

The Week:

Our university has received extensive positive recognition in the past few weeks. There was a nationally televised football game at Texas A&M, a win against Grambling State University here in a spectacular event that featured two nationally-renowned bands and a second runner-up honor for NSU alumna and Miss Louisiana Holli' Conway. This exposure is reflected in substantial increases in earned and social media numbers valued in the millions of dollars that our marketing team tracks daily.

It was documented this week that we reached a milestone by enrolling 11,081 students at the university this fall. This was an increase of 4.8 percent over last fall's enrollment. The count includes a fall freshman class of 1,562 students, which is an increase of 1.3 percent over last year. I want to thank you all for your recruiting and retention efforts that made this possible. So many of you worked tirelessly to promote your programs and support enrollment efforts to make this happen. I truly appreciate your devotion to Northwestern State University and our students!

My Week:

Sunday afternoon, I enjoyed watching our Lady Demon Soccer team defeat Jackson State University at the Lady Demon Soccer Complex.

Monday, I joined a large group to discuss potential upgrades to the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium and a construction timeline. Annually, we host many events (Christmas Gala, theatrical performances, concerts, orientation sessions, recitals, etc.) in the facility, so it was important to discuss the anticipated scope of work, estimated costs and the timing where construction would have the least impact on building utilization.

At noon, I joined the School of Business faculty at their weekly lunch gathering and reserved Monday afternoon for several individual meetings.

Tuesday morning, I gathered with the Vice Presidents to review enrollment numbers, and each provided a briefing from their area of supervision. Afterwards, I drove to Bossier City and joined Dr. Darlene Williams, Suzette Hadden, Jerona Washington, Dr. Mark Melder, Lt. Colonel Wendell Bender and Dr. Joel Hicks at the Bossier Chamber Patriots Awards Luncheon that recognized and honored outstanding First Responders. Mark Cooper, Chief of Staff for Governor John Bel Edward, was the featured speaker, and he outlined his background in public safety and emergency management experience.

Wednesday morning, I joined the recruiting team for a visit at Bossier High School. We addressed the senior class and provided them with information about opportunities at NSU. Also, our recruiting staff assisted them in completing their admissions and scholarship applications. Afterwards, I stopped by our College of Nursing and School of Allied Health campus in Shreveport and visited with several faculty members.

Wednesday afternoon, I met with the Strategic Planning Team to discuss the submission of our Monitoring Report to SACSCOC, the current effort to assess our General Education Core competencies, and the lessons learned from our AY 2017-2018 Strategic Assessment. This discussion included the approach we will use to close out all actions, decisions, and/or recommendations to maximize the best possible outcomes. On Tuesday, we will distribute the AY 2017-2018 Assessment – Validating Our Approach via the faculty and student Messenger. The team also discussed the requirements for the

SACSCOC fifth-year report and confirmed the appropriate university office ownership of those requirements. Lastly, we started a dialogue on how best to transition from an exclusively internal assessment process to a more holistic evaluation of our progress toward our vision in becoming the premier regional university.

Thursday morning, I met with Drake Owens, Jerry Pierce and Dr. Mary Edith Stacy to work on logistics for the upcoming campus visit by Gov. John Bel Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards. Mrs. Edwards will be the featured guest speaker at the NSU Middle Laboratory School Orchestra Fall Gala Dinner on Tuesday in the Friedman Student Union. The Gala is for the benefit of the Orchestra's 2019 Carnegie Hall Performance in New York.

Thursday afternoon, Dr. Marcus Jones, Jennifer Kelly and I joined the leadership team from Campus Living Villages for a Varnado Hall financial briefing. Afterwards, I visited with faculty and students at the Hospitality, Management and Tourism student social at the Culinary Arts Kitchen and later attended a Natchitoches Community Alliance Board of Directors meeting at City Hall.

That evening, Jennifer and I hosted the Lady Demon Soccer team for a pre-conference opener meal at the President's Residence.

Friday, I joined the recruiting team for two more visits in Bossier Parish. We first met with an enthusiastic group of seniors at Airline High School and later with a spirited group at Haughton High School.

Friday afternoon, I joined many faculty, staff and students at a reception honoring NSU alumna, Miss Louisiana and Miss America 2nd Runner-up Holli' Conway. Ms. Conway was on campus this weekend to perform at the 20th annual Creole Heritage Celebration Banquet and serve as mistress of ceremonies for the 61st annual Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet pageant.

Saturday, NSU Baseball Coach Bobby Barbier and I served as Co-Grand Marshals at the Marthaville Good Ol' Days Festival and parade. We, along with several baseball players and the Demon Cheerleaders, spent an enjoyable morning and early afternoon representing NSU in Marthaville for the festivities.

Saturday afternoon, I attended the Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet pageant. I want to congratulate Jourdan Waddell for winning the title, and we look forward to having her represent NSU at the Miss Louisiana pageant next June and at events throughout the year, <http://news.nsula.edu/home/waddell-wins-miss-northwestern-lob-pageant/>.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



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