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Minnesota State University, Mankato

A SHARP CONTRAST



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Republican Brian Davis (left) and DFL Congressman Tim Walz participated in a 1st Congressional District debate at the CSU Ballroom.

Tim Walz and Brian Davis engaged in final debate Monday at MSU

DEREK WEHRWEIN
editor in chief

First District Congressman Tim Walz and his Republican challenger, Dr. Brian Davis, clashed sharply over energy policy, health care and other issues during a debate at Minnesota State Monday night.

In their third and final debate before election day, Walz, a former teacher at Mankato West High School, and Davis, a physician at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, laid out their contrasting views to a near-capacity crowd at the Centennial Student Union Ballroom.

Walz told the audience he was sent to Congress two years ago to “change the way things are done.”

“I’ve done that,” Walz said.

But Davis didn’t appear to share that sentiment. He criticized Walz for not being an independent voice for the 1st District, and touted himself as being more in touch with the values of southern Minnesota voters.

The first part of the debate focused largely on economic and energy policy,

1st District Congressional candidates:

DFLer Tim Walz, a former Mankato West teacher, is serving his first term as the 1st District Congressman.

Brian Davis, his Republican challenger, is a physician at Rochester’s Mayo Clinic.

Davis said those responsible for the current financial crisis should face repercussions, but argued it was also important to restore confidence in the free market. Walz criticized Davis for supporting President George Bush’s tax policies and economic deregulation.

The two found some common ground on at least one issue, however. Both expressed opposition to the recent \$700 billion bailout bill passed by Congress,

which Walz voted against and Davis has sharply criticized. Both agreed the U.S. is facing significant economic problems.

But common ground was otherwise hard to find at the debate, which was moderated by Mankato Free Press managing editor Joe Spear and longtime political reporter Jim Ragsdale. Walz, using the analogy of government as a referee, said better regulation was a must, while Davis argued that regulation of business should be kept to a minimum.

Davis also challenged Walz on his “yes” vote for a similar bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in July, accusing the congressman of essentially flip-flopping.

But Walz fired back, tying Davis to the Bush administration’s “failed and flawed” energy policies, and referring to Davis’ views on health care as being “bad economics and bad policy.”

When it came to drilling offshore for oil, Davis again attacked Walz’ record, while Walz warned that drilling

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MSU business program is named one of nation’s best

SHANNON KELLER
staff writer

For the third year in a row, the Minnesota State College of Business MBA program has been ranked one of the best in the nation.

The Princeton Review, not associated with Princeton University, is a New York-based education services company that produces a yearly report of the top business schools in the country. “Best 296 Business Schools” is a book-sized report that does not give schools rankings but focuses more on what the school is doing to make it one of the best.

“We select schools for this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and offerings, institutional data we collect from the schools and the opinions of students,” said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s vice president for publishing.

More than 19,000 students from the eligible schools are surveyed and they decide which will be in the Review. If the overall reviews are generally positive, then the Princeton Review will consider putting that school on the list.

The MBA is the Master of Business Administration program at MSU. Those enrolled in the program have to take 34 credits before graduation but are not rushed to finish on time, according to Scott Johnson, the dean of the College of Business.

“It is a two-year evening program designed for working professionals who already have an undergraduate degree,” Johnson said. “Students can go at their own pace so some

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