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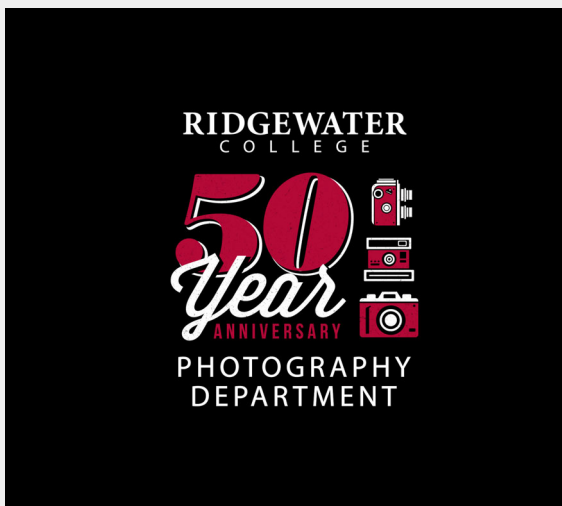
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**From:** Ridgewater College Foundation <foundation@ridgewater.edu>

**Subject:** August Alumni Achievements: Celebrating Success and Connection!



## Calling All Photography Alumni!



On October 28th, from 1-4pm, there will be a 50th Anniversary celebration in the photography department on the Willmar campus! For past photography graduates and those who have taken photography classes at Ridgewater, be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail! This is your chance to commemorate five decades of passion, creativity, and dedication to the art of photography. Come mingle with past classmates and network with new people you may not know! See the event page [here!](#)

## Fall Semester Begins!



Welcome Day - Willmar

# Welcome Day - Hutchinson



On August 21, fall semester began. During the first week of classes each semester, student life hosts a welcome day which brings lots of students to campus!

Students find out what resources are available to them through the college. They also have a chance to meet some new people and win prizes!

## Upcoming Information Sessions

*If you're interested in coming back to school!*

### Veterinary Technology Information Session

September 12, 2023 from 11:00-12:00pm on the Willmar Campus

Explore In-Demand Veterinary Technology Careers. Meet our experienced faculty and discover our nationally recognized program. Our state-of-the-art facilities, including our Paws and Claws Clinic, give students an excellent environment for hands-on

### Auto Careers Information Session

September 12, 2023 from 1:00pm-2:30pm on the Willmar Campus

Explore our state-of-the-art facilities and industry equipment. Meet our experienced faculty, check out our new virtual reality painter and discover Ridgewater's automotive programs. We do cars – inside and out!



practice. Our Veterinary Technology program will ensure you're well prepared for a rewarding, exciting career!

- Career info and job outlook
- Admissions criteria and process
- Curriculum plan and required coursework
- Q & A

Reserve your spot:

[ridgewater.edu/vettech](http://ridgewater.edu/vettech) • 320-222-5977

- Program overview
- Department tour
- Admissions and financial aid next steps
- Q & A time

Program Options

- Auto Body Collision Repair
- Automotive Service Technology

ASE-certified program with master-certification; Snap On NC3 certified.

Reserve your spot:

[ridgewater.edu/autotrades](http://ridgewater.edu/autotrades) • 320-222-5733

## Out in the Community



No ifs, ands, or putts about it, we had so much fun at the [Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce](#) golf event on August 7th! There were a total of 36 teams, which gave us the chance to connect with many alumni and have great conversations about the programs we offer here at Ridgewater College. [#ridgewaterproud](#)

Did you know that our Computer-Aided Drafting and Design program is fully online with national and international students? Did you know that our Dairy Management program takes 40+ farm operation field trips throughout their two years at Ridgewater?



Did you know that students in the Auto-Body Collision Technology program use state-of-the-art, high-tech equipment like computerized and laser-guided measuring systems and computerized paint mixing systems as they work in four downdraft booths to bake vehicle finishes that last?



## Did you know we offer many online classes?

- Online education allows flexibility.
- Lifelong learning must now be a part of everyone's career plans. In today's job market, taking online courses help workers remain competitive, and they don't need to take time off from their jobs to do this.



**August 31**  
WORLD DISTANCE  
LEARNING DAY

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that a significant portion of our students are enrolled in online programs and can benefit from scholarships?

"Growing up everyone had a hobby they loved. I never felt like I could stick to one hobby. Eventually I discovered photography. I watched people capture the beauty of humans and this earth. Getting to capture beauty, love, and happiness in a photo makes me happy. Younger me knew I wanted to do photography for the rest of my life so I searched until I found a photography degree!"

- Josie Perrizo, Online student who received a Fall 2023 Scholarship



## August 31 is World Distance Learning Day

Online learning is a great way to learn, and students who take online classes are still able to earn scholarships through the foundation. Ridgewater offers 30+ fully online programs so whether you are looking to earn your next degree or pick up a few classes, Ridgewater College is the place to be!

## Alumni in Action

## Elevating Success Beyond Graduation: Highlighting Alumni Achievements

Meet Matthew and Jackie Woltjer. Matthew was a Ridgewater College alumni who studied computer art and publishing.

Recently Matthew and his wife, Jackie, started a new photography business out of New London, MN. Check them out here!  
<https://mj-photography.studio>



### Alumni Story: Colton Taylor - *Liberal Arts, Class of 2019*

I chose Ridgewater College (RC) completely at random. I got online to look up colleges in Minnesota due to the close proximity to South Dakota (where I lived at the time). I looked up a few classes, called up the football coach, and within an hour later I applied.

With my time at RC, I developed many relationships and was involved with quite a bit on campus; football, baseball, Student Senate, theatre, and PTK. All of those experiences helped me to become the man that I am today. I went

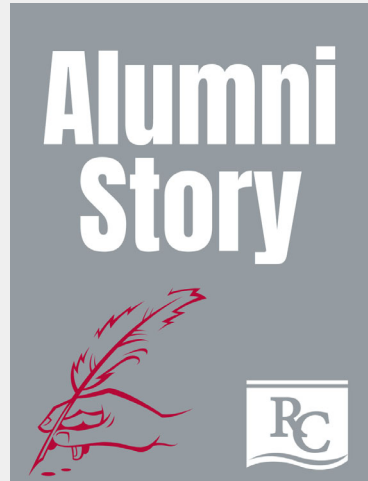
on to Black Hills State University where I double majored and graduated with my BS degree. I then moved to North Dakota and became a Deputy Sheriff. After approximately 1 year and a half of being on patrol I was then promoted to Narcotics Detective assigned to the Northwest Narcotics Task Force working with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). RC played a vital role in being where I am today and I will forever be grateful for my time there!

**Connect with us, like Colton did, and tell us your story!**

Every story holds value, even seemingly mundane ones. Could you share your journey post-college? How has higher education propelled you towards your aspirations? We're eager to hear about your current location, your endeavors, and the tapestry of your present life!

YOUR story can provide inspiration to current students, prospective students, employees, and fellow Ridgewater alum.

**Help tell the Ridgewater story!**



[Share My Story!](#)

[Update My Contact Info!](#)

**Unleash Your Potential: Join us and our Warriors!**



**Ryan Schultz**  
Women's  
Basketball  
Coach



**Martin Chappo**  
General  
Maintenance  
Worker

**August  
New Hires**



creating opportunities. changing lives.

**Welcome**  
to the  
Ridgewater  
team!







*Be a part of our Ridgewater college team and contribute to a transformative educational experience, where dedicated faculty, personalized learning, and a vibrant campus culture combine to empower student success. With a shared commitment to fostering growth and enriching opportunities, you'll play a pivotal role in helping students excel in their academic pursuits and personal aspirations.*

**Ridgewater College Job Postings**

Available as of 8/29/23.

Please visit the [Ridgewater College Employment web page](#) to check for job postings.

- **Nursing Tutor** | Part-time | Hutchinson or Willmar
- **Human Resources Generalist** | Full-time | Hutchinson or Willmar
- **Accounts Receivable/Payroll Technician** | Full-time | Hutchinson or Willmar
  - **Accounting Technician - Cashier** | Full-time | Willmar
- **Academic Advisor/Student Success Specialist** | Full-time | Willmar



## North Star Promise Scholarship Program

Beginning in fall 2024, the North Star Promise (NSP) Scholarship program will create a tuition and fee-free pathway to higher education for eligible Minnesota Residents at eligible institutions as a "last-dollar" program by covering the balance of tuition and fees remaining after other scholarships, grants, stipends and tuition waivers have been applied. To be eligible, you must have a family adjusted gross income below \$80,000.

What's important for you to know is that while North Star Promise will help a small percentage of students, *philanthropic support for the majority of Ridgewater students who won't qualify is still very much needed!* In the last year alone, our Ridgewater College Foundation processed a record 972 scholarship applications. Of that number, 312 students received scholarships – about 32%. The demand for scholarships far exceeds the dollars available. In addition, Foundation dollars can be used in other ways to support students – particularly in the basic needs area where we provide emergency grants, gas and grocery cards, and funding for the food pantries. The North Star Promise won't cover those things.

**We need your support!** Students journeys remind us that the path to success is not always a straight line, but rather a tapestry woven with resilience, passion, and relentless effort. As an Alumni of Ridgewater College, you may recollect the challenges and rigors of college days.

As we continue to support and uplift current students, we kindly invite you to consider contributing to our ongoing efforts. Your donation will not only make a difference but also uphold the spirit of giving back that defines our institution.

**Together, we can create opportunities, change lives, and pave the way for a brighter future.**

**Support Students Now!**



***Stay connected and up-to-date with all the latest news, events, and success stories by following our social media!***

[Unsubscribe](#)

Ridgewater College Foundation

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