Hannah Alexander, Bemidji, Minn. **
Arianne Alsaker, Burtrum, Minn. *
Haylee Bennett, Roseau, Minn.
Alayna Cline, Wadena, Minn.
Calista Decker, Waverly, Minn.
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Minnesota State Community and Technical College was created July 1, 2003, with the merger of Fergus Falls Community College and three campuses of Northwest Technical College. The College was developed to better serve the needs of the communities in west central Minnesota and the Red River Valley through the combination of strong technical programs and comprehensive community college curriculum.

Each of the campuses has been meeting the educational and workforce needs of its community for a half century or more.

The Detroit Lakes, Moorhead and Wadena campuses were established when state leaders recognized the need to provide education and training to meet workforce demands. The three campuses have experienced a series of name changes. Wadena was founded in 1959, Moorhead in 1965 and Detroit Lakes in 1966. True to the goal of meeting workforce needs, each campus has added and enhanced programs as demands have changed.

The Fergus Falls campus was established in 1960 thanks to the initiative of community leaders determined to create a community college where area students could complete the first two years of a four-year degree.

The College currently serves more than 7,000 students each year in on-campus courses and through online education, which provides students the option of taking individual courses or complete degree programs online.

The academic dress worn by the M State faculty and graduates reflects a tradition that dates back to the 11th and 12th centuries, when heavy robes purportedly served to distinguish the academic standing of the wearer and offer protection against the chill of unheated buildings.

The markings, cut and color of academic apparel – cap, gown and sometimes hood – indicate the wearer's academic degree, field of study and the institution that granted the degree.

Gowns vary in 7 (h)-6.9 (e)-9.7 (r)120.2 Td8S)-12.3 (T)9.9 ((a)-12.l)-9.