

Mesabi Range College Foundation Newsletter

Volume 1
Number 3
February, 2022

Campus Update

By Jodi Pontinen

A BIG congratulations to Shelly McCauley Jugovich on her retirement as Provost of Mesabi Range College. Her leadership on the Virginia and Eveleth campuses will be greatly missed. Shelly has served in various roles at Mesabi Range College for 14 years and most recently as Provost. Her dedication to the college shows as you walk through our halls.

With Shelly's retirement and the new Minnesota North College* administrative model our campuses will now be guided by a Director of Operations. Jessalyn Sabin, has accepted the position of Campus lead for the Mesabi Range Eveleth campus. Jessalyn is a former Biology faculty member at Hibbing Community College and was Interim Dean of Academics for Hibbing Community College prior to her new roll as Academic Dean of Technical Programs for Minnesota North College*. Jessalyn has already been working hard with program faculty to learn and align our technical programs into the Minnesota North College* model. I, Jodi Pontinen, am honored to accept the position as Director of Operations for the Mesabi Range Virginia Campus (MRC). I have been part of the MRC family in the financial aid office and other various supervisory rolls within Student Services for over 20 years. As Director of Operations I will retain my position as Director of Financial Aid, which will expand over all 6 campuses, and will be the campus lead for the day to day operations of the Virginia campus as well as building and maintaining relationships with our local communities.

The Higher Learning Commission will be meeting Feb. 24th for a final decision on the merger of our 5 NHED colleges (6 campuses) along with the Minnesota State Board of Trustees who will make their final decision Mid-March. You can read more about what has been happening on the merger on the NHED website <https://www.nhed.edu>. Pending these approvals, we will become Minnesota North College* on May 23, 2022. Many people who work in various rolls on our 6 campuses have been working very hard to make sure that when we "flip the switch" on May 23 students will have a seamless experience transitioning from our individual campuses to this one college, 6 campus, model.

Mesabi Range College Graduation has been set for Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 4:00pm at the Iron Trail Motor Event Center. Please join us in celebrating the scholastic accomplishments of our amazing students.

Board Accomplishments and Future Goals

- September 2021: Accomplished Phase I of the Jackson Lesar Student Success Center makeover.
- September/October/January: Seated three new board members. The Foundation is now complete with 13 dynamic directors!
- October: Hosted a barbeque for students and Foundation donors at the Virginia and Eveleth campuses.
- November: Met with the auditor to discuss the results of the Foundation's completed audit.
- October/November: Created the Springhetti and Ogrezovich Scholarships.
- January 2022: Awarded eleven mini book grants to students for spring semester.
- Reorganized all Foundation scholarships into individually named scholarships.
- Set up online banking.



Board Members

Sue Medure President

Cindy Jindra Vice President

Scott Wirtanen Secretary

Steve Johnson Treasurer

Thomas Aro Director

Luke Chopp Director

Mary Gorman Director

Tom Inforzato Director

Shelly Jugovich Director

Brenda Kochevar Director

Mark Muhich Director

Gary Picek Director

Elizabeth Pluskwik Director

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What's inside

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Calendar of Events

<i>February 22</i>	Foundation Board Meeting
<i>March 7-11</i>	Spring Break
<i>March 29</i>	Foundation Board Meeting
<i>April 1</i>	Scholarship Applications Due
<i>April 17</i>	Easter
<i>April 26</i>	Foundation Board Meeting
<i>May 11</i>	Mesabi Range Graduation

The Board of Directors of the Mesabi Range College Foundation meets the last Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon.

Jackson Lesar Student Success Center Makeover

The Lesar Success Center is moving forward with its updates, thanks to the generous support from Bill Lesar.

Rows of library books have been moved to the upper gallery leaving a spacious area for students to study and test. Comfortable leather-like chairs have been added to the existing tables and the entire room will be re-carpeted during spring break. The portable offices were removed so that a large reception desk could be added to the room as well as a large screen (much like a TV) for messages and for instructional use.

Desktop computers are located along each wall and new electrical plug-ins are currently being installed to accommodate the computers and cellphones. Once the main area is complete, artwork will be added to the repainted walls.





Mary Gorman

Mary Gorman, was born and raised in Hibbing, Minnesota, and graduated from Hibbing High School in 1975. After working a few years, she was laid off due to foreign imports and was allowed to attend college under AEOA assistance.

In 1977, Mary attended Mesabi Range Community and Technical College for the IMSP (information Management Specialist Program) and graduated with her Associate of Applied Science Degree in 1979. Immediately following graduation, she assisted the college with several projects and received a position as temporary office help until a fulltime position opened as the receptionist/faculty support for the college. She has moved up in the ranks to the position she currently holds as Executive Assistant.

Mary lives in Iron, Minnesota, with her husband Joe. She likes to travel, garden, and chill out with a good book. She has been a member of the Mesabi Alumni Association and is in her first year as a Director of the Mesabi Range College Foundation.

Welcome New Board Members, Mary and Luke!

Luke Chopp

Luke Chopp, a Virginia native, is a 2007 graduate of Mesabi Range College. While pursuing his degree at Bemidji State University he started working at Wells Fargo Bank in Virginia, MN—and, grew his career in banking over the last 14 years.

Currently, Luke is a Vice President/Commercial Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo working with middle market business clients across the state of Minnesota. He also works on special projects and initiatives within both commercial and small business banking.



