
From: University President
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 12:05 PM
To: +All-Students; +All-FS
Subject: A Message From the President - October 8, 2021



President's Weekly Message: Oct. 15, 2021:

It was a pleasure this week to speak to the Natchitoches Kiwanis Club. Our community has numerous outstanding civic organizations that are interested in knowing more about our university and providing support for Northwestern. Through interaction between university personnel and members of civic groups, community partnerships are formed. Organizations like the Kiwanis Club then become involved in university academic and athletic programs. That support allows the university to expand and enhance its community service projects.

I also met this week with faculty and staff at our Leesville/Ft. Polk Campus and in the Music Department, and Biological and Physical Sciences Department. Thank you to all who participated and for your input. With each department meeting, I learn more about how we can better serve the students, faculty, and staff of our university.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) established and funded the Higher Education Relief Fund (HEERF III) to provide emergency financial grants to students. An application process has been developed to try and provide additional funds to students. This will help cover additional emergency expenses due to coronavirus, such as tuition, books, housing, food, physical and mental health care, child care, and transportation. Online applications will be available for students to request additional grant funds for COVID emergency expenses beginning Monday, Oct. 18, 2021. The applications will be on eligible students' myNSU accounts. The application period will end on Oct. 30, 2021. Please visit the [ARP supplemental Student Grant Request website](#) for more information.

Homecoming 2021 festivities will be held Thursday, Oct. 21, through Saturday, Oct. 23, to celebrate and recognize alumni, students and other friends and supports of the university. We hope you will make plans to participate in these events as we showcase our purple pride across campus and throughout the community and state.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend a concert by Chris Ardoin, zydeco accordionist and singer, at the Seven Oaks Stage, Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 6 p.m. The Seven Oaks Stage Dedication is scheduled for Thursday, Oct 21, at 6 p.m. The stage name honors the first seven African American students to attend Northwestern. They were Steve Jackson, June Cofield, Doris Ann Roque-Robinson, Hyams J. Baptiste, James Johnson, Johnnye Britton-Paige, and Pearl Jones-Burton. Many thanks to the University Programming Council, KNWD, the Student Government Association, Alumni and Development and the Student Union Life Concert Committee for funding this project. We look forward to utilizing this outdoor venue for more concerts and campus events in the years ahead.

The 55th Annual J. Walter Porter Forum will be held on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 9:30 a.m. in Russell Hall. This year's forum focus is Business Resilience: *Lessons Learned While Facing Covid-19*. Students and other participants will have an opportunity to ask the panel, comprised of local business leaders, questions related to challenges and changes created for businesses by the global pandemic.

NSU will honor the 2020 Alumni Hall of Distinction, Long Purple Line, inductees on Friday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center. Six distinguished alumni will be recognized for their career accomplishments that have enhanced the reputation and prestige of the university. The 2020 honorees are state official Sujuan Boutte of Prairieville; businessman Harvey F. Marcus Sr. of Monroe; Louisiana State University Head Football Coach Ed Orgeron of Baton Rouge; NSU Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce; Fed Ex Ground President and CEO John A. Smith of Memphis, and former NSU faculty member Thomas Whitehead of Natchitoches.

The 2021 Reginald F. Lewis Scholars, comprised of 18 students chosen from each University of Louisiana System institution, will be visiting our university next week as part of this year's program. These students will participate in a campus tour and leadership sessions and complete a service project in the community. I hope you will join me in welcoming this cohort to NSU and Natchitoches.

Congratulations to the Demons on their win against Houston Baptist last weekend. Please join me in supporting our student athletes this weekend as the Lady Demons Soccer team takes on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi tonight at 7 p.m. and the football team plays McNeese Saturday in an **Orange Out** game at 3 p.m. at Turpin Stadium.

Fork 'em Demons!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcus D. Jones".

Dr. Marcus D. Jones

