

Volume 12 – Issue 2, February 2026



From the Director

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE!!

My, how time flies, it's already the second month of the new year. The Military Resource Center continues to serve our military educational benefited students in-person or virtually as requested.

We are always looking for ways to improve how we serve our student veterans and appreciate any suggestions. Please let us know how we can better serve you in 2025.

*Andy Heitkamp
Veteran Services Director*



Feb.14

Be seen. Be heard. Belong.

IN THIS ISSUE

MSU Scholarship Deadline
License test reimbursement
Enrollment verification
James's Corner
Important Dates
New ID Cards
VERA Appointment Scheduler
Ask VA
Activities Attended
GI Bill and taxes
Veteran Resources
MSU Food Pantry
Student Loan Repayment
Writing Center info
Compensation rates update
Marketplace for kids
Career counseling
Federal Hiring info
Veterans preference info
Combat Tested Gaming
USAF Junior ROTC Instructors
Welcome Home celebration
Drop-in tutoring
VA Veteran Panelists search
Energy Hawk Researcher app
Hyperbaric Healing for Veterans
Presumptive Services
VA Outreach events
Chap 35 reporting
ND Native American State
Science and Engineering Fair
DAV Feed

OFFICE HOURS
Model Hall 208
8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Military Resource Center
Minot State University
500 University Ave W
Minot, ND 58707
701-858-4003 / 1-800-777-0750

MinotStateU.edu

The 2026-2027 Minot State General Scholarship

Please review the [scholarship](#) terms and conditions by clicking on, Undergraduate scholarship terms and conditions, found under the red “Apply Now!” button. Minot State offers a variety of scholarships funded by gifts to the University. Scholarships are based on academic achievements, financial need, and other criteria defined by the donors. Some Minot State scholarships available for the 2026-2027 academic year require a separate application form from our general scholarship application. Visit the OTHER MSU SCHOLARSHIP [page](#) to locate scholarship applications. For more information, contact the Minot State Financial Aid Office at 701-858-3375.

Scholarships & Awards



2026-2027 Minot State General Scholarship Application

*Award programs are subject to change without notice and are subject to the availability of funds. *Late applications will be considered as funds are available.*

The GI Bill® covers more than just tuition. You can use part of your entitlement to cover the costs of certain tests and preparatory courses (also called “prep courses”). Find out how to get paid back for licensing and certification tests and prep courses.

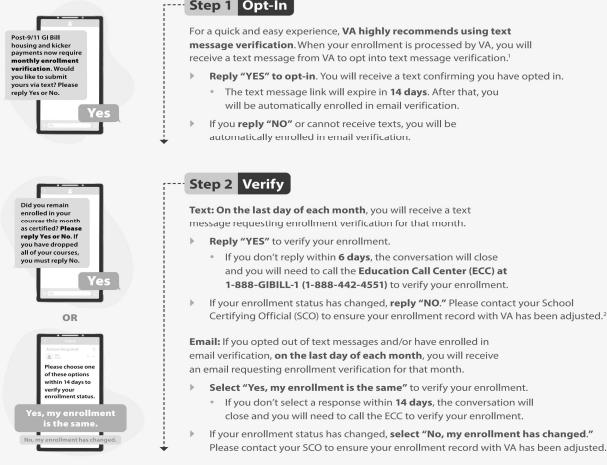
GI Bill® covers more than just tuition, licensing & certification tests, and prep courses!

(<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/licensing-and-certification-tests/>)

Enrollment Verification

A Guide for Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) Students

Post-9/11 GI Bill® students attending **IHL facilities** who receive Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments are required to verify enrollment at the end of each month. This applies to IHL students with terms starting **on or after December 17, 2021**.



https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification_of_enrollment.asp



How to video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKq-reD01ZA>



James's Corner

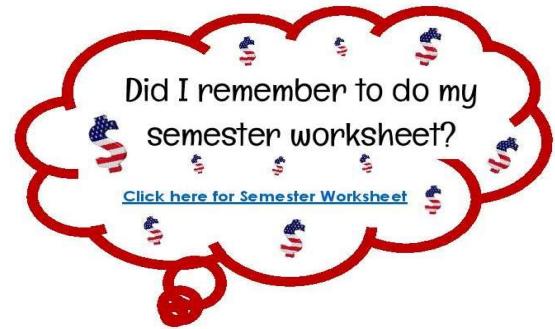
Students,

This month I wanted to discuss one of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits rules regarding the use of your benefits: the VA will not pay for courses that are not required for your degree plan. I've seen a lot of students lately taking courses that aren't needed for their program, and I have been trying to reach out when this happens, but it is taking too much time away from me being able to complete other student's certifications. I understand that sometimes your advisor will accept substitutions for some courses, but without hearing from you and the instructor that this is happening, it just looks like another "recommended" course that the VA will not approve for payment. Please also make sure you verify with the automated email you receive from the VA after I complete your certification, that you were certified for the correct number of credits. If not, contact our office to see if the error was in our reporting, or if you have courses that are ineligible for payment consideration by the VA.

I also wanted to send a special shout-out to our friend, Liz, who is a former MiSU work-study for the office, and reads our monthly newsletter from wherever the military has taken her and her family. You are missed!

Respectfully,

James Tucci



Important Dates

Academic

February

- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 General scholarship application deadline
- 16 Presidents Day – University Closed
- 17 Spring Assessment Day

February is...

Black History Month

US Armed Forces Dates

February

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)
- 3 Four Chaplains Day
- 4 USO Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Presidents Day
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 23 Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945)
- 28 Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day

**SCHEDULE YOUR
1 on 1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert**



Appointment Scheduler



https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/?utm_source=ooter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetR esources&utm_id=31JUL2024

ASK VA

New “Ask VA” portal allows anyone to contact VA securely

Who Can Access [Ask VA](#)?

Anyone can access Ask VA to submit a question at any time. Veterans, their families, caregivers, beneficiaries, dependents, or the general public can use Ask VA for specific or broad information on VA benefits and services. Veterans do not have to be enrolled in VA to submit a question. In fact, Ask VA can provide helpful information for Veterans to enroll and begin their VA journey!

How does [Ask VA](#) Work?

After a question or comment is submitted, Ask VA routes it to the best subject matter expert to respond. Users can search for answers by category or specific topics, write their specific question in a free-text box, and indicate how they want to be contacted for an answer – via email, phone or secure VA.gov account.

Since its launch, customers have used [Ask VA](#) to ask about their VA claim or appeal status and to send in documentation for their GI Bill benefit.

Activities Attended

January

- 1 New Years Day
- 2 Meeting with VA Outreach
- 6 Marketplace for kids
- 7 Benefits Presentation for Trio Services
- 8 Safe Communities meeting
- 8 DAV meeting
- 9 Minot Area Military Affairs Meeting
- 10 Student Affairs Meeting
- 13 1st day of Spring 2026 classes
- 14 ND Suicide Coalition meeting
- 14 Behavior Intervention Team meeting (BIT)
- 15 Minot Interagency meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King Day observed
- 21 University Cabinet meeting
- 21 DAV meeting
- 22 VA office hours webinar
- 22 Business after hours North Star Community Credit
- 23 Graduation Expo
- 23 Beaver Booster and friends' appreciation night
- 26 Student Affairs meeting
- 26 VA Mental Health Committee meeting
- 27 Our Redeemers Veteran Peer Support
- 28 Behavior Intervention Team meeting (BIT)
- 29 Veteran Breakfast
- 29 Vet Center Outreach rep on campus



Check out the Minot State Veterans Service Center Facebook page and give it a to stay current with events.

www.facebook.com/MinotStateVeterans



Do I have to pay taxes on my VA education benefit payments?

No.

Payments from all GI Bill® programs are tax-free.

This applies to you, your dependents, and your survivors.

How VA education benefit payments affect your taxes

<https://www.va.gov/resources/how-va-education-benefit-payments-affect-your-taxes/#:~:text=Do%20I%20have%20to%20pay,your%20dependents%2C%20and%20your%20survivors.>

VA Resources

Find local Veteran Resources

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/find-resources/local-resources/>



Use this tool to find VA locations (including community care providers, emergency care, pharmacies, and more).



National Resource Directory (<https://nrd.gov/>)

The National Resource Directory (NRD) connects wounded warriors, service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers to national, state, and local services and resources.



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Behavioral Health Treatment Services (<https://findtreatment.gov/>)

This tool, which is confidential and anonymous, allows people to search by ZIP code for local treatment facilities that focus on substance use/addiction and/or mental health issues.

Student Health and Counseling Services expanded



Health professionals can apply now for student loan repayment programs. Programs support access to care for underserved and rural areas of North Dakota.



APPLY

(<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/health/primary-care-office/north-dakota-health-service-corps/healthcare-professional-loan-repayment>)

- [Dental Loan Repayment Program](#)
- [Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program](#)
- [Federal State Loan Repayment \(SLRP\)](#)
- [National Health Service Corps \(HRSA\)](#)
- [Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program](#)

2026 Marketplace for Kids
[\(https://marketplaceforkids.org/education-days/region-2-minot/\)](https://marketplaceforkids.org/education-days/region-2-minot/)



Lt to Rt,
Pedro Avitua, Richard Reuer, Ron Garcia, Andy Heitkamp, Warren Anderson, Jim Weaver, Paul Engeldinger, Potsy Potter, Danny Matishek

Thanks again to Minot DAV Chapter 4 for their help presenting U.S. flag etiquette and folding instructions to six groups attending this year's event on the campus of Minot State University.

The flag-folding ceremony is a symbolic passing of the thirteen truths, one for each fold of the flag.

The Canton of blue is the portion of the flag denoting honor. It contains the stars representing each state of our veterans who have served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is only inverted in times of distress. It is also draped as a country mourns those in uniform who have fallen in honorable service.





FAQs on your VA housing & book payments
[HousingandBookPaymentFAQs.pdf](#)

Spring 2026 Drop-In Peer Tutoring Schedule In-person tutoring located in the Academic Support Center, lower level of the library SUBJECT NOT LISTED? HAVE CLASS DURING LISTED TIMES? Submit the Tutor Request form at www.MinotStateU.edu/tutoring and we will try to accommodate your needs. Times and subjects offered may change during the semester - check the schedule often! Tutoring is not available on days that MSU does not hold classes. Additional online tutoring is available with NetTutor through your Blackboard account.						 MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY Academic Support Center 701-858-3360 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Updated 1/16/26 Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.
Subject	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
ACCT 200 / 201 Cambray	1:00 - 2:00 PM	1:00 - 2:00 PM				
BIOL 220 / 221 Carley						9:00 - 10:00 AM
CHEM 118 Carley		11:00 AM - 12:00 PM				
CHEM 122 Hannah			10:00 - 11:00 AM			
CHEM 342 Peer Review Session						
MATHEMATICS	2:00 - 3:00 PM - Andrew		2:00 - 3:00 PM - Andrew			2:00 - 3:00 PM - Andrew
PSY 111 / 241 / 270 Teagan	1:00 - 2:00 PM			10:00 - 11:00 AM		
STUDY STRATEGIES	Available Upon Request - Submit the Tutor Request Form found at www.MinotStateU.edu/tutoring Time Management, Test Prep, Taking Notes, Memorization, Using Your Book, etc.					

DROP IN TUTORING SPRING 2026
https://www.minotstateu.edu/asc/peer_tutoring.shtml
Located in the Academic Support Center
Lower Level of Gordon B. Olson Library



Peer Tutoring

Peer tutoring is funded by student fees - there is no extra charge for services!
No appointments needed - stop in during scheduled hours for assistance with a subject that is listed on the schedule.

Tammy Wolf, Tutoring Coordinator
Academic Support Center
Library Lower Level
701-858-3360
tammy.wolf@ndus.edu

Energy Hawks Summer 2026 Internship Opportunity

The Energy Hawks internship is a premier research opportunity for students to better understand North Dakota's current energy landscape and focus that understanding on future energy challenges and opportunities. The program is sponsored by the [University of North Dakota's Energy & Environmental Research Center](#) (EERC).

Energy Hawks 2026 Facts

1. This is a 10.5-week paid internship.
2. The internship is open to graduate and undergraduate students from any discipline.
3. Students participate via a combination of in-person and remotely.
4. All distant students will be able to participate in-person, living in paid on-campus housing in Grand Forks, ND, for the first 4 weeks, which includes the field trip to western North Dakota, and return to Grand Forks for the last week in person. All travel expenses to western North Dakota for a week are paid by Energy Hawks.
5. Students must have completed their sophomore year and have good academic standing (cumulative GPA > 3.25).
6. Students must desire to explore topics related to understanding the past and future role of energy in North Dakota.
7. The internship starts May 21 and ends August 7, with the week of June 29 - July 3 off.
8. Pay is \$18/hour (travel and room for in-person dates are paid for).
9. Once selected, each student must pass a criminal history records check (a requirement for EERC employment).
10. Interns will gain knowledge on all facets of North Dakota energy, including technological, logistical, social, and financial aspects.
11. Interns will gain experience in conducting and presenting research.
12. Interns will gain professional development.

For more information, see the attached program flyer.

One Minot State student will be selected to participate based on their availability, interest in the energy industry, interest in the internship, academic achievement, feedback from references, and other application responses. International students can participate if the internship is used as Curricular Practical Training or CPT.

To apply, complete the [application form](#) no later than February 13, 2026, and have two faculty members complete the [recommendation form](#) no later than February 27, 2026. The student selected to participate will be notified no later than March 17.

When completing the application form, be prepared to share your cumulative GPA and to describe: a) your interest in the energy industry; b) your reasons for applying for this internship; and c) what you hope to learn or gain as a result of participating in this internship.

Laurie Geller, Ed.D., VP for Academic Affairs, 701-858-3329 | MinotStateU.edu

Veterans

**PTSD, Concussion, TBI, and more treatment
Healing with Hyperbarics of North Dakota**



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Minot Health Clinic website. The header features the clinic's logo with the text "MINOT HEALTH CLINIC". To the right, operating hours are listed: Monday - Thursday: 7:30am – 4:00pm, Friday: 7:30am – 12:00pm, Saturday & Sunday: Closed. A phone number (701) 837-1551 is also provided. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Wellness, Special Services, HBOT (highlighted in red), PRP, and Contact. A red banner at the top of the main content area contains the text "Check Out Our Nutridyn Portal!" and "Shop Now! 🛍️", along with a "Patient Portal - Athena" link. Below this banner are five red buttons with white text: "What is HBOT?", "Videos", "Testimonials", "FAQ", and "New Patients". The main content area features a large heading "What is HBOT?" followed by a detailed description of the therapy. A sidebar on the right contains a "Testimonials" section with a quote from a patient.

**MINOT
HEALTH CLINIC**

Monday - Thursday: 7:30am – 4:00pm
Friday: 7:30am – 12:00pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

(701) 837-1551

HBOT

PRP

Contact

Check Out Our Nutridyn Portal! [Shop Now! 🛍️](#) [Patient Portal - Athena](#)

What is HBOT? Videos Testimonials FAQ New Patients

What is HBOT?

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is the medical use of oxygen in a pressurized environment, at a level higher than 1 atmosphere absolute (ATA). Increased pressure allows for oxygen to dissolve and saturate the blood plasma (independent of hemoglobin/red blood cells), which yields a broad variety of positive physiological, biochemical and cellular effects. This noninvasive therapy is the most trusted way to increase oxygen levels to all organs of the body. The typical treatment lasts for 60 minutes, during which the patient lies down and breathes normally.

HBOT has been demonstrated in several clinical studies to enhance the body's innate ability to repair and regenerate. It is used as an adjunct therapy to complement and enhance the healing process in both chronic and acute conditions.

HBOT benefits include but are not limited to:



Chronic inflammation, Neuropathy, Parkinson's, Dementia, Cerebral Palsy, Post Stroke, Traumatic brain injury, Post concussion, Multiple sclerosis, and many others.



It's like when you purchase a bottle of soda, the CO₂ (carbon dioxide) gas bubbles are under pressure, which decreases the size of the bubbles enough that they dissolve into the liquid. Therefore, you are unable to see them. When pressure is released, the volume of each bubble increases and the bubbles appear. While an individual is under pressure, the oxygen molecules decrease in size and are able to dissolve into the blood plasma. This exponentially increases oxygen delivery throughout the body and makes it possible for oxygen to reach inflamed tissue and support optimal cellular and organ functionality.

Understanding presumptive service connections

What is a presumptive condition, and how does it impact your VA disability benefits?

[What is a Presumptive Condition | VA Disability Claim | Veterans Affairs | theSITREP](#)

Watch the current SITREP (click above) to learn more.



VA OUTREACH EVENTS

Connecting Veterans, service members, families, and communities. Discover resources, benefits, employment opportunities, and wellness programs designed for Veterans and caregivers. Together, we're empowering Veterans, caregivers, service members, and

families to thrive, building brighter futures and stronger communities.

https://discover.va.gov/events/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=14JAN2026



How VA education benefit payments affect your taxes

Learn about the IRS tax rules (called exclusions) for your VA education benefit payments and find out how your payments affect your tax credits.

Do I have to pay taxes on the VA education benefit payments I receive?

No. Payments from all GI Bill programs are tax-free. This is true for you, your dependents, and your survivors.

Tax-free education benefits include:

- Tuition
- Training fees
- Test fees for licenses and certifications
- Money to pay for a tutor
- Work study
- Books
- Housing

Please do not include education benefit payments as income when you file your taxes.

Tax exclusion for veterans' education benefits

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-exclusion-for-veterans-education-benefits>

If you serve or served in the [military](#) and are receiving [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) education benefits](#), the IRS excludes this income from taxation. [Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education](#), the authoritative source for all education tax matters, covers this tax exclusion. You can learn more about [Veterans' Benefits](#) in Chapter 1. Read below for a summary of the policy.

Will VA education benefit payments affect my tax credits?

Yes. If the tax credits you want to claim are based on your education expenses, you will need to subtract your VA education benefit payments from your total education expenses. These are the payments that go directly to you—not to your college.

More information

Publication 970 (2024), Tax Benefits for Education

<https://www.irs.gov/publications/p970>

Need more help?

- **GI Bill Hotline:** [888-GIBILL-1 \(888-442-4551\)](tel:888-GIBILL-1)

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Chapter 35 Beneficiaries

Starting in January 2026,

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35) beneficiaries are required to verify their enrollment each month to receive their benefit payments.



Keep Your Contact Information Current

It only takes a minute!



Sign into VA.gov or use Ask VA to make sure your **phone number, email, and address** are up to date.



A beneficiary must verify their enrollment for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to begin processing their monthly benefit. Once verified, payment processing can take five to seven calendar days.

To verify enrollment, beneficiaries have the following options available:

- **Text:** To verify via text, beneficiaries can opt in when they begin using their benefits to receive a text message from VA on the last day of each month to confirm their enrollment.
- **Email:** If beneficiaries choose to opt out of text verification, they will receive monthly enrollment verification messages by email.
- **Online:** Beneficiaries can verify their enrollment through [VA's online tool](#).
- **Ask VA:** Beneficiaries can verify through [Ask VA](#) by sending a message with their enrollment dates.

If a beneficiary would like to change their enrollment verification method, such as to text or email, they can call the Education Call Center (ECC) at 888-442-4551, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday.

Minot State Writing Center is open for the Spring semester

The Minot State Writing Center is now open for tutoring for the Spring 2026 semester. The Center offers both in-person and online (asynchronous or synchronous) tutoring. Check the tutor's availability when making an appointment. Individuals must log in or register for an account [HERE](#).

For those choosing etutoring (asynchronous), remember to attach your paper using the links at the bottom of the appointment form. The tutor will comment on the paper and

email it back to you. Individuals do not need to come to the Center. For online tutoring (synchronous), individuals will need to be at their computer, logged into WC Online, at the appointment time and day. They and the tutor will communicate live via audio, video, and text.

For questions, contact Patti Kurtz, director, Minot State Writing Center, by [EMAIL](#) or by phone at 701-858-3073.

-- Patti Kurtz, director, Minot State Writing Center

Take a break for your health: Self-Care Fair at MSU

Looking for an easy way to take care of your health on campus? Stop by The Self-Care Fair, a convenient opportunity for Minot State students, staff, and faculty to access preventive health services and information. The First District Health Unit, with assistance from Minot State University Department of Nursing and MSU nursing students, will be on campus offering:

- Free blood pressure screenings
- Influenza, COVID-19, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), shingles, and pneumonia vaccines
- No-cost rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing (fast and confidential results)
- Cologuard® colorectal cancer screening information

Participants can also enter for a chance to win a \$50 MSU Barnes & Noble gift card.

- **Date:** Tuesday, Feb. 24
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Location: MSU Student Center Atrium (next to the bookstore)

Insurance will be billed for services other than blood pressure screenings and HIV/Hepatitis C testing. Bring your insurance card. Stop by, take care of yourself, and learn more about the preventive health resources available to you on campus.

-- Melissa Fettig, assistant professor, Department of Nursing

North Dakota Native American STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

February 18, 2025

Minot State University

\$200 per school or \$10 per project

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FEBRUARY 6



Set up: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Set-up, public viewing and judging will take place
in the Minot State University Dome / main floor

Public Viewing: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Walk through by judges for safety and precautionary violations.
Lunch is available on campus for \$9 per participant (buffet style)

Judging: 1 – 3:30 p.m.

ONLY judges and students will be allowed in the project area
during judging, all others are asked to use seating area.

Awards: 4 p.m.

MSU Dome / main floor

Registration fees and entries can be sent to:

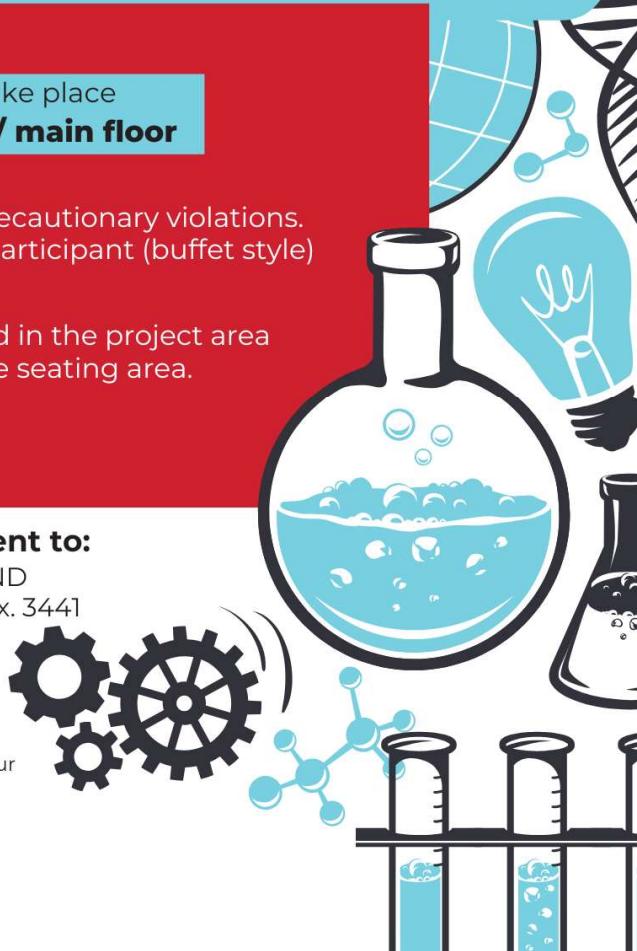
LaVon Jerome - TMES P.O. Box 440 Belcourt, ND
58316 lavon.jerome@k12.nd.us (701) 477-6471 ex. 3441
Questions? Please contact LaVon

Annette Grant-Mennem

Annette.Mennem@MinotStateU.edu 1-800-777-3365

For more information on Minot State University, please visit our
website: MinotStateU.edu

For university building location, please visit this link:
MinotStateU.edu/map



Pancake Brunch At Minot Vet Center

3300 South Broadway



Monday, February 9th

9:00am – 12 noon

All Veterans Welcome!

Minot Vet Center - Outreach Program Specialist

Aaron Moss

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

Minot, North Dakota

(701) 852-0177



Veterans, Dependents, Active Duty, Guard & Reserve members welcome!

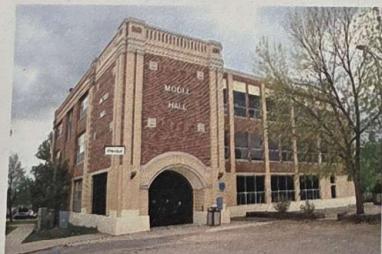
Fourth Thursday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm



2026 Dates

Thursday 26 Feb, Thursday 26 Mar, Thursday 23 Apr, Thursday 28 May, Thursday 25 Jun, Thursday 23 Jul, Thursday 27 Aug, Thursday 24 September, Thursday 22 October, Thursday 26 November, December tbc

Check us out at



Minot State University

Military Resource Center

(Model Hall 208)

POC for more info Andy Heitkamp (701)858-4002

andy.heitkamp@minotstateu.edu