Luke currently resides in Mountain Iron with his wife Brittany who works as an Academic Coordinator in the Upward Bound Program at Mesabi Range College, and a proud father to his eight year old daughter, Blakely, who is in third grade in the Virginia Rock Ridge School District. Luke has been a board member for the Land of the Loon Ethnic Arts and Crafts Festival for 16 years and co-coordinator for 11 years, Chair of the Virginia Community Lakes and Beautification Committee, a previous board member on Range Mental Health Center, and has served on various community committees and initiatives. Luke also served as a board member and President of the Mesabi Range Community College Foundation from 2012 to 2019.

Fun Fact: During his time at Mesabi Range College, he worked as a work study in the Enrollment Services for current MRCF Board Member Brenda Kochevar and her Enrollment Services Partner, Sue Twaddle. “It was the best job a college student could have! I learned so much from Brenda and Sue—And, had so much fun!”. He also was the recipient of multiple MRCF Scholarships during the two years of attending MRC. Luke says, “The main reason I wanted to join the board the first time was because I wanted to be able to help those students in need attain scholarships that will make a difference for them to attain a higher education. The MRCF is a huge asset to the college and they make a real difference in student’s lives.”

Student Highlight

Cole Meyer

I will be graduating from Mesabi Range College this Spring with my AA Degree in Liberal Arts. Next fall I plan on attending the University of Minnesota at Duluth to pursue a career in Education either as a Physical Education teacher or an English teacher.

I enjoy reading and writing as well as working out and participating in sports so I'm thrilled to choose either of those paths. Attending Mesabi Range College was one of the best decisions I made because I met so many great people and great teachers while also being able to continue my athletic career playing baseball.

The scholarship I received from the Foundation was wonderful because I was able to continue my education without having to take out loans or go into debt. I cannot thank my sponsors enough for the generous scholarship they awarded me. It was an honor to be chosen!



Spring Sports are Just Around the Corner!

2022 NORSE BASEBALL

March

6	Century S	12:30 pm (EST)	(2)	Chain of Lakes #4
7	Delta (MI) S	9:30 am (EST)	(2)	Lake Bonny #2
9	Vermilion S	12:30 pm (EST)	(2)	Chain of Lakes #5
10	MN State Fergus Falls S	9:45 am (EST)	(1-9 inn.)	Lake Myrtle #3
21	St. John's JV	2:00 pm	(2)	Collegeville, MN
22	St. John's JV	12:00 pm	(2)	Collegeville, MN
24	Vermilion	1:00 pm	(2)	Aurora, MN
28	Hibbing	1:00 pm	(2)	Aurora, MN
29	Hibbing	1:00 pm	(2)	Aurora, MN

April

3	Itasca	10:30 am	(2)	Aurora, MN
4	Riverland #	2:00 pm	(1)	Brainerd, MN
	Rochester #	4:30 pm	(1)	Brainerd, MN
10	MN State Fergus Falls	1:00 pm	(2)	Fergus Falls, MN
11	Central Lakes	1:00 pm	(2)	Stock Field
15	Central Lakes	1:00 pm	(2)	Brainerd, MN
18	Hibbing*	1:00 pm	(2)	Hibbing, MN
19	Hibbing*	10:30 am	(2)	Aurora, MN
22	Northland CTC	1:00 pm	(2)	Stock Field
24	Vermilion*	1:00 pm	(2)	Stock Field
25	Vermilion*	1:00 pm	(2)	Ely, MN
29	Itasca	1:00 pm	(2)	Stock Field

May

2	Rainy River*	1:00 pm	(2)	International Falls, MN
3	Rainy River*	1:00 pm	(2)	Stock Field

Student Highlight

Kellsie Konstenius

In December 2021, I graduated from the Practical Nursing Program and also received the Caregiver Award. I have started training as an LPN at my current workplace, The Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely, Minnesota. Receiving a scholarship from the Mesabi Range College Foundation helped to lighten my load during the first phase of my journey and I am very thankful for their help.

My future goal is to continue my education and obtain a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree for either mental health or women's health. By working hard, I plan on achieving this goal and making myself and everyone around me proud.



Donors: Thank You for Your Support!

2022 NORSE SOFTBALL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENTS</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<u>March</u>			
22 (Mon)	Hibbing	Irish Dome	1:15 PM
22 (Mon)	Dakota College-Bottineau	Irish Dome	3:00 PM
22 (Mon)	Riverland	Irish Dome	4:45 PM
<u>April</u>			
14 (Wed)	*Rainy River	Virginia, MN	3:00 PM
14 (Wed)	*Rainy River	Virginia, MN	5:00 PM
17 (Sat)	*Central Lakes	Brainerd, MN	12:00 PM
17 (Sat)	*Central Lakes	Brainerd, MN	2:00 PM
18 (Sun)	*Northland	Thief River Falls, MN	12:00 PM
18 (Sun)	*Northland	Thief River Falls, MN	2:00 PM
24 (Sat)	*Hibbing	Hibbing, MN	12:00 PM
24 (Sat)	*Hibbing	Hibbing, MN	2:00 PM
28 (Wed)	*Rainy River	I. Falls, MN	3:00 PM
28 (Wed)	*Rainy River	I. Falls, MN	5:00 PM
<u>May</u>			
1 (Sat)	*Central Lakes	Virginia, MN	12:00 PM
1 (Sat)	*Central Lakes	Virginia, MN	2:00 PM
2 (Sun)	*Northland	Virginia, MN	12:00 PM
2 (Sun)	*Northland	Virginia, MN	2:00 PM
8 (Sat)	*Hibbing	Virginia, MN	12:00 PM
8 (Sat)	*Hibbing	Virginia, MN	2:00 PM

Foundation Barbeque



Mesabi Range College Graduation

May 11, 2022

IRON TRAIL MOTORS
EVENT CENTER



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Mesabi Range College Foundation