

Weekly Update, August 12 - 18, 2018

As we welcomed the rest of our residential students to campus, wait times at Walmart, supermarkets and convenience stores around town got substantially longer over the weekend! It is truly great to have our students back and ready to start the Fall semester. I want to thank so many of you who assisted with Move-In Day, and those of you who continue to work so hard assisting our students through the advising, registration and payment processes.

This week, we opened our new campus bookstore, <http://news.nsula.edu/home/new-bookstore-is-open-for-business/>. I want to thank Drake Owens, Jennifer Kelly and so many others who worked tirelessly on the project. Construction will continue on the remaining portion of the University Marketplace Building with Chick-fil-A scheduled to open in late October. Student Affairs staff will continue discussions with student leaders over the next several weeks on plans to re-purpose the old bookstore site and further enhancements to the Friedman Student Union.

I hope to see you at the New Student Convocation and picnic tonight!

My Week:

Monday morning, I joined the faculty in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom for the Faculty Institute. At noon, I joined the rest of the faculty and staff at the Faculty/Staff Luncheon at Prather Coliseum.

Monday afternoon, I met with Roni Biscoe and later was downtown for a meeting with a group of Natchitoches business leaders.

Tuesday morning, local businessman J.W. Scarborough stopped by the office to visit. Afterwards, I spent some time at the QEP Workshop in the Student Union before heading over to the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts for their faculty in-service program. I spent Tuesday afternoon in personnel meetings.

Wednesday morning, Jennifer Kelly, Frances Conine, Stephanie Dyjack, Dr. Marcus Jones and I met about campus housing. Afterwards, I met with The River Community Church Pastor Ellis Newman and then with an alumnus who has moved back to our community.

At noon, I stopped by Varnado Hall to visit with our Creative and Performing Arts faculty as they completed morning workshops.

Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Marcus Jones, Carl Jones, Stephanie Dyjack, Frances Conine, Jennifer Kelly and I joined a conference call concerning residence hall financing. We are exploring options to refinance some of our existing bonds that will result in significant savings to the university.

Later, I joined our Scholars' College faculty at Magale Recital Hall to welcome our incoming students. Afterwards, I visited with our Lady Demon Soccer team as they concluded pre-season practice and then stopped by to visit with staff in the new Academic Advising Center in Watson Library. That evening, I attended a dinner with local community leaders.

Thursday morning, Carl Jones, Jerry Pierce, Dr. Marcus Jones, Dr. Vickie Gentry and I took part in a conference call about the feasibility of an Economic Impact Study for Northwestern State University. Since it has been several years since we conducted our last study, our goal is to gather current data on the economic, social, cultural and other benefits of Northwestern State University and analyze our economic impact as a means for future opportunities.

Afterwards, I stopped by our School of Biological and Physical Sciences as faculty were being trained on our new Anatomage Table, <https://www.anatmage.com/table/>. Because of the generosity of the Student Government Association, we were able to purchase the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization system for anatomy education.

Thursday afternoon, I welcomed new cadets at the ROTC Welcome Ceremony and later attended the Welcome Reception for our new doctoral students at the Teacher Education Center.

Afterwards, I traveled to Alexandria and joined Carolyn Hartt, Coordinator of Nursing and Allied Health for our CENLA campus, for a HealthCare Partnership meeting. The event coordinated by the Rapides Parish Business & Career Solutions Center reviewed the urgent need and strategies to increase the number of registered nurses for Rapides Parish. Ms. Hartt did a phenomenal job informing the group comprised of educators, hospital administrators and economic development professionals about our programs and academic success in this area.

That evening, I attended a large community gathering at the Athletic Fieldhouse for the football season ticket pick-up event and Open House.

Friday morning, Jennifer and I stopped by the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band rehearsal to visit with our students and supply them refreshments during their morning break. At noon, Jennifer, Jill Bankston and I had lunch downtown with NSU benefactors Danny and Lenn Prince.

Friday evening, I joined hundreds of NSU students, faculty, staff and soccer fans for our season opening match against the University of Texas – San Antonio.

Saturday, I joined many of you for Move-In Day at the Residence Halls before attending our football scrimmage at Turpin Stadium. Afterwards, I stopped by the Collins Pavilion for a BBQ lunch with our football team and coaches provided by our healthcare partner, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center.

Saturday afternoon, I stopped by the First-Generation Student & Family Welcome Reception at the Academic Success Center and then watched our volleyball team defeat Louisiana Tech University in a volleyball match at Prather Coliseum.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris