

Weekly Update, September 8 - 14, 2019

The University Strategic Planning Team and key staff members briefed me this week on the results of the AY 2018-2019 institution-wide assessment process. As you know, the process is part of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and the Institutional Effectiveness Model. The briefing included updates and discussion on the strategic planning-assessment process; the University's mission, vision, and core values; Strategic Focus Areas, academic program and administrative unit assessments; research, general education competencies, quality enhancement plan, community/public service, our capital outlay outlook, technology, and updates from each College on areas of success, innovation, and concern.

The briefing was compelling in its reflection of the progress we have made and motivating in that we recognize and can honestly discuss areas for improvement. We have done a tremendous job in increasing our services and offerings to best support our increased enrollment. With growth and success come challenges in balancing workload, compensation and competition for other resources. We must all continue to work together to develop innovative solutions in meeting these challenges. In fact, these are good challenges because they underscore the excellent reputation Northwestern has established across the region, state, and nation. I cannot be prouder of all we have accomplished in 2018-2019. Our accomplishments are the result of hard work, and I sincerely thank each of you for your efforts in driving our University forward.

This weekend, our university had the opportunity to play LSU in a football game in Baton Rouge. The benefits of participating in this contest were enormous to us in many ways. First, it allowed our team to participate against a nationally ranked team in front of a national televised audience in one of the grandest venues in collegiate athletics. Our team fought gallantly throughout the contest and impressed fans and others who saw the game with their grit and determination. Also, the event provided us a platform to showcase our Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band and spirit groups in front of 90,000 spectators. Our band dazzled the crowd with an extraordinary performance and then brought the stadium spectators to their feet when the LSU band joined them on the field for an astounding rendition of the Louisiana classic, *You are My Sunshine*. Throughout the weekend, we hosted events where thousands of NSU alumni and supporters gathered to reminisce and show their school pride. I want to thank our Athletics, Alumni, Foundation, Creative and Performing Arts, Student Affairs staffs and so many others who worked together to make this such a positive weekend for our university.

My Week:

Monday morning, the leadership team met. Afterwards, Dr. Marcus Jones, Pat Jones and I met to discuss a campus wide infrastructure upgrade plan.

At noon, Jerry Pierce and I attended an awards luncheon at the Louisiana Association of Museums Annual Meeting at the Natchitoches Events Center. During the ceremony, Natchitoches resident and community partner Sharon Gahagan was honored with a special service award for her tireless volunteer work at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum.

Monday afternoon, Jerry Pierce, Drake Owens, Greg Burke, Haley Taitano and I met with Mayor Lee Posey on several cooperative economic development initiatives. Afterwards, Dr. Marcus Jones, Dale Wohletz and I met about campus enhancement projects.

Monday evening, I attended the Demons-Tigers Kickoff event at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Museum. Afterwards, I addressed the Student Athlete Advisory Committee at the Athletic Fieldhouse.

Tuesday morning, Christie Price, Jennifer and I met about logistical plans for upcoming alumni/community events.

Tuesday afternoon, Frances Conine, Reatha Cox, Alan Pasch, Ron Wright, Ryan Wright and I met about Esports at NSU.

Tuesday evening, Jennifer and I hosted a reception for panelists, committee members, visiting faculty and guests of the Watson Library Living Library Collection.

Wednesday morning, I joined a large group of faculty, staff and students for the Patriots Day Tribute organized by our Student Government Association. Afterwards, Dr. Kim McAlister, Tori Thompson, Christie Price and I gathered to discuss Educators Day programming scheduled for September 28th. Later, ULS President Dr. Jim Henderson and I greeted guests at the Living Library program on campus.

At noon, I attended the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon downtown that featured Louisiana Treasury Secretary John Schroder as the guest speaker. Afterwards, I toured Treasurer Schroder on campus and briefed him on our strategic plan. Later, I met with the Strategic Planning Team and key staff members.

Thursday morning, I traveled to Bossier City and joined our recruiting team for a visit with prospective students at Parkway High School.

Thursday afternoon, Dr. Greg Handel, Scott Burrell, Bill Brent, Jerry Pierce, Drake Owens and I met with Louisiana First Lady Donna Edwards to discuss a project that we are collaborating on with state leaders and others. Afterwards, I joined Dr. Fran Lemoine, Dr. Chris Lyles and several Biology students for a photo announcing the establishment of a new endowment in the NSU Foundation from the proceeds of the summer science camp.

Thursday evening, I joined several community leaders at the Ben Johnson Auditorium to welcome Gov. John Bel Edwards to Natchitoches. Afterwards, I attended a Chamber of Commerce event at City Bank and Trust Company.

Friday morning, I attended an Open House at the Ben D. Johnson Education Center. At the event, I met with Ava Dejoie, Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and we were briefed on the Legacy Cafe' project and other work force initiatives.

Friday evening, Jerry Pierce, Drake Owens, Jill Bankston, Greg Burke and I attended an enjoyable dinner for NSU alumni in Baton Rouge hosted by alumna Lela Mae Wilkes. We were honored to have Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Mark Cooper, Chief of Staff for Governor John Bel Edwards, ULS Board member Joe Salter and several NSU Foundation board members join us for the festive event.

Saturday, I attended several NSU pre-game gatherings throughout the day, our official NSU tailgate and then enjoyed time at the NSU vs. LSU football game in Baton Rouge.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



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