

# Message from President Cook

March 26, 2025

Hello, NDSU community.

I'm here at Aldevron Tower, right in the middle of campus with Hailey Highland, a student ambassador for the College of Engineering, and Erin Dummer, a student ambassador for the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Thank you both for being here. Thank you.

We're here to talk about this year's Battle of the Cents-es, a fantastic fundraising event that brings us together for a great cause.

Erin, put you on the spot first. Tell me a little bit about the Battle of the Cents-es and how you're involved.

Yeah, absolutely.

So the Battle of the Cents-es is an annual philanthropic event between the College of Engineering and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

It is a penny-war-style competition, and we compete against one another to see who can raise the most money for one common recipient.

All right, Haley, so who is benefiting from this year's fundraising efforts?

This year, our recipient is Sophia Tweten, a cousin of one of our engineering ambassadors whose family has spent so much time at NDSU.

Sophia has recently undergone her fourth open heart surgery down in the Twin Cities, where she has grown up with her family, and we are so excited to benefit her this year with all the funds that we have raised.

And we all had an amazing opportunity to meet her family the other night. And, they're so appreciative and so supportive of what we're doing, and I'm so proud of what you're all doing here.

It's really, really important.

So, Erin, when and where can people participate in the fundraising effort?

Yeah, absolutely.

So we are fundraising throughout all of this week. So starting today, you are able to donate through this Friday at noon.

We have different booth locations.

So we have booths in Memorial Union, A Glenn Hill and Aldevron Tower. We're boothing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. And then on Friday we're boothing from 10 a.m. to noon. And then if you can't make an in-person donation site, you can also donate via our QR code posted on social media and our posters.

And to make a virtual Venmo donation.

Love it.

So lots of opportunity to engage, which is really, really important.

So, why did you both choose a student ambassador?

Student ambassadors are leading this effort.

Why did you choose to participate in Battle of the Cents-es?

For me, battle is just really kind of pulls at your heartstrings. You know that all the work you're putting in, it's for a good cause. We are raising money that is going to go toward changing somebody's life, and just knowing that I will have the ability to make an impact that large on someone was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

Yeah.

Just to echo, I've been involved with Battle of the Cents-es for the past two years, and each year it is probably one of my favorite things we get to do as ambassadors. Last year we raised over \$11,000. So this year our goal is to beat that record. But I think it's a beautiful event that really shows how the NDSU community partners with the F-M area to raise money for one really incredible individual who this year is Sophia.

And I love it.

So it is a competition right at the College of Health and Human Sciences and the College of Engineering.

I have to ask, who's going to win this year? Do we have any idea?

Oh, I think it's college of health and human science is my big comeback.

What do you think?

It would have to be a big comeback. So.

Okay, so the right answer was Sophia. Just so you all know. Just picking on you there.

Thank you both for doing this. Obviously, your hearts are in the right place, and we have an amazing group of student ambassadors from both colleges that are behind this and love the enthusiasm, love the dedication, love how you're making a difference on the students lives and are in our community.

So thank you both for what you do, I really do appreciate. Makes me very proud as President of NDSU.

So remember everyone, you can make contributions, in lots of different places on campus, and those contributions are going to make a significant difference in Sophia's life.

So thank you all for getting out there and participating. I really appreciate it. We really appreciate it.

123. Go Bison!