



A MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT JAMES T. GENOVESE

May 3, 2026

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As we move through the final weeks of the semester, there is a strong sense of momentum across campus. From academic achievements and accreditation milestones to student success and community engagement, this has been another week that reflects the dedication and collaboration that define Northwestern State University.

COA On-Site Review

This week, Northwestern State University hosted the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) for its on-site review of our Nurse Anesthesia Program, and I am pleased to

report that the visit went very well. The review team highlighted several strengths across the program, particularly the engagement and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and clinical partners. While the Council will not render a final accreditation decision until its October 2026 meeting, the feedback shared during the visit was very encouraging. This outcome reflects an extraordinary team effort across the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health.

I would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Aimee Badeaux for her leadership and coordination throughout this process. I also want to recognize the DNP leadership team, including Dr. Dana Clawson, and the Nurse Anesthesia Program leadership team, Dr. Kristi Hylan and Dr. Ashley Cole, for their steady guidance and preparation. Thank you to our DNP faculty, staff, and students for their professionalism and commitment to excellence, and to everyone who participated in the review process. I also want to acknowledge the many individuals who supported this effort behind the scenes, including our campus coordinators, IT team, Campus Police, and staff who ensured a seamless visit. This positive review reflects the strength of the program and our shared commitment to excellence.

Advancing Workforce and Innovation: NSU Named Region 6 STEM Center

I am pleased to announce that Northwestern State University has been selected by Louisiana Works and the LaSTEM Advisory Council to serve as the Regional STEM Center for Region 6 for the 2026–2029 designation cycle. This recognition highlights NSU's leadership in advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

education, strengthening workforce alignment, and fostering collaboration across Central Louisiana. As the Region 6 STEM Center, NSU will expand access to STEM education and training, conduct a comprehensive regional needs assessment, and implement data-driven strategies that support career readiness. Housed at our Cenla Campus, this initiative further strengthens our role in connecting education, industry, and innovation while supporting regional economic growth.

Denim Day Observation

The NSU community observed Denim Day on April 29 as part of a nationwide effort to raise awareness about sexual assault and challenge victim blaming. Throughout the week, students, faculty, and staff participated in conversations focused on support, accountability, and education. I would like to thank Title IX Director Julie Powell for her continued leadership in organizing outreach efforts that promote awareness of resources and reinforce our commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive campus environment.

Office of Accessibility and Disability Support Ribbon Cutting

Wednesday was an exciting day on campus as we celebrated the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Office of Accessibility and Disability Support Center in Watson Library. This newly renovated space, made possible through Board of Regents mental health funding, provides a welcoming and supportive environment for student learning. Under the leadership of Director Crissey Smith, along with Rachel Cunningham and Laura Hogg, the OADS team plays a vital role

in ensuring students have equitable access to academic opportunities. I encourage you to stop by and see this outstanding new space.

Shockley and Watts Claim Bassmaster Victory

Two freshmen members of our Bass Fishing Team, Josiah Shockley and Landon Watts, earned an impressive victory this week at the Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops on Kerr Reservoir in Oklahoma. The duo recorded a two-day total of 35 pounds, 12 ounces to secure the win and earn a berth in the 2026 Bassmaster College National