

Message from President Cook

January 10, 2023

Happy New Year, everybody! I hope your 2023 is off to a great start. It's the first week of classes here at NDSU so there's a little bit of buzz and it's always fun to have a great holiday and get back to campus and start to see the students and faculty and staff and everybody get back to work. And so, things are going really well on that end.

I've had the great pleasure of getting involved with two orientations already so we have new first-year and transfer students and their families on campus. And another one that was a lot of fun as we welcomed international students here so people from all over the globe want to be Bison which is a lot of fun and so I'll just encourage everybody to welcome them and help them feel included and I know that those are the kind of things that we do an amazing job with. So, they're off to a great start as well.

Of course, next week is MLK Day, Martin Luther King Day, so I'm encouraging everybody to take part in the activities next week. But this coming Thursday we have an event called the Purpose of Education. Reflections on an essay written by Dr Martin Luther King and the event is at 3 P.M in the Memorial Union Prairie Rose room. So, I bet that's going to be a great thing to attend. So, I look forward to seeing you all there.

Over the break we worked hard with the Deans. Kudos to them to continue conversations about college mergers to try to figure out how we can create some efficiencies. But really, some transformational opportunities on the academic front and they're doing hard work there and I'll just continue to say it, I really appreciate all that they're doing.

Later this month, as we've been talking about, I will announce our plans about right-sizing the institution and really transforming NDSU. And so, as I've said many times this is going to be hard but I really believe it'll be transformational helping us think a little bit more about as the 1862 Land Grant and what we mean to the state of North Dakota. What our research means and what our academic and education programs mean to the workforce. And so that will be coming out here in the next couple of weeks and again kudos to the Deans for all the hard work that they've done to help position us to be incredibly successful moving forward.

My job also gets busy with the legislature. So, it opened up this last week I've been in Bismarck quite a bit already. I'll be heading there after I after this presentation. In fact, I'm going to be testifying to the House Appropriations E&E committee about our budgets. And what I want you all to know is that all of the legislative priorities are on my website already. We'll just continue to update those but if you have an interest in seeing what we're talking about when we go to Bismarck and when we'll talk to our legislators, go to the website and as I hope you all know, I'd love to hear feedback on what we're thinking about. If you have ideas or thoughts use that Share Your Idea link. it is a very active link. Because I want you all to know what we're talking about I want to get your feedback and ideas in terms of what we should be working on with the legislature in Bismarck. So, please provide your feedback.

You know of course, obviously, the other big topic is Bison football. I had the great honor, with my wife and family, to spend time in Frisco. So, it was my first time. I was absolutely blown

away by our alumni, by everybody who spent time heading down there. So, kudos to everyone. Deep appreciation!

You know, bottom line...you all already know it that Frisco loves the Bison and I think the Bison love Frisco. We took over the place. Had an amazing pep rally on Saturday night where thousands, I heard one person say five to six thousand people, were in attendance. And so just want to say thanks to everybody for their support and certainly congratulations to coach Entz and his coaches and players on a tough season. Know it wasn't the way we all wanted it but at the end of the day I think we'll be able to sit back and say it was an amazing season there and I'm very proud of all that we accomplished this year. So, I also want to tell you that I've had the experience to travel a little bit with the football team and I just have a deep appreciation for the sacrifice that the coaches make, that their families make, that our student-athletes make, that all the staff make to just help us be successful.

It is a small army that takes a football team from one community to another and they're working on football but they're working on athletics and I'm just really proud and impressed and blown away by how hard everybody works on the entire team from the beginning to the end and also, I gotta say kudos to the Gold Star Marching Band and the Cheer Team. They blew it away at that pep rally but all year long they're always out there supporting us. I just want to say thank you to them as well.

So, tough season, tough end of the season, but a great season. So, kudos to everybody and I just want to say we started the semester again so I hope you all are kicking everything off wonderfully and I hope everybody has a great spring semester.

I look forward to seeing you out there and Go Bison everybody!