



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

**MnSCU ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER**

*An Electronic Communication*

*June 2009*

<http://www.academicaffairs.mnscu.edu>

**WHATS WITH THE NEW LOOK OF EFOLIO MINNESOTA?**

You might have noticed that there is a new look to eFolioMinnesota (see [www.efoliomn.com](http://www.efoliomn.com)). Well not only is there a new look to eFolioMinnesota but Version 2 is now available to BOTH new and existing eFolio users. Version 2 (codenamed “xFolio”) has been in development for over a year and represents how eFolioMinnesota thinking/functionality has matured these past seven years (yes, it has been seven years).

As of June 9th, existing eFolio registered users (Version 1) are able to migrate their information to Version 2. Please note that the Version 2 user interface and functionality is significantly different from Version 1 (translation please review the migration checklist and consider viewing the video overview of Version 2 found at the support center). The overall reaction to Version 2 has been VERY positive!

Thanks for all of your support!!  
eFolioMinnesota/World Team

**STUDENTS FIRST INITIATIVE**

Over the past few years our System has engaged in several initiatives to improve the experience for our students regarding services such as application, registration, transfer, and payment, specifically for those students attending more than one institution simultaneously.

This past March the team members from two of these initiatives, the Integrated Student Services and REGIS projects, came together in a collaborative effort to lay out a road map for completing this goal. Over forty individuals from campuses and the Office of the Chancellor met over a two month period. The result of this collaboration is “Students First”. It focuses on six areas that will directly benefit students and will

position the system to engage students at a personal level - through a single view of the entire system. The six focus areas are:

- Single Search
- Single Application
- Single Registration
- Graduation Planner
- Single Bill/Payment
- Back-office Shared Services

The objective is that the student will be able to view Minnesota State Colleges and Universities through a single source of initial contact information with standard, consistent processes and a focus on efficiency and effectiveness. Individual institutions will still offer students their unique culture and experience as well as their academic strengths through teaching and faculty innovation.

Our two statewide student organizations have been an integral part of this effort and are in strong support of "Students First". They have written a letter to Chancellor McCormick which states, in part:

*"Students First would enable students to easily navigate through consistent processes, from learning about college programs, to registration and billing, to planning for graduation or transfer. We are in strong support of this initiative and ask that you assist with its planning and implementation by working with the staff on your campuses."*

Students First provides the foundational elements for transforming service delivery to our most important asset – our students.

#### **ANNUAL ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS AND DIVERSITY AWARDS EVENT**

Nine colleges and universities within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system were honored for outstanding achievements in educational programs and student services.

These awards reflect the creative and innovative leadership of faculty and staff at our colleges and universities to better serve students," said Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Linda Baer. "I am heartened that during difficult times, our college and university communities remain grounded in their commitment to serve students first through quality programs and services." This is the 9th year the awards have been presented.

Selected by a panel of academic and student affairs administrators from various campuses, recipients were given awards in four categories for work in the 2008-2009 academic year. The awards were presented May 28 on the Eden Prairie campus of Hennepin Technical College.

[Academic & Student Affairs Award Recipients](#)

[Diversity and Multiculturalism Award Recipients](#)

### **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

#### **DARS/u.select Monthly Newsletter**

DARS/u.select monthly News is attached and posted at:

[http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/news/monthly\\_news.html](http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/news/monthly_news.html)

#### **ACADEMIC INNOVATIONS NEWSLETTER**

Our continued goal of this newsletter is to keep you updated and informed about the delivery and support of online education in the system.

In this issue, you will find the following:

- \* Debut of CTL Summer Lodge
- \* June TLT Short Collections
- \* New Innovative Technology & Instruction Certificate
- \* Tutoring Work Group Update
- \* June/July MERLOT News

Follow the link below to the June/July 2009 edition.

<https://mncservices.custhelp.com/rd?1=AvUC~wgHAv8SGxr~Gpge~yL~Jvkq~6r~xVOaZzr~&2=1097>

#### **NEW TRAINING RESOURCE CENTER**

iSeek Solutions recently launched the new Training Resource Center. [www.iseek.org/trc/](http://www.iseek.org/trc/) The Training Resource Center is a web-based tool that allows counselors, businesses, and the general public to quickly find or request training to help Minnesotans become re-employed.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities training providers can:

- \* promote work-related, short-term training program to customers seeking this information,
- \* learn about the training needs of people in local areas or by training topics, and
- \* find a pool of students to create new training opportunities.

The Training Resource Center uses technology enhancements to the 2002 Training Fulfillment Center which supported thousands of laid-off workers from the airline

industry. It is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities through a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant.

For more information, please contact Shelia McComb, Training Resource Center Coordinator, via email at [shelia.mccomb@csu.mnscu.edu](mailto:shelia.mccomb@csu.mnscu.edu) or phone at 651-556-0664.



Minnesota's career, education, and job resource.

Explore Careers    Plan Your Education    Find A Job

**Training Resource Center**

- Find and Request Training
- Online Forms
- Counselor Training Network
- Assessments
- Job Loss Resources
- Help

**Training Resource Center**

The Training Resource Center allows counselors to quickly find or request training to help Minnesotans become reemployed.


**Who should use the Training Resource Center?**

Career counselors and advisers can find or request training opportunities for their customers. If you work with clients in a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development sponsored program or are a certified provider, get started below.


▶ **Get started: Career counselors and advisers**

Training providers can review counselors' requests and create work-related training that supports the training needs of Minnesota's workers. If you are a training provider at a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities or University of Minnesota campus, get started below.

▶ **Get started: Training providers**



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and Economic Development



### **REDESIGNED ISEEK RECEIVES MAGC NORTHER LIGHTS AWARD**

ISEEK.org was presented with a Minnesota Association of Government's Northern Lights "Award of Merit" on May 21, 2009, in the Web site category for its recent redesign. ISEEK owes its continued success to the partners of iSeek Solutions, led by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, Department of Employment and Economic Development, Department of Education, Office of Higher Education, University of Minnesota, and Office of Enterprise Technology. The new look and expanded content on ISEEK.org makes it easier for all Minnesotan's to find career exploration, education and job search information.

Receiving the award on behalf of ISEEK is Denise Felder and Patricia Dahlman.



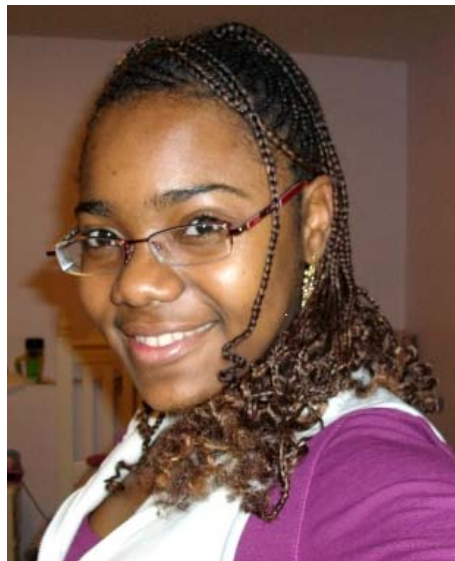
A student's Comments on her MentorNet experience. Also attached is her picture. MentorNet has proven to be most beneficial to students for recruitment and retention in the STEM fields.

*Hi Mrs Williams,*

*I'm Elischeba, I stopped by your office this afternoon. Here is what you asked me to do:*

*I heard about MentorNet when Dr Williams came as a guest speaker to one of our SWE meeting. She wanted us so much to go online and register for it. I did so and I got matched with Monica Swanson who studied Computer Science and Mathematics and who works right now at Thompson Reuters in St. Paul. At the beginning I did not really know what I could talk about with her, and then I received suggestions from MentoNet after she contacted me and showed herself very open. So I simply introduced myself to her in details and confided myself to her. We communicate once a week and now I found myself a friend who gives me study habits tips to keep up and get A's, share her own experiences with me about anything like working, living with a roommate on campus, studying abroad, women's challenge in sciences, how to handle intense summer classes... she is very nice! And I feel very comfortable talking to her about anything. I would definitely advise every engineering student to get a mentor too.*

*Thanks  
Eli*



### **NORMANDALE STUDENT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS COOKE SCHOLARSHIP**

Normandale student Callistus Ditah has been awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. He was among 30 scholars chosen from a pool of 485 nationwide and will be awarded a stipend to help cover his expenses upon transferring to a four-year college.

Jack Kent Cooke Scholars are selected based on outstanding records of achievement, not only academically, but also in service, leadership and community involvement. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is a private, independent foundation established to help young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education.

### **NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARNS ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE (NAST)**

The Department of Theatre at Normandale Community College has become one of only seven community college programs in the country to earn accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). A rare distinction, accreditation is based on an extensive process of meeting a high set of benchmarks spanning facilities, faculty, support staff and curriculum.

For students, Normandale's NAST accreditation means a high-yield for their tuition dollar. "Talented students should not have to put off theatre school because they can't afford it," said Theatre chair Anne Byrd, "Through Normandale's program they'll get an affordable, nationally recognized education that they can take with them when they transfer to a four-year school or enter the workforce."

Normandale is the fifth school in Minnesota and the only community college in the state to gain NAST accreditation. Through accreditation, Byrd and the members of Normandale's theatre faculty hope to generate growth in the already highly-regarded program. The recognition has potential to shine a national spotlight on the program as one that enables success, particularly as students look to transfer to four-year institutions.

NAST is an association of approximately 160 schools of theatre, primarily at the collegiate level, but also including postsecondary non-degree-granting schools of theatre. It is the national accrediting agency for theatre and theatre-related disciplines. The Association also provides information to the public. It produces statistical research, provides professional development for leaders of theatre schools, and engages in policy analysis.

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