



2024 WSU FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

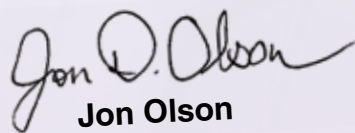
and 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR



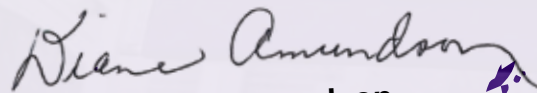
Thank you!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your generous contributions and unwavering support of our university. Your gifts have a profound impact, not only in sustaining the essential programs that define our academic excellence, but also in enhancing the overall student experience.

In addition to your financial support, we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing engagement with the university. Your involvement—whether through your financial gifts, mentoring students, sharing your expertise, or advocating for our vision—enriches our community in ways that go far beyond the classroom. Thank you for your dedication, your belief in our mission, and for being such an integral part of the university's growth and achievements.



Jon Olson
WSUF CEO



Diane Amundson
WSUF Board Chair



*Every gift
makes an impact!*

*Please consider making a gift
to Winona State University
winona.edu/give*

WSU FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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honor roll*



winona.edu/foundation/donor-recognition/

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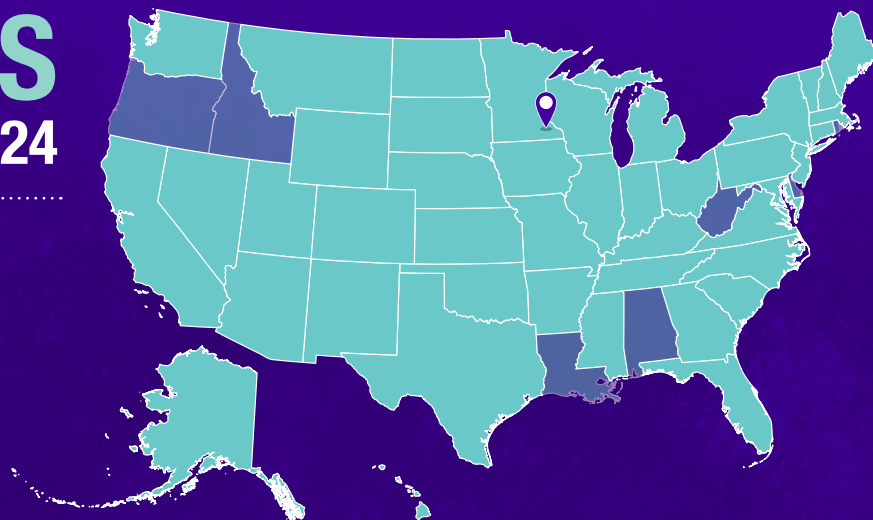
Kris Wenker

Jim Zuehlke '76



FAST FACTS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



\$67.2M
ENDOWMENT
TOTAL VALUE

\$86.2M
WSUF ASSETS

\$500K
OTHER SUPPORT

DONATIONS FROM 43 STATES,
PUERTO RICO, AND ONTARIO

\$2M IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS: 39
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION: 87
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: 79
WSU ATHLETICS: 52

COLLEGE OF NURSING: 53
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING: 73

\$764
AVG GIFT

8,874
TOTAL GIFTS

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

- WSU GIVING DAY
- FEED THE TEAM
- ALL-UNIVERSITY
- TUTORING SERVICES
- ATHLETICS GIVING DAY
- CHILDREN'S CENTER
- ULTIMATE FRISBEE
- AND MANY MORE!

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

\$100K
AWARDED

- WARRIOR CUPBOARD MINI MEAL PLANS
- WSU HIGH ROPES COURSE
- INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE
- CNA TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM



WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
winona.edu/foundation



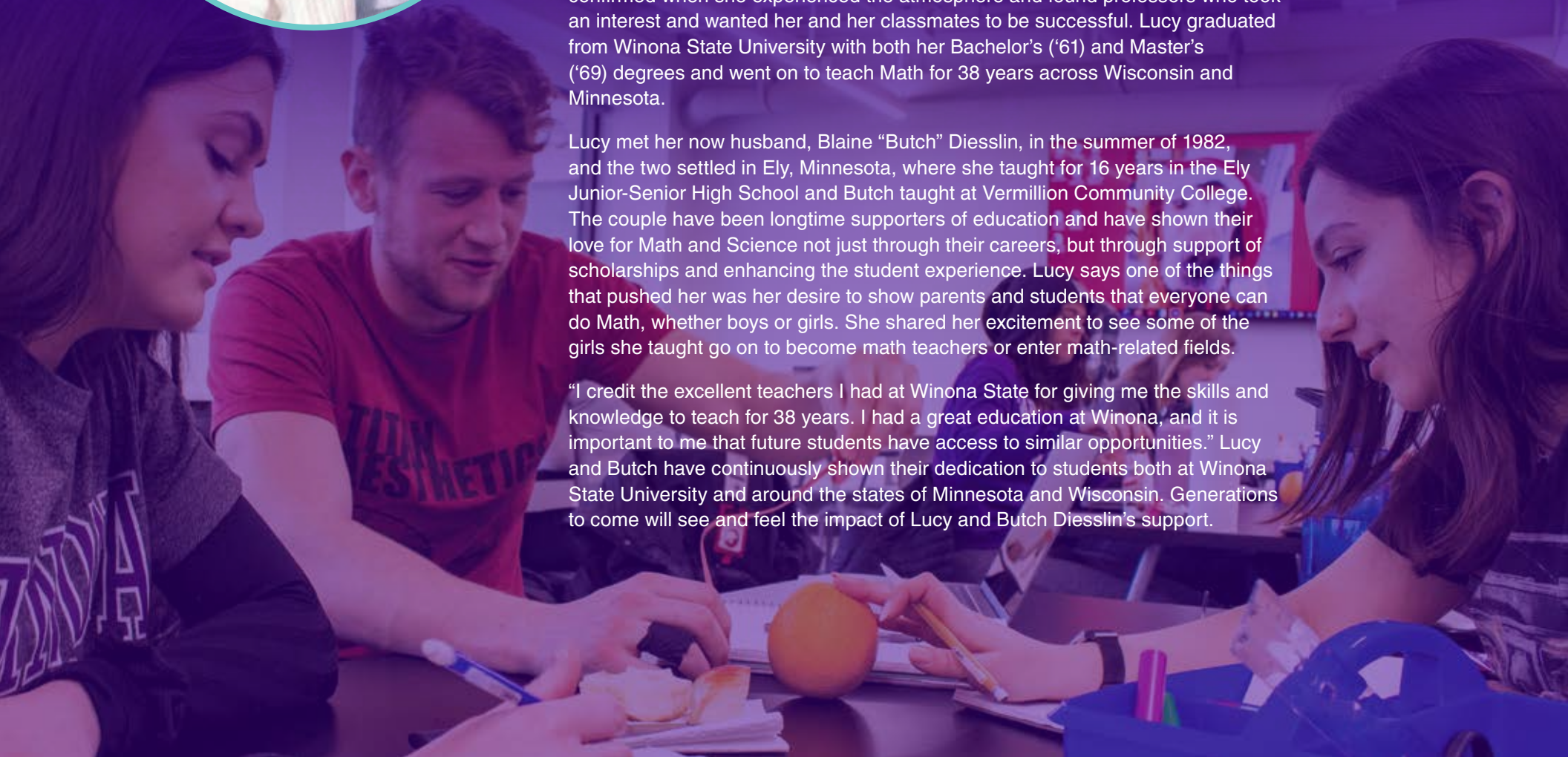
ALUMNI DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

LUCY & BLAINE “BUTCH” DIESSLIN

After growing up on a Southeastern Minnesota dairy Farm, Lucy Barnes-Diesslin knew she wanted to be a teacher. Her decision to attend Winona State University was partly due to the reviews she heard from family and friends but was confirmed when she experienced the atmosphere and found professors who took an interest and wanted her and her classmates to be successful. Lucy graduated from Winona State University with both her Bachelor's ('61) and Master's ('69) degrees and went on to teach Math for 38 years across Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Lucy met her now husband, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, in the summer of 1982, and the two settled in Ely, Minnesota, where she taught for 16 years in the Ely Junior-Senior High School and Butch taught at Vermillion Community College. The couple have been longtime supporters of education and have shown their love for Math and Science not just through their careers, but through support of scholarships and enhancing the student experience. Lucy says one of the things that pushed her was her desire to show parents and students that everyone can do Math, whether boys or girls. She shared her excitement to see some of the girls she taught go on to become math teachers or enter math-related fields.

“I credit the excellent teachers I had at Winona State for giving me the skills and knowledge to teach for 38 years. I had a great education at Winona, and it is important to me that future students have access to similar opportunities.” Lucy and Butch have continuously shown their dedication to students both at Winona State University and around the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Generations to come will see and feel the impact of Lucy and Butch Diesslin’s support.



JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>WSU Women's & Men's Basketball Alumni Reunions Winter Warrior Game Day Experience</i>
12	13 <i>Spring Classes Begin</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>WSU Gymnastics Alumni Night</i>	



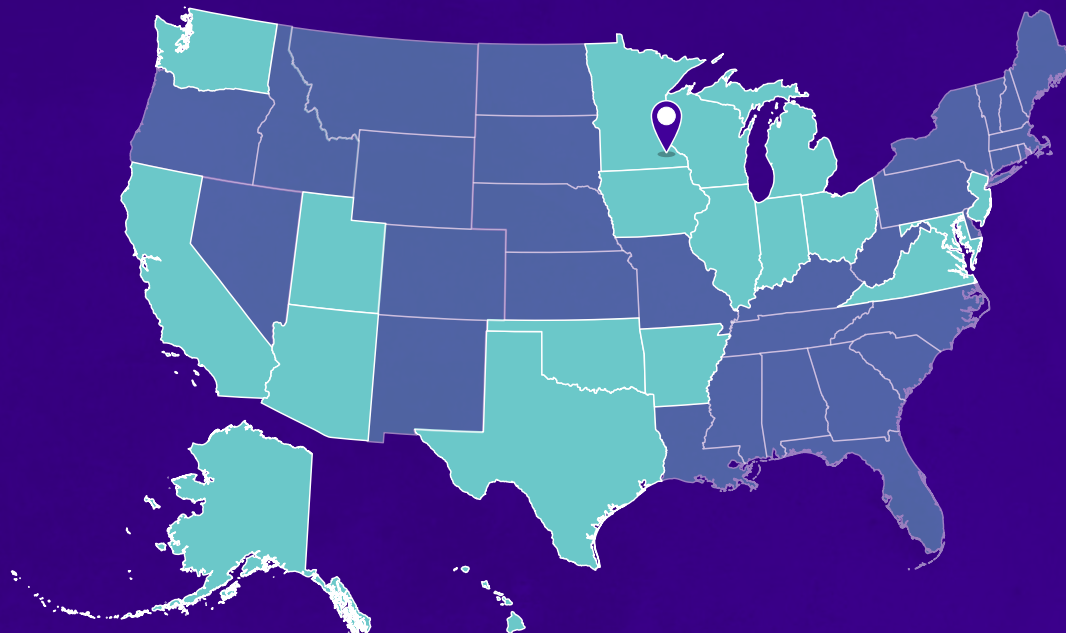
SAVE THE DATE

WSU
GIVING DAY
2.20.25



SCAN HERE TO MAKE YOUR
WSU GIVING DAY GIFT

2024 WSU GIVING DAY: BY THE NUMBERS



358 TOTAL GIFTS

166 TOTAL DONORS

\$133 AVERAGE GIFT

24 HRS >> DONATIONS FROM 18 STATES

MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, IOWA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO, VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY, TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, CALIFORNIA, ALASKA, WASHINGTON, ARIZONA, UTAH, ARKANSAS

\$35,740.59 >> TOTAL RAISED



2024 ATHLETICS GIVING DAY: BY THE NUMBERS

195 TOTAL GIFTS

156 TOTAL DONORS

\$22,751.00
>> TOTAL RAISED

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 <i>Alumni Tubing Night at Steeple Chase</i>	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16	17 <i>President's Day</i>	18	19 <i>WSUF Board of Trustee's Retreat</i>	20 <i>WSU GIVING DAY 2.20.25</i> <i>WSUF Board of Trustee's Retreat</i>	21 <i>WSUF Board of Trustee's Retreat</i>	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am honored and humbled to be the 16th President of Winona State University. As I embark on this exciting journey, I am eager to work alongside our dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners to shape a bright future for our institution.

Winona State University has a rich history of academic excellence, innovation, and service to our regions and students. I am committed to building upon this legacy and advancing our vision for a transformative future. Through our strategic planning, we strive to build a better campus, bigger outcome, and ultimately, a brighter future not only for our students, but our university. This framework includes a focus on student success, student learning, inclusive excellence, relationships, and becoming stewards of place & resources. To support these ambitious goals, I am launching the Winona State 2035 Initiative with the aim to improve our university in the next ten years.



Dr. Kenneth D. Janz
Winona State University President



Every dollar helps support the WSU 2035 initiatives.
Visit winona.edu/give and select 'WSU 2035' to make your donation.
winona.edu/give



MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>MN Day @ MN Twins (FL) Daylight Saving Time</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Alumni Event (Phoenix, AZ)</i>	14 <i>Alumni Breakfast (Mesa, AZ)</i>	15 <i>Alumni Event (Tucson, AZ)</i>
16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20	21	22
30 23	31 24 <i>Check WSU website for WSU 2035 Update</i>	25	26	27	28	29





WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

AT HOME AND ON THE ROAD



2024 Homecoming: An amazing homecoming weekend filled with the largest Warrior Game Day Experience, class of 1974 reunion, a Warrior win, and lots of WSU pride!



Canterbury Park: 60 Winona State Alumni & Friends joined us for a family day at Canterbury Park! So much fun talking about horse betting strategies and a beautiful day for a Warrior get-together!



Winona State Day at the Twins Game: Over 550 Warriors filled the stands as the Minnesota Twins took on the Oakland A's. President Janz even threw the first pitch!



WSU Basketball Alumni Reunions: Our WSU Basketball alumni came back to campus to face off against the next generation of Warriors. Both men and women came to play and support the team for a full weekend of fun!

Education Village Open House: We celebrated the 5th anniversary of the College of Education's Education Village. Young families, future Warriors, and generations of alumni joined us for a great day on campus!



SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING 2025
OCTOBER 23rd – 25th

Enjoy a Full Weekend of Events!



Bowlocity: What a fun night in Rochester! A group of alumni and friends joined us at Bowlocity for a great night full of laughs.



Florida Road Trip: We ventured to Florida to see our southern alumni and support the WSU Baseball and Softball teams!



Bucks vs Timberwolves: We hosted a group of Warrior fans for the big basketball game at Target Center. No matter who they were cheering for, a great time was had by all!

Holiday Trolley Tour: We had so much fun joining our alumni in Rochester to ride the holiday trolley!



Scan here to find our upcoming events
winona.edu/alumni/#events



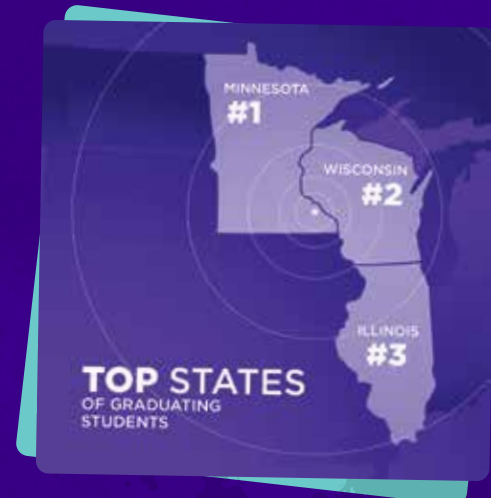
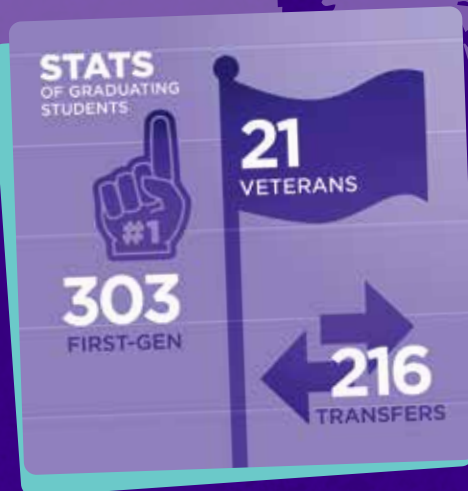
APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 <i>Mass Comm Alumni Event</i>	11	12
13	14	15 <i>Tax Day</i>	16	17	18 <i>Good Friday</i>	19
20 <i>Easter</i>	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



SPRING 2024

COMMENCEMENT STATS



MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Spring Commencement</i>	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28	29	30	31



ALUMNI DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

RACHEL SCHROMEN '10

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Winona State University in 2010, Rachel Schromen continued her education by earning her Juris Doctorate to help others navigate legal matters during life's challenging times. Throughout her career, she has been passionate about providing holistic and empathetic legal support for end-of-life planning through estate planning and elder law. She credits her major in Law and Society and minor in Women's and Gender studies for preparing her to support clients in a personal and compassionate way. Rachel chose Winona State because of the higher education experience and the sense of community it offers students, and says that the smaller class sizes and support from her professors were key as she began selecting a college.

During her time at Winona State, there were key faculty members who impacted both her education and personal growth. Rachel says, "Dr. April Herndon, Dr. Colette Hyman, Dr. Tamara Berg, and Dr. Susan Sefkow gave their time and support generously to help me navigate a career that would bring me fulfillment, success, and at times, helped me navigate personal stress and challenges." The mentorship she received in college and throughout her career supported her as she graduated and went on to build her legal career and her own law firm, Schromen Law LLC in 2016. Rachel's firm's legal practice focuses on estate planning and elder law, but her community support doesn't end there.

Rachel gives back to her community in more ways than one. As a scholarship recipient herself, Rachel knew when she graduated that she wanted

to give back as soon as she could and has since supported the university through scholarships and program support. She says, "it should not be understated that my success in my career has largely been capable due to receiving scholarships and not needing to take on significant student debt." Recently, Rachel joined the Winona State University Foundation Board of Trustees and has brought a unique perspective due to her work in estate planning law. Having felt such an impact from the mentors in her life, Rachel also enjoys giving back through her mentorships of current Winona State University students.

In the St. Paul, Minnesota area, Rachel is very passionate about providing pro bono legal services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as providing legal assistance to first responders for wills and other necessary health care directives, all of which she does as a volunteer. Both she and her firm have received multiple accolades this year alone, including the 2024 Star Tribune Gold award as Minnesota's Best Law Firm, Estate Planning Law Firm, and Legal Customer Service, and Rachel as a Minnesota Monthly Top Estate Planning Attorney and Minnesota Super Lawyers Rising Star from 2020-2024. Rachel is a shining example of Winona State University alumni and is a key supporter of the campus, especially WSU students.



JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Winona Steamboat Days Social</i>	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>
15 <i>Father's Day</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Juneteenth</i>	20 <i>Warrior Club Golf Tournament Winona State Day at MN Twins Game</i>	21
22	23	24	25 <i>WSUF Board of Trustees meeting</i>	26 <i>WSUF Board of Trustees meeting</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>End of WSUF Fiscal Year</i>					





WARRIOR ATHLETICS



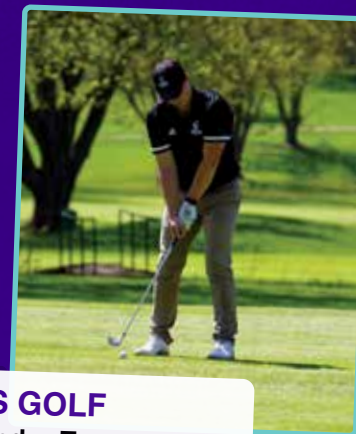
FOOTBALL

Winona State Warrior Football dominates the University of Mary Marauders for a 2024 homecoming win of 48-7.



GYMNASTICS

Bryce Stoltz earns top honors at the 2024 NCGA National Championship with a first-place finish on beam.



MEN'S GOLF

Alessandro Trenta named the 2024 NSIC Men's Golfer of the Year.



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

3X NCAA champion Lindsay Cunningham selected as a 2024 NCAA Woman of the Year top 30 Honoree.



BASEBALL

Peter Tveite pitched the second-ever perfect game in a 12-0 victory over Bemidji State in the 2024 home opener.



WOMEN'S GOLF

Carly Moon earns individual medalist honors at the 2024 NSIC Women's Golf 2024 Tournament.



JOIN/RENEW YOUR WARRIOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP to provide scholarships and help WSU student-athletes be successful in the classroom and competition.

winona.edu/warrior-club/

Scan here to see the upcoming competition schedules for each team.
winonastatewarriors.com/



JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>Start of WSU Foundation Fiscal Year</i>	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		





Welcome Students!



AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 30	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fall classes begin						



ALUMNI DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

CHRIS MOSSON '86



Chris Mosson's journey to Winona State University started when a friend from high school was visiting the university and suggested Chris try to meet with then-baseball coach, Gary Grob. He says the small campus setting, Coach Grob's encouragement, and the beauty of Winona's bluffs and the Mississippi River made it clear that Winona State University would be his new home. Even though he was not officially recruited, Chris says that he will never forget the thrill and uncertainty of showing up for the first day of Fall Ball in 1982, saying that "WSU had a great winning tradition, and I wanted to be a part of it." He came to Winona State University to study accounting and would go on to play for the baseball team throughout his time as a student until he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1986.



As a student-athlete, Chris kept busy between classes, practices, and games. His experience provided an avenue to leverage his passion so he could excel both in the classroom

and on the field. During his time at Winona State University, Chris was chosen as a team captain and was selected as an All-American, which he credits for helping him get his first post-graduate

job. Chris says, "the quality of my education and the characteristics I developed through WSU baseball have all played a critical role in my professional and personal accomplishments." He explains that the mentors he had through college and his career helped pave the way for his success in roles at RJR Nabisco, Morton International, and Constellation Brands.

Coach Gary Grob made a lasting impression on Chris as a student, and he references his impact on his personal and professional success. Chris says, "Coach Grob's passion for winning and the care and love he showed his players in a fair, but tough, fashion is something I have never forgotten." He explains how the focus was not just on putting the best team on the field, but also on growing and developing young men to prepare them for life after baseball. The impact Coach Grob had on Chris was never forgotten, and it inspired Chris and his wife, Sue, to begin their philanthropic giving to Winona State University, choosing at first to support The Marilyn and Gary Grob Scholarship fund to continue Coach Grob's legacy. Wanting to further pay forward the support he received as a student, Chris and Sue established The Chris and Sue Mosson Baseball Scholarship, focused on supporting student-athletes and helping the next generation of Warriors. Chris's philosophy in life is to continue to learn, work hard, and be himself. His dedication as a baseball player, student, and career professional provides a model for current student-athletes, and his impact will be felt by many Warriors to come.

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Warrior Game Day Experience</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Family Weekend</i>	20 <i>Family Weekend</i>
21 <i>Family Weekend</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (G.O.L.D)

Lieutenant. Kaila Vento '14

G.O.L.D. Award recognizes WSU graduates from the past 15 years who have distinguished themselves in their work and/or community. Kaila graduated from Winona State with a major in Psychology and a coaching minor and then continued her education with a master's and a Ph.D. After joining the Navy, she was commissioned as a Lieutenant, and now serves as a Naval Aerospace Experimental Psychologist. She serves on numerous boards in various capacities and has proved herself within her profession through her numerous achievements and leadership awards. Kaila continues to submit articles for publication and works hard as a researcher, where she has received over \$500,000 in research funding as principal and co-investigator.



THE WARRIOR WAY AWARD

General James Mingus '87

The Warrior Way Award recognizes WSU graduates or non-graduates who rendered significant contributions of time and talent to WSU. General Mingus first enlisted in the Iowa National Guard in 1981, and was then commissioned through ROTC from Winona State University. He's held many leadership roles throughout his career and was recently promoted to the United States Army's 39th Vice Chief of Staff. Less than 3% of US Military Academy (West Point) graduates become general officers, and less than 0.5% become four-star generals. For a leader like Jim, a non-military academy graduate, to reach this pinnacle is a remarkable achievement. His brother shared, "The knowledge one must possess to operate as a four-star general is immense, diverse, and ever-changing. One must be an expert in human dynamics, project management, supply chain management, geopolitical trends, history, the science of war, and the art of execution." General Mingus lives the mission of WSU every day and is a shining example of the Warrior Way.



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Donna Strum '84

The Alumni Achievement Award recognizes WSU graduates who graduated over 15 years ago, have achieved prominence in their field, and have made quality contributions of time and talent to the university, bringing honor to themselves and their alma mater. Donna Strum is a clinical certified therapeutic recreation specialist who has developed a nonprofit program titled: Revelation Golf in the Chicago area. Revelation Golf helps veterans, adults and children with physical disabilities and cancer, breast cancer programs, and at-risk youth. Donna has worked through hospitals to rehabilitate individuals (2000+). Through her therapy, she provides patients an avenue to enhance and develop a meaningful quality of life through each individual's social, emotional and physical health using the game of golf.



HERITAGE AWARD RECIPIENT

Gene Pelowski '75 & '98

The Winona State University Heritage Award is given annually to an employee, retiree, alumni, or friend of the university who has left an indelible impression in support of Winona State University. Gene has been a politician for 38 years, a teacher for 37 years at Winona Senior High and Winona State, and a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Gene has been instrumental in assisting Winona State on numerous projects on campus including: the Education Village project, Composite Engineering program, and running the Model Legislature program in Winona for the past 49 years. Gene has received a multitude of awards and recognition for work he has done in our community and throughout the state of Minnesota.



*Do you know an alum who embodies the Warrior Spirit?
Consider nominating them today!
wsu.mn/alumni-award*



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 <i>Warrior Game Day Experience</i>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Indigenous People's Day</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23  <i>WSU Homecoming</i>	24 <i>WSUF Board of Trustees WSU Homecoming</i>	25 <i>WSU Homecoming</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	





Thank you!

Every donation has an impact on WSU students.



*Thank you to all
of our donors!*

*Scan to donate
winon.edu/give*



NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	3	4 <i>Election Day</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Warrior Game Day Experience</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
30 23	24	25	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28	29





Season's Greetings

*Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!
From your friends at the Winona State University Foundation.*

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 <i>National Day of Giving</i>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Winter Commencement</i>	13
14 <i>Hannukah (1st Day)</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Kwanza (1st Day)</i>	27
28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			



