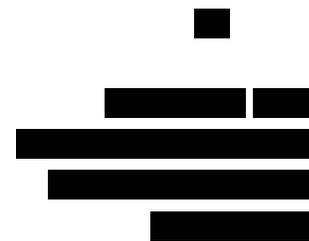


# Dr. Bart Johnson



## RESUME

### Professional Summary

Visionary and trusted higher education leader with more than 21 years of experience advancing innovation and student success in rural community colleges. Offers proven expertise in college leadership, multi-campus operations, strategic planning, student success initiatives, and workforce-responsive program development. Recognized for promoting equity, fostering collaborative governance, and building strong community and industry partnerships. A visible and authentic communicator with a proven ability to inspire teams, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and lead institutions through meaningful change, grounded by a deep commitment to the people and communities of northeast Minnesota.

### Core Competencies

- *Inclusive and Transparent Leadership* – Fostering trust through authentic engagement and shared governance
- *Student Success and Equity Leadership* – Advancing retention, completion, and equity-focused initiatives
- *Strategic Vision and Innovation* – Driving adaptive change and future-ready academic programming
- *Data-Informed Decision Making* – Leveraging analytics to guide policy, planning, and resource allocation
- *Campus and Community Engagement* – Maintaining visible leadership presence and strengthening regional partnerships
- *Fiscal Stewardship and Budget Oversight* – Ensuring financial sustainability through strategic resource management
- *Collaborative Governance and Labor Relations* – Building consensus in collective bargaining environments
- *Workforce and Community Partnerships* – Aligning programs with industry needs and regional economic priorities
- *Fundraising and External Advancement* – Securing grants, cultivating donors, and diversifying revenue streams
- *Accreditation and Academic Quality* – Leading institutional and programmatic accreditation processes

### Professional Experience

#### Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

Minnesota North College, 2021 – Present

- Senior Academic Officer (SAO) for programs that provide 100+ degrees and certificates to students across the college's six campuses, remote sites, and online
- Senior Student Affairs Officer (SSAO) leading the college's student success initiatives from enrollment through degree completion
- Developed and now support leadership for the college's Student Success Committees whose primary focus is campus culture and Equity and Inclusion

- Lead college accreditation work for Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and work with the Academic Deans to maintain 21 accreditations from National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) for concurrent enrollment and across all academic programs requiring external accreditation
- Partnering with Bemidji State University to bring four-year programming to the region in forestry, social work, and professional education (early childhood and K-12)
- Partnering with the SAOs of area colleges and Bemidji State University to identify shared academic programming and services to more effectively and efficiently serve the region
- Core leader for the strategic planning and the successful formation of Minnesota North College from Hibbing Community College, Itasca Community College, Mesabi Range College, Rainy River Community College, and Vermillion Community College. Served as the direct leader for all aspects of academic and student affairs
- Coordinate college strategic plan for the focus areas of expanded academic programming, student success, equity and inclusion, athletics, AI and other educational advancements, and enrollment growth. This work heavily focuses on faculty and staff engagement with a focus on the success and well-being of students
- Coordinate with the respective directors to successfully secure funding and operate the college's five TRIO funded programs in Student Support Services (SSS), Upward Bound (3 programs), and Upward Bound Math and Science for the benefit of student success in our region
- Participate in college-wide meet and confer meetings with both faculty and staff leaders from each of the respective collective bargaining units
- Lead strategic planning and manage the budget for the ~\$31M Academic and Student Affairs budget
- Lead the campus leadership team for the six campuses of Minnesota North College
- Led and now provide direct support for leadership of the college's five athletic programs

