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MISSION IMPACT REPORT 2024



I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your generous support of Mount Marty University. Your dedication to our community and the values we uphold has a lasting impact on both our students and the Benedictine traditions that guide us.

At Mount Marty, we are deeply committed to the transformative power of education. Your support makes it possible for us to offer students not only a top-tier education but also the opportunity to embrace the core values that define our institution—compassion, integrity, hospitality, and community. These principles are central to all that we do, and your support allows us to instill them in the future leaders we are shaping.

We continue fulfilling our mission of making a meaningful difference in the world. Our students, empowered by the education they receive here, go on to contribute positively to their communities and beyond. Your investment in Mount Marty is truly an investment in a better future for all.

Once again, thank you for your steadfast support of Mount Marty University. Together, we are paving the way for a brighter future, both for our students and the world around us.

With heartfelt appreciation,



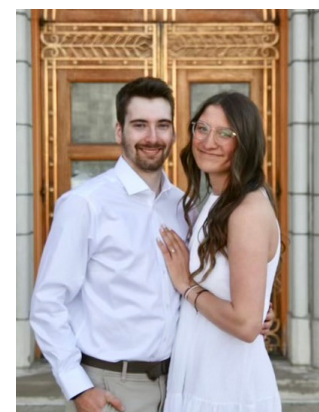
BARBARA REZAC
VICE PRESIDENT OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2024 IMPACT STORIES

CORE VALUES AT WORK: EDUCATION GRADUATES ANSWER THE CALL

Across the United States, schools are feeling an impact from the teacher shortage. As a post-secondary institution which provides a bachelor's in education, professors at Mount Marty University receive inquiries about their students often to help fill the need, but this latest inquiry was a little more unique.

Director of Graduate Teacher Education and Associate Professor, Deborah McCuin, Ph.D., recounted the day she received a call from Chris Stein, the principal of Alliance High School in Alliance, Nebraska. Stein was being proactive with the teacher shortage and inquiring about a graduating engaged couple after hearing from a previous alumni that they would be graduating in May



2024 with their bachelor's degrees in education. The school has been making strides, and "There's just a lot of momentum to have this great stuff continue," said McCuin. "And so, he's searching for a couple of students who could come as new graduates." These graduates were Noah Cagle and Kiah Trainor.

The couple mentioned from their first interview that they had a good feeling about Alliance. They felt that the administration was not only invested in choosing the correct teachers for their students, but also for their community. The couple proceeded through the hiring process and decided to accept the offer with Alliance High School where Cagle plans to teach history and Trainor will teach English and journalism. "We are excited to be starting at Alliance as they change and grow, and to become a part of a school system with so much hope and ambition for the future and their kids," said Trainor.

During this time, McCuin was encouraging her senior education students to attend the South Dakota Teacher Career Fair. It was at the fair that another graduating education couple met Stein: Heston '24 and Andrea Williams '24. The couple was impressed by their conversation with Stein and the opportunity to live in a rural community. Through the interview process,

Heston Williams would accept a head softball coach position and teach physical education and health at Alliance High School while Andrea Williams would find a home in Alliance Grandview Elementary school teaching fifth grade students.



Each couple felt they were well prepared to enter their first year of teaching. Trainor said, "They gave us every opportunity to be in local classrooms and chances to get comfortable as a leader of a classroom rather than just a learner." McCuin mentioned Mount Marty students are taught all their methods courses their junior year

so they can proceed into their fall student teaching prepared. This is not found at every post-secondary institution.

Something else that is specific to Mount Marty graduates is the impact of the core values which are guiding each of these couples. Cagle, Trainor, and the Williamses remarked the importance of life-long learning not only with their students but also with themselves. Heston Williams said, "Lifelong learning is a big thing in this career. We have to constantly be searching for a way to be better for ourselves, our students, and the school."

He went on to explain the importance of another core value that helped his wife and him decide to say yes to Alliance. "Community was a huge factor in the job hunting process. My wife and I wanted to find a community to work and live in that was welcoming and supportive. We wanted a place that we felt like we fit right in and that we would be happy to raise our daughter in. I believe we found that in Alliance."



Scan to read the full story.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Sophomore Lucia Gonzalez is pursuing her bachelor's degree quite a distance from her home in Madrid, Spain. "As I was entering my sophomore year at Mount Marty University as an international transfer student, I was looking for a place where I could be involved in the community around the school," explained Gonzalez. "I wanted to be able to have a home away from home, and I found that family in the Hayneses from day one."

The Mount Marty Hospitality Family program was established to further exercise the university's core value of hospitality, help make the college transition and experience smoother for students, and provide a connection to the Yankton community. Chris and Ashley Haynes have been enrolled in the Hospitality Family Program for two years now and have embraced a different student each year. "We like helping kids, meeting new people, and developing relationships with youth," Ashley Haynes said. "This was a way for us to share the community that we love with the university."

The Haynes family and Gonzalez were connected through the program this school year and were both impacted in more ways than they originally expected. "I was expecting just some company from them, but they really became my family," said Gonzalez. "Having the chance to have a place where you feel like home makes me feel really grateful. They have been there to talk to me when needed, came to support me at my games, and every time they could they gave me a call to join their plans." Gonzalez also appreciated having people around to go to for advice while away at college. "I felt like I was part of the family really fast, and that means the world to me and to my parents."

The Haynes children were also very involved in the program and enjoyed spending time with Gonzalez. Their daughter Ally's favorite memory with Gonzalez was during a night of grilling when she dropped the burger she was making.



Other memories the children shared of their time with Gonzalez were when she wasn't able to go home for spring break to see her family, and so the Hayneses invited her to watch their kids play basketball in Omaha. This was their son Cooper's favorite memory as well as Gonzalez's, while their other son Connor's favorite memory was playing soccer in the house with Gonzalez and Ignacio Gómez Vázquez (Nacho). Nacho is a sophomore as well and originally from Seville, Spain, who is also a part of the hospitality program with his own host family.

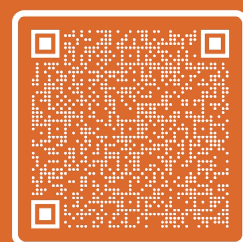
Having a student join the Haynes family has positively impacted them in more ways than one. "The international culture of Lucia and her friend Nacho created a wonderful experience for our family. We learned so much about their Spanish culture, way of life, the language, societal, and even political and geographical comparisons," Haynes recounted. "Beyond those components, Lucia and her friend Nacho are great role models for our kids. They put their academics first, work hard as both athletes and students, and have a strong faith. They emulate those qualities in ways we want our kids to grow up and become."

And for Gonzalez, she found her desired home away from home. "The hospitality program enriches both the student and the family as it is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures, and it helps you develop in all ways possible," said Gonzalez. "It is a gift to be able to have lunch with a family on Sundays, the day I used to spend with my Spanish family back home."

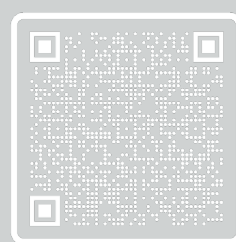


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