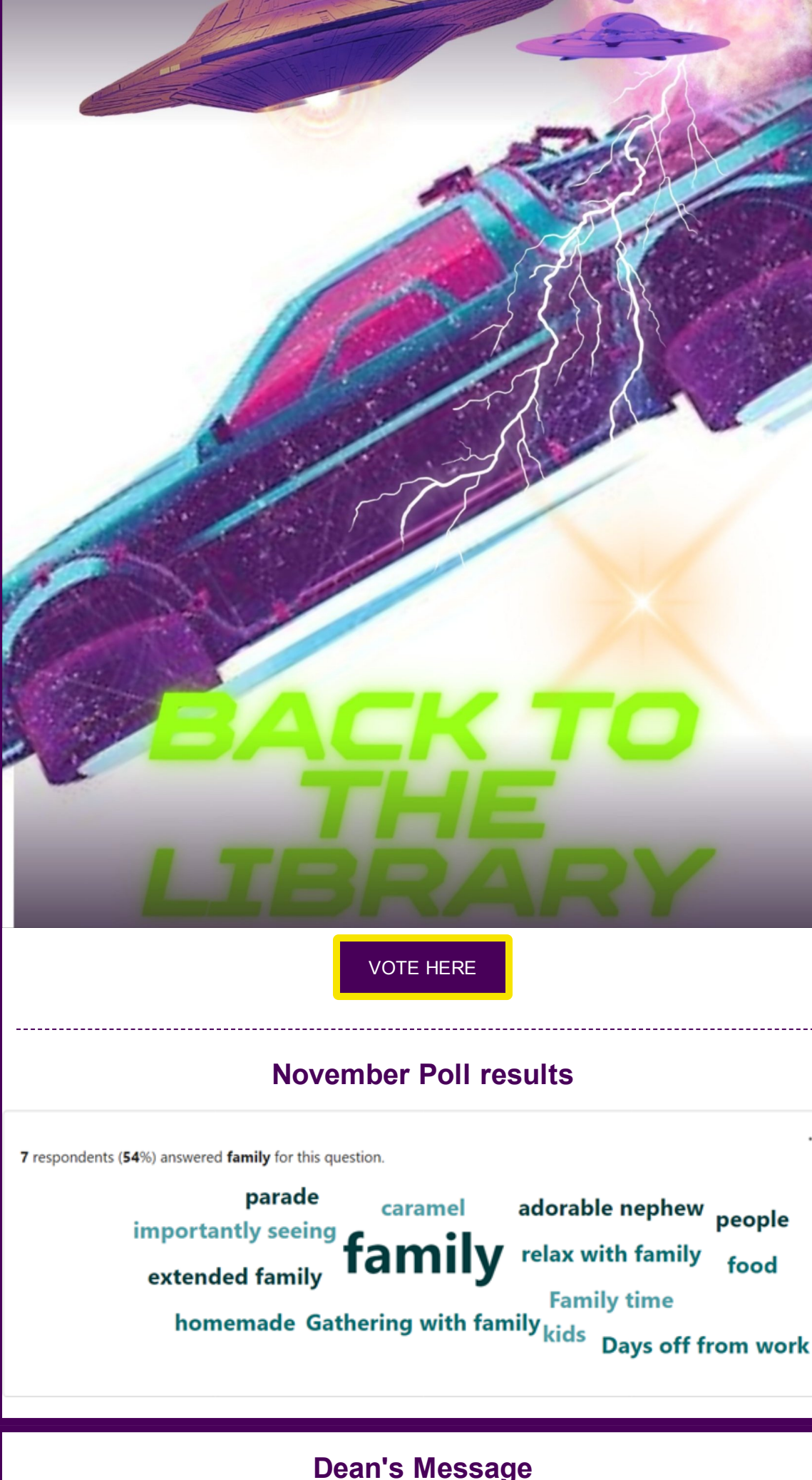
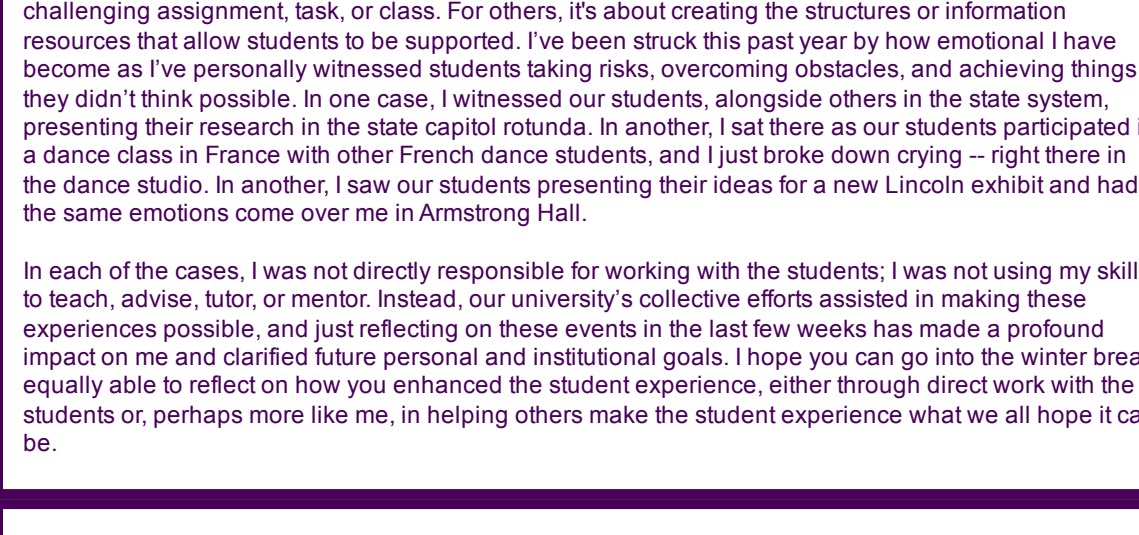


