

Counselor News

Helping you help students with college search

Minnesota Private College Council

MAY 2017

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The [Minnesota Private College Council](#) represents 17 of the best private, liberal arts colleges and universities in Minnesota.

Our Colleges

[Augsburg College](#)

[Bethany Lutheran College](#)

[Bethel University](#)

[Carleton College](#)

[College of Saint Benedict](#)

[College of St. Scholastica](#)

[Concordia College](#)

[Concordia University](#)

[Gustavus Adolphus College](#)

[Hamline University](#)

[Macalester College](#)

[Minneapolis College of Art and Design](#)

[Saint John's University](#)

Considering counselor recommendations

The return of students to your school building in the fall always brings excitement and optimism, but for guidance counselors these feelings are also accompanied by the daunting task of composing counselor letters of recommendation (CLORs) for college-bound seniors. Whether one considers the high student-to-counselor ratios prevalent here in Minnesota or the fact that there is often uncertainty over how CLORs will be used and who actually reads them, it is clear that some advice might be helpful.



[Read the article for tips on how to compose counselor recommendations](#) that are more insightful about a student's academic and personal accomplishments.

Resources for families to plan Minnesota Private College Week visits

With the end of the school year fast approaching, students and families may not have put summer college visits on their radar yet, but [Minnesota Private College Week](#) can help them check it off their summer to-do list. This year's event runs **June 26-30** with sessions from **9:30 to noon** and **2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** each day on all 17 of our campuses.

Students can register themselves or parents can do it for them, and we recommend visiting more than one campus. When we survey parents and students after the event, nearly half wish they had gone on more visits!

We've also created following resources to help families plan their visits; please consider sharing these:

- what past [students](#) and [parents](#) had to say about event
- [our tips](#) on how to make the most their visit
- [directions and parking info](#) for each campus
- [transportation options](#) if they can't or don't want to drive
- suggestions on how to [make a road trip out of it](#)

Need to register students for Minnesota Private College Week?

We've created a group visit registration spreadsheet to make it easier for you to register your group, especially if you're planning to bring a large one. You can find it under "Registration is highly recommended" (item #2) on [our website](#).

Our [article on coordinating group summer visits](#) also might be a good read if you're planning on bringing a group.

Student profile: Ali Carlson

After her first year of college at Iowa, Ali Carlson wanted to make a change and transferred her sophomore year to Concordia College in Moorhead. Her whole family is helping support her college experience, but she also credits the financial aid office for helping make it possible. "For me, because of financial aid, it was more affordable to go to a liberal arts college than a state school," she said.



[Read more of Ali's story.](#)

[Saint Mary's University of Minnesota](#)

[St. Catherine University](#)

[St. Olaf College](#)

[University of St. Thomas](#)



Sign up

If you received this from a friend, you can [sign up for Counselor News](#)

[Read current issue online.](#)

Our colleges award larger proportion of degrees in several areas

Although our 17 member institutions awarded 29 percent of all bachelor's degrees in Minnesota in the 2015-16 academic year, they awarded a larger proportion of bachelor's degrees in several key areas of study, including:

- 50 percent of physical sciences degrees (chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy)
- 48 percent of history degrees
- 41 percent of foreign languages degrees
- 36 percent of mathematics and statistics degrees
- 36 percent of health professions degrees

It's also worth noting that women earned 45 percent of the bachelor's degrees awarded in STEM disciplines at our colleges. (That's compared to only 35 percent at the University of Minnesota and 30 percent at Minnesota State universities.)

Want to know more about how our colleges stack up? Read the full [Bachelor's Degrees Granted report](#).

Addressing equity through internships

Students are often expected to have relevant work experience as well as academic experience by the time they graduate, but internships are often unpaid, which can make them unfeasible for students who need to support themselves financially while in college. That, in turn, puts these students at a disadvantage when applying for jobs after they graduate.



[Read how St. Catherine University is opening the door to the internship experience to more students.](#)

The demand for foreign languages

Employers are looking for it, and private colleges are focusing on it. As students graduate and enter the working world, intercultural competency is increasingly valuable, and the study of foreign languages — whether it's a couple of classes or a major — help accomplish that.



[Learn how St. Olaf College uses the study of foreign languages to expand students' understanding of people and culture.](#)

Recent campus news

[Augsburg's acclaimed StepUP Program, staff take on increased national role in reducing stigma](#)

Augsburg College's new Executive Director for Recovery Advancement ensures U.S. students who seek to live in recovery from substance use disorders have greater opportunities for success.

[NYC journalist and professor headlines first journalism symposium](#)

During a **Bethel University** journalism symposium, former *Wall Street Journal* writer Paul Glader addressed media literacy and journalism ethics amidst alternative facts and fake news.

[Carleton students explore civil-rights movement's roots on spring break trip](#)

Eighteen **Carleton College** students experienced historical civil-rights sites in Ohio to Washington to Alabama. Read the students' daily blog entries about the highly impactful experience.

[Pi Mu Epsilon undergraduate math research conference held at Saint Ben's/Saint John's](#)

The **College of Saint Benedict** and **Saint John's University** hosted its 38th annual conference for students from Minnesota, western Wisconsin and eastern North and South Dakota.

[St. Scholastica physician assistant program earns accreditation](#)

The College of St. Scholastica's new physician assistant program has earned provisional accreditation, and its first cohort of 30 students will begin taking classes this fall.

[Concordia College student receives Gaither Fellowship](#)

Concordia College graduate Matthew Lillehaugen '17 has been selected for the James C. Gaither Fellowship by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

[CSP partners with Mitchell Hamline to offer new MBA](#)

Mitchell Hamline School of Law will offer its health care compliance program as part of the MBA degree at **Concordia University, St. Paul**, under a recent agreement between the two schools.

[Gustavus junior wins Goldwater, prepares for summer research at Harvard](#)

Gustavus Adolphus College biochemistry and mathematics major Katie Aney was recently named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar and will research at Harvard through the Amgen Scholars Program this summer.

[Hamline receives nearly \\$1 million grant for science teacher education](#)

Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education was awarded a second grant of \$457,000 from the Minnesota Department of Education to continue innovate science teacher training.

[Macalester professor Marlon James is one of 52 notable Minnesotans](#)

The **Macalester College** professor and 2015 Man Booker Prize-winning author is a bonafide literary superstar but chooses to stay in Minnesota.

[Saint Mary's announces Mayo Clinic collaboration, \\$5 million gift, expansion in Rochester](#)

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is collaborating with Mayo Clinic on a new physician assistant program. A related \$5 million gift will bring about a Rochester expansion.

[St. Catherine students earn national recognition for research project](#)

Three **St. Catherine University** students will present their collaborative research project at "Posters on the Hill" in Washington, D.C.

[Moonlight writer says St. Olaf Choir song 'shaped his life'](#)

Moonlight writer Tarell Alvin McCraney tells *Out Magazine* that the **St. Olaf** Choir's performance of "City Called Heaven" is among 10 songs that shaped his life.

[St. Thomas is first in Minnesota named Changemaker Campus](#)

The **University of St. Thomas** has been named a Changemaker Campus by Ashoka U, a global higher education consortium inspiring a culture of social innovation.

Interested in more campus news? [View past news items.](#)

Worth reading

Here are some of the best recent articles that we've come across:

- [The ideal college education can yield rocket scientists who write poetry](#), San Diego Union-Tribune, Mar. 30, 2017
- [4 things we don't know about AP tests](#), National Public Radio, May 1, 2017
- [Former interns tell how they landed a first job](#), The New York Times, Apr. 7, 2017
- [Surfing the 4th industrial revolution: artificial intelligence and the liberal arts](#), The Brookings Institution, Apr. 11, 2017
- [Common Application makes more changes for 2017-2018 college admissions season](#), Washington Post, Apr. 13, 2017

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