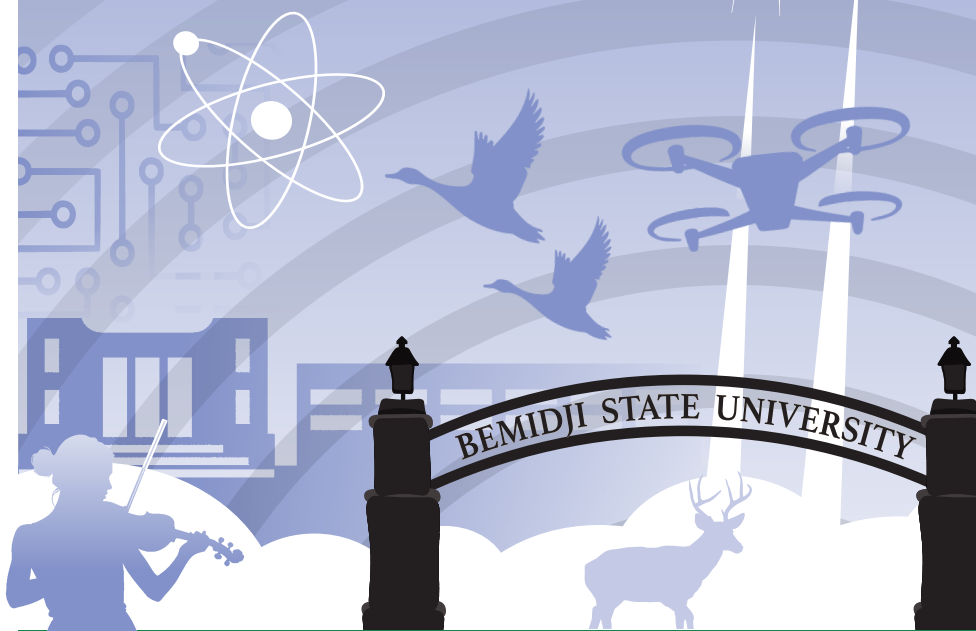


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

CONFERENCE 2026

CREATE
INNOVATE
INSPIRE



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

HUNDREDS OF PROJECTS, INFINITE INSPIRATION



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY



MINNESOTA STATE

2026 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF SHOWCASING BSU STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

CREATE, INNOVATE, INSPIRE

APRIL 8, 2026

10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00 to 11:30 a.m...... *Oral Presentations @Memorial Hall*

10:00 to 12:00 p.m...... *Unified Basketball Extravaganza @Gillett Wellness Center Activity Courts*

11:30 to 1:00 p.m...... *Lunch-Fried Bread Taco @AIRC*
Tickets provided to participating students and sponsors

1:00 to 2:00 p.m...... *Opening Ceremony @Beaux Arts Ballroom*

2:00 to 3:00 p.m...... *Posters Presentations @Beaux Arts Ballroom*

3:00 to 4:00 p.m...... *Student Activities Leadership Recognition @Beaux Arts Ballroom*

4:00 to 5:00 p.m...... *Oral Presentations & Panels @Memorial Hall*

5:00 to 6:00 p.m...... *School of Music Recital @Bangsberg Main Performance Hall*

PROGRAM AGENDA

Welcome: President John Hoffman

Welcome Song: Frankie Papasodora-Clark- Junior Studying Psychology

Welcome Remarks from: Senator Klobuchar

Student Research Highlight: Tristen Garnder- Lanthanide receptors for direct ocean capture of bicarbonate from water

Student Club-Heart of BSU: Social Work Club

Student Musical Performance:

"Mein Sehnen, Mein Wahren" from *Die Tote Stadt*
performed by Zhicheng He (baritone) and Dan Will (piano)

Erich Korngold (1897-1957)

Keynote Introduction: President John Hoffman

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Christopher Waller, member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Closing Remarks: Dr. Travis Ricks

KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. CHRISTOPHER WALLER

CHRISTOPHER J. WALLER took office as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on December 18, 2020, to fill an unexpired term ending January 31, 2030.

Prior to his appointment at the Board, Dr. Waller served as executive vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis since 2009.

In addition to his experience in the Federal Reserve System, Dr. Waller served as a professor and the Gilbert F. Schaefer Chair of Economics at the University of Notre Dame. He was also a research fellow with Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies. From 1998 to 2003, Dr. Waller was a professor and the Carol Martin Gatton Chair of Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics at the University of Kentucky. During that time, he was also a research fellow at the Center for European Integration Studies at the University of Bonn. From 1992 to 1994, he served as the director of graduate studies at Indiana University's Department of Economics, where he also served as associate professor and an assistant professor.

Dr. Waller received a BS in economics from Bemidji State University and an MA and PhD from Washington State University.



ORAL PRESENTATIONS

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

MEMORIAL 220

10:00 – 10:15 am

Title: The Agreement of Dissimilar Entities": Gender and the Intellectual Tradition in Hroswitha of Gandersheim's Paphnutius

Presenter: Hannah Lewis

Sponsor: Larry Swain

10:20 – 10:35 am

Title: X-Men and Civil Rights

Presenter: Jon Geimer

Sponsor: Larry Swain

10:40 – 10:55 am

Title: Creating a Chapbook: Translation, Relationship, and Resistance

Presenter: Liz Fisher

Sponsor: Stephen Hamrick

11:00 – 11:15 am

Title: Exceptional Excerpts from Milktooth

Presenter: Katherine Eliason - Selected from the Milktooth readings

Sponsor: Larry Swain

MEMORIAL 230

10:00 – 10:15 am

Title: Exploring Mental Health Challenges and Help-Seeking Stigma in Student-Athletes at a 4-Year Institution in the Midwest

Presenter: Courtney Bullie

Sponsor: Shannon Norman

10:20 – 10:35 am

Title: Strategic Market Intelligence for EuroSpring 2027: Identifying Motivational Drivers, Perceived Barriers, and Value Perceptions to Optimize Enrollment Outcomes

Presenter: Ella Countryman, Mak Witucki, & Allison Lavine

Sponsor: Kelly La Venture

10:40 – 10:55 am

Title: Beyond the Storm: The Bemidji Documentary

Presenter: Casina, Alderson & Kate Staples

Sponsor: Virgil Bakken

11:00 – 11:15 am

Title: Unlearning Pedagogical Trauma using Poetry in the Secondary School Classroom

Presenter: Griffin Wilson

Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

11:20 – 11:35 am

Title: Expectation Loop Theory: A New Human Communication Framework for How Media Pacing Rewires Human Expectations of Time

Presenter: Ella Countryman

Sponsor: Virgil Bakken

MEMORIAL 240

10:00 – 10:15 am

Title: Assessing the Effect Inhibitors of Succinate Dehydrogenase and Glycolysis Have on Normal Pancreatic Cells

Presenter: Megan Nicholls

Sponsor: Kjerstin Owens

10:20 – 10:35 am

Title: Tuning the Affinity of Lanthanide-based Receptors for Bicarbonate

Presenter: Alexander Sunne

Sponsor: Katie Peterson

10:40 – 10:55 am

Title: Factors Influencing the Body Condition of Yellow Perch in Minnesota Lakes

Presenter: Georgina Leramo

Sponsor: Andrew Hafis

Zoom Room: <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/93513263048>

Passcode: Inspire

10:00 – 10:15 am

Title: Substance Use Risk Among Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenter: Malissa Burnette

Sponsor: Amanda Longie

10:20 – 10:35 am

Title: How Academic Environments Influence Substance Use Amongst Youth

Presenter: Chantel Grindeland

Sponsor: Amanda Longie

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Online Poster Session will be available the entire day of the conference via <https://app.gather.town/app/ivq5-ruloi2Q208js/Bemidji%20State%20SAC>
Passcode: Bucky

#1

Title: The Northern Student Magazine
Presenter: Emma Niessink & Casina Alderson
Sponsors: Valica Boudry

#2

Title: Campus Activities Board
Presenter: Jackie Dahle & Erika Blanchard
Sponsor: Angie Clark

#3

Title: A Year of Wildlife Experiences - Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Presenter: Lydia Moorman, Lydia Westermeyer, & Johanna Halverson
Sponsor: Brian Hiller

