universities in North Dakota will collaborate to expand STEM research capacity in the state, connect research communities, build STEM research literacy in rural populations, and strengthen the STEM community at the five Tribal colleges and universities in North Dakota.

» MSU special education receives Bush Foundation grant

Minot State University's special education programs have received a Bush Foundation award to continue to recruit, train, and retain special education teachers to serve in rural communities. The five-year, \$5.25 million grant will support the growth of a robust special education personnel preparation pipeline, which begins with high school career exploration and culminates in graduate-level leadership preparation. This collaborative project is led by Minot State University and Certification Central, North Dakota's alternative special education teacher licensure program. Co-project directors are Holly Pedersen '93, professor of special education at MSU, and Katherine Terras, CEO of Certification Central.



DONORS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS, MATCHING GIFT CORPORATE SPONSORS, IN HONOR, AND IN MEMORY



By Michael Linnell

Duane “Dewy” BLOCK



Duane “Dewy” Block ‘05/’06 has never measured success solely by personal accomplishments.

Instead, the Minot native believes success is rooted in helping others thrive.

That belief is what inspired the creation of the Duane “Dewy” Block Scholarship Endowment at Minot State University.

The scholarship was designed with one simple priority: financial need.

“I just want to help people who need help,” Block said. “Helping young people thrive and succeed, helping the poor and unfortunate become self-sufficient, and helping the world become a more loving, caring, and forgiving place – that’s what matters to me.”

Block’s path to philanthropy was shaped by decades of service and good old-fashioned hard work.

Born and raised in Minot, he attended Roosevelt Elementary, Ramstad Middle School, and graduated from Magic City Campus High School before joining the U.S. Army. He served for six years, earning numerous awards and accolades during his service to the country.

He later worked for nearly 17 years as a civilian employee at Minot Air Force Base, managing teams and training military personnel.

After years in the workforce, Block decided it was time to pursue a college degree – something he had always wanted to do.

“Minot State was a great fit because, being from Minot, why would I go anywhere else?” he said. “I had always wanted to go to college but never had the opportunity when I was younger. I never really wanted to go anywhere else, and I’m glad I didn’t. Minot State is a cool campus and has a dedicated staff. I really enjoyed myself.”

Block earned a Bachelor of Science degree in management information systems and a minor in marketing, graduating cum laude in 2005. He later completed a Master of Science in Management in

2006, an achievement he pursued with characteristic determination.

“One day I read that less than one percent of people in the U.S. had a master’s degree,” Block said. “I said I wanted to be one of those people, and I did.”

He credits his graduate education with sharpening not only his business skills, but also his communication and perspective.

“This polished what I had already been doing, as well as improving the way I thought, communicated, and wrote,” he said.

Following his time at Minot State, Block built a successful career as an entrepreneur, launching several businesses in the Minot area, including Northern Prairie Home Improvement and Northern Prairie Condo and Storage, Inc.

As his businesses grew, Block remained committed to giving back.

His first gift to Minot State came in 2008 with a \$50 donation to the College of Business Scholarship Endowment. He has continued supporting the University ever since, including expanding his own scholarship endowment in 2025.

For Block, philanthropy is personal. By intentionally keeping the scholarship criteria broad, he hopes to remove barriers for students facing financial challenges and give them opportunities to succeed.

Today, Block is semi-retired and enjoys spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, and attending Minnesota Twins games with family and friends. Yet his focus remains on creating opportunities for others.

“God wants people to be loving individuals, hold joy in their hearts, succeed in what they do, and carry on harmonious relationships with others,” Block said.

And through his continued generosity to Minot State students, Block is helping make that vision possible. ...

DONORS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS, MATCHING GIFTS/ FOUNDATIONS, IN HONOR, and IN MEMORY

Thank you to the generous donors who made gifts during July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Your support is vital to our students' education. You established new scholarships, strengthened academic programs, supported athletic teams, improved campus facilities, and more. We are honored to include you among our community of donors.

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HOMECOMING

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SEPT. 17 – 19

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

President's Club Luncheon – 11:30 A.M.

Student Center Conference Center

Golden Awards Banquet – 6:30 P.M.

Student Center Conference Center

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

Athletics Luncheon – 12 P.M., MSU Dome

Campus Tour – 1 P.M., meet in Dome first floor lobby

Academic Hall of Fame Banquet – 3 P.M.

Hartnett Hall Collaboration Space

Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet – 5 P.M.

Student Center Conference Center

Women's Soccer vs. Winona State – 5:30 P.M.

First Western Bank Field at Herb Parker Stadium

All Alumni & Friends Homecoming Social – 7 P.M.

Sports on Tap

Featured 2026 reunion groups:

- 100th Anniversary Mu Sigma Tau Fraternity
- All Soccer Reunion

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

Homecoming Parade – 10:30 A.M.

Downtown Minot to campus

Tailgate – 11:30 A.M.

Football vs. Southwest Minnesota State – 2 P.M.

First Western Bank Field at Herb Parker Stadium

MinotStateU.edu/homecoming

