



**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**2017-2018**

MINNESOTA  
INDEPENDENCE  
COLLEGE &  
COMMUNITY  
**MICC**  
Learn Skills. Experience Life.

# Friends and Family of MICC,

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement of the mission we serve. We are so proud of the Class of 2018 who graduated in May with 100% employed and moving into independent living. More and more, we are seeing the awesome transition of our students into independent living in the community with their friends and a job. And we are so grateful to the community and employer partnerships who contribute to our students' learning experience. Thank you!



As you already are aware, we have changed our name! Over the last year, we conducted extensive research to help us create a brand position that captures the essence of our programs and reflects what we do best. As a result of this research—which included the perspectives of students, graduates, board members, leaders, staff, parents, community partners and the public—the Board of Directors approved a resolution to change the name of our organization. On August 1st, we officially changed our name to **MICC**, pronounced 'em' 'eye' 'see' 'see', which stands for **Minnesota Independence College and Community**.

We believe the new name better reflects the equal importance of our Undergraduate Program and Community Living Program (CLP); as well as highlight the word “Independence”—a word that is deeply meaningful for all of us.

In alignment with the new name for the organization, the undergraduate programs are known as **MICC College**; the CLP program is called **MICC Community** and the vocational program is known as **MICC Careers**. We sum up what we stand for in our new tagline: **Learn Skills. Experience Life.**

Our name change comes at a time of opportunity, growth, and expansion. During the past year, we opened the doors to our Community Center, enrolled our largest first year class in our history with 20 students, established a fourth vocational certificate in Health Services, and the board approved the exploration of a second location to serve our growing enrollment needs. Throughout the rest of the Annual Report, you will see the positive impact MICC is having on our students, graduates, and their families.

The success we enjoy today comes from the generosity of our entire community who chooses to dedicate time, talent, and treasure to MICC. I am confident that the future of MICC is bright. It is through our important partnerships, that together we bring the hope, skills, and independence that all individuals deserve.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Gudmestad". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Amy Gudmestad  
Executive Director

# A vibrant life comes from continuous learning in the world.

---

## Mission

Every day we work to transform the lives of individuals and families affected by autism spectrum and learning differences.

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## Vision

A world where individuals on the autism spectrum and those with learning differences thrive and are valued.

## Values

Integrity; Partnerships; Team Work; Fun; Community; Experiential Learning.

## Truths

### **Our truth is: Everyone is different.**

Students experience personal growth when they are offered unique and individualized programs, because no two individuals have the exact same needs.

### **Our truth is: People learn best by doing.**

Academic instruction is not enough. By living in on-site apartments, and experiencing all that the city has to offer, people are better equipped to live independently.

### **Our truth is: Vocation leads to independence.**

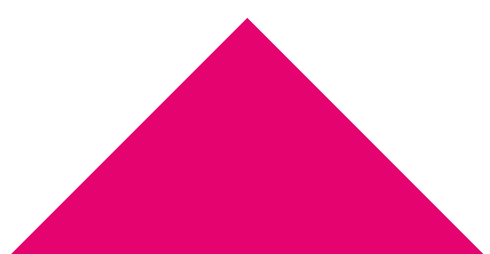
The ability to get and keep a job is one of the single most important factors to be able to live independently.

### **Our truth is: Cliffs are inevitable without lifelong engagement.**

Adults with ASD and/or learning differences face challenges throughout their lifetime and need access to a variety of support services in order to live a fulfilling, independent life.

### **Our truth is: Social beings need a social life.**

People gain self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem when they can experience acceptance and develop friendships.





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# MICC COLLEGE

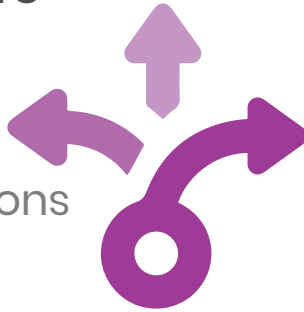


MICC College is an intensive, tiered education opportunity for young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders. We teach students the skills necessary for long-term, independent living and employment not only in the classroom, but also in their own apartment and out in the community. Our campus features an apartment-living setting located in a vibrant urban community, which allows for continuous teaching and access to competitive employment, safe public transportation, and limitless social opportunities.

# 94%

**OF STUDENTS**

report they make all or most of the decisions about their daily routine



# 84%

**OF STUDENTS**

report that they have a lot or some friends



**UPON GRADUATION, SENIORS INCREASED THEIR COMMUNITY COMPETENCY SCORES BY**

# 45%

*The largest increase in the past 4 years.*

**THE COMMUNITY COMPETENCY INCLUDES:**

Personal safety in the community, accessing the community, community navigation, public transit use, independent travel and appointment management

# MICC COMMUNITY



MICC Community participants are individuals with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders who have successfully completed MICC College and are living independently in the Richfield, MN area. MICC Community is a life-long program that provides families with stable communication, structure, and guidance; we serve an integral role in the long-term independence of their loved ones. Participants are offered apartment-living coaching, career support, and over 40 structured social activities per month.

**51%**  
**OF SOCIAL  
ACTIVITIES**

take place  
in the new  
Community  
Center



**59** **PEER-LED  
ACTIVITIES**

in the year 2018



This year  
we  
offered  
an  
average  
of

**40** **WITH**  
**ACTIVITIES  
PER MONTH**

**76%**  
**OF  
MEMBERS**  
participating in two or  
more each month

**26%** **INCREASE IN ACTIVITIES  
OFFERED** from 2016-2017

# MICC CAREERS



Since the inception of MICC, a program goal has always been for students and graduates to find meaningful, paid employment that utilizes their skills. Through MICC Careers, we offer students and graduates counseling about how to seek, obtain, and retain employment. The last two consecutive years, 100% of our students graduated with paid employment, a statistic that stands in stark contrast to the incredibly high rate of unemployment among individuals with autism and learning differences. MICC has partnered with Century College to provide career certificate programs as part of our curriculum in the areas of Culinary, Hospitality, and Retail. A fourth certificate in Health Services will be added in the 2018-2019 school year.

# 80%

**OF PARTICIPANTS**

report that they fully or mostly made the choice of where to work



# 100%

**OF THE CLASS OF 2018**

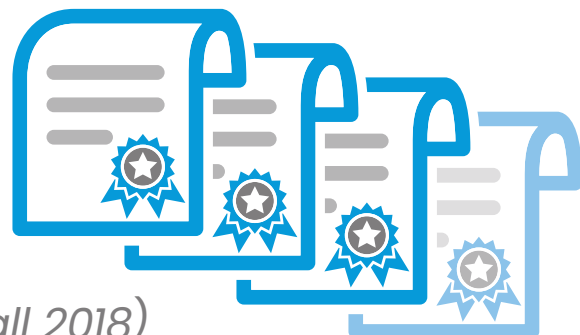
employed at graduation

# 4

**CERTIFICATES**

Culinary  
Hospitality  
Retail

Health Services (*Fall 2018*)





# FINANCIALS

Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2018

## Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$320,164
Accounts and contributions receivable, net	\$466,424
Other assets	\$90,302
Property and equipment, net	\$784,145
Investments	\$1,075,324
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,736,359</b>

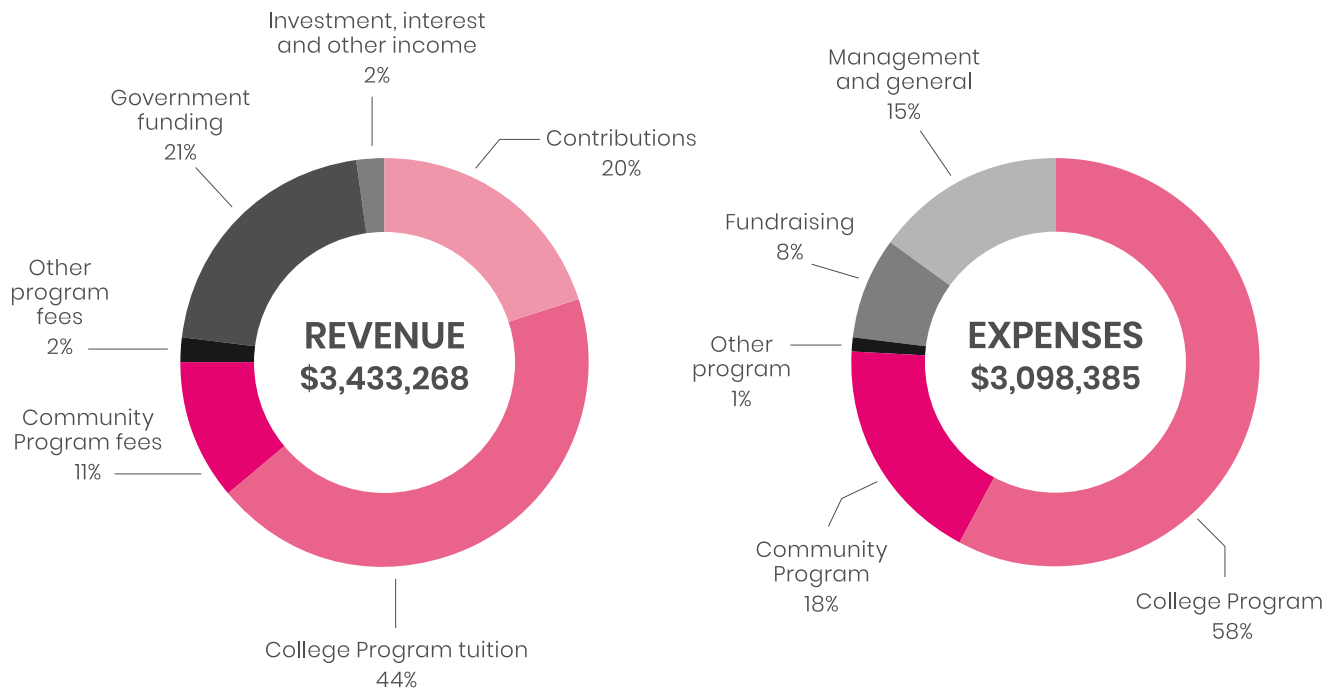
## Liabilities

Current liabilities	\$323,748
Long-term mortgage payable	\$303,269
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$627,017</b>

## Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$934,671
Board designated	\$1,062,705
Temporarily restricted	\$111,966
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,109,342</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$2,736,359**



Audited financial reports are available upon request from Tim J. Peterson at [tpeterson@miccommunity.org](mailto:tpeterson@miccommunity.org)

MICC students manage a campus garden, and this year they grew tomatoes, peppers, and fresh herbs to use in Culinary classes.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

# BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Minnesota Independence College and Community (formerly Minnesota Life College), I thank all those who have invested in the organization. The achieved success is one we all can share. From the staff who carry out our mission, the students who dedicate themselves to attaining independence, the families who entrust MICC with their students, and the volunteers who share their gifts of time and talent; Together, we are MICC.

Over the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Board of Directors guided our organization to one of its most impactful years to date. We celebrated the new Community Center after an ambitious capital campaign, spearheaded by members of the Board and development staff, generated over \$275,000 in investments. In partnership with organization leadership, the Board approved a marketing plan to research and ultimately rebrand the organization into Minnesota Independence College and Community, the hallmark of which is our core belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to discover their full potential and live a vibrant life. Heading into 2018-2019, enrollment is at an all-time high, with 48 MICC College students and 70 members of MICC Community. The Board has acted to consciously address this growing MICC population, introducing a new expansion plan to accommodate anticipated increased demand for services.

I also wish to recognize two outgoing members of the Board who dedicated a combined 19 years of service to the organization: Jim Schagh and Mike Zalk. Elected in 2005, Jim Schagh brought his financial acumen and deep passion for social service to the Board. He served as Treasurer for 8 years, on the Finance Committee for all 13 years, and performed a wide range of other vital assistance. Mike Zalk joined the Board in 2012, providing immeasurable amounts of guidance to the organization, including invaluable legal advice over the years. During his time on the Board, Mike served as Vice Chair, Secretary, and participated in Organizational Risk, Finance and Governance committees. It is with great pleasure that I heartily thank Mike and Jim for all their hard work, dedication, and generous support and service!

In closing, I am excited for the future of MICC, and I am proud of the organization's substantial accomplishments to date. Above all, under the continued leadership of Executive Director Amy Gudmestad, the future of MICC looks bright and full of opportunity for the individuals and families it serves!

With gratitude,

Sarabeth Ackerman  
Outgoing Chair



# THANK YOU, DONORS!

On behalf of the MICC Leadership, staff, students, and graduates, it is truly an honor to add our collective thanks to all the donors who have invested so generously during the past year. Your generosity provides the necessary resources to bring the hope and skills and independence our students deserve. Thank you for making MICC one of your philanthropic priorities!

Ben Lentz  
Director of Development

## Donors July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

### \$50,000 – \$100,000

Jerry and Jean Marie  
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 Katherine Jacobs

**DID YOU  
 KNOW?**

MICC continued its partnership with Best Buy with a campus Bee Hive! Located near MICC's Community Center, the hive's honey will be used in the Bon Appétit kitchen located at Best Buy headquarters.



Heather Jeche and Larry Klimek	Erin and Abigail Moffitt	Holly Robbins	Mark and Tracy Templeton
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Thank you to our generous donors who made gifts to MICC's Community Center campaign.

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Minnesota Independence College and Community gratefully recognizes these donors whose gifts continue to transform the lives of individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorders and learning differences.



## Tributes

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by Dale E. and  
Jolita D. Benson

#### Ashley and John Barnard

by Eric and  
Marjorie Schaffer

#### John Barnard

by Steve and Hala Buck

#### Barnes Family

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by Daniel Japuntich  
and Dr. Dorothy Edelson

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Total Wine and More

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Lee Tourtillott

Ginny and  
Michael Walters

Dianne and  
Kenneth Wedge

Michael and  
Pamela Woytcke

Mark and Mary Ziegler

MICC students and members  
practiced improv at the historic  
Brave New Workshop in downtown  
Minneapolis!



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



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# 2018 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

The Community Champion Awards celebrate those who embody the values and mission of MICC and are presented annually in the following categories: Corporate, Organization, and Individual. We thank these partners for their generosity of spirit and dedication to the success of our students and members.

## Bon Appétit

Corporate  
Community Champion



## 2017 Awardees

**Best Buy**  
Corporate Community Champion

**Southdale YMCA**  
Organization Community Champion

**Cindy Nollette, M.A., L.P.**  
Individual Community Champion

## United Educators Credit Union

Organization  
Community Champion



## 2016 Awardees

**Northern Tier**  
Corporate Community Champion

**True Friends**  
Organization Community Champion

**Lynn Brusnahan, Ph. D.**  
Individual Community Champion

## Candace Hall-Murdock

Director of Culinary Services,  
Walker Methodist Care Suites  
Individual  
Community Champion



DISCOVERING  
FULL POTENTIAL  
AND LIVING  
A VIBRANT LIFE.

[miccommunity.org](http://miccommunity.org)

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

In 2008, Roger Holmgren was having trouble keeping busy in retirement. Seeking ideas from his family, he learned about a volunteer opportunity at an organization his niece was attending. Curious to learn more, Roger met with Amy Gudmestad and was quickly courted to serve as the Gala Silent Auction Lead. Over the past 10 Galas, Roger has had a significant impact on the Gala and MICC.

After a career in technology, Roger was the perfect person to come in and build out a well-organized process of soliciting, collecting and organizing over a hundred silent auction items each year. What started out as an avenue to keep busy and be involved, has turned into a passion for MICC. Roger states “based on the great development my niece has shown since graduating from MICC and what I learn about other students/grads during the gala

from speakers and silent auction shoppers, I’m convinced MICC is a wonderful place for young adults on the autism spectrum and with other learning differences to grow within and beyond their direct families and into the real world.”



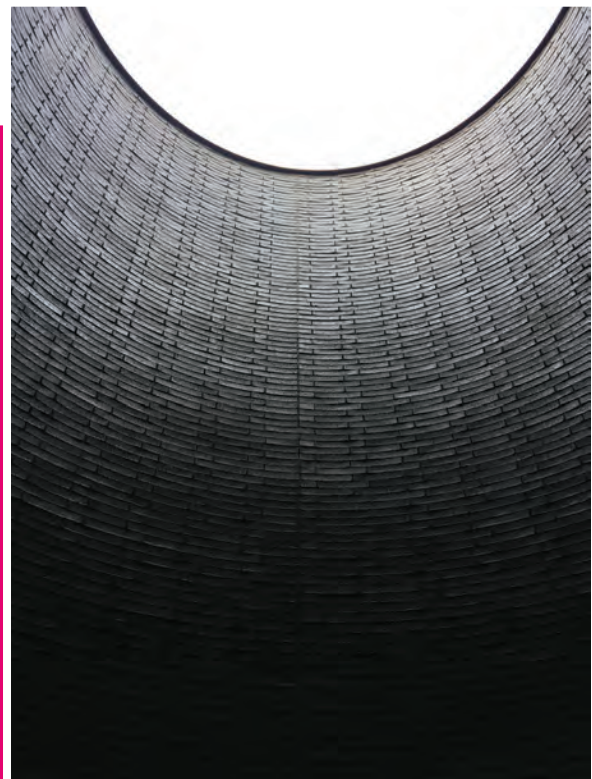
MICC thanks Roger for sharing his time, talent, and treasure. His dedication has touched the lives of our students and families for 10 years and will continue to do so long after his final gala.

If you are interested in volunteering with MICC, contact Ben Lentz, Director of Development at [blentz@miccommunity.org](mailto:blentz@miccommunity.org) or 612.876.9405.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

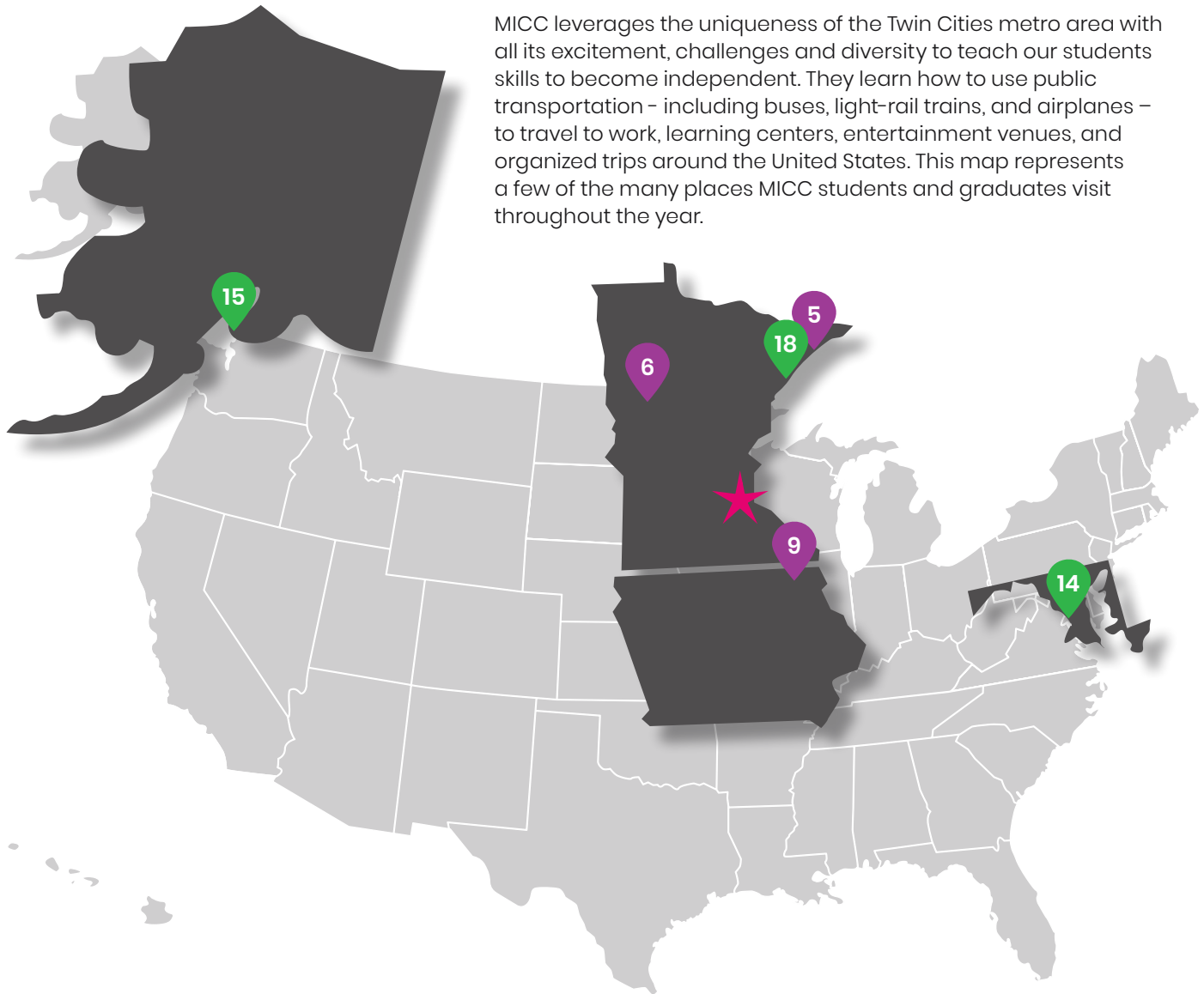
MICC students  
participate in a  
photography class!

Take a look at this  
image by Patrick.



# PROGRAMS MAP

MICC leverages the uniqueness of the Twin Cities metro area with all its excitement, challenges and diversity to teach our students skills to become independent. They learn how to use public transportation – including buses, light-rail trains, and airplanes – to travel to work, learning centers, entertainment venues, and organized trips around the United States. This map represents a few of the many places MICC students and graduates visit throughout the year.



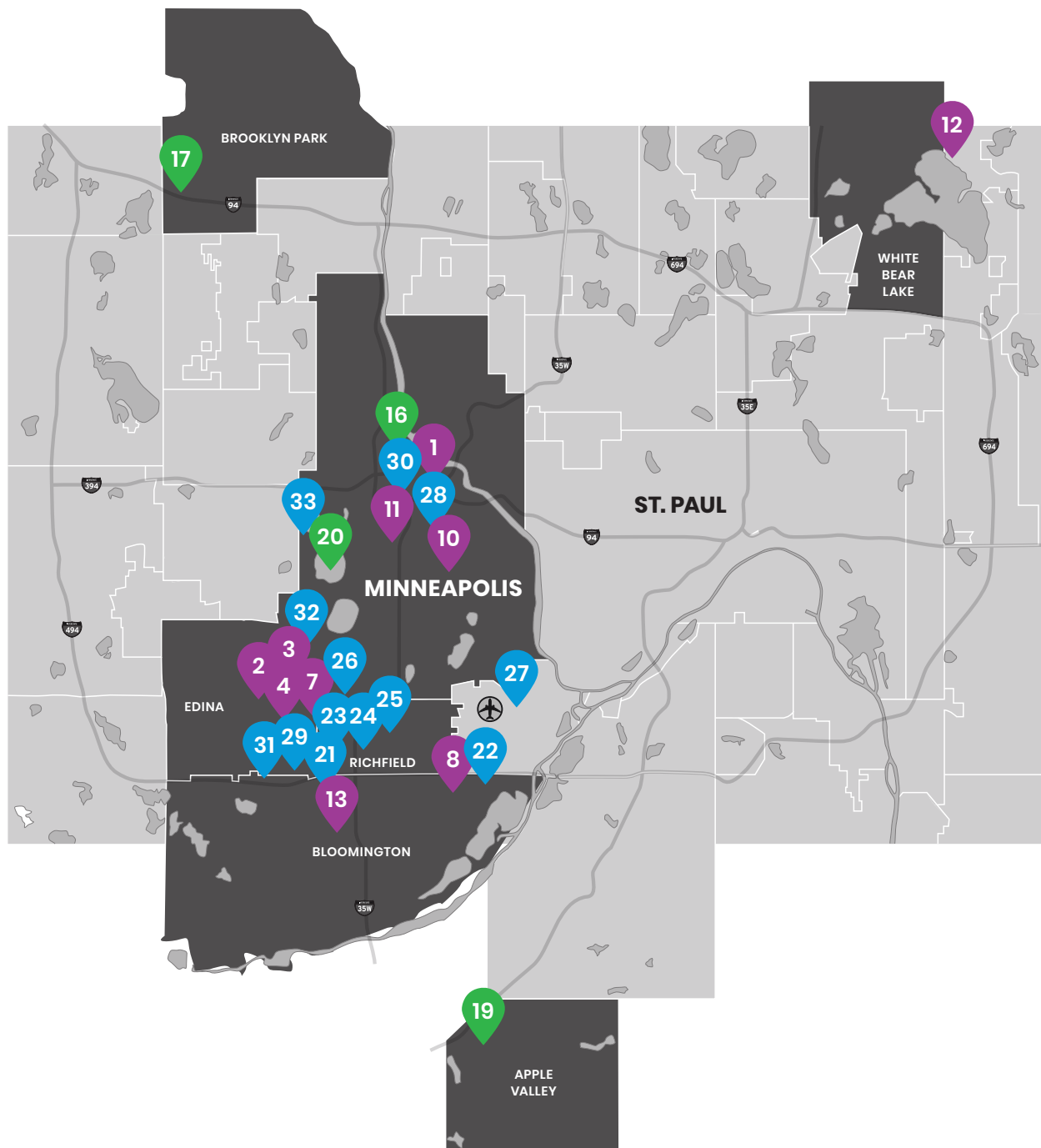
## College – Experiences

- 1 Brave New Workshop: Minneapolis, MN
- 2 Edina Arts Center: Edina, MN
- 3 Southdale YMCA: Edina, MN
- 4 Southdale Library: Edina, MN
- 5 Cascade River State Park (retreat): Lutsen, MN
- 6 Detroit Lakes (retreat): Detroit Lakes, MN
- 7 Wood Lake Nature Center: Richfield, MN
- 8 Mall of America: Bloomington, MN

- 9 Decorah, IA (retreat): Decorah, IA
- 10 Midtown Global Market: Minneapolis, MN
- 11 Minneapolis Institute of Art: Minneapolis, MN
- 12 Pine Tree Apple Orchard: White Bear Lake, MN
- 13 Hyland Lake Park Reserve: Bloomington, MN

## Community – Social Opportunities

- 14 Washington, D.C. (trip)
- 15 Alaska (trip through Margaret's Missions)
- 16 Target Field: Minneapolis, MN



**17** Second Harvest Heartland (volunteer event): Brooklyn Park, MN

**18** Wolf Ridge (retreat): Finland, MN

**19** Minnesota Zoo: Apple Valley, MN

**20** Bde Maka Ska: Minneapolis, MN

### Careers – Employers

**21** Bon Appétit: Richfield, MN

**22** Great Wolf Lodge: Bloomington, MN

**23** Walker Methodist Care Suites: Edina, MN

**24** Super America: Richfield, MN

**25** Dairy Queen: Richfield, MN

**26** Dairy Queen: Edina, MN

**27** MSP Airport: Minneapolis, MN

**28** Loffler: Minneapolis, MN

**29** AMC Southdale 16: Edina, MN

**30** Juut Salon Spa: Minneapolis, MN

**31** Brookdale Senior Living: Edina, MN

**32** Walgreens: Edina, MN

**33** Bergens SuperValu: Minneapolis, MN

# INVEST IN MICC

## Access

Our goal is to meet 50% of a family's identified financial need through MICC Financial Assistance. For many families, this assistance is the only way to alleviate the financial barriers that would otherwise restrict access to our program.

## Growth & Improvement

1 in 59 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or learning difference. Investment in MICC allows us to grow our facilities and programming to accommodate more individuals who need these critical resources.

## Program Innovation

MICC is a true pioneer in the field of community integration and independence for adults with autism spectrum disorders and learning differences. Innovation, experimentation, and exploration are necessary for MICC to be successful in program delivery. To remain competitive, we must continually evolve and enhance our curriculum to meet current economic conditions and employment trends.

## Ways to Invest

### Phone

To donate over the phone, please call our Development Department at 612.876.9418; we can process donations made with American Express, MasterCard, Visa cards.

### Mail

Please make checks payable to "Minnesota Independence College and Community" and send to:

Minnesota Independence College & Community  
7501 Logan Avenue S, Suite 2A  
Richfield, MN 55423

### Online

[www.miccommunity.org/donate-today](http://www.miccommunity.org/donate-today)

### Stocks, Bonds or Other Appreciated Property

If you'd like to make a gift of stock, please download our stock gift form at

[www.miccommunity.org/ways-to-donate](http://www.miccommunity.org/ways-to-donate)

Contact our Development Department at 612.876.9405 or consult your tax advisor to learn more about the benefits of donating securities.



# EXPEDITION INDEPENDENCE

WHAT'S YOUR NEW FRONTIER?

**16TH ANNUAL GALA  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019**

## Sponsorship

The MICC annual Gala gathers over 800 community members from across the country to celebrate our mission and all those who help bring it to life. The theme of this year's Gala is "Expedition Independence: What's Your New Frontier?" celebrating the spirit of exploration and limitless possibility of our students and graduates as they achieve independence! If you've been to this event, you already know it's one of the most enjoyable galas in the Twin Cities—casual, theme-based, and fast-paced. If you haven't attended in the past, we'd love to have you join us this year!

As we prepare for the Gala on March 23, 2019 at Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot, we'd like to be able to count on your support as an event sponsor. Contact Ben Lentz, Director of Development at 612.876.9405 to learn more.

## Planned Giving

Estate gifts allow you to include MICC in your will or estate plan in order to contribute funds or property. By planning ahead, you may be able to increase income, avoid taxes, and make a generous gift in the future. You can create a legacy gift by naming Minnesota Independence College and Community on the beneficiary form of a savings, checking, or pension account; remembering MICC in a will or living trust; or using a more complex instrument such as a charitable life-income trust. Legacy gifts are powerful and demonstrate your commitment to the work and mission of MICC.

**Contact our Development Department at  
612.876.9405.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

MICC students participated in a fiber arts weaving class with artist Chiaki O'Brien.



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