

# Message from President Cook and Carter Buchta

March 19, 2024

Hello everyone. I'm here today in NDSU's new Esports Lab in Ladd Hall. I'm going to tell everybody you got to check this out. It is absolutely awesome. I'm here with Carter Buchta who is the NDSU, an NDSU student, and Overwatch President, and I got to say this, and competitor. Yep, and competitor. We might compete a little later when this is all said and done so, tell us all a little bit about yourself.

So, I'm Carter. I'm a third-year student here going for computer science. I'm from St Joseph, Minnesota, and over the past 3 years I've done a lot for Esports here at NDSU and it's been a pleasure. Well, it's really exciting all the work you've done and kind of where we're going at NDSU and the Esports space.

So, he's in his third year. He just told me he's also graduating. I am also graduating. Kind of a good student, right? I like to think so. Good for you. Are you good at Overwatch?

I think that's pretty opinionated but I like to think so. You know, back in my day we played Pac-Man. So, you know what Pac-Man is or Galaga or Galaxian and things like that? I've heard about it, yeah. We had a joystick. It's very complicated.

Anyway, so. Seems like a lot. So, well this is an awesome new space. Tell me about how students were involved in creating the space.

Yeah so, as a student I worked with our faculty here and we collaborated a lot on what we wanted this space to do, what achievements we wanted to be able to do in here, what events we wanted to host in here, and the main thing that we really pushed for is the different like keyboards, mice, monitors all in different specs within the computer and just to make sure that this space is going to be working and running really, really well for the next like four years. And the chairs. Yes! And just the vibe in the room, period.

So, what kind of programs or activities are we going to have here for students?

Yep so, we have a lot of different clubs on campus. We have eight main titles and I'm not going to list all of them off but you can find this on myNDSU and from that we have a bunch of casual and competitive play that is hosted in the lab. So, the majority of the time at night you'll find a club in here with their members playing games, having fun, but then you'll also find them earlier in the night competing in different tournaments on like national levels. and that's really cool to see them do that in here.

So, how can students on campus get involved and, frankly, probably staff and faculty as well?

So, the best way to do it is to go to myNDSU, find our club and join our discord server. From there, you're going to find all of our different clubs and you can even help us start new ones. From there all of our communication is done and you're a part of the club. All right, very good.

So, we're already competing, we're already in leagues, it's probably just grown. Just talk to me a little bit about how that all works. So, all of our different clubs have their own individual teams. Some of them will have Varsity, JV, CD teams depending on how many people there are, and then we compete in Nace and NECC. From there we compete against other collegiate teams and at the end of it all we go through playoffs, you know, your whole playoff bracket, and if we ended up winning you can even get scholarships. When we end up winning. When we end up winning. There you go we just got to set the record straight there.

So, now I think it's awesome, it's exciting, I'm thinking if you're a prospective high school student this is the kind of thing that may get you excited about coming to NDSU. Like, you know, for me it's been about things like robotics and all the rest growing up and that's all awesome, too. But Esports is, you know, really an up-and-coming or it's already probably arrived thing that we're super excited about. It's definitely on the rise. Yeah. There you go.

So, well thank you, Carter, for joining me. When we hang up, everybody, we're going to go compete and I'm going to see if it's old school or new school who's better at this Esports thing. Madden by the way. It'll be a close one. Okay I'll take you and Madden but

I hope everybody is as excited as we are about the new ESports Lab here at NDSU. It's a great community, a growing community, and one of the many things that's exciting that's happening at NDSU. So, thanks for being here, Carter. Great work.

I appreciate your leadership and Go Bison! Go Bison!