

Message from President Cook

December 14, 2022

Hello, campus community. I'm here today sharing the last update of the semester it's hard to believe it's gone by this quickly. This week faculty are administering final exams and projects while students are testing the knowledge they gain in each of their classes throughout the semester so good luck with those finals, students.

I recently learned that a group of mechanical engineering students who were assigned a final project of designing a toy or game to get young students excited about STEM. That sounds like a fun final exam to me. One group designed a golf game where kids chose the fulcrum point on a lever to try to launch a ball into the cup. Very cool hands-on learning experience and thanks to Jessica Vold's Intro to Mechanical Engineering class.

No matter the type of project or exam I wish everybody all the best this week so if everybody finished strong you just have a few more days to go.

We'll end the week with one of the most important ceremonies of the semester - commencement. It's a time when we all get together to celebrate the achievements of our graduating class. Some students may be heading out to the workforce filling roles that are critically needed in our state and region while others may be joining us again as graduate students looking to advance their degrees. No matter the path that each graduate has chosen, the ceremony is filled with proud families and supporters as our graduates line up to cross that stage. It will be my first commencement as President of NDSU, and I have to be honest, I'm really looking forward to shaking the hands of each NDSU graduate. So, I'll see you all Friday.

On the kudos front, we have some fun things happening. I'd like to congratulate Carrie Ann Platt and Stephenson Beck for being named interim deans of the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences. I welcome them to this role and I know they're together they're going to do a great job leading that college.

Raj Bridgelall, associate professor of transportation logistics has been named a fellow by the National Academy of Inventors. He was among 169 distinguished academic inventors on this year's list so congratulations to Dr. Bridgelall for that really exciting achievement.

Also, kudos to our engineering students that volunteered their time during the annual Toy Adaptathon where they put their skills to the test to make holiday seasons more enjoyable for children of all abilities by modifying and rerouting toys to use larger switches that are more accessible and easier to operate. So, a really cool project that our engineering students are involved with making the holidays a little more special for kids with all kinds of different backgrounds so really appreciate all their work there.

It's incredible to look around campus at this time of year and see and hear all of the different ways that students like these and others are giving back to the community we live in.

It's even more incredible for me to realize that I'm completing my first full semester as President. So, thank you all for your support over the past six months. I'm not really sure where it all went

but I will tell you this, I wouldn't change a thing so thank you for everything that you've done for Katie and I and thank you for everything that you've done for NDSU.

We all have a great - we all have much to be grateful for. I hope everyone is able to enjoy quality time with family and friends this holiday break.

Happy Holidays to all and Go Bison!