

Celebrating Excellence



**MINNESOTA STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

APRIL 20, 2022

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.



MinnState.edu/BOT Awards

Celebrating Excellence

MINNESOTA STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

April 20, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

MUSIC

Lyhnsay Yang

Suite No. 1 - "Courante" by Johann Sebastian Bach

Anoka-Ramsey Community College World Drumming Ensemble
Cyril Dela Cruz, Aaron Davis, Julie Des Jardins, Andrew Green, Anna Hutton,
Mason Oberleitner, and Director Dr. David Schmalenberger

"Malivata" - Traditional Tanzanian Hunter's Dance

EMCEE

Cathy Wurzer

WELCOME

Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor
Jay Cowles, Board of Trustees Chair

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Cheryl Tefer, Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Chair

RECOGNITION OF AWARDS

Outstanding Service Faculty
Service Faculty of the Year
Educators of the Year
Outstanding Educators

CLOSING

Ron Anderson, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs



**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Asani Ajogun
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Michael Vekich

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

The award is an honor bestowed upon university service faculty to acknowledge and reward exceptional individual professional accomplishment, and to encourage ongoing excellence in the key roles that service faculty fulfill at our system's universities. They are responsible for advising and counseling students; for the recruitment, retention, and placement of students; for residential life programming; facilitation of student groups and student leadership; and other involvement in university and community activities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Professional Excellence in Service Award Review Committee evaluated each nominee in the following areas:

- » Leadership and Innovation
- » Knowledge and Expertise
- » Advancement of Equity and Inclusion
- » Professional Development and Growth
- » Commitment to Student Success

Nominations were made by students, faculty peers, or staff, and evaluated by a campus review committee before Outstanding Service Faculty nomination packets were submitted to the Senior Vice Chancellor. At the system level, a committee employed a rubric of detailed criteria in reading and discussing Outstanding Service Faculty portfolios, and made final recommendation of one Service Faculty of the Year recipient to Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson. That recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.



Erika Bailey-Johnson

**Sustainability Director
Bemidji State University**

As founder and leader of the Bemidji State University (BSU) Sustainability Office, Bailey-Johnson has made many contributions on campus – conducting a biomass feasibility study, overhauling campus recycling efforts, and changing the model of sustainability to a more holistic vision. Under her leadership, BSU was named a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bailey-Johnson successfully pursued a \$600,000 Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Grant, funding the Niizhoo-gwayakochigewin Collaborative that developed the Indigenous Sustainability Studies major and minor at BSU. She also serves as co-principal investigator for a multiyear \$200,000 Healing for Justice grant from the Bush Foundation and raised funds through grants to support other projects, such as climate action planning and a bikeshare program.

A vocal champion for the ideals of equity and inclusion, particularly for Indigenous communities, she mentors students and serves as a coordinator and one of the instructors for the People of the Environment course. She also shares her expertise regionally and nationally, as a presenter, member of state boards and committees, and participant in other professional groups.

SERVICE FACULTY OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

I am incredibly humbled and honored to receive this award. Chi-miigwech to my colleagues, Dr. Randy Westhoff and Jordan Lutz, and our President, Dr. Faith Hensrud, for the nomination. I do not do this work alone and wish to recognize all the groundwork that has come before me and the hundreds of inspiring students I have been privileged to work alongside. People often ask how I can continue to do this work that is often complicated, frustrating, and disappointing. My answer is simple...amazing students! They give me hope we can create a better future, a community where everyone feels connected, protected, and respected. A community that includes ALL of our relatives, from the biggest tree to the smallest stone and all the connections that flow between. This work is rarely easy and takes time, but relationships are what will guide us down a better, more equitable path.

2022 Outstanding Service Faculty

These service faculty are recognized for the extraordinary service they provide at their universities and to Minnesota State.



SARA GRANBERG-RADEMACKER

**Director, University Advising
Minnesota State University, Mankato**

Granberg-Rademacker developed a successful plan to focus the advising center on the most vulnerable populations who were disproportionately struggling and led the transition to a new centralized, expanded advising model.



JULIA ROLAND

**Director, First Year Programs
Minnesota State University Moorhead**

Roland works closely with staff and faculty to provide a better experience for first-year students, whether that involves infusing new technology, helping transform curriculum and services, or advancing equity and inclusion.



PAULA SCHEEVEL

**Director, Housing and Residence Life
Winona State University**

Sheevel navigated the pandemic's impact on student housing wisely, effectively, and safely, adding to many other milestones that include starting a night student security program and pioneering new living and learning communities.

2022 Outstanding Service Faculty



SAM VANG

**Academic Advisor, College of Management
Metro State University**

Through his strong leadership, Vang has helped build a community for Asian American Pacific Islander students, sharing his cultural knowledge and advocating in many ways for equity and inclusion.



KATHRYN YOUNG

**Director, Office of Clinical Experiences
Co-Director, Center for Excellence in Professional Practice
St. Cloud State University**

Young supports the development of prospective teachers through her collaborations with faculty, staff, and school districts, as well as through partnerships to increase the diversity of teaching staff in Minnesota K-12 schools.

RECENT SERVICE FACULTY OF THE YEAR

2020

Marcia Anderson

Director, Student-Directed Learning
Metro State University

2018

Jane Olsen

Director, Women's Center
St. Cloud State University

2019

Kari Peterson

Recreation and Wellness Director
Minnesota State University Moorhead

2017

Kierstin E. Hoven

Director of Campus Recreation
Bemidji State University

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Board of Trustees Educator of the Year Award for Excellence in Teaching was established in 2007. Board of Trustees bestow the award upon faculty within Minnesota State to acknowledge and reward exceptional professional accomplishment, and to encourage ongoing excellence in teaching. The award proclaims, on behalf of the entire system, the Board of Trustees' pride in the dedication and accomplishment of its faculty who provide instruction that prepares Minnesota college and university students for their professional, scholarly and civic lives. This year, presidents designated 51 Outstanding Educators in nomination for the award.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Board of Trustees Educator of the Year Award for Excellence in Teaching program evaluates each nominee in the following areas:

- » Innovative Teaching Strategies and Materials
- » Standards for Assessment of Student Learning and Performance
- » Culturally Responsive Teaching and Pedagogy
- » Service to Students, Profession, Institution, System to Advance Teaching Excellence
- » Content Expertise and Professional Growth

Nominations were made by students, faculty peers, or staff, and evaluated by a campus review committee before Outstanding Educator nomination packets were submitted to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

At the system level, two committees - one for college instructors and another for university instructors - employed a rubric of detailed criteria in reviewing and discussing Outstanding Educator portfolios, and made final recommendations of seven Educators of the Year recipients to Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson. Those recommendations were reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.



Lisa Bergin

Philosophy
Minneapolis College

Many students enter Dr. Lisa Bergin's course on Logic with some uncertainties - fears about their own abilities and concerns about whether it will be boring or not relevant to their lives. Bergin, though, seamlessly integrates a wide variety of high-impact teaching strategies and innovations that calm student fears, build identity-safe classrooms, and lead to student success.

Bergin explains to students the learning science rationale behind each task, they practice the tenets of that science, repeat the practice with learning interspersed, and use their mistakes to improve their understanding. She both challenges and supports her students, nurturing a collaborative, confidence-boosting environment.

Her contributions extend beyond her classroom. She serves as equity consultant for the Minneapolis College's Center for Teaching and Learning. She created an equity-focused syllabus template for Minneapolis College faculty. She also used a sabbatical to build cohort training in culturally responsive pedagogy and now offers trainings to Minnesota State faculty. As the case with her students, she receives glowing reviews from faculty participants.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

My tremendous thanks to Minneapolis College students—I am here because you advocated for our becoming the compassionate, creative, and connected instructors you deserve; you have made me not just a better teacher, but a better human being. Thanks to my fabulous colleagues in the Philosophy Department - your expansive vision of what philosophy can be and do, your dedication to students and each other, your humor and wisdom: I am because we are. Thank you to all the faculty who've joined me in our CRP trainings - you strengthen me always. Thank you John Jamison, Dr. Sharon Pierce, and my local selection committee for nominating me for this award. Thank you to my parents, exemplars of excellent teaching and learning. Gil, Pete, and Nelly, thank you for the love that fills our home. Learning alongside students has been the honor of my life; this award: the icing on that cake.



Michael Dando

English, Communication Arts, and Literature
St. Cloud State University

Dr. Michael Dando focuses his teaching, service, and research on community-oriented, student-driven opportunities to promote student engagement, critical thinking, and authentic self-expression.

For example, in Dando's Hip Hop Cultural Studies course, students prepare a community showcase for their works and invite the college and wider community to come and discuss the art with the students. In his teacher education courses, he offers opportunities for students to talk with top education scholars and pairs them with veteran, in-service language arts teachers from throughout the country for firsthand experiences that help form a solid foundation of theory and practice.

As an intentional practice, he connects classes and course work with campus groups, including Multicultural Student Services and the Multicultural Resource Center, among others, and with community stakeholders. His own outreach and research take many forms: He has partnered with District 742 on ongoing literacy project and published scholarship articles on education, popular culture, and literacy development.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

I would like to thank my wife Kendra and my kids for their constant patience, guidance, and support. I'd like to thank St. Cloud State University students, staff, and faculty particularly President Wacker, the Provost's office, Deans Springer and Phillipot, and my departmental friends and colleagues. Thanks also to the Khan-lang Writing Collective for collaborating with me to think and write about language, science fiction, and civic discourse. Thank you to the BlackKatz creative team for joining me in researching critical speculative literacies and democratic education. It has been an honor to shine a light on Orrin C. Evans' genius and to work with young people in developing avenues to tell their own stories on their own terms. Finally, I'd like to thank the students and alumnae of the Communication Arts and Literature program. The world needs critical, creative, classroom leadership so urgently and I'm so grateful that you have taken up this challenge. Excelsior!



Melissa Hanzsek-Brill

Mathematics
St. Cloud State University

No matter the delivery method or class size, Dr. Melissa Hanzsek-Brill grounds her teaching on the best of inclusive and active learning strategies to meet student needs. With current and future teachers enrolled in most of her classes, her work ultimately impacts many more students.

Fueled by a passion for mathematics, Hanzsek-Brill has been a leader in training and implementing Learning Assistants (LA) for lower-division STEM courses. She also contributes to the wider community: She launched the Parents-And-Kids-Counting A Lot-Together (PAKCAT), a collaborative project between St. Cloud State University and the St. Cloud school district to improve quantitative literacy and school preparedness.

For more than 20 years, she has shaped professional development opportunities for more than 500 teachers – pre-kindergarten through 12th grade – who aren't enrolled at the university. Her most recent project involves delivering video lessons and virtual meetings to K-5 teachers. She also has developed and taught onsite mathematics courses for local businesses, sharing math concepts and activities that relate to employees' daily work.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

I want to acknowledge and thank all of my fellow nominees. Being surrounded by others who value students and teaching as I do is inspiring and why I want to come to work every day. A special thank you to President Robbyn Wacker for nominating me for this award and for valuing teaching at St. Cloud State University.

Teaching and learning have always been a part of who I am and everything I do. To be recognized for this work is an honor and fuels my drive to continue.



Alex Layne

Technical Communications
Metro State University

As a pioneer educator, Dr. Alex Layne built the foundation of game study offerings at Minnesota State, including the first minor in game studies and new courses, described as “wildly popular” with students.

Layne has immersed herself in the rapidly developing field to bring the latest to students. With a colleague, she produces a biweekly podcast to review current scholarship and research in the field, taps industry expertise to ensure relevant course content, and pursues an active research agenda. Co-director of the Center for Game Design and New Media Studies, she currently is working on new courses in game design for a pilot program of stackable micro-certificates.

Her unwavering commitment to students also contributes to her success, and her students appreciate her support: She encourages students to try new ideas and embrace failure as a step to mastery, and makes the learning environment a safe, culturally relevant, and responsive one for all students.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

I'd like to thank my amazing, brilliant, passionate students; I have no doubt that our students will be the leaders that shape and change the world for the better in ways we can't yet imagine. We owe it to them to be engaged, outstanding, and excellent in our service every day. I want to endlessly thank my husband Mike for supporting my choice to never take the easy route, my daughters for sharing me too often with a computer, and my parents and in laws for covering meetings, naptimes, and diaper changes these past three years. I'd also like to thank my administrative team, especially President Arthur, Provost Gort, Dean Shirin, and my Chair Dr. Zhou for never failing to walk the walk when it comes to supporting faculty, especially parents, during the pandemic. As an educator, I try, fail, try better, and fail better every day; I hope winning this award shows my students that learning from failure is truly the best kind of winning.



Lindsay Mason O'Brien

English
Lake Superior College

Mason O'Brien takes special care to ensure that all her students feel welcome and respected. As one of her students says, "She is continuously putting effort into finding ways to remove barriers students face in academic careers and tailoring her classes to meet their individual needs."

Mason O'Brien has both a devotion to her students and a talent for involving students in their learning, empowering her students to develop new knowledge and skills. She encourages students to explore content that is meaningful to them and to experience the power of writing and communication in making change happen.

Students also note her investment in them, often going the extra mile to form a connection. From her innovative grading system to collaborative group work to self-reflection and self-assessment, Mason O'Brien positively impacts the lives of her students.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

I decided to become a teacher while watching my mom teach kindergarten. Decades later, I'm awe-filled to be recognized for teaching at Lake Superior College, in the same community where Mom and my own teachers strove to make a difference. This includes K12 teachers like Rachel Austreng, 4th grade, who agreed I could be an author; Glen Gilderman, 7th grade, who argued it was better to be "me" than be "cool;" Lynn Peterson, 9th grade, who transformed each class into a community. At UW-Superior, professors like Dr. Martha Einerson and Dr. Joel Sipress made magic with the arc of class discussion, and Barton Sutter handed me my first toolkit to truly grow as a writer. All of them are part of me, as are my students who push me to become my own best version of an educator and my colleagues who inspire me daily. I do this work for them all, with gratitude.



Katie Nelson

Anthropology
Inver Hills Community College

Described as “a force” and “masterful,” Dr. Katie Nelson focused her career on exploring and honoring cultural difference and promoting equity and inclusion.

Nelson and three co-editors helped reduce the high costs of textbooks for students, often a barrier to student success, by developing the first comprehensive introductory biological anthropology OER in anthropology. Now more than 750 faculty use the textbook. With a co-editor, she also completed a new OER textbook, *Gendered Lives: Global Issues*.

After researching equity-minded best practices for syllabi, she incorporated a new form of evaluating student progress. For the “unesay” assignment, students select a topic of interest, conduct research, and demonstrate their understanding in a meaningful manner of their choice. They also complete a learning plan at the term’s start and end the term with a self-evaluation.

As interim campus diversity officer in 2019, Nelson led a group of faculty who designed curriculum for the Diverse Perspectives Pedagogy Faculty Seminar, which helps empower faculty to create truly inclusive and equitable learning environments and to improve student retention and success rates.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

I would like to thank Inver Hills Community College President Michael Berndt, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Derrick Lindstrom, and Interim Dean of STEM & Social Sciences Yohannes Agegnehu for their nomination, support and leadership. Strong and effective leaders such as you are key to creating a culture of excellence and equity. I thank the faculty and student nominators who commented on my work and supported my nomination for this distinguished award. I thank my mother Mary, my partner Tariq, and my children Josue, Alejandro and Leila for their support. Working tirelessly for equity, student success and democratizing access to anthropological knowledge is not always easy. Indeed, behind any successful woman is, undoubtedly, a supportive family. I am profoundly honored to receive this recognition and newly energized to continue my work. It means the world to me.



Kleber Ortiz

Education
Minneapolis College

As a teacher of future teachers, Ortiz sees his role in the classroom as a facilitator of knowledge, serving both as a teacher and a student. His collaborative approach offers students the freedom to learn from each other and expand their education.

Ortiz's innovative, culturally responsive strategies include the use of text dialogues, where students share lived experiences and perspectives as they talk about course readings. In an approach that builds skills, one or more students also help facilitate learning within the class by leading discussions. In another assignment, students apply what they learn to imagine new paths in solving an urban education problem of their choice.

Ortiz supports students in many ways inside and outside the classroom, advising members of the Raices Unidas, the Latine student group at Minneapolis College, and providing letters of recommendation, to name a few.

His influence extends throughout Minnesota State. He leads workshops on culturally responsive teaching and assessment for Minnesota State faculty, serves on the college's Equity by Design work group, and is helping revise the college's faculty evaluation and professional development processes.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR COMMENTS

This is a tremendous honor that would not be possible without a supportive community around me. Thank you to Gail, Tom, President Pierce, the selection committee, and my colleagues at Minneapolis College that have supported me every day. My parents, Manuel and Maria, and my children that inspire me to be better, Atlai, Ismerai, Ivan Nathaniel and Mateo. To my beautiful wife and soul mate Bella, who is my rock and inspiration. Last but not least, thank you to all my students past and present that have made me the teacher and person that I am today. I am eternally grateful to you all! This award has a special place in my heart because part of the nomination came from my students. To know that I have impacted their lives means the world to me. Teaching is my life and I am excited to continue to learn from and with students.

2022 Outstanding Educators



ABDULLAH ABU HUSSEIN

Information Systems
St. Cloud State University

Using creativity and a passion for mentoring and advising students, Dr. Abu Hussein carefully crafts his labs and assignments and taps a wide spectrum of teaching tools and techniques to accelerate student learning.



HEIDI ANDERSON

English Language Learners/English
Minnesota State Community and Technical College

Highly focused on transforming the lives of students, Anderson improves student learning by building relationships, promoting a sense of community, and limiting barriers to students access and understanding of course materials.



CARINA BELINCO

Biology
Normandale Community College

Recipient of many teaching awards, Dr. Belinco works tirelessly to help students make connections between science and their lived experiences, fostering their curiosity and helping them understand biological concepts and their impacts.



BRIAN BICH

Biology
Lake Superior College

Appreciated for his teaching style and welcoming learning environment, Bich engages students with memorable real-life examples and other approaches to help them master complex material and creates learning resources for them.

2022 Outstanding Educators



BOYD BRADBURY

Leadership and Learning

Minnesota State University Moorhead

A true innovator, Dr. Bradbury developed the first stand-alone doctoral program in the history of Minnesota State and expanded accessibility through fully online graduate programs, among other milestones.



SUSAN BREMER

Healthcare Administrative Specialist

Central Lakes College

A pioneer, Bremer developed hybrid and online options to meet student needs for flexibility well before their popularity grew and helps student embrace questioning as a normal part of the learning process.



AARON BROWN

Speech

Hibbing Community College

Brown fosters student interest and enthusiasm through real-life assignments that include producing newscasts, completing community solution projects, and writing and delivering a speech that persuades fellow students to make charitable donations.



ANDREW CARLSON

Professional Communications

Metro State University

Dr. Carlson brings the classroom to life for his students through engaging discussions, team-based assignments, projects for community organizations, and other activities based on adult learning principles.

2022 Outstanding Educators



JOAN CARTER

Engineering

Inver Hills Community College

A licensed professional engineer, Carter helps students understand complex concepts, works to make all students feel a sense of belonging in the classroom, and has developed courses that easily transfer toward bachelor's degrees.



SIMRAN CHAHAL

Chemistry

Saint Paul College

Dr. Chahal strives to show students the relevancy of chemistry inside and outside the classroom, helping them connect with STEM mentors and leaders and encouraging them to apply what they are learning.



JENNY COREY-GRUENES

English

Riverland Community College

With a clear focus on student growth, Corey-Gruenes spends time one-one-one with students to understand and guide them, develops assignments that support their learning, and started the Liberal Arts Club for students.



KRISTINA EHNERT

Accounting and Business

Central Lakes College

Ehnert's teaching philosophy "I do. We do. You do." helps her reach students with all learning styles and shape engaging experiences that help students overcome barriers and meet high academic expectations.

2022 Outstanding Educators



ALEJANDRA ESTRIN DASHE

Social Science

Metro State University

Dr. Estrin Dashe applies high-impact learning practices, such as the flipped classroom where work outside of class serves as preparation for in-class discussion, activities, and project-based assignments, to ignite student learning.



SANDRA GUSTAFSON

Nursing

Hibbing Community College

A gifted teacher and leader, Gustafson has engaged students, supported nursing faculty, led the introduction of a simulation experience for students, and helped drive new course assessment approaches.



RENEE GUYER

Biology

South Central College

Named the college's 2021 Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year, Guyer shares her passion for science with her students, incorporating strategies and approaches that help students grasp often complex material.



AMANDA HAKEMIAN

Chemistry

Normandale Community College

Dr. Hakemian embraces instructional experimentation, exploring formats such as online learning and using real-world examples, demonstrations, and short animations to prepare students for working on “Now You Try” problems, among other strategies.

2022 Outstanding Educators



TONYA JO HANSEN

Economics

Minnesota State University Moorhead

With a rare ability to guide, advise, and mentor students in ways that help them achieve their goals, Dr. Hansen excels at connecting with students and adapts her teaching to meet student needs.



CATHERINE HASLAG

Chemistry

Riverland Community College

Not only has Haslag created courses for students and helped them understand and apply scientific methods, but she also developed the Science Fair Mentoring Project to introduce elementary students to the joys of science.



ALEX HOWELL

Radiography

Minnesota State College Southeast

Deeply committed to students, Howell encourages them as prospective students, sets lesson plans that make learning interesting, helps them learn from each other, coordinates clinical rotations, and treats each student with respect.



SIMON HUELSBECK

Art

Rochester Community and Technical College

Winner of awards for both art and art education, Huelsbeck shares his love of art with students, as a teacher in the classroom, director and curator of the RCTC Gallery, and mentor to students and local artists.

2022 Outstanding Educators



MARK JOHNSON

Political Science, History, and Geography
Minnesota State Community and Technical College

Johnson blends perspectives from history, political science, and geography for lessons, assignments, and other activities, such as podcasts, which help students understand and connect historical context to the issues that matter to them today.



KATEY LEVERSON

Liberal Arts and Sciences
St. Cloud Technical and Community College

Levenson strives to stimulate student interest in psychology, encourage and challenge thinking skills, and make the course material relevant through approaches that include discussions, writing assignments, and a variety of creative activities.



MICHELLE MALDONADO

Nursing
Anoka-Ramsey Community College

From the beginning of every term, Maldonado centers her teaching philosophy around building relationships and mentoring her students, helping visualize themselves as nurses and working on individualized plans for success.



ANTHONY MARCHETTI

Art
Anoka-Ramsey Community College

A 2016 Fulbright Teaching/Research Scholar, multiple Minnesota State Arts Board grant recipient, and well-regarded photographer with numerous solo and group exhibitions of his work, Marchetti offers his students a wealth of experience.

2022 Outstanding Educators



PAUL MELCHIOR

Biology

North Hennepin Community College

Melchior applies a learning by doing philosophy in his courses, finding new ways to hook students and trigger their curiosity, as well as working with others to expand offerings for students, such as the Biology Study Abroad Program in Ireland.



SARA MORGAN

Nursing

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

An unwavering advocate for expanding access to nursing education, college alumna Morgan supports students with care and responsiveness, brings her professional clinical work experiences into the classroom, and embraces new teaching strategies.



MARK NOVOTNY

Construction Electrician

Anoka Technical College

A Construction Electrician program graduate, Novotny returned as faculty to share valuable content expertise and experiences as an electrician with students, always adapting assignments and approaches to ensure student success.



DONNA PAWLOWSKI

Sociology and Communication Studies

Bemidji State University

Architect of the BSU Communications Studies program, Dr. Pawlowski focuses on improving student learning with community-based capstone projects, assignments, and work to train others in service-learning.

2022 Outstanding Educators



CATHERINE PULLING

French

Normandale Community College

Dr. Pulling has devoted her career to serving students in language instruction, expanding their global and cultural opportunities and perspectives and along the way receiving 40 Phi Theta Kappa Golden Apple awards for teaching excellence.



AMY RAWSON

Communication

Century College

Instrumental in the development of many courses, including the Certificate Capstone Course, Dr. Rawson employs collaborative teaching strategies in the classroom, making the most of various types of technology and innovative activities.



JITENDRA SINGH

Health Services Administration

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Known for his productivity, dedication to student success, and unfailing positive attitude, Dr. Singh constantly creates new content and uses a wide set of teaching tools to reach traditional and non-traditional students.



JENNIFER SIPPEL

Information Studies and Library Information Technology

Minneapolis College

Whether adopting materials so students never have to purchase a textbook, incorporating new technology, or leading two Minnesota State Shark Tank Innovation grants projects, she constantly looks to innovate and support student growth.

2022 Outstanding Educators



KELLY SJERVEN

Biology and Natural Science
Rainy River Community College

A leader in assessment practices, Sjerven helped revamp the college's assessment process and embraces new methods of teaching and learning, as well as experiential learning, translating into a hands-on active learning environment for students.



HEATHER SKLENICKA

Chemistry
Rochester Community and Technical College

With a keen focus on students, Dr. Sklenicka adjusts her approaches to homework, format, and assessment to help students reach learning outcomes, builds community in the classroom, and shares her expertise with other faculty.



KARI SLINDEN

Agriculture
Ridgewater College

Kari Slinden has forged partnerships that give students valuable field experience, and thanks to her ability to connect with students, faculty, and industry, she serves as a role model and informal leader in the college and community.



CARIE STATZ

Marketing
Dakota County Technical College

Dr. Statz strives to bring the real world into her teaching, tapping an advisory committee of marketing professionals and incorporating activities and projects that offer students opportunities to develop professional work for their portfolios.

2022 Outstanding Educators



THOMAS SUNDQUIST

Mathematics

Normandale Community College

The winner of 17 Phi Theta Kappa Golden Apple awards for his inspirational teaching, Dr. Sundquist believes that learning should be a joy, and students recognize that he genuinely cares about their learning and success.



ANNE TUOY-GIEL

Health Sciences and Nursing

St. Cloud Technical and Community College

Tuoy-Giel dedicates her teaching to ensuring that she meets and supports her students where they are in their academic journey, helping them connect theory with real life situations to enhance clinical judgment and nursing decisions.



SARA VAN ASTEN

Mathematics

North Hennepin Community College

No matter the course, Van Asten takes a collaborative approach to actively involve students in the material and remains committed to championing student success and advocating for resources to advance teaching and learning.



KRISTYN VANDERWAAL MILLS

Biology

Saint Paul College

Dr. VanderWaal Mills engages students with high-impact teaching methods and supports the education of low-income students through her successful pursuit and administration of a grant that provides scholarships and mentoring.

2022 Outstanding Educators



JAY VARGAS

Sociology

Minnesota West Community and Technical College

Going the extra mile for his students, Dr. Vargas guides and encourages them to build a stronger foundation of cultural competence, helping them to expand their perspectives, as well as to apply course material on a real-time basis.



GUS VETTLESON

Mathematics

Northwest Technical College

Vettleson works to both reduce barriers for students and to offer a curriculum that allows students to easily see how classroom concepts will help them on the job and that relates to hands-on instruction in the college's technical programs.



VALERIE WALLINGFORD

Business Administration

Bemidji State University

A tireless student advocate and mentor, an exceptional scholar and teacher, and believer in the inclusive classroom, Dr. Wallingford sets the stage for success by building bridges between students' learning and their lived experiences.



BREANN WOZNIAK

Biology

Ridgewater College

Wozniak engages students through meaningful small group work and related assignments, lessons that are tailored to student backgrounds and interests, and applied work, always encouraging students to take ownership of their learning.

RECENT EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

2020

Jessie Breyer-Peterson

Psychology
Century College

Ruthanne Crapo Kim

Philosophy
Minneapolis College

Cindy Kaus

Mathematics
Metro State University

Miriam Kero

Speech and Communications
Hibbing Community College

Paul Neiman

Philosophy
St. Cloud State University

Janet Tilstra

Communication Science
St. Cloud State University

Stephanie Zarse

Dental Hygiene
Normandale Community College

2019

Kevin Haglin

Physics and Astronomy
St. Cloud State University

Kimberly Hansen

Accounting
Riverland Community College

Tanya Hoting Mrazek

American Sign Language
Central Lakes College

Megan Jones

Earth and Environmental Sciences
North Hennepin Community College

Jacqueline Semaan

Nursing
Lake Superior College

John Sinko

Physics and Astronomy
St. Cloud State University

2018

Matthew Palombo

Philosophy
Minneapolis College

Tracy Ore

Sociology
St. Cloud State University

Rhonda Besel

Cosmetology
Riverland Community College

Jeffrey Bell

Biology
Northland Community and Technical College

Sarah Petitto

Chemistry
St. Cloud State University

Kerry Norling

Communications
Hennepin Technical College

2017

Gill Creel

English
Minneapolis College

Joan Bernard

Computer Careers/Information Systems
Hennepin Technical College

Maran Wolston

Philosophy
Minneapolis College

Kari Frisch

Communications
Central Lakes College

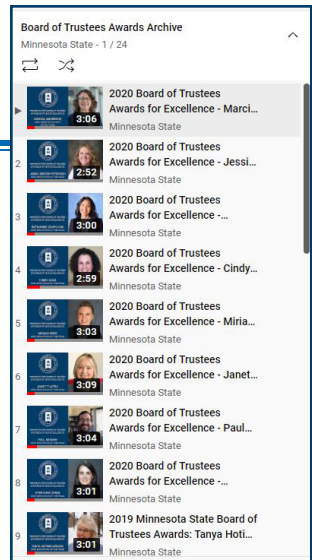
View more Educators of the Year
from previous years at
MinnState.edu/BOTAwards

Celebrating the History

Since 2007, the Minnesota State Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence have recognized and awarded 448 Outstanding Educators and 69 Educators of the Year. Since incorporating the professional excellence in service award in 2016, 42 have been recognized as Outstanding Service Faculty, and 7 have been awarded as Service Faculty of the Year. Help celebrate and honor their professional achievements and encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

Videos

Videos shown during this event and those from previous years will be available for future viewing in the Minnesota State Board of Trustees Awards YouTube playlist. Find this and programs from previous years at MinnState.edu/BOTAwards.



Award Plaques

As of 2021, Minnesota State Board of Trustees Award plaques are on display at each campus to recognize and honor all current and past outstanding teaching and service faculty at each school.

Wear your medal

Recipients are encouraged to wear their Board of Trustees Award for Excellence medallion at campus commencement ceremonies.



Your participation requested

During the event, we invite you to share a photo of yourself or your experiences on Twitter with your event box, medal, or certificate using the hashtag #MinnStateBOTAwards and tagging @MinnStateEdu and your campus.



Emcee Cathy Wurzer



Miki Huntington, Minneapolis College
2020 Outstanding Educator

Thank You

To celebrate these honorees requires the hard work of many. Special thanks to:

- » All of the students, faculty, and administrators who nominated candidates and who served on the campus selection committees
- » Cathy Wurzer, our graceful and talented emcee
- » Gary Hatteberg, videographer
- » Todd Hawkinson, creator of the medallions
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- » Members of the review committee:
 - » Karen Anderson • Minnesota State University, Mankato
 - » Stephanie Bard • Bemidji State University
 - » Marina Cetkovic-Cvrlje • St. Cloud State University
 - » Melissa Dingmann • Minnesota State University Moorhead
 - » Shannon Fiene • Minnesota West Community and Technical College
 - » Amy Gort • Metro State University
 - » Caitlin Hickcox • St. Cloud Technical and Community College
 - » Miki Huntington • Minneapolis College
 - » Shannon Kirkeide • Anoka-Ramsey Community College
 - » Shawn Mueske • Ridgewater College
 - » Jen Ouellette-Schramm • Riverland Community College
 - » Ajay Panicker • Metro State University
 - » Susan Parry • Hennepin Technical College
 - » Erika Pinter • Winona State University
 - » Tarrence Robertson • System Office
 - » Eva Scates-Winston • System Office
 - » Paul Shepherd • System Office
 - » Devin Smith • Students United
 - » Yingfah Thao • System Office
 - » Gabriel Warren • Bemidji State University



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