

STUDENT AFFAIRS

2018-19  
HIGHLIGHTS





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# A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



The 2018-2019 year has been an enormous success for Student Affairs. The community successfully celebrated the university's 150th anniversary and took the time to reflect on just how far we've come as an institution. With continuous improvements in every department on campus, more students discovered all that is exciting about Minnesota State University, Mankato. During the following pages you will learn more about how each of our offices helped students go further than they thought possible. Central to all of these stories and accomplishments is the dedicated University Staff. We are continually working on developing real-world solutions to deliver the best collegiate experiences possible for our students.

Among our greatest accomplishments this past year was continuing to implement the 2017-2022 Student Affairs Strategic Plan. Designed by student affairs leaders along with campus community input, this plan defines our direction and how we will continue supporting the University in achieving greater heights than ever before. Core elements include:

- Advance student retention and degree completion through collaborations with Academic Affairs and other partners.
- Embed diversity in our work and prioritize the achievement of related University initiatives.
- Enhance student wellness through the provision of holistic, integrated support.
- Grow student career and life success skills by providing quality co-curricular programs and services.
- Maximize emerging technologies to deliver convenient and flexible services, programs and resources to all students.

- Use timely, targeted and effective communications to better serve students and divisional partners.

These six goals drive our purpose and efforts. As you learn about the many achievements from the past year, I ask you to celebrate these successes and more importantly, look ahead to the future. Our Maverick pride grows every year, and we invite you to discover how you can get involved in student affairs as we look toward our next 150 years as Minnesota State University, Mankato.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David P. Jones, Ph.D.

# OUR MISSION

## The Division of Student Affairs

Student Affairs advances the mission of Minnesota State Mankato by:

- > Fostering learning and development.
- > Supporting student success.
- > Preparing students to be leaders in a global society.

## 2017-2022 Student Affairs Strategic Goals

- > Advance student retention and degree completion through collaborations with Academic Affairs and other partners.
- > Embed diversity in our work and prioritize the achievement of related University initiatives. Enhance student wellness through the provision of holistic, integrated support.
- > Grow student career and life success skills by providing quality co-curricular programs and services.
- > Maximize emerging technologies to deliver convenient and flexible services, programs, and resources to all students.
- > Use timely, targeted, and effective communications to better serve students and divisional partners.

# UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS



The University Admissions Office will enthusiastically, ethically and professionally identify, recruit, admit and serve high school, transfer and international students and their related constituencies. We will uphold a commitment to enhancing diversity that is consistent with the University's educational mission and enrollment goals.

- This year campus visits were enhanced by offering more events targeted to students' academic interests and that engaged faculty from the departments to talk with students about the experience on campus.
- The Emergency Grant program has demonstrably improved retention and graduation rates for low-income and at-risk students by providing funding and financial counseling in times of crisis to allow students to stay enrolled.
- Transfer recruitment staff partnered with the Registrar's Office to run Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) reports for strategic prospective students in order to help them understand how their credits will transfer if they enroll at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

# CAMPUS RECREATION

The mission of Campus Recreation is to promote long-term healthy lifestyle behaviors through participation in multi-faceted recreational, educational and leisure opportunities.



- Research collected from ID scanning in Otto Recreation Center found that there were 287,298 people who visited the Recreation Center from July 1, 2018-May 10, 2019.
- Campus Recreation implemented a \$5/day guest pass fee for the Otto Rec Center. From 1/8/18 to 5/28/19, the Recreation Center generated \$5,025 with 1,005 guest passes sold.
- Campus Recreation opened the indoor climbing wall in Myers Field House on August 23, 2012 and since has had over 100,000 climbers on the indoor and outdoor walls during the past seven years.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato students voted to approve the student fee funding (\$10/semester for 10 years) of a seasonal sports dome on an all-student referendum on December 4, 2018. Construction for the sports dome will begin in June 2019 and its expected completion date is December 2019.
- Campus Recreation utilized approximately 93% of work-study funding by 43 assigned student employees in FY19, which compares to 93% by 40 assigned student employees in FY18, and 85% by 38 assigned student employees in FY17.
- Campus Recreation completed a successful equipment replacement in fall 2018 of approximately \$110,000 of new strength equipment in the Otto Recreation Center weight room utilizing \$50,000 in Institutional Equipment and \$60,000 in student fees. The new equipment has been a hit for students.
- Campus Recreation replaced the original Mondo flooring in Myers Field House during summer 2019 (May to August) with new Mondo, which was much needed in this high use facility that was completed in December 2001 and hasn't been updated since.

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER



The Career Development Center's (CDC) mission is to educate, equip, and empower students and graduates to successfully explore, develop, and manage their career paths for a lifetime.

- The new "Maverick Milestone" program celebrates the career-related successes of Minnesota State Mankato students who have recently declared a major, been accepted into an academic program, or secured a job or internship. 100+ students received a t-shirt to and had their picture taken with Stomper's Maverick Milestone banner in the first semester of the program. Maverick Milestones are also shared on social media.
- 4,533 students and 779 employers participated in 11 CDC sponsored and co-sponsored career events.
- For the first time, the Career Development Center partnered with Student Financial Services to facilitate the hiring process for on-campus Work Study positions using the Handshake job posting system. As a result, student interests and skills were more closely matched to jobs, employers reported a higher employee retention rate, and a greater number of students were placed in Work Study positions.
- CDC staff presented 110 classroom and group presentations on career-related topics to 2,749 students.
- 579 students in the FYE course were administered the StrengthsFinder assessment during the fall semester and participated in a CDC staff-facilitated group processing of the assessment. Once again this year, feedback from students and course instructors on the value of this experience was highly positive.
- Modeled after a program at the University of Iowa, the Mavericks GROW initiative was piloted with CDC and Residential Life student employees during the fall and spring semesters. The program uses student employment as a High Impact Practice to impact student retention and persistence by: 1) helping student employees to process and articulate the connection between their campus job and what they are learning in the classroom; and 2) develop the career ready skills identified as essential by employers in all fields.

# CENTENNIAL STUDENT UNION AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Serving as the student-centered heart of campus, the Centennial Student Union provides an innovative, dynamic and inclusive learning environment where quality facilities, programs and services complement and enhance the academic experience.



- Thanks to the support of 1,310 hours of Campus Kitchen volunteers, the Mankato area community received 2,220 meals and volunteers harvested 12,350 pounds of food from local restaurants, food drives and food banks.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato celebrated a successful 150th Anniversary Homecoming Parade in downtown Mankato. The parade included an airplane flyover by the University's aviation students, 100 floats, appearances from the Minnesota Vikings and the Minnesota Timberwolves, and various marching bands from the area.
- Student Activities sponsored a successful Student Leadership Retreat for 30 students at Camp Omega. The retreat is a weekend-long interactive experience where student participants engage in activities and conversations about leadership.
- The Centennial Student Union completed their new website offering an attractive, smart-phone friendly site that includes a 360-degree virtual tour of the CSU, food court dining options, building hours/services, calendar of upcoming events and more.
- Community Engagement hosted two free Farmer's Markets for students that provided fresh fruits and vegetables, and household goods like furniture, kitchenware, office supplies, books, towels, blankets, and other donated goods.
- The Centennial Student Union purchased 17 new projectors and control system equipment for the CSU Ballroom. Additionally, new furniture was ordered and replaced existing furniture in the Ballroom Lounge and various meeting rooms, the loading dock winter heating system was renovated, the public address system was replaced, and Jazzman's was renovated.

# COUNSELING CENTER



The mission of the Counseling Center is to provide support to students in addressing personal, social, social, educational, and mental health concerns. Our aim is to increase student success and retention in the university within a welcoming environment that appreciates diversity and pursues social justice.

- The counseling center provided 2,329 hours of indirect service (outreach, educational programming, service on university committees, etc.) to the university community. The office manager had nearly 4,400 individual contacts over the past year and fielded close to 1,600 phone calls.
- There were 934 students who applied for counseling services over the past year, representing a 3% increase from last year, and a 6.75% increase from two years ago. There were 5,129 appointments scheduled, constituting a 13% increase over last year, and an 18% increase over the past two years.
- The Counseling Center is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS). The counseling center is one of only 193 centers accredited in the USA and one of only four in Minnesota. They received continuing accreditation in January 2019.
- The Counseling Center has implemented a new model based on same-day screenings in order to prioritize access to services. Screenings focus on tailoring a plan of care to fit each individual student. As part of this new model, the Counseling Center has created several new services including seminars, workshops, and new groups, and has added many new online resources.

# NEW STUDENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

The office of New Student and Family Programs connects students and their parents to the resources, services, and opportunities they need at Minnesota State Mankato. We ease the transition to college life, make sure that both students and families feel comfortable on campus, and help them develop the confidence they need to achieve their goals. Our goal is to set students up for success in school and beyond.



- The office of New Student and Family Programs collaborated on a mini grant from the system office to support first-generation college students.
- The First Year Seminar Experience expanded from 30 sections to over 50 sections this fall.
- The College of Business expanded the use of the online orientation program and created a new specialized path for Business majors.

# RESIDENTIAL LIFE



The Department of Residential Life provides convenient living spaces, intentional services, and actively engaged staff who strive to help all students build connections, get involved, and achieve success.

- The department developed a new mission statement in fall 2018: “The Department of Residential Life provides convenient living spaces, intentional services, and actively engaged staff who strive to help all students build connections, get involved, and achieve success.”
- Dr. Margaret Preska’s presidential desk is on display at the Ellis & Maywood entry to Preska Residence Community. The display also includes photographs of Dr Preska during her presidency.
- Renovations of E and F Resident Halls were completed in August 2019 that included the addition of through-wall air-conditioning in each student room and the replacement of the original radiators with new units that allow in-room heating controls. These buildings are now offered at the Renovated Rate tier. 85% of all Minnesota State Residence Hall rooms now offer temperature control through air-conditioning and in-room heating adjustment.
- Energy-saving LED lighting has been installed in McElroy E and F Halls and the McElroy main hallway.
- A weekly Study Spot in Preska 126 provides snacks and a dedicated place and time for academic focus.
- Campus academic success partners offered tips to residents in a monthly series entitled Tasty Talks.
- The 10-day CA Training Schedule was provided to staff on the Topi app, featuring real-time updates & announcements.
- RHA’s Fall Fest turned the University Dining Center lawn into a pumpkin patch and entertained over 500 residents.

# DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

Student Conduct promotes and enforces student responsibilities in accordance with state, federal and local laws, as well as policies within Minnesota State Mankato and the Minnesota State System.



- Student Conduct expanded outreach education efforts to include regular tabling and well-received educational games in the CSU.
- The Office of Student Conduct provided consistent leadership to the Behavioral Consultation Team, a cross-divisional group that plays an important role in student success and retention.
- The Veterans Resource Center hosted a successful Veterans Week, to enhance awareness of military and veteran students on campus and showcase and celebrate the dynamic lives of veteran and military students. Each day, students, faculty, and staff were invited to participate in “22 pushups per day” in recognition of the unacceptably high rate of veteran suicide in the United States. Additionally, participants were encouraged to attend a dinner at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, graduating seniors were recognized for their outstanding undergraduate work and they received their special veteran graduation cords.
- President Davenport hosted a lunch to honor Veterans Day and the keynote speaker was Michael McNamara, founder and host of All Marine Radio, a national media channel that focuses on assisting military to civilian transition. McNamara also has developed a program called Post Traumatic Winning that emphasizes the growth potential for all people who have endured trauma and gives them a pathway to living their best future.
- The Veterans club built a Homecoming Float for the Sesquicentennial Parade with assistance from the Construction Management student group. They built a float on a flatbed trailer and received overwhelming support and adulation during the Homecoming parade. Students, faculty, and staff paraded in uniforms and other military themed outfits to celebrate the presence and diversity of veteran and military students.

# STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES



Student Health Services provides quality and affordable medical services and health education to Minnesota State Mankato students to enhance their learning experience and support their academic success.

- This year continued a trend toward the need for mental health services for students. Outreach included Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) suicide training and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) 8-hour training.
- The Medical Clinic reported a significant increase in mental health visits (36%) and intentionally increased outreach.
- The Pharmacy increased the number of new prescriptions filled by nearly 6% compared to the previous year.
- Student Health Services at Minnesota State University, Mankato received \$150,000 Minnesota State Collaborative Funding Award to explore shared telepsychiatry services.
- Transitioned to a hosted server platform for electronic health record system, Medicat. This will allow for better utilization and student convenience.
- In 2007, 75.6% of Minnesota State University, Mankato students reported not using tobacco in the last 30 days. In 2018, that increased to 90%.
- More than 400 Greek students were trained in alcohol overdose through Health Education, as the chapters required an initial training prior to hosting any social events.

# UNIVERSITY SECURITY

University Security advances the mission of Minnesota State University, Mankato by maintaining a safe and secure living, learning and work environment in partnership with the community we serve.

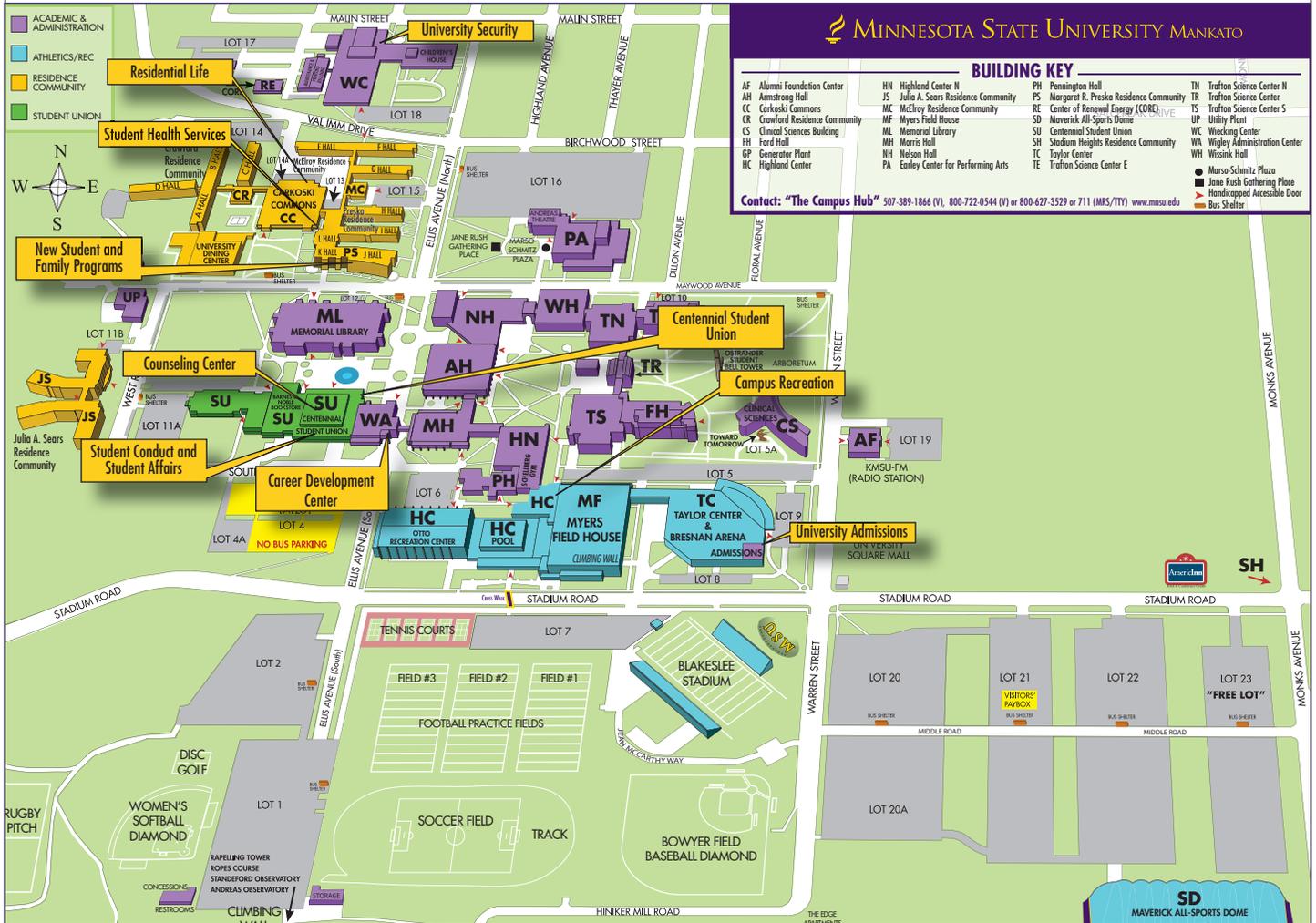


- The total number of phone calls received by university security was 34,178 over the past year. The total number of time responding to resident hall calls was 892 hours. Total number of time responding to CSU calls was 543 hours.
- University security developed and implemented a new parking and permit software system.
- Security personnel continued to work on after-hours security plans, emergency management and preparedness planning. This creates a continuously safe environment for students, staff, faculty and visitors of the university.



 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

# STUDENT AFFAIRS CAMPUS MAP



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