

# CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



Photo of Leonard Haapanen and the Memorial Blood Centers booth in the Yellowjacket Union  
Photo by Lily Hanson | The Promethean

## UWS Hosts Campus Blood Drive

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On April 21, The University of Wisconsin-Superior’s Student Involvement team partnered with the Memorial Blood Center (MBC) for a campus blood drive. MBC is a nonprofit community-based blood center that operates in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The MBC bus parked outside of the Yellowjacket Union and was open to all UWS students, staff and even the local community. Donating to the blood drive not only saves lives, but also provides support to public health in the Northland. Leonard Haapanen was the registration host at the event and he explained donating blood is a quick and easy way to help those in need. “Donating blood is actually saving someone’s life that you may not even

know,” Haapanen said. “It takes a matter of a half an hour or so and I believe it’s a good thing to do.” One in three people will need blood in their lifetime and one donation can save up to three lives. Blood also cannot be substituted, meaning it only can come from donors. At this year’s event, the goal was to receive 32 donations. “Every semester we have a blood drive and one thing I like about the Memorial Blood Center is that all of their donations stay right here in the Northland,” Student Affairs Director Allison Garver said. For some, the decision to donate blood is simple. For others, there is a more personal reason. Kendallyn Kalenberg is a senior at UWS and has been donating blood in honor of her grand-

pa, who sadly passed away from an aggressive type of cancer called acute myeloid leukemia. “He needed over 20 blood transfusions before he passed away,” Kalenberg said. “He was a very important figure in my life and I am entirely grateful for those who donated their blood to help save my grandpa.” Kalenberg continues to show her appreciation and honor her grandpa by donating her own blood when she can and has even donated to MBC multiple times. “I am planning on donating more blood as the years go on and I have made it my goal to donate as much blood as he has received,” said Kalenberg. For more information on donating blood and MBC you can visit their website at [www.MBC.org](http://www.MBC.org).



Photo of the Memorial Blood Center donation bus in front of the Yellowjacket Union  
Photo by Lily Hanson | The Promethean

