

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Election shout-out

Mark Grant, MSCF Chair Governmental Relations/Lobbyist

A couple weeks ago, on the heels of the election, I took to this publication to say thank you to all of you for your work on behalf of MSCF in the 2018 election. In the 3 weeks since then, through lots of conversations and meetings, the scope of that work has increasingly come into focus. I am very proud of our level of engagement across the state, but I also feel compelled to take a minute and acknowledge some of our faculty who did what was asked of them and then, just kept doing more.

Let me stress, this IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST and the mere fact that I discovered some of this work after the fact leads me to believe that I probably missed A BUNCH more. If you know of faculty whose efforts this past election cycle deserve a “shout out,” please contact me and let me know. I will post updates to this article as long as I need to.

So in absolutely no particular order, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of: Andy Aspaas on the Cambridge campus partnered with the student association had great success in registration, pledge to vote, and vote events.

Mindy Rannow, Jenna Hanson & Mary Gruis on the Ridgewater campuses had tons of 1:1 conversations with drop off voters. They also had a fantastic GOTV effort and even went so far as to have created and played GOTV Jeopardy – “What is. . . Awesome?”

Amanda Olson & Beth Hentges kept everyone on the Century campus informed and engaged through countless conversations, pledge cards, GOTV reminder postcards and text messages, and, one of Lt Governor Flanagan’s favorite events, a student Q&A forum with Peggy.

Laurie Wolfe at Anoka Ramsey did. . . well. . . EVERYTHING. Seriously, too many engagement activities to list, she set the standard for 1:1 conversations and she organized a voter registration

drive on her campus which was featured on WCCO news. Anytime I heard of something happening on a campus and I asked “who and where?”, the answer was inevitably “Laurie Wolfe at Anoka Ramsey.”

We had some success getting the now Governor/Lt. Governor Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan to several of our campuses. Faculty often had a week to prepare, sometimes less than a day. But in every case, our faculty stepped up and delivered. Karlin Krebs and Anna Sackette-Urness at Lake Superior, Matt Dempsy at Normandale, Tom Eland and Amanda Mills at Minneapolis College, Mary Belanger at Dakota County Tech and Maglina Lubovich at Fond du Lac all did amazing jobs showing off our campuses and representing the best of our profession. I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention that in the cases of Karlin, Anna, Mary and Maglina, they also arranged larger candidate forums that featured candidates for federal office and in doing so, really made our campuses vital hubs of civic engagement for our students.

Mindy Travers and Natasha Fleischmann at St Paul College not only hosted Peggy on a visit, but managed to pull off an entire day of early voting on their campus. Speaking as someone who was told “NO” over and over and over again, I cannot convey how much work this was. It involved weeks and weeks of planning and prepping the campus and the students. It was a massive success and serves as a model of what our campuses should be.

Let me wrap up by saying in the days leading up to the 6th, we had a sort of “GOTV blitz” – a last big push focusing heavily on conversations about what was at stake for us as a union. This happened in the final days at a time when everyone was pretty tired of politics. Still, we saw a great response on campuses like Hennepin Tech, Anoka Tech, St Cloud, Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Wadena, Alexandria, East Grand Forks, North-

west Tech, and Detroit Lakes - all of which involved coordination between local leaders, state officers and field staff. It would not have been possible without the efforts of folks like Rick Sterling, Marcus Lacher, David Heikes, Ed Tillman, Bob & Vicki Kapitzke, Jason Fischer, Jennifer Sati, Matt Rogers, Darin Grubb, KC Hanson, Jay Sieling, Bobbie Bernstetter, Steve King, Steve Nelson, Mark Johnson, and Mary Amundson.

So once again, whether you were motivated by your field, your profession, your students or your union, THANK YOU for your efforts this past election.

MSCF Bargaining Survey

Your MSCF bargaining team has met three times this fall to start discussing the direction negotiations may lead. Along with these meetings, the state MSCF office has also sent the letter to Minnesota State to open negotiations for the MSCF/Minnesota State Master Agreement.

The bargaining team is asking you, the faculty, to fill out the following [contract survey](#) by midnight of Dec. 10. The fast turnaround is necessary to get your ideas, concerns and thoughts into the hands of the bargaining team early enough to process the survey and to open negotiations as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for taking time to complete the survey and giving direction to your negotiations team.

Kent Quamme,
MSCF Chief Negotiator

Reimagining MinnState

As you have heard, the MinnState Board of Trustees have initiated a process called “Reimagining Minnesota State.” I’m writing today to

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ask you to show up and/or tune-in to the first public events connected to this initiative.

More information about this initiative can be found here: <http://www.minnstate.edu/board/reimagining.html>

Because faculty are at the heart of the educational mission of the colleges, we believe we have a very important role in monitoring these conversations. Your presence—virtual or in person—establishes our presence in these conversations.

The first “forum session” is Monday, December 10, 8am at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. You can RSVP for the event at the MinnState website above. Further, if you plan on attending or watching the live stream of the event, please also let us know through this [link](#). This helps us identify members who will be in attendance so we can reach out later for feedback about the event.

If you cannot attend or watch the streaming of this first event but would still like updates and opportunities to be a part of this initiative as it unfolds, you can still sign up on this page <http://www.cvent.com/d/vbqvxj>

I look forward to seeing many of you there for these sessions, and thank you for your commitment to the work we do with students.

Matt Williams,
MSCF Vice President