### **Provost**

*Itasca Community College, 2016 – 2022 (Interim Provost 2015 – 2016)*

- Led college operations for community and regional relationships, academics, student affairs, facilities, IT, athletics, housing, and auxiliary operations with operational responsibility for the entirety of the college budget while working with the NHED Finance Officer and Human Resources Director
- Served as the Senior Academic Officer
- Served on the President's leadership team with the other Provosts from the respective colleges of the Northeast Higher Education District (NHED)
- College leader for the \$5.5M capital campaign, student and community engagement process, and design for the McMahan Student Center with the college foundation
- Through engagement of student senate, program student leaders, faculty (both collectively and through Faculty Shared Governance Council (FSGC), campus leadership team, college staff (both collectively and through bargaining unit meetings), athletic leadership, and college foundation created an engaged and positive campus culture
- Collaborated with Itasca Area Schools Collaboration (IASC) leaders to develop multiple area career pathways (IASC NEXT) providing equitable access to programs that take students from introductory through advanced experiences, including internships, that support students pursuing a job and/or college program in a high-demand, living-wage career field

- Co-led, with HR Director, NHED's Equity & Inclusion efforts as we pursued Equity 2030
- Coordinated with the directors to successfully secure funding and operate Itasca Community College's three TRIO funded programs: Student Support Services (SSS), Upward Bound, and Talent Search for the benefit area students and their success
- Lead strategic planning and managed the college's ~\$10M comprehensive budget
- Continued development role with Iron Range Engineering
- Facilitated the transition of education partners for the college's student-faculty Denmark exchange program, ensuring continuation of broadening global learning experiences for students
- Managed accreditation cycles for both the institution and academic programs
- HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) – 2019 Comprehensive Visit

### **Dean of Academic Affairs**

*Itasca Community College, 2013 – 2015*

- Served as the Chief Academic Officer
- Facilitated continued development of the Iron Range Engineering Model
- Initiated College in the Schools (CIS) partnerships for Itasca Community College
- Initial development and redevelopment of programs to support power industry, manufacturing, education, and healthcare
- Developed a strong faculty development and assessment culture and processes

### **Faculty, Engineering**

*Itasca Community College, 2004 – 2013*

- Co-founder of the Iron Range Engineering program as a faculty member and program evaluator
- Actively involved at state, national, and international levels with meeting the call for change and innovation in engineering education to develop engineering for the future. This work includes a study of the latest understanding of how people learn and the current state of the art in engineering education tools and active learning methods (i.e. learning communities, lab-centered instruction, project-based learning, model eliciting activities (MEA's), concept inventories, professional development, purposeful reflection etc.)
- As an instructor and program coordinator, played a pivotal role in transforming Itasca Community College's pre-engineering program into a world-class education model through the current state of the art in engineering education and active learning to create a vibrant and growing engineering learning community. This work included freshmen student recruiting, retention, and advising
- Served on FSGC as a faculty representative for fiscal and facilities
- Lead role in developing a woody biomass boiler project to bring state of the art woody biomass boiler to campus and provide academic programming to develop engineers and natural resource programs

### **Engineer**

*John Deere –Construction and Forestry Division at the Dubuque Works, 2001 – 2004*

- Structural Test Engineer – Crawler Dozer
- Structural Design Engineer – Tractor Loader Backhoe with direct factory support

### **Research Fellow**

*Whirlpool Corporation, 2000 – 2001*

- Research on Shape Memory Alloy applications in the appliance industry

## Leadership & Community Involvement

### Regional/State Leadership and Involvement

- MN State College & University System Academic Affairs Council 2023 – Present
- Regional Perkins Advisory Board – redesign and startup 2021 – 2022
- NHED Regional Academic Planning Committee Member 2018 – 2020
- MN State Grassroots (Legislative) Advocacy Group Member 2017 – 2021
- Northeast Higher Education District (NHED) President Cabinet 2015 – 2022
- Northeast Alliance for Telecommunications (NEAT) Board 2015 – 2022
- Faculty Assignment Management Automation (FAMA) Workgroup 2014 – 2015  
Development of Faculty Workload Management (FWM)
- Education Innovation Partners (EIP) Regional Tech Committee 2014 – 2018
- Minnesota Center of Excellence for Manufacturing and Engineering (MnCEME) Deans Council, NHED Representative 2013 – 2022
- FIRST Robotics Judge and Judge Advisor, Duluth Regionals 2011 – Present
- Planning Committee Member for Iron Range Regional Science Fair 2011 – 2021
- Applied Learning Institute 2009 – 2018
- Faculty Shared Governance Council (FSGC) 2006 – Present  
(Faculty then Administrator)
- Minnesota College Athletic Conference (MCAC) 2013 – Present
  - General Assembly Delegate
  - Executive Committee, since 2024

### Community Leadership and Involvement

- UPM Kymmene – Blandin Paper: Blandin Advisory Group (BAG) 2016 – Present
- Grand Rapids High School Track Board Member 2016 – 2020
- Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) Board Member 2015 – 2025  
Board Chair, 2019 – 2022
- Itasca Area School Collaborative (IASC) 2015 – Present
  - Administrative Committee
  - Board of Directors
- Get Fit Itasca, Leadership Team 2015 – 2020
- Active Member of Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce 2015 – Present  
(Dec. 2018, Apr. 2022, and Apr. 2026 Luncheon Speaker)
- Minnesota Power Itasca Area Citizen Advisory Panel (ItasCAP) 2015 – Present
- Minnesota Power & New Range Copper Joint East Range Citizen Advisory Panel (East Range CAP) 2021 – Present
- Itasca Workforce Streams Project, Blandin Foundation 2015 – 2020
- Itasca Area Initiative for Student Success, Governance Council 2014 – 2020
- Grand Rapids Area Youth Basketball Coach 2008 – 2021  
(15 teams; both girls & boys)
- Church Board Member (chair for four years) 2007 – Present
- Small Family Farm with three generations involved 2005 – Present
- Epworth (Iowa) City Council Member 2001 – 2004

## Campus Leadership and Involvement

- Itasca Director of Operations within Minnesota North College 2022 – 2023
- Itasca Community College (ICC) Foundation, ex-officio member 2015 – 2023
- ICC Alumni Association 2015 – 2023
- ICC & then Itasca Diversity Committee 2013 – 2023
- ICC Academic Affairs and Standards Council 2013 – 2022
- ICC & Itasca Global Education Committee 2013 – 2023
- Faculty Representative for New ICC Academic Building Committee 2010 – 2013
- Project Lead for Itasca Woody Biomass Boiler Project 2008 – 2023
- Faculty Shared Governance Council (Faculty, Dean, Provost, & VP) 2006 – Present
- ICC Fiscal and Facilities Committee (faculty chair for seven years) 2004 – 2013

## International Leadership and Involvement

- India PBL Workshop, country-wide, facilitated by Aalborg University 2023 – 2024  
Facilitator for Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education
- Columbia PBL Workshop, facilitated by Aalborg University 2021 – 2022  
2023 In-person at Bogotá Campus of Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- Denmark-Itasca Annual Student and Faculty Exchange Program 2016 – Present
  - Mulernes Legatskole, Odense
  - Svendborg Erhvervsskole & Gymnasier (HHX & HTS), Svendborg

## Education

Ph.D., Project-Based Learning, University of Aalborg (Denmark), [REDACTED]  
*Thesis Title:* Study of Professional Competency Development in a Project Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum  
 Primary Advisor, Anette Kolmos was the Chair of the UNESCO Center for PBL

M.S., Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan, [REDACTED]  
 Design Emphasis with a research area of Shape Memory Alloys

B.S., Mechanical Engineering, North Dakota State University, [REDACTED]  
 Design, Construction, and Competition for NASA-Sponsored Moonbuggy Competition

Pre-Engineering Studies, Minnesota State University, Moorhead [REDACTED]  
 Student Athlete Council, Financial Appeals Committee and the Parking Committee  
 National Football Foundation (NFF) National Scholar-Athlete [REDACTED]  
 Britton Award for Male Honor Student-Athlete of the Year in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) [REDACTED]  
 2nd Team, CoSIDA Academic All-American (Football) [REDACTED]  
 Honorable Mention All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) [REDACTED]  
 Four-year Letter Winner in Football

