



# Convocation

Spring 2024

January 2-5, 2024

*It's Time...*  
**TO BE BOLD**

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**TO INNOVATE**  
for a new generation of students

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**TO FOCUS**  
and turn challenges we face  
into our opportunities

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## **Spring 2024 Convocation**

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# Schedule

## Tuesday, January 2, 2024

9:00 -10:30 **Keynote Address**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** Dale Buske, Professor of Mathematics

*Livestreamed and recorded*

10:45 -11:45 **Individualized Faculty and Student Support within Academics**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:**

**Dan Huwe**, Experiential Learning and Outreach Director, College of Liberal Arts

**Katie Kustritz**, Student Relations Director, College of Education and Learning Design

**Kristy Modrow**, Student Relations and Experiential Learning Director, Herberger Business School

**Isaac Olson**, Student Relations Director, College of Science and Engineering

**Hien Studniski**, Student Relations Director, College of Liberal Arts

**Nena Vasovic**, Student Relations and Experiential Learning Director, College of Health and Wellness Professions

12:00 -1:00 **Lunch on your own**

1:00 - 2:15 **Workshops: Equitable Grading Practices**

**Specification Grading: Expecting Excellence and Student Accountability While Streamlining Instructor Grading**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** **Emil Towner**, Professor Department of Marketing

**Second Chance Saturdays: A Model to Reduce Equity Gaps**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** **Ruthanne Kim**, Faculty Lead Organizer | Community Anti-Racism Education (C.A.R.E.), Professor of Philosophy, Minneapolis College

**Wise Feedback: Communicating High Expectations, Centering Growth Mindset, and Fostering Academic Belonging**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** **Aeriel A. Ashlee**, Associate Professor and Graduate Director, College Counseling and Student Development

2:30 - 3:30 **Transfer and Articulation Agreements**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** **Tim Meendering**, Registrar and **Mike Coonen**, Director of Transfer Partnerships & Collaboration

3:30 – 5:00 **Esports at SCSU**

**Location:** Atwood Esports Arena

**Presenters:** **Curtis Homan, Camren McCall and Edison Jensen**

## **Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

8:30-9:00 **Coffee Social** *Hosted by SCSU Online and Distance Learning*

**Location:** Hallway Outside Voyageurs Rooms, Atwood Memorial Center

9:00-10:15 **Pedagogy and Instructional Design Workshops**  
(Multiple Sessions In Person and Online)

**H5P and D2L Widgets**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** **Cezariig Abartis, Roseann Wolak**

**A Proactive Approach to AI: Designing Activities and Assignments**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** **Emil Towner, Matt Barton**

**Humanizing Courses Through Communication**

**Location:** Zoom Only <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/93213684149>

**Presenter:** **Kendra Self**

10:30-11:45 **Pedagogy and Instructional Design Workshops**

**Intelligent Agents**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** *Greg Jorgensen*

**Instructor Presence-Creating Meaningful Intro Videos**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** *Jodi Laudenbach, Roseann Wolak, Frances Kayona*, Educational Administration and Leadership, *Rachel Friedensen*, Higher Education Administration, *Stacy Martig*, Math Skills Center

**Hyflex: Updated Definitions, Strategies, and Faculty Idea Sharing**

**Location:** Online Only <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/96135291562>

**Presenter:** *Dave Blanchard*

12:00-1:00 **Lunch on your own**

1:00-2:15 **AI for Instructional Use: Taskforce and Instructional Resource Update**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

2:30-3:45 **Demystifying Mindfulness: Well-Being Practices**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** *Jenn (Waletzko) Johnson*, Director of Health Promotion, Prevention and Recovery

## Thursday, January 4, 2023

8:30-10:00 **Work Time/D2L Drop In Topics**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

10:00-10:30 **Overview Panel: Resources to Support Student Success and Academic Equity**

10:30-11:45 **Q&A and Networking with Panelists**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Panelists:**

*Emil Towner*, Center of Holocaust and Genocide Education (CGHE)

*Amy Herbert Knopf*, Center for International Disability and Advocacy and Diplomacy (CIDAD)

*Ruthanne Kim*, Community Anti-Racism Education Initiative (C.A.R.E.)

**Odessa Luna**, Anti-Racism Institute; Antiracist Pedagogy Across the Curriculum

**Charlie Curtis**, LGBT+ Resource Center

**Matthew S. Vorell**, Huskies Advance Lead Mentor

Afternoon **College/School Meetings**  
Details communicated by Deans

## Friday, January 5, 2024

9:00-10:30 **President's Address**  
**Location:** Ritsche Auditorium, Stewart Hall  
Livestreamed and Recorded

10:30-11:30 **Coffee and Campus Social**  
**Location: Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center**

Afternoon **Department Meetings**  
Details communicated by Chairs

## Session Descriptions

### Tuesday, January 2, 2024

9:00 -10:30 **Keynote Address**

Location: Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center  
Presenter: Dale Buske, Professor of Mathematics  
*Livestreamed and recorded*

10:45 -11:45 **Individualized Faculty and Student Support within Academics**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:**

**Dan Huwe**, Experiential Learning and Outreach Director, College of Liberal Arts

**Katie Kustritz**, Student Relations Director, College of Education and Learning Design

**Kristy Modrow**, Student Relations and Experiential Learning Director, Herberger Business School

**Isaac Olson**, Student Relations Director, College of Science and Engineering

**Hien Studniski**, Student Relations Director, College of Liberal Arts

**Nena Vasovic**, Student Relations and Experiential Learning Director, College of Health and Wellness Professions

College/School Student Relations and Experiential Learning Directors (SRD/ELOD's) provide individualized student and faculty support within academics. This session will highlight the SRD/ELOD's pivotal role in coordinated academic advising, adept management of student conduct and complaints, the implementation of recruitment and retention initiatives and in nurturing relationships within the campus community and with external organizations.

12:00 -1:00 **Lunch on your own**

1:00 - 2:15 **Workshops: Equitable Grading Practices**

Scholarly research points to multiple practices that reduce equity gaps in academic classes which is in line with Minnesota State Equity 2030 initiatives. This session focuses on practice teaching/learning changes related to grading that increase student accountability, align with a growth mindset, and clarify instructor processes. Each workshop will be 75 minutes long. The structure will include a brief description and demonstration of how the presenter used the approach followed by guided workshop time for participants to apply the method to their own course/s. Participants are invited to select a workshop that best matches their needs and course materials they wish to update.

### **Specification Grading: Expecting Excellence and Student Accountability While Streamlining Instructor Grading**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** Emil Towner, Professor Department of Marketing

This workshop provides an overview of “spec” (specifications) grading. Participants will learn how spec grading provides students with flexibility and control over their grades while helping faculty save time and maintain high standards. An example of one course’s assignments and grading policy will be provided—including lessons learned from previous implementation. Finally, participants will have hands-on time to apply the concept to their course.

### **Second Chance Saturdays: A Model to Reduce Equity Gaps**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** Ruthanne Kim, Faculty Lead Organizer | Community Anti-Racism Education (C.A.R.E.), Professor of Philosophy, Minneapolis College

In this workshop, Ruthanne Kim will introduce a model, Second Chance Saturdays, she used at Minneapolis College to reengage with content and submit late work. This model cut equity gaps in philosophy courses by half. Workshop participants will exchange ideas and discuss timing decisions regarding methods for reengaging with students and allowing submission of late work. Further, participants will consider student generated creative assessments. Participants are invited to examine a course and outline how D2L, accessibility, basic needs, academic tutoring, GAs, institutional research, and AI can help them lift their own second-chance initiatives off the ground.

### **Wise Feedback: Communicating High Expectations, Centering Growth**

#### **Mindset, and Fostering Academic Belonging**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** Aerial A. Ashlee, Associate Professor and Graduate Director, College Counseling and Student Development

In this workshop, participants will learn “wise feedback” strategies that involve clearly communicating instructors’ high expectations, articulating instructors’ belief in students’ skills and ability to meet those expectations, and providing specific feedback and resources to help students improve. Grounded in a growth mindset framework, wise feedback has been found to positively influence student motivation and achievement as well as reduce equity disparities in educational outcomes.

2:30 - 3:30 **Transfer and Articulation Agreements**  
**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center  
**Presenters:** Tim Meendering, Registrar and Mike Coonen, Director of Transfer Partnerships & Collaboration

3:30 – 5:00 **Esports at SCSU**  
**Location:** Atwood Esports Arena  
**Presenters:** Curtis Homan, Camren McCall and Edison Jensen  
Learn about esports at SCSU from academic, athletics/activities, and student life perspectives. After a program overview exploring competitions communities, and careers, faculty and staff will be invited to get **hands-on and play some of the featured games** our esports programming highlights.

## Wednesday, January 3, 2024

8:30-9:00 **Coffee Social** *Hosted by SCSU Online and Distance Learning*  
**Location:** Outside of Voyageurs Rooms, Atwood Memorial Center

9:00-10:15 **Pedagogy and Instructional Design Workshops**  
(Multiple Sessions In Person and Online)

### **H5P and D2L Widgets**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** Cezariig Abartis, Roseann Wolak

Explore potential use cases for adding interactive content to your D2L courses using H5P. H5P is a web-based content authoring tools that allows for the creation of interactive content to supplement instruction.

### **A Proactive Approach to AI: Designing Activities and Assignments**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** Emil Towner and Matt Barton

Proactively creating assignments and activities that acknowledge the potential use of Artificial Intelligence is a key strategy in addressing how AI is used in your courses. Rather than fighting the use of a tool, channeling appropriate usage allows students to engage in real-world expectations around AI.

### **Humanizing Courses Through Communication**

**Location:** Zoom Only <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/93213684149>

**Presenter:** Kendra Self

Create engaging, meaningful, and human-centered communications for your course. This session will integrate elements of research and practice while reviewing different course communication styles and strategies.

## 10:30-11:45 **Pedagogy and Instructional Design Workshops**

### **Intelligent Agents**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** Greg Jorgensen

Intelligent Agents are trigger-based communications that can be automated within D2L Brightspace Courses. In this session, learn about how Intelligent Agents help keep students engaged and retained, how to design a meaningful message, and how to automate Intelligent Agent messages based on student habits that are important to you or their success.

### **Instructor Presence-Creating Meaningful Intro Videos**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:** Jodi Laudenbach, Roseann Wolak, Frances Kayona, Educational Administration and Leadership, Rachel Friedensen, Higher Education Administration, Stacy Martig, Math Skills Center  
Are you looking for ways to spark interest in your course? Or have you ever wondered how to kick-start your students' engagement? Consider instructor presence and give intro videos a try.

In this session, participants will learn about instructor presence focusing on creating intro videos. The session will consist of three parts:

1. An overview of instructor presence - what it is and why is it important for student engagement and tips when creating intro videos.
2. Faculty panel – faculty members will share their experiences using intro videos in their teaching practices.
3. Hands-on practice – during this time you will be able to create your own intro video. Bring your personal device and be prepared to create an intro video. We will walk you through the process of using Kaltura Capture MediaSpace, Kaltura Express Capture from within D2L, and ZOOM recordings.

### **Hyflex: Updated Definitions, Strategies, and Faculty Idea Sharing**

**Location:** Zoom Only <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/96135291562>

**Presenter:** Dave Blanchard

With the updated definitions of HyFlex Instruction, Academic Affairs and

SCSU Online have developed training and collaboration time to clarify the new definitions, strategies for developing D2L course pages, and instructional strategies to engage learners in multiple modalities.

Open to all Faculty and Staff, Instruction focused.

12:00-1:00 **Lunch on your own**

1:00-2:15 **AI for Instructional Use: Taskforce and Instructional Resource Update**

**Location:** Voyageurs South, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenters:**

2:30-3:45 **Demystifying Mindfulness: Well-Being Practices**

**Location:** Voyageurs North, Atwood Memorial Center

**Presenter:** Jen Johnson, Director for Health Promotion, Prevention & Recovery

Demystifying Mindfulness is an interactive session aimed at providing and understanding of mindfulness and mindfulness practices. The presentation will share what mindfulness is, research backed benefits, practical applications in daily life and its relevance in educational settings. It includes guided mindfulness meditation, interactive exercises, and group discussions to engage participants and address common misconceptions. Attendees will also receive information on recommended resources for further learning and practice.

## Thursday, January 4, 2024

8:30-10:00 **Work Time/D2L Drop In Topics**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

Online Team will host a drop in session to offer support

10:00-11:45 **Overview Panel: Resources to Support Student Success and Academic Equity**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

Many SCSU campus resources support student success and equity in partnership with academic learning initiatives. Join this session to hear more about campus initiatives, discuss intersections with class-based learning, and network with potential partners.

**Q&A and Networking with Panelists**

**Location:** Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

**Panelists:**

Emil Towner, Center of Holocaust and Genocide Education (CGHE)

Amy Herbert Knopf, Center for International Disability and Advocacy and Diplomacy (CIDAD)  
Ruthanne Kim, Community Anti-Racism Education Initiative (C.A.R.E.)  
Odessa Luna, Anti-Racism Institute; Antiracist Pedagogy Across the Curriculum  
Charlie Curtis, LGBTQ+ Resource Center  
Matthew S. Vorell, Huskies Advance Lead Mentor

Afternoon **College/School Meetings**  
Details communicated by Deans

## **Friday, January 5, 2024**

9:00-10:30 **President's Address**  
Location: Atwood Ballroom  
Livestreamed and Recorded

10:30-11:30 **Coffee and Social**  
Location: Cascade, Atwood Memorial Center

Afternoon **Department Meetings**  
Details communicated by Chair



# ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

## Office of Academic Affairs

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