

## **Weekly Update, October 6 - 12, 2019**

A small but significant ceremony Friday afternoon reflected the continuing impact of our university on this community and region. Six students were joined by three faculty and staff members, an academic department head and a dean for the program recognizing the students in the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts. The students received official KTBS-TV3 press badges and other credentials in recognition of their contributions to regional television sports coverage.

Last November, we signed a memorandum of understanding with KTBS-TV3 that gives NSU students opportunities for field experiences with the television station to expand their experience with broadcast journalism and station operations. A goal of the partnership is to prepare students for success in the media industry and enhance employment opportunities after graduation. Through the partnership, NSU and KTBS work together to identify students with the desire and talent to pursue broadcast journalism or associated careers in media management, marketing, accounting and community outreach. KTBS and NSU faculty work together to provide classes and assignments and work with students to prepare them for a media related career.

That presentation to our students represents precisely the uniqueness of Northwestern State University. It focused on a caring, nurturing faculty and staff working tirelessly to provide opportunities for our students and a student body passionately seizing these opportunities to pursue their dreams. This photo, <https://www.nsula.edu/comm-students-join-ktbs-3-friday-night-football-coverage-crew/> by NSU staff member Leah Jackson captures our students just after receiving their credentials. After the presentation, the students and their faculty left for their Friday night assignments.

Thanks to all of our faculty and staff for your tireless work providing partnerships, opportunities and experiences for our students. Your hard work in and outside the classroom is deeply appreciated.

### **My Week:**

Monday morning, I joined BDC Radio host Tedd Dumas for our monthly 30-minute radio program. Later that morning, I met with several community leaders to learn more about a restoration project in downtown Natchitoches.

Monday afternoon, Dawn Eubanks and I met to review internal audit matters.

Tuesday morning, Bill Brent, Tom Whitehead and I met about a Creative and Performing Arts special project initiative. Afterwards, I met with one of our student leaders as he shared details about a potential student-led project. Later, Jerry Pierce, Drake Owens and I met on Alumni and Development matters.

Tuesday afternoon, Pat Jones and I met to review our budget, revenue and expenditures.

Tuesday evening, Jennifer and I joined other community partners at Barksdale Air Force Base for dinner with Gen. Timothy and Mrs. Rhonda Ray, Col. Michael and Mrs. Monica Miller and 2d Bomb Wing leadership as Gen. Ray, MAJCOM Commander, concluded his visit with the 2d Bomb Wing.

Wednesday morning, I spoke with an NSU alumna about strengthening our engagement. Afterwards, I joined many of you for the Ribbon Cutting for our new Steak 'n Shake Restaurant in the Friedman

Student Union. Thanks to Jennifer Kelly, Steve Kauf, our student advisory group and so many others for your leadership in this initiative.

Wednesday afternoon, Jennifer Kelly, Steve Kauf and I met with Vice President of Operations for SODEXO Ron Guillory about our campus dining relationship. Afterwards, I gathered with the Strategic Planning Team. During the meeting, Frank Hall led us through discussions about the Institutional Effectiveness Model Planning calendar, our draft Mission Statement and the road forward and our approach to the next strategic plan. Also, we crafted our timeline to review the mission statements, roles and priorities of each College and key administrative offices over the next several months, and we highlighted the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report requirements.

Thursday morning, Jennifer and I joined NSU Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society at the Marie Shaw Dunn Child Development Center where we they hosted "Donuts with Demons". I was so proud of our NSU students as they interacted with the Pre-K students at the CDC. Afterwards, I blocked time for individual personnel meetings. Later that morning, Dr. Greg Handel I met about academic affairs matters and afterwards I met with prospective students.

Thursday afternoon, I traveled to Minden for the Ribbon Cutting and Partnership Announcement on the campus of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College. At the event, we signed an articulation agreement with NLTC allowing the transfer of general education courses to NSU.

Friday morning, Jerry Pierce, Greg Burke, Dr. Haley Taitano and I met to review an alumni donor proposal. Afterwards, I met with a prospective student and family.

At noon, I hosted LSU Alexandria Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil and Central Louisiana Technical Community College Chancellor Jimmy Sawtelle as we explored opportunities for our students and stakeholders across central Louisiana.

Friday afternoon, I joined Dr. Nick Taylor, Dr. Fran Lemoine, Dr. Brian Gabriel and Melody Gilbert as we presented NSU New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts students with their official KTBS-3 press badges and recognized them for their contributions to Friday night football coverage.

Saturday morning, I attended the memorial service for lifelong Natchitoches resident and NSU supporter Betty Ledet.

Saturday afternoon, Jennifer and I attended a reception as a part of the Natchitoches Historic Tour of Homes and later attended events on the downtown riverbank in support of the Northwestern Louisiana Cancer Center and Natchitoches Regional Medical Center.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris