



IMPACT REPORT

MSUM FOUNDATION FY2023



MSUM Foundation
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD



>>> Dr. Tim Downs

On October 12, 2023, I was officially inaugurated as the 12th President of Minnesota State University Moorhead. I could not be prouder to be a servant leader of this outstanding regional university. While the event was dedicated to confirming my appointment as President, I prefer to recognize this day as an affirmation that MSUM is well positioned to continue being an exceptional university; that we are poised to continue being even better, every day! All our efforts are dedicated to the success of students as they prepare to enter the workforce and assume positions as responsible citizens and leaders in our communities.

As we strive to be better, it is essential for our campus to enhance the student experience and to ensure students feel sufficiently supported along their journey in higher education. Our support infrastructures include academic support and advising, social support activities and events, and fiscal support for students struggling to afford a college education. A major predictor of student success is providing financial support for students, affording them more time to devote to their studies.

A significant annual event that allows us the opportunity to better support students is Giving Day. In October 2022 we raised \$443,584 dedicated to providing students with scholarship and support resources. This year we challenged ourselves, alumni, and friends of MSUM to exceed this amount, providing our students with even more resources as they pursue advanced degrees and credentials that provide a pathway to their successes.

In closing, I thank you for being a devoted supporter of MSUM and our students. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of students, changing their lives forever!

Warmest regards and **Go Dragons!**

Dr. Tim Downs
President
Minnesota State University Moorhead
(Affectionately known as Moorhead State University.)



>>> Jan Mahoney

GREETINGS FROM THE MSUM FOUNDATION BOARD

Thank you for your continued support of Minnesota State University Moorhead and the MSUM Foundation. It is because of generous donors like you that we can support the purpose of the University – “to transform the world by transforming lives”.

Our mission is to create opportunities for generations of MSUM students by inspiring alumni and friends to connect, engage, and give. The Foundation board is passionate and committed to our mission. Our board is extremely grateful for our University and Foundation leadership teams along with faculty and staff for all they do to meet our goals and enhance the educational experiences for our students. Their experiences embrace the mission of the University which promises all students the opportunity to discover their passions and provide a versatile environment to develop intellectually so they may shape our changing world. It is through the generosity of donors that the University is able to provide these experiences and create a meaningful impact for students. We are extremely grateful!

Go Dragons!

Jan Mahoney
MSUM Foundation Board President



>>> Gary Haugo

DEAR DRAGONS,

On behalf of the MSUM Foundation we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support. Your commitment to our mission and your dedication to making a positive impact on our university community are truly remarkable.

Your philanthropic investment in MSUM is not just a financial transaction; it is a testament to your belief in the power of education, teaching, and community engagement. Your support enables us to achieve remarkable outcomes and change lives in meaningful ways:

- 1. Empowering Students:** Your generosity provides scholarships, financial aid, and opportunities that make higher education accessible to students who might not have otherwise had the chance to pursue their dreams.
- 2. Enhancing Facilities:** Your contributions help us create a conducive and modern learning environment, ensuring that our students have access to top-notch facilities and resources.
- 3. Fostering Community Engagement:** Your partnership allows us to extend our reach beyond our campus boundaries, supporting community outreach programs and initiatives that enrich the lives of those around us.
- 4. Sustaining Excellence:** Your investment in our endowment ensures that MSUM will continue to excel academically and contribute to society for generations to come.
- 5. Promoting Diversity and Inclusion:** Your commitment to diversity and inclusion helps us create a more welcoming and equitable environment for all members of our university community.

Your generosity is a source of inspiration for all of us at MSUM. It reminds us that our mission is not ours alone; it is a shared journey with individuals like you who believe in the transformative power of education.

As we move forward, your support will continue to be a driving force behind our efforts to make a difference in the lives of students, faculty, and the broader community.

Once again, thank you for your incredible generosity and commitment to MSUM. We are profoundly grateful for your partnership and look forward to the continued positive impact we will achieve together.

With heartfelt thanks,

Gary Haugo
VP for University Advancement
Executive Director MSUM Foundation



LEAVING A LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATION

Nothing in Anne Blackhurst's early academic life suggested she would one day become a university president.

