



**CLASS OF 2025** DECEMBER 17-18, 2025

# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD





## ***Our Mission***

Minnesota State University Moorhead is a caring community promising all students the opportunity to discover their passions, the rigor to develop intellectually and the versatility to shape a changing world.

## ***Our Purpose***

In the simplest and most idealistic terms, our purpose at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) is to transform the world by transforming lives. Nowhere is this purpose more evident than at Commencement, as our newest graduates prepare to make their marks on the world. They join thousands of MSUM alumni who have experienced the transformative power of higher education and used their education to make our world a better place.

## ***Our Core Values***

As members of the MSUM community, our graduates embody the core values that define MSUM:

### **GRIT:**

- ▶ We are “scrappy” and resourceful.
- ▶ We have big goals and the tenacity to achieve them.
- ▶ We have the courage to do what’s right.

### **HUMILITY:**

- ▶ We’re all on the same team and everyone’s role is important.
- ▶ We seek the best ideas and know they can come from anywhere and anyone in our campus community.
- ▶ We don’t take ourselves too seriously.

### **HEART:**

- ▶ We go the extra mile for our students and each other.
- ▶ We are passionate about our purpose.
- ▶ We are fiercely loyal to MSUM.



**MINNESOTA STATE  
MOORHEAD®**

### **Emergency Information**

Address you are at: Roland Dille Center for the Arts | 801 13th Street South | Moorhead, MN 56563

Emergency: 911 | Lost and Found: CMU Main Office – 218.477.2261 | Public Safety Office –

218.477.2449

Minnesota State University Moorhead is one of seven comprehensive Minnesota state universities established to provide the citizens of Minnesota access to quality educational programs at moderate cost. Minnesota State University Moorhead's primary responsibility is to provide baccalaureate programs to residents of northwest and west central Minnesota. Through tuition reciprocity agreements, the University also provides educational services to residents of several regional states and one Canadian province.

# FALL 2025 GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT GUEST SPEAKERS



## **Stefanie Gefroh Ellison** **MD, MBA, FACOG**

Dr. Stefanie Gefroh, West Market President at Essentia Health, is a values-driven physician leader with extensive experience in healthcare strategy, operations, and clinical medicine. She provides strategic vision by leading initiatives to enhance integrated care, improve internal referral rates, and support exceptional quality and access.

Dr. Gefroh is a board-certified OB/GYN who continues to practice. Previous leadership roles include Associate Chief Medical Officer, Division Chair for Inpatient Services, Women's and Inpatient Children's Services, and Heart and Vascular Services. Her accomplishments include redesigning service lines, improving operational efficiency, enhancing patient care, and driving growth across multiple specialties. She has successfully implemented programs such as a 24/7 Adult Hospitalist Service, Maternal Fetal Medicine Program, and Cardiometabolic Clinic.

A biology graduate of Minnesota State Moorhead, the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, and Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business, Dr. Gefroh also serves as an Associate Clinical Professor at UND.

Dr. Gefroh is involved in professional leadership and philanthropy, serving on the North Dakota Hospital Association, among many others. As a servant leader, she is passionate about advancing sustainable healthcare delivery, promoting quality initiatives, and fostering innovation to meet the needs of patients and communities.



## **Anna Egeland** **Class of 2024 & 2025**

Anna Egeland completed a Bachelor of Science in accounting, and this month completed her MBA with an emphasis in accounting and finance. At Moorhead, Anna embraced opportunities to get involved and lead, including serving in Collegiate DECA, Student Senate, Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee, and Student Fee Review Committee; joining the National Society of Leadership and Success; and working as a graduate assistant in the Graduate Studies Office. Anna placed second in entrepreneurship operations and was a top case study performer and finalist at Collegiate DECA's international competition, crediting her success to outstanding mentorship and encouragement.

Anna's professional internships included Prairie Heights Community Church, Eide Bailly, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she explored numerous areas of accounting and finance. She also participated in a study abroad program in South Korea and Japan, which broadened her global perspective. After graduation, she will begin her career as a Digital Assurance and Transparency Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

# FALL 2025 GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

**Welcome** ..... **Megan Zayic**  
*Master of Ceremonies*

**Processional Music** ..... **“Crown Imperial-Pomp and Circumstance”**  
*Composed by William Walton and Edward Elgar*  
*MSUM Wind Ensemble, Directed by Dr. Benjamin Druffel, Assistant Professor of Music*

**Staff Bearer** ..... **Denise Gorsline**  
*Faculty Association President*

**Presentation of the Colors** ..... **MSUM Army & Air Force Color Guard**

**National Anthem** ..... **MSUM Chamber Singers**  
*Directed by Dr. Michael Johnson, Assistant Professor of Music*

**Land Acknowledgement Statement** ..... **Mr. Jered Pigeon**  
*Campus Diversity Officer*

**Introduction** ..... **Dr. Tim Downs**  
*President of Minnesota State University Moorhead*

**Commencement Address** ..... **Dr. Stefanie Gefroh Ellison**  
*Class of 1996*

**Student Speaker** ..... **Anna Egeland**

**Presentation of Diplomas** ..... **Dr. Tim Downs**  
*President of Minnesota State University Moorhead*  
**Dr. Ok-Hee Lee**  
*Interim Provost & Senior VP for Academic and Student Affairs*

## **Graduate Hooding**

**Conferring of Degrees** ..... **Dr. Tim Downs**  
*President of Minnesota State University Moorhead*

**The Alma Mater** ..... **MSUM Chamber Singers**  
*Directed by Dr. Michael Johnson, Assistant Professor of Music*

**Recessional** ..... **“Coronation March”**  
*Composed by John Williams*  
*MSUM Wind Ensemble, Directed by Dr. Benjamin Druffel, Assistant Professor of Music*

When taking pictures in the designated photo area, please be respectful of others wishing to see the program. The audience is asked to stand for the Processional and Recessional.

Please join us for a reception with light refreshments following each ceremony in the Comstock Memorial Union.

# FALL 2025 UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT GUEST SPEAKERS



## Trustee Denise Specht

Denise Specht, Shoreview, has served on the Board of Trustees since 2025. She is a licensed elementary educator with 18 years of teaching experience from 1989-2007. She worked for 18 years as a labor leader at Education Minnesota, serving as their president (2013-2025) and their secretary treasurer (2007-2013). Specht's recent board experience includes MN AFL-CIO Executive Board and General Board, AFT Executive Council, Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice, and the NEA Member Insurance Trust.



## Katie Merrick

Katie Merrick is a communications graduate who launched her career with the Fargo Force hockey team as an intern during her senior year of college, spent one season with the Force as Marketing and Community Relations Manager, and in 2022 was promoted to Vice President of Business Operations, where she leads and supports all departments across the organization.

In 2024, Katie led the Fargo Force to the best off-ice season in the organization's history, earning the Force the United States Hockey League (USHL) award for Organization of the Year by shattering records in overall attendance, ticket revenue, food and beverage, social media and community involvement.

During Katie's four seasons with the Force, the team has helped raise over \$500,000 for local organizations such as The Cullen Children's Foundation, North Dakota Autism Center, Hometown Heroes, the Veterans Honor Flight of North Dakota and Minnesota, and many more. She represented the USHL at the NHL drafts in Nashville and Las Vegas, and at the 2024 NHL business meetings in Boston.

In 2025, Katie was a member of the MSUM Foundation's inaugural 10 Under 10 class, honoring rising Dragon alumni who have graduated within the last decade and are making a remarkable impact in their early careers. Katie was recognized as an up-and-coming leader and community builder, demonstrating significant achievements and dedication within her profession, organization and community.

# FALL 2025 UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

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**National Anthem**..... MSUM Chamber Singers  
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**Land Acknowledgement Statement**..... Mr. Jered Pigeon  
*Campus Diversity Officer*

**Introduction** ..... Dr. Tim Downs  
*President of Minnesota State University Moorhead*

**Greeting**..... Trustee Denise Specht  
*Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees & Office of the Chancellor*

**Commencement Address** ..... Katie Merrick  
*Class of 2021*

**Student Speaker**..... Dillon Fliehler, 10 a.m. Ceremony  
Paige L. Ackerson, 2 p.m. Ceremony

**Presentation of Diplomas**..... Dr. Tim Downs  
*President of Minnesota State University Moorhead*  
Dr. Ok-Hee Lee  
*Interim Provost & Senior VP for Academic and Student Affairs*

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## College of Arts & Humanities

Dr. Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, *Dean*

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Aamodt, Rei, West Fargo, ND, Liberal Arts  
Brosh, Lexi Jai, Bismarck, ND, Liberal Arts  
Gensee, Maki, Fargo, ND, Liberal Arts  
Haug, Emily Jane, Brainerd, MN, Liberal Arts

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Bailey, Alex, Union, MO, English; Political Science  
McHugh, Kaelyn Ann, Stevens Point, WI, English; Spanish, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Ohman-Zastre, Ryenn Rae, West Fargo, ND, Spanish  
Reyes-Skindziel, Finnian, Jacksonville, FL, Women's and Gender Studies;  
Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Sechen, Darius Lee, Porterfield, WI, Spanish

### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Brennan, Hannah Renae, Prior Lake, MN, Graphic and Interactive Design, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Bunting, Codi Cheyenne, Big Lake, MN, Graphic and Interactive Design  
Christopher, Amanda Nicole, Fargo, ND, Art; English Writing  
Gerving, Ivy Lynn, Ham Lake, MN, Graphic and Interactive Design  
Jeffers, Ariana Ann, Brewster, MN, Art, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Lalic, Emina, Fargo, ND, Graphic and Interactive Design  
Miller, Adrianna Chris-Oistad, Moorhead, MN, Art Education, *Cum Laude*  
Olabinjo, Olanrewaju Sulaimon, Fargo, ND, Animation; Film Production  
Sullivan, Maggie, Eden Prairie, MN, Graphic and Interactive Design  
Vanyo, Maxwell Robert, New Brighton, MN, Art Education, *Cum Laude*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Allen, Grace Jean, Browerville, MN, Social Studies Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Dubs, Abby, Marshall, MN, Communication Arts/Literature Education; Coaching,  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Gibson, Kasey B., Fargo, ND, Social Studies Education  
Pahl, Tori Elizabeth, Hancock, MN, Social Studies Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Stuhaug, Tysen John, Fertile, MN, Social Studies Education, *Magna Cum Laude*

## College of Business, Analytics & Communication

Dr. Peter Sherman, *Dean*

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Fish, Aedan Patrick, Eden Prairie, MN, Political Science; Economics,  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Pfnennig, Carlyssa, Bismarck, ND, Communication Studies; Entrepreneurship for  
Non-Business Majors  
Stalboerger, Brandon Thomas, Melrose, MN, Mathematics Education,  
*Summa Cum Laude*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Agoro, Adeola Loreta, Badagry Lagos, Nigeria, Project Management; Operations  
Management  
Arvidson, Joseph Donald, Shakopee, MN, Construction Management  
Bedard, Mike, Fargo, ND, Operations Management  
Besler, Landen Noah, Pequot Lakes, MN, Finance, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Brummer, Coleman Joseph, Plymouth, MN, Construction Management  
Butler, Ryan Craig, Minnetrista, MN, Business Administration; Economics,  
*Cum Laude*  
Carstens, Alexander William, Victoria, MN, Business Administration  
Connally, Mason Christopher, Fargo, ND, Finance, *Cum Laude*  
Crabtree, Kaylie Scot, Hawley, MN, Business Administration, *Cum Laude*  
Crabtree, Kylie Louise, Hawley, MN, Business Administration  
Djarnie, Frank Kotey, Moorhead, MN, Computer Information Technology  
Eckel, Julia Kathleen, Hewitt, MN, Digital Media Management, *Cum Laude*  
Farrell, Zander J, Hugo, MN, Global Supply Chain Management  
Fliehler, Dillon Jay, Hugo, MN, Business Administration, *Magna Cum Laude*,  
Honors Program  
Friese, Isaac, Harvey, ND, Business Administration  
Frischholz, Marissa Pauline, Elk River, MN, Economics  
Gebreyohannes, Nahom Atsbha, Moorhead, MN, Computer Science  
Gibbs, Laci Kay, Pillager, MN, Business Administration; Health Services  
Administration, *Cum Laude*  
Griggs, Gavin Broderick, Fargo, ND, Finance, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Helmbrecht, Samantha Jo, Alexandria, MN, Business Administration, *Cum Laude*  
Hendrickson, Beau Ray, Chisholm, MN, Operations Management,  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Henzen, Chad, Ellsworth, WI, Global Supply Chain Management, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Hergenrader, Derek Nikita, Pine Springs, MN, Business Administration,

Herring, Julia Marisa, Minneapolis, MN, University Studies, *Cum Laude*  
 Hillmer, Jacob Lawrence, Browerville, MN, Business Administration  
 Huot, Alexander, Moorhead, MN, Computer Science, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Johnson, Chris, Warroad, MN, Project Management, *Cum Laude*  
 Kapaun, Mihayla Leigh, Barnesville, MN, Accounting  
 Kirkegaard, Mathew Paul, Sturgis, SD, Accounting, *Cum Laude*  
 Kish, Andrew Lloyd, New Ulm, MN, Project Management; Operations  
 Management, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kletscher, Logan S., New Ulm, MN, Construction Management; Management,  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
 Knutson, Fox, Wayzata, MN, Business Administration, *Cum Laude*  
 Kryst, Trista Lynn, Pierz, MN, Accounting, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Limb, Ryan, Great Falls, MT, Accounting, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Mark, Adam Joseph John, Kindred, ND, Project Management, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 McDaniel, Jon'e Kaye, Chicago, IL, University Studies  
 Melo, Kelly Erin, Fargo, ND, University Studies, *Cum Laude*  
 Meyer, Ryan Thomas, Fargo, ND, Construction Management  
 Moltzan, Mara Marie, Fargo, ND, Integrated Advertising/Public Relations; Mass  
 Communications, Media Analysis, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Niska, Jaclyn Kate, Alexandria, MN, Business Administration  
 Olesch, Kiara Maya, Pierz, MN, Mathematics Education, Health Education;  
 Coaching, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Osman, Samuel Lee, Brooklyn Park, MN; Educational Studies  
 Parker, Emily Susan, Perham, MN, Project Management, Global Supply Chain  
 Management; Operations Management, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Peterson, Ashley Paige, Plymouth, MN, Project Management, Global Supply Chain  
 Management; Operations Management, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Pujals, Lavran, Roswell, GA, Operations Management, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Rehder, Coleman Michael, Moorhead, MN, Multimedia Journalism; Business  
 Administration  
 Rodahl, Carli Christine, Benson, MN, Business Administration  
 Romanek, Faith Emma, Floodwood, MN, Project Management  
 Ruhland, Ellie Katherine, Rockville, MN, University Studies  
 Shape, Alison Fay, Fargo, ND, Project Management  
 Sorenson, Cody A., Bismarck, ND, Computer Information Systems, *Cum Laude*  
 Stalboerger, Brandon Thomas, Melrose, MN, Mathematics, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Strand, Nora Ray, Fergus Falls, MN, Business Administration, *Cum Laude*  
 Tritz, Kristin Lea, Dumont, MN, Project Management, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Verdi, Donovan John, Dilworth, MN, Finance, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Wahl, Kaitlyn Ann, Fargo, ND, Photojournalism; Women's Studies

## College of Education & Human Services

Dr. Lee Vigilant, *Interim Dean*

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Audette, Sommer Rose, Thief River Falls, MN, Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice,  
 Psychology, Sociology  
 Backes, Peyton Margaret, Glyndon, MN, Criminal Justice; Psychology, *Magna  
 Cum Laude*  
 Cardinal, Autumn Rae, Detroit Lakes, MN, Criminal Justice  
 Gartner, Jazmyn Denice, Hunter, ND, Criminal Justice; Psychology, Juvenile Justice  
 Gensee, Maki, Fargo, ND, Criminal Justice  
 Hakanson, RJ, Moorhead, MN, Criminal Justice; Sociology, *Cum Laude*  
 Johanson, Jacob Jeffrey, Osakis, MN, Criminal Justice, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Miller, Abbey Mae, Detroit Lakes, MN, Early Childhood Education-non-licensure  
 Stachovich, Jacee, Chisholm, MN, Criminal Justice, Psychology; Music, Sociology  
 Truslow, Rylee McKenna, Nellysford, VA, Criminal Justice; Psychology, Sociology,  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
 Wright, Brynn Noel, Bismarck, ND, Criminal Justice, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Young, Myah Lynn, West Fargo, ND, Criminal Justice, Sociology

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Aakre, Abby, Hawley, MN, Early Childhood Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Aakre, Afton Annette, Hawley, MN, Speech/Language/Hearing Science, *Summa  
 Cum Laude*  
 Belka, Caylee Jo, Felton, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Carlson, Alyshia Marie, Moorhead, MN, Speech/Language/Hearing Science;  
 Special Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Dale, Elizabeth Yali, Perham, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Summa  
 Cum Laude*  
 Ehlers, Haley Joan, Warroad, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Cum Laude*  
 Ethen, Teresa Ilene, Avon, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Summa  
 Cum Laude*  
 Frenzel, Olivea Grace, Bemidji, MN, Early Childhood Education  
 Halvorson, Makenzie Jo, Glyndon, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Summa  
 Cum Laude*  
 Hamm, Ashley Viola, Warba, MN, Early Childhood Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Hardie, Ilissa, Fargo, ND, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Cum Laude*  
 Kennedy, Laci M., Warroad, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education  
 Kolanski, Paige Henley, Andover, MN, Early Childhood Education; Speech  
 Language Hearing Sciences, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Lanter, Amanda Marie, Wheaton, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education  
 Larson, Kade Clifford, Langford, SD, Elementary Inclusive Education



Lee, Zowie, Fargo, ND, Early Childhood Education; Special Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Lorentz, Libbie Ann, Pillager, MN, Speech/Language/Hearing Science, *Cum Laude*  
 Marts, Ella Grace, Breckenridge, MN, Speech/Language/Hearing Science, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Ohman-Zastre, Ryenn Rae, West Fargo, ND, Speech/Language/Hearing Science  
 Ratz, Tori Alaine, Fergus Falls, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education; Special Education, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Reiser, Brynna Grace, Pine City, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Woidyla, Jenna Victoria, Pillager, MN, Elementary Inclusive Education, *Magna Cum Laude*

### **BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

Boe, Mackenzie, Fargo, ND, Social Work, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Brandt-Wiebelhaus, Emma Marie, Moorhead, MN, Social Work; Sociology  
 Chantry, Brooklyn E., Sauk Rapids, MN, Social Work, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Erickson, Hailey Lorraine, Detroit Lakes, MN, Social Work; Psychology  
 Gaylah, Marimar, Fargo, ND, Social Work  
 Haugen, Kaida Ann, Detroit Lakes, MN, Social Work  
 Kenkel, Evelyn Marie, Moorhead, MN, Social Work; Special Education, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Krueger, Jennifer Lee, Fargo, ND, Social Work  
 Maahs, Raegen Kristeen, Badger, MN, Social Work; Psychology, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Mann, Emma, Rochester, MN, Social Work  
 Mueller, Austin Ray, Moorhead, MN, Social Work  
 Norberg, Jasmine Dawn, Karlstad, MN, Social Work; Special Education, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Osman, Nasiyo A., Moorhead, MN, Social Work, *Cum Laude*  
 Rosen-Imholte, Kendra, Fargo, ND, Social Work, *Summa Cum Laude*

## **College of Science, Health & the Environment**

**Dr. Elizabeth Nawrot, Dean**

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Barros, Kitra Lynn, Moorhead, MN, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Bergene, Hogan, Adams, MN, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Borwege, Kylie Patricia, Walker, MN, Psychology, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Downey, Jenna Lynn, Union Mills, IN, Psychology  
 Frimpong, Foster Afoakwa Adom, Accra, Ghana, Biology  
 Haman, Avory Margaret, Sebeka, MN, Psychology; Neuroscience, *Cum Laude*  
 Hupke, Hailey Brynn, Sioux Falls, SD, Psychology; Neuroscience  
 Johnson, Beau James-Lee, Perham, MN, Psychology; Neuroscience, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kohner, Madeline Alice, Minneapolis, MN, Leadership & Innovation in Aging Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Larsen, Willa Delaney, Detroit Lakes, MN, Psychology  
 Larson, Dana Leigh, Thief River Falls, MN, Leadership & Innovation in Aging Studies  
 Larson, Katie Ann, Detroit Lakes, MN, Psychology; Juvenile Justice  
 Larson, Michael Eugene, Fargo, ND, Psychology, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Lesteberg, Breanna Rose, Fargo, ND, Psychology; Neuroscience, Art Therapy  
 Nay, Kylie, Circle, MT, Psychology; Juvenile Justice, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Olson, Payton Elizabeth, Alexandria, MN, Biology  
 Pfau, Noelle Cassidy, Minot, ND, Anthropology; Geosciences, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Roettele, Anton Charles, Aitkin, MN, Psychology; Educational Studies, *Cum Laude*  
 Sas, Theodora Maria, Minneapolis, MN, Psychology; English Writing, *Cum Laude*  
 Sethre, Anna T., Fargo, ND, Anthropology; Biology  
 Stachowski, Anna Marie, Pelican Rapids, MN, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Suhonen, Brooklynn Marie, Fargo, ND, Psychology; Art Therapy  
 Ternes, Bethanie Layne, West Fargo, ND, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Thai, Magenta, West Fargo, ND, Psychology; Sociology, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 VanVlaenderen, Megan, Moorhead, MN, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Ackerson, Paige Lynn, Glencoe, MN, Biology; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Public Health  
 Alshihmani, Yousif Tareq Jasim, Moorhead, MN, Healthcare Management & Leadership, *Cum Laude*  
 Broderick, Brooklyn, Kannapolis, NC, Biology  
 Gu, Tiannah, West Fargo, ND, Exercise Science; Strength and Conditioning, Sports Medicine

Gustafson, Tate Niel, Fargo, ND, Engineering Physics; Mathematics, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Hammargren, Jessica Nicole, Fargo, ND, Biology; Neuroscience, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Hebib, Besam Seddik, Moorhead, MN, Biology  
 Holtz, Grayson Kyle, Brooklyn Park, MN, Sustainability, Geosciences, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Irion, Joshua James, Fergus Falls, MN, Biology; Chemistry, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 John, Arkangelo Aniek, Fargo, ND, Healthcare Management & Leadership, *Cum Laude*  
 Johnson, Eliya, Coon Rapids, MN, Chemistry Education, Mathematics Education, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kamara, Ramatulai, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Biology; Public Health, Health and Medical Sciences, *Cum Laude*  
 Karsten, Jacob Dean, Morristown, MN, Engineering Physics, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kohner, Madeline Alice, Minneapolis, MN, Healthcare Management & Leadership, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Laducer, Tate X., Belcourt, ND, Exercise Science  
 Larson, Dana Leigh, Thief River Falls, MN, Health Services Administration  
 Marich, Taia Mae, Pelican Rapids, MN, Exercise Science; Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Mundstock, Collin Anthony, Bloomington, MN, Physics  
 Munger, Caleb, Omaha, NE, Exercise Science; Coaching, Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning, Wellness  
 Olthoff, Brennan Lee, Moorhead, MN, Physics Education, Mathematics Education  
 Peters, Ally Lauren, Moorhead, MN, Earth Science Education  
 Pixley, Alexandra Christine Nava, Pelican Rapids, MN, Exercise Science; Strength and Conditioning, Sports Medicine, *Cum Laude*  
 Sandry, Ole Robert, Clara City, MN, Physical Education, Health Education  
 Shelstad, Taylor Elizabeth, Madison, MN, Exercise Science; Psychology, Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Smith, Meghan Riann, Baxter, MN, Exercise Science; Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning, *Cum Laude*  
 Toso, Samantha, West Fargo, ND, Exercise Science; Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning  
 Urbanski, Tony, Albertville, MN, Earth Science Education, Life Science Education

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NURSING**

Bland, Shannon Nicole, Big Lake, MN, Nursing  
 Buhendwa, Estelle Sakina, Fargo, ND, Nursing, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Campbell, Lindsay Engel, Grand Forks, ND, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Edman, Leeanna Wisuri, Vancouver, WA, Nursing, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Gerber, Aliya Noelle, New York Mills, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Isacson, Chelsie Lee, Detroit Lakes, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*

Jeong, Jiewon, Seoul, Republic of Korea, Nursing, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kiboss, Zawadi Jebet, Eldoret, Kenya, Nursing, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kipchumba, Adams, Gardner, KS, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Kipyator, Abigael Jeruto, Eldoret, Kenya, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Mohamud, Ekran M., Minnetonka, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Nyaribo, Fred Atuti, Otsego, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Olupekan, Tobi, Rochester, MN, Nursing, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Onwonga, Michelle Nyabonyi, Fresno, TX, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Plange, Stephanie Sekyibea, Accra, Ghana, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Rasmussen, Kenzie Alayna, Embarrass, MN, Nursing  
 Salvesen, Ingrid, Fergus Falls, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Viere, Gabrielle Alexia, St. Cloud, MN, Nursing, *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Waldorf, Reise Claire, Miltona, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Wanderscheid, Tracy Jean, Sauk Centre, MN, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Wells, Kaila Beth, Ada, MN, Nursing  
 Zhu, Jinghua, Shanghai, China, Nursing, *Summa Cum Laude*

## Graduate Studies

Dr. Robert Nava, *Dean of Graduate & Extended Learning*

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Bruer, Braxton, West Fargo, ND, Business Administration  
“Electronic Arts Inc.: An Integrated Corporate Analysis of Strategic Positioning and Performance”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Egeland, Anna, North Mankato, MN, Business Administration  
“The Business of Bullseye: Target Corporation’s Strategic, Financial, and Ethical Landscape”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Frimpong, Joelle, Worcester, MA, Business Administration  
“Strategic Integration in Healthcare: A Case Study of UnitedHealthcare and Optum”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Hest, Natalie, Duluth, MN, Business Administration  
“Professional Portfolio”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Johnson, Shaelyn, Grand Forks, ND, Business Administration  
“Corporate Analysis of Starbucks”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Kegler, Jared, J., Faribault, MN, Business Administration  
“Nvidia Corporate Analysis”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Lugo, Abigail, St. Louis Park, MN, Business Administration  
“Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: Applying Activity-Based Costing to Teacher Contracts”

Dr. Mary Stone, Advisor

Storie, Viktoriia, West Fargo, ND, Business Administration  
“Corporate Analysis: Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

Tienter-Musacchia, Heather, Becker, MN, Business Administration w/Healthcare  
“Making Magic Profitable: A Corporate Analysis of the Walt Disney Company”

Dr. Gokce Serdar, Advisor

### MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

Aurelia, Rachel, Burke, VA, Healthcare Administration  
“Enhancing Quality in Healthcare Education Through CAHME Accreditation at Minnesota State Moorhead”

Dr. Brandi Sillerud, Advisor

Bistodeau, Brandon, Elk River, MN, Healthcare Administration  
“Improving Revenue Capture Through Improved Documentation of Critical Care Time”

Dr. Jim Sterling, Advisor

Craig, Christin, Saint Michael, MN, Healthcare Administration  
“Access Innovations in Ambulatory Care”

Dr. Jim Sterling, Advisor

Dewald, Brehley, Chassell, MI, Healthcare Administration  
“Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Crisis Management: Emergency Preparedness and Public Health Response in Higher Education”

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Advisor

Laue, Lucas, A., Minnetonka, MN, Healthcare Administration  
“Expanding Critical Care Capacity at a Regional Hospital”

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Advisor

Petersen, Daniel, J., Iowa City, IA, Healthcare Administration  
“Performance of a Mock Tracer in a Community Hospital to Increase Joint Commission Readiness”

Dr. Brandi Sillerud, Advisor

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

Byzewski, Angie, Grand Forks, ND, Counseling  
“Trauma-Informed Educational Practices Manual”

Dr. Taryn Akgul, Advisor

Kostohryz, Heather, Fargo, ND, Counseling  
“Trauma-Informed Practices and Training for Elementary School Lunchroom Supervisors”

Dr. Jessica Brown, Advisor

Alwin, Jennifer, Osceola, WI, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”

Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Bedell, Andrew, William, Shoreview, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”

Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Benson, Mitchell, Buffalo, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Ellison, Cole, Alexandria, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Graf, Sydney, Fargo, ND, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Helgoe, Ally, Big Lake, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Johnson, Megan, (Dreger), Parkers Prairie, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Kuehn, Madeline, Ester, Minneapolis, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Kurkosky, Mindy, Dassel, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Kurkosky, Mindy, Dassel, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Mazur, Colby, Cottage Grove, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Myers, Matthew, Melrose, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Omamm, Mikayla, Sartell, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Peña Uvalle, Paula, Janeth, Willmar, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Kristen Carlson, Advisor

Powell-Oliver, Kory, Andrew, Las Vegas, NV, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Using Career and Technical Education Pathways to Decolonize Education and Industry”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Schmit, Ashley, Louise, Windom, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Wallace, Lexie, Hawley, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Weick, Jesse, Graceville, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Wielenberg, Ingrid, Adelle, (Jasper), Pipestone, MN, Curriculum & Instruction  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Michael Coquyt, Advisor

Fajong, Pricilia, Gardner, KS, Cybersecurity  
“Evaluating the Effectiveness of Cybersecurity Controls in Reducing and Slowing Data Breaches in Medium-to-Large Financial Institutions”  
Dr. Adaeze Nwaigwe, Advisor

Fokobo, Edwin, M., West Fargo, ND, Cybersecurity  
“A Practical Evaluation Framework for Ethical and Effective Penetration Testing”  
Dr. Adaeze Nwaigwe, Advisor

Nkrumah, Vincent, Fargo, ND, Cybersecurity  
“The Human Factor in Cybersecurity: Awareness Training as a Shield Against Phishing”  
Dr. Adaeze Nwaigwe, Advisor

Baumgardner, Bonnie, R., Moorhead, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Beaton, Tanner, Fargo, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Bossard, Erica, Pella, IA, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Cincotta, Lisa, Lino Lakes, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Conrad, Joseph, Cambridge, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Boyd Bradbury, Advisor

Fussy, Melissa, Dellwood, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Geotz, Abby, Crosby, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Klein, Hope, Melrose, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Boyd Bradbury, Advisor

Koebele, Alexandra, Bismarck, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Leading Through Community: Strengthening Partnerships and Programs in  
Moorhead Area Public Schools”  
Dr. Boyd Bradbury, Advisor

LaDue-Davis, Andrea, Waubun, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Boyd Bradbury, Advisor

Leitner, Nathan, Fargo, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Parsons, Hannah, Faith, Fargo, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Penney, Lauren, Fargo, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Pliml, Melanie, Marie, Hermantown, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Simonsen, Kylie, Williston, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Spotts, Leah, Moorhead, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Thyren, Natalie, Wabasha, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Tollefson, Erica, Eagan, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Topp, Mariah, Grace City, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Wayne, Erin, Lynn, Thief River Falls, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Binek, Heidi, Sauk Rapids, MN, Nursing  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Tracy Wright, Advisor

Lee, Seonmyeong, Fargo, ND, Nursing  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Tracy Wright, Advisor

Nygaard, Erin, Cloquet, MN, Nursing  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Tracy Wright, Advisor

Spainhower, Allison, Bloomington, MN, Nursing  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Tracy Wright, Advisor

Eisenschenk, Caitlin, Jo, Big Lake, MN, School Psychology  
“Evaluating the Use of the Homework, Organization, and Planning Skills (HOPS) Second Edition Intervention for a High School Student With Executive Functioning Deficits”  
Mary Dosch, Advisor

Flesner, Tiffany, J., Sauk Rapids, MN, School Psychology  
“Effectiveness of University of Florida Literacy Institute Foundations With a Kindergarten Student”  
Mary Dosch, Advisor

Hendrickson, Grace, Elisabeth, Buffalo, MN, School Psychology  
“Everyday Speech for Supporting Kindergarteners’ Social and Emotional Learning Needs”  
Mary Dosch, Advisor

Johnson, Kayla, Horace, ND, School Psychology  
“Check-In, Check-Out as a Tier 2 Behavioral Intervention: Examining Effects on Academic Engagement and Work Completion in a First-Grade Student”  
Joshua Johnson, Advisor

Large, Tessa, Bemidji, MN, School Psychology  
“Using Overcoming Obstacles Curriculum to Improve Social-Emotional Skills in Elementary Students”  
Mary Dosch, Advisor

Nelson, Mackenzie, LeeAn, Sebeka, MN, School Psychology  
“Resilience Education Program: Combining Cognitive Behavioral Therapy With Check-In/Check-Out for Anxiety”  
Joshua Johnson, Advisor

Otte, Hailey, Dilworth, MN, School Psychology  
“Encouraging Self-Regulation Skills in First Graders Using the A.I.M Explorers Curriculum”  
Joshua Johnson, Advisor

Stalberger, Shadaisa, Ulen, MN, School Psychology  
“Examining the Effects of the Everyday Speech Social Emotional Learning Curriculum With Two Kindergarten Students”  
Mary Dosch, Advisor

Staloch, Sadie, Waseca, MN, School Psychology  
“Implementing a Tier 3 Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Elementary Students With Anxiety”  
Joshua Johnson, Advisor

Vetter, Grace, Joanne, Bismarck, ND, School Psychology  
“Social Thinking and Me: Effectiveness for a Middle School Student”  
Mary Dosch, Advisor

Coolidge, Mary, I., Farmington, MN, Special Education  
“Teacher-Friendly Interventions to Use in the Classroom Setting”  
Dr. Shirley Johnson, Advisor

Halbach, Maleah, Dallas Center, IA, Special Education  
“Standards-Based Grading in Special Education”  
Dr. Marci Glessner, Advisor

Morehouse, Rebecca, Moorhead, MN, Special Education  
“Special Education 101”  
Dr. Keri DeSutter, Advisor

