

State of the College Address

September 16, 2014

Welcome and Intro

-- I'll be addressing the following questions in my talk > what were our key college and departmental accomplishments in the past year, where are the college's key goals and priorities for the future, and why can we be optimistic about meeting those goals

I. What did we accomplish last year?

Teaching Activities

- Student Credit Hours = **95,291** (+4,858)
- Production FTE = **148.2** (+14.4)
- AHSS Majors = **2,004** (+178)
- Graduate students = **321** (+93)
- Degrees Conferred* = **501** (+95)

AY 13-14 = *404 baccalaureate degrees and 97 graduate degrees

(AY 12-13 = 356 baccalaureate degrees and 50 grad degrees)

Service Activities

- Served as officers, board members, and editors or reviewers for numerous professional associations and disciplinary journals; Also hosted notable scholarly conferences (e.g., CMOTA)
- Provided leadership to regional human rights coalitions, housing authorities, arts groups, corrections agencies, and a variety of NGOs
- Coordinated a diverse array of community engagement projects, including community studies, literacy projects, arts and social engagement activities, outreach to New Americans (Kevin Brooks), and service learning projects (Patty Corwin)

Research and Creative Activity:

- Peer-Reviewed Publications (in print or accepted): 146 (112 in 2013)
- National or International Invited Presentations: 76 (89 in 2013)
- Juried Presentations/Performances/Exhibitions: 169 (154 in 2013)
- Research Grants and Contracts for \$2.03 Million: 59 (62 in 2013)

University and Scholarly Awards

Our faculty and staff were selected for nine prestigious university awards during the past year. These awards included the:

- *Waldron Award for Research Excellence* (Robert L.)
- *Tapestry of Diversity Award* (Miriam Mara)
- *Tapestry of Diversity Award* (Clifford Canku)
- *Tapestry of Diversity Award* (Louise Hanson)
- *NDSU Horizon Alumni Award* (Amy Uthus)
- *NDSU Staff Excellence Award* (Michele Sherman)
- *Faculty Fulbright Award* (John Cox)
- *Fulbright Student TA Awards* (Kate T., Emily G., and Annie G. – Belgium, Turkey, and Slovak Republic)

* Faculty, staff, students, and alumni in our college have received more than 20 distinguished university and scholarly awards in the past 2 years (not counting college-based awards).

Distinguished Scholarly Awards

- *Bush Fellowships* – Kevin Brooks and Michael Strand
- *NSF Grants* – Amy O'Connor, Dan Pemstein, and Gary Goreham
- *NEH Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant* – Brad Benton
- *US State Dep't Grant* – Chris Whitsel

II. What Did We Accomplish re: College Goals and Priorities?

- Implemented the UNITE Initiative
- Increased the Size and Diversity of the Faculty
- Increased Faculty Involvement in Grant Seeking and Sponsored Research
- Formed and Revitalized Centers for Research and Community Engagement
- Welcomed and Integrated ALA into the College
- Supported Equity and Diversity Initiatives
- Expanded Development Efforts and Alumni Outreach

III. What Did Our Departments Accomplish?

- COMM – see slides 9-10 (2nd dep't slide for books published)
- ENG – slide 11
- MUSIC – slide 12
- ART – slide 13
- MOD LANG – slide 14
- CJPS – slide 15
- ALA – slide 16
- HPRS – slides 17-18 (2nd dep't slide for books published)
- SOC/ANTH – slide 19
- THEATRE – slide 20
- EM – slide 21

IV. Where Are We Headed? (What are our goals for the immediate future?)

- Continue increasing the number of faculty
- Increase the quality and distinction of our academic programs

- Increase faculty scholarship (e.g., refereed publications and juried exhibits, performances, or presentations) by 5-10%
- Continue to enhance faculty involvement in sponsored research
- Create and revitalize centers for research, innovation, and community engagement (e.g., the Center for Social Research, the Center for Heritage Renewal, the Center for Public Policy, the Center for Disaster Studies, the Center for Rural Studies, the Center for Critical and Applied Heritage Engagement, the Center for Communication Training and Research, the Center for Community Planning and Design, and the Center for Social Engagement, Entrepreneurship, and Design)
- Sustain initiatives to enhance and support gender equity, especially in leadership roles
- Increase the diversity of the students, faculty, and staff in the college
- Expand the number of grad students and grad programs, particularly in areas such as design, entrepreneurship, and social engagement
- Develop More Focused and Compelling Communications Strategies for the College
 - Improved the website; Initiated “Talking Points”; Expanded use of Facebook and other social media to publicize and highlight AHSS/faculty activities, events, and accomplishments

V. The Year Ahead: Why We Should Be Optimistic

A. **Last Year's** Reasons for Optimism – See Slide

- 1) I think we've taken some important steps toward implementing these strategies, and I expect us to continue making progress in the year ahead. I also think we're making good progress in refining our vision and preparing for the future...
- 2) We've received recognition and support for the steps we've taken from the provost and president, as evidenced by the strong Roadmap-related allocation granted to us.
- 3) We have good leaders in our departments and college
- 4) You have an excellent work ethic
- 5) So many of you embrace and embody higher education as a vocation or "special calling" and you do this with a laudable sense of grace, collegiality, and gratitude

This Year – More Reasons for Optimism:

- 1) We have a solid plan for the future
- 2) As you've learned through the introductions we made at the start of the meeting, we've made 20 great faculty and staff hires!
- 3) We have crucial insights to share about the pressing issues of the day and how to think critically, act thoughtfully, and live well
- 4) YOU! We have a very talented, dedicated, and engaged group of people in the college!

Thanks again for the support you've given me as a dean. I appreciate the chance to work with such a great group of colleagues.