

# Dakota students show passion for Great Lakes with fashion

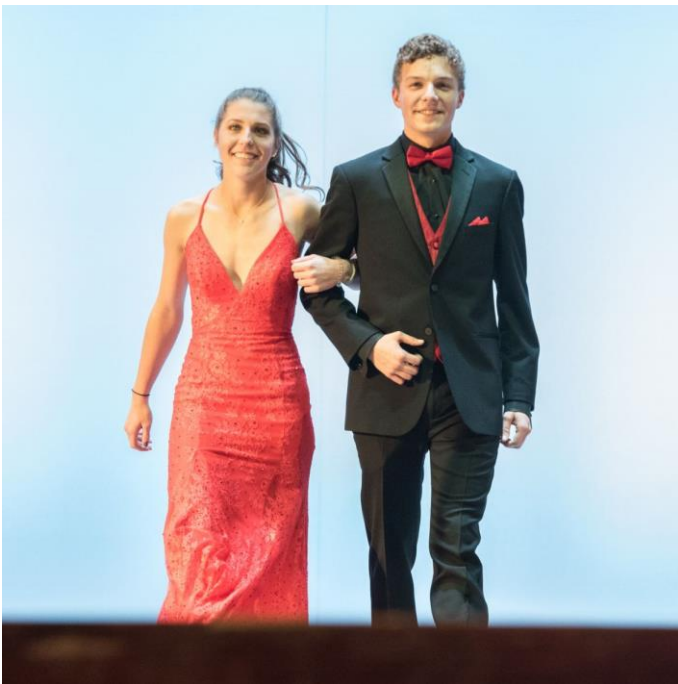
- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group

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Dakota High School's student government will host a fashion show on Dec. 6. Pictured are Jacob Fenech and Samantha DiCicco at a prior school fashion show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY HERBERHOLZ, DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL



On Dec. 6, Dakota High school's student government will host a Rock the Runway fashion show at the Macomb Township school. Pictured are Lauren Bobowski and Ben Laubach at a prior school fashion show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY HERBERHOLZ, DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL



The Rock the Runway fashion show at Dakota High School on Dec. 6 will benefit Alliance for the Great Lakes. Pictured is Jamie Sand at a prior school fashion show.

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Dakota High School students are translating a passion for fashion into a passion for protection of the state's Great Lakes.

Dakota's annual fashion show, Rock the Runway, will be held on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. The show is hosted by the school's student government, which currently has 75 members. It will benefit the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

"Planning for the event began in October," Dakota teacher and student government advisor Kelly Herberholz said. "Students work in four different committees: Designers, models, advertising and prize baskets. They organize the student models, find clothing for the students to wear, ask local businesses for donations, advertise for the event, and develop a program and script."

On the show date, all student government members assist by passing out programs, selling tickets and organizing models and clothing.

"Students are in charge of the show from start to finish," Herberholz said. "As their advisor, it's wonderful to see them execute an excellent event using their leadership skills. Two senior students will be the hosts this year."

The show is open to the public and tickets are sold at the door of the event for a \$5 donation to the Alliance for Great Lakes. Herberholz said that the student government goal is to raise over \$3,000 for the organization.

“This year our student government is hosting the MASC/MAHS Student Leadership State Conference in February 2020,” Herberholz said. “We have selected Alliance for the Great Lakes as the charity of the year for the organization.”

Alliance for the Great Lakes works to protect the Great Lakes and ensure that these lakes are safe and healthy for all through advocacy, volunteering, education and research. It is headquartered in Chicago, Ill. but has a Detroit field office.

“My students loved the mission and vision of this organization. As Michiganders, we care deeply about protecting the Great Lakes. This organization works hard to protect them and we loved the activism of this charity,” Herberholz said.

Students did not pay to participate in the fashion show, but applied with model packets available this fall.

“All Dakota students can apply and be in the show,” Herberholz said. “We have students from grades nine to 12 participating. For the prom wear portion, evening gowns and tuxedos, students must be a member of the senior class to model those items.”

Student co-chairs for the models committee review applications and organize student models.

“There isn’t an exact limit on the number of students who can participate in the show,” Herberholz said. “We usually have about 90 student models.”

A few of the Macomb and Oakland county businesses that have agreed to lend clothing for the event are Dakota’s school store, Wesner Tuxedo, Joni’s Fashion Boutique, Happy Earth Apparel, Hello Fancy Boutique, Banana Republic and INFKNIT.

The show will also include a variety of prize baskets, and tickets are sold for a variety of prices depending on the number of tickets purchased. Prize basket winners are announced during intermission of the show. Dakota High School is located on 21 Mile Road, east of Heydenreich Road in Macomb Township.