

Weekly Update, September 2 - 8, 2018

Preliminary enrollment numbers for this fall are amazing! Official enrollment counts that will be released early this week will show another record enrollment for our university! We have surpassed the 11,000-student enrollment mark for the first time in the 134-year history of the school. I will forward the release once our report is finalized and submitted to the Board of Regents.

This week, we learned that three of our College of Nursing and School of Allied Health faculty received a prestigious honor. Dr. Danita Potter, Dr. Star Booker and Ann Deshotels were selected to be a part of the 2018 induction class at the Great 100 Nurses Celebration by the Great 100 Nurses Foundation. They were chosen based on their concern for humanity, their contributions to the nursing profession and their mentoring of others. We congratulate them for this honor and thank them for their contributions to our university and others.

In my weekly updates, I often highlight faculty initiatives as they relate to our Strategic Framework. This week, I want to thank our Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies for their latest community enrichment initiative. Beginning in mid-September, the department will offer an English for Everyday Living class, a basic English speaking/listening/writing class for the Natchitoches community. The course is non-credit and designed for adults whose first (native) language is not English. We appreciate Dr. Mischler, graduate student Katie Rayburn and the faculty for recognizing this community need and designing a program to assist many who want to expand their ability to speak, listen and write in English. This initiative will certainly help many in our local community.

My Week:

Sunday afternoon, I joined many NSU students and supporters at the NSU Soccer Complex to watch our Lady Demons defeat the University of Louisiana Monroe, 5-2. Afterwards, I was with our Student Experience team at the Friedman Student Union Ballroom for National Panhellenic Council Bid Day activities.

Monday morning, I began the day with my monthly call-in radio show with Tedd Dumas on the Baldrige-Dumas Radio Network. Throughout the day, I stayed in communication with on-campus administrators and local officials as we monitored Tropical Storm Gordon. Monday afternoon, Dr. Marcus Jones, Julie Powell and I joined officials on a state-wide briefing with the National Weather Service concerning the storm.

Tuesday morning, Dr. Darlene Williams, Cole Gentry and I met to discuss our marketing efforts toward military personnel and their families. Afterwards, I joined the National Weather Service Forecast Office Special Briefing audio conference for an update on the storm.

Tuesday evening, I attended "Louis, Louis", a concert of French music for orchestra and choir by the Austin Baroque Orchestra & Chorus at the Magale Recital Hall. The concert featured NSU alumnus Billy Traylor, baroque oboist, founder and artistic director, and NSU faculty members and Austin Baroque Orchestra performers Dr. Douglas Bakenhus and Dr. Dennette McDermott.

Wednesday morning, I joined Collier Hyams, Dr. Jafar Al Sharab, Dr. Jason Powell and Scott Burrell for a photo session featuring the arrival of a vehicle from Mazda as part of a collaborative grant award

involving Engineering Technology, Computer Information Systems and Graphic Arts. Afterwards, I attended the part-time job fair at the Friedman Student Union to visit employers and students.

At noon, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Carmella Parker, Curtis Penrod, Qwontice McDowell and I had lunch with Mimi Hedgcock and Dr. Niesha McCoy with General Dynamics Information Technology. The GDIT team spent the day on campus visiting with our Computer Information Systems faculty. They let us know that they continue to be impressed with the quality of our program, faculty and students.

Thursday, I reserved the morning and early afternoon for individual meetings with students, faculty and staff including an interview with NSU student Tony Renteria with *The Current Sauce*. Thursday afternoon, I attended the NSU Army ROTC Activation Ceremony of the 69th Demon Battalion at Prather Coliseum where CDT LTC Karl Marzahl took command of the battalion. Thursday evening, I traveled to Baton Rouge.

Friday, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Chris Lyles, Dr. Rafiqul Islam and I took part in the 2018 Louisiana STEM Summit at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. The event included remarks by Gov. John Bel Edwards and an address by Dr. Jeff Weld, Senior Policy Advisor and Assistant Director for STEM Education, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Dr. Williams and I spent the day in a regional STEM strategy development session with stakeholders from the North Louisiana universities, K-12 representatives and business and industry leaders.

Friday evening, I made it back to campus to take part in campus activities. The rain didn't deter hundreds of students from participating in a festive pep rally and concert on the tailgating fields or our Lady Demon Soccer team from securing a dominant 5-0 victory over Southern University at the Lady Demon Soccer Complex.

Saturday morning, I first met with prospective softball student-athletes and their families and later with three women's basketball prospective student-athletes and their families. I spent Saturday afternoon dodging the raindrops at the Demon tailgate fields preparing for the football game versus Grambling State University. Saturday evening, I led our freshman students across the turf at Turpin Stadium for the Inferno Run. Then I watched our football team score an impressive victory over a big in-state rival and enjoyed another magical halftime performance by our spectacular Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band and the great Grambling band.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



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