

Kevin R. Neuharth: I am a North Dakotan through and through. I have lived in North Dakota most of my life, growing up in McClusky, graduating from Minot State University, and working for 42 years (the first two years in the Minot Public Schools and the next 40 at Minot State University). I also hold an MA in theatre from the University of Denver and have completed my PhD course work in Theater at the University of Oregon. I have been married to Cindy for 46 years. She was as an Elementary Teacher for 40 years and as an aide for the last eight years. Together we are proud parents of Jared (Beth), a Mechanical Engineer, and Cassie(Ben), a Marketing Specialist and Assistant Manager of a golf store in Fargo.

Throughout my career, I directed 152 projects with MSU Mainstage, MSU Summer Theatre, the Sawmill Playhouse, Magic City Children's Theater, University of Oregon Second Season, Minot Public Schools Magic City Campus and Central Campus. In addition to directing I enjoyed 268 tech theatre adventures in Scenic Design, Lighting Design, Technical Direction and Construction. I enjoyed teaching classes in Speech Communication, Stagecraft, Auditioning, Dramaturgy, Performance Studies, and Shakespeare Literature, to name just a few.

In addition to that I was the Coordinator of the Communication Arts Department for over 25 years, served on several faculty committees including a term as the Faculty Senate President.

I was principal respondent for 20+ Regional University KCACTF productions and 20+ of my directing projects have been responded to by regional colleagues. I was also Judge/ Respondent for dozens of State Class A and State Class B play contests.

I had the privilege of being IMC camp instructor for seven summers where i taught classes in stage combat, Shakespeare acting and script analysis, script preparation and character analysis, development of imagination during the character development process. I also presented workshops on Directing, Script Selection and Analysis, and Technical Theatre at State C STAND conventions.

Following retirement I did a couple rounds of school assessment NAEP Testing and continue as a seasonal at the locally owned and operated Lowe's Garden Center in Minot. In addition Cindy and I have traveled to Ireland, Iceland, the Northeast region of the US, and Florida. We also love to grab Indigo, our cat, and hit the North Dakota State Parks for weekend camping trips.

Through the years I received the Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching award (2005), a Vision 2013 Merit Award for Humanities (2010), Teacher of the Year award presented by C STAND (2013), several Ensemble Acting Awards, given to productions I directed, by the Region V, KCACTF. The most humbling acknowledgements I received came towards the end of my career, being granted Full Professor then after retirement being named Emeritus. Following retirement I was given the distinct honor of being named one of the 2021 Minot State University Alumni Golden Award winners.