

# THE SWORD

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## Keeping Concordia Looking Good

CSP Grounds

By Seth Wehrs

6:30 AM, Monday, December 10th.

Two students in Holst Hall wake up, bundle up, and are out the door twenty minutes later. They walk across campus in the dark, noticing only the snow on the ground and the overflowing garbage cans. Who are these students? They are the first shift of the CSP Grounds crew. Monday through Friday from 7:00 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon, the grounds crew can be seen outside making sure that our campus looks the best it possibly can.

In addition to student workers, there are also two full-time employees, Mark Lambert and Nick Vikstrom. Mark has been a full-time employee with Grounds for seven years. As a full-time employee, he "supervises student workers, keeps the operations manager up to date on ongoing projects, makes purchases and keeps expense reports, and designs landscapes and plans annual flower beds." All while also working as a full time student in the Concordia post-grad program to earn his Masters in Business Administration.

Grounds crew is a year-round job, which employs students both during the school year and throughout the summer months. During the summer months, Grounds is responsible for the care and upkeep of everything outside. This includes picking up litter, mowing grass, weed whipping, changing garbages, fixing the irrigation systems, and most noticeably, landscaping. Over the course of last summer, Grounds landscaped between the music and theater buildings, between Luther and the art building, the middle of parking lot B, and all around the new Thompson Hall. "The work we

did over the summer was the toil of people who care." Said sophomore Micah Niebuhr "People who want the places we walk, the places we talk with friends, and the places that we travel everyday to look the best that they could for you, the students of Concordia."

During the winter, the main focus of the Grounds crew is keeping ice and snow off of sidewalks and out of parking lots. According to second-year grounds crew worker and Concordia Sophomore David Marshall "We spend a lot of time during the winter shoveling and putting down salt to get rid of ice. This is especially important right away in the

morning, because we do everything we can to have the sidewalks clear before students start going to class." Even when it is below zero and classes are canceled, the Grounds crew does not get the day off. Last year, even on the days when the windchill was around negative 60 degrees, these dedicated student workers could be seen outside clearing ice and snow. "Winter 2013 was a rough one," said another second year Grounds crew worker. "With any luck it won't get nearly as cold this



LANDSCAPING WORK BETWEEN LUTHER AND THE ART BUILDING, SUMMER 2014

year. It seemed that no matter how many layers I wore I could never stay warm. Heck, I'd even take more snow over that crazy level of cold. It was just ridiculous. This year has been better so far, but it's early in the winter yet."

Grounds crew is one of the more difficult student jobs on campus, and it requires much hard work and dedication. So if you see students outside with shovels and salt, take the time to thank them. Believe me, they appreciate it.



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