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# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS  
FOR EXCELLENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL  
411 MINNESOTA STREET  
SAINT PAUL

## LUNCHEON AND AWARDS CEREMONY

11:30 A.M. — 1:30 P.M.

The Board of Trustees Awards for Excellence are system-level honors conferred annually to recognize professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

**Music** • Daniel Harms and Melissa Bergstrom, piano;  
Jess Hernandez, vocals

**Emcee** • Cathy Wurzer

**Welcome** • Chancellor Devinder Malhotra and Board of Trustees  
Chair Michael Vekich

**Lunch**

**Presentation of Awards**

**Introductory Remarks** • Board of Trustees Academic and Student  
Affairs Chair Alex Cirillo

**Recognition of Outstanding Service Faculty Members and Service  
Faculty Member of the Year** • Chair Cirillo, Chancellor Malhotra,  
Senior Vice Chancellor Ron Anderson

**Recognition of Outstanding Educators and Educators of the Year** •  
Chair Cirillo, Chancellor Malhotra, Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson

**Closing** • Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson

# MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## **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:

- Exceptional work performance
- Advancement of the university mission
- Expertise, creative achievement, and professional development,
- Contribution to student growth and development

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 Member portfolios, and made final recommendation of one Service Faculty Member of the Year recipient to Senior Vice Chancellor Anderson. That recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.



## Kari Peterson

*Recreation and Wellness Director  
Minnesota State University Moorhead*

Ms. Kari Peterson is the Director of Recreation and Wellness at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Her leadership style is inclusive, caring, and humble, and she is known for creating strong teams within her department. In her work and care for colleagues and students, Peterson models and lives the core values of MSUM – Grit, Humility, and Heart.

Peterson led creation of the comprehensive Recreation and Wellness Department. Innovative programming and partnerships are key features of her work: “Fitness on Demand” allows students to join classes remotely, student-friendly options such as glow-in-the-dark volleyball encourages participation, and a partnership with Minnesota State Community and Technical College has given college students the opportunity to participate in intramural and club sports at MSUM. She is committed to inclusion, purchasing ADA-compliant fitness equipment, offering adaptive recreation and wellness programs, and integrating multicultural competence and accessibility resources into employee training. As a result of her work, intramural and club sport participation have grown over 350% since 2012.

Peterson holds a B.A in Exercise Science and Fitness Management, an M.S. in Recreation Management, and an M.S. Certificate in Sports Management from Winona State University.

### **Service Faculty Member of the Year Comments – Ms. Kari Peterson**

I am truly honored and humbled by the opportunity to present the work that we have accomplished together at Minnesota State University Moorhead! I would like to thank President Anne Blackhurst and Dr. Brenda Amenson-Hill for their nomination and support during my tenure at MSUM. I am very proud to be part of a University that has outlined its purpose to transform the world by transforming lives. This award is incredibly meaningful, and represents all of the hard work and dedication that our entire team demonstrates day in and day out. Thank you to the Board of Trustees and to the committee who took the time to review the portfolios of so many exceptional employees in our system. I am tremendously honored to be in such elite company, and I am very appreciative to all of those with whom I get to work each and every day. Thank you!

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE FACULTY MEMBERS

These administrative service faculty members are recognized for the extraordinary service they provide at their universities and to Minnesota State. Comments were provided by colleagues, presidents, and community supporters.

### **Roger Boulay • Art Gallery and Collections Coordinator**

*Winona State University*

Boulay helps students learn through the beauty, joy, and self-actualization that art can offer and he does it with kindness, patience, wisdom, and inclusion. A phenomenal campus leader, Boulay is trusted and appreciated by colleagues, administrators, and students. WSU, as well as the city of Winona, are enriched by the work he does and how he does it.



### **Loralyn Kuechle • Associate Director of Housing and Residential Life**

*Bemidji State University*

Kuechle's talents and expertise coordinating the First Year Residential Experience Program are vital to the experience and success of BSU students and, in turn, to university retention efforts. This dedicated student development professional works creatively to ensure investments are matched with continued, positive impacts on students and her leadership skills are praised by colleagues.



### **Theresa Mische • Director of Alumni Relations**

*St. Cloud State University*

Knowledgeable and collegial, Mische is recognized as an intelligent problem solver and active listener who passionately serves when and where she is needed. Adeptly supporting SCSU through her connections with over 122,000 alumni, Mische also is a stellar member of many key campus committees, including the Homecoming Executive Committee and the Sesquicentennial Committee.



**Phyllis Webster • Academic Advisor,  
College of Management**

*Metropolitan State University*

Webster devotes herself to the success and support of hundreds of students, as well as to faculty and colleagues who seek her expert advice and mentoring. Kindhearted and generous with her time, she's been an early and ongoing contributor to an online student orientation program that has been recognized as a best practice in the state and nation.



**Elizabeth Whitcomb • Assistant Director  
of Financial Aid**

*Minnesota State University, Mankato*

Using her expertise, creativity, and leadership skills, Whitcomb collaborated with numerous university departments to create an advanced e-forms system that simplifies and positively impacts over 18,000 financial aid applications each year. Her exceptional leadership, deep commitment to the university's mission, and consistent contributions to the success of students is exemplary.




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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES SERVICE FACULTY  
MEMBERS OF THE YEAR, 2015-2018**

**2018**

Jane Olsen • Director, Women's Center  
St. Cloud State University

**2017**

Kierstin E. Hoven • Director of Campus Recreation  
Bemidji State University

**2016**

Barbara Oertel • Director of Warrior Success Center  
Winona State University

**2015**

Shahzad Ahmad • Director for Multicultural Student Services  
St. Cloud State University

## THE 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 34 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:

- Content expertise and professional growth
- Teaching strategies and materials
- Assessment of student learning and performance
- Service to students, profession, institution, system

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.

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



## Kevin Haglin

*Physics and Astronomy  
St. Cloud State University*

Dr. Kevin Haglin thinks deeply about fostering learning for his physics students at St. Cloud State University. He is adept at adapting instruction to best motivate and meet the needs of all students, utilizing visualizable, real-life phenomena, the physics puzzles and problems embedded within, and the critical thinking and problem solving required to develop mastery.

Haglin teaches multiple levels and makes use of student teams to foster engagement with peers and content, to solve authentic problems, and to motivate students to be lifelong learners. To gain an understanding of student learning, Haglin has developed problem sequences to provide critical information about where students are confused or losing their way, then uses this to review and adjust his teaching.

Haglin is committed to student success in STEM: he engages the community to build the pipeline of students headed for university programs and has created a supplemental one-credit course to improve student success in introductory physics. He supports active engagement in science research by seeking out grant funding and supervising undergraduate and graduate student research projects.

Haglin holds a B.A. in Physics and Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Minnesota.

### **Educator of the Year Comments – Dr. Kevin Haglin**

Thank you Dr. Robbyn Wacker, SCSU President, for my official nomination to the Board of Trustees for an Excellence in Teaching Award. I am especially grateful to the students I have mentored over the years—they helped shape my approach to teaching and my teaching philosophy. It is truly a gift to be able to do what I get to do every day. I wish to thank my family as well. They have been patient with me and supportive along this academic journey. Thank you Amy, Katy, and Kira!

Being named an Educator of the Year by the Minnesota State Board of Trustees means the world to me. I am honored and humbled in a way that touches my soul. I do my best every day to bring physics to life with passion, preparedness and positivity. It is outstanding to be recognized for that work. Thank you all so much.



## Kimberly Hansen

*Accounting*

*Riverland Community College*

Ms. Kimberly Hansen uses a “knowing why and asking why” approach with students as an accounting instructor at Riverland Community College. She is known for her commitment and the supportive, positive connections she has made with students.

Her love of teaching and care for students drives a focus on quality and relevance. Hansen

facilitates understanding of the complexity of accounting through “crack the code” exercises that engage students in a search for solutions to practical problems. She focuses on learning by providing multiple opportunities for students to practice and rework assignments before turning them in for grades.

Riverland has created the FlexPace™ program, an accelerated, flexible, mastery-based certificate that provides business students more control over their approach to learning. An innovator adept at integration of technology in teaching, Hansen is currently converting one of her courses as part of a new FlexPace™ A.S. degree in Business. She has earned Quality Matters certification for five online courses and is a go-to support for colleagues seeking to improve their own online courses.

Hansen is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant. She holds a B.S. in Accounting and an M.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

### **Educator of the Year Comments – Ms. Kimberly Hansen**

Excellence in education isn't a solo endeavor. I am thankful for the many people who have been part of my teaching and learning journey. Topping the list are my students! Their ever-changing and diverse needs inspire me to continually search for ways to motivate them to learn, think critically, and achieve their goals. I'd like to thank President Atewologun for his support and belief in my abilities. I'd also like to thank Suzette Overby who aided in closing the loop and Al Erdahl who helped me put the parsley on the plate. Finally, huge shout-outs to my husband, who pushes me to do my best every day, and to my mom, for her never-ending guidance. I am honored to receive this award and feel fortunate to teach at Riverland Community College. It is indeed a privilege to be part of an educational system which improves the lives of individuals, families, and communities.



## Megan Jones

*Earth and Environmental Sciences  
North Hennepin Community College*

Dr. Megan Jones is passionate about teaching Earth and Environmental Sciences at North Hennepin Community College. Her students learn geology and oceanography by acting as scientists, with Jones in the role of supportive coach. She leads her students by example, tough when needed, compassionate always.

Jones is committed to active learning, teaching content and the scientific process to motivate and engage students for whom being a scientist feels remote and distant. She is always learning, too; her work mentoring faculty in Minority Serving Institutions led to new ways of thinking, reframing, and tailoring activities to her own students.

Formative assessments are used to gauge learning and students have multiple opportunities to work with authentic data. To encourage reflection and responsibility for learning, she uses an “exam wrapper” technique: prior to an exam, students reflect on their study methods and preparation; once the exams are graded they are asked to reflect on what they missed, why, and what they might do to prepare differently next time.

Jones holds a B.S. in Oceanography/Geological, an M.S in Geology, and a Ph.D. in Geology with a split minor in Statistics and Geochemistry from Louisiana State University.

### **Educator of the Year Comments – Dr. Megan Jones**

I thank the selection committee and President McDonald for recognizing my deep commitment to student success both in and outside of the classroom, to the college for continuously *Engaging Students* and *Changing Lives* and for having enough faith in me that I could get through this process. Thank you to Deanna Forsman, Ben Kiely and Lisa Smith for being willing to share their experience with me – your help was invaluable! Lastly, to my husband Craig for watching me run around like a crazy woman and did not interfere.

I am grateful and feel honored to both receive this award and to be part of NHCC, which is a thriving educational gem. I feel privileged to work at NHCC, a place where faculty, staff and administration put in 110% each and every day. All of my faculty colleagues are excellent educators and I am proud to call many of them my friend.



## Tanya Hoting Mrazek

*American Sign Language  
Central Lakes College*

Ms. Tanya Hoting Mrazek is an American Sign Language (ASL) instructor at Central Lakes College whose work has transformed the college and inspires everyone to reach higher, do more, and change more lives. Teaching is built around a Linguistic and Cultural Equity framework designed to inspire students to leave her classes as an ally of people who are Deaf.

Hoting Mrazek created the Deaf Studies Certificate at CLC and students have earned the certificate as an important supplement for work in law enforcement or nursing. Her classroom is active and engaged: students learn through authentic interactions with the Deaf community inside and outside of the college, and a Gallaudet Cultural Immersion Trip gives students a chance to study and live with Deaf students in Washington, D.C.

Assessment includes classroom observations, student-created videos, portfolios, song interpretations, and fairy tale interpretation and performance. ASL is a visual language, so Hoting Mrazek uses a Cultural Participation Rubric to provide feedback on visual awareness or the use of respectful facial expressions.

Hoting Mrazek holds certifications in ASL interpretation and ASL transliteration, licensure in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, an A.A. degree, a B.A. in Elementary Education, an A.A.S. in American Sign Language Interpreting, and an M.Ed. in Special Education/Deaf Education from the University of Minnesota.

### **Educator of the Year Comments – Ms. Tanya Hoting Mrazek**

I am so honored to be chosen as one of the BOT Educators of the Year from the dedicated faculty of Minnesota State. I need to first thank Becky Davis for the kind nomination! Special thanks also goes to President Charlier for her commitment to our students and support for my teaching strategies. I want to thank my parents for instilling in me a love for learning and for their never-ending support, and my husband, children and my sister for their love and dedication over the last twenty years of this journey. I also want to give special thanks to my sign language instructors/mentors Jan McCready and Neil Johnson, for their guidance throughout my career working with the Deaf community. Without support from all these individuals and many more too numerous to name, I would not be receiving this honor today. I am truly thankful for all they have done for me.



## Jacqueline Semaan

*Nursing  
Lake Superior College*

Ms. Jacqueline Semaan teaches nursing at Lake Superior College and sparks passion and enthusiasm in students, teaching with a focus on patients and a commitment to professionalism, stewardship, and servant leadership.

A former United States Navy Nurse Corps Officer, Semaan led development of a

Military Bridge Medic/Paramedic to LPN program that allows veterans or current military medics to earn a practical nursing diploma in six months. She is a leader in the use of simulations, has developed simulation curriculum and clinical role-playing scenarios for all nursing tracks at LSC, and has supported the creation of courses to develop time management, organization, nursing management, and communication skills.

Online quizzing platforms, integrated testing, and activity rubrics are examples of assessment tools used to assess learning and gauge preparation for nursing NCLEX exams. To create a “clinical atmosphere” during class time, Semaan uses a flipped classroom approach with online work assigned prior to face-to-face meetings.

Semaan is a National Certified Low Risk Neonatal Nurse. She holds a B.A. in Nursing, an M.S. in Nursing, and a post-graduate certificate in Healthcare Simulation from Boise State University.

### **Educator of the Year Comments – Ms. Jacqueline Semaan**

First, thank you to the students who nominated me and Dr. Patrick Johns for selecting me as a nominee. Without the support of my administration Dean and Director, I would not be able to facilitate learning with our students as I do. Thank you to my fellow nursing faculty for their motivation and dedication; your support means the world to me. To my family: I love you all very much and I appreciate all your help during each semester when I am busier than ever. To my mother and father, thank you for being teachers and showing me what it means to work hard and never give up. To my first nurse mentor Elizabeth Swatzell, I was so blessed to start my nursing career under your guidance. You are an amazing teacher. This award symbolizes the hard work, creativity, and imagination it takes to create learning experiences that will develop clinical judgment and critical thinking skills in our students. I am humbled and honored to receive this award.



## John Sinko

*Physics and Astronomy  
St. Cloud State University*

Dr. John Sinko is an innovative, expert physics educator at St. Cloud State University, employing a variety of materials and methods to meet the needs of students from introductory through graduate levels. He is committed to development of his teaching skills, participating in the scholarship of teaching and learning and seeking out peer reviews of his teaching as part

of a cycle of continuous improvement.

In addition to science content, Sinko emphasizes life-long learning skills, preparation for career success, and a “growth mindset” for students to learn and persist. In one assignment, students create research proposals which address a real-world problem, includes peer review, and practices persuasive writing skills. He is intentional about highlighting the achievements of diverse scientists and supporting international students and non-traditional learners.

Multiple assessment techniques help Sinko gain a holistic awareness of student progress toward becoming thoughtful, competent, meticulous scientists and engineers. A “mastery grading” approach includes weekly tutoring, student feedback, peer evaluations, and review of course components. In his work at SCSU he serves as content expert, coach, guide, and academic advocate.

Sinko holds a B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Alabama.

### **Educator of the Year Comments – Dr. John Sinko**

I extend deep and heartfelt thanks to President Robbyn Wacker of St. Cloud State University for supporting my application for this award, to the committee members who reviewed my application, and to senior colleagues and mentors: in particular, Dr. Lalita Subrahmanyam, Dr. Melissa Hanszek-Brill, Dr. Sarah Petitto, and Dr. Kevin Haglin all provided significant professional guidance and support in teaching and learning. I will strive to live up to their high expectations going forward, and am deeply thankful for their persistent assistance. I also thank my family for their support and patience. As an experimental physicist, what enthruses me most about teaching at St. Cloud State University is the opportunity to connect theory with practice for students through hands-on instruction in physics and optics – from engaged learning activities to research projects. I hope to inspire a love of physics and a passion for the scientific process in all my students.

## OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

A sampling of comments from students, colleagues, deans, and presidents. They recognized these faculty as outstanding in every regard: as teachers, advisors, colleagues, scholars and professionals.

### **Megan Breit-Goodwin • Mathematics**

*Anoka-Ramsey Community College*

Passionate is the best way to describe this superb teacher who learns from her students' experiences, challenges, and successes. Breit-Goodwin displays a marvelous and inspiring enthusiasm for teaching and cares for her students in a holistic way, creating a positive, strong teacher-student connection that allows mathematical development to more easily occur.



### **Sean Clark • Land Surveying/Civil Engineering**

*St. Cloud Technical and Community College*

In five years, this exceptional teacher has increased enrollment in his program by 50 percent, upped student success rates to 97 percent, and has a typical placement rate of 100 percent. As a former professional civil engineer, Clark has strong ties to industry and government agencies, allowing him to proficiently solicit scholarships and job leads for students.



### **Steven Dalager • English**

*Lake Superior College*

This esteemed, impactful English instructor consistently models for his students the skills, habits of mind, and self-awareness that are essential attributes of life-long learning and personal improvement. Dalager believes learning is transformative when experienced collaboratively, so he joins students in a community of learners and empowers them to rely on each other as much as they rely on him.



### **Hattie Dambroski • Biology Technology**

*Normandale Community College*

Using thoughtful and innovative teaching approaches including podcasts, videos, concept maps, kinetic activities, and student-led presentations, Dambroski makes her biology curriculum active and accessible to all types of learners. Knowledgeable, patient, and charismatic, she has the ability to make her students feel comfortable, engaged, and not afraid to make mistakes.



**Michael Dierks • Farm Business Management**  
*Minnesota West Community and Technical College*

Within the Farm Business Management profession, Dierks is regarded as a true professional with an impeccable background, outstanding knowledge, and a genuine passion for student success. This honest, enthusiastic instructor's expertise is having an advantageous effect on his adult students' farm operations, enabling them to better weather the volatility of the commodity market.



**Loli Dillon • English**

*Normandale Community College*

Dillon teaches in a way that is not only inclusive, but also engaging for a diverse student audience. Through varied classroom activities, lectures, and small group techniques, this empathetic, devoted teacher masterfully creates a sense of community among her students so they become more invested in the class and ultimately successful.



**Hope Doerner • Early Childhood Education**  
*Minneapolis College*

Doerner is praised as a reflective practitioner and lifelong learner who uses real-life and social interactions to enhance her understanding of her discipline and constantly improve her teaching methods. Students benefit from this wonderful educator's diligent work to build strong relationships with employers, thought leaders, and other Minnesota State early childhood programs.



**Matthew Julius • Biology**  
*St. Cloud State University*

A superb, dynamic role model to students and colleagues, Julius mentors at summer science camps, offers greenhouse support for the university's community garden, and engages students in study-abroad experiences, research, and publications. This innovative, engaging, and committed educator's work has been recognized through major awards and engagements and his publications have been cited over 1,000 times.



**Brett Kolles • English**

*Dakota County Technical College*

Kolles understands teaching core English courses demands academic rigor, critical thinking, creativity, and a healthy dose of humor. This respected, enthusiastic, and inventive educator creates an uplifting and fun classroom learning environment and promotes community volunteerism projects as a way for students to further develop their intellectual, academic, and leadership skills.



**Michael Kuhne • English**

*Minneapolis College*

Kuhne's students say he's not simply a teacher, he's an inspiration. This veteran educator's teaching philosophy is grounded in a longstanding and passionate commitment to equity and inclusion. He's continually striving to understand his students' experiences, recognize his own privilege, and be a steadfast ally to his colleagues by mentoring, co-creating innovative curriculum, and collaborating on publications.



**Debra Kvamme • Landscape and Horticulture**

*Hennepin Technical College*

This exceptional teacher loves working with her students and is focused on helping them succeed through rigorous expectations, in-depth preparation, and continual support along their academic pathways. Kvamme embraces emerging technologies and industry trends in new areas such as sustainable food production and prairie restoration to better prepare her students for their careers.



**Jeff Lepper • English**

*Rochester Community and Technical College*

Students call Lepper an amazing instructor who has an adaptable student-centered teaching style that fully recognizes their time, input, and hard work. His collaboration with the Adult Basic Education partnership to support education pathways for at-risk students exemplifies his commitment to the college's mission and vital connection to the community.



**Joseph Martinez • Emergency Medical Services**  
*Hennepin Technical College*

This well-respected, trustworthy, and approachable professional genuinely cares about the success of each student. Martinez, involved in EMS since 1987, has the keen ability to motivate students and is their advocate, offering guidance and ensuring they understand all resources available to them. The college's well-prepared EMS graduates benefit from Martinez's industry connections when entering the workforce.



**Travis Mills • Chemistry**  
*Saint Paul College*

Mills is an exceptional educator who has made invaluable contributions to his college and its students by taking the lead to get Saint Paul College its first National Science Foundation grant. The grant helped Mills create a new program, Science Technician, and 11 companies and universities have partnered with the college because of his brilliant innovation, scholarship, and leadership.



**David (Jack) Norton • History**  
*Normandale Community College*

Committed to students' success, persistence, retention, and completion, Norton has incoming students complete a self-assessment so he can determine how to best meet their needs. Compassionate and generous, he uses open educational resources to make his classes more affordable and has a "Success Box" outside his office with hygiene products for students in need.



**Mark Omodt • Mathematics**  
*Anoka-Ramsey Community College*

Humble, patient, caring, and approachable are words consistently used to describe this special and gifted teacher. Omodt's ability to make mathematics relevant, understandable, and accessible to students while creating constructive, nurturing, and stimulating classroom environments has led him to be recognized as an outstanding educator at the college, state, and national level.



**Kirstin Purcell • Biology**

*Saint Paul College*

Purcell says it's her students who inspire her to do better each day. While recognizing a diverse student body can make teaching challenging, Purcell focuses on improving student success by offering them a welcoming classroom environment, lessons incorporating cutting-edge technology, and continuous personal improvement by listening to feedback and implementing change.



**Lisa Rude • History**

*Normandale Community College*

By using creative ways to deliver curriculum and assess learning, Rude has the awesome ability to make history applicable and relevant to students' lives. This beloved educator's dedication extends beyond the classroom, evidenced by the countless hours she spends guiding and supporting numerous campus committees and student-centered organizations, such as Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Council.



**Jessalyn Sabin • Biology**

*Hibbing Community College*

Sabin proudly calls herself a lifelong learner who strives to help students understand it is okay not to be perfect as long as they continue to enlighten themselves. This high-level, impressive educator promotes collaboration as a key component in her courses, encouraging students to learn from one another, sharing their wealth of experiences and diverse perspectives.



**Jennifer Sati • Judicial Reporting/  
Broadcast Captioning**

*Anoka Technical College*

Sati embodies the qualities of exceptional technical college teachers: Strong skills, relevant work experience, deep knowledge of her career field, and a robust passion for teaching. An unwavering advocate for her discipline, Sati offers campus career showcases, works closely with her advisory board, and seeks funding sources to improve the technology available for student use.



**Heidi Schara • Speech**

*Riverland Community College*

This esteemed, devoted educator consistently demonstrates excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship. Schara creates a positive, welcoming, and respectful classroom while instilling in her students a desire to achieve high academic and personal standards. Students say she goes the extra mile to encourage them and makes them feel empowered and confident.

**Derik Schwanz • Marketing and Sales Management**

*Ridgewater College*

Determined, persistent, and personable, Schwanz connects with students from all backgrounds using varied instructional and assessment approaches and offers them an important voice in their educational journey. A genuine role model and informal leader in many areas, Schwanz is recognized as a remarkable and faithful advocate for his students, colleagues, discipline, and college.

**Rebecca Shand • Business**

*St. Cloud Technical and Community College*

This expert business educator's integrated approach to learning encompasses portfolio presentations, interpersonal experiences through role-play and case studies, and demonstration of competencies through industry-based projects. Her devotion to her students and college is evident by the time she has spent as a DECA advisor, student mentor, AQIP Project manager, online quality trainer, and member of many campus committees.

**Mary Shelerud • Nursing**

*Rochester Community and Technical College*

Knowing students learn differently based on age, culture, and gender, Shelerud delivers rigorous teaching instruction in ways that meet learners' needs. This incredible instructor prepares students not only for the nursing licensure exam, but also for the real world through "career days" where she offers help with resumes, cover letters, and interview preparation.



**Scott Storla • Mathematics**

*Minneapolis College*

Storla is universally respected by his colleagues as a quiet, impressive leader who thinks critically about the big issues in mathematics education. A fierce commitment to equity is a continual driver for Storla, and he knows finding a way for students to succeed in math, particularly algebra, is essential to securing a job in many high-paying fields.



**Nancy Sundheim • Engineering Technology**

*St. Cloud State University*

Recognizing a one-size-fits-all approach will meet the needs of only a small segment of students, this admired, talented professor embraces flexibility and finds motivators for each student. To give students every advantage, Sundheim initiated a campus chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and is on an elite committee charged with expanding and improving engineering education in the state.



**Amy Tarrell-Florey • English for Academic Purposes**

*Saint Paul College*

Tarrell-Florey is a culturally relevant practitioner who deftly uses students' authentic language experiences as a way to motivate them to acquire the language with fewer challenges. This dedicated and supportive educator is also a stellar campus leader, providing vision to the EAP program, leading the Open Lab, and mentoring new and seasoned faculty.



**Lori Wahlberg • Nursing**

*Anoka-Ramsey Community College*

As an extraordinary nurse educator, Wahlberg knows consistent structure, beneficial support, and effective communication are crucial for her students' success. Determined and diligent, Wahlberg always has an open office door to assist and advise students and personally strives for continuous improvement by utilizing student feedback, course pass and completion rates, and comprehensive exam results.



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS  
EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR, 2007-2018**

**2018**

- Jeffrey Bell • Biology  
Northland Community and Technical College
- Rhonda Besel • Cosmetology  
Riverland Community College
- Kerry Norling • Communications  
Hennepin Technical College
- Tracy Ore • Sociology  
St. Cloud State University
- Matthew Palombo • Philosophy  
Minneapolis College
- Sarah Petitto • Chemistry  
St. Cloud State University

**2017**

- Joan Bernard • Computer Careers/Information Systems  
Hennepin Technical College
- Thomas (Gill) Creel • English  
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Carol (Kari) Frisch • Communications  
Central Lakes College
- Maran Wolston • Philosophy  
Minneapolis Community and Technical College

**2016**

- Justin Berry • Physical Therapy Assistant  
Northland Community and Technical College
- William Breen • English  
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Shannon Peak Fiene • Mathematics  
Minnesota West Community and Technical College
- Adam Marcotte • English  
Central Lakes College

**2015**

- Victoria Hutson • Art  
Lake Superior College
- Elizabeth Longley • Chemistry  
Normandale Community College
- Shana Petermann • Biology  
Minnesota State Community and Technical College
- Lisa Smith • Chemistry  
North Hennepin Community College

**2014**

- Deanna Forsman • History  
North Hennepin Community College
- Cheryl Neudauer • Biology  
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Sandra Sellner-Wee • Radiography  
Riverland Community College
- Cheryl Tefer • Nursing  
Anoka-Ramsey Community College

**2013**

- Andrew Aspaas • Chemistry  
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Alan Erdahl • Biology  
Riverland Community College
- Darci Goeden • Nursing  
Central Lakes College
- Susan Thaemert • Dental Assisting  
Hennepin Technical College

**2012**

- Phyllis Ballata • English  
Century College
- Paul Carney • English  
Minnesota State Community and Technical College
- Rod Milbrandt • Physics  
Rochester Community and Technical College
- Shawn Mueske • Biology  
Ridgewater College

**2011**

- Catherine Egenberger • Art  
Rochester Community and Technical College
- David I. Page • Emergency Medical Services  
Inver Hills Community College
- Elizabeth Picciano • Reading and College and Career Studies  
Central Lakes College
- Pamela Anne Tranby • Biology  
Riverland Community College

**2010**

- Paula Croonquist • Biology  
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Lori Halverson-Wente • Speech Communication  
Rochester Community and Technical College
- Mark Hickman • Transportation  
Dakota County Technical College
- Pamela Whitfield • English and Equine Science  
Rochester Community and Technical College

**2009**

- Chris Austin • Economics  
Normandale Community College
- Dorian Beaulieu • Art  
Lake Superior College
- Ernie Parker • Fluid Power Engineering Technology  
Hennepin Technical College
- Deborah Roiger • Biology  
St. Cloud Technical and Community College

**2008**

- Robin Fruth-Dugstad • Horticultural Technology  
Rochester Community and Technical College
- Suzette Overby • Human Services  
Riverland Community College
- Daniel Paulnock • Speech and Communication  
Saint Paul College
- Eugenia Paulus • Chemistry  
North Hennepin Community College

**2007**

Donald E. Graves • Biology  
Rainy River Community College

Michele M. Neaton • Speech and Communication  
Century College

Julie A. Rodakowski • English/Communication Studies  
Rochester Community and Technical College

**THANK YOU**

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

- All of the students, faculty, and administrators who nominated candidates and who served on the campus selection committees
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College students Daniel Harm and Jess Hernandez for their musical performances. Thanks as well to Melissa Bergstrom for supporting great music and bringing these talented students to us
- Cathy Wurzer, our graceful and talented emcee
- Katie Ressie and Kara Souther, Do Good Events, event management
- Gary Hatteberg, videographer
- Todd Hawkinson, creator of the medallions and service pins
- Darren Varley, graphic designer
- Glen Stubbe, photographer
- Adena Byczek and all of the staff at DoubleTree by Hilton
- Dane Paulson and PSAV for technology and audiovisual support
- Kimberly Johnson, Megan Babel, Margie Takash, Inge Chapin, Kim Lynch, Christy Kramer, Diana Rangel, Noelle Hawton, Michelle Goode, Doug Anderson, Susan Platt, LaShawnda Ford, Dani Collier and to all who offered support

**Special thanks to members of the awards review committees:**

Rhonda Besel	Riverland Community College
Lesley Blicher	System Office/Metropolitan State University
Shannon Fiene	Minnesota West Community and Technical College
Sara Grandberg-Rademacker	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Craig Larson	North Hennepin Community College
Hazareesingh Lutchmiparsad	Mesabi Range College
Keitha-Gail Martin-Kerr	Saint Paul College
Sarah Olcott	Winona State University
Becky Omdahl	Metropolitan State University/ Inter Faculty Organization
Rick Osborne	St. Cloud State University
Wanda Overland	St. Cloud State University
Paul Shepherd	System Office