



## RIDGEWATER EVENTS



### 2023 Graduation

We wish the best to all of our recent 2023 graduates as they move on to the next stage of their journey to career and life success!

**Student Speakers:**  
Samuel Choy (Hutchinson)  
Juan Santiago Espinosa Hernandez (Willmar)  
**Commencement Speaker:**  
Erika Kellen

For recordings and details from the 2023 ceremony, go to [ridgewater.edu/cermony](http://ridgewater.edu/cermony).



### 2023 Hutchinson Jaycees Ridgewater College Water Carnival Disc Golf Tournament

Ridgewater is hosting its fifth RC JC Water Carnival Disc Golf Tournament on Tues., June 13. Maximum 60 golfers in five divisions (spots are currently limited.)  
[www.ridgewater.edu/foundationevents](http://www.ridgewater.edu/foundationevents)





## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of volunteers to review applications for Fall 2023 scholarships. Do you have 2-4 hours (max!) you can spare? Application review is easy and is done entirely online. The timeline for reviews is **June 6 through June 16th**. Check out this short 3-minute video — <https://vimeo.com/229756556> — to view the process, which is simple and user-friendly.

Most review volunteers are assigned an average of 20-30 scholarship applications. We hear over and over that this is a very rewarding experience. By reading student applications, you will learn valuable insights about our students, including their needs, their struggles, and their dreams for the future.

Can we count you in? Click here to sign up: [Volunteer form](#)

## RIDGEWATER NEWS



### Ridgewater Welding Partners with Willmar Police for K-9 Statue

For several months, Ridgewater Welding students and faculty have been working to create a life-size, stainless steel German Shepard sculpture to recognize the value of K-9 officers within the police, emergency and military services.

“We were approached last summer by Willmar Police Chief Jim Felt to build a sculpture to display in their lobby,” said Cody Sarsland, Ridgewater Welding instructor. “We’ve had numerous students involved in bending, cutting and welding the many pieces of this sculpture and are excited to install and help dedicate it.”

[Read more....](#)



### PTK Recognizes Ridgewater Chapter Officers and Advisor

Ridgewater College’s Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society chapter is having quite a rewarding and awarding year.

First, it celebrated students Lizza Dinndorf and Zoey Lovold for being named to the Minnesota All-Academic Team. Then Ridgewater’s Heidi Olson, dean of students, received the 2023 Distinguished College Administrator Award for efforts in 2022.

Now Ridgewater PTK officers Leigh Baker of Watkins, and Darcy Martin and Max Pohlman of Hutchinson have earned a PTK Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award and Advisor Dr. Bradley Wolfe has earned a 2023 Paragon Award for New Advisors for 2022 efforts.

[Read more....](#)





Mandi Lighthizer-Schmidt



Megan Stadem



Nellie Schmalz



Brittany Polzin



Stephanie Holland

# April & May New Hires



creating opportunities. changing lives.

# Welcome

to the  
Ridgewater  
team!



## New April & May Hires

We are happy to announce the following positions have been filled, and we're excited to welcome these new hires to our Ridgewater family!

- Mandi Lighthizer-Schmidt: *Director of Recruiting & Communications*
- Megan Stadem: *Foundation Assistant Director*
- Nellie Schmalz: *Data & Communications Coordinator*
- Brittany Polzin: *Customer Service Specialist*
- Stephanie Holland: *Career Services Coordinator*
- Lizeth Rios: *Library Technician (Not Pictured)*
- Brian Nemmers: *IT Lab Assistant (Not Pictured)*
- Lawrence Folz: *General Maintenance Worker (Not Pictured)*
- Scott Stahnke: *Plant Maintenance Engineer (Not Pictured)*
- Andrew Rodgers: *General Maintenance Worker (Not Pictured)*



## Ridgewater College Job Postings

Postings were active as of 5/19/2023.

Please visit the [Ridgewater College Employment web page](#) for the most current list of job postings.

- **Academic Advisor/Student Success Specialist** | Full-time | Willmar
- **Accounting Technician** | Full-time | Willmar

Interested in other community job listings? Ridgewater College's Central Network Job Posting website includes current job postings from employers in the region, across the state, and throughout the nation. This is a free resource for Ridgewater students and alumni! [View more information.](#)

[Explore Ridgewater Job Openings](#)



# ALUMNI STORIES

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

**We want to hear from you!** Are there ways Ridgewater has helped you achieve your goals? Where are you living, what are you doing, and what is life like for you now?

Tell us about yourself and your journey with Ridgewater College! These stories are an inspiration for current students, prospective students, Ridgewater employees, and fellow Ridgewater alum. **Help tell the Ridgewater story!**

[Share Your Alumni Story](#)



## Meet our Foundation Assistant Director!

Hi! I am Megan Stadem, your new Foundation Assistant Director. From 2020-2023, I worked in the Ridgewater College bookstore. In my bookstore role, I was responsible for managing daily operations, creating and executing web site and social media content, utilizing data systems, performing data analysis, as well as delivering exceptional customer service and building relationships with the college's internal and external stakeholders. I have several years of prior retail and sales-focused experience. In each of my roles, I have demonstrated a high degree of initiative, creativity, self-motivation, people skills, adaptability and a talent for innovation – all of which made me an excellent fit for this new Foundation role which will include responsibility for donor relations, stewardship, marketing, outreach and friend- and fundraising.

Please reach out to me with any questions or ideas you may have... I would love to get to know you and your story!

Email: [megan.stadem@ridgewater.edu](mailto:megan.stadem@ridgewater.edu) | Phone: 320-222-6098



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Ridgewater College Foundation

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