## Professional Accomplishments & Recognition

- Co-founder, Iron Range Engineering program, 2009
  - Listed top five emerging world leaders in engineering education by MIT, 2018
  - Winner ABET 2017 Innovation award
- Co-developer, Itasca Community College engineering program and learning community
- Minnesota State Executive Leader Development Program, 2019
- Outstanding Biomass Thermal Project Recognition, Heating the Midwest, 2019
- Best of Minnesota B3 IEQ – Classroom, ICC Liberal Arts Building, 2016

- Legacy and Leadership Awardee – Blandin Foundation, 2016
- Recognized as one of three finalists for top conference paper at both
  - Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE). Erie, PA, [REDACTED]
  - Annual SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) conference Tampere, Finland, [REDACTED]
- FIRST Robotics 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Award, Northern Lights Regional
- Excellence in Curriculum Programing Award - Minnesota State, 2015
- Recognized as “Community Cornerstone of Itasca County” as part of Grand Rapids Herald Review Pride and Progress publication, 2014
- Taught undergraduate engineering courses for 9+ years

## Grant and Synergistic Partners

- Blandin Foundation (co-PI for \$2.5M grant)
- IRRRB – Higher Education Committee and DJJ Trust Fund (co-PI for \$5M grant)
- National Science Foundation (co-PI for three grants, ~\$1.5M)
- Applied Learning Institute
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) – Adult Education & Transportation
- Aalborg University
- MN Department of Education (PI)
- Minnesota Center of Excellence for Manufacturing and Engineering (MnCEME)
- Bush Foundation
- McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota Power Foundation
- Lake Country Power Foundation
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Northland Foundation
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Department of Energy
- Congressional Directed Funds
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Economic Development Association of MN (EDAM)
- Wells Fargo
- Enbridge
- Innovate 218
- Launch MN

## Publications

- Mann, C., Johnson, B., Ulseth, R., & Ulseth K (2025). Work-based learning: integrating academia, industry, and community. Conference Paper for International Research Symposium on PBL 2025, November 2025.
- Christensen, D., Singelmann, L., Mann, C., Johnson, B., & Ulseth, R. (2023). The Bell Academy: A bridge semester where engineering students transform into student engineers who thrive in industry placements. 2023 SEFI Conference.
- Ulseth, R. & Johnson, B. “From Project-Based to Work-Based Learning: Learnings from an Educational Transformation Process.” 9<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium on PBL 2023 (IRSPBL 2023) and Transforming Engineering Education (TEE 2023) Conference, Boston, MA, June 2023.

- Johnson, B., & Ulseth, R., & Raich, M. (2022, August), A Multi-Decade Response to the Call for Change. Paper presented at 2022 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Minneapolis, MN. <https://peer.asee.org/40664>
- Johnson, B., & Ulseth, R., "Design-based research for PBL curriculum development". Conference paper presented at Pan PBL 2021, Aalborg, DK. August 2021.
- Ulseth, R., Johnson, B., & Kennedy, C. "Iron Range Engineering", *Advances in Engineering Education*, 2021.
- Clausen, N., Johnson, B., & Ulseth, R., "Analyzing self-directed learning at Iron Range Engineering: framework and preliminary findings." Conference paper presented at IRSPBL 2021, Aalborg, DK. August 2021.
- Rogalsky, D., Johnson, B., & Ulseth, R., "Design-Based Research: Students seeking placement in co-op educational model (round 2)." Conference paper presented at ASEE 2021, Virtual Conference. July 2021.
- Ulseth, R., & Johnson, B. "Design-Based Research: Students building workplace Skills in a New Education Model." 2020. Conference paper published in *Educate for the future: PBL, Sustainability and Digitalisation 2020*. (1. ed.) Aalborg Universitetsforlag. International Research Symposium on PBL. Guerra, A., Chen, J., Winther, M., & Kolmos, A. (Eds.).
- Rogalsky, D., Johnson, B., & Ulseth, R., "Design-Based Research: Students seeking placement in co-op educational model." Conference paper presented at ASEE 2020, Virtual Conference. June 2020.
- Johnson, B., Ulseth, R., & Wang, Y. Applying Design Based Research to New Work-Integrated PBL Model (The Iron Range Engineering Bell Program). Paper presented at IRSPBL, Tshingua University, China. October 2018.
- Johnson, B., and R. Ulseth. "Developing the next generation of cooperative engineering education." 9th International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education (PAEE'2018) and the 15th Active Learning in Engineering Education Workshop (ALE'2018). Brasilia, Brazil, February 2018.
- Johnson, B., and R. Ulseth. Chapter 5. Iron Range Engineering Model of book *PBL in Engineering Education: International Perspectives on Curriculum Change*. Guerra, Aida, Ronald Ulseth, and Anette Kolmos, eds. Springer, 2017.
- Guerra, A., R. Ulseth, B. Johnson, and A. Kolmos. "Engineering Grand Challenges and the Attributes of the Global Engineer: A Literature Review." Annual SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) conference. Azores, Portugal, September 2017.
- Johnson, B., and R. Ulseth. "Student experience for the development of professional competencies in a project-based learning curriculum." *International Journal of Engineering Education* 33.3 (2017): 1031-1047.
- Ulseth, Ronald, and Bart Johnson. "Self-directed learning development in PBL engineering students." *International Journal of Engineering Education* 33.3 (2017): 1018-1030.
- Johnson, Bart, and Ron Ulseth. "Development of professional competency through professional identity formation in a PBL curriculum." *Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)*. Erie, PA, [REDACTED]. **Recognized as one of three finalists for top conference paper.**
- Johnson, Bart, and Ron Ulseth. "University–Industry Partnership Projects in a PBL Curriculum." Annual SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) conference. Tampere, Finland, [REDACTED]. **Recognized as one of three finalists for top conference paper.**
- Johnson, B., Ulseth, R. "The Impacts of Project Based Learning on Self-Directed Learning and Professional Skill Attainment: A Comparison of Project Based Learning to Traditional

Engineering Education.” Frontiers in Education (FIE) Annual Conference. El Paso, Texas, October 2015.

- Johnson, B., Ulseth, R. “Professional Competency Development in PBL.” 5th International Research Symposium on PBL. San Sebastian, Spain, July 2015.
- Ulseth, R., Johnson, B. “Self-Directed Learning Development in PBL.” 5th International Research Symposium on PBL. San Sebastian, Spain, July 2015.
- Ulseth, R., Johnson, B. “Iron Range Engineering PBL Experience.” Proceedings of the Seventh International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education (PAEE’2015). San Sebastian, Spain, July 2015.
- Ulseth, R., Johnson, B. “100% PBL Curriculum: Startup Phase Complete.” Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference. Madrid, Spain, October 2014.
- Johnson, Bart, and Ronald Ulseth. “Professional competency attainment in a project based learning curriculum: A comparison of project based learning to traditional engineering education.” Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference. Madrid, Spain, October 2014.
- Marra, R. M., Palmer, B., Ulseth, R., and Johnson, B. “The Iron Range Engineering PBL Curriculum: How Students Adapt within PBL.” 3rd International Research Symposium on PBL. Coventry, U.K. November 2011.
- Ulseth, R., Johnson, B., and Bates, R. “A Comparison Study of Project-Based-Learning in upper-division engineering education.” 3rd International Research Symposium on PBL. Coventry, U.K. November 2011.
- Ulseth, R., Ewert, D., and Johnson, B. “Implementing a Project Based Learning Curriculum.” Frontiers in Education Conference. Rapid City, SD. October 2011.
- Johnson, B.M., Ulseth, R.R., Hodgson, G.D., and Damiani, E. “Itasca CC Engineering Block Scheduling Model.” Annual Conference of American Society of Engineering Education. Vancouver, Canada. June 2011.
- Ewert, D., Ulseth, R. R., Johnson, B.M., Wandler, J., and Lillesve A. “Entrepreneurship in the Iron Range Engineering (IRE) Model. Annual Conference of American Society of Engineering Education.” Vancouver, Canada. June 2011.
- Johnson B, Ulseth R. The Itasca Community College Engineering Model – Condensed Scheduling Effects on Persistence and Time to Graduation. Proceedings of 2010 ASEE North Midwest Section Conference.
- Ewert D, Ulseth R, Johnson B, McNally A. The Iron Range Engineering (IRE) Model for Project Based Learning in Engineering. Proceedings of 2010 ASEE North Midwest Section Conference; 2010 Oct 21-23; Mankato, MN.
- Ulseth R, Johnson B. The Iron Range Engineering (IRE) Project Based Learning Model. Proceedings of 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ASEE Global Colloquium on Engineering Education. 2010 October 18-21, Singapore.
- Jones B, Dabrowski C, Drake M, Johnson B. An Analysis of Biomass Feedstocks in Northeastern Minnesota for District Heating Needs. Accepted for publication in Better Forests magazine.
- Johnson B, Brei D, Patera J. Application of SMA Technology to Auxiliary Functions in Appliances. Proceedings San Diego SPIE Conference 2002.
- Johnson B, Brei D. Investigation of Shape Memory Alloy (SMA) Mechanism Design for Appliance Applications. Whirlpool Corporation Fellowship Paper 2001.

## Conference Presentations and Professional Activities

- Conference Paper Presentations
  - SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) Conference, Ireland 2023
  - 9th International Research Symposium on PBL 2023 (IRSPBL 2023) and Transforming Engineering Education (TEE 2023) Conference, Boston, MA, June 2023
  - American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference & Exposition, Minneapolis, MN, June 2022
  - 9th International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education and the 15th Active Learning in Engineering Education Workshop. Brasilia, Brazil, February 2018
  - SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) Conference. Azores, Portugal, September 2017
  - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Annual Conference. Erie, PA, October 2016
  - SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) Conference. Tampere, Finland, September 2016
  - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Annual Conference. El Paso, Texas, October 2015
  - International Research Symposium on PBL (IRSPBL). San Sebastian, Spain, July 2015
  - International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education (PAEE). San Sebastian, Spain, July 2015
  - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference. Madrid, Spain, October 2014
  - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference. Rapid City, SD. October 2011
  - International Research Symposium on PBL. Coventry, U.K. November 2011
  - American Society of Engineering Educ. (ASEE) Conference. Vancouver, CA June 2011
  - ASEE North Midwest Section Conference, Mankato, MN. October 2010
  - ASEE Global Colloquium on Engineering Education, Singapore. October 2010
  - Society for Optics and Photonics Technology (SPIE) – San Diego, CA, 2002
- Invited Speaker
  - Self-Directed Learning & Professional Skill Development, Int. Research Symposium Project-Based Learning (IRSPBL), Tshingua University, China. October 2018.
  - Heating the Midwest Conference. Minneapolis, MN. April 2015. Speaker: “How a Minnesota Community College is Leveraging Locally Available Forest Biomass for Campus Heat.”
  - Heating the Midwest Conference. Carlton, MN. April 2013. Speaker: “How a Minnesota Community College is Leveraging Locally Available Forest Biomass for Campus Heat.”
  - Native American Biomass Conference. Carlton, MN. December 2012. Speaker: “Itasca Community College Biomass Project.”
  - National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) Symposium. October 2011. Panel Speaker: “Enhancing the Community College Pathway to Engineering Careers for Underrepresented Minority Students.”
  - 2010 National Academy of Engineering 2YR – 4YR Engineering/Technology Transfer Pilot. Meeting hosted by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE)
- Invited Participant at National Professional Activities
  - April 2019 Colloquium on the Global State of the Art in Engineering Education at MIT and Olin College, invited 2019 participant, member of planning committee for 2020 colloquium.
  - May 2013 "Transforming Undergraduate Education in Engineering" workshop sponsored by American Society for Engineering Education. 1 of 7 academic institutions invited
  - September 2013 “Identifying and Surmounting Impediments to Implementing Diversification Efforts in Engineering Education” workshop hosted by the Keck Center of National Academies
  - 2010 National Academy of Engineering 2YR – 4YR Engineering/Technology Transfer Pilot Meeting hosted by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE)
- June 2019 Member of Dissertation Defense Committee for EdD candidate [REDACTED], Minnesota State University – Moorhead.