

2009 | 2010

ALL-MINNESOTA
ACADEMIC TEAM
CELEBRATION



ALL-MINNESOTA ACADEMIC TEAM CELEBRATION AGENDA

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 • 12-2:30 p.m. • Eagan, MN

Recognition Program

12 P.M.

Registration and Buffet Lunch

12:45 P.M.

Welcome and Introductions

Ronald E. Thomas, President, Dakota County Technical College

1 P.M.

Remarks

Richard W. Davenport, President, Minnesota State University Mankato

James Van Houten, Board of Trustees, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Linda Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

1:30 P.M.

Recognition of Students

Linda Tetzlaff, Regional Coordinator, Phi Theta Kappa Minn-Wi-Kota

2:15 P.M.

Recognition of the 2010 New Century Scholar

Linda Tetzlaff, Regional Coordinator, Phi Theta Kappa Minn-Wi-Kota

2:30 P.M.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Ronald E. Thomas, President, Dakota County Technical College

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The following colleges have contributed money to support the members of the 2009-2010 All-Minnesota Academic Team in their future endeavors:

Alexandria Technical College
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anoka Technical College
Central Lakes College
Century College
Dakota County Technical College
Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College
Hennepin Technical College
Inver Hills Community College
Lake Superior College
Minneapolis Community & Technical College
Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Normandale Community College
North Hennepin Community College
NE* - Hibbing Community College
NE* - Itasca Community College
NE* - Mesabi Range Community & Technical College
NE* - Rainy River Community College
NE* - Vermilion Community College
Northland Community & Technical College
Northwest Technical College
Pine Technical College
Ridgewater College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community & Technical College
Saint Paul College
St. Cloud Technical & Community College
South Central College

**NE stands for Northeast Higher Education District, a consortium of five state colleges: Hibbing, Itasca, Mesabi Range, Rainy River, and Vermillion.*

A BRIEF HISTORY

The All-State Academic Team was introduced nearly 20 years ago to honor and recognize two-year college students for their leadership, academic achievement, and community and college service.

In 1994, state academic teams were introduced as a way to provide scholarships and scholastic recognition to Phi Theta Kappa members while promoting excellence at two-year colleges. The state academic teams are a division of the Academic All-American Team for Community, Technical and Junior College Students, an international program sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Minnesota's public community and technical colleges are proud to be part of a tradition that showcases the high achievements of students who are committed to success in the classroom and service to their communities.

By recognizing these students, Minnesota demonstrates a commitment to scholarship and community service as essential objectives in the state's public community and technical colleges.

PHI THETA KAPPA

Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, symbolizes excellence in higher education and a commitment to students.

Phi Theta Kappa has recognized and encouraged scholarship among two-year college students for 80 years, providing stimulation and enrichment while promoting the academic integrity of the associate degree program.

For these reasons, the American Association of Community Colleges has designated Phi Theta Kappa the official honor society for two-year colleges.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the participating two- and four-year colleges, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Office of the Chancellor, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees for your support of the 2010 All-Minnesota Academic Team Celebration. Providing these outstanding students with this type of recognition is a great testament to what we do, and we appreciate the contributions you have made to make today possible.

Thank you to all the faculty, staff, friends, and families of the members of the 2010 All-Minnesota Academic Team. Your support of these students was undoubtedly a critical element in helping them achieve their goals, and we recognize your commitment to helping them find success. As they continue to pursue their academic and career goals, we hope that you will continue to support them and perhaps be inspired to pursue your own dreams just as they have pursued theirs.

Finally, thank you to all the members of the 2010 All-Minnesota Academic Team. Not only has the hard work and dedication you have given to pursuing your degree while also being an asset to your community, friends, and family helped you reach your personal and academic goals, but it has also advanced your community and technical college's mission of producing high-quality graduates and citizens. Stories such as yours are truly demonstrative of the power community and technical colleges have to transform lives. Thank you for the pride you bring to your college, your families, your friends, and yourselves. We are so proud of your accomplishments, and we wish you the best as you continue your journey.

THE 2009-2010 ALL-MINNESOTA ACADEMIC TEAM

Listed alphabetically by school

Alexandria Technical CollegeDaneen Bellfeuille
Anoka-Ramsey Community CollegeRobert Daun
Anoka-Ramsey Community CollegeAngela Kealey
Anoka Technical College.Corey Ferguson
Anoka Technical College.Jacqueline Groves
Dakota County Technical CollegePatricia Dunlap
Dakota County Technical CollegeSusan Prom
Inver Hills Community College.Maria del Carmen Wong Guerrero
Inver Hills Community College.Julia Nikrad
Lake Superior CollegeRobert Scott
Minneapolis Community & Technical CollegeAaron Spiegel
Minneapolis Community & Technical CollegeGlade Woolstenhulme
Minnesota State College – Southeast Tech.April Ledebuhr
Minnesota West Community & Technical College.Rachel Pavelko
Minnesota West Community & Technical College.Genna Nelson
Normandale Community CollegeJessica Proskin
Normandale Community CollegeMahmoud Hatab
North Hennepin Community CollegeRebecca Schultz
NE Higher Education District - Hibbing Community CollegeJennifer Mehl
NE Higher Education District - Itasca Community CollegeDeven Kelling
NE Higher Education District - Itasca Community CollegeCarol Clancey
NE Higher Education District - Mesabi Range Community & Technical College.Shelly Pauhu
NE Higher Education District - Mesabi Range Community & Technical College.Melanie Weston
Northland Community & Technical CollegeSuksimaran Daaljit
Northland Community & Technical CollegeAlyssa Novak
Northland Community & Technical CollegeMichelle Stadstad
Northland Community & Technical CollegeJuanita Watne
Ridgewater College.Samantha Calvin
Ridgewater College.Allan Noyes
Riverland Community CollegeSergio Hernandez
Riverland Community CollegeKatherine Kirsch
Riverland Community CollegeIvan Okhin
Rochester Community & Technical CollegeJesse Buhl
Rochester Community & Technical CollegeVlad Popescu
Saint Paul CollegeDarleen Tareeq
St. Cloud Technical & Community CollegeBrandon Rose
St. Cloud Technical & Community CollegeMichelle Waldorf
South Central CollegeTravis Henderson
South Central CollegePete Hunt
South Central CollegeFran Nelson

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Alexandria Technical College

DANEEN BELLEFEUILLE



Major: **Medical Administration/Medical Coding**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **43**

Future Plans: **Minnesota State University Moorhead**

Originally from Duluth, Daneen Bellefeuille eventually settled in Alexandria, Minn., a city of 12,400 people. With plans to graduate from ATC in spring 2010, Daneen has already begun taking classes at Minnesota State University Moorhead in the Health Information Technician program to reach her goal of sitting for the HIT exam—possibly as early as fall 2010. As a credentialed RHIT, she will have many more options available in health information management. She is a member of Business Professionals of America, an adult member and volunteer with the Girl Scouts of America and the Windmill Project. In 2009, she took first and second place in a contest at the BPA State Leadership Conference. She is also an ATC Foundation and Program Scholarship recipient. “My academic excellence is a reflection of good work ethics, dedication, responsibility and a supportive family. My family’s support is the greatest gift that I have received in achieving my educational goals.”

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

ANGELA KEALEY



Major: **Marketing**

GPA: **3.8** *Age:* **21**

Future Plans: **University of Minnesota**

A 2007 honors graduate of Blaine High School, Angela Kealey plans to gain work experience through multiple internships as she progresses through her four-year marketing degree. Her ultimate career goal is to become an advertising sales director, a profession that will allow her to use creativity and self-motivation to make a difference in the business world. Her passion for volunteering centers on St. Timothy’s Catholic Church, where she serves meals to the homeless. She also completed two days of volunteer work at a food and toy drive – an experience that was close to her heart. “My family and I know firsthand what it is like to struggle during the holidays. Upon volunteering for this event, I was determined to help everyone in need that I could.” Alongside her devotion to volunteerism, she enjoys a variety of sports including volleyball, softball and figure skating. She received a \$1,200 Connexus Energy scholarship during her last year at ARCC.

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

ROBERT DAUN



Major: **Nursing**

GPA: **3.6** *Age:* **20**

Future Plans: **Metropolitan State University or Bemidji State University**

Robert James Daun lists Dayton, Minn., a city of 4,700 in northern Hennepin County, as his hometown. His future goals include becoming a registered nurse anesthetist followed by establishing a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. An accomplished musician, Robert took home the ARCC Student Leadership Award in 2010. Dedicated to providing service to his community, he worked as a lead volunteer on a highway cleanup project. “At the end of the day, the section of highway was looking very clean and I was proud of my volunteers. They really helped us look good, and they provided a really needed service to the community. So many times now, I will be driving down the highway and see trash just littering up the sides of the road. It is an eyesore as well as a burden to natural life.”

Anoka Technical College

COREY FERGUSON



Major: **Automotive Service Technician**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **39**

Future Plans: **ASE Certification, become technician**

Hailing from Isanti, a city of some 5,000 residents in east-central Minnesota, Corey Ferguson looks forward to becoming an ASE Certified Automobile Technician through further study and testing in accordance with the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. A superb student, Corey made the President’s Honor Roll three semesters running. He enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing and walking the countryside—although he has reduced the amount of time he spends on these activities while attending college, having focused most of his efforts toward academic pursuits. He also enjoys serving as an academic tutor for his classmates. “My work as a peer tutor is both beneficial for the students I help and for me as well. I feel honored that the students trust and confide in me to help with any issues they might have.”

Anoka Technical College

JACQUELINE GROVES



Major: **Nursing**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **49**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

Hailing from St. Louis, Mo., a city known for the iconic Gateway Arch, Jacqueline Groves plans on earning a bachelor's degree in health care management while continuing to work as a medical assistant. Her goal is to return to Anoka Technical College as an instructor for the Medical Assistant program. Jacqueline serves as president of the PTK Beta Nu Omnicron Chapter. A member of the Student Senate, she also works on the Strategic Enrollment Plan Committee and the Medical Assistant Advisory Committee. A superb student with a strong commitment to her college, she is a recipient of the Kopp Investment Advisors Presidential Scholarship.

Dakota County Technical College

SUSAN PROM



Major: **Business Administration**

GPA: **3.8** *Age:* **58**

Future Plans: **Saint Mary's University**

Susan Prom, a resident of Farmington, Minn., plans on attending Saint Mary's University of Minnesota to complete a bachelor's degree in business administration/management. A trained cosmetologist, Susan volunteers her time at the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, where she picks up the spirits of inpatients by styling and cutting their hair. She offers her assistance as a way of giving back to the institute for helping her learn to walk again after back surgery. Her recovery and volunteerism earned her the 2009 Inspiration Award from the institute. Susan's determination to overcome her severe injury helped her advance her education and find a new career. "While not everyone has to take an actual first step before they find their way to starting work toward a degree, I have been able to use my experience to encourage other students, patients at the hospital where I volunteer, and those I encounter in my journey to provide encouragement and motivation."

Dakota County Technical College

PATRICIA DUNLAP



Major: **Business Management**

GPA: **3.6** *Age:* **46**

Future Plans: **Saint Mary's University**

Patricia Dunlap hails from St. Paul, Minn. A three-time member of the President's List, Patricia is aiming high with her career plans and looks forward to working as a multicultural facilitator at a Fortune 500 company. She loves singing, and because she likes staying fit, she enjoys working out at the gym three to five days a week. A DCTC student ambassador dedicated to connecting with her fellow students and the community, she also volunteers her time and expertise as a member of the college's Student Senate. "I am not only going on to complete my degree at DCTC, but I'm also looking ahead to earning my bachelor's degree. I'm interested in possibly getting a degree in psychology so that I can use my abilities every day to help others recognize their inner potential."

Inver Hills Community College

JULIA NIKRAD



Major: **Biology**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **26**

Future Plans: **University of Minnesota**

Julia Nikrad calls Robbinsdale, Minn., her hometown. Julia looks forward to turning a strong interest in biology into a career as a physician. Dedicated to giving back to her community, she works as a biology and math tutor at Inver Hills Community College. She also tutors children residing in a homeless shelter. "Hard work and perseverance are the qualities that are most important for those students who have come to community college from a multitude of different backgrounds."

Inver Hills Community College

MARIA DEL CARMEN WONG GUERRERO



Major: **International Studies**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **25**

Future Plans: **Work at a Peruvian Embassy**

Maria del Carmen Wong Guerrero hails from Lima, the capital of Peru and, with a population topping 7.6 million, the fifth largest city in Latin America. With a keen interest in international studies, Maria plans to head for warmer climates after graduating from Inver Hills. She hopes to pursue a baccalaureate degree in the diplomatic corps, preferably at a Peruvian embassy. She belongs to the International Club, Spanish Club, Latin Success Club, Feline Rescue and Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio, or CLUES, Minnesota's premier provider of behavioral health and human services to the Latino community.

Minneapolis Community & Technical College

AARON SPIEGEL



Major: **Social Work**

GPA: **3.6** *Age:* **32**

Future Plans: **Augsburg College**

Aaron Spiegel was recently accepted into the Baccalaureate in Social Work program at Augsburg College. Aaron plans on at least getting a Masters in Social Work. He wants to work with runaway or at risk GLBTQ youth and their families. He is also interested in developing public policy that affects social programs. Aaron is active in numerous organizations, including MCTC PRIDE, a GLBTQA support and advocacy group, and the Student Senate as a former president and current senator. He successfully researched and lobbied for the creation of a permanent health clinic at MCTC. He has won several Student Leadership Awards as well as the 2007–2008 MSCSA Student Senate of the Year award during his administration. "When I leave MCTC, I will leave behind a lasting legacy: A health clinic for all students on our campus. Students are put at financial risk with little or no health coverage. As a student leader, I felt a strong obligation to do something about this issue."

Lake Superior College

ROBERT SCOTT



Major: **Organizational Behavior**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **30**

Future Plans: **College of St. Scholastica**

A native of Duluth, Minn., and the father of eight children, Robert Scott plans on pursuing his Masters in Experiential Education. Utilizing the skills and knowledge gained from earning that degree, Robert looks forward to working as a professional in the field of organizational behavior, developing and delivering innovative and interactive trainings for student leaders. Active on campus, he serves as president of the Student Senate, chair of the Student Essentials Fund Committee, co-chair of the Parking Task Force and a member of the LSC Presidential Search Committee. Twice named to the Dean's List, he has received numerous scholarships, including two Student Life Scholarships, a Hunt Family Scholarship and a Future Trust Scholarship. "I feel strongly that raising children to the best of our ability is the most significant contribution any of us makes to society. Our society's level of education, respect, citizenship and values are so strongly influenced by those who raise children."

Minneapolis Community & Technical College

GLADE WOOLSTENHULME



Major: **Social Work**

GPA: **3.5** *Age:* **46**

Future Plans: **Augsburg College**

Glade Woolstenhulme calls American Fork, Utah, his hometown. Deeply interested in social work, he would like to do therapy one on one with clients and work for a nonprofit organization in another country. Glade also plans to have his own practice one day to help people in need with limited incomes. The winner of three Outstanding Student Leadership awards, he served one year as the Student Senate's director of communications. He enjoys biking, camping, skiing, snowboarding, hanging with friends, exploring other countries, traveling and expanding his life with relationships. "Participating in the Red Ribbon Ride, where I called on all the skills, growth, critical thinking and education I have garnered at MCTC, has made me realize that I am becoming a leader who is able to generate good ideas, turn them into concrete plans and bring them to fruition in order to better the world in which we all live."

Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical

APRIL LEDEBUHR



Major: **Criminal Justice**

GPA: **3.77** *Age:* **20**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

April Ledebuhr hails from Houston, Minn., a city of 1,020 in the extreme southeastern corner of the state. April's goal is to obtain a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and become a juvenile probation officer. She serves as PTK president on the Winona campus of her college. She enjoys fast-pitch softball, volleyball, scrapbooking and spending time with her daughter. "I am a single mother who is motivated and positive, who has worked diligently to be a better role model for my daughter."

Minnesota West Community & Technical College

RACHEL PAVELKO



Major: **Pharmacy**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **19**

Future Plans: **South Dakota State University**

Rachel Pavelko is a native of Worthington, Minn. Rachel is working to gain acceptance into the Pharm. D. Program at South Dakota State University with plans to complete the four-year program and enter the workforce as a pharmacist. At Minnesota West, she serves as president of the Student Senate and PTK vice president of fellowship. She also plays volleyball, basketball and softball for the Lady Jays. She received Mooty Academic, Reach Academic and Minnesota Achieve scholarships. As a student-athlete on the Dean's List, she won the MCAC 2008 All-Academic Award in volleyball. She made MCAC 2009 Southern Division 1st Team in softball, MCAC Southern Division Player of the Week and NJCAA All-American 2nd Team in volleyball. "Through these activities, I am an example. I show students and community members the positives of getting involved, and provide evidence of how each one of them can make a difference as well."

Minnesota West Community & Technical College

GENNA NELSON



Major: **Nursing**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **23**

Future Plans: **Minnesota State University Mankato**

Genna Lee Nelson is from Elgin, a city of some 800 residents in southeastern Minnesota. Genna looks forward to earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Minnesota State Mankato. She then plans to work as a registered nurse in a hospital or clinical setting with hopes of returning to school in the near future to obtain her master's degree. A career in nursing education is her ultimate goal. She serves as the Minnesota West Nursing program class representative for the Nursing Advisory Board, and is active in the American Red Cross, Books for Africa, Adopt-A-Highway and the Fools Five Road Race. She made the Dean's List and received an Academic Excellence Award in Nursing. "As a successful student of the Practical Nursing program at Minnesota West, I utilize my nursing knowledge to care for those in the surrounding community and also to contribute to advances in nursing teaching."

Normandale Community College

MAHMOUD HATAB



Major: **Genetics, Cell Biology & Development**

GPA: **3.91** *Age:* **18**

Future Plans: **University of Minnesota**

Mahmoud Hatab is originally from Beirut, Lebanon. Fascinated by genetics and cell biology, Mahmoud is set on medicine as his future career. His passion for becoming a doctor rests in his desire to make changes in the world. A volunteer at Fairview Southdale Hospital's Emergency Department, he is also a member of the Academy of Math and Science at Normandale as well as a member of Minnesota's Future Doctors, a premedical program at the University of Minnesota. He tutors Normandale students in physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology while serving as a peer mentor. He received a Certificate of Excellence in Physics from the Normandale Physics Department and a Certificate of Appreciation for Community Service from the Academy of Math and Science. "A person should never hide his knowledge, but instead invest it in something superior to him, invest it in his community and in the world; hence, he would be providing a better place for the future generations."

Normandale Community College

JESSICA PROSKIN



Major: **Business**

GPA: **3.74** *Age:* **22**

Future Plans: **University of Minnesota**

A resident of Bloomington, Minn., Jessica Proskin plans to earn a bachelor's degree in business at the University of Minnesota, preferably at the Carlson School of Management. Jessica would like to land a management position in the business world, or own her own business. Exceptionally active on campus, she serves as regional president for the PTK Minn-Wi-Kota Region. She is also legislative director for the Student Senate. Her membership in AmeriCorps allows her to volunteer all over her community, including Bridging, Simpson Housing Services (a homeless shelter), Great River Greening and Habitat for Humanity. Her honors include the Normandale Outstanding Student Leader of the Year Award, the Student Leadership Stipend, the Normandale Senatorial Award for her work on the 2008 Get Out the Vote Campaign and the MSCSA Leadership Scholarship. "The Get Out the Vote Campaign had a definite effect on the Normandale campus. We successfully got 1,126 students and faculty registered to vote, which far surpassed the goal of registering 200 people."

Northeast Higher Education District - Hibbing

JENNIFER MEHL



Major: **Biology**

GPA: **3.75** *Age:* **32**

Future Plans: **University of Minnesota Duluth**

Jennifer Mehl is a native of Capistrano Beach, Calif., a popular beach community just north of San Diego. Backed by an avid interest in biology, Jennifer would like to pursue a career with the Department of Natural Resources or another environmental organization. Her campus activities include work with Towards a Sustainable Campus, or TASC, the Green Team, Climate Commitment Committee, and a Surface Water Assessment Grant, or SWAG. Off campus, she enjoys camping, fishing, cross country skiing, horseback riding, gardening, reading and cooking with her two children. Recommended for several scholarships, she received grants in 2009 and 2010. "I feel that it is society's responsibility to be aware of and take care of our valuable natural resources."

North Hennepin Community College

REBECCA SCHULTZ



Major: **Organizational Communications**

GPA: **3.62** *Age:* **18**

Future Plans: **Bethel University**

Rebecca Schultz is a native of Plymouth, Minn. After graduating in spring 2010, she plans to earn a bachelor's degree in organizational communications before going on to earn a master's degree in communications. Her career goals are centered on working as a full-time instructor at a finishing school. She is the president of her PTK chapter and also serves as a speaker at the Kharisma Finishing School. She made the Dean's List two consecutive semesters. Rebecca enjoys volunteer work, working as a nanny, dance, modeling, writing and traveling. "Throughout the last few years, I have begun to impact girls' lives in an unbelievable way by volunteering my time to teach classes for the Kharisma Finishing School. Kharisma is a school that is dedicated to raising the confidence of young women in the community. Girls are overcoming life-threatening eating disorders, destructive negative body images, and are learning how to carry confidence and grace into their everyday lives."

Northeast Higher Education District - Itasca

CAROL CLANCEY



Major: **Criminal Justice**

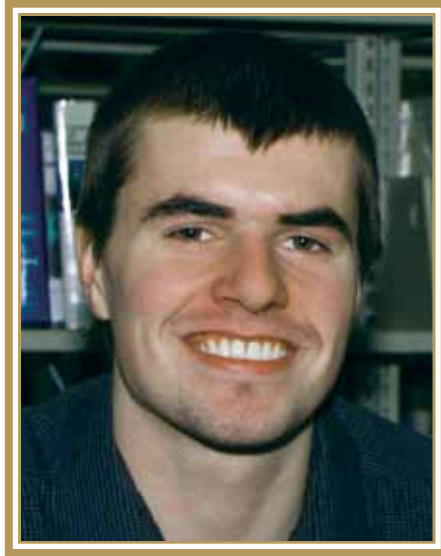
GPA: **3.86** *Age:* **34**

Future Plans: **Bemidji State University**

Carol Clancey, a native of Bovey, Minn., a town of approximately 660 people in Itasca County, has plans to pursue a career as a juvenile probation officer. An outstanding student, Carol made the Dean's List every semester during her college career. Her honors include a Leadership Recognition Stipend Award as well as national recognition for her involvement with the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, or RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. "It is my passion to make a difference in people's lives."

Northeast Higher Education District - Itasca

DEVEN KELLING



Major: **Engineering Physics**

GPA: **3.98** *Age:* **20**

Future Plans: **University of the Pacific**

Hailing from Mora, Minn., a town of some 3,200 people and one gigantic Dalecarlian horse, Deven Kelling is looking forward to a career in the U.S. Navy based on his interest in engineering physics. His educational goals include heading for Stockton, Calif., and the University of the Pacific and eventually graduate school. The winner of the 2008–2009 ICC Gold Star Volunteer Award, Deven enjoys morning exercise, Ultimate Frisbee and intramural basketball. “We all need to take risks to help us grow as people, but as an engineer, eliminating unnecessary danger is the number one thing that I need to keep in mind.”

Northeast Higher Education District - Mesabi Range

MELANIE WESTON



Major: **AA degree**

GPA: **3.77** *Age:* **33**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor’s degree**

Hailing from St. Cloud, Minn., Melanie Jo Weston is looking ahead to working in the educational field as a counselor, mentor or teacher. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree in psychology, she wishes to continue her academic career and earn a master’s degree in education. Her long-term goals include completing her doctorate in education or counseling. Melanie is the president of her PTK Zeta Iota Chapter. She has received a number of scholarships, including the Merlin Sundberg Scholarship, the Veronick and Standard Scholarship, the Advancing and Benefiting Women Alliance Scholarship and the Lance Nevin Memorial Scholarship. “For me, college is about giving back to your community, your fellow students and the faculty. I hope to continue helping, encouraging and supporting my fellow students the remainder of the time I am a student at the college.”

Northeast Higher Education District - Mesabi Range

SHELLY PAUHU



Major: **Industrial Maintenance Technology**

GPA: **3.6** *Age:* **42**

Future Plans: **Work in maintenance/millwright field**

Shelly Pauhu hails from Makinen, Minn., a town in St. Louis County with a population just shy of 600 people. Fueled by an interest in industrial maintenance technology, Shelly plans to obtain a career in the maintenance/millwright field. Named to the Dean’s List three semesters in a row, she enjoys spending time with family and pursuing a range of outdoor activities. “The support and encouragement I receive from my family makes it possible to achieve my scholastic goals.”

Northland Community & Technical College

SUKSIMARARI DAALJIT



Major: **Associate of arts degree, pre-med emphasis**

GPA: **3.89** *Age:* **21**

Future Plans: **University of North Dakota**

Suksimaran Kaur Daaljit, a native of Grand Forks, N.D., a city of 51,300 located on the western banks of the Red River of the North, is building toward a career as a medical doctor. After graduating from NCTC in spring 2010, Suksimaran plans to head for the University of North Dakota to earn a B.S. degree in athletic training. From there, she will strive to get into medical school. She works full-time as a direct support professional as well as a math tutor while also helping out in the Admissions department at NCTC. She was named four times to the President’s List and once to the Dean’s List. “I am young and ambitious and I have big dreams to achieve, hence I am going to take one step at a time till I reach the top.”

Northland Community & Technical College

ALYSSA NOVAK



Major: **Nursing**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **21**

Future Plans: **Pursue RN and beyond**

Very active in the Student Senate, Alyssa JaNae Novak has served as a college senator since September 2006, holding the positions of both treasurer and president. Alyssa is a native of Thief River Falls, Minn. Her community service projects include blood drives, work for BetterWorld Books, hosting student life activities such as a junior high homecoming dance, movie and bowling nights, swimming parties and laser tag events throughout the school year. She mentors high school students looking into the NCTC LPN program. As president of her nursing class, she looks ahead to following the career path from LPN to RN to nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist. "Throughout my life, I have always strived to lead rather than follow, even though at times, it would have been easier to have stood back and let others take the reigns. Giving of my time was one of the best ways that I could find to learn leadership skills as well as to use the ones that I already possessed."

Northland Community & Technical College

JUANITA WATNE



Major: **Early Childhood Development & Paraprofessional**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **36**

Future Plans: **Work at Head Start**

A native of Grygla, Minn., a town of roughly 230 residents in the extreme northwestern corner of the state, Juanita Watne plans on pursuing a job with Head Start after earning her degree at Northland. A national program promoting school readiness for children, Head Start played an important role in Juanita's life and the lives of her children. By working for Head Start, she can be a positive influence on young families in her community. She is active in the Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry, serving as treasurer and church librarian. "As an early childhood major, I have learned that a child's health and wellness are directly related to the health and wellness of their entire family, even their community. I have also learned how important it is to contribute to my community in a variety of ways, and be receptive to the needs of the community as a whole."

Northland Community & Technical College

MICHELLE STADSTAD



Major: **AD-PN Mobility Nursing**

GPA: **3.94** *Age:* **48**

Future Plans: **Work as a RN**

Michelle Stadstad hails from Manvel, a town of 370 people on the banks of the Turtle River in northeastern North Dakota. A nursing student advocate and a student representative on the Nursing Advisory Board, Michelle received the Russell H. Beier Award and an NCTC Foundation Golf Tourney Scholarship. Her academic excellence earned a place on the President's List. "Through faith and losing my son, Jason, I have been given the strength, passion, determination and drive to pursue my registered nursing degree. I am so grateful for the wonderful faculty and staff of Northland Community & Technical College. They have given me the confidence, knowledge, skills and encouragement to pursue my goals and heartfelt passion of caring for people and truly making a difference in their lives."

Ridgewater College

SAMANTHA CALVIN



Major: **Biology and Environmental Studies**

GPA: **3.89** *Age:* **18**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

A resident of Raymond, Minn., Samantha Calvin plans to attend a four-year university after earning her biological sciences degree at Ridgewater in spring 2011. Her future goals involve majoring in biology and environmental studies with minors in chemistry, Spanish and psychology. After completing her bachelor's degree, she looks forward to volunteering overseas with the Peace Corps or Doctors Without Borders. She is focusing her long-term plans on attaining a master's degree or continuing on to medical school. The piano-playing president of her PTK chapter, Samantha is also an editor and reporter with the *Ridgewater Review*, Student Senate chair of Cutting Carbon, a peer tutor, college ambassador, Big Sister mentor, Lunch Buddy and student representative on the Student Advocacy Committee. She graduated at 18 from Ridgewater with a liberal arts degree with honors and was a star athlete at MACCRAY Senior High. Published in *La Gran America*, her article, "Where are all the newcomers at Ridgewater?", was nominated for a number of awards.

Ridgewater College

ALLAN NOYES



Major: **Computer Art and Publishing**

GPA: **3.75** *Age:* **20**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

Allan James Noyes, a native of Ghent, Minn., a town of 315 residents in the southwestern part of the state, is active in Students for the Environment and the Computer Art and Publishing Club, serving as the co-president of the former and treasurer of the latter. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in graphic design, Allan is looking forward to working his way up to the position of creative director at a design agency. The vice president of leadership in Phi Theta Kappa at his college, he is dedicated to the concept of community service and using his education for the benefit of humanity. "I have found giving back to be more essential to not only society but also to myself."

Riverland Community College

KATHERINE KIRSCH



Major: **Radiography**

GPA: **3.62** *Age:* **24**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

Katherine Kirsch, a native of Albert Lea, Minn., is working toward a career as a radiographer. Katherine would also like to earn degrees in mammography and possibly computed tomography. She serves as the reporter for the SkillsUSA chapter in Austin, Minn., and also as the secretary and treasurer of her 2011 radiography class. The mother of two sons, Brycin and Braydin, she has worked part-time at an assisted living home for seven years. Performing the Heimlich maneuver, she saved the life of one of the home's residents, receiving an Extraordinary Contributor Award from her employer. "Every person saved is special to someone," Katherine relates, "and in that way I know I have made a big impact on someone's life." She made the Dean's and President's Lists for the majority of her college career. Working with a fellow student, she received 2nd place honors for a promotional bulletin board at the 2009 Minnesota SkillsUSA state competition.

Riverland Community College

SERGIO HERNANDEZ



Major: **Construction Electrician**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **30**

Future Plans: **Own and operate an electrical business**

Definitely coming from a small-town background, Sergio Hernandez calls Walters, Minn., home. With a population falling just short of 90, Walters is located in Faribault County, which borders the state of Iowa. Sergio plans to leverage his construction electrician degree into an entrepreneurial venture that will allow him to own and operate his own electrical business. An excellent student, he made the President's List four times in a row. Very involved on campus and off, he serves as president of the Albert Lea chapter of SkillsUSA and as a member of the Student Senate. SkillsUSA Minnesota is dedicated to helping its student membership "become world-class workers and responsible American citizens."

Riverland Community College

IVAN OKHIN



Major: **Computer Information Systems**

GPA: **3.93** *Age:* **21**

Future Plans: **Minnesota State University Mankato**

Ivan Okhin is a native of Geniches, Ukraine, a port on the Azov Sea. Ivan is looking forward to earning his Bachelor of Arts in computer information systems. His career goals include taking on a responsible position in computer technology and web development. A former member of the Student Senate, he served as president of the International Student Club and co-president of the PTK Zeta Eta Chapter. Awarded fourth place nationally in the 2009 SkillsUSA Web Design Competition, he also tutors undergraduates in math and science. "Since January 2009, I've been project director for the Sister College Project for Riverland Community College and Kherson National Technical University (KNTU) in Ukraine. This project made a positive effect on both the Riverland and KNTU communities by building understanding among people of different cultures. Without the leadership skills I gained while participating in organizations such as Student Senate and the knowledge I gained studying computer technology, I would not have been able to direct this project."

Rochester Community & Technical College

JESSE BUHL



Major: **Business Administration/Accounting**

GPA: **3.86** *Age:* **23**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's and master's degrees**

A native of Rochester, Minn. Jesse Buhl plans on pursuing a master's degree in accounting with the aim of becoming a certified public accountant. Jesse would like to work for one of the top national accounting firms such as McGladrey & Pullen. The cofounder and secretary of the treasury of the RCTC Business League, Jesse believes in the importance of getting real-world experience while in school. "I think that service learning is an important aspect of college, because it teaches skills that cannot necessarily be learned from a book."

St. Cloud Technical & Community College

BRANDON ROSE



Major: **Business Management**

GPA: **3.76** *Age:* **33**

Future Plans: **Southwest Minnesota State University**

Brandon Rose hails from Big Lake, a city of 6,000 in central Minnesota known for its summer Spud Fest. Majoring in business and vice president of his college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Brandon was a USA TODAY All-USA College Academic Team nominee. He was also recently elected the legislative liaison for the St. Cloud Technical & Community College Student Senate. Brandon aspires to take a top position in the corporate world, where he will apply his mediation skills and strong leadership abilities to advance his company economically and philanthropically. He provided the vision and leadership for a literacy gala and enjoys speaking to students on behalf of U-Choose, a campus prevention effort focused on reducing high-risk alcohol consumption. He also took 1st place at a Delta Epsilon Chi (DEX) competition in St. Cloud. His favorite quote comes from Oprah Winfrey: "Any quality that you desire, act as if you already had it."

Rochester Community & Technical College

VLAD POPESCU



Major: **Pharmacy**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **18**

Future Plans: **University of Minnesota**

A PSEO student from John Marshall High School, Vlad Popescu calls the city of Rochester, Minn., his hometown. Heading for the University of Minnesota after graduating from RCTC, Vlad is planning on pursuing a career as a pharmacist. Interested in pharmaceutical research, he would like to develop a new medicine that would benefit people all around the world. He is president of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honors Society as well as the director of scholarship for his college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. He belongs to the Physics and Engineering Club and Rochester's FIRST Robotics Team. He volunteers with the Salvation Army, Christmas Anonymous and other charitable organizations. He also gives back to his college through service as a tutor. "From this experience (tutoring), I discovered the joy and satisfaction I receive from helping others succeed. This experience has allowed me to look past a student's weaknesses, and emphasize their strengths."

St. Cloud Technical & Community College

MICHELLE WALDORF



Major: **LPN to RN**

GPA: **3.87** *Age:* **33**

Future Plans: **Bethel University**

Sauk Rapids, Minn., a city on the Mississippi River with nearly 12,000 people, serves as Michelle Waldorf's hometown. After finishing the LPN program at SCTCC, Michelle plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in Registered Nursing degree at Bethel University or St. Catherine University. She is looking to move her family to Prior Lake, Minn., to be closer to St. Paul. The president of her PTK chapter, she works for the Kids and Parents Expo, Earth Day Cleanup program, and marathons and triathlons as a volunteer. Her academic excellence has earned her routine placement on the President's List. Michelle has two favorite quotations, one by Lao Tzu, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," and one by Friedrich Nietzsche, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger."

Saint Paul College

DARLEEN TAREEQ



Major: **Biology/Nursing**

GPA: **3.65** *Age:* **30**

Future Plans: **Metropolitan State University**

Calling St. Paul, Minn., her hometown, Darleen Tareeq is working to obtain B.S. degrees in biology and nursing. Her long-term goal centers on earning the degree needed to become a certified nurse practitioner. Darleen serves as president of her Science Club and vice president of the Student Senate. She also serves on the Minnesota State College Student Association Platform Committee as well as the Steering and Diversity committees. A 2008–2009 Outstanding Student in the Sciences at Saint Paul College, she made the Dean's List and graduated with high distinction/honors. "Developing and promoting the Science Club has helped build community and awareness of the sciences at Saint Paul College. It is my hope that the Science Club will still thrive and be an active force on campus. Einstein said, 'Empty space has no practical meaning.' I have worked hard to build a solid foundation and an opportunity to 'fill' our space with meaningful and sustainable campus involvement."

South Central College

PETER HUNT



Major: **Liberal Arts**

GPA: **3.97** *Age:* **23**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

Peter Hunt, who calls Mankato, Minn., his hometown, is passionate about higher education. His career plans include pursuing a profession in this field. Peter is president of his Phi Theta Kappa chapter at South Central College. A standout student, he has made the President's List several times. He enjoys rock climbing, mountaineering, running and the great outdoors. Dedicated to community service, Peter has worked hard to assist families experiencing hardships. "Everyone needs some help from time to time, and these families are going to get ours this holiday season. It really gives me a sense of joy to be able say that I've put my best effort towards an endeavor that will directly impact the lives of a local family in need."

South Central College

TRAVIS HENDERSON



Major: **Nursing**

GPA: **4.0** *Age:* **41**

Future Plans: **Become a RN, pursue bachelor's degree**

Wrangell, a city of some 2,300 residents and Travis Henderson's hometown, ranks as one of the oldest non-native settlements in the state of Alaska. Travis looks to serve as a registered nurse early in his professional career. In the more distant future, he hopes to obtain a more advanced degree in the health care field. An exemplary student, he was named to the President's List on several occasions. He enjoys reading and many outdoor activities such as tennis, hockey, fishing and hiking among others. "I plan to be a driving force for health education, and a role model for the community I settle in."

South Central College

FRAN NELSON



Major: **Associate of arts degree**

GPA: **3.76** *Age:* **22**

Future Plans: **Pursue bachelor's degree**

Fran Nelson hails from Faribault, Minn., which is regarded as one of Minnesota's most historic communities. While pursuing her associate of arts degree at South Central, Fran has uncovered her academic aptitude and is now planning a future in education that she hopes will lead her to a career as an English instructor at a four-year university. "When I started, I wasn't even considering attending another college. I was attending South Central so I wasn't wasting time or my future. After seeing my grades the first semester, I decided that I wanted to have a future beyond an associate of arts degree." In addition to demonstrating academic excellence, Fran is president of her Phi Theta Kappa Chapter and was awarded a scholarship from Hy-Vee in Faribault this past fall, recognizing her academic and personal achievements.

