

Message from President Cook

August 10, 2022

Hello everybody and thanks for tuning in to another campus update. I want to begin by giving you a quick recap of what I've been up to for the last few weeks. So, I think as you know, I've been traveling around the state with a few of my colleagues really to learn about the land grant mission, to understand all the great research that we do across the state that has a real meaning makes a real meaningful difference to North Dakotans and that's included you know, visiting all of the Research Extension Centers along the way, meeting alumni, and legislators. Just really stakeholders across North Dakota to just get a sense of, you know, what it is that they really need from NDSU and what it is that they need from the new president. So, that was a lot of fun. Learned a lot and really enjoyed it.

I've kind of made my way back to campus a little bit. I hosted a group of former student body presidents and vice presidents at the President's residence. So, that's the first time I've had visitors over which was a lot of fun. This is a group that's pretty amazing, has an incredible legacy, who I will continue to really lean on moving forward and I'm just trying to get to know them and get their advice as well.

I also had a great event with staff for staff appreciation day where we had about 350 people on the president's lawn just kind of enjoying the day in the afternoon and it was my chance to let them know that I really appreciate all that they do on the campus. So, that was also great and you know one of the big takeaways from me is so many people want to see the new president have success, and they have some great ideas. So, it's been fun for me to listen to those and have those conversations.

So, a lot of kudos out there. First and foremost, for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber. They received a 9.62 million-dollar EDA grant. That's all about workforce. Kudos to them and the great work that they do there and couldn't be more important for all that we need to do and couldn't be more important for NDSU to find ways to work with them in that space.

Also, kudos to our Office of Admissions for implementing a new online tool called Focus 2 Apply which will help incoming students choose their major and also match them with academic programs and potential careers. Exactly the kind of things that we should be doing at NDSU.

Congratulations to Robert Hearne a professor of Agribusiness and Applied Economics for being awarded a six-month Fulbright grant where he's going to travel to Costa Rica and work on a project titled "Analysis of Surface Water Quality Management in Costa Rica". So, I think I should go visit him there to make sure he's doing his job. But kudos there, Sir.

Also, congratulations to Kelsey Slater, an assistant professor of Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Science for receiving a grant from the US Department of State's IDEAS program. It will create and expand diversity of American student mobility overseas in support of foreign policy goals. So, another really important area, an important space so kudos to her.

Finally, Emily Frazier. Emily, congratulations. She's been promoted to the Dean of Students and I'm looking forward to working with her and watching her leadership grow and prosper. That's a big deal and a really important role for us and she'll do a great job.

Other than that I'd say you know it's kind of that time of year everybody's coming back to campus. You can kind of feel the energy. That's a lot of fun where it's kind of been a little quieter. We have a lot of great things planned for our students who are coming back during kind of Welcome Week.

You're here the end of August. So, can't wait to get more involved and work and engage with them. My wife will be here by then and I know we plan to kind of probably do some fun silly things with the dogs. Probably drive the golf cart around and really just help everybody feel welcome which I think is really

important and critical. And there's just so much enthusiasm and energy this time of year so I hope to see you all out there welcoming all of our new students as well. So, all of that's incredibly important.

Probably finally just want to mention that I'm going to be sending out an email across campus so keep an eye out for that. Where it just starts to set some of my priorities, maybe recap some of the things that I've learned over the summer, but some of the things and areas we want to focus on. So, I'll be communicating when I have a little more detail in that regard as well. So, stay tuned. That'll be out there soon but other than that I hope you've enjoyed your summer. I hope you enjoy what's left of summer and Go Bison!