In high school, adults told her she wasn't living up to her potential. In her first year of college, she failed several classes. But then, a treasured teacher told her she was capable of doing so much more. That encouragement transformed her life.

Blackhurst served as president of Minnesota State University Moorhead since 2014, when she was named its 11th president. She stepped into the role after three years as the university's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. She retired in June.

Blackhurst never dreamed that she would be called to higher education, but every experience prepared her for the next. "I just did the next thing in front of me," she says, "It's important for students to hear that you can struggle and not be defined by that."

To start, Blackhurst wanted to rebuild MSUM's reputation and increase its visibility. She accomplished this by having the campus focus on what makes it distinctive and building stronger relationships with the community.

The university's values – grit, humility, and heart – were always part of a Dragon identity. During Blackhurst's tenure, however, emphasizing them built pride and community relationships.

Blackhurst lived out those values early on. She became a walking, talking logo for the university, and she slipped on a signature piece of clothing: her red blazer.

She also connected with others through humor. In the days before her installation, President Anne bobbleheads showed up. An early adopter of social media, she willingly took selfies (#Annefan) with students as she strolled through campus.

"Humility is about not taking yourself too seriously; it's having fun while getting work done," she says.

These were small but visible steps that established pride. "If we don't feel pride in our institution, we can't portray that externally," she says.

Next, Blackhurst worked tirelessly to demonstrate how central the university is to Fargo-Moorhead's social, cultural and economic well-being.

She took on leadership roles with the United Way, local Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, and Downtown Moorhead, Inc., and helped establish strong partnerships with Essentia Health and Forum Communications, which expands experiences for students.

In addition, Blackhurst built an infrastructure to sustain university fundraising. During her tenure, MSUM completed its first comprehensive campaign and raised more than \$60 million to support student success, academic programs, and a new alumni center.

"Clearly, she has put MSUM on a sustainable path both programmatically and financially," said Minnesota State Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

After retirement, Blackhurst plans to spend more time with her son and two grandkids in Tulsa, Okla. She expects to move to the Pacific Northwest.

What will never change is that she believes higher education has the power to change lives.

MSUM is home to students who are hard-working and gracious, she says. They often have no idea of what they're capable of achieving until someone believes in them. And that's where the transformation happens. ■



MMEN HALL



THIS SCHOLARSHIP WILL HELP ME CONTINUE TO BE ENROLLED AT MSUM AND STUDY WHAT I LOVE. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP AND THE OPPORTUNITY IT GIVES ME.

– Trent Regner, Charles Magel Endowed Scholarship recipient



I'VE DREAMED ABOUT BEING A SPORTS REPORTER FOR ESPN FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. I'M EXCITED TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION THIS FALL AND CONTINUE ON A PATH TOWARD MY DREAM.

– Drew Berg, Roger Hamilton Endowed Scholarship recipient



THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS OPENED DOORS FOR ME TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY, STEP OUTSIDE MY COMFORT ZONE, GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, AND FORM DEEP AND MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS.

– Natalie Jens, Larry Drone Peterson Scholarship recipient



I DON'T THINK I WAS MENTALLY PREPARED FOR THE IDEA THAT I MAY RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AND THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER EVEN MET ME THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO MY COLLEGE EDUCATION. I AM IMMENSELY GRATEFUL.

– Caitlin Reiten, Doris & Francis Butler Memorial Scholarship recipient





MSUM ALUMNI CENTER

We're excited to see walls being erected and daily progress on the 18,500-square-foot facility. It will serve alumni returning to campus and be a place for students and community members to connect and engage. Anticipated opening date: Fall 2024.



Watch the Alumni Center progress on the live webcam

MSUM HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

We are proud of our alumni's successes and MSU Moorhead's role in their lives. While many deserve recognition, only a select few are chosen each year. Each recipient exemplifies the high standards we expect from MSUM graduates, and has made significant contributions to the communities where they reside and work. Read their stories at mnstate.edu/stories.

Distinguished Alumni Awards



Tim Connolly '78 (mass communications) is a career journalist who has worked at newspapers across the country, reporting internationally from Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Belize, Bahamas, China, Hong Kong and Indonesia. He has worked for over 30 years at The Dallas Morning News, where he is an assistant news editor working with the wire services covering the Mexico/Texas border and immigration-related reports.

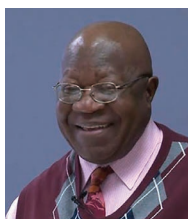


Lonni Schultz '82 (computer science & mathematics) is a senior research biostatistician in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., where she's worked since 1984. She has authored/co-authored more than 160 medical publications, serves on the hospital's Internal Review Board (IRB), and is a permanent standing member of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke study section.



Stacey Benson '90 (psychology), president and CEO of Benson Psychological Services, is a forensic psychologist specializing in risk assessments, training corrections departments in three states, and testifying in state, federal, and military court. She co-founded the Sex Offender Treatment and Assessment of North Dakota, a nonprofit teaching men and women coming out of the prison system the skills they need to reintegrate into the community.

Outstanding Service Award



Political science Professor **Andrew Conteh** taught at MSUM for 31 years before retiring in 2017. The Sierra Leon native and specialist in international relations and international law was ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1976-81, was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, and was senior assistant secretary in Sierra Leone's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was integral in developing MSUM's prestigious Andrew B. Conteh Student Academic Conference.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award



Jennifer Glenski '13 (mathematics) is a leader in AI and technology, with experience leading impactful technology projects across education, healthcare and government. She directs product management at BMC Software and leads IntelliDyne's AI and Machine Learning Practice. The Northern Virginia Technology Council recognized her with their Techroo NextGen Leader Award for driving tech innovation and positively impacting the region.

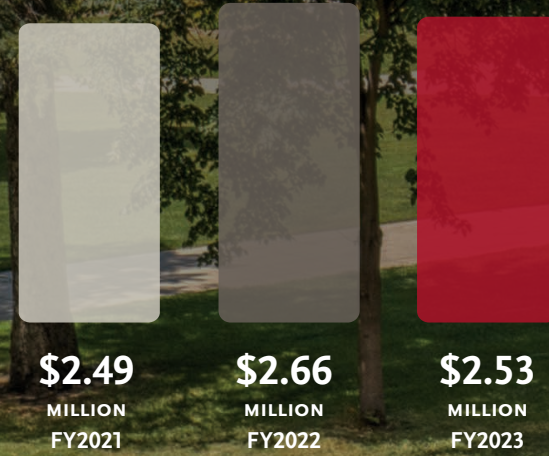


FOUNDATION PROGRESS

FUNDRAISING



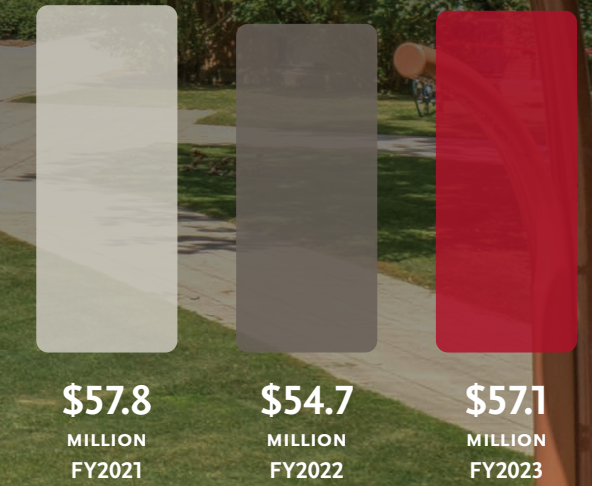
SUPPORT TO MSUM



ENDOWMENT PROGRESS



TOTAL NET ASSEST & LIABILITIES



NUMBER OF DONORS

- Alumni – 1,644
- Friends of MSUM – 558
- Corporations – 87
- Foundations – 27
- Estates and Trusts – 4





ALL BUSINESS

Baumgartner planning life after basketball

There's no doubt Gavin Baumgartner can get things done on the court. The six-year Dragon men's basketball player has an impressive stat sheet to prove it. He helped lead the team to two NSIC conference tournament championships, three NCAA tournament appearances, is third in school history in three-pointers made, career assists and career points scored. He has also played in more games than any other player in Dragon history.

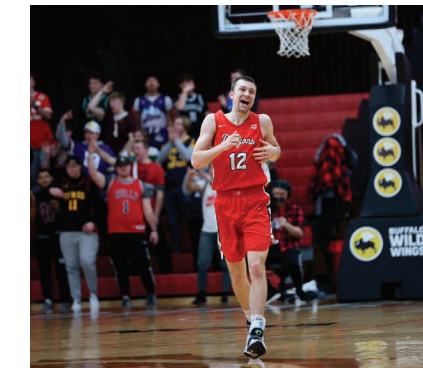
His basketball career started early. Baumgartner remembers working on his game in the unfinished basement of his childhood home in Plymouth, Minn., mimicking the moves of his favorite Timberwolves players. He started playing in kindergarten and began traveling with competitive teams a couple years later with his dad as his coach. At Wayzata High School, he helped lead the way to the school's first state tournament appearance since 1959. Baumgartner credits the support of his parents, great coaches and mentors, and teammates who pushed him along the way.

Now, after completing his education at MSUM, Baumgartner is embarking on a new chapter: the real world. He earned undergraduate majors in finance and accounting, and this spring

he graduated with his Master of Business Administration. It didn't take long for him to land his first job—management trainee at Cintas in Minneapolis. He says a 15-month rotating period will help develop him as a business leader while focusing on operations, service and sales. "It will prepare me well for the future," he said.

And his future looks promising. Baumgartner says he will rely on the qualities he acquired as a student-athlete to guide his path in the workforce. Through juggling classes, homework, practices, games, training, and time with family and friends, he created a routine that worked well. "I learned how to prioritize what's important and be organized," he said. Receiving a scholarship was also a blessing, as he didn't have to work a job while in school. "It really lifted that financial burden and let me focus on what mattered," he added.

Baumgartner learned a lot during his time at MSUM, but most of all, he learned how to be a Dragon. "To me, that means doing things the right way," he said. "It means helping people around you. You might not always feel like you're being rewarded, but you look back and see the benefits later down the line." ■



Read more about Gavin Baumgartner's impact on the Dragons.



HEART OF THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Emma Dettmann can play just about any instrument you give her. You will catch her plucking, writing or singing all day throughout her music classes.

Emma has been coined the “Heart of the Center for Arts” for good reason. She is double majoring in vocal music education and instrumental music education. Once she graduates, she will be a versatile teacher in any school setting with both a choral and instrumental background.

Her fervor for music started young. From taking piano lessons for 15 years and playing alto saxophone for 10, Emma has continued to develop her craft. However, she wasn’t sure how to take her talents beyond a hobby.

It wasn’t until her older brother majored in music education that she realized she could continue this passion for a living.

“I was torn in what I wanted to do for my future,” she says. “I love music, I love teaching, so it seemed like the logical step to take. I feel more solidified the longer I am here.”

While she is well versed in the piano and the alto saxophone, Emma has learned how to play a variety of instruments like the viola, trumpet, clarinet, among others.

Emma has also joined nearly every extracurricular program and ensemble offered in the department.

She teaches piano lessons to children in the F/M area through MSUM’s Community School for the Arts (CSA). She teaches her students the same love for piano that she acquired growing up.

Emma is also the president of the National Association for Music Education (NAFME) chapter at MSUM. There’s even a subset group of the chapter where students get together to play instruments they’re not well trained in, to remember the basics and have fun.

“MSUM has given me the space to create things,” she says. “Receiving a music scholarship has allowed me to pursue all these additional opportunities, to attend a conducting workshop and to focus on music-related jobs.”

She loves the enthusiasm for music around the department. Students who aren’t music majors play in ensembles for the creative outlet.

“I love the ability to connect with a lot of different types of people. MSUM is not a departmentalized college,” she says “Sometimes I’ll sit next to someone with a completely different life path than me.”

Emma continues to push her talents through classes. From composing to playing, she is able to strengthen herself.

“There’s a lot of differentiation between our classes. That has pushed me to become a better musician,” she says. ■

RED FLAME GALA

Gala raises more than \$100K with nearly 200 attendees

The MSUM Red Flame Gala has experienced tremendous growth over 15 years. This year, the gala expanded its funding for various scholarship initiatives, bringing together 198 attendees to support MSUM students. The event raised \$106,000, featuring an elegant ballroom, a live auction, and three distinguished speakers. The gala honored President Anne Blackhurst and launched The Blackhurst Fund for Excellence, supporting critical priorities and inclusivity at MSUM. The event was a resounding success because of our incredible attendees, sponsors, and donors.





MSUM GIVING DAY

MSUM GIVING DAY

On October 27, 2022, 833 generous donors came together to raise \$443,584 for programs and scholarships during MSUM Giving Day. Throughout this 24-hour day of giving, the MSUM community came together to celebrate the spirit of MSUM Dragons, fostering a culture of gratitude and generosity. Students, faculty, and staff distributed commemorative T-shirts, awarded MSUM Giving Day prizes, and crafted heartfelt thank-you notes to donors. In a real-time display of dedication and enthusiasm, live updates were shared on MSUM's official Facebook page, showcasing interviews highlighting how these crucial funds directly benefit students and vital programs.



MEET THE FOUNDATION STAFF



AMANDA BARNEY
Accounting Clerk



NAN BOE
Director of Finance & Administration



BRUCE BURMAN
Staff Accountant



LAURA CAROON
Assistant Director of Engagement



GARY HAUGO
VP for University Advancement



JASON HERBERS
Director of Development - Athletics



BECKY HOLM
Accounting Clerk



CODY JANGULA
Director of Development



KRISTIN JOHNSON
Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications



JARED MILLER
AVP of Development



SARAH MUEHLER
Executive Assistant



CAITLYN O'REILLY
Development Coordinator



KELSEY OST
Associate Director of Development



ASHLEY QUINN
Project Manager



LINDI REBURN
Database Coordinator



STEVE SJOBERG
Director of Foundation Marketing & Communications



MRIDULA STARK
Database Manager



JENNI WALTHALL
Senior Director of Development



MEET THE FOUNDATION BOARD



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Retired, VP for Finance and Administration,
Minnesota State University Moorhead



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VP of Sales,
BlackLine Systems



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Attorney at Law



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JUDD GRAHAM '89
Market President,
Dacotah Bank



ANNA KNUTSON '13
Director of Marketing
Lucy & Co.



TONYA STENDE '94
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Stende Consulting



ADAM BERNIER '89
VICE PRESIDENT
Managing Director and CFO,
O'Brien-Staley Partners



TIM SAYLER '79 -
TREASURER
COO,
Essentia Health



STACY BROMAN '85
Attorney/Partner,
Meagher & Geer, P.L.L.P.



LEAH (DOHERTY) CLEMEDTSON
Real Estate Investment and
Management



PETER GEIB
Professor,
MSUM Paseka School of Business



JENNI HUOTARI '02
CPA/Partner,
Eide Bailly LLP



GREGORY LOF '79 AND '82
Retired, Department Chair/Professor,
MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston
Wilton Manors, FL



COREY WALTHER '93
President,
Allianz Life Financial
Service LLC



BRAD WIMMER '76
PAST PRESIDENT
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TARA BALTES '04
Human Resource
Compliance Specialist,
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JEANNIE CAMARILLO '01
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Fraser, Ltd.



DAYNA DEL VAL '95
Founder and CEO,
The Arts Partnership



LISA GIESE '99
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Marvin Windows and Doors



KERSTIN KEALY '97
News Anchor/Producer,
WDAY Television



BRAD SHAMLA
Retired

OUR MISSION

We create opportunities for generations of MSUM students by inspiring alumni and friends to connect, engage, and give.



MSUM Foundation
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD®

CONNECT. ENGAGE. GIVE.

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The MSUM Foundation is an independent 501 (c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to Minnesota State University Moorhead and its alumni and friends.