

## **Weekly Update, January 12 - 18, 2020**

Early last week, I traveled to Baton Rouge to attend events surrounding the Inaugural Ceremonies for Gov. John Bel Edwards and members of the Louisiana Legislature. I was able to visit with several state officials. Although the 2020 Regular Legislative Session does not convene until March 9, there is optimism that higher education matters will be a priority in the session.

We will continue conversations about our legislative priorities with our local and area legislators over the next couple of months. Several officials that I visited with at this week's ceremonies were extremely complimentary of the progress that we are making at NSU. I stressed to them that is your hard work that underpins our success. I am appreciative of each of you and what you do for this University every day. You are making a difference in the lives of our students.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This annual observance is a significant and meaningful event for the university and our nation. I hope you pause tomorrow to reflect on this great leader's accomplishments for our country.

### **My Week:**

Sunday afternoon, I spent time at Brown Stroud Field visiting with parents and participants in our NSU Demon Baseball Showcase.

Monday, Jennifer and I attended the Inaugural Mass for Gov. John Bel Edwards. Afterwards, we attended an inaugural reception and later the Inaugural Ceremonies for Gov. Edwards and other state officials.

Tuesday, Jerry Pierce, Roxanne Freeman, Pat Jones and I met with Louisiana state legislative auditors for our NCAA Audit Exit meeting. Afterwards, Pat Jones, Dr. Greg Handel, Frances Conine and I met regarding NSU policies.

Tuesday afternoon, Dr. Greg Handel, Tom Whitehead briefed me about the Louisiana Percent for Art program and a proposed art sculpture for the campus. Afterwards, I gathered with Dr. Handel, Pat Jones, Frances Conine, Daphne Sampite and Ron Wight to review NSU policies and procedures.

Wednesday morning, Van Erikson, Ashlee Hewitt and I reviewed the Student Experience and Enrollment Management Fall programming schedule.

At noon, Greg Burke and I had lunch with an NSU alumnus to discuss ways of obtaining increased external support for our athletics program. That afternoon, Jerry Pierce, Greg Burke, Dr. Haley Taitano, Mike Jaworski and I met about athletic fundraising matters.

Wednesday evening, I had dinner with several local business leaders and afterwards watched our women's basketball team defeat Nicholls State University in Southland Conference action at Prather Coliseum.

Thursday, I met with State Rep. Gabe Firment and Grant Parish Clerk of Court Randy Briggs. Later, I met with Dr. Greg Handel and Dr. Dana Clawson about College of Nursing and School of Allied Health

matters. Afterwards, several members of our CONSAH leadership team joined us for a meeting with CHRISTUS Health Shreveport-Bossier administrators.

Thursday evening, Jennifer and I joined staff from Alumni and Development, Student Experience and Athletics for the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet at the Natchitoches Events Center.

On Friday morning, I met with Frank Hall, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, to discuss the University Strategic Plan and how we can better synchronize our plan with those of the ULS System and Board of Regents. We also discussed the deliberate approach we will take to ensure a successful SACSCOC Fifth Year Report. We ended our conversation with an update on assessing our dual enrollment courses. I am happy to report we are making progress across the board and thank you all for your diligence with the process.

Later that morning, I attended the visitation services for former NSU Department Head and Professor Emeritus Claudia Triche. Afterwards, Jerry Pierce, Drake Owens and I met about NSU alumni and development matters.

Friday afternoon, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Curtis Penrod and I met with Louisiana Economic Development Director of Workforce Initiatives Susana Schowen, Senior Director Special Projects Arthur Cooper and Workforce Analytics Manager Lou Guthrie to discuss our current partnership and ways to enhance collaboration between NSU and LED.

Saturday morning, I visited with prospective football student-athletes and families as they toured the campus this weekend. Afterwards, I drove to Pelican for the funeral services for Nellie Clark, wife of retired NSU professor Fred Clark.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



**DR. CHRIS MAGGIO**

**President**

Northwestern State University  
Caspari Hall | Suite 223  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
Natchitoches, LA 71497

[maggioc@nsula.edu](mailto:maggioc@nsula.edu)

Office: 318-357-6441

