

Weekly Update, August 11 - 17, 2019

It is truly great to have our NSU family (faculty, staff and students) back and ready to start the Fall semester. Thanks to all of you who assisted with Move-In Day and those of you who continue to work so hard assisting our students through the advising, registration and payment processes.

Special thanks to the staffs in the offices of recruiting, financial aid, admissions, registrars, student accounting and cashiering, one-card, academic advising, first-year experience, university police, academic success, student support services and student technology who opened their offices on Saturday. Lines were steady in these offices as staff members assisted students and parents. Thank you to the many faculty and staff who put in a long day on Saturday to ensure our students had a positive experience.

Please continue to recognize that several of our students will still need assistance through beginning of semester challenges over the next couple of weeks. Thank you for your commitment, empathy and support in assisting our students.

Finally, congratulations to NSU College of Nursing and School of Allied Health Senior Director and Professor Dr. Pamela Simmons on her re-election to serve a three-year term as a representative of faculty on the Board of Commissioners of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

My Week:

Monday morning, I joined the faculty in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom for the Faculty Institute. At noon, I was with the rest of the faculty and staff at the Faculty/Staff Luncheon at Prather Coliseum. Afterwards, I blocked time to work with students, faculty and staff as campus traffic began to pick up.

Tuesday morning, Dr. Darlene Williams, Frances Conine, Jana Lucky and I met with Bossier Parish Community College Chancellor Dr. Rick Bateman and Vice Chancellor Karen Recchia where we reviewed our articulation agreements and discussed ways to increase engagement.

Tuesday afternoon, I met with the Catholic Student Organization FOCUS team where they briefed me on their goals and plans for the semester. Afterwards, I met with Barbara Prescott, Pat Jones, Dr. Greg Handel and Daphne Sampite about policies and processes. Afterwards, I stopped by the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts faculty in-service to visit with their faculty.

Wednesday morning, Jerry Pierce, Greg Burke, Dr. Haley Taitano, Drake Owens and I met on athletic development opportunities. Afterwards, Drake Owens and I traveled to Bossier City and joined Dr. Dana Clawson, Dr. Jafar Al Sharab, Suzette Hadden and Ty Whatley at the Northwest Louisiana Legislative Summit. During the event, area legislators and Gov. John Bel Edwards spoke on topics that included higher education.

Later, I gathered with the Strategic Planning Team. We reviewed and updated the Institutional Effectiveness Model Planning Calendar and received an update on Dual Enrollment Instructional Sites. Then, we discussed the analysis of the 2018-2019 Assessment Cycle and our Fifth Year SACSCOC Report requirements. We also concluded our four-month analysis of the University Mission statement, and I

am happy to report we have an initial draft. We will be circulating it in the next few weeks. I'll keep you updated. Afterwards, Internal Auditor Dawn Eubanks and I met for our monthly audit briefing.

Thursday morning, I met with United Way of Northwest Louisiana President and CEO Bruce Wilson and Vice President of Resource Development Tori Thomas. Afterwards, I traveled to Shreveport and joined Dr. Dana Clawson, Dr. Maxine Johnson and Dr. Joel Hicks for a meeting with northwest Louisiana health care partners.

Thursday afternoon, I filmed a video with our marketing team promoting our annual giving campaign. Afterwards, I attended a Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce reception downtown. Afterwards, I joined a large group of alumni and community supporters at the Demon Victory Tour stop at the Athletic Fieldhouse.

Friday morning, Jennifer and I stopped by the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band rehearsal to visit with our students and supply them with refreshments during their morning break. Afterwards, I welcomed several new students to campus during the new international student orientation program.

Later that morning, I joined Mayor Lee Posey and members of the Natchitoches Community Alliance Board at City Hall for an economic development conference call. At noon, I attended New Student Convocation rehearsals at A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

Friday afternoon, I met with Witt Caldwell, Legislative Correspondent with Congressman Mike Johnson and 4th District Community Liaison Alex Whittington. I briefed them on our academic offerings, ongoing research projects and student success programs and we discussed future opportunity avenues for Northwestern.

Saturday morning, I joined many of you for Move-in Day activities as hundreds of volunteers helped our new students move into the residence halls.

Saturday afternoon, I welcomed students and parents at the First-Generation Student & Family Welcome Reception at the Academic Success Center and spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying our Lady Demon soccer team's victory over the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris