

**LEADING
THE WAY**

FOR THE GREATER GOOD

**THE INAUGURATION *of*
PRESIDENT VIRGINIA “GINNY” ARTHUR**

APRIL 7, 2017

Metropolitan
State University 

LEADING THE WAY FOR THE GREATER GOOD

As we continue to forge a path for our diverse students to achieve higher learning and success, we pause to celebrate the inauguration of President Virginia “Ginny” Arthur.

Inspired by her commitment to justice and collaborative leadership, we join her in building a 21st-century, global learning community.

We welcome students who
come to this university on many paths,
and join them in moving
in a single direction—forward.

Together, as an inclusive and unified
Metropolitan State community, we embrace
this exciting venture and aspire to a transformative future
FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

Virginia “Ginny” Arthur



Virginia “Ginny” Arthur became Metropolitan State’s seventh president on July 1, 2016. Previously, she had served since 2015 as Metropolitan State’s Executive Vice President and Provost, and from 2012 to 2015 as the University’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Ginny Arthur served the University of Northern Iowa as Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs from 2009 to 2012. From 1985 to 2009, she served the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University in several capacities,

including Professor of Management, Chair of the Department of Management, and as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Joint Faculty Assembly.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University and a juris doctor (JD) from American University’s Washington College of Law.

Spouse of Thomas Haluska, she is the parent of three children, Abigail, Anne, and Alexander; and grandmother to Michael (3) and Matthew (19 months) Bremer.

Metropolitan State University

“Minnesota Metropolitan State College” was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1971 as the seventh member of the Minnesota State University System to complement and enhance the area’s educational resources. Fifty students were admitted to Metropolitan State in 1972. The first graduating class numbered 12 on Feb. 1, 1973. In 1975, the renamed Metropolitan State University was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. A nursing program began in 1981, and a master of management and administration program (now divided into the master of business administration and the master of public and nonprofit administration) was added in 1983. In 1987, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated money to plan four new baccalaureate degree programs—accounting, professional communication, information and computer systems, and human services.

The university has since added a number of baccalaureate programs, including law enforcement, business administration, psychology, mathematics, history, human services, screenwriting, social work, studio arts and theater, and master’s programs, including master of science degrees in alcohol and drug counseling, computer science, criminal justice and technical communication, a master of management information systems, and masters of arts in psychology and liberal studies. The university offers a doctorate of nursing practice, a doctor of business administration and a master of science in advanced dental therapy. Most recently a master of science in urban education and a master of advocacy and political leadership were added. Enrollment has grown from 50 students in 1972 to more than 11,000 students in 2017. Graduates number more than 40,000.

Metropolitan State continues to build on its strengths as an innovative, comprehensive university. The university will, in collaboration with other institutions and agencies, continue to meet changing higher education needs in the greater Twin Cities region. The university provides affordable, high quality education to the citizens and communities of the metropolitan area through degree programs, nondegree instruction, applied research and community engagement activities. The university builds on its national reputation for excellence in teaching and offers programs that enable students from diverse backgrounds to achieve their educational goals.

The future holds much promise for this university. Building on its legacy, Metropolitan State looks forward to continued growth and meeting the challenges posed by its mission to serve both students and the community.

University Mission Statement

Metropolitan State University is a comprehensive urban university committed to meeting the higher education needs of the Twin Cities and greater metropolitan population.

The university will provide accessible, high-quality liberal arts, professional, and graduate education to the citizens and communities of the metropolitan area, with continued emphasis on underserved groups, including adults and communities of color.

Within the context of lifelong learning, the university will build on its national reputation for innovative student-centered programs that enable students from diverse backgrounds achieve their educational goals.

The university is committed to academic excellence and community partnerships through curriculum, teaching, scholarship and services designed to support an urban mission.

University Vision Statement

Metropolitan State University, a member of Minnesota State, will be the premier urban, public, comprehensive system university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and will provide high-quality, affordable educational programs and services in a student-centered environment.

The faculty, staff and students of Metropolitan State will reflect the area's rich diversity, build a culturally competent and anti-racist learning community and demonstrate an unwavering commitment to civic engagement.

Strategic Intent Statement

Metropolitan State University provides an inclusive and engaging education to eliminate opportunity gaps and lead the Twin Cities community to a prosperous and equitable future.

University Values

Excellence

Your education has to be the best. Because you're not just investing money, you're investing time and passion. We make it a priority to provide innovative, high-quality educational experiences from instructors who are experts in their fields. We don't just help you earn a degree. We'll help you prepare for your future.

Engagement

We're plugged into our community and take an active role in its success. We partner with area businesses and organizations to give our students real-world learning experiences. And we offer ourselves as a resource to local groups who work at improving our local community.

Diversity and Inclusion

We celebrate and include all voices in our quest for quality higher education. We value all forms of diversity, no matter one's ethnicity, religious or sexual preferences, income level, learning style or area of academic focus. All are welcomed. All are valued.

Open, Respectful Climate

Students learn better in a safe, open and respectful environment. You'll find one here. We encourage students and faculty to engage in meaningful conversations that embrace differing viewpoints and perspectives. These provide rich experiences and a healthy communication model students can take into their careers.

Integrity

Integrity isn't a one-way street. So as much as we expect our students to conduct themselves in an honest, ethical manner, we also demand the same from ourselves. We're transparent in how we operate. We make sure that all voices are heard. And we're accountable for our actions. You deserve nothing less.

**The Inaugural Procession will enter the Auditorium
in the following order:**

College, University, and Other Professional Organization
Delegates in Founding Order

Metropolitan State University Faculty

Metropolitan State University Academic and
Student Affairs Council

Platform Party

College, University and Other Professional Organization Delegates

- 1868** Minnesota State University, Mankato
Richard Davenport, President
- 1869** St. Cloud State University
Ashish K. Vaidya, Interim President
- 1871** Bethel University
Deborah Sullivan-Trainor, Vice President and Dean
- 1876** University of Northern Iowa
Deirdre Bucher Heistad, Professor and
Director of Undergraduate Studies
- 1881** Drake University
Sue Joseph Mattison, Provost
- 1900** Rasmussen College
Trenda Boyum-Breen, President
- 1905** St. Catherine University
Anne Weyandt, Dean of the College for Adults
- 1912** St. Mary's University of Minnesota
Daphne E. Brown, Doctoral Candidate
- 1919** Bemidji State University
Faith C. Hensrud, President
- 1965** Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Deidra Peaslee, Vice President of Academic and
Student Affairs
- 1968** Normandale Community College
Joyce C. Ester, President
- 1996** Minneapolis Community and Technical College
Sharon J. Pierce, President

Academic and Student Affairs Council Metropolitan State University

René Antrop-González, Dean,
School of Urban Education

Shonda Craft, Associate Dean,
College of Community Studies and Public Affairs

Amy Dunn, Associate Vice President,
Enrollment Management

Sue Fitzgerald, Interim Dean,
College of Sciences

Judith Graziano, Dean,
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Craig Hansen, Interim Dean,
College of Liberal Arts

Hebert King, Dean of Students

Doug Knowlton, Interim Associate Provost for Student Success

Kat Lui, Dean,
College of Management

Greg Mellas, Director,
Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship

Carl Polding, Dean,
College of Individualized Studies

Chris Schafer, Dean,
Library and Information Services

Frank Schweigert, Interim Dean,
College of Community Studies and Public Affairs

Platform Party

Ochen Kaylan, Master of Ceremonies,
Trustee, Metropolitan State University Foundation Board

Dr. Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor,
Minnesota State

The Honorable Chris Coleman, Mayor,
City of Saint Paul

Dr. August Hoffman, President,
Inter Faculty Organization,
Metropolitan State University

Michael Vekich, Chair,
Minnesota State Board of Trustees

Bukola Oriola, Student,
Metropolitan State University

Dr. Sharon J. Pierce, President
Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Tené Wells, President,
Alumni Association,
Metropolitan State University

Adam Klepetar, Dean,
Enrollment Management and Student Success,
Berkshire Community College

Dr. Reatha Clark King, Former President,
Metropolitan State University (1977-1988)

Dr. Devinder Malhotra, Former Interim President,
Metropolitan State University (2014-2016)

Dr. Dennis Nielsen, Former Interim President,
Metropolitan State University (1998-2000)

Brigadier General Sandy Best, Chief of Staff,
Minnesota Air National Guard

Maureen Acosta, President,
Minnesota State University Association of
Administrative and Service Faculty,
Metropolitan State University

Chris Gevara, Co-President,
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees,
Metropolitan State University

Lindsay Koolmo, President,
Minnesota Association of Professional Employees,
Metropolitan State University

Thomas Maida
Middle Management Association,
Metropolitan State University

Julie Severson, Co-President,
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees,
Metropolitan State University

Dhibo Hussein, President,
Student Senate,
Metropolitan State University

Samuel Verdeja, Interim Foundation Board Chair-elect,
Metropolitan State University Foundation Board

Bruce Biser, Interim Vice President,
Finance and Administration,
Metropolitan State University

Dr. Carol Bormann Young, Interim Executive Vice President
and Provost,
Metropolitan State University

Amy Dunn, Associate Vice President,
Enrollment Management,
Metropolitan State University

Deb Gehrke, Chief Human Resources Officer,
Metropolitan State University

Elmer Morris, Chief Diversity Officer,
Metropolitan State University

Steve Reed, Vice President and Chief Information Officer,
Metropolitan State University

Inauguration ceremony

Prelude	North Hennepin Community College Chamber Singers
Processional	“Wana Baraka” (Kenyan)
Opening Remarks	Ochen Kaylan, Master of Ceremonies, Trustee, Metropolitan State University Foundation Board
Native Blessing	Virgil Mountain Blacklance, Lead Singer, Standing Bull Singers
Greetings	Dr. Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor, Minnesota State The Honorable Chris Coleman, Mayor, City of Saint Paul Dr. August Hoffman, President, Inter Faculty Organization Metropolitan State University
Interlude	“I Sing Out” (Mark Hayes)
Greetings	Michael Vekich, Chair, Minnesota State Board of Trustees Bukola Oriola, Student, Metropolitan State University Dr. Sharon J. Pierce, President Minneapolis Community and Technical College Tené Wells, President, Alumni Association Metropolitan State University
“When She Climbs”	Adam Klepetar, Dean, Enrollment Management and Student Success Berkshire Community College
Investiture	Dr. Steven Rosenstone
Oath of Office	Michael Vekich
Inaugural Address	Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Arthur
Closing Remarks	Ochen Kaylan
Recessional	“Peze Kafe” (Haitian)

Academic Regalia

The traditions of academic apparel and procession date back to as early as the 12th century when the first “modern” universities at Bologna and Paris were centers of European learning. The usual garb of the time was a long gown—a necessity for warmth in unheated buildings of that era. Scholars, generally members of church orders in those days, wore such robes as well as hoods to protect their shaved heads. Later the hood became a cape that could be pulled over the head in unpleasant weather.

Today there are three basic types of gowns and hoods. The bachelor’s gown has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed at the front. The master’s gown is designed with an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist, with an arc cut away at the front of the sleeve. It may be worn either open or closed. The doctoral gown is a full design with voluminous bell sleeves, and it also may be worn open or closed.

The hoods worn by those who hold a master’s degree are lined with the official colors of the institution awarding the degree. Graduates of Metropolitan State University wear a hood lined with blue and white. Hoods on the Metropolitan State faculty and administration show the colors of the institution where their degrees were obtained. The binding or edging of the hood is silk or velvet and the color indicates the subject area or discipline as listed below.

Some of the colors of the master’s and doctoral hoods indicate the following disciplines:

accountancy, business,
commerce—drab/gray

arts, letters,
humanities—white

dentistry—lilac

economics—copper

education—light blue

fine arts—brown

journalism—crimson

law—purple

library science—lemon

medicine—green

music—pink

nursing—apricot

philosophy—dark blue

physical education—green

public administration—
peacock blue

public health—salmon pink

science—golden yellow

social science—cream

social work—citron

speech—silver gray

theology—scarlet

Metropolitan State University Alumni Association Board

It is the mission of the Metropolitan State University Alumni Board to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the alumni and faculty of the university. In collaboration with the university, the board seeks to inspire prospective and current students to pursue their educational journey with Metropolitan State University. Through their work with alumni and every appropriate constituency, the Alumni Board directors foster life-long relationships between the university and its more than 40,000 alumni.

Sandra Best ('88)

Akmed Khalifa ('08, '10)

Linda McCann ('06, '15)

Michael O'Connor ('92)

Victoria Reinhardt ('96, '99)

Carmen Shields ('15)

Jessie Watson ('15)

Tené Wells ('92), President

Irene Wright ('92)

Metropolitan State University Student Senate

The Student Senate's vision is to help each student achieve academic excellence and be a responsible citizen in a complex and culturally diverse world. As a forum for student issues and needs, the Student Senate advocates accountability, responsiveness, and promotes community among students, faculty and staff.

Samira Adam

Andres Boland

Anastasia Damyan

Dhibo Hussein, President

Mohamud Isaq

Guuled Ismail

Heather Moenck

John Patterson

Mitesh Rai

Aftab Osman

Izhar Osman

Metropolitan State University Foundation Board of Trustees

The mission of the Metropolitan State University Foundation is to generate maximum public awareness, as well as governmental and private support for Metropolitan State University and to assist the university in its development as a comprehensive urban university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area for changing and diverse student needs.

Zeeshan Baig

Christine Boese

Wendy Brekken

Ellis Bullock

Teri Calderon

Robert Carter

Gary Cunningham

Joseph Ellis

Ochen Kaylan

Sophia Khan

Gregory Lais

Michael Langley, Chair-Elect

Chia-Yin Lo

May Shoua Moua, Chair

Joseph Neuberger

Catherine O'Brien

Michael Parrish

Richard Smith

Samuel Ortiz Verdeja, Interim Chair-Elect

Craig Vinje

Tené Wells

Richard Zehring

Metropolitan State University Past Presidents

David E. Sweet (1971–1977)

Reatha Clark King (1977–1988)

Tobin G. Barrozo (1989–1992)

Susan A. Cole (1993–1998)

Wilson G. Bradshaw (2000–2007)

Sue K. Hammersmith (2008–2014)

Minnesota State Board of Trustees

Basil Ajuo

Ann Anaya

Elise Bourdeau

Alex Cirillio

Jay Cowles

Dawn Erlandson

Amanda Fredlund

Robert Hoffman

Jerry Janezich

Roger Moe

Rudy Rodriguez

George Soule

Louise Sundin

Cheryl Tefer

Michael Vekich, Chair

Medallion History and Symbolism



The Metropolitan State University presidential medallion was designed and created in 1990 by James Roy, art department chair at St. Cloud State University. The medallion given to each graduate is a modified version of the presidential medallion. The design is also used for the university seal.

The medallion's circular motif suggests the continuing efforts of higher education to attain perfection in what it does. It also suggests the circle of infinity—an ancient symbol. The overall symmetry suggests the principles of Metropolitan State's educational offerings as they relate to cultural diversity and education for adults and other traditional and nontraditional students. The round globe behind the lamp reflects the university's commitment to international education. The seven-pointed star, seven sapphire-colored stones and seven flames of the lamp of knowledge symbolize the seven-county area served by Metropolitan State. The lamp of knowledge is an ancient symbol of education. The star is an ancient symbol relating to guidance and protection. Here it suggests the unity of Metropolitan State with the higher education community. Finally, the richness of the silver and gold suggests the richness of the quality of education at Metropolitan State.

Ceremony Contributors

Virgil Mountain Blacklance

Virgil Mountain Blacklance is a third-generation descendant of “Walks Under Sacred Stone,” War Chief of the late Dakota Chief Little Crow. He is the keeper of the 38 Dakota Sacred Bundle, as well as second generation whistle carrier and spiritual adviser for the Dakota Nation. He is the lead singer and drum keeper of the Standing Bull Singers, from the Lower Sioux Indian community. His Spirit Name is “Buffalo Warrior:” TATANKA AKICHITA.

North Hennepin Community College Chamber Singers

The Chamber Singers is a student group under the direction of Karla Miller, full time music instructor at North Hennepin Community College.

Adam Klepetar

Adam Klepetar is dean of enrollment management and student success at Berkshire Community College (BCC) in western Massachusetts. Prior to joining BCC, Klepetar served in various roles for more than a decade at St. Cloud State University. He is the son of the poet, Steven Klepetar and was President Arthur’s student and advisee when he attended St. John’s University.

Steve Klepetar

Steve Klepetar grew up in New York City, the child of Holocaust survivors. He received his BA and MA from Binghamton University, and his PhD from the University of Chicago. He taught literature, writing, and creative writing classes for thirty-nine years, thirty-one of them at St. Cloud State University. His work has appeared worldwide and he has received several nominations for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net. He is the author of 11 poetry collections, including his most recent, “The Li Bo Poems.” He has been a close friend of the president’s for more years than they care to count!

Inaugural Planning Committee

Vicki Berner

Robert Boos

Tom Cook

Michael Eisenbeisz

Sandi Gerick

Shelly Heller

Pa Her

Poh Lin Khoo

Renee King

Greg Mellas

May Joy Thao

Deb Vos



A member of Minnesota State