Poll Time

Ruin a movie title with the word **LIBRARY**.



November Poll results



Dean's Message

Soon, journalists throughout the globe will be reflecting on the past year. We see the "year in photos" and other highlights emerging in online and media. Do some of the good times take shape or the past twelve months and consider some of our most impactful activities. For many in Library & Learning, those impactful work activities might be related to supporting a student or a fellow colleague through a challenging assignment, task, or class. For others, it's about creating structures or information resources that allow students to be supported. I've been struck this past year by how emotional I have become as I've personally witnessed students taking risks, overcoming obstacles, and achieving things they didn't think possible. In one case, I witnessed our students, alongside others in the state system, presenting their research in the state capital rounds in another fall term as our students participated in a dance class in France with other French dance students, and I just broke down crying – right there in the dance studio. In another, I saw our students presenting their ideas for a new Lincoln exhibit and had the same emotions come over me in Armstrong Hall.

In each of these cases, I was not directly responsible for working with the students; I was not using my skills to teach, advise, tutor, or mentor. Instead, our university's collective efforts assisted in making these experiences possible, and just reflecting on these events in the last few weeks has made a profound impact on me and clarified future personal and institutional goals. I hope you can go into the winter break equally able to reflect on how you enhanced the student experience, either through direct work with the students or perhaps more like me, in helping others make the student experience what we all hope it can be.

Student Spotlight

Honors Program



Several Honors Program students joined a group of Minnesota State Mankato students in the Dakota Language Bowl. The students were led by Professor Glen Wasicuna.

As they work to develop their competencies, several Honors Program students have been in the news lately. The Honors Program at Minnesota State Mankato is unique across the country in its emphasis on competency demonstrations in three areas: leadership, research and creative works, and intercultural engagement. The program assists students in identifying key learning experiences across their curricula, and in linking those experiences to applied activities where the students can practice theories first learned in their classrooms. Students eventually demonstrate their competencies in an electronic portfolio which they develop with a faculty committee.

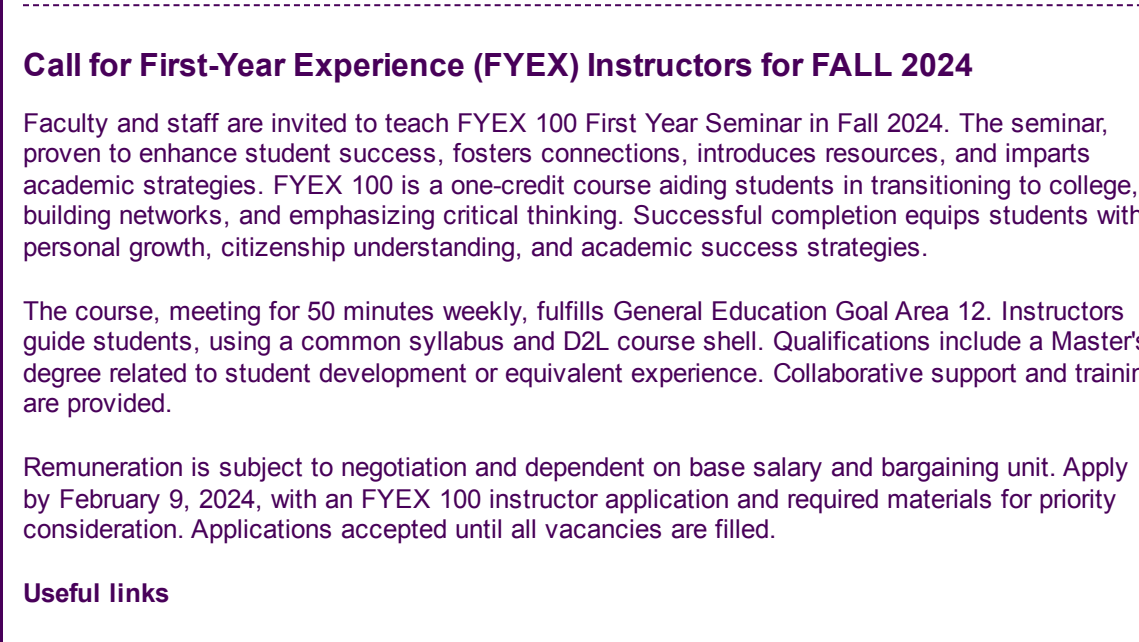
Honors students Roshi Niraula (Computer Science, '25) and Rebekka Jay (Management and Political Science '26) were the final two candidates for the special Student Government Vice President elections. Niraula narrowly defeated Jay after several weeks of debate among student senators. Honors student Milan Shih (Computer Science, '25) recently won the College of Business "Big Issues Challenge" with his idea to develop an app that assists students in managing multiple life responsibilities.

Three honors students, Aidan Fortberg (Biomedical Sciences, '24), Kennedy Weber (Biochemistry '23), and Isabella Heitman (Biological Sciences, '24) were part of a larger student-led project that contributed to a peer-reviewed publication in the recent *Annals of Hematology*. Their research on diffuse large B-cell lymphoma was supervised by Dr. Keenan Harter (Department of Biological Sciences). Funding for their project was provided by a Minnesota State Mankato Faculty Research Grant, and Undergraduate Research Center Foundation Grant, and the Minnesota State Mankato faculty start up fund.

Finally, three honors students, Henry Bowling-McDonough (Anthropology and Spanish, '24), Evan Byrland (Creative Writing, '25), and Miles Frack (Journalism, '23) furthered their intercultural competencies by participating, along with a larger group of Minnesota State Mankato students, in the Dakota Language Bowl. This event is hosted by the Lower Sioux Community in Morton, Minnesota, where individuals across the great plains, from Minnesota to North Dakota and Canada, gathered to compete in demonstrating their proficiency in the Dakota language.

Program Highlight

Empowering Futures: TRIO ETS Hosts Impactful FAFSA Completion sessions.



TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) hosted two parent nights featuring Rachel Sherlock, Associate Director of Financial Aid, as the keynote presenter. Sherlock walked families through the FAFSA process. ETS coordinated with all participating ETS schools, families, and seniors high school students, and academic advisors. FAFSA 100 is a one-credit course aiding students in transitioning to college, building networks, and emphasizing critical thinking. Successful completion equips students with personal growth, citizenship understanding, and academic success strategies.

The course, meeting for 50 minutes weekly, fulfills General Education Goal Area 12, Instructional guide students, using a common syllabus and D2L course shell. Qualifications include a Master's degree related to student development or equivalent experience. Collaborative support and training are provided.

Remuneration is subject to negotiation and dependent on base salary and bargaining unit. Apply by February 9, 2024, with an FYEX-100 instructor application and required materials for priority consideration. Applications accepted until all vacancies are filled.

Announcements

Textbook Affordability and OER Learning Circles

Did you know that Librarians and Instructional Designers can help you lower the cost of course materials through the use of Library Materials, Open Educational Resources (OER), or low-to-cost instructional materials?

Whether it is through including textbooks in the [Library Course Reserves](#) program, creating your own open educational resources, or working with librarians to identify a custom selection of course readings, including journal articles and eBooks, we can help. You can also let your students know about the [Library Textbook Program](#). To learn more about how Library Services and IT Solutions can support your course with Library and Open Resources, visit our [Course Materials Support webpage](#) or contact us through this [form](#).

[Start or continue your OER journey with OER Learning Circles](#)

Join OER Learning Circles applications open now. [Apply for the Spring 2024 cohort by January 12](#)

Collaborate with other Minnesota State faculty from across the system who are committed to saving students on the cost of textbooks and course resources by using open educational resources (OER).

Participants receive compensation in the form of 2.5 duty days.

Learn more in the [ASA Newsletter](#).

Call for First-Year Experience (FYEX) Instructors for FALL 2024

Faculty and staff are invited to teach FYEX 100 First Year Seminar in Fall 2024. The seminar, proven to enhance student success, fosters connections, introduces resources, and imparts academic strategies. FYEX 100 is a one-credit course aiding students in transitioning to college, building networks, and emphasizing critical thinking. Successful completion equips students with personal growth, citizenship understanding, and academic success strategies.

The course, meeting for 50 minutes weekly, fulfills General Education Goal Area 12, Instructional guide students, using a common syllabus and D2L course shell. Qualifications include a Master's degree related to student development or equivalent experience. Collaborative support and training are provided.

Remuneration is subject to negotiation and dependent on base salary and bargaining unit. Apply by February 9, 2024, with an FYEX-100 instructor application and required materials for priority consideration. Applications accepted until all vacancies are filled.

Useful links

Application Procedures:

[FYEX-100 instructor application](#)

Adjunct faculty only: Upload a current vita in the [adjunct hiring form](#)

Syllabus and Schedule sample

<https://link.mnsu.edu/fyex-sample-syllabus>

Office of University Fellowships' December 2023 Bulletin



Welcome to the [Office of University Fellowships Monthly Bulletin](#)!

Please feel free to share the bulletin and contact info with students or peers.

Unsure of what the Fellowships Office can offer you or your students? Check out their website [here](#).

Events

TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) Outreach: "I'm First" (November 3-4, 2023)

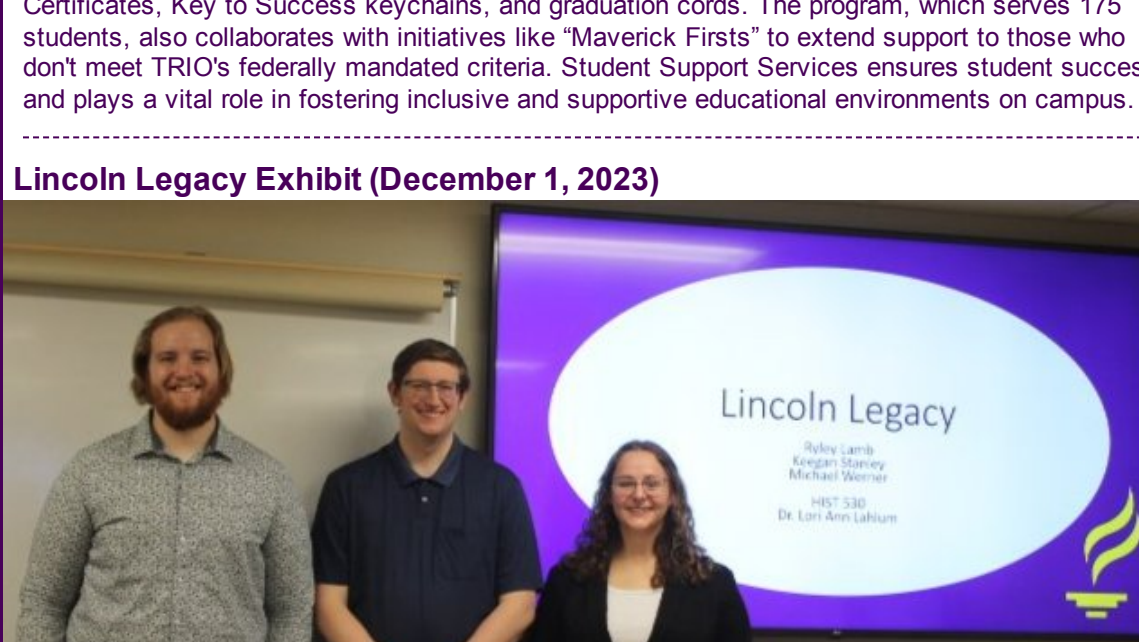
On November 3-4, TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) took students to Southwestern Minnesota State University for an "I'm First" celebration. This collaborative effort between the Minnesota State Mankato ETS and SMSU Upward Bound programs promoted and supported current students' goals. Students participated in round tables with first generation leaders and current students about college engagement, the "how to" and "insider's" of college, and participated in many interactive activities demonstrating their skills that would assist as they navigate through their journey to college.

Library Services Disaster Team: Disaster and Preparedness Training (November 29, 2023)

The Library Disaster Team provided disaster and emergency preparedness training throughout the year, including opportunities like CPR/AED Training. On November 29, Campus Security Officers Sydney Hoffman and Bunissaovia LeK-Guerrero staff members offered a three-hour training on CPR and AED usage for adults, children, and infants. The engaging presentation by the Campus Security Officers ensured that the participants quickly grasped the concepts and achieved certification.

The officers addressed topics on University Security response times, AED battery checking, and dispelled common misconceptions portrayed in television shows about AED usage. The class concluded with instruction on assisting choking adults and infants. Seven Library Services employees obtained their Red Cross certification in CPR/AED, valid for two years. Due to the positive response, the Disaster Team anticipates offering this training opportunity again in the future.

Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences: A Collaboration between History, the URC, and Library Services (November 30, 2023)



Dr. Jill Cooley (History and Gender and Women's Studies) recently concluded a unique end-of-semester event that showcased the culmination of a first-year writing-intensive course in "United States History Since 1877." Departing from the traditional format of semester papers, Dr. Cooley introduced a hands-on approach, immersing students in a research poster project. The project aimed to provide students with valuable experience in utilizing the library's collections for research and collaborating directly with Professor Daanid Nixon, fostering a deeper engagement with the subject. To emulate a real conference setting, students presented their research posters at Memorial Library, where they had access to computer resources and were already familiar with the environment.

Over a two-day period, students presented their research posters, offering a diverse array of topics and emphasized the practical application of historical research skills. In a recent conversation with Dr. Cooley, she shared her thoughts on the event, expressing delight at the outcome. "I've never given the assignment of a research poster before, so I didn't know what to expect. While it's a common format for historians at conferences, it's not something I've personally done. The students, with guidance from the Undergraduate Research Center (URC) and myself, not only met but exceeded my expectations. Some truly knocked it out of the park."

The students' research posters demonstrated the desired learning outcomes, showcasing their ability to conduct thorough research, effectively communicate historical narratives, and create visually compelling presentations. Looking ahead, Dr. Cooley is enthusiastic about incorporating this innovative project into future courses. "We're currently planning our fall 2024 schedule, and I intend to teach another 191V class, continuing this project. The positive response and the quality of the students' work have affirmed its value as a pedagogical tool."

Written by Raby Dieng

TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) End of Year Event (November 30, 2023)



The TRIO SSS Program recently hosted a celebration of 20 students to mark the cheerful conclusion of the fall semester, especially for our fall graduates. The SSS Program assists first-generation college students, low-income individuals, and those requiring accessibility resources.

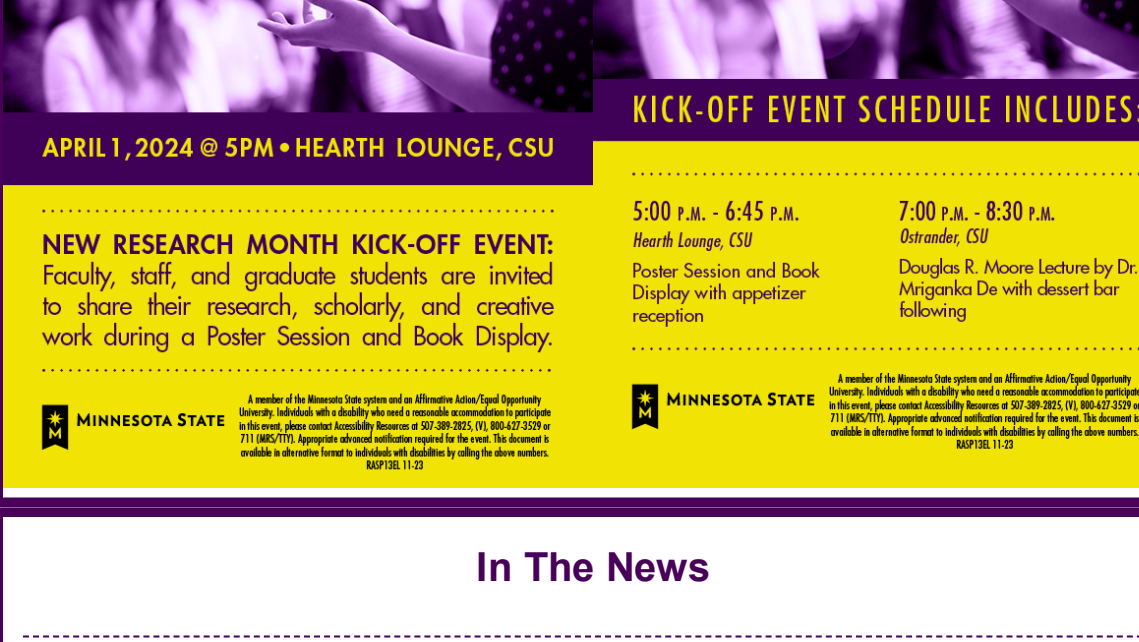
During the event, students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher were recognized with Senior Honors Certificates, Key to Success keys, and graduation cords. The program, which serves 175 students, also collaborates with initiatives like "Maverick First" to extend support to those who don't meet TRIO's federally mandated criteria. Student Support Services ensures student success and plays a vital role in fostering inclusive and supportive educational environments on campus.

Lincoln Legacy Exhibit (December 1, 2023)



Dr. Lori Latham and Daanid Nixon (History and Gender and Women's Studies, Library Services) led students in a course that furthered work on the new Lincoln Exhibit. Students conducted research, met with scholars from the University of South Dakota and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, visited panels and presented their work to a group of administrators, faculty, and other students.

GA Event Dean Corley's house (December 3, 2023)



Several Library & Learning graduate assistants took a study break at Dean Corley's house. The students compared their semester experiences, decorated cookies, and took home some study snacks.

Upcoming Events

Research Month Kick-Off

KICK-OFF EVENT SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

APRIL 1, 2024 @ SPM + HEARTH LOUNGE, CSU	5:00 PM - 6:45 PM	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
NEW! RESEARCH MONTH KICK-OFF EVENT: Faculty, staff, and graduate students are invited to share their research, scholarly, and creative work during a Poster Session and Book Display.	Poster Session and Book Display (open to all)	Dr. Raby Dieng (Library)

In The News

Essay writing tips: Getting through finals the "write" way
MSU Reporter [Read More](#)

Dr. Donald Gilnes Obituary
Mankato Free Press [Read More](#)

Student Government Elected
New VP, MSU Reporter [Read More](#)

Share Your Thoughts!!!

In a commitment to delivering content that matters to you, we would like to gather your feedback to help us improve and tailor our newsletter to your preferences. What topics would you like to see more of? Any suggestions for improvement? Your insights matter!

[Share Your Feedback](#)

Got a lead? Submit here.