

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

July 20, 2021

FROM THE DEAN

Suggested COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

Over [500 college campuses](#) across the country have announced that their students must be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend college in the fall. NDSU is not one of them. Unfortunately, at current vaccinations rates, North Dakota is predicted to be the second to last state to get 70% of its adults vaccinated against COVID-19, according to a recent [Washington Post analysis](#). As such, we can expect to have a significant number of unvaccinated students in our classes in the fall.

In his May 10, 2021 campus update, which announced that NDSU would be changing to a mask-optional policy effective June 6, President Bresciani indicated that “faculty may require masks to be worn in their classes at their discretion.” To provide additional guidance to our faculty as they prepare for their courses, and borrowing significantly from the language developed by the Administrative Council in NDSU’s College of Health Professions, the College of Engineering Leadership team suggests the following statement be included in all syllabi for the fall semester.

Students who are fully vaccinated are free to participate in all class activities without the need to wear a mask or to maintain physical distancing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>). Any students who are NOT vaccinated are required to follow CDC guidelines, which include wearing a mask in class (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>). Students are expected to attend every class and remain in class for the duration of the session when it is safe to do so, per NDSU guidance regarding COVID-19. You should not come to class if you are sick with COVID-like symptoms or if you are unvaccinated and have been exposed to a person who was sick with such. If a student is considered at high risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/>), that student should inform the instructor during the first week of class to request learning accommodations. If a student is infected with COVID-19 or is an unvaccinated contact of an infected person, they should quarantine at home according to North Dakota guidelines. The students will work with the instructor to determine how to keep up in class while caring for their health.

We hope that this statement will provide students with expectations following CDC guidance and provide a strong incentive to be vaccinated.



IN THE NEWS

[NDSU STEM Camp doesn't let learning end during summer](#)

[Engineering students build wheelchair for friend](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Tiffany Meeks, a student in the **Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering**, was named a Model of Student Leadership by the American Society of Civil Engineers Committee on Student Members.

Please let [College Happenings](#) know about honors, awards, new grants and other announcements so we can share them with other faculty and staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 17, **New Faculty Orientation**. The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. [Register here](#).

Wednesday, August 18, **Annual Faculty and Academic Staff Conference**. Presentations will include demonstrating best practices for research, instruction, advising, assessment, campus climate, inclusion, mentoring, leadership, and classroom technologies. [Register here](#).

Monday, August 23, **College of Engineering Welcome Week Event**. 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. at the Bentson-Bunker Fieldhouse.

YUJA PROCTORED RECORDINGS TO BE DELETED

Due to increasing storage costs and FERPA protected data risks, IT staff will delete all **YuJa proctored exam recordings stored in YuJa** that were created prior to May 21, 2021. These recordings will be removed from faculty YuJa accounts by the end of July. IT will keep a backup of these recordings until late September in the event that an instructor needs to access them.

All other recordings in faculty YuJa accounts will remain.

Contact the IT Help Desk at 701-231-8685 or ndsu.helpdesk@ndsu.edu if you have questions or need assistance.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Fulbright Scholar Program

The [Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program](#) awards more than 800 fellowships annually. Over 400 different types of opportunities are available to teach, research, and conduct professional projects in more than 135 countries. Location and eligibility vary across all awards, and some awards may be restricted to certain career levels or types of scholars.

Deadline: September 15, 2021

NSF: Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace Frontiers

The Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program welcomes proposals that address cybersecurity and privacy, and draw on expertise in one or more of these areas: computing, communication and information sciences; engineering; economics; education; mathematics; statistics; and social and behavioral sciences. Proposals that advance the field of cybersecurity and privacy within a single discipline or interdisciplinary efforts that span multiple disciplines are both encouraged.

Through this solicitation [[NSF 21-597](#)] NSF specifically seeks ambitious and potentially transformative **center-scale projects** in the area of cybersecurity and privacy that

1. catalyze far-reaching research explorations motivated by deep scientific questions or hard problems and/or by compelling applications and novel technologies that promise significant scientific and/or societal benefits, and
2. stimulate significant research and education outcomes that, through effective knowledge transfer mechanisms, promise scientific, economic and/or other societal benefits.

The SaTC Frontiers program will support proposals from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 in total budget, with durations of up to five years.

LOI deadline: 09/07/2021

RECENTLY FUNDED GRANTS

- Umamaheswara Rao Tida (PI). CRII: SHF: Enabling Metal Inter-Layer Via Device Utilization for On-chip Memory in Monolithic Three-Dimensional Integrated Circuits. \$174,984 from the National Science Foundation. 06/01/2021 – 05/31/2023.
- Xinhua Jia (PI). Utilizing remote-controlled irrigation for high tunnel tomato and pepper productions in ND. \$122,808 from the ND Department of Agriculture. 10/01/2021 – 09/30/2023.
- Om Prakash Yadav (PI) Shafiqur Rahman (CPI). REU Site: Research Experience for Undergraduates on Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning. \$514,253 from the National Science Foundation. 09/01/2021 – 08/31/2024.

RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

- Ivan T Lima Jr (PI). Label-Free Bioelectronic Sensor for the Screening of Patients with Adenocarcinomas and Neuroendocrine Tumors. \$305,919 from the National Institutes of Health. 04/01/2022 - 03/31/2024.
- Chad A Ulven (PI), Niloy Sarker Chandra (CPI). Partnership: Development Of Environmental-Friendly Thermoplastic Composite Utilizing Processed Wheat Byproduct And Biodegradable Polymers. \$513,000 from the National Institute of Food & Agriculture. 10/01/2021 - 09/30/2025.
- Ravi Kiran Yellavajjala (PI). Synthesis of Soy-based Hydrogels for Infrastructure Applications. \$20,000 MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council. 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2022.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

For 2021, 137 publications by authors with the College of Engineering affiliation have appeared in various journals, according to the ISI Web of Science and submissions from faculty. Here are some of the most recent publications:

- Afshari, Mohammad Javad, Mohammad Sabzi, Long Jiang, Yasaman Behshad, Ali Reza Zanjanijam, Gholam Reza Mahdavinia, and Mostafa Ahmadi. 2021. "Incorporation of Dynamic Boronate Links and Ag Nanoparticles into PVA Hydrogels for PH-Regulated and Prolonged Release of Methotrexate." *Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology* 63 (June): 102502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jddst.2021.102502>.
- Chia, Leonard, Ying Huang, Pan Lu, and Achintya N. Bezbaruah. 2021. "Surface Modification of Carbon Nanotubes Using Carboxymethyl Cellulose for Enhanced Stress Sensing in Smart Cementitious Composites." *Ieee Sensors Journal* 21 (13): 15218–29. <https://doi.org/10.1109/JSEN.2021.3073619>.
- Das, Tonoy K., Quentin Scott, and Achintya N. Bezbaruah. 2021. "Montmorillonite-Iron Crosslinked Alginate Beads for Aqueous Phosphate Removal." *Chemosphere* 281 (October): 130837. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.130837>.
- Hay, Christopher H., Benjamin D. Reinhart, Jane R. Frankenberger, Matthew J. Helmers, Xinhua Jia, Kelly A. Nelson, and Mohamed A. Youssef. 2021. "Frontier: Drainage Water Recycling in the Humid Regions of the Us:

Challenges and Opportunities.” *Transactions of the ASABE* 64 (3): 1095–1102.

<https://doi.org/10.13031/trans.14207>.

- Liu, Yuan, and Changhui Yan. 2021. “Impacts of Reference Selection on the Assembly of Suspicious Coronavirus Genome.” *Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology* 19 (3): 2140005. <https://doi.org/10.1142/S0219720021400059>.
- Nguyen, Quyen N. T., Toan Le, Quyen B. T. Huynh, Arveity Setty, Toi V. Vo, and Trung Q. Le. 2021. “Validation Framework for Sleep Stage Scoring in Wearable Sleep Trackers and Monitors with Polysomnography Ground Truth.” *Clocks & Sleep* 3 (2): 274–88. <https://doi.org/10.3390/clockssleep3020017>.
- Roy, D., X. Jia, X. Chu, and J. M. Jacobs. 2021. “Hydraulic Conductivity Measurement for Three Frozen and Unfrozen Soils in the Red River of the North Basin.” *Transactions of the Asabe* 64 (3): 761–70. <https://doi.org/10.13031/trans.14224>.
- Subhashree, Srinivasagan N., C. Igathinathane, M. Liebig, J. Halvorson, D. Archer, J. Hendrickson, and S. Kronberg. 2021. “Biomass Bales Infield Aggregation Logistics Energy for Tractors and Automatic Bale Pickers - A Simulation Study (Vol 144, 105915, 2021).” *Biomass & Bioenergy* 150 (July): 105993. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biombioe.2021.105993>.

See your name on this list? Help us get the word out about your amazing work by submitting it as a **Breakthrough Alert**. [This online form](#) is an easy, step-by-step guide for summarizing published research for the general public.

College Happenings is distributed to the NDSU College of Engineering staff and faculty every other Tuesday.

Read past issues of *College Happenings* [here](#).

Deadline for submissions to *College Happenings* is 12:00 p.m. Fridays.

Contact kyle.bosch@ndsu.edu to submit items for *College Happenings*.

Follow the College of Engineering on social media.

