

## **The Week:**

Tomorrow, we will release an Economic Impact Study conducted for Northwestern State University. The study was part of a statewide economic impact analysis conducted for the University of Louisiana System. Results of the study led by Economic Modeling Specialists International show that Northwestern State University's economic impact on the Northwest and Central Louisiana region is significant. For fiscal year 2017-2018, NSU's economic impact on the 10-parish region was \$428.2 million.

The study is especially significant because it underscores Northwestern's substantial return on investments to students, taxpayers and society as a whole in Louisiana. One conclusion of the study was that students receive \$3.70 in future earnings for every dollar they spend for tuition, fees and other expenses to attend NSU. That is an average annual rate of return of 14.5 percent. Another conclusion shows that tax dollars invested in Northwestern are returned to the state at a rate of \$3.80 for every dollar allocated to the university, which is an average annual rate of return of 12.3 percent.

The ongoing daily impact of Northwestern's economic contributions to the economic stability in this region is extraordinary. The creation and support of jobs and businesses, enhancement of the workforce and quality of life in the area, the attraction of thousands of visitors, and spending by students, university personnel and alumni are at the heart of our regional economy.

This economic impact report makes it clear that Northwestern is a major asset to the region and state economically and that state allocations to NSU and tuition and fees paid by students provide multiple, lasting benefits to Louisiana and to students attending the university.

This week, Dr. Vickie Gentry, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, announced her plans to retire later this year. Upon her announcement, we immediately initiated plans to begin the search process to fill this important position. First, discussions were held with Vice Presidents, Deans and our Faculty Senate President for input and recommendations for members from their respective colleges/units to serve on the search committee. We wanted to ensure that the committee is representative of our university community with members from each of our colleges, units that report to the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, other areas across campus and our student body. Through these discussions and recommendations, we have formulated an outstanding search committee to begin the search process. Listed below are members of committee:

Dr. Bill Morrison, Chair, Associate Professor, Education; Education and Human Development  
Dr. Thomas Reynolds, Faculty Senate President, Associate Professor, English, Foreign Language, Cultural Studies; Arts & Sciences  
Dr. Leigh Ann Myers, Professor, Mathematics; Arts & Sciences  
Dr. Nabin Sapkota, Assistant Professor, Engineering Technology; Business & Technology  
Dr. Kimberly McAlister, Associate Professor, Dean, Education and Human Development  
Dr. Joel Hicks, Associate Professor, Director, Allied Health; Nursing & Allied Health  
Ms. Mary Linn Wernet, Associate Professor, Head, Archives & Records; Watson Library  
Dr. Marcus Jones, Professor and Executive Vice President; University and Business Affairs  
Ms. Jennifer Kelly, Assistant to Chief Academic Officer for Academic Support and Auxiliary Services  
Ms. Yvette Ceasar Williams, Associate Registrar for Records; Registrar's Office  
Ms. Carla Howell, Director, Sponsored Programs; Division of Technology, Innovation and Economic Development

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Mr. Van Erikson, Director, First Year Experience & Leadership Development; Division of Student Experience

Mr. Jacob Ellis, President, Student Government Association

The committee will meet within the next two weeks to formulate a job description/announcement and timeline for the search. Our goals are to have candidate interviews late this semester where each of you will have an opportunity to meet the finalists and to have someone selected to the position prior to the start of the Fall '19 semester.

I know you join me in congratulating Dr. Gentry on the fantastic job that she has done and will continue to do in this role for the remainder of this academic year.

### **My Week:**

After spending most of Sunday traveling home from Washington, D.C., it was great to make it back on campus in time to watch our NSU Lady Demon Tennis team defeat LSU-Alexandria Sunday afternoon.

Monday morning, I joined Tedd Dumas on the Baldrige Dumas Radio Network for our monthly call-in show promoting Northwestern State University. Afterwards, the leadership team gathered in the Henderson Conference Room for our monthly meeting. Later, NSU *Current Sauce* Editor Jacob Bennett stopped by to visit.

Monday afternoon, I attended a Natchitoches Community Alliance Board meeting at City Hall downtown to review economic development initiatives for our parish and region.

Tuesday morning, I met with Dale Wohletz about several campus projects. Afterwards, the Academic Deans, Vice Presidents, Haley Taitano, Alan Pasch, Dr. Thomas Reynolds, Roni Biscoe, Leah Jackson, Dawn Mitchell and I had a conference call to review the executive summary, fact sheet and final report of the Economic Impact Study that we will release this week. Later, Dr. Gentry and I met on several academic matters.

Tuesday afternoon, Drake Owens, Janet Vienne, Kelly Krouse and I met to review donor giving records and formulate plans for enhanced donor cultivation and solicitations.

Wednesday morning, Dr. Darlene Williams, Carla Howell and I had a conference call with a market research company that assists with grant writing support. Afterwards, Dawn Eubanks and I met for our monthly briefing from the Internal Auditor's office. At noon, I attended the Football Signing Day Luncheon at the Friedman Student Union where our 2019 signing class was announced.

Wednesday evening, I attended the NSU - University of New Orleans basketball game at Prather Coliseum.

Thursday morning, Dr. Vickie Gentry, Dr. Dana Clawson, Dr. Pam Simmons, Dr. Connie Hale and I met on the Shreveport campus about a potential collaboration initiative to enhance enrollment in our College of Nursing and School of Allied Health.

Thursday afternoon, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Kim McAlister, Dr. Jafar Al Sharab, Jana Lucky, Natchitoches Community Alliance Executive Director Tony Davis and I met with Dr. John Hansen, Project

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Lead the Way, Vice President for Partnerships – Colleges and Universities, to discuss comprehensive curricular and professional development programs for science, technology, engineering and mathematics related education.

Friday morning, I joined Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne and School of Business faculty for the Opening Ceremonies of the Louisiana Future Business Leaders of America District III Conference. Afterwards, I spent the morning with University of Louisiana System President Dr. Jim Henderson. He was on campus to share University of Louisiana System news, preview higher education goals for the upcoming legislative session and other system initiatives. Also, I briefed him on our academic year and upcoming strategic plans. I came away from this meeting as I do from all other meetings that I have with Dr. Henderson with a sense of appreciation that we have him in this important statewide role. He certainly cares for the faculty, staff and students of NSU.

Later that morning, Josh McDaniel stopped by the office to film a video about our recently completed Economic Impact Study. Afterwards, Lauren Jackson and I met on Financial Aid matters.

Friday afternoon, Dr. Dana Clawson and I met at LSU Health Medical Center with Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Chief Executive Officer Chuck Daigle, LSU Health Sciences Shreveport Chancellor Dr. G.E. Ghali and their leadership teams about NSU's important role in healthcare in our region.

Saturday evening, Jennifer and I attended the annual NSU baseball auction held at the Friedman Student Union Ballroom. I want to thank Coach Bobby Barbier and staff, event sponsors, alumni, fans and supporters for the overwhelming private support of our baseball team at this event.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris