

Mesabi Range Foundation Newsletter

Volume 1
Number 9
February 2025

Foundation Update

By Scott Wirtanen, Foundation Coordinator

It has been another exciting and busy few months in the Foundation Office as we disburse the Spring semester scholarships and begin to work with our donors for contributions for the 2025-26 academic year.

In September, 2024, the Foundation Office was notified that we were successful in obtaining a \$50,000 grant to be used for scholarships on the Eveleth Campus. The Emberg Charitable Trust granted the Foundation \$50,000 to be used for 20 - \$2,500 scholarships for students in the Welding, Electrical Controls Maintenance or Industrial Mechanical Technology programs. These scholarships will be awarded for the 2025-26 academic year. Additionally, the Foundation is excited to announce the receipt of two major donations:

- Ed and Cora Remus donated \$100,000 to establish a scholarship fund to provide a \$5,000 annual award to a 2nd year Engineering student intending and progressing towards a Bachelor's Degree. Ed, a 1960 graduate of Roosevelt High School and a 1962 graduate of Virginia Junior College, earned his Chemical Engineering degree at the University of Minnesota. In 1970 Ed received his Law Degree from DePaul University and thereafter practiced as a patent lawyer specializing in Patent Litigation. Ed retired in 2012 as a partner in McAndrews, Held and Malloy, a leading intellectual property law firm in Chicago.
- Dr. Michael Sher and his daughter Natalie Sher have donated \$50,000 to be used for renovations on the Mesabi Range Campuses. Dr. Sher was a 1958 graduate from Virginia Junior College, and practiced medicine in the State of New York. The donation was made, in part, because of Dr. Sher's fond memories of the college, and specifically his Chemistry instructor, Leroy Johnson, who was instrumental in guiding his decision to major in medicine.

The Foundation Office continues to work with the Athletic Department to develop etched plexiglass panels to honor those inducted into the Mesabi Range Athletic Hall of Fame. We also plan on having a list of Mesabi Range NJCAA All-Americans and Minnesota College Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Inductees on display in the gymnasium area on the Virginia campus.

The Foundation is excited to maintain our collaborative effort with all of the Minnesota North College campuses to utilize one scholarship portal for all students / potential students attending the Minnesota North College. This venture includes the Hibbing, Itasca, Mesabi Range, Rainy River and Vermilion Foundations. The scholarship portal provides opportunities for students to make one application to all of the scholarships they qualify for at the campus they are attending, as well as any additional scholarships provided through the Minnesota North College administrative offices.

If you have any questions regarding the Foundation, I can be reached at 218-550-2519.

Board Accomplishments and Future Goals

- September—November: Conducted a successful Annual Fund-Raising Campaign
- December: Award Spring, 2025 Foundation Scholarships
- February—April: Foundation Scholarship Application Portal open
- May: Award 2025 –26 Foundation Scholarships



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Calendar of Events

January 13	Spring Semester Begins
January 28	Foundation Board Meeting
February 25	Foundation Board Meeting
March 10-14	Spring Break
March 25	Foundation Board Meeting
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 22	Foundation Board Meeting Selection of Scholarship Recipients
May 14	Commencement Ceremony - Iron Trail Motors Event Center – 4:00 p.m.

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

Keeping up to Date Through the Website

As the college has transitioned from the Mesabi Range College to the Minnesota North College – Mesabi Range Campuses, several changes have been made to our website. You can keep up to date with the Mesabi Range College Foundation through our website, located at:

<https://mesabi-range.givenorth.org/>

A current listing of all the scholarships offered through the Foundation is available, along with an on-line portal to make donations directly to the Foundation. You can find the “Donate Now” link as follows:

- Go to the Mesabi Range College Foundation webpage (see web address above)
- Scroll down to “Ways to Give”
- Click on “Donations”
- Click on the “Donate” button

OR directly at - https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=B6NLHEQR8MDJA

Donor Profile—Edward & Cora Remus



Ed and Cora Remus donated \$100,000 to the Mesabi Range Foundation to establish a scholarship fund to provide a \$5,000 annual award to a second-year Engineering student intending and progressing towards a Bachelor's Degree.

Ed, a 1960 graduate of Virginia High School and a 1962 graduate of Virginia Junior College, earned his Chemical Engineering degree at the University of Minnesota. While at the University of Minnesota he received the prestigious Alworth Scholarship, and was named an Outstanding Senior Engineering Student. In 1970 Ed received his Law Degree

from DePaul University and thereafter practiced as a patent lawyer specializing in Patent Litigation. While practicing law, Ed was named as one of the World's Leading Patent Law Experts by Euromoney, and was listed as one of the top attorneys in Illinois by the Chicago magazine. Ed retired in 2012 as a partner in McAndrews, Held and Malloy, a leading intellectual property law firm in Chicago. In his retirement, Ed enjoys golfing, classical music, and worldwide travel.

Cora was the Valedictorian of the Class of 1960 at Conrad High School in Montana. In 1963 she earned her Registered Nursing degree from Carroll College. Cora worked at the University of Minnesota Hospital where she was a nurse on "Station 42", the Post-Surgical Care Unit for kidney and liver transplants. Cora has spent several years giving her time for public service organizations. She has worked tirelessly at the Hesed House, a homeless shelter in Aurora, Illinois. She also belongs to the Society of St. Vincent dePaul to aid and assist people fighting hunger, homelessness and poverty, and has worked for the Literacy Volunteers of America. Cora loves to sing, and has been a member in the Minnesota Chorale, the Elgin Master Chorale in Illinois, and various church choirs throughout her lifetime.

Ed and Cora are most proud of their four children and thirteen grandchildren.

In addition to the contribution to the Mesabi Range Foundation, Ed and Cora have also made substantial philanthropic scholarship contributions at the University of Minnesota (Engineering) and Carroll College (Nursing).

Congratulations to Tom Inforzato MCAC Co-Coach of the Year



Minnesota North College – Mesabi Range Head Football Coach Tom Inforzato was named Minnesota College Athletic Conference (MCAC) Co-Coach of the Year for the 2024 season. Inforzato led the Norse to a record of 4-4 and a berth in the MCAC Championship game where they dropped a tight 30-29 decision to the North Dakota State School of Science. He had 13 players receive All-MCAC Honors and five players receive All- Region XIII honors.

Donor Profile—Roy Carlson



Roy K. Carlson graduated from Virginia High School in 1948 and Virginia Junior College in 1950. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of MN-Duluth, and earned his Master's degree from Bemidji State University. Roy was the second male elementary teacher to be hired by the Hibbing School District, and taught 4th and 6th grades at the Washington Elementary School, and ended his career as a 4th grade instructor at the Cobb Cook Elementary.

Roy supported education and consequently established scholarships at the Virginia and Hibbing Public Schools and the Mesabi Range and Hibbing Community Colleges.

In 2012 Roy established two scholarships for the Mesabi Range Campuses. The Roy K. Carlson Education Scholarship is a \$2,500 annual award for a full-time student who plans on majoring in Education. The Carl G. Carlson Memorial Scholarship is a \$2,500 annual award for a full-time student who is pursuing a technical degree. Roy felt strongly about helping those students who can't afford an education to achieve their dreams. He also wanted to help those students who may need a second chance in life to

better themselves; thus, GPA wasn't the most important factor in his scholarship recipients.

Roy retired in 1983, and continued to be an active man and world traveler. He visited all seven continents and enjoyed exploring other cultures. He took daily bike rides from his cabin on Lake Vermilion to Cook, MN; a 20-mile round trip ride! He also enjoyed riding the Mesabi Trail when he was in town and also participated in the annual Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour from 2005 until 2015.

He enjoyed fishing, spending time at Lake Vermilion, ice skating, cross country skiing, and playing Cribbage with his nephews, great-nephews and great-nieces.

Roy passed away on April 6, 2022, at the age of 91. The Mesabi Range Foundation is grateful for the wonderful support Roy has provided the Foundation and the students at Mesabi Range.

Winter Sports—Men's Basketball

By Sara Matuszak

The 2024-25 MNC-Mesabi Range Norse have had an interesting season thus far. Last summer, Head Coach Tamara Moore stepped down as she took a position with the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. Three games into the season former Norse player Matt Breeden took over as Head Coach.

The Norse currently have a 8-11 record (3-2 MCAC North). The Norse opened the season with an upset win over perennial MCAC power Rochester 67-58. The next night the Norse fell to Riverland 99-67. The pressure Riverland put on the Norse had a tremendous effect on the game. The Norse returned home to open their home schedule falling to Dakota College-Bottineau, a NJCAA Division 2 school 80-64. The next day the Norse topped Sisseton-Wahpeton College 100-81. Unfortunately, the next week the Norse received some bad news as their wins over Rochester and Sisseton-Wahpeton were declared forfeit losses due an ineligible player.

The Norse traveled to Bismarck, ND to take on United Tribes Technical College (NJCAA Division 2), and Bismarck State College (NJCAA Division 1). Both teams were excellent from beyond the arc as the Norse fell on both days 110-70 vs United Tribes, 105-72 vs Bismarck State. The Norse finally earned their first win in the season rolling to a 112-64 victory over Leech Lake Tribal College. They followed that win up with comeback win over Anoka-Ramsey CC 85-79 as the Norse were down by as many as 14 points and rallied to win.

Men's Basketball—continued

As the calendar turned over to December, the Norse traveled to MNC-Itasca where the Norse topped the Vikings 77-74 in a highly competitive contest. Next, the Norse battled M State-Fergus Falls and St. Cloud Technical College at home. Unfortunately for the Norse they fell to two very good teams. 91-50 to M State-Fergus Falls, 71-53 to St. Cloud TC. The Norse embarked on the road to conclude 2024. They beat NJCAA Division 2 Dakota County 91-90 on a last second 3-point shot made by Sophomore Jamari Griffin. The next day the Norse traveled to Rochester where they fell 84-61.

As the new year started, the Norse opened up MCAC North play on the road at Central Lakes where they fell 97-72. The Norse returned home to face NJCAA Division 2 Gogebic where a layup by KeyVaughn Fields with 2.4 seconds sealed the 77-76 win. On Saturday, January 11, the Norse steamrolled over MNC-Hibbing 110-73 with 8 players reaching double figures.

The Norse MBB team includes: Freshman Tristan Coleman, Freshman Gideon Hulse, Sophomore Davion Jackson, Freshman Tyler Wilson, Freshman Jayden Coney, Freshman Tahje Johnson, Freshman KeyVaughn Fields, Freshman Javion Jackson, Freshman Darren Smith, Sophomore Mike Clark, Sophomore Len McClain, Sophomore JaMichael Foster, Sophomore Kristian Davis and Sophomore Jamari Griffin.

Remaining Home Games

2/1/25	Central Lakes	3:00 PM
2/19/25	MNC-Rainy River	7:00 PM



Winter Sports—Women's Basketball

By Sara Matuszak

The Women's Basketball team is still looking for their first victory of the season. With low numbers, injuries, and many more unpredictable challenges, they have had to be creative and work hard to compete in each game so far this season. Of course they would like more wins, but they've competed in every match, improved a lot, and had lots of fun!!

As they enter the half way point of the season, they look to continue to grow and improve as a team and achieve their goal of qualifying for the postseason. The Norse WBB team includes: Freshman Egypt Painte, Freshman Suzy Aubrey, Freshman Gabby Lira, Freshman Jenna Sacco-LaMusga, Freshman Hannah Edwards, Sophomore Katie Peck, Sophomore Destry Whitbeck, Sophomore Allie Bittman, and Sophomore Jerzie Gustafson.

Remaining Home Games

2/1/25	Central Lakes	1:00 PM
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Message from the Foundation Treasurer



Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are pleased to share an update on the solid financial strength of the Scholarship Funds that the Foundation's Board of Directors oversees. The funds invested have performed well in 2024 and have more than recovered the market losses experienced in the last couple of years.

Our Board collaborates closely with Patrick Furlong of Ameriprise, a trusted investment advisor who meets with the Board twice each year. Together, we work to achieve the best possible returns on our Endowment and Scholarship Funds while adhering to a fairly conservative investment profile. Measures are in place to mitigate significant market risks, safeguarding the funds that directly support our mission of supporting scholarships and selected campus projects.

Mesabi Range graduates give back! Dr. Michael Sher and his daughter Natalie Sher recently donated \$50,000 to be used for renovations on the Mesabi Range Campuses, and Ed and Cora Remus gave \$100,000 for a scholarship fund to provide a \$5,000 annual scholarship. A number of grants were also recently received. Generous donations made by faculty, alumni, individuals, and organizations ensure that Mesabi Range students at both the Virginia and Eveleth campuses have plenty of scholarship opportunities to support them financially as they progress through their educational programs.

Thank you for your confidence in the Board through your contributions, support, and belief in our shared purpose. Together, we are making a difference in students' lives and shaping a stronger, brighter future.

Great Things Are Happening at Mesabi!

New Board Member—Mary Gorman



Mary Gorman was born and raised in Hibbing, Minnesota, and attended the Hibbing public schools until graduation. She worked for a few years until she was laid off due to foreign imports and received AEOA assistance to attend college and pursue a degree.

Mary attended Mesabi Range Community and Technical College for the IMSP (Information Management Specialist Program) for two years and completed her Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. In her graduation year, she worked for the college as support for various projects, as a temporary employee, and applied and received a full-time position as receptionist/faculty support for the college. Through the years, she updated her skills and moved up in responsibility where she held the position of Executive Assistant to the Provost until her retirement in 2024, after 17 years of service.

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

Campus Update

By Jodi Pontinen, Campus Director of Operations



Martin Luther King Jr Day
On Monday, January 20th on the Virginia Campus we hosted several great speakers, a walk, and fun children’s activities.

Minnesota North College Web site 2.0

We were excited for the launch of our new web site on Tuesday, January 21. The speed, usability, and new look is the update that we have been waiting for.



Minnesota North Program Fair

Minnesota North College and The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa hosted a program fair on Friday, January 24, presented by We Are All Criminals.

We Are All Criminals is a non-profit organization dedicated to challenging society’s perceptions of what it means to be “criminal.” Through shared stories of those who committed or were accused of committing crimes, those who got away with them, and those who have been directly affected by the criminal justice system, we seek to erase the barriers that separate us. More information is available at their website: <https://www.weareallcriminals.org/about/>



This event was open to the community, campus staff, and students.

We are holding an **Open House** on the Virginia Campus— April 2 from 3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. This event offers prospective students, families, and community members an opportunity to explore the campus, meet faculty and staff, and learn about the college’s programs and services. Attendees can tour the facilities, ask questions about admissions and financial aid, and discover how Minnesota North College can support their educational and career goals.

For questions contact:

Carrie Hejda: carrie.hejda@minnesotanorth.edu or call/text: 218-410-2899

Congratulations on retiring go to:

Dawn Olson, Early Childhood Education Faculty
Phil Kuopus, General Repair Worker on the Eveleth Campus

Enrollment Update:

Compared to the same time last year (Jan. 1, 2024 to Jan. 1, 2025)
Minnesota North College is up 70.7 FYE or 7%.
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 6.95%

2025 Spring Scholarships

The following students received Foundation Scholarships for the 2025 Spring semester year:

The Voiture 634 408 Scholarship

Recipients: Liz Nelson, Myah Lossing

The Dan and Yvonne Webb Scholarship

Recipients: Carolina Villa, Jennifer Rivera, Rahel Workneh Tibebu, Aubrey Jackson

For more information contact Scott Wirtanen at (218) 550-2519 or scott.wirtanen@minnesotanorth.edu

What's New at Mesabi Range?

New Scholarship Opportunities for 2025-26

The Foundation is excited to announce the following new scholarship opportunities for the 2025-26 academic year for students on the Mesabi Range Campuses. A complete listing of the scholarship opportunities available for students attending MN North College – Mesabi Campuses are found on our website at <https://mesabi-range.givenorth.org/>

- **Emberg Charitable Trust Scholarship –**
The Foundation will award 20 - \$2,500 scholarships to students enrolled in the technical programs (Welding, Electrical Controls and Maintenance, and Industrial Mechanical Technology) that would assist students in developing the skills necessary to enter the iron mining industry.
- **St. Louis County Mineral Royalties Scholarship –**
The Foundation will award \$37,500 annually from a grant made available by St. Louis County. These scholarships can range from \$500 - \$2,500 annually, and is open to all students who received a high school diploma, or equivalent, while they were a resident of St. Louis County.
- **Ed and Cora Remus Engineering Scholarship –**
The Foundation will award a \$5,000 scholarship annually to a 2nd year Engineering student intending and progressing towards a Bachelor's Degree. Ed Remus, a 1962 graduate from Virginia Junior College, and his wife Cora have donated \$100,000 to the Foundation to fund one \$5,000 scholarship each year.
- **Quad Cities Lion's Scholarship—**
The Foundation will award a \$500 scholarship with a donation from the Quad Cities Lion's Club. The student must have attended the Eveleth-Gilbert, Mountain Iron-Buhl, Rock Ridge or Virginia High Schools. The recipient must have a record of school/community involvement and be a full-time student at Mesabi Range.
- **Virginia Elks Lodge #1003 Scholarship –**
The Foundation will award two \$1,000 scholarships with a donation from the Virginia Elks Lodge . The student must attend one of the Mesabi Range Campuses, and be a full-time student.

Scholarships!



The members of the Mesabi Range Foundation are grateful for your support of our students at Mesabi Range - Virginia and Eveleth campuses. The Mesabi Range College Foundation's mission is to support the Minnesota North College - Mesabi Range Campuses (Virginia and Eveleth) in the work it does to provide an extraordinary education to our students!

Your support has provided students with over \$100,000 in scholarships each year over the past several years. These funds make a real difference to our students, many of which are adult learners, athletes away from home, and local students from our community.

As the College has transitioned from Mesabi Range College to the Minnesota North College-Mesabi Range campuses, several changes have been made to the logo, name, and websites - but the mission of the Foundation and the students who rely on our support has not changed a bit. In fact, the need is great.

The Mesabi Range College Foundation

- ★ Facilitates approximately \$100,000 of tuition support annually through scholarships – \$3.0 million to over 5,200 students so far!
- ★ Accepts monetary donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations on behalf of Mesabi Range Campuses.
- ★ Facilitates in-kind donations and grant opportunities for the College.

Be part of the positive impact!

Make donations online: go to this webpage →

<https://mesabi-range.givenorth.org/ways-to-give/>

Click the "Give Now" button



- Mail a check made out to *Mesabi Range College Foundation* to
Mesabi Range College Foundation Office
1001 West Chestnut Street, Virginia, MN 55792



- Call Office Coordinator Scott Wirtanen at 218-550-2519



- Email foundation-mesabirange@minnesotanorth.edu
- Shop via the [AmazonSmile](#) Program

Thank you for your support!

Keep your compass pointed north to find the education you need. Minnesota North College offers programs in a variety of areas of expertise all designed to give you an on-campus college experience unlike anything else you will find. Our six campus locations across Northern Minnesota will ensure you find plenty of off campus activities as well. Let us help you reach your goal of finding an educational experience leading to the career of your dreams. All while you...

Head North



Mesabi Range Campus Foundation

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