

Weekly Update, September 30 - October 6, 2018

The Week:

I had the honor of representing Northwestern State University this week at the International Economic Development Council Conference in Atlanta, GA. IEDC is the largest professional organization for economic development in the world. At the conference, our partnership between General Dynamics, Louisiana Tech University, Bossier Parish Community College and Louisiana Economic Development was recognized with the prestigious Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award for Partnerships with Educational Institutions.

At the event, I was able to spend time with economic development professionals, workforce leaders and corporate partners who all commended NSU on the outstanding work of our faculty in preparing our students. One of our partners who is new to the area, Dan Gahagan, Vice President for Enterprise Capabilities Intel Division with General Dynamics Information Technology, praised our partnership as a major reason for the success and expansion of IT opportunities in our state. I treasure these opportunities to spend time off-campus visiting with educational and corporate partners. These conversations, and accolades, reinforce the tremendous job that you do for our students and your commitment to producing the most educated generation in Louisiana's history.

My Week:

Sunday, Jennifer and I spent the day at Barksdale AFB in Bossier City with 2nd Bomb Wing Commander Col. Mike Miller and his wife Monica. Col. Miller and staff gave us a briefing and overview of Barksdale, and we toured the base and operations.

Monday morning, I did my monthly radio show on the Baldrige-Dumas Communications network. Afterwards, Erin Dupree, Ashlee Hewitt and I met with a group about enhancing external funding to the Northwestern Fishing team. Later, I met with the vice presidents.

Tuesday, I was in Atlanta, GA to attend the International Economic Development Council Conference and Awards Ceremony.

Wednesday morning, I returned from Atlanta in time to address the junior and senior classes at Calvary Baptist Academy in Shreveport. At noon, I joined many community supporters at the Quarterback Club Luncheon in the Stroud Room of the Athletic Fieldhouse.

Wednesday afternoon, I filmed a Fundraising Video with our marketing team and later sat for an interview with NSU student Keator Poleman with *The Current Sauce*.

Thursday morning, I traveled to Pineville to visit with the senior class at Pineville High School. Afterwards, Veronica Bisco and I met on some Human Resource matters.

Thursday afternoon, Frances Conine, Jennifer Kelly, Stephanie Dyjack and I met with LSU Agricultural county agent Randall Mallette about a potential community garden concept for campus. Later, Dr. Vickie Gentry, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Marcia Hardy, Dr. Elizabeth Prejean, Drake Owens and I met to discuss potential internship opportunities for our students.

Thursday evening, I watched our Lady Demon Volleyball game vs. the University of Central Arkansas at Prather Coliseum.

Friday morning, I met with a prospective student and his family and then welcomed the leadership team of Alliance Compressors to campus. I spent the rest of the morning in budget meetings with Cathy Trichel, Rita Graves, Daphne Sampite, Dr. Marcus Jones and Pat Jones.

Friday afternoon, I joined our recruiting team at St. Mary's High School where I spoke to the senior class. Afterwards, I spent some time with an NSU alumnus who brought his son to campus for a tour. He notified me today that will be joining the NSU family this spring semester!

Saturday morning, I stopped by the Friedman Student Union to support NSU First Lady Jennifer Maggio and Nicholls State University First Lady Allyson Clune who were hosting a *Princess Retreat* at the Student Union Ballroom for young ladies from the Natchitoches Boys and Girls Club and Cane River Girls Home. Several NSU students assisted them with the service project. Afterwards, I spent time visiting with Nicholls State University President Jay Clune about campus and higher education initiatives.

Later, I attended the St. Denis Regatta on the downtown riverfront. NSU Rowing Team Coach Jason Stelly, Alan Pasch and several other staff and student volunteers did a phenomenal job organizing this inaugural event that brought hundreds of competitors and spectators to Natchitoches. Afterwards, I attended the NSU vs. Stephen F. Austin State University volleyball game in Prather Coliseum. Then, Jennifer and I hosted Dr. and Mrs. Clune and guests from Thibodaux at the President's Residence for lunch.

I spent Saturday afternoon at Family Day and Tailgating Activities that were being hosted on campus. We were honored to have Louisiana Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin and Assistant Secretary Joe Salter on campus, and I spent time briefing them about NSU. Saturday evening, I watched our football game against Nicholls State University. At halftime, I did an interview with Cox Sports Television and updated viewers about our progress at NSU.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris