

Weekly Update, February 10 - 16, 2019

The Week:

On Wednesday, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, members of the Leadership Team, University Strategic Planning Team, University Assessment Committee, and the General Education Committee provided the AY 2018-2019 Assessment Cycle Mid-Year Report (copy of brief attached). The message was clear that the University's comprehensive planning and assessment approach is facilitating progress across all measurable areas. Having SACSCOC validate our assessment process allows us to broaden our focus from strictly process to results.

During the meeting, we officially closed the 2017-2018 assessment year and received updates on where we are in data collection. We recognized signs of improvement in each of the Strategic Focus Areas, degree program and unit assessments, and the general education core competencies. Deans and the student government president discussed their positive trends, areas of concern, and focus moving forward. We received an update on capital outlay, community service and support activities and the status of research. We discussed our plans moving forward and how we must maximize the lessons learned to increase organizational and operational effectiveness.

We have the momentum and are seeing the kind of progress that will continue to propel Northwestern into the regional and possibly national conversation on excellence in many areas. I recognize it is your hard work that underpins our progress. I am thankful for each of you and for what you do for this University every day. You are making a difference.

My Week:

Monday morning, I traveled to Bossier City and joined a large contingent from NSU at the General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) Academic Summit. As many of you know, NSU joined a higher education collaboration with GDIT and Louisiana Economic Development (LED) in 2015. Our College of Business and Technology and Computer Information Systems faculty have done a magnificent job expanding technology opportunities for students since the inception of this grant. Our student enrollment in CIS has grown to 315 students. We joined GDIT executives and colleagues from Bossier Parish Community College, LSU - Shreveport, Grambling State University and Louisiana Tech University in engaging discussions and technology focus group breakout sessions.

Monday afternoon, I participated in a Southland Conference Board of Directors Teleconference with SLC Commissioner Tom Burnett and the presidents from the 13 conference universities.

Tuesday morning, Jennifer and I sat for a Valentine's Day video interview conducted by students for a communications class. Afterwards, I huddled with our university vice-presidents to review our mid-year budget and other items within their divisions. Later, I spent time at our Spring Career Fair visiting with participating employers and students.

Tuesday afternoon, I assisted a student with his medical school application and later met with Dr. Marcus Jones, Dale Wohletz and Gil Gilson to discuss a planned campus improvement project.

Tuesday evening, I joined our recruiting team in Haughton for our Bossier Parish recruiting reception to share academic and enrollment information with high school students and parents.

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Wednesday morning, Jana Lucky and I met with Career Compass of Louisiana Director of Strategic Partnerships Crystal Burch to review our current agreement and discuss future opportunities for enhanced engagement. Afterwards, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Carmella Parker, Curtis Penrod and I met with BRF Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program Executive Director Dave Smith and Business Analyst Caryn Chalmers to review initial Inferno Pitch competition data and discuss plans to grow this initiative.

Later, Drake Owens, Van Erikson, Natchitoches Community Alliance President Tony Davis and I met with Cyber Innovation Center Director of Academic Outreach Kevin Nolten. We had a promising discussion about partnering with the National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center (NICERC) to advance academic outreach and cyber workforce development in our region. Afterwards, I attended the President's Mid-Year briefing in the Henderson Conference Room.

Wednesday evening, I attended the SGA Black History Month Speakers Series event featuring author Kevin Powell.

Thursday, I joined over 40 NSU faculty and staff at the Universities of Louisiana *For Our Future Conference* in Lafayette. We enjoyed a full day of sessions and networking and collaboration with our peers from other ULS universities. Highlights included addresses by NCAA Executive Vice President of Inclusion and Human Resources Dr. Katrice Albert Chair and CEO of TLC Beatrice Loida Nicolas Lewis.

Friday morning, I gathered with ULS President Dr. Jim Henderson and the Presidents from the other Universities of Louisiana System schools to discuss system initiatives. Afterwards, we concluded the productive conference with an awards luncheon and closing address by Dr. Henderson.

Saturday morning, I joined our Lady Demon Basketball team and coaching staff for breakfast at Iberville Dining Hall where I had the opportunity to spend time with a prospective student-athlete and her parents. Afterwards, I watched our Lady Demon tennis team defeat Xavier University at the Jack Fisher Tennis Complex.

Saturday afternoon, I joined faculty, staff, students, alumni and basketball fans at the NSU Alumni Association tailgating festivities outside Prather Coliseum. Afterwards, I enjoyed a basketball double header versus Stephen F. Austin State University. During the women's game, I was able to do an on-air interview with ESPN promoting NSU, and at halftime of the men's game I was honored to recognize U.S. Army veteran Dan Poole for his service to our country.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris