



**SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL  
HARDROCKER HONORS CONVOCATION  
& LEADERSHIP HALL OF FAME**

*April 17, 2026*

*Beck Ballroom • Surbeck Center*

## PROGRAM

6:00 pm

### Opening Remarks

**Dr. Joe Dlugos**, *Dean of Students and emcee*

### Congratulatory Remarks

**Dr. Brian Tande**, *President*

### Presentation of Awards

### Closing Remarks

## Athletics

## DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

**Martin Poznanovic**, Men's Basketball Scholar

**Alexis Backhaus**, Women's Basketball Scholar

**Josey Wickersham**, Volleyball Scholar

**Joel "JJ" Nelson**, Football Scholar

**Zachary Vanicek**, Men's Track & Field Scholar

**Clare Fischer**, Women's Track & Field Scholar

**Aidan Rivers**, Men's Cross-Country Scholar

**Alana Howard**, Women's Cross-Country Scholar

**Alexander Makarchuk**, Men's Golf Scholar

**Kenzie Schroeder**, Women's Golf Scholar

**Gabriel Ripperda**, Soccer Scholar

**Samantha Winker**, Cheerleader Scholar

## Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences

**Markus Sonnenfeld**, Harold and Laura Orville Graduate Fellowship

**Manan Mathur**, Harold and Laura Orville Graduate Fellowship

**Rydell Krueger**, Harold and Laura Orville Graduate Fellowship

**Andrew Piispanen**, Harold and Laura Orville Graduate Fellowship

**Hailee Davis**, Paul & Cissie Smith Scholarship

**Markus Sonnenfeld**, John Spangler Family Fellowship

**Hailee Davis**, Outstanding Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences Junior

**Hannah Gehlsen**, Outstanding Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences Junior

**Colin Gholson**, Outstanding Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences Senior

**Biomedical Engineering**

**Austin Sands**, Outstanding Undergraduate BME Student  
**Claire Foster**, Outstanding Undergraduate BME Student

**Business Management  
in Technology**

**Mst Noshin Tasnim**, Outstanding Business Management in Technology Freshman  
**Tasfia Hassan**, Outstanding Business Management in Technology Sophomore  
**Randall Anderson**, Outstanding Business Management in Technology Junior  
**Matthew Percival**, Outstanding Business Management in Technology Senior

**CAMP**

**Duram Kelly**, CAMP Scholar

**Chemical & Biological  
Engineering**

**Emily Randolph**, Chemical & Biological Engineering Faculty Award  
**Jacob Vostad**, Chemical & Biological Engineering Faculty Award  
**Cole Ballagh**, Chemical & Biological Engineering Faculty Award  
**Charlie Stoeckel**, Chemical Engineering Achievement Award  
**Nicholas Lockwood**, Chemical Engineering Achievement Award  
**Alana Howard**, Chemical Engineering Achievement Award

**Chemistry, Biology &  
Health Sciences**

**Christopher Budd**, Outstanding Biology Junior  
**Matt McGovern**, Outstanding Biology Senior  
**Victoria Verhey**, Outstanding Health Sciences Junior  
**Grace Jager**, Outstanding Health Sciences Senior  
**William Lester**, ACS Student Award in Biochemistry  
**Ciera Wierenga**, ACS Student Award in Physical Chemistry

**Civil & Environmental  
Engineering**

**Ann Sheehy**, ACS Student Award in Analytical Chemistry  
**Josephine Schlachter**, ACS Student Award in Inorganic Chemistry  
**Nicholas Lockwood**, ACS Student Award in Organic Chemistry  
**Taylee Schramm**, Outstanding CBHS Undergraduate Research Award  
**Kelly VanDamme**, Outstanding Student for CBHS Department Service

**Bailey Hollaway**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Junior  
**Nolan Jessen**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Junior  
**Ian King**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Junior  
**Jace Heimerman**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Senior  
**Lucas Ransen**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Senior  
**Linus Uy**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Senior  
**Grace Belcher**, Outstanding Environmental Engineering Student  
**Samantha Peppel**, Outstanding Environmental Engineering Student  
**Aidan Rockvam**, Outstanding Environmental Engineering Student

**Electrical Engineering &  
Computer Science**

**Maddie Hartel**, Outstanding Junior in Computer Science  
**Tammy Nguyen**, Outstanding Senior in Computer Science  
**Tristan Niewenhuis**, Outstanding Junior in Computer Engineering  
**Aidan Rivers**, Outstanding Senior in Computer Engineering  
**Ethan Thompson**, Outstanding Electrical Engineering Junior  
**Kaylee Updegraff**, Outstanding Electrical Engineering Senior

**Geology & Geological Engineering**

**Ian Christiansen**, Jack A. Redden Award, Outstanding Geology Senior  
**Riley Kortenbusch**, Jack A. Redden Award, Outstanding Geology Senior  
**Nathan Pfeifer**, Edward L. Tullis Award, Outstanding Geological Engineering Senior

**Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences**

**Lilli Allen**, Leslie E. Boyd STEM Communication Award  
**Josiah Gibbs**, Surbeck-McLearie STEM Communication Award  
**Parker Smith**, Outstanding Student in Science, Technology, and Society

**Industrial Engineering**

**Grace Schildhauer**, Outstanding Industrial Engineering Senior  
**Rylan Walter**, Outstanding Industrial Engineering Senior

**Materials & Metallurgical Engineering**

**Bayler Larson**, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering Departmental Service Award  
**Gabriel Ripperda**, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering Academic Performance Award

**Mathematics**

**Everett Sandbo**, Outstanding Senior in Mathematics

**Mechanical Engineering**

**Holden Anderson**, Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Junior  
**Cole Peterson**, Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Junior  
**Andrew Lindgren**, Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Senior  
**Gretchen Noble**, Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Senior  
**Portia Lenczowski**, Outstanding Undergraduate Student Service to the ME Department  
**Zachary Lemmon**, Outstanding Undergraduate Student Service to the ME Department  
**Ian Galloway**, Outstanding Undergraduate Research Assistant  
**Liam Hoefler**, Outstanding Undergraduate Research Assistant  
**Alison Reeves**, Outstanding Undergraduate Research Assistant

**Military Science**

**Jace Greer**, Top Freshman Cadet  
**Rylan Greene**, Top Sophomore Cadet  
**Colton Patch**, Top Junior Cadet  
**Gage Eastman**, Top Senior Cadet

**Mining Engineering & Management**

**Logan Haynie**, Outstanding Mining Engineering Freshman  
**Charles Thompson**, Outstanding Mining Engineering Sophomore  
**Katelynn Neal**, Outstanding Mining Engineering Junior  
**Dominic Derting**, Outstanding Mining Engineering Senior

**Music**

**Ky Duyen Dao Nguyen**, Arjun Ayyangar Music Scholarship  
**Skyler Ruth**, Julie Fisk Memorial Music Scholarship  
**Zachary Roder**, Charles Hallstrom Memorial Scholarship  
**Kalayah Watson**, Eileen Heilman Scholarship  
**Dakota Remington**, Hardrocker Pep Band Scholarship  
**Christopher Budd**, Karen Whitehead Music Scholarship  
**Chloe Reeves**, Larry Huisenga Music Scholarship  
**Jack Swanson**, Larry Huisenga Music Scholarship  
**Noah Ficken**, Margret McIntosh Scholarship  
**Gabe Tschetter**, Ronald F. & Eunice A. Miller Memorial Music Scholarship  
**Emma Carlsgaard**, Charles Snyder & Lucille Reilly Music Scholarship  
**Makya Milkowich**, Charles Snyder & Lucille Reilly Music Scholarship  
**Hayden Thurston**, Music Supporters in Concert Scholarship  
**Sarah Jade Surgoine**, Music Supporters in Concert Scholarship

**Zach Wilson**, SDSM&T Music Scholarship  
**Kane Aberle**, SDSM&T Music Scholarship  
**Allisan Heydt**, SDSM&T Music Scholarship  
**Will Eby**, SDSM&T Music Scholarship  
**Ashton Myers**, String Theory Award

## Physics

**Victor Hanson**, Outstanding Physics Sophomore  
**Cole Gaskill**, Outstanding Physics Junior  
**Shane Garcia**, Outstanding Physics Junior  
**Bella Blom**, Outstanding Physics Senior  
**Ryan Cantz**, Outstanding Physics Senior  
**Guillem Garcia Riera**, Outstanding Physics Senior

## Graduate Education

**Rydell Krueger**, Outstanding Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences Graduate Student  
**Cruz Franich**, Outstanding Biomedical Engineering MS Student  
**Riley Laible**, Outstanding Biomedical Engineering MS Student  
**Xiao Yu**, Outstanding Biomedical Engineering PhD Student  
**Yash Sharma**, Outstanding Chemical & Biological Engineering Graduate Student  
**Shyanne Lambrecht**, Outstanding Chemical & Biological Engineering Graduate Student  
**Aisling Hall**, Outstanding Chemistry & Biology Graduate Assistant  
**Eli Bowman**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Graduate Student  
**Clare Fischer**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Graduate Student  
**Dheeraj Raya**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Graduate Student  
**Sunith Varghese**, Outstanding Civil Engineering Graduate Student

**Kris Jensen**, Outstanding Electrical Engineering Graduate Student  
**Jacob Sanders**, Outstanding Geology MS Student  
**Madison Betts**, Outstanding Geology & Geological Engineering PhD Student  
**Quinn Barnes**, Outstanding Graduate Student in Materials Engineering & Science – MS  
**Nana Aduo**, Outstanding Graduate Student in Materials Engineering & Science – PhD  
**Jace Ruud**, Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student  
**Joshua Rath**, Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student  
**Hagan Archer**, Outstanding Graduate Student Service to the ME Department  
**Jose Mujica Cabrera**, Outstanding Mining Engineering MS Student  
**Maveshree Venter**, Outstanding Mining Engineering Distance MS Student  
**Millicent Oppong**, Outstanding Mining Engineering PhD Student  
**Arik Ahmed**, Outstanding Nanoscience & Nanoengineering PhD Student  
**Claire Wolfe**, Outstanding Paleontology MS Student  
**Logan Molchany**, Outstanding Physics Teaching Assistant – Spring 2025  
**Khimananda Acharya**, Outstanding Physics Teaching Assistant – Fall 2025  
**Diana Leon Silverio**, Outstanding Physics Graduate Student

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Students recognized with this award are degree-seeking undergraduates who have earned 100 or more credit hours and maintained a 4.0 cumulative grade point average.*

**Andrew Black**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Jake Blackmore**, Biomedical Engineering  
**William Ford**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Ella Froning**, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
**Collin Fuller**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Rachael Howden**, Chemical Engineering  
**Grace Jenuine**, Mining Engineering & Management  
**Jack Myers**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Tristan Niewenhuis**, Computer Engineering  
**Samantha Peppel**, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
**Cole Peterson**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Lucas Ransen**, Civil & Environmental Engineering

**Aidan Rockvam**, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
**Grace Schildhauer**, Industrial Engineering  
**Zachary Schutte**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Charlie Stoeckel**, Chemical Engineering  
**Aaron Sturtevant**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Kaylee Updegraff**, Electrical Engineering  
**Clive Uy**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Linus Uy**, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
**Josey Wickersham**, Biomedical Engineering  
**Samantha Winker**, Mechanical Engineering  
**Teagan Wright**, Mechanical Engineering

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AWARDS

### **Braun Inventor Award**

Roberto Perez Torres

**Claire Foster**, Undergraduate Poster - 3rd Place  
**Mitchel Masters**, Undergraduate Poster - 2nd Place  
**Nathaniel Strickland**, Undergraduate Poster - 1st Place  
**Emily Randolph, Austin Helgert,  
Drake Van Steenwyk**,  
Undergraduate Oral - 2nd Place  
**Hannah Lias**, Undergraduate Oral - 1st Place

**Anjali Thapliyal**, Graduate Poster - 3rd Place  
**Rimhjim Sharma**, Graduate Poster - 2nd Place  
**Arik Ahmed**, Graduate Poster - 1st Place  
**Lora Ortega**, Graduate Oral - 3rd Place  
**Paul White**, Graduate Oral - 2nd Place  
**Varun Vasudevan Pushpa**, Graduate Oral - 1st Place

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROMISE

Kaisa Mortensen  
Grace Schildhauer  
Victor Hanson

# LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**Joseph Tunge**, Cushman Clark Rising Star Award

**Grace Pridgeon**, Gustafson Student Leadership Award

**Victoria Verhey**, C.H.A.D. Award – Spring 2026

# LEADERSHIP HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026

**Allan Dade Gomez**, Mechanical Engineering

**Duram C. Kelly**, Mechanical Engineering

**Bayler J. Larson**, Metallurgical Engineering

**Madelyn Siekmann**, Biomedical Engineering

**Clive E. Uy**, Mechanical Engineering

**Jacob A. Vostad**, Chemical Engineering



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