

DR. JESSALYN SABIN

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Creative and results-driven academic leader with a strong background in **innovative academic programming and community engagement**. Proven expertise in **strategic planning, grant acquisition, workforce development, and student success initiatives**. Passionate about **equity in education, rural opportunities, and the students we serve**.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Educational Leadership

Minnesota State University Moorhead | [REDACTED]

- **Concentration:** Higher Education Leadership
- **Dissertation:** “Communicating Change During a College Merger Process: A Grounded Theory Approach”

Certificate in Instructional Coaching and Leadership (Teacher Leadership)

Minnesota State University Moorhead | [REDACTED]

Master of Science, Integrated Biosciences

University of Minnesota Duluth | [REDACTED]

- **Concentration:** Ecological & Evolutionary Genetics

Bachelor of Science, Biology (Cum Laude)

University of Minnesota Duluth | [REDACTED]

- **Concentration:** Plant Biology & Evolutionary Ecology
 - **Minors:** Deaf Studies, Chemistry
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ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Academic Dean, Career and Technical Programs | Eveleth Campus Director

Minnesota North College (formerly Northeast Higher Education District) | 2021 – Present

Key Achievements & Initiatives:

- **Secured major grants, totaling \$7.6M** including:
 - \$450K (IRRR) for Program Redesign for Artificial Intelligence (2026-2027)
 - \$985K (IRRR) for Manufacturing program establishment and equipment (2025-2026)
 - Additional match secured from private foundation grant (\$341K, total \$1.3M)
 - \$1.97M (Federal EDA) to build and outfit mobile Welding & HVAC training trailers (2024-2026)
 - Additional match secured from private foundations (\$330K; total \$2.3M)
 - \$343K (National Science Foundation) to create Advanced Diagnostics micro-credential (2024-2027)
 - \$120K (Minnesota State) for Diesel Technician program redesign with work-based learning (2025)
 - \$520K (IRRR) Welding program safety and innovation upgrades (2024)
 - \$100K (Patricia Emberg Family Trust) Cobot welder project (2024)
 - \$200K (Women’s Fdn MN) EMPOWER Women in Trades equity-focused program expansion (2024)
 - \$333K (IRRR) Early Childhood Credential Stacking and Coaching project (2023-2025)
 - \$305K (IRRR) Electrical Controls and Electrical Construction Program Development (2023-2025)
 - \$313K (Patricia Emberg Family Trust) Learning in Field Community Lab Grant (2023)
 - \$150K (Women’s Fdn MN) EMPOWER Women in Trades wrap around supports (2022)
 - \$176K (Patricia Emberg Family Trust) Technical Education Lab Enhancement (2022)
 - \$900K (IRRR) Transportation Simulation Center implementation (2019- 2022)

- **Expanded and redesigned program offerings**, including:
 - IT Networking & Security campus location expansion (2025)
 - Manufacturing Diploma and Automation Certification Creation (2025)
 - Culinary Program Redesign (2024)
 - Welding entry-level diploma offered at The Forge in Grand Rapids (2024)
 - 11-month work-based learning Diesel Technician program (2023)
 - Early Childhood Stackable Credentials project (2023)
 - Graphic Design and Visual Communication multi-campus model (2022)
- **Strengthened workforce education collaborations** by:
 - Partnering with Leech Lake Tribal Employment Rights Office to provide credit and non-credit Welding programming in Grand Rapids
 - Developing Bois Forte Program Fair with Enrollment and Aspire North equity team
 - Piloting justice-impacted student programming and outreach with Northeast Regional Correction Center and Togo
 - Collaborate with 23rd Veteran to offer veteran mental health programming on Eveleth campus
- **Led major accreditation processes** for technical programs (ASE, AED, AWS, CODA, CoAEMSP, NACCLS), as well as serving key role in multiple Higher Learning Commission visits and assurance arguments
- **Pioneered innovative initiatives**, including:
 - Incorporation of virtual reality into transportation programming
 - Developing and overseeing remote learning coordination role to outreach to new communities
 - Expanding remote learning options, including mobile trailer development and additional location establishment
 - Promoting and participating in Equity by Design pilot cohort at Minnesota North College
 - Conceptualization and implementation of Aspire North project to secure \$3M Blandin Foundation grant
- **Metrics of success** include:
 - Three-fold increase in applications in Diesel Technician program after redesign
 - Doubled enrollment in EMPOWER programs since 2022; 88% program retention rate of 104 students in FY2025
 - Incorporation of disaggregated student demographic data into program review
 - Doubled enrollment in programs of development focus, such as Electrical Controls and Maintenance and certificate courses in Early Childhood
 - Tripled access to summer camp programming for technical trades since 2022
 - \$184K in leveraged equipment donations in CTE departments alone in fiscal year 2025
 - Waitlists established in multiple programs in fall 2025
 - Incorporation of AI into new program curricula
 - Over 100 students enrolled in Addiction Studies degree options in 2025

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee curriculum development and program review
- Develop and manage academic budgets
- Recruit, mentor, and evaluate faculty and staff
- Facilitate community partnerships to align educational programs with workforce needs
- Advocate for DEI and remote learning initiatives
- Represent the college on state and community boards

System Office Related Service:

- Board of Trustees Teaching Awards Selection Committee
- Minnesota State Policy Council
- Minnesota Learning Commons Steering Committee
- Minnesota State Innovation Shark Tank Shark/Judge
- Minnesota State Manufacturing Center of Excellence Advisory Board

Interim Dean of Academics

Hibbing Community College (HCC) | 2019 – 2021

Rainy River Community College (RRCC) | 2020–2021

Key Achievements & Initiatives:

- Provided leadership for academic programs across **two independently accredited colleges simultaneously**
- Secured **\$110K Z-Degree zero-cost textbook** A.A. path development (Minnesota State) (110K in 2021, 10K in 2019)
- Secured **\$900K to develop a transportation simulation project** (IRRR) at Hibbing campus (2020)
- Awarded **\$60K to Expand Empower wrap-around supports** for women in trades programs (2020)
- Led **two Higher Learning Commission site visits** (Hibbing 2019, Rainy River 2020)
- Led **COVID-19 era infrastructure projects** for two campuses to engage students remotely when possible, or in restructured lab environments for technical programs
- Co-led the **Counseling, Advising and Retention Innovation Team** and the **Technology Innovation Team** to redesign these departments during the Minnesota North College merger process
- **Cultivated a community of care and respect** during significant changes: COVID-19 and an organizational merger process

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- **Minnesota Diversified Industries (MDI) Board of Directors** (2025—Present)
- **FIRST Robotics Judge** (2024—Present)
- **American Auxiliary of University Women (AAUW)**, Hibbing Chapter (2024—Present)
- **Northeast Service Cooperative CTE Board** (2024—Present)
- **St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board** (2023—Present)
- **True North Perkins Consortium Board** (Vice Chair, 2023 —Present)
- **National Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)** (2023—Present)
- **DAWN (Driving Access to Wealth and Networks) Advisory Board** (2022—Present)
- **Fairview Range Regional Health Services Board of Directors** (Chair, 2019 – Present)
- **M Health Fairview State Community Health Advisory Board** (2019—Present)
- **Chisholm Downtown Revitalization Committee** (2017—Present)
- **Chisholm Community Education Advisory Board** (2017—2025)
- **Minnesota Discovery Center Board of Directors** (2016—2022)
- **ReGen Northland Cofounder, Board of Directors** (2014—2018)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & RECOGNITION

- **Certified Master Gardener**, University of Minnesota Extension (2024 – Present)
- **Young American Leaders Program, U of M Carlson School of Business and Harvard School of Business** (2023)
- **National Science Foundation Mentor Connect Mentee** (2022 – Present)
- **Mental Health First Aid Certified** (2020)
- **Minnesota State Board of Trustees Teaching Award Outstanding Educator** (2019)
- **Minnesota State College Faculty Union Leadership Program** (2017-2018)
- **Hibbing Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program** (2017)
- **Blandin Community Leadership Program Graduate** (2016)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Biology Instructor

Hibbing Community College (HCC) | 2013 – 2019

- **Designed new courses** and taught a variety of biology and anatomy classes
- Founded and/or led **faculty committees** focused on sustainability, mentorship, and accreditation
- Championed Open Educational Resources (OER) to **reduce textbook costs** for students
- Reviewed Open Educational Resources **nationally**
 - MN State Open Textbook Review Program, OpenStax Biology, Biology Concepts, and Microbiology Textbooks 2015, 2018, 2019
- Created a **community garden** on campus

Graduate Teaching Assistant & Researcher

University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) | ██████████

- Promoted to **lead teaching assistant**; guided other TAs on how to teach
- Assisted in teaching biology coursework and **supervised undergraduate researchers**
- **Awarded Outstanding Teaching Assistant** Swenson College of Science and Engineering 2013
- Conducted **evolutionary genetics and climate change research**

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

- *“Communicating Change During a College Merger Process: A Grounded Theory Approach”* (Dissertation, ██████████)
- *“Rapid and Accurate Methods for Measuring Powdery Mildew Infection in Natural Plant Populations”* (Native Plants Journal, 2019)
- *“Maternal effects of *Erysiphaceae cichoracearum* infection, manipulated flowering time and water availability on polyploid *Solidago altissima*”* 2012-2013
- *“Will climate change influence disease susceptibility? A study of natural polyploids with manipulated flowering time exposed to contrasting water-availability conditions”* 2011-2013
- *“Phenotypic Plasticity in Leaf Attributes of Different Ploidy Levels of *Solidago Altissima*”* (NCUR Proceedings, 2012)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- **DAWN Workforce Development Series**, Northspan (2025)
- **Workforce Innovations in Rural: Career & Technical Education in Rural** while connecting with goMARTI, Customized Training, and Aspire North (2023)
- U of M Extension Center for Community Vitality **“Vital Connections, Ep. 4”** (2017)
- **Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board**, Recharge the Range Forum: Strategic Roadmap for Economic Development (2016)
- **Minnesota Public Radio** “How Young People are Revitalizing the Iron Range” (2016)