



PROFILE

Building **COMMUNITY** *Building* **PARTNERSHIPS**

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2017

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Ways To Give.....

Online giving
[click here](#)

Giving:
M State Foundation and Alumni
1900 28th Ave South
Moorhead MN 56560

When you make an investment in M State you are:

- Providing accessible and quality education through scholarship opportunities for students.
- Providing innovative and state-of-the-art classroom resources that allow hands-on learning experiences.
- Supporting economic and community progress.



The Importance of Scholarships to Students & Colleges

A common perception by those interested in pursuing a college education is that tuition for all colleges and universities is over \$50,000 per year, which makes going to college unattainable for most families. In reality, the cost of going to Minnesota State Community & Technical College (M State) or any Minnesota state college is approximately \$5000 per year or less. In addition, over 40 percent of M State programs may be completed in one year or less.

Even if \$5000 seems like a lot of money (and it is) M State distributes over \$207,000 in scholarships per year, and over 80 percent of M State students receive financial aid to finance their college education. In addition, over half of our students combine scholarships and attend classes tuition-free! M State career programs lead to interesting and rewarding jobs with viable futures right here in our region through financial options that make college possible and affordable for everyone.

These important benefits are possible by the generosity of our regional businesses, industries, families and individuals who care about students and workforce issues so much that they generously provide monetary and other gifts that allow students who may otherwise not be able to attend college do so. Our M State Foundation serves this critical function and more. The foundation's importance to the College is instrumental to its success given the percentage of students who attend on a basis of need.

Given the uncertainty of consistent College revenue streams, it is essential that the College place a high value on the generosity of our constituents and the willingness of our foundation boards to solicit funds that allow all students to attend college. Thank you to those generous groups and individuals who contribute to this effort.

The scholarship application window is now open for students to apply. Please encourage future students to apply now!

Peggy D. Kennedy, Ed.D.
President
Minnesota State Community & Technical College



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Stay In Touch....

Calling all alumni

Did you attend/graduate from any of the M State campuses? We want to hear from you. "Stay in Touch" with us!

Update your contact info.... [Click here](#)

Foundation Board Members....

- Terinne Berg - President
- Nick Leonard - Vice President
- Ron Mueller - Treasurer
- Shelley Finney - Secretary
- Laura Boreen
- Tyler Church
- Chad Coauette
- David Fjeldheim
- Curt Kasper
- Dr. Peggy Kennedy
- Ashley McNally
- Chad Miller
- Kenny Useldinger
- Greg Wagner



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

Kayla Simon honored with Veterans' Voices award

Kayla Simon, a college social worker on the Detroit Lakes and Wadena campuses of Minnesota State Community and Technical College, is being honored with the Veterans' Voices award for veterans who have honorably served and made outstanding contributions to their communities.

The annual award, from the Minnesota Humanities Center, was presented Sept. 11 in St. Paul. Simon is among eight "On the Rise" awardees under the age of 40.

Simon enrolled at M State following her graduation from Frazee-Vergas High School. During her final semester, she was called to active military duty with the Minnesota National Guard and spent 19 months in Iraq. Following her

deployment, she returned and graduated from M State, then earned her Master of Social Work degree from University of North Dakota.

She joined M State as a college social worker in August 2016 and, during her first year with the college, led collaborative efforts with True Life Church of Detroit Lakes to bring Ruby's Pantry to the Detroit Lakes campus and community for a monthly food distribution. This non-profit organization collects corporate surplus grocery items and distributes them in rural communities.

Simon also has started a food pantry on M State's Wadena and Detroit Lakes campuses, and she worked with teachers and a group of fellow parents to revive the Parent Teacher Organization in Frazee, where three of her children attend school.

She previously worked for five years with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and continues to serve as an unofficial representative for veterans, helping them learn about and get the benefits they have earned.

"I know it's difficult for people to ask for help," Simon said, "and when they do ask, I want to help them understand they have options and support them as they improve their lives."



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Foundation Staff....



Denise Laymon
Chief Development and
Alumni Officer



Caitlin Stoecker
Development Officer



Ann Olson
Foundation Associate



Patty Ekren
Foundation Finance Specialist



Scholarships Make A Differ- ence

"A goal of mine is to instill in other minors the importance of staying in school to have a better life in the future. In order to achieve this future, I would need to continue my education and pursue an undergraduate degree in Biomedical field. This scholarship will allow me to pursue this rewarding career and continue a leadership that will allow me to make a positive difference in our society." Sapana Bhujel '17 (scholarship recipient)

Scholarships truly do change lives, right here in our communities. Our students are real people, just like you. Students come to M State to not only go to school, but to receive the state-of-art education and life skills to prepare them for their future.

Providing scholarships for students to help them access and afford a high quality education is a top priority of M State Foundation and Alumni. The role of the Foundation

is to facilitate the generosity of scholarship donors who want to give the gift of education by reducing potential financial barriers to students' success. We all know tuition and fees can add up, and while M State is committed to keeping costs low, not everyone can afford to go to college. Graduating with a mountain of debt in student loans is a burden for too many. Scholarships can help students afford their education without the reliance on loans.

Did you know.....

Every year over \$207,000 is awarded for student scholarships
Over 200 students receive scholarships

We are working to grow and expand the number of scholarships made available to students. We are now offering scholarships for both fall and spring semesters! We strive to ensure a seamless application process for students seeking scholarships. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help give someone the gift of an education, please contact Denise at 218.846.3720 or Caitlin at 218.299.6286.