



Graduate School of Education

E-Newsletter - Feb. 2023

Honoring Alumni Educators

Our alumni serve as educators in many roles, these four alumnae were honored for their exceptional work this year. The Saint Mary's community is proud of you!



Ariana Wright M'07
Minnesota's 2022
NAESP National
Distinguished Principal



Melissa Bray M'06
Shirley Hills Primary
School 2022 Teacher
of the Year



Sarah Lancaster M'20
2022 Minnesota
Teacher of the Year



Karen Lenn M'07
Pine Island 2022
Teacher of the Year

Auditor Julie Blaha wins second term in close race



Saint Mary's University alumnae Julie Blaha Landon M'07, a graduate of the Teaching & Learning master's program, was elected for a second term as Minnesota Auditor.

[Duluth News Tribune](#)

By Alex Derosier

November 09, 2022 02:42 PM

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Auditor Julie Blaha has been elected to a second term in office after defeating GOP challenger Ryan Wilson at the polls Tuesday, Nov. 8.

As of 2 p.m. Wednesday, [November 9,] unofficial results showed just 8,432 votes separating Blaha from Wilson — 47.47% to 47.13% of the more than 2.4 million votes in the race. Blaha issued a statement declaring victory early Wednesday morning as initial vote counts appeared to lean in her favor. Wilson conceded the race to Blaha on Wednesday afternoon.

Blaha is a former middle school math teacher from Anoka and former secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO of Minnesota. Wilson is founder and former CEO of an auditing firm that focuses on clinical trials.

Democratic Farmer Labor incumbent Blaha, who was elected in 2018, holds the constitutional office tasked with monitoring roughly \$60 billion dollars in taxes and spending by more than 4,800 local governments across the state of Minnesota. The office monitors local use of more than \$21 billion in federal funds — a process known as the statewide single audit.

The nonpartisan Office of the Legislative Auditor handles agencies and other state programs.

In addition to overseeing local public finances, the auditor also sits on several state-level councils, including the Executive Council, Rural Finance Authority and the Minnesota Housing Authority. As a member of the State Board of Investment, the auditor has sway over how the state invests more than \$130 billion in state funds.

A unique issue that emerged in this year's race was a debate over the auditor's role on the State Board of Investment, a panel that oversees \$130 billion in assets, including state pension funds. Wilson criticized Blaha for her support of considering the potential effects of climate change on investment returns, something that other Republicans have started turning into a campaign issue in other states. Blaha said it's a financial decision rather than a political one, pointing out that Wall Street investment firms also account for climate risk in their investment decisions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB.**
20-23
- Cardinal Athletics Celebrates Title IX Week**
Winona Campus
See event page for list of events
- FEB.**
23
- A Novel Idea - Alumni & Friends Book Club Discussion**
Current Book - The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson
6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- MAR.**
11
- Cardinal Excellence Fund Dinner**
Visions Event Center, Winona, Minn.
6 p.m. - Social
7 p.m. - Dinner and Program
- MAR.**
14-16
- Virtual Mock Interviews**
Morning - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Afternoon - 1-4 p.m.
Evening - 5-8 p.m.
- MAR.**
17
- In-Person Mock Interviews**
Toner Student Center, Winona Campus
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- MAR.**
- Theatre Reception and Production**

Winona Campus

17 Reception - 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Production 7:30 p.m.

All-Alumni Music Weekend

APR. Choir Performance - April 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Chapel of St. Mary of the Angels, Winona, Minn.

15-16 Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band Performance - April 16 at 3 p.m.
Page Theatre, Winona Campus

Reception to follow band performance - April 16
Toner Student Center, Winona Campus

Make a gift to Saint Mary's today!

MAKE A GIFT

Connect with the Saint Mary's Alumni Association social media channels



Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Winona Campus
700 Terrace Heights, #21
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800-635-5987

Minneapolis Campus
2500 Park Avenue S.
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