

Weekly Update, January 26 - February 1, 2020

I joined more than 50 other faculty and staff members from NSU this week for the University of Louisiana System *For Our Future* Conference in Monroe. All in attendance can attest that it was a positive two days. We all came away with more information about our system and exciting ideas that we can implement on our respective campuses.

The conference featured a variety of sessions centered on three different tracks: innovation, integrity and inclusion. Thanks to the entire NSU group for their participation, and I would like to acknowledge the following for their outstanding presentations at the conference:

- Dr. Susan Kahn: Institutional Leadership to Impact the Assessment and Improvement of Student Learning in Higher Education
- Dr. Bill Morrison and Emily Perritt: What Your Students Want You to Know About Discussion Boards: A Student Panel
- Steve Gruesbeck, Wendy Canarro (Southeastern), Dr. Lindsey Vincent (La. Tech), and Jenny Moran (LOSFA): Experiential STEM and STEAM Outreach Aimed at Increasing Postsecondary Educational Access and Attainment Among Underrepresented Students
- Dr. Davina McClain: Defining Soft Skills in a Hard World: ULS Committee on Core Capabilities
- Dr. Billie Meyers, Dr. Erik Braun, Dr. Michelle Morris, Dr. Michael Moulton, Dr. Patrice Moulton, Dr. Terri Poehl, Dr. Keishia Hawkins: Better Together: Collaborative Research Model
- Dr. Greg Handel, Leslie Gruesbeck, Jennifer Kelly and Doris Collins: Creative Conversations: Bringing the Residential College to Life
- Scott Burrell and Julie Powell: Management and Leadership Institute Presentation

Also, congratulations to Reatha Cox for receiving the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Award for the University of Louisiana System. Reatha has been an amazing advocate for our students for over three decades, and we are so proud that she was recognized with this honor for her tireless dedication.

Finally, thanks to our Student Experience staff for hosting another successful Leadership NSU conference this weekend. The Student Government Association established this leadership experience for our students in 2016. The conference provides NSU students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in a professional conference setting at no cost to them. The Leadership NSU program is student run, and guest speakers deliver training, workshops, and presentations to assist our students in developing vital skills that help them to be successful not only on campus but in life after graduation. This year, approximately 400 NSU students participated in the conference.

My Week:

Monday morning, I met with a prospective student-athlete and afterwards with a prospective Creative and Performing Arts student and his family. Later that morning, Dr. Dana Clawson, Dr. Maxine Johnson, Dr. Aimee Badeaux and I met with executives with CHRISTUS Cabrini about expanded collaboration with our College of Nursing and School of Allied Health.

At noon, I stopped by to visit with staff at the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance.

Monday evening, I joined administrators, faculty and staff for our high school recruiting reception in Covington/Mandeville. Afterwards, I met with a couple of New Orleans area NSU alumni to brief them on our progress at NSU.

Tuesday morning, I traveled back to Natchitoches and at noon joined Dr. Greg Handel and our academic deans for lunch with guests from South Louisiana Community College. I want to applaud our academic leaders for this collaborative outreach with the academic leaders at SLCC. Several of our deans and directors spent the afternoon exploring articulation opportunities between our two institutions.

Tuesday afternoon, I blocked time for individual meetings with students. Afterwards, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Curtis Pernod and I met with executives at General Dynamics Information Technology to review our partnership and talk about an expanded role with this leading IT company.

Wednesday morning, I met with Jill Bankston, Danielle Cobb and Shayne Creppel. They briefed me on the plans for large fraternity and sorority alumni event to commemorate 100 years of Greek Life at NSU. Afterwards, Roni Biscoe, Frank Hall and I met to review updates from SACSCOC and other accreditation matters. Later, I met with leaders of an organization wishing to host a statewide conference at NSU next Fall semester.

At noon, I met with Tommy Peek, HR Director at Boise Cascade, to talk about our collaboration with area manufacturers and exciting plans for expanded engagement with our Engineering Technology Department.

Wednesday afternoon, Jerry Pierce, Scott Burrell, Tom Whitehead, Dr. Greg Handel, Bill Brent, Drake Owens and I met to continue discussions and plans about an exciting opportunity for our School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Wednesday evening, I joined our recruiting team for a high school recruiting reception in Monroe.

Thursday, I joined more than 50 NSU faculty and staff members at the University of Louisiana System's For Our Future Conference in Monroe. Thursday evening, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Dana Clawson, Dr. Maxine Johnson, Drake Owens, Suzette Hadden, Mayor Lee Posey and I attended the North Louisiana Economic Partnership Annual Banquet in Shreveport. At the event, we gathered with statewide and regional elected officials and business leaders to review economic development success over the past year and opportunities for the future.

Friday, we continued sessions at the University of Louisiana System's For Our Future Conference. During the morning, I joined the other ULS Presidents and ULS Board members for a tour of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine that will accept their first medical school cohort this fall. The College will offer another outstanding opportunity for our students.

Saturday morning, I spoke to prospective student-athletes and families on their official football recruiting visit to campus. Afterwards, Reatha Cox, Van Erickson and I met with NSU alumnus and leadership consultant Dr. Tait Martin about expanding leadership opportunities for our students. Afterwards, I visited with a prospective volleyball student-athlete and her family.

At noon, I spent time with students and our guest speakers at Leadership NSU.

Saturday afternoon, I watched our women's and men's basketball teams compete against the University of Central Arkansas in Prather Coliseum. During the men's game, I was honored to recognize Sgt. Gerard Conklin for his military service for our nation.

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

Office: 318-357-6441