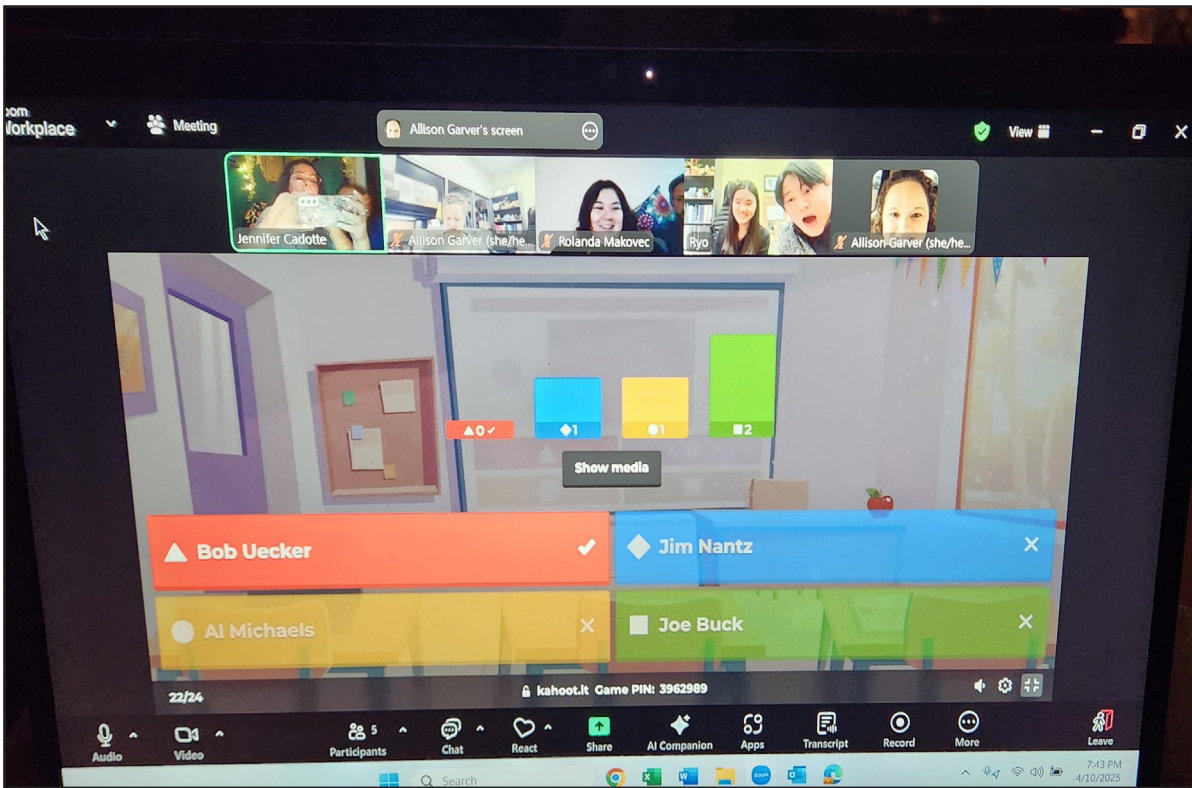


Photo of computer screen showing students and staff playing Virtual Guess Who with YAC  
Photo by Jennifer Cadotte | The Promethean

## Opinion : Hundreds of Steel Workers Facing Layoffs

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Lawmakers in Minnesota are speaking out after hearing that around 600 steel workers have lost their jobs on the Iron Range. The empathy is coming from both the Conservative and Liberal sides, but this is more than just something for politicians to argue about. Many have been quick to point fingers, but in doing so have lost track of the most important thing. These are real people, with real families, being affected by real consequences.

Cleveland Cliffs Minorca miner, Stuart Van Orsdel, was one of the nearly 600 affected. “I’ve worked with these people for thirteen years,” said Van Orsdel. “Some of them I hate, some of them I tolerate, but a lot of them are just my family.” He expressed his sadness for those around him, talking about how nobody really saw it coming. Many of the steelworkers who were laid off were union employees. Luckily, this means that they will receive a sub-pay in compensation for their job loss. The downside is that this won’t last forever. Once the pool runs dry, the former steelworkers are going to have to start looking for more employment if the

mines haven’t opened back up. “I’m scared”, said Barb Barker, another steel worker for the Minorca mine. “I thought this would be the job I would retire at. And I might, at almost fifty, have to find a different career.” She continued on to talk about how blind sided they were by the Douglas 2 layoffs, and how hard it’s been hitting those affected. But the workers won’t be the only thing affected.

Sen. Tina Smith (D) Minn. released a press release on March 20 and the statement said in part that every mining job creates 1.8 other jobs. Barker estimates that the entire Iron Range is going to feel the layoffs. “I think it’s going to be terrible”, she said. “I think every business on the Iron Range is going to take a hit. Whether it’s small or large, I think everybody is going to feel it.” With the state of mining on the Iron Range up in the air right now, it’s important to focus on what is for certain. Actions have consequences, and no matter who’s to blame for the layoffs, miners are being affected. It’s important to remember that the Iron Rangers are more than just jobs on a graph; they are real people.

## Virtual Guess Who Brings Students Together Across the Distance at UWS

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Students from across the state came together for a spirited round of Virtual Guess Who (VGW), an interactive online trivia event hosted by the Yellowjacket Activities Crew (YAC) at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. The event, held via Zoom, showcased a creative blend of fun facts, school spirit, and friendly competition. VGW, powered by the popular educational platform Kahoot!, featured a series of timed trivia questions designed by the YAC team. The questions ranged across genres—from history and movies to music and UWS-specific facts. One surprising highlight? Learning that legendary sports broadcaster and “Mr. Baseball” Bob Uecker once attended UWS. Participants were quick to embrace the challenge, racing against the clock to earn the most points. The faster the answer, the more points awarded—sparking bursts of laughter, lighthearted competition, and even a few victory dances on Zoom. Cheers of encouragement and playful trash talk echoed through virtual screens, proving that even remote students could feel the excitement of

campus life. For UWS distance learning student Rolanda Matovec, based in Milwaukee, the event was a refreshing connection to her university community. “I’m a distance learning student and these virtual events allow me to feel like I’m a part of campus,” she said. YAC staff member Alison Garver explained the importance of hosting events like VGW saying, “Once a month we try to do some virtual events that engage our distance learners and students on campus who may not want to leave their dorms or come back to campus in the evenings.” With its lively format and inclusive atmosphere, Virtual Guess Who is just one example of how the YAC continues to foster connection and school spirit—no matter where students are logging in from. For more on upcoming events and how to get involved, students are encouraged to contact YAC by email at [yac@uwsuperl.edu](mailto:yac@uwsuperl.edu) or check the campus events calendar at: [www.uwsuper.edu/student-life/campus-calendar/](http://www.uwsuper.edu/student-life/campus-calendar/).