SMSU Science students shine in academics and athletics! Nearly all of the recipients of the NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award were science majors!

A total of seven Southwest Minnesota State University student-athletes have earned the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award.

The honor, named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher, are exhausting their eligibility, and are on track to graduate. The Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award is one of the highest honors a student-athlete in the NSIC can achieve. To earn this prestigious honor, one must show a commitment and dedication to both academics and athletics—characteristics in which Dr. Myles Brand emphasized.

**Recipients Include:**

- Whitney Burmeister, a native of Lakefield, Minn., was a four-year letter winner on the volleyball team, majoring in exercise science and is a three-time Academic All-NSIC honoree. She was named CoSIDA first team Academic All-District this past season and was named the NSIC’s Willis R. Kelly Award winner as the conference’s top female scholar-athlete during the 2014-15 academic year.
- Emilee Gutzmer, a native of Jordan, Minn., and a biology and chemistry major, was a four-year letter winner in volleyball and three-time Academic All-NSIC honoree.
- Casey Hertz, from Ocheyedan, Iowa, was a three-year letter winner in football and a two-time Academic All-NSIC, majoring in biology education.
- Becky Koepp, a native of Belle Plaine, Minn., is a four-year letter winner for the women’s golf team, majoring in exercise science. She is a three-time Academic All-NSIC honoree.
- Claire Sames, from Shakopee, Minn., was a four-year letter winner in volleyball and three-time Academic All-NSIC honoree, majoring in biology and chemistry.
- Zach Specht, from Marcus, Iowa, is an exercise science major and was a three-year letter winner in football and two-time Academic All-NSIC honoree.
Congratulations to Rebecca Sommer and Tiffany Gehl, winners of the 2015 Undergraduate Research Conference Research Awards!

Rebecca’s Biology Senior Seminar project was titled “Small Interfering RNA as the Silver Bullet for Cancer,” and describes a viable gene therapy alternative to existing cancer treatments. Her faculty advisors for this study were Dr. Vaughn Gehle and Dr. Pam Sanders.

Tiffany’s Exercise Science project titled “Diet and Body Composition of SMSU Women’s Basketball Team,” examined the nutritional intake of members of the basketball team and compares her findings with Recommended Dietary Allowances. Tiffany’s faculty advisor was Dr. Jeffrey Bell.

The Research Award, which is funded by the SMSU McFarland Library and recognizes outstanding research presentations, was evaluated this year by a team of faculty including Dr. Teresa Henning, Dr. Will Thomas, Dr. Patricia Brace, Professor Pam Gladis, and Professor Maria Kingsbury.

Replinger Award for Excellence in Environmental Science Winner

The Environmental Science Program is proud to announce that Devin Ryan is the recipient of the Randall J. and Jean S. Replinger Award for Excellence in environmental science. This is an award given to a senior environmental science major who has demonstrated academic excellence, shown superior performance in designing, conducting and presenting an independent research project, has presented that research at the SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference as well as an additional community presentation of the work. Devin’s project was titled “Seasonal survey of frog and toad species and abundance at multiple sites near Lake Sarah, Southwest Minnesota.”

Congrats to the 2016 Science Department Scholarship and Award Recipients

Bergren Scholarship
- Rhiannon Sears
Brent and Mary Jeffers Scholarship
- Greta Geist
Chemistry Mem. Scholarship
- Rhiannon Sears
- Victoria Henry
Exercise Science Annual Scholarship
- Aaron Madson
- Tanner Luebke
- Kendra Miller
Exercise Science – Normandale
- Ashley Humphrey
John Thomas Mem. Scholarship
- Zachery Doose
- Caleb Smothers
Kronke Scholarship
- Justin Hill
- Melissa Klecker
- Matt Steinbronn
Linde Scholarship
- Aaron Bible
Mortier Scholarship
- Aaron Madson
Reede Scholarship
- Justin Hill
- Melissa Klecker
- Matt Steinbronn
SMCS Scholarship Award
- Yong Hui Chen
- Meagan Nelsen
- Sarah Keppler
- Tanner Luebke
Wands Scholarship
- Britany Reierson
Ward and Sharon Jeffers Scholarship
- Jenai Carter