

EDUCATION

STRAIGHT 'A'S

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Registration extended for Ojibwe cultural day camp

BSU STAFF REPORT

This July, Bemidji State University is offering a unique opportunity for American Indian students to immerse themselves in the heritage of Minnesota's first people. Beginning July 23, Bemidji State is hosting a five-day, four-night Nibinishi Gabeshi (summer camp) program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who wish to know more about Minnesota's native people. Campers will capture the essence of Ojibwe culture with an intensive language program, read books, attend workshops and discuss shared as-

sumptions about culture and communication. The camp is ideal for students with no Ojibwe language proficiency, and students who are interested in attending Bemidji State University to study fields such as Ojibwe, modern languages, Indian studies, humanities, cultural resource management, sociology or teaching are especially encouraged to attend. Current Bemidji State students serve as camp counselors and will chaperone students to daily activities and facilitate evening programs. Anishinaabe faculty will teach students about the Ojibwe language.

The camp, which runs from July 23-27 and includes lodging in Bemidji State's residence halls, carries a fee of \$550 to cover costs of the program. However, full scholarships for students of American Indian heritage who have demonstrated financial need are available. These scholarships cover the entire \$550 registration fee, although students still will be responsible for securing transportation to and from the camp. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on available funds. Registration is required by July 12.

The camp also is seeking volunteers who can present on different areas of the Ojibwe culture, such as history, cultural traditions, music, pow wows, regalia, drum ceremonies, cooking, storytelling, treaties and current issues. There may be opportunities for stipends to be paid for these opportunities depending on travel distance to the camp or the need for specific supplies for a presentation or demonstration. Those interested in volunteering at the camp should contact Angie Gora, BSU summer program director at 218-755-2851 or agora@bemidjistate.edu.

Horne Dunn graduates magna cum laude from UND

The University of North Dakota conducted its annual spring commencement May 11 at the Alerus Center, Grand Forks, N.D. More than 6,000 friends and family of graduates were in attendance, as President Robert O. Kelley presided over his fifth spring commencement. UND, each year, graduates about 2,700 students in ceremonies in May, August and December. North Dakota Lt. Gov. and University of North Dakota alumnus Drew Wrigley was the featured speaker at his alma mater's spring commencement ceremony. For general commencement, there were 1,122 eligible undergraduate degree candidates and 417 graduate-degree candidates, including 47 doctor of physical therapy degrees. In addition, 96 received certificates, attained through several colleges. Becky Horne Dunn, of Littlefork, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science with major in chemistry, biochemistry emphasis. Horne Dunn was also



Becky Horne Dunn

included on the Presidents Roll of Honor and Dean's List for the Spring 2013 semester. She will attend the University of Minnesota, Duluth College of Pharmacy in the fall. Horne Dunn is a 2009 graduate of Littlefork-Big Falls High School and is the daughter of Bonnie Horne and Curtis Dunn. She is the granddaughter of Audrey and the late Wesley (Stub) Horne, and the late Robert and Esther Dunn.

Franken presses for agreement to prevent student loan rates hike

SEN. AL FRANKEN STAFF REPORT

In a speech delivered from the Senate floor, U.S. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., urged action to prevent the rate hike on student loans slated to take place July 1. Without Congressional action, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans will jump from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. "Countless students at schools across Minnesota demonstrate tremendous perseverance and grit in getting a college education and in cobbling together the resources to pay for it," Franken said in his speech. "They are working incredibly hard, and they are still taking on significant amounts of debt — debt that

will stay with them for a good portion of their lives. Paying for college shouldn't have to be that hard." Franken has long been a champion of making the cost of college more affordable. He is a cosponsor of the *Student Loan Affordability Act* — which received majority support but did not pass in the Senate earlier this month — that would have locked in the current lower interest rate on new subsidized Stafford loans for two years. He is also a cosponsor of



Al Franken

the *Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act*, introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., which would allow students to pay the same interest rate on their student loans that banks pay on the money they borrow from the Federal Reserve's discount window, currently 0.75 percent. Franken is also the author of the *Understanding the True Cost of College Act*, which would clarify what financial aid families will receive from a school and create standard terms for the aid offered so that students can accurately compare offers from different schools. Currently, schools do not use standard definitions or names for different types of aid,

so students and families often report having difficulty differentiating between grant aid, which does not need to be repaid, and student loans, which do need to be repaid. Lastly, he is the author of the *Accelerated Learning Act* — which was recently incorporated into the Senate bill to reform the so-called "No Child Left Behind" law — that would help make college affordable by expanding access to accelerated learning models like AP, IB, dual enrollment, and early college high schools for low-income students. This would allow students to get college credit while in high school and earn their college degree more quickly.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO UMD DEAN'S LIST

The University of Minnesota Duluth has announced its dean's list for spring semester 2013. Students on the dean's list have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. International Falls — Rebecca N. Anderson, junior; Zachary J. Dahlin, junior; Nicole M. Jerome, senior; Christopher Little, junior; Alexa D. Mitchell, senior; and Maggie M. West, junior. Littlefork — Kristi L. Bloom, senior; and Zach D. Stencel, junior.

UW-STEVENS POINT UNDERGRADUATES HONORED

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored 2,645 undergraduate students

for attaining high grade point averages during the spring semester of the 2012-13 academic year. Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74. Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction. International Falls students who received honors include: Sarah E. Manka, Highest Honors; Jonathan G. McDonald, Honors; and Tylyn Rae Alexandria Nault, Honors.

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