Porozinski, Derek, Park Rapids, MN, Special Education  
“Building Independence: A Monthly Insight Into Functional Living Skills Assessment and Growth”  
Dr. Keri DeSutter, Advisor

Randall, Melissa, Fergus Falls, MN, Special Education  
“Effects of Trauma on Learning”  
Dr. Marci Glessner, Advisor

Weinand, Allison, Fargo, ND, Special Education  
“Equipping the Church for Inclusion: Developing Training Strategies to Implement Accessible and Disability-Inclusive Ministry Practices”  
Dr. Marci Glessner, Advisor

Winkelman, Marissa, Rice, MN, Special Education  
“Skills for Middle School Success”  
Dr. Marci Glessner, Advisor

### **SPECIALIST**

Bernsdorf, Trevor, Scandia, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Bowman, Ruth, Parkers Prairie, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Downhour, Heidi, Cottage Grove, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Dubek, Andrew, Joseph, Spooner, WI, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Enstad, Deanna, Rogers, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Foslien, Adam, Benson, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Fuglestad, Jill, Alexandria, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Ganion, Emma, Savage, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Goodmanson, Kimberly, N., Isanti, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Griffin, Mykala, Breezy Point, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Hanson, Hannah, M., Willmar, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Hayes, Mara, Prior Lake, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Huttemier, Katie, J., River Falls, WI, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Johnson, Nicole, Farmington, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Keto, Kevin, Minneapolis, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Kohler, Danny, Lee, Waubun, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Lane, Anna, Lanesboro, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Lepp, Camille, Wahpeton, ND, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

LeVoir, Janelle, Forest Lake, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Lindahl, Aaron, Benson, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Lowry, Paul, Madison, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Lundgren, Brent, Osceola, WI, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Martin Thompson, Emily, Pelican Rapids, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Maschke, Rachel, Blaine, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Meagher, Matthew, Paynesville, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Mechura, Alexcia, Medford, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Mellstrom, Jonelle, Eveleth, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Meyer, Nancy, Minneapolis, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Nelson, Stefanie, Brooklyn Center, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Pedersen, Katie, Worthington, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Sand, Amanda, Aurora, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Boyd Bradbury, Advisor

Shopbell, Samantha, J., Andover, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Smith, Tony, Madison, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Sopkowiak, Christian, Crystal, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. James Johnson, Advisor

Stokes, BJ, River Falls, WI, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Thomas, Joelle, E., Fairmont, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Vining, Azmina, Cottage Grove, MN, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Christopher Mills, Advisor

Wallo, Laura, Eau Claire, WI, Educational Leadership  
“Professional Portfolio”  
Dr. Boyd Bradbury, Advisor



## Majors and Minors

The Commencement Program lists all majors and minors which have been completed. If a student has completed two majors, the majors are separated by a comma (English, History); if a student has completed a major and a minor, the major and minor are separated by a semi-colon (English; History). If a student has earned a minor via the Tri-College University, the home institution is listed after the minor and placed in parentheses, i.e. French (Concordia).

## Graduate Candidates

Candidates receiving graduate degrees are listed in the program. The listing also contains the title of their thesis or project and their faculty advisor. Each candidate that participates in the ceremony is wearing the appropriate master's or specialist hood. The color of the velvet edging on the hood represents the academic discipline and the silk lining (red and white) represents Minnesota State University Moorhead.

## Academic Honors

Students who complete at least 45 credits at MSU Moorhead as candidates for baccalaureate degrees may graduate with the following honors:

- CUM LAUDE.....representing a cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or higher
- MAGNA CUM LAUDE .....representing a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or higher
- SUMMA CUM LAUDE .....representing a cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher

Such honors are computed from the cumulative grade point average earned in all courses at MSU Moorhead. The graduates who have earned these honors will have the achievement listed on their academic transcripts. The CUM LAUDE graduates wear white honor cords. The MAGNA CUM LAUDE graduates wear red honor cords. The SUMMA CUM LAUDE graduates wear red and white honor cords.

## Honors Program Graduates

The MSU Moorhead Honors Program exists to award and encourage superior academic performance. Students who have earned a 3.50 grade point average during their freshman year are invited to participate in the Honors Program. Those who complete the rigorous Honors Program curricular requirements are listed in the Commencement Program and have the achievement listed on their academic transcripts.

## Honor Societies

**Alpha Kappa Delta**, the National Sociology Honor Society, seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities to help improve the human condition. Membership is open to undergraduates who are sociology majors, at least juniors, rank in the top 35% of their class or have at least a 3.5 overall GPA, have at least a 3.0 GPA in sociology courses prior to initiation, and have completed at least four sociology courses.

**Alpha Phi Sigma**, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, recognizes academic excellence of undergraduate criminal justice majors who maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above, are nominated by faculty, and are in the top 35% of their class. The goals of Alpha Phi Sigma are to honor and promote academic excellence, community service, educational leadership, and unity.

**Alpha Upsilon Alpha**, the honor society of the International Reading Association, was created in 1985 to recognize and encourage scholarship, the development of personal and professional leadership, and service to the field of reading at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Greek letters chosen for this honor society are significant: They come from the words *Anagnosis* (reading), *Uprotrophia* (scholarship) and *Archon* (leadership). The society motto, which is attributed to Horace, says it all: "*Lege sapere aude*," or "Read, dare to be wise."

Membership in Alpha Upsilon Alpha brings a sense of scholarly accomplishment in the field of reading and language arts. Members are acknowledged for having excelled in their chosen field of study, and are recognized as professionals committed to the importance of reading and language arts in education.

**Beta Beta Beta (βββ) National Biology Society** is an academic society for students who major in Biology. The requirements for membership in the Omega Mu chapter of Beta Beta Beta are (1) at least three biology courses in the biology major, and (2) a minimum GPA of 3.0 in those courses. The honor pin displays three Greek letters, Beta Beta Beta, and a coiled serpent. The first Beta stands for the Greek word BALANNOS, which means acorn; it represents life in and on the ground. The second Beta stands for the Greek word BOUDETASE, which means little bird; it represents life in the air. The third Beta stands for the Greek word BOAX, which means fish; it represents life in the water. All three words may be summed up in one word BIOS, meaning life. The coiled serpent in the center of the pin is an ancient symbol of wisdom. Graduating students who are members of Beta Beta Beta may wear the red and green cords symbolic of the Society.

**Beta Gamma Sigma (ΒΓΣ)** honor society was founded in 1913 as an academic society for students who major in Business or Accounting. Students ranking in the top 10 percent of the baccalaureate program at schools accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – are eligible for this invitation. AACSB Accreditation is known, worldwide, as the longest standing, most recognized form of accreditation a business program can earn. The blue and gold honor cord worn by Beta Gamma Sigma members features a gold (metal) key charm attached to the knot above the tassel on one end of the blue cord.

**Chi Sigma Alpha** is a member of Chi Sigma Iota, which is an international honor society that values academic and professional excellence in counseling. We promote a strong professional identity through members (professional counselors, counselor educators, and students) who contribute to the realization of a healthy society by fostering wellness and human dignity. The membership requirements include, “Those who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better on a scale of 4.0 and are deemed promising for endorsement as a professional counselor whose ethical judgment and behavior will be exemplary” (CSI Bylaws, Article 4.1). Members of Chi Sigma Alpha wear blue and white honor cords and/or a white stole that displays the Chi Sigma Iota emblem and Greek Letters.

**Financial Management Association (FMA)** honor society was founded in 1974 and remains the only national honor society specifically for finance students. The group is dedicated to the ongoing development of financial theory and sound, ethical financial practices. To qualify for membership, students must maintain a GPA above 3.5 in their finance coursework and earn a major, minor, or certificate in finance at MSUM. Honor society inductees wear a silver sash with the logo of FMA printed in blue.

**Golden Key International Honour Society** is the world’s largest collegiate honor society founded in 1977, comprised of more than 2 million undergraduate, graduate and alumni members. Membership into the Society is by invitation only and applies to the top 15% of college and university sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as top-performing graduate students in all fields of study, based solely on their academic achievements. With over 400 student chapters worldwide, Golden Key recognizes highly motivated academic achievers who will become leaders and contributors to society in the future. Golden Key offers many additional member-only privileges that highlight the three pillars of Academics, Leadership and Service.

**Lambda Epsilon Chi “LEX”** is a national honor society recognizing academic excellence for Paralegal students. Invitations for membership are extended to those students who are declared majors in MSUM’s Paralegal Department and who have met the following criteria: (1) completion of at least two-thirds of the course requirements for the major, and (2) cumulative GPA of 3.5 in Paralegal courses.

**Lambda Pi Eta** is the official honor society for communication studies students. It is sponsored by the National Communication Association (NCA). Students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.25 GPA for communication studies courses. The pin features the Greek words lambda, pi, and eta which stand for Aristotle’s three forms of proof: logos, pathos, and ethos.

**Phi Alpha** is a national social work honor society which was established in 1960. The purpose of Phi Alpha is to promote humanitarian goals and ideals and to provide a closer bond among students of social work. The membership requirements include excellence in scholarship, with a minimum GPA of 3.25 and achievement in social work.

**Pi Kappa Lambda**, the national honor society in music, was established in 1918 at Northwestern University in Illinois to provide an organization dedicated to the furtherance of music in education and education in music in colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher learning which offer music degree programs. Election to the Epsilon Iota chapter (established at MSUM in 1982) requires that students be outstanding in scholarship and musicianship, and that candidates in their junior year be in the top 10% of their class, that seniors be in the top 20%, and that graduate students have satisfactorily completed the requirements of their degrees. The insignia pin of Pi Kappa Lambda is a gold Grecian lyre with symbols of music and drama (panpipes and mask with foils) on each side of the three strings of the lyre.

**Pi Sigma Alpha** is a national honor society for political science majors. The requirements for membership in the Alpha Eta Mu chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha are (1) completion of ten semester credits in political science including one 300-level class, (2) a minimum of 3.0 GPA in political science courses, and (3) a cumulative GPA of 3.0. The honor pin is a small gold pin with the honor society’s Greek letters on the front and the honor cords are red and white.

**Psi Chi** is an honorary society founded in 1929 for psychology majors. Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and an affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science. The MSUM Chapter of Psi Chi was established in the Psychology Department in 1984. In addition to the national membership requirements of a 3.0 GPA, class rank in the top 35%, completion of three semesters of college, and nine semester hours of psychology courses, the MSUM chapter requires a minimum GPA of 3.25 in psychology courses. Members of Psi Chi wear a medallion that displays the Psi Chi emblem of the Greek letters Psi and Chi.

**Sigma Delta Pi**, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (*La Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica*), is devoted exclusively to students of Spanish in four-year colleges and universities. It was established on November 14, 1919, at the University of California in Berkeley. Upsilon Sigma, the local chapter of SDP was organized at MSUM in the fall of 2000. Requirements for membership are (1) completing at least three years or the equivalent of college Spanish, including at least three semester hours of a third-year course in Hispanic literature or Hispanic culture and civilization, (2) a minimum GPA of 3.0 in Spanish, and (3) student rank in the upper 35% of their class. The Greek expression, *Spanias Didagei Proagomen*, stand for the motto, “Let us follow after Spain’s inspiration.” The honor pin and cord hearken back to the colors on the Spanish national flag and the coat of arms of Castilla y León, both which depict lions and castles in the checkered corners of the crest.

**Sigma Lambda Chi** is an international and academic honor society for students majoring in construction management. It is known for being a society of leaders in construction. Chapters are located throughout the United States and Australia. It was founded as an honorary society on April 30, 1949 at Michigan State University in East Lansing Michigan. In 1991, Sigma Lambda Chi became a member of the Association of College Honor Societies, Inc. Requirements for membership are (1) complete two academic years of study toward a degree in Construction, (2) obtain an overall scholastic average in the upper 20% of his or her incoming class, (3) study at the present institution for the preceding six months, (4) demonstrate leadership, character, and personality traits which will give promise of reflecting credit upon Sigma Lambda Chi, (5) participate in one or more extracurricular activities, and (6) work in some phase of the construction industry.

**Sigma Phi Omega**, the National Gerontology Honor Society, recognizes academic excellence of those who study gerontology and aging. Local chapters serve as links within their respective communities to promote interaction between gerontology educators, students, alumni, and local professionals. Membership is open to undergraduates who are gerontology majors and who are in at least their second term of enrollment with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5.

**Sigma Pi Sigma (ΣΠΣ)** is the physics honor society and was founded in 1921. Election to ΣΠΣ is earned by a minimum GPA of 3.0 and demonstrated excellence in at least two of four categories; research work, outreach participation, Society of Physics Students involvement or outstanding academic achievement in physics. ΣΠΣ exists to honor and encourage physics scholarship, to be of service to the various communities it may influence, and to be a fellowship of persons who have shared in the traditions and culture of physics. The name ΣΠΣ comes from the first letters that compose the society motto Σκεψιζ Προστατηζ Συνεσωζ which translated from Greek is “investigation, the forerunner of knowledge”. The official insignia and key consists of a voltmeter, lamp and dynamo. The voltmeter symbolizes the high accuracy which is the hallmark of careful experiments, the lamp is the symbol of knowledge (Σοφια in Greek) and the dynamo represents the creative energy that is so necessary to productive research. The MSUM Sigma Pi Sigma chapter was founded in 1974.

**Sigma Theta Tau International** is an honorary society for nursing majors, and was founded in 1922. The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, is advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. Founded in 1922, the name Sigma Theta Tau comes from the Greek words storgé, thárros, and timé, meaning “love,” “courage,” and “honor.” STTI became incorporated in 1985 as Sigma Theta Tau International Inc. STTI membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing. With more than 135,000 active members in more than 85 countries, Xi Kappa Chapter at Large includes MSU Moorhead, North Dakota State University, Jamestown University and Concordia College.

## Academic Attire

The caps and gowns worn at formal academic events in American colleges are the direct descendants of the everyday costumes worn in the universities of Medieval England when each school had its peculiar dress so that an Oxford student could be distinguished from a Cambridge student. Because of the tremendous growth of American colleges, and the confusion that would result if each were to adopt a distinctive costume, the Inter-collegiate Bureau of Academic Costume was organized. The Bureau has established a uniform code that over 700 institutions have adopted.

There are three types of gowns and three types of hoods for bachelors, masters, and doctors. The bachelors gown has a long pointed sleeve, whereas the masters gown has a long closed sleeve, square at the end. The doctors gown is characterized by a voluminous bell-shaped sleeve with three velvet bars.

The hoods for all degrees are lined with silk in the official academic color or colors of the institution conferring the degree and have an edging or trim of velvet, the color of which indicates the academic discipline or faculty to which the degree pertains. The bachelors hood is not worn by candidates for the baccalaureate degree but only by those upon whom this degree has been previously conferred. The masters hood is considerably longer, has a wider velvet edging, and exposes more of the lining. The doctors hood has wide panels at the side. It has the widest velvet edging, greatest length, and fullest exposure of the lining.

The black mortarboard cap with tassel is worn with each type of gown. Those holding a doctor’s degree are privileged to wear a gold tassel. Masters and bachelors wear tassels that are either black or of the color appropriate to the academic discipline in which they are graduating.

Some of the colors which may be observed at this commencement and which symbolize various faculties are as follows:

Arts and Humanities .....	White
Business Administration .....	Light Brown
Education .....	Light Blue
Fine Arts .....	Dark Brown
Law .....	Purple
Music.....	Pink
Nursing .....	Apricot
Philosophy.....	Dark Blue
Public Administration .....	Peacock Blue
Science .....	Golden Yellow
Social Work.....	Citron

## Minnesota State University Moorhead Presidents



Timothy Downs 2023-present



Anne Blackhurst 2014-2023



Edna Szymanski 2008-2014



Roland Barden 1994-2008



Roland Dille 1968-1994



John Neumaier 1958-1968



A.L. Knoblauch 1955-1958



O.W. Snarr 1941-1955



Ray MacLean 1923-1941



Oliver M. Dickerson 1920-1923



Frank Weld 1899-1919



Livingston Lord 1888-1899



## Academic Marks

### University Seal

Minnesota State University Moorhead's Seal represents its history, mission, and distinctive characteristics. It is reserved for official and ceremonial use. In the University's early history, Old Main was the largest and most impressive building in the area. A fire in 1930 destroyed most of the school's main building, except the arches of Old Main. Those arches became a significant symbol of the school's ability to survive and were incorporated into the University Seal.

### University Mace

The University President or his designee carries this staff in ceremonial processions to symbolize the University's authority. Lyle Laske, Professor of Art Emeritus, crafted the staff for the University. The staff is sculpted from Brazilian rosewood, rubbed and polished to a deep luster. Its tips are cast in bronze and gold plated. The top piece on the staff, also in rosewood, is shaped in a universal form that symbolizes the medieval northern world. The staff rests in a base that is a solid, circular piece of rosewood. The staff was presented to President Roland Dille in 1978.



### Presidential Medallion

The Presidential Medallion serves as a sign of the educational mission of Minnesota State University Moorhead. The President's commitment to the University's purposes is renewed in each solemn academic function, when it is appropriate to wear the medallion and be recharged by its symbols.



### College Marshals

The College Marshals are senior faculty representing their colleges.

## Minnesota State Colleges & Universities Board of Trustees

Scott Olson, <i>Chancellor</i>	Roger Moe
George Soule, <i>Chair</i>	Christopher Richter, <i>student</i>
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## Minnesota State University Moorhead Administrative Council

Timothy Downs, PhD	<i>President</i>
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Georges Tippens, JD	<i>Vice President for Finance &amp; Administration</i>
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Elizabeth Nawrot, PhD	<i>Dean of the College of Science, Health &amp; the Environment</i>
Kara Gravley-Stack, PhD	<i>Dean of Students</i>
Chad Markuson, MBA	<i>Director of Athletics</i>
Ryan Nelson, AAS	<i>Director of Public Safety</i>
Karen Qualey, Ed.S	<i>Executive Director for Library Services &amp; Online Learning</i>
Karen Lester, MBA	<i>Comptroller</i>
Erika Beseler Thompson, PhD	<i>Interim Executive Director to Student Success</i>
Tom Reburn, EdD	<i>Dean of Admissions</i>
Sandie East, MBA	<i>Campus Information Officer</i>
Brenda Norris, BS	<i>Executive Director of Facilities Management</i>
Jered Pigeon, MS	<i>Director, Office of Diversity &amp; Inclusion</i>
Kathy Frolek	<i>Executive Assistant to the President</i>

## ***Minnesota Carnegie Professors of the Year (CASE)***

Minnesota State University Moorhead is extremely proud to recognize the following State and U.S. Professors of the Year

### **Minnesota State Professors of the Year**

**Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson** (2014)

**Brian Wisenden** (2013)

**Martin Grindelund** (2008)

**Ellen Brisch** (2007)

**Mark Wallert** (2005)

**Jim Bartruff** (2001)

**Andrew Conteh** (1999)

**David Mason** (1994)

**Evelyn Lynch** (1992)

**Delmar Hansen** (1987)

Administered by CASE (The Council for Advancement and Support of Education) and sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the Minnesota State Professor of the Year award recognizes professors for their influence on teaching and their commitment to undergraduate students.

### **U.S. Professor of the Year**

**Russell Colson** (2010)

The U.S. Professor of the Year awards program, created in 1981, celebrates outstanding instructors across the country. Also, sponsored by CASE and the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, it is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Only four national winners are recognized each year.

#### *Criteria*

Extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching, which is demonstrated by excellence in the following areas: impact on and involvement with undergraduate students; scholarly approach to teaching and learning; contribution to undergraduate education in the institution, community and profession; and support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

### **Congratulations!**

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## Alma Mater

Dan Preston  
rev. C.E.R.

Charles Gounod  
arr. Charles E. Ruzicka



Where flows the ri - ver through prai - ries to the val - ley North,



Seek - ers of truth built a place of light and li - ber - ty.



That from its por - tals their sons and daugh - ters might go forth,



Through - out the na - tion till the truth be spread that sets us free.



Hail, M S U Moor - head to Thee. With love and loy - al - ty.



We pass the torch from the past to the fu - ture bright.



Hail, hail, Al - ma Ma - ter Ans - w' - ring e - ver to our coun - try's call,



E - ver chang - ing, e - ver con - stant, e - ver true, our Al - ma Ma - ter.



**MINNESOTA STATE**

Minnesota State University Moorhead,  
A member of Minnesota State

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