#4

Title: Quiz Bowl: A Community of Knowledge and Creativity
Presenter: Casina Alderson & Trin Johnson
Sponsor: Keith Marek

#5

Title: 6th Annual Unified Basketball Extravaganza: We Play For All
Presenter: Beth Bolte, Macee Linow, Tiernyn Plasch, & Kendra Syverson,
Sponsor: Sherry K. Holloway

#6

Title: Purple Martin Data Project
Presenter: Gabrielle Wilson
Sponsor: Brian Hiller

#7

Title: Assessing Urban-Rural Differences in Largemouth Bass Abundance in Minnesota
Presenter: Johnathon Gates
Sponsor: Andrew Hafz

#8

Title: Host Range of Bacteriophage KleverKis
Presenter: Grace Gumieła & Claire Kvant
Sponsor: Holly LaFerriere

#9

Title: The Isolation and Characterization of a Pseudomonas Bacteriophage Irvie
Presenter: Ava Athman & Beth Bolte
Sponsor: Holly LaFerriere

#10

Title: Assessing the Effect Inhibitors of Succinate Dehydrogenase and Glycolysis have on Clonogenic Survival of Normal Pancreatic Cells
Presenter: Kyla Pederson & Avery Amidon
Sponsor: Kjerstin Owens

#11

Title: Boscalid and 2DG Impact on H6C7 Clonogenic Cells
Presenter: Ben Eggers
Sponsor: Kjerstin Owens

#12

Title: Isolation of Microbial DNA from Erethizon Dorsatum Feces for 16S rRNA Gene Sequencing
Presenter: Makaela LaFerriere
Sponsor: Kjerstin Owens

#13

Title: Selective GdIII Receptors for the Direct Ocean Capture of Bicarbonate
Presenter: Tristen Garner
Sponsor: Katie Peterson

#14

Title: Factors of Long-Term Physiological Condition in Relation to Age in Caribou From the Fortymile Herd in Alaska
Presenter: Jenna Lawin
Sponsor: Mandy Keogh

#15

Title: Discovery and Characterization of L0U15, a Lytic Bacteriophage Infecting Mycobacterium Smegmatis
Presenter: Allison Brutger
Sponsor: Holly LaFerriere

#16

Title: Nature's Bacteria Killer: Discovering a Potential Cure for Antibiotic Resistance
Presenter: Sarah Somerville
Sponsor: Holly LaFerriere

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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Passcode: Bucky

#17
Title: Kinetic Analysis of Bacterial Beta-Lactamase Using Nitrocefin
Presenter: Jenna Burd, Rachel VanHouten, & Madisyn Bennett
Sponsor: Michael Hamann

#18
Title: Verifying an Interaction Between the Rho GTPase RhoJ/TCL with Coronin2B using Coronin Chimeras.
Presenter: Amber Scherer & Katrina Thompson
Sponsor: Michael Hamann

#19
Title: Defining the Role of TCL/RhoJ in Focal Adhesion Dynamics Using Cas9-Mediated Knockout in HUVECs
Presenter: Kaden McAtee & Andrew Hayward
Sponsor: Michael Hamann

#20
Title: Isolation, Cloning and Transformation of DFR from Citrus Sinensis (Velencia) Leaf Tissue into Escherichia Coli
Presenter: Gloria Rose
Sponsor: Daniel Owen

#21
Title: Groundwater - Surface Springs in Northeastern Minnesota
Presenter: Mikell Schoonover
Sponsor: Carl Isaacson

#22
Title: The Silvics and Management of Redwood (Sequoia Sempervirens)
Presenter: Kaleb Pemberton
Sponsor: James Harding

#23
Title: The Silvics and Management of Quaking Aspen (Populus Tremuloides)
Presenter: Richa Dhakal
Sponsor: James Harding

#24
Title: The Silvics and Management of Ponderosa Pine (Pinus Ponderosa)
Presenter: Nicholas Matejka
Sponsor: James Harding

#25
Title: The Silvics and Management of Sweetgum (Liquidambar Styraciflua)
Presenter: Anthony Garcia Mejia
Sponsor: James Harding

#26
Title: The Silvics and Management of Yellow Birch (Betula Alleghaniensis)
Presenter: Hailey Knapp
Sponsor: James Harding

#27
Title: The Silvics and Management of Black Spruce (Picea Mariana)
Presenter: Sydney Bush
Sponsor: James Harding

#28
Title: Molecular Quantification of Enterococcus faecalis AND Escherichia Coli in Venerated Irish Water Wells Indicates Fecal Contamination
Presenter: Sophia Mahon
Sponsor: Paul Melchior

#29
Title: Using RPGs to Bring in Underrepresented Voices in Middle School Writing Projects
Presenter: Trinity Johnson
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#30
Title: Perspectives Toward AI Usage in English Classrooms
Presenter: Eddie Anderson
Sponsors: Danielle Sullivan

#31
Title: Understanding Generation Z: Motivators and Barriers to EuroSpring 2027 Participation
Presenter: MaKenna Witucki, Ella Countryman, & Allison LaVine"
Sponsor: Kelly La Venture

#32
Title: The Social Determinates of Homeless Youth in Itasca County, MN
Presenter: Keshia Hunter
Sponsor: Emily Payne

#33
Title: Indigenous Perspectives on Attachment Theory and Its Application to Children in Alternative Care
Presenters: Jenna Olson
Sponsor: Thomas Dirth

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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Passcode: Bucky*

- #34
Title: Power and the Social Mind: A Review of Its Effects on Perception, Connection, and Prosocial Behavior
Presenter: Jeffrey Eide & Sarah Borgen
Sponsors: Thomas Dirth
- #35
Title: The Valuing of the General Education Across Class Ranks
Presenters: Andrew Rizea
Sponsor: Travis Ricks
- #36
Title: Perceiving Others Having Less Challenges: Mental Health Bias and Students' Sense of and Access to Community
Presenters: Sarah Borgen
Sponsor: Travis Ricks
- #37
Title: Community-Focused Assessments of Belongingness and Mental Health as Predictors of Student Outcomes
Presenters: Jeffrey Eide
Sponsor: Travis Ricks
- #38
Title: Proactive Interference in Visual Working Memory
Presenters: Bailey Gottlieb
Sponsor: Li Zhou
- #39
Title: Illuminating Lumosity: Shedding Light On One App's Claim Of Mental Improvement
Presenters: Nicholas Ellingson
Sponsors: Li Zhou
- #40
Title: Communication Capstone: Service-Learning with Bemidji Community Table
Presenter: Grace Wipson, Patrick Berry, Quinlan Cejka, John Cleven, Hannah Cook, Will Cronk, Preston Garfin, JoLyn Geray, Sam Hoff, & Sylve Waters
Sponsors: Donna Pawlowski

- #41
Title: Communication Capstone: Service-Learning with Adult Day Services
Presenter: Grace Wipson, Patrick Berry, Quinlan Cejka, John Cleven, Hannah Cook, Will Cronk, Preston Garfin, JoLyn Geray, Sam Hoff, & Sylve Waters
Sponsors: Donna Pawlowski
- #42
Title: Service-Learning with Headwaters Regional Development Commission
Presenter: Grace Wipson, Patrick Berry, & Grace Roecker
Sponsor: Timothy Baird
- #43
Title: Where Did the Science Fair Go?
Presenter: Morgan Benedict
Sponsor: Julie Larson
- #44
Title: Commercial Supersonic Flight: An Economic Perspective
Presenter: Tamay Delavar
Sponsor: Paul Kivi
- #45
Title: State Control in NIL Regulation: A comparative analysis of state NIL statutes
Presenter: Benjamin Corradi
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay
- #46
Title: Economic Strength and National Power: An Empirical Analysis of Their Relationship in the International System
Presenters: Adrian Falcon
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay
- #47
Title: Solitary Confinement: Uses and Consequences
Presenters: Marcus Wood
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay
- #48
Title: Democratic Resilience in Consolidated Democracies
Presenters: Emily McConnaughay
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay
- #49
Title: The effects of worker autonomy on political participation
Presenter: Matthew Voss
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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Passcode: Bucky*

#50

Title: Erasing History: Historical Whitewashing and DEI in U.S. Classrooms
Presenter: Grace Kaiser
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

#51

Title: Quality Challenges in Online Education and Remote Learning
Presenter: Gabriel Evink, Andrew Johnson, Abby Undeland, & Grace Hoffard
Sponsor: Nusrat Chowdhury

#52

Title: DMAIC Analysis of Complaints for ABC Cabinets
Presenters: Malachi Martichuski, Keegan Harvey, & Griffin Hastings
Sponsor: Nusrat Chowdhury

#53

Title: The Evolution of Quality From Shewhart to Deming to Six Sigma
Presenters: Ashlyne Guenther
Sponsor: Nusrat Chowdhury

#54

Title: The Impact of Cover Crops on Soil Nitrate and Pepper Yield in Northern Minnesota
Presenters: Latasha Thompson
Sponsor: Wendy Greenburg

#55

Title: Largemouth Bass Diet Changes Through the Summer in Central Minnesota
Presenter: Ethan Kunz
Sponsor: Andrew Hafs

#56

Title: Quality Challenges in Online Education and Remote Learning
Presenter: Gabriel Evink, Andrew Johnson, Abby Undeland, & Grace Hoffard
Sponsor: Nusrat Chowdhury

PANELS

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL 230

4:00 – 4:50 pm

Title: Facilitating Strong Co-Curricular Groups: The Case of the Communication Scholars Society

Presenters: Grace Wipson, Preston Garfin, Aiden Dowski, Grace Roecker, Logan Westrum, Cassandra Houglum, Hannah Cook, & Erika Blanchard
Sponsors: John Perlich

MEMORIAL 240

4:00 – 4:50 pm

Title: Sexual Violence Prevention: Campus and Community Perspectives

Presenter: Rachel Fealy, Bailey Gottlieb, Maya Prim, & Grace Roecker
Sponsor: Judith Zatkun

ONLINE POSTER PRESENTATION

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Online Address: <https://app.gather.town/app/ivqSrulot2Q208fs/Bemidji%20State%20SAC>
Passcode: Bucky

#1

Title: Economic Strength and National Power: An Empirical Analysis of Their Relationship in the International System
Presenter: Adrian Falcon
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

#2

Title: Hashtags and Hierarchies: Comparing Social Movements Pre and Post Social Media
Presenter: Wyatt Eskew
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

#3

Title: The Role of Antitrust in U.S. Healthcare: Market Power, Access, and Inequality
Presenter: Madelaine Adamich
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

#4

Title: Push and Pull Factors of Migration from Latin America
Presenter: Josiah Bloom
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

#5

Title: When Mental Illness Becomes a Crime: The Path from Crisis to Incarceration
Presenter: Kyrsten Olson
Sponsor: Patrick Donnay

#6

Title: "Stories That Shape Us" – Creative Nonfiction & Community Identity Project
Presenter: Anna Wirtz
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#7

Title: Creative Writing in the Secondary Classroom
Presenter: Chris Denne
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#8

Title: Abundance Narrative Project: Honoring Student Backgrounds and Identities
Presenter: Danielle Roberts
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#9

Title: Graphic Novels; A Segway for Reluctant Readers
Presenter: Ivy Matejcek
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#10

Title: Multitmodel Cultural Abundance
Presenter: Brenda Paulzine
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#11

Title: Fostering Creative Writing
Presenter: Brady Wohler
Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

ONLINE POSTER PRESENTATION

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Online Address: <https://app.gather.town/app/ivqSruIot2Q208fs/Bemidji%20State%20SAC>

Passcode: Bucky

#12

Title: Daily Email Writing Project

Presenter: Kevin Freidberg

Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#13

Title: Addressing Creative Writing with Purpose!

Presenter: Molly Ruhland

Sponsor: Danielle Sullivan

#14

Title: How Do Employer Mental Health Initiatives Affect Absenteeism In The Workplace?

Presenter: Sarah Stewart

Sponsor: Thomas Dirth

#15

Title: Responding to Stigma with Self-Advocacy: How Patient Self-Advocacy Mitigates the Negative Health Effects of Weight Based Stigma's

Presenter: Faith Adedeji

Sponsor: Thomas Dirth

#16

Title: The Angry Audience: Ragebait and Reactive Approach Motivation

Presenter: Lily Flanigan

Sponsor: Thomas Dirth

#17

Title: The Annotation of Mycobacteriophage Jant Genome

Presenter: Kaiden Somers

Sponsor: Holly LaFerriere

CAPITOL ROTUNDA PRESENTATION

MARCH 17, 2026

#1

Title: Isolation, Cloning and Transformation of DFR from *Citrus sinensis* (Velencia) leaf tissue into *Escherichia coli* (TOP10)

Presenter: Gloria Rose

Sponsor: Daniel Owens

#2

*Outstanding Conference Poster Winner

Title: A Layered Framework for Intertextuality: Ophelia in Shostakovich's "Seven Romances"

Presenter: Elliott Sisterman

Sponsor: Miriam Weber

#3

Title: Statewide Northern Pike Response to Minnesota's 2018 Regulation Change

Presenter: Elijah Wozniak

Sponsor: Andrew Hafz

#4

Title: Perceiving Others Having Less Challenges: Mental Health Bias and Students' Sense of and Access to Community

Presenter: Sarah Borgen

Sponsor: Travis Ricks

#5

Title: The Social Determinates of Homeless Youth in Itasca County, MN

Presenter: Keshia Hunter

Sponsor: Emily Paine

#6

Title: Assessing the Effect Inhibitors of Succinate Dehydrogenase and Glycolysis have on Normal Pancreatic Cells

Presenters: Megan Nicholls & Kyla Pederson

Sponsor: Kjertin Owens

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DAY RECITAL

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 5 p.m.

Main Theater

Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex

Sonata No. 13 in B-flat major, K. 333

III. Allegretto grazioso

Wyatt Parthun, piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Concerto in D minor for Two Violins, BWV 1083

I. Vivace

Ryann Wallin and Hannah Pfeiffer, violins
Dan Will, piano

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

I. Allegro

Josh Grosvold, clarinet
Dan Will, piano

Alice Mary Smith
(1839-1894)

Concerto for Piccolo in C major, RV 443

I. Allegro

Samantha Melberg, piccolo
Sarah Leach, piano

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)

"Äppelträd och päronträd"

Hannah Lewis, soprano
Denise Laaveg, piano

Bo Linde
(1933-1970)

"Chanson triste"

Carson Binkley, bass-baritone
Dan Will, piano

Henri Duparc
(1848-1933)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DAY RECITAL

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 5 p.m.

Main Theater

Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex

"Ah! Je veux vivre" from Roméo et Juliette

Charles Gounod
(1818-1893)

Hailee Colgrove, soprano
Dan Will, piano

"Maria" from West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

Noah Olson, tenor
Dan Will, piano

Caprice No. 1

Eugène Bozza
(1905-1991)

Dylon Hanson, trumpet
Dan Will, piano

Concerto for Bass Trombone

Donald H. White
(1921-2016)

John Kirk, bass trombone
Dan Will, piano

Quartet for Trombones

Leslie Basset
(1923-2016)

Austin Fomento, Maggy Rusche,
Hannah Herrig, John Kirk, trombones

Rotation II

Eric Sammut
(b. 1968)

Brady Kacon, marimba

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY UNIFIED BASKETBALL EXTRAVAGANZA 2026

Gillett Recreation Center • 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Students: Beth Bolte, Macee Linow, Tieryn Plasch, & Kendra Syverson

Sponsor: Sherry Holloway

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that Bemidji State University is located on land and water that is the current and ancestral homeland of the Ojibwe and Dakota. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide, forced assimilation and efforts to alienate the Indigenous inhabitants from their territory here. We honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land, retained tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and cultural resilience. Indigenous people are spiritual and physical caretakers of this land to which we all belong. Bemidji State University respects these sacred lands, stands with the community members from these Nations and will fight injustice in all its forms.



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY



MINNESOTA STATE

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