

III | NORTHWESTERN STATE



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JAMES T. GENOVESE

December 21, 2025

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As the fall semester comes to a close, I want to thank you for your continued dedication to our students and to Northwestern State University. This time of year provides an opportunity to reflect on recent accomplishments while also looking ahead with optimism and purpose.

Management and Leadership Institute

Last week, Northwestern State University hosted the University of Louisiana System Management and Leadership Institute, a program designed to support faculty and staff who aspire to expand their

leadership roles within higher education. Each institution is represented by two participants, and it was a pleasure to spend time with this year's cohort of emerging leaders during the two-day session. Participants were also welcomed to campus with a reception at the President's Residence, providing an opportunity for meaningful conversation and connection. I am especially proud of Northwestern's representatives, Jerry Brunson and Liz Pursell, who exemplify the professionalism, talent, and commitment to growth that define our university. Their engagement and leadership potential reflect well on NSU and inspire us all to continue striving for excellence.

Fall Commencement

Commencement remains one of the most meaningful traditions at Northwestern. It is a time to celebrate perseverance, achievement, and the promise of what lies ahead for our graduates. Last week, across three ceremonies over two days, we conferred 607 degrees to students representing every college and academic program. In addition to commencement exercises, I had the honor of joining Dr. Neeru Deep for a special ceremony recognizing graduates of the School of Education, as well as a commissioning ceremony honoring our ROTC cadets as they begin their service as officers. The pride shared by our graduates, their families, faculty, and staff was evident throughout the week and served as a powerful reminder of the impact of our collective work.

Attorney General Liz Murrill

On Thursday, we were honored to welcome Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill to campus. Attorney General Murrill's work plays a vital role in protecting the interests of our state and its citizens, and we appreciated the opportunity to discuss her priorities and areas of focus. During her visit, we shared updates on campus initiatives and highlighted Northwestern's impact on workforce development, economic growth, and community engagement throughout the region. I extend special thanks to Van Erikson for joining me in providing a campus tour and helping showcase the important work taking place at NSU.

Year End Giving

As we approach the end of the year, I encourage all alumni and supporters to consider making a year-end gift to Northwestern State University. Giving opportunities include scholarships, academic and program support funds, planned giving options, and estate or tax planning opportunities. Annual membership-based giving programs, such as the Columns Fund, also provide meaningful ways to support our students and university priorities. Click [here](#) to learn more about the many ways to give.

Athletics Update

Both of our basketball teams head into the Christmas break on a high note following impressive weekend wins on Mike McConathy Court at Prather Coliseum. A special thanks to the CAPA Jazz Ensemble for providing lively pregame, timeout, and halftime entertainment while our full pep band is home for the holidays.

Sunday afternoon, the Northwestern women rallied in the closing minutes to defeat visiting Lamar, 60–57, in a matchup between two of the three undefeated Southland Conference teams. The Lady Demons outscored the Cardinals 16–4 over the final 4:48 to improve to 3–0 in Southland Conference play. Next up is a New Year’s Eve afternoon contest at Stephen F. Austin.

Saturday afternoon, the men’s team was dominant in a 108–55 rout of Southern-New Orleans in its final non-conference game of the season. The Demons have won two of their last three games and were very close to upsetting Cal-Berkeley in the other contest.

The men return to Southland Conference play with two home games before the new year. Lamar visits Monday night, December 29, followed by a New Year’s Eve matchup at 3:30 p.m. against Stephen F. Austin, making the trip across Toledo Bend.

Looking Ahead

As we conclude an exceptional semester, I am inspired by the dedication and momentum I see across our campus. Each of you has played a role in advancing our mission and strengthening the Northwestern community. Together, we have demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and a commitment to progress that will serve us well in the year ahead. I hope this holiday season provides time to reflect on our shared accomplishments and to recharge for the opportunities before us.

Weekly updates will resume in the spring following the start of the new semester on January 6. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the [What's Happening at NSU?](#) page to learn more about upcoming events, including our Demons on the Road Tour, beginning shortly after our return. Please also save the date for Flavor of Louisiana, which will take place on March 20, 2026.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, peace, and renewal.

Fork 'Em Demons,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Genovese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Genovese" clearly legible.

James T. "Jimmy" Genovese
President
Northwestern State University

Northwestern Now

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