

## 2020 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI OF THE YEAR NOMINATION ESSAY

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Doug Hanneman is a great example of a student who learned his craft here at Inver Hills, and then used it to be of service throughout his career, and even now in retirement.

In this, our 50th year, I'm pleased to nominate Doug, who has had an association with Inver Hills that goes back to the 1970s. He became a student at Inver Hills in winter quarter 1974, and joined the Inver Hills student newspaper, the *Forum*, where he wrote news stories and features. He also took journalism courses here. Another notable member of the *Forum* at that time was Dane Smith, who went on to an outstanding journalism career of his own, and was later named an Inver Hills Alumni of the Year.

Doug's work on the *Forum* drew the attention of the director of DARTS, an Inver Hills-initiated community service for older residents of Dakota County, which had office space at Inver Hills upstairs from the Forum offices. DARTS hired Doug, first as an intern, then as full-time editor of its newsletter, the DARTS Journal. To learn more about the services that DARTS' clients depended on, Doug continued taking classes at Inver Hills in Human Services until 1977, earning more than 120 quarter credits here.

By 1981, Doug's work in service to older residents of Dakota County inspired him to dream of a publication that would inform older adults of services, not just in our county, but throughout the broader metropolitan area, so he founded *Good Age*, a newspaper (now published as a magazine) to inform older adults of all manner of health, educational, housing, nutrition, transportation, and entertainment resources.

*Good Age* was a success, and one that effectively started right here at Inver Hills. Some 38 years later, it is still being published, and in fact, is distributed monthly outside our bookstore in the College Center building. Doug was editor for several years, until *Good Age* was stable enough to hand off to others, and then he served the communities of South Washington County and then Hutchinson, Minnesota as an award-winning editor, winning many National Newspaper Association and Minnesota Newspaper Association awards for his work with the *South Washington County Bulletin* and the *Hutchinson Leader*. Those awards included the prestigious 1st Place in General Excellence nationally at both newspapers.

I saw Doug's journalism career and career of service develop firsthand. I was a student at Inver Hills at the time, and served on the Forum staff with him. Then I worked as business manager of *Good Age*, while Doug ran the content side as editor and publisher. He taught me much about the needs of older adults, which he had learned working for DARTS, and he communicated a sense that *Good Age* was an opportunity to help inform older adults of services available to them that might enrich their lives and improve their health. That service orientation is the main reason he is worthy of a nomination, but to me, the story in our 50th year of how Inver Hills' student newspaper and education here spawned a career of service is a compelling one, too.

Last year, Doug and I approached *Good Age* to see if they would publish an article about Inver Hills' and Ridgewater College's outreach to students age 62 and above, and their opportunities at our colleges and others to take tuition-free or discounted courses for credit or audit. In September, they published our article, and it was distributed not only on our campuses, but to senior centers and elsewhere throughout our service areas.

Doug Hanneman's service to community hasn't ended with his recent retirement. Among many volunteer positions, Doug serves on the Ridgewater College Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council; Minnesota Newsmedia Institute Board of Directors; Friends of the Luce Line West Board of Directors; and McLeod County Towards Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition. Other current volunteer work includes:

- Hutchinson Health, Health and Well-Being Advisory Committee
- Minnesota Newspaper Foundation (State Fair Newspaper Museum)
- Minnesota Newspaper Association Journalism Education Committee, Member Services Committee, and annual convention registration desk volunteer
- Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau table tent
- Hutchinson Connects
- Park Elementary Walking School Bus (currently writing an article for Minnesota Parent magazine about the walking school bus concept)
- Southwest Initiative Foundation, Passport to the Parks/Grow Our Own
- RiverSong Musical Festival stage crew
- Volunteer distribution of *Good Age* and *Minnesota Parent* magazines to sites around Hutchinson
- Sixth-grade Confirmation instruction
- Church Outreach Committee
- Kingdom Workers (mission work)
- Jesus Cares Ministry (for people with developmental disabilities)