

# NO MORE MASKS

With the mask mandate being lifted, life on campus feels 'normal' again.

By JENNA PETERSON and  
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Staff Writers

On March 7, Minnesota State University, Mankato President Edward Inch sent out an email to the MSU community stating the campus-wide mask required is now lifted.

This decision was made after recognizing the Blue Earth County transmission rate has significantly decreased in the past week, as well as guidance from the Minnesota State system office.

This follows recent loosening of guidelines, as just four days ago, Inch sent another email to the campus community stating, "Starting Monday, March 14, there will no longer be a proof of vaccination or testing requirement for students living in residence halls or other designated activities."

Some students, however, may still be required to have the vaccine or go through weekly testing due to the MMB and NCAA requirements.

Inch mentioned that, regardless of county-level data, people can still wear masks and their decision should be respected and supported by the rest of the campus community.

This news has been applauded and appreciated by many on campus.

Mahdi Hassan, a graduate



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Although masks are no longer required, MSU students are allowed to still wear them on campus grounds.

student at MSU, said, "I am happy and a little concerned about the email we received from President Inch. Happy because it has been a few long years with a mask mandate and COVID in place, now it will surely be nice to not have my face and nose covered all the time."

Hassan added, "Some people are not vaccinated, and that is somewhat a concern for the rest of the people. I hope we all stay safe."

Other students are questioning the timing of the Uni-

versity's decision.

Renee Rockwell, a senior majoring in education at MSU said, "I am not attending any classes in person yet. Though I am fully vaccinated, I wasn't feeling safe about going back to school."

While Rockwell may not be attending classes in person yet, she is looking forward to the change for the fall semester.

"I am looking forward to doing most of my classes in person for the upcoming fall semester. With the recent guidelines in place it is truly

great that we won't have to wear masks anymore," she stated. With the new guidelines in place most of the campus community is expected to get rid of masks in classrooms and public places on campus.

For those who are looking to get a COVID-19 vaccine or get tested for COVID-19, Student Health Services will be offering these to the campus community.

For more information about vaccine dates and testing times, visit the health services' website.

## Women's History Month celebrated on MSU campus

By ALEXANDRA TOSTRUD  
Staff Writer

The month of March is dedicated to women's history in the United States, a celebration of women's contributions that has been acknowledged by each president since 1995.

Students and faculty here at Minnesota State University, Mankato, have prepared multiple events for interested students to learn more and empower their peers.

Women's History Month began as a single week in 1981 with a law by Congress and evolved into the month-long celebration held today in 1987.

The observance aims to promote education about women in American history as an in-depth study, as well as spread awareness for violence against women.

Globally, March 8 is recognized as the International **WOMEN** on page 7▶

## MSU alumni now works for the T-Wolves

By BAYLEE SORENSEN  
Guest Writer

Minnesota Timberwolves ticket project manager, Jared Hensch visited Minnesota State University, Mankato on March 3 to share his professional work experience with students.

Hensch, an MSU alumni, graduated in 2011 with a degree in sports management and a minor in marketing. During his time at MSU he worked as an ad representative at The Reporter, the Delta Chi fraternity and Sports Management Club.

Hensch touched on his time as a student at MSU while also sharing his experience as a sales representative at The Reporter.

"I wish I had networked more with peers (other sports management majors) alongside the traditional networking with co-workers and fraternity members," said Hensch. "Learning, becoming better at what you are doing **TIMBERWOLF** on page 7▶

## 'Kato receives big grant for Ag in Action Program

By JEREMY REDLIEN  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded Minnesota State University, Mankato, along with three non-profits, a \$224,744 grant to create leadership opportunities for agricultural students, encourage hands-on learning, and promote collaboration between the college and the greater community.

The three non-profits that will be partnering with MSU Mankato on administering the grant are the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches', Minnesota Venture Farms; MY Place Mankato and Model Citizen Farm in Paynesville, Minnesota.

The grant will benefit MSU students by creating real world

leadership opportunities and direct experience in agriculture.

"We're putting students in the driver seat and they are utilizing the coursework they are doing and what they're doing is actually applying it and practicing it in real time," said Christine Mollenkopf-Pigsley, who is one of the principal investigators for the grant along with Shane Bowyer.

The grant will allow the organizations involved to provide tours of farms, gardening programs over the summer, and career education to both K-12 and college students considering a career in agriculture.

MY Place and Minnesota Venture Farms will provide at risk-youth the ability to participate in a summer gardening program where they will have the opportunity to grow and



Shane Bowyer is the director of the AgriBusiness & Food Innovation Program.

consume agricultural produce themselves.

Model Citizen Farm will give farm tours to K-12 students to help educate on sus-

tainable and innovative agricultural practices.

Each year, MSU-Mankato will host an Ag in Action **GRANT** on page 2▶

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