

Message from President Cook

November 15, 2022

Hello again everyone. We are back from our Veterans Day weekend. I hope you all enjoyed the weekend and spent time honoring our veterans and the military. I again want to offer my thanks to the many veterans who are part of the NDSU community and to simply say thank you for your service.

There's a lot happening on campus on and around campus. This past weekend Katie and I enjoyed the Gold Star Marching Band's annual showcase the Sounds of the Gridiron at the Fargodome. If you haven't done that you have got to do it next year. It's pretty amazing. Kudos to all the performers. Kudos to the family and friends that were there. They filled up at least half of the Fargodome on the one side. It was really quite a sight and quite a performance so congratulations to everyone who was there.

Later in the evening Katie and I also enjoyed the Opera Scenes program which features our students performing multiple pieces from around, from various well-known operas. Also, previewing performances we'll see on campus this next spring. So, that was a lot of fun and these are just a couple of kind of remarkable examples and showcases of the kind of students that we have and the kind of activities our students are involved with that really make NDSU a very special place.

Kind of every week, every weekend there are things like this happening just absolutely all the time and I encourage everyone to participate. Come and engage with some of these activities you will not be disappointed.

On the Athletics front there's a lot going on. Just to mention one of those things is men's and women's basketball season is off and running. So, we're looking forward to spending a lot of time at the SHAC watching them perform on the hardwood. One of the really exciting things is the women's team is going to play Minnesota Thursday night so I expect to see you all there. That will be a big showdown for them and excited to see how that all goes.

I also want to mention numerous events around campus are being celebrated this month for Native American Heritage Month. The events are a great way to celebrate the traditions, languages, and the stories of the Native American community and the Alaskan Native community so I hope you all get involved in getting engaged there's all kinds of events that are happening this week and throughout the end of the month and so we're very proud to be hosting and hosting those kinds of endeavors and hope to see you at those as well.

For students, Tuesday evening, I'm hosting Hear the Herd. An open forum event for all of you to just get a chance to meet the President, to ask me questions, to share any concerns that you might have, but to give me some advice. So, if you want to give the President some advice that's where you need to be and so that's Tuesday evening at 7 pm in the Memorial Union. I hope to see you all there. I love engaging and interacting and getting feedback from all of you so that should be a fun night.

Of course, a big weekend ahead. Harvest Bowl. Harvest Bowl of course, has been a long-standing tradition where our alumni and friends come together to really honor outstanding agriculturalists in the region, from the state, farmers, and ranchers the people engaged in agribusiness, and of course it's a great opportunity for us to celebrate our Bison student-athletes that are absolutely first-class and I would say world-class. Katie and I are excited to be experiencing our first Harvest Bowl this weekend and I heard a rumor there might even be a football game on Saturday so hope to see you all there. I can't wait for the weekend to be here.

On a very serious note, on a campus note, you all know I've recently announced that we need, we've got some tough challenges but also an amazing opportunity to transform North Dakota State University. I've asked for your help and I've asked for your feedback in that regard and you guys are doing it and I'm incredibly helpful I'm getting all kinds of emails on that transform email but also through my Share Your Ideas website.

I want you to know I read every single one of them. A group of people are looking at them, reviewing them, and really taking them to heart. We need some help here and we need a community to work through this together and I'm grateful that I'm hearing from students and faculty and staff and even graduates and alumni are engaging. So, that's great and so very appreciative to see all the passion in the commitment to this institution. Everybody wants to see us be very successful moving forward and so I really appreciate how you're advocating for our future so to be a little specific here, if you want to send an email it's that transform email it's NDSU.Transform@ndsu.edu. Please email that one or jump on my website and you can always fill out the Share Your Idea link there too. Either way works just fine but loving getting the feedback and loving thinking about the future of NDSU. It's been fabulous.

Kind of finally, I'd just like to remind everybody that we're working hard with United Way to pursue our goals there to really make a difference in our community and NDSU has been a big supporter of United Way for some time.

We're absolutely greatly appreciative for all that they do they have such a strong commitment to our community and making an investment in them is a smart investment. They drive results, they do programming that makes a difference in our community, in our backyard, and really help address and solve societal problems. So, we're grateful to be part of this effort and we're grateful for them to be such an important partner. We set a goal to raise a hundred thousand dollars and right now we've raised just shy of sixty-five thousand dollars or about 65 percent of the way there. To everybody out there who's helped us so far thank you.

Thank you for your support. If you haven't given or if you're thinking about it thank you there too because I think this is the kind of gift that really sets an example for everybody in our community to make a brighter future and a better future for our community. So, appreciate everybody's hard work there. It is the season for them to do that kind of thing.

So, with that, I just want to say thank you again, thanks for listening. I hope everybody has a wonderful week. I look forward to seeing you in all these different activities I mentioned and for sure look forward to seeing you at Harvest Bowl.

Have a great wonderful week and Go Bison!!