

The Week:

We wrapped up another extremely successful semester at the university this week. Because of you, the positive momentum of our university continues to expand. Although this is not a complete list, I have noted some of your accomplishments from the fall semester:

- The Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) found NSU compliant – no further action required (at this time) regarding the monitoring report issued during our affirmation of accreditation. Specifically, they found NSU identifies student learning outcomes for its education programs, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and it provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results moving forward.
- We reached our highest enrollment since NSU was founded in 1884.
- The new Campus Marketplace, which includes the campus bookstore, was opened, and Chick-fil-a will begin operations next month.
- The university assumed management of the NSU-CENLA campus in Alexandria, formerly the Learning Center of Rapides Parish.
- We continued major capital improvements including a new parking lot at Watson Library, overlay of Caspari Street and upgrades in several classroom buildings.
- University students and faculty were honored and recognized nationally and internationally for their accomplishments.
- There were many academic accomplishments including a 100 percent passage rate by our students on NCLEX exam, first cohort of BSN students to complete their clinical studies on the Natchitoches campus, the inaugural Inferno Pitch competition, the highest student-athlete graduation rates in school history, the awarding of the DOE Teacher Quality Partnership grant and many others.

I want to thank you for ALL you do for NSU. We can continue to accomplish great things together.

Although I have several meetings scheduled for the next couple of weeks, I will take a couple of weeks off with the weekly updates and recap those meetings after the beginning of the year.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope that you have a relaxing break!

My Week:

Sunday, I had breakfast with our football coaching staff and several prospective student-athletes and their families at Iberville Dining Hall. Afterwards, I drove to New Orleans and joined Roni Biscoe, Frank Hall, Dr. Greg Handel and Bob Jordan and the SACSCOC annual meeting. I spent the afternoon and evening in individual meetings and sessions.

Monday morning, I joined other university presidents for breakfast and an engaging session with SACSCOC President Dr. Belle Wheelan. I spent the day in conference sessions designed for campus presidents.

Weekly Update, December 9 - 15, 2018

Monday evening, I joined the NSU contingent for a briefing with SACSCOC Vice President Dr. Crystal Baird where we learned our great news regarding the monitoring report issued during our affirmation of accreditation. That report made for a happy drive home back to Natchitoches.

Tuesday morning, I addressed the University of Louisiana System Management and Leadership Institute participants who were gathered on our campus for two days of sessions. I want to thank the many faculty and staff who presented and assisted with hosting the institute. At noon, I had lunch with the group at the Orville Hanchey Art Gallery.

I reserved Wednesday for several personnel meetings. Also, I met with Bill Brent concerning the Natchitoches Community Renewal project, Dawn Eubanks and ULS VP Bruce Janet and with Dr. Vickie Gentry on academic matters.

Thursday, I met with Dr. Vickie Gentry, Dr. Greg Handel, Dr. Mark Melder and a prospective faculty member. Later, Dr. Marcus Jones, Frances Conine, Reatha Cox, Jennifer Kelly, Jana Lucky and I had lunch with the new owners and management company of a local student housing complex.

Thursday afternoon, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Vickie Gentry and I met with an outside group that briefed us on their services in the online market. Thursday evening, I joined the Division of the Student Experience for their Christmas party at the home of Frances and Cliff Conine.

Friday, like so many of you, I took part in the Fall commencement ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. At noon, we hosted a lunch for our guest speaker, Sen. Gerald Long and our stage guests at the President's Residence.

Friday evening, I attended the Annual Dreams Foundation Christmas reception downtown. Proceeds from this event assist the Dreams Scholarship Fund for local youth.

Saturday afternoon, I attended the wedding of Clint Oliver and Madison Milligan in Shreveport. Clint and Madison both graduated from NSU on Friday morning, had their rehearsal dinner that evening and married on Saturday. They will both be teaching in area schools beginning this January.

Saturday evening, I attended an NSU pre-game gathering at Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant and later watched our men's basketball team defeat Southern University in the Shreveport-Bossier Holiday Basketball Classic held on the campus of Centenary College.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris