

Message from President Cook

June 30, 2022

Hello everybody and welcome to another weekly video. So, the big news right out of the shoot is that my wife and I have sold our home in Kansas City so I guess you're stuck with us. She's going to be up here permanently pretty soon and I'm excited for us to move into the President's residence this week. I really think of it as the university's home so we'll have a great opportunity just really start entertaining people getting to know all of you and so I can't wait for that to happen.

I should say special thanks to Susan Ray-Degges. She's a professor and an interior design program coordinator. She and her students have just been helping us look at paint colors, maybe taking a look at the floors, doing some minor kind of a little bit of a refresh on the house so that's been fun to meet some students and get them involved in the process. So, that's been a lot of fun and we've really enjoyed that.

So, on the research front, we have a lot of exciting things happening. I want to brag on a couple of people a little bit so for starters congratulations to Ryan McGrath. Dr. McGrath is an assistant professor in Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences. He landed a pretty prestigious academic research enhancement award from the NIH, the National Institutes of Health. These are called R15 grants. His particular grant will research how muscle function can be better measured with hand grip in older adults which is a predictor of determining other health issues that might be apparent or present later. So, that's a great deal, and really kudos to him. What I love about the grant is there will be about 20 or 30 students who will get to be involved and have some experiences in it so that's exciting and kudos to him. We also just learned that we received a 1.4 million-dollar NSF so National Science Foundation grant that's partnering with rural and low-income students for academic success in the Biological Sciences so a great kind of stem field grant for us.

Congratulations to Angela Hodgson who's a Biological Sciences faculty member for her work there so kudos again that's great, great stuff.

Some of the work that's really critical that I'm continuing to focus on really looks at the academic prioritization work, the budget work, and what we're doing around enrollment. We had a consultant here for a couple of days last week helping us in that space. We're all working together meeting with leadership, meeting with Deans, meeting with lots of different groups to continue just to understand where we are, to think about where we need to go to really transform the institution. So, there will be more on that later but just know a lot of work is happening in that space.

Beyond that, I have an exciting week ahead starting today. When we're done here I get to jump in the car and I'm heading to Bottineau. I've been to Minot but I haven't been to Bottineau yet so it'll be my first trip up there. I heard it's absolutely beautiful. We have a System retreat up there. We're going to be working on our legislative priorities. A lot of those around budget issues, how we're dealing with inflation. A critical issue for us is that a new engineering building is on our list of capital projects so meeting and working with the System, working together there should be a lot of fun.

Other fun things for me have been orientation, orientation, orientation. So, we're just bringing new students and their families onto campus and it's a great part of the job. I get to welcome them and then see them running around campus. So, they're starting to get a lot of energy and we're getting a ton of great feedback from those students and their parents and getting to see them on campus and all the rest. So, you know the fall semester is kind of growing closer and closer and it's kind of fun to be a little bit a part of that. Kudos to our team that does work there they just knock it out of the park and the students and the families can tell so I really appreciate all of their great work.

Last thing for me on the week, or one of the last things, is on Friday I'm meeting with science and math teachers from the Fargo, West Fargo area. They've spent six weeks completing research under the

guidance of our NDSU Civil Engineering faculty members and graduate students. Doing a lot of work and I get to meet them and learn a little bit more about what's happening there but it's a great example of how our engineering department is engaging, how we're working with the K-12 community locally, really focusing again on science and math, and how we can all be partners and think about how we educate students and provide professional development and learn from each other.

So, that's a great partnership and those are the kind of things that a land grant university does so that will be a great way to end my week as I then roll into the Fourth of July weekend. So, I hope you all have a wonderful fourth celebrating our nation and with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you all back soon after that celebration. Have a great weekend and have a great day. Thank you.