

# MState NEWS

THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER FOR M STATE EMPLOYEES

April 2017

## INSIDE

**2** Academics  
*M State's AQIP journey continues: A few more leaps to make before June 1*

**3** Academics  
*The challenges as we near the finish line*

**4** Human Resources  
*Say thanks with an M State Pride Award*

**6** Information Technology  
*Have you heard the news? M State chooses Lenovo for FY 17-18 computer model*

**8** Success Stories



## Semester's final weeks are busy ones

**H**ello, everyone! Another beautiful day in M State country! As the weather continues to warm, it reminds us that the current academic term is nearly at an end. Time passes so quickly. The next several weeks are very busy with student and employee recognitions, graduation ceremonies and final appeals for positive legislative outcomes.

I recently attended the Higher Learning Commission annual meeting in Chicago. The message I heard repeatedly is that government and the accreditation agencies will continue to hold us accountable for student success. Regardless of the disinvestment in higher education, success for all students will continue to portray how successful we are as a college.

I was pleased to see that our most recent college magazine highlighted several of our most successful programs in terms of accurate employment rates and salary ranges. Graduation rates are another important indicator that we will continue to monitor. All M State disciplines and programs should carefully monitor graduation, career placement and transfer rates or risk having it done for us. The culture of higher education must focus clearly on outcomes regardless of whether we work in the classroom or throughout the organization.

Several M State leaders representing faculty and staff met with Reps. Bud Nornes and Ben Lien and Sen. Kent Eken at their request. The biennial budget was the topic, and they left with a clear illustration of how all budget scenarios

proposed to date impact M State. A recent Star Tribune article further illustrated the disinvestment in higher education as compared to surrounding states in the Midwest. Hopefully our legislators will take that information and try to sharpen their pencils a bit more! Please remind everyone you know of the positive value of higher education to the economic vitality of our region.

Remember that student and employee recognitions and graduation celebrations are just around the corner. Minnesota State Trustee Louise Sundin will attend one of our graduation ceremonies, and Trustee Roger Moe will attend the rest. Please plan to attend and participate in these important symbols of our success.

As the FY17 academic year nears its end, I want to thank you once again for everything you do to contribute to student success and institutional effectiveness. Your efforts are appreciated. Enjoy the summer as it arrives, and take some time for leisure and relaxation!



Dr. Peggy D. Kennedy  
President

Dr. Peggy Kennedy  
President

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 **Minnesota State**  
Community and Technical College

A member of the Minnesota State system

## M State's AQIP journey continues

# There are a few more leaps to make before June 1

**A**s a reminder, M State's AQIP systems portfolio is due to the Higher Learning Commission by June 1. The questions and portfolio guidelines have changed significantly from the 2013 portfolio guidelines, and we have a few big leaps to make before we complete the systems portfolio.

This month, I'd like to thank those groups and individuals for contributing ideas, edits and thoughts for the systems portfolio.



Jill Abbott  
Associate Vice President  
of Academics

- ✓ Category 4: Planning and Leading
- ✓ Category 5: Knowledge Management and Resource Stewardship
- ✓ Category 6: Quality Overview

Within the category sections, we must clearly explain our process, results and improvements for each of the subcategories that align with each of the six main categories. Additionally, we must clearly articulate how we meet the criteria for accreditation in each section.

In terms of how we share our story about our results, the commission is setting a higher bar and using more direct guidance on how they define results. Setting this higher bar is one more visible sign that the era of accountability in education is here to stay. For the results section, there is specific emphasis on the use of quantitative data, comparison data, aggregated data and what I would call "formal" data sources.

To answer the improvement questions, the AQIP pathway calls us to look back to our results data to inform our improvements. Sometimes educators refer to this as closing the loop or data-driven decision making. M State has made measurable strides in our efforts to engage in data-driven decision making.

In closing, I'm sharing some photos from the Higher Learning Commission conference. This year's conference was outstanding, with excellent keynote speakers and sessions rich with information and insight that will help as we work together to continue our journey through the Academic Quality Improvement Program pathway for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

Also, consider checking out these keynote speakers from the Higher Learning Commission conference, as they offered

### THANK YOU!

**Katie Tysdal, Peg Kalar, AQIP Steering Committee, Academic Affairs and Standards Council, Academic Leadership Team, Finance/Business Office, Workforce Development Solutions, Institutional Research, Human Resources, Information Technology, K12 Collaboration Team, Communications and Marketing, President's Cabinet**



Last month, we looked at the stages of maturity continuum that our peer reviewers will use during our systems portfolio evaluation process. This month, let's look at how each main section of the portfolio is organized. Looking at the structure of the system portfolio provides a better picture of how the AQIP accreditation pathway helps us to:

- Clearly define our **processes**
- Use data to evaluate the **results** achieved from our processes
- Implement continuous **improvements** that are informed by data

Each main section of the systems portfolio addresses one of the following six categories:

- ✓ Category 1: Helping Students Learn
- ✓ Category 2: Meeting Student and Other Key Stakeholder Needs
- ✓ Category 3: Valuing Employees





Please reach out if you have any questions or if you would like to get more involved in institutional accreditation efforts. Thank you for everything you do as you guide and lead students through to the end of the 2016-17 academic year.

interesting insights regarding some of the major issues facing our students and higher education institutions today:

- Geoffrey Stone, University of Chicago  
Topic: Freedom of Expression on College and University Campuses
- Terrell Strayhorn  
Topic: Student Belonging on Campuses
- Jeffrey Selingo  
Topic: Higher Education in a 21st Century Economy



## The challenges as we near the finish line

**T**he last few weeks of the spring semester are the craziest of the year. Our emotions range from frustration that students are just starting to "care" to delight when we see hard work pay off and defeat when, no matter how hard we work, we cannot make a difference with everyone.

Our challenges as we near the finish line:

**Fight.** Fight to make a difference wherever you see a glimmer of hope. Our biggest rewards are with our toughest students.

**Push.** Push the negative thoughts out of your mind. We didn't go into education because it is easy. We did it because we are good at it and we can't quit now.

**Support.** Our colleagues need positive energy and support – not criticism. Instead of throwing people under the bus, focus your energy on making people smile.

**Balance.** Take care of yourself and focus some of your energy on the people you love. Remember, they go through this cycle with you every year and still keep you around!

And lastly but most importantly ...

**Hold on.** It all will be over soon. That moment is coming ... the moment when they are walking across the stage and they turn so you can see the look in their eyes, and you know ...

It was because of you.

And that will be all you need to come back and do it all over again next year.



Dr. Carrie Brimhall  
Chief Academic Officer

# Say thanks with an M State Pride Award

The M State Pride Award is a way to thank your coworkers for a job well done! If someone goes above and beyond when responding to you or makes that extra effort to make your day a little easier, then send them a thank you! Send them an M State Pride Award! Since this was introduced three years ago, more than 1,500 Pride Awards have been sent!



Dacia Johnson  
Chief Human Resources Officer

Here is the direct link for the M State Pride Award: <https://employees.minnesota.edu/misc/prideaward/> Be sure and add it to your "Favorites" for convenience.

## Insurance balloon deduction and summer deposit

Insurance-eligible employees who have chosen a nine-month pay option or who will not receive a payroll check for at least one pay period during the summer are "ballooned" or have a summer deposit taken. This process ensures insurance coverage is maintained over the summer.

The total deduction will be 10 times the individual insur-

ance premium cost per pay period. Minnesota Management and Budget has set up to have the balloon deduction taken in three equal parts on checks dated April 14, April 28 and May 12. The summer balloon deduction will cover the months of April, May, June, July and August. The balloon will include deductions for health, dental and optional insurances.

Please contact Human Resources if you have questions.

## Reminder: Vacation balances

Various bargaining unit agreements and personnel plans have limits (caps) on vacation leave accrual. Some require vacation balances to be below a specific number of hours once per fiscal year. Others require the vacation balance to be at a specific balance on June 30 of each year.

Please refer to your bargaining unit agreement or personnel plan for details, or feel free to contact Human Resources.

## Floating holidays: Have you used yours?

Check it out on the MMB self-service website by clicking on Leave Balances. If you have not used yours, make sure to do so prior to June 30.

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Frontline Conference

## MAPE & AFSCME Employees

You are invited to attend the annual staff development conference designed specifically for all AFSCME and MAPE employees of Minnesota State.

### Save the date:

## Wednesday, May 24 - Thursday, May 25, 2017

The 2017 Frontline Conference Committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open.  
 Registration link: <https://mnscu.sharepoint.com/sites/FrontlineConference/SitePages/Home.aspx>  
 NOTE: Login is NOT the campus extension; **the @minnstate.edu address needs to be used.**  
 Login: (your STAR ID)@minnstate.edu | Password: Your STAR ID password  
 Please remember to work with your supervisor on requesting time away to attend the conference.

**Please use PO#131393 which is a college wide purchase order for employees attending the conference for the registration fee.**

Sponsored by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, and Minnesota State.

Minnesota State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator

STAFF CHANGES	
NEW HIRES	<b>Fergus Falls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kim Imdieke, Enrollment and Outreach Specialist</li> </ul> <b>Wadena</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Puja Sharma, Enrollment Manager</li> <li>Logan Schmidt, Enrollment Manager</li> </ul>
PERSONNEL CHANGES	<b>Detroit Lakes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patty Ekren, Foundation Financial Specialist</li> </ul> <b>Fergus Falls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tori Covington, promotion to Assistant Payroll Coordinator</li> <li>MaryLisa Olson, position change, Advising &amp; Outreach Specialist</li> </ul> <b>Moorhead</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Capistran, Interim Facilities Services Supervisor</li> </ul> <b>Wadena</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leslie Rudrud, position change, Associate Director of Financial Aid</li> </ul>
NO LONGER AT M STATE	<b>Moorhead</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amanda Breslin, resigned</li> <li>Kate Johnson, end of temporary appointment</li> <li>Scott Lein, resigned</li> <li>Ellen Parker, resigned</li> </ul>

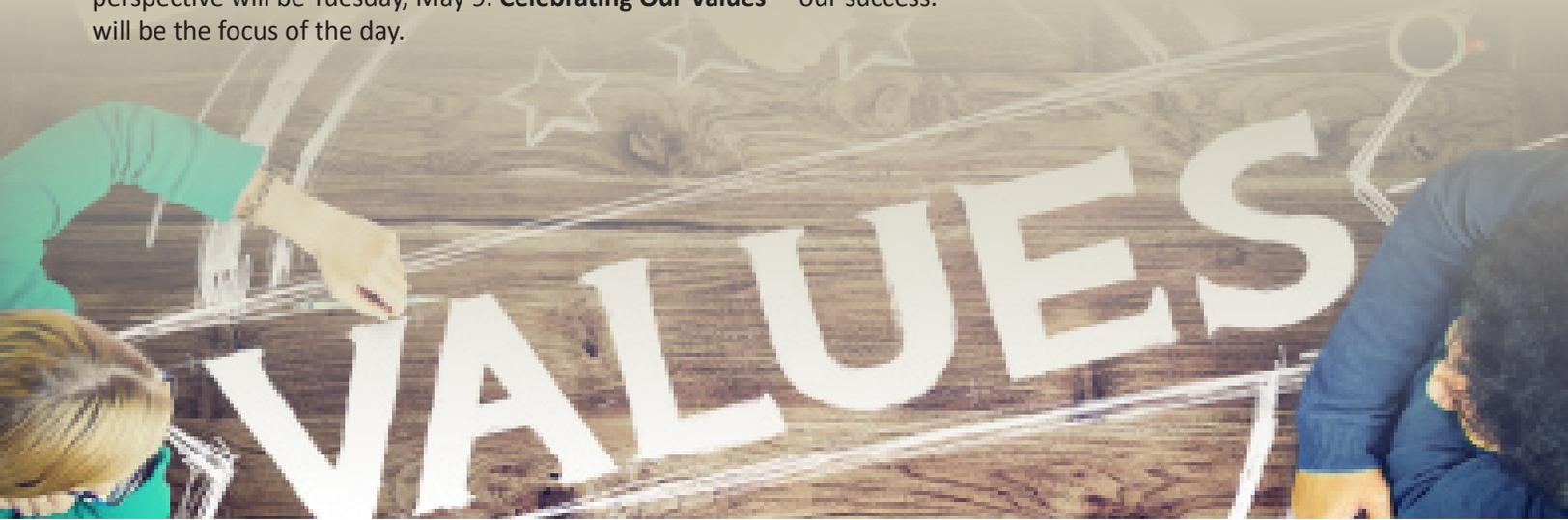
# Voices. Values. Vision.

A series of M State professional development sessions to help faculty and staff understand, learn and experience culture and inclusion from the student perspective.

## Celebrating Our Values Tuesday, May 9 • Moorhead

The second in the series of M State professional development sessions to assist faculty and staff understand, learn and experience culture and inclusion from the student perspective will be Tuesday, May 9. **Celebrating Our Values** will be the focus of the day.

We will continue to learn and experience cultural diversity and inclusion within the M State community. We will also celebrate the contributions of our employees which create our success.



Moorhead Community and Technical College Foundation invites you to the

*Sixth Annual*

**FOUR-PERSON**  
**GOLF**

*Scramble*

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28** at the Hawley Country Club

1 pm Shotgun start • 6 pm Dinner and reception

• \$65 for 18 holes and 1/2 cart • \$300 for hole sponsorship • \$500 for hole sponsorship and four players

Proceeds benefit the Dan Sperling *Realize Your Dream* Endowment

For more information or to register, contact Lacey Hoffmann at 218.299.6545 or [lacey.hoffmann@minnesota.edu](mailto:lacey.hoffmann@minnesota.edu)



## Have you heard the news?

### M State chooses Lenovo for FY 17-18 computer model

Reasons why we are making the change:

- Lenovo provides the Yoga, a two-in-one computer. It allows the end user to choose between using it as a tablet with touch or pen capabilities or a fully functioning laptop. It folds 360 degrees, is lightweight and will make a great fit for the person who needs to be mobile.
- From an IT perspective, the Lenovo Tiny-in-One product that will be used in our lab environment will be extremely quick and easy to swap out when something does not work.
- Lenovo is advancing in technology, its reputation is well-known and it is a rock solid company.
- Price is relatively the same but, in terms of reputation and innovation, Lenovo is a leader.
- IT staff purchased and tested the Lenovo products this past year, and performance has been outstanding.
- There's an opportunity to become a Lenovo Self-Maintainer Program and earn cash back.
- Feedback from people who have Lenovo products is very positive.
- Lenovo offers excellent service and support.



Lisa Ziegler  
Computer Help Center Director



- Large 15-inch or bigger monitor 3.66
- Built-in optical drive 3.59
- Light weight 3.51
- High-performance graphics 3.50
- Built-in webcam 2.89
- Ability to write on screen 2.79
- Small size (lightweight) 2.76
- Touch screen 2.44

### Background Information

During FY 2016-2017, the Computer Help Center team did an extensive comparison of computer make and models and vendor comparisons. The team reviewed in detail the HP, Dell, Microsoft Surface, Sony and Lenovo products as well as the services each of these vendors provides. Due to our existing fleet and the fact that 2016-2017 would be the last year we would be able to get Dell computers with VGA connections that we could use with our existing docking stations, we decided to stay with Dell as our computer make/model.

Also during FY 2016-2017, we surveyed faculty and staff and asked them to rank the following features on a scale from 1 (not important) to 5 (very important). Results were:

- Fast speed 4.58
- Projector connections 4.12
- 250+ SSD 3.78

We had 162 end users respond, 53.09 percent faculty and 46.91 percent staff. As you can see, speed and the ability to connect to projectors are very important to our end users. Now that VGA connections are no longer available in the newer model computers, our goal is to have all our campus classrooms upgraded to HDMI connections within three years. IT is currently working with the Campus Academic Planning Teams across the college to make this happen.

In addition, our end users want speed, light weight and high performance; many of them really want and need to be mobile. Unfortunately, webcams and touch screens did not rank toward the top, but this survey was given before many of our end users became familiar with Skype for Business and had the CTLT to assist them with so many instructional technology possibilities. If the survey were given today, I am confident the results would be different.

### Where are we now?

Over spring break the CHC lead team along with myself and Gus Klemm reviewed the computer make and models again. Our team wanted to ensure that we could best meet the needs of our end users and fulfill the current and future trends that so many have come to expect and rely on. In addition, we wanted a product that significantly outshines the others in terms of reputation, advancement and support. **We have found that in the Lenovo product and made a recommendation to the Leadership Team at its April 5 meeting to consider our request to endorse and move forward with the Lenovo products for FY 2017-2018.** The Leadership Team approved.

We do have a tentative list of people who are up for new computers this year. We are waiting on budget information before we notify end users as to who will be getting new computers. Our plan is to have individuals identified by the first week of May and have samples of each computer make and model in our local campus CHC offices before faculty leave for the summer. Faculty who have been identified as receiving an upgrade will be able to choose which model will best meet their needs.

Questions? Reach out to the CHC lead team: Ken Iverson in Moorhead, Darren Hage in Fergus Falls, Tracy Crawford in Wadena, Chris Klein in Detroit Lakes or Lisa Ziegler.

### IT happenings over the summer

- StarLan, the wireless on-campus connection, will be removed and replaced with Eduroam.
- Campus classrooms will be upgraded with HDMI projectors, and screens will be moved as requested.
- Laptop and lab computers will be upgraded.
- Security camera systems across the college will begin being upgraded to March Network Systems with 49 new cameras and a recording server installed on the Fergus Falls campus that will support upgrading campus housing cameras as well.
- The Baudette line worker remote site will be connected to our network.
- The Data Security Classification System process will be an 18-month process in which the college will identify data ownership, classify security of and inventory all business data (paper and electronic) to ensure proper security measures are in place, who has access to what data and provide preparedness for any breaches that may occur.
- ITV codec systems will be upgraded.
- Institute a partnership with Central Lakes College to provide single sign-on services.
- Windows 10 upgrade.

- SCCM imaging upgrade.
- Develop IT mentoring program focusing on talent management, cross training, professional development, customer service and support.
- Prepare draft recommendations regarding printer consolidation for shared governance, faculty input and labor management input by fall.
- Finalize three-year master tech plan.

### Changes, changes and more changes

1. MnSCU is now Minnesota State! Use [StarID@minnstate.edu](mailto:StarID@minnstate.edu) to log in to the SharePoint site for the system office.
2. Don't forget, Minnesota State will be upgrading the D2L production site to version 10.7 on Tuesday, June 6 (estimated downtime is an hour around 5 a.m.). Faculty are encouraged to watch this Minnesota State webinar, [D2L Upgrade](#), for details. For more information, refer to Carrie Brimhall's April 10 Academic Update.
3. Heads up! M State will join the Minnesota State Office 365 tenancy in April 2018.
4. The minnesota.edu site will be going through a major overhaul, and a demo of the new site will be available to ensure all the correct content is ready for launch in October 2017.

### Did you know?

Now to see if you read the whole IT news article: Did you know that April 28 is Pay It Forward Day? It's a worldwide day created to make a difference by getting people to show small, random act of kindness, creating a huge ripple effect all around us. These small acts of kindness, when multiplied by millions, can literally change how people feel and make people feel good about themselves and those around them.

What can you do? Mark April 28 on your calendar and plan something special. You will be glad you did!

- Pay for someone's cup of coffee
- Bring healthy treats to work and share with co-workers
- As a department or team, collect money and donate to a charity of your team's choice
- Pay for a student's lunch
- Collect non-perishable foods and give them to a organization or other organization
- Take an extra hour out of your day to visit with a friend or treat them to lunch

*Enjoy your summer!*

## Our students shine



### Zimmerman honored for achievements

Second-year student **Jay Zimmerman** was named to the All-Minnesota Academic Team for his academic and leadership achievements this spring. As a student on the Fergus Falls campus, he earned a 4.0 GPA during his M State career and played both basketball and baseball.

**Scheel** and **Brad Burgess** won second place awards at the state SkillsUSA event. Scheel was second in Job Skills Demonstration, and Burgess won silver in the Power Equipment Technology competition.

### M State singers perform at Carnegie Hall

**Fourteen M State students** performed as part of the Masterwork Festival Chorus at New York's Carnegie Hall on April 10. The 14 were joined by six M State Chamber Chorale community members in the performance of the Faure Requiem by the Festival Chorus and the New York City Chamber Orchestra.

M State choirs have performed previously in the concert, formerly called the National Two-Year Community College Festival.

### Dental Hygiene students are perfect, again

All **20 second-year Dental Hygiene students** passed the written National Board Dental Hygiene Exam on their first attempt during spring 2017, says Dental Program Director Kris Pladson. The national pass rate is approximately 94 percent on the first attempt, but M State's pass rate has been 100 percent during the past 10 years.

## Our students have Skills



Second-year Diesel Equipment Technology student **Zach Schreiner** is advancing to the national SkillsUSA competition after winning first place in the recent Minnesota SkillsUSA annual event in Bloomington. Schreiner was the top state competitor in the Diesel Equipment Technology category. The national event is June 19-23 in Louisville, Ky.

In addition, PowerSports students **Jack**



## An electric performance

Four teams of **Electrical Line Worker Technology students** won **second place overall** at the recent national 2017 College Powerline Rodeo, where M State was competing for the first time.

Winning first place in the hurt man team competition and second place in the written exam were the M State team of **Noah Haaland, Kyle Krueger** and **Ryan Filek**, along with alternate

**Walker Landa, Joshua Hofmann** won second place in the individual hurt man rescue competition. Also competing for M State were **Ethan Orlando, Tanen Holzem, Ian Willborg, Dustin Sepin, Matthew Roberts, Daniel Grebinoski, Cole Mertens** and **William Nelson**.

The competition was at Western Nebraska Community College.

## Pat on the back

### Borcherding, Cummings honored as Outstanding Educators



**Dr. Matthew Borcherding** and **Pam Cummings** have been honored by the Minnesota State colleges and universities as 2017 Outstanding Educators for excellence in teaching. The system-wide award recognizes educators for their exemplary work with and service to students, their institutions and Minnesota State.



Borcherding and Cummings were chosen for the Outstanding Educator award by President Peggy Kennedy based on nominations by students, faculty peers and staff. They were among 31 educators from 20 two-

year colleges honored by the Minnesota State system at its annual Board of Trustees awards luncheon in St. Paul on April 19.

### Brimhall honored by YMCA



**Chief Academic Officer Carrie Brimhall** is one of 33 women who will be honored during the Cass Clay YMCA's 44th Annual Woman of the Year event on May 1 in Fargo. The YMCA event pays tribute to women "whose lives, talents and passions have made a meaningful difference. All have demonstrated passion for their community, service to women and children, and are an inspiration to the next generation of leaders."

## In the news



M State alumnus and dairy industry entrepreneur **David Lenzmeier** had a fascinating story of persistence and success for guests at Fergus Area College Foundation's annual Bigwood Lecture.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College Music Department presents

# Kevin Priebe

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**17:1**  
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\$  
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AWARDED ON AVERAGE  
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**80%**  
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