

Message from President Cook

July 20, 2022

Greetings everybody from Casselton, North Dakota. I'm starting my second week of Field Days so, last week was busy. Let's see started in Streeter, Hettinger, Standing Rock Reservation, Dickinson, Williston, Nesson Valley, New Town, Watford City, a bunch of stops. Visited the RECs and met with extension officers, met with legislators, community members, and all the rest and a bunch of alum. It was a lot of fun. So, I'm meeting my goal of meeting people and listening across North Dakota.

So, I also want to say I appreciate that our athletics coaches and administrators joined us in Bismarck and in Watford City last week. So, I know the state loves to hear from them and they do a great job of reaching out to meet people. And of course, probably the highlight of the trip was the Football National Championship trophy has been working its way across the state with us so that's a lot of fun. People are taking photos and all the rest. Let's see this week started in Wahpeton, in Casselton now of course, and I think up next will be Jamestown tonight. Long week.

Jumping into a lot of different communities a little bit of the same from last week but we'll end the week I think in Grand Forks and Arthur. This is all about for me really understanding what a land grant mission is and what it means to be a land grant in the state of North Dakota.

So, a lot of learning and having a lot of fun and so if you want the play-by-play follow us on Twitter because it's pretty active there as well. But so, that's Field Days.

Beyond Field Days, NDSU on campus is busy. We've hosted 2,300 first-year students, 300 transfer students, like 3,400 family members have been on campus for orientation and we still have a couple more of those sessions in August. So, it's been really busy and it's really important. Orientation is that time of the year when we welcome all these new students, their family, their friends onto campus. We want to make sure they feel welcome, included, comfortable. We want them all to be successful and I just want to say hats off to really everybody across campus for making sure that it's a really great day and a great week for the students and the folks that come onto campus. So, I greatly appreciate that.

Beyond that, a lot of leadership changes. Alan Kallmeyer is professor and chair of mechanical engineering, has been named the interim Dean of the College of Business so, kudos to him. I'm looking forward to working with him.

Jan Sobolik has been named the associate director of the NDSU Research and Technology Park. We've got a couple of great internal leaders moving into those roles. I really appreciate the work that they're doing.

And then kind of fun kudos to NDSU Dining that unit was recognized with the Best Allergy Innovation for Universities award. It recognizes their efforts to make sure that we're really just providing you know safe allergy-free dietary and delicious food for all of our students, faculty, and staff. So, I really appreciate their hard work.

On another note, Fraternity and Sorority members have been doing a lot of great work for us. For a long time, of course, but this spring they had a report that came out and highlighted a couple of really cool things. Number one, their average GPA in the spring semester was 3.12. That's fantastic. They raised 87,000 for local non-profits. That's fantastic. And they completed 5,500 hours of community service and that too is fantastic. All that's going into local non-profits so we really appreciate that.

The NDSU women's track and field athlete Amanda Anderson was selected as the 2021-22 Summit League Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year and that covered all sports. So, that's a pretty significant kudos to her.

Susan Ray-Degges, program coordinator and professor of NDSU's interior design program was recently named a fellow of the Interior Design Educators Council. Kudos to her.

There's a lot of kudos. And finally, Dean Kessler was selected as one of nine new fellows to the American Society of Engineering Education during the 2022 annual conference. So, a lot of great things happening on campus. A lot of kudos out there for our faculty, staff, and students doing really special things, all makes me very very proud to be leading this institution.

So, with all that I hope I see you across the state if I don't see you this week I'll see you back on campus next week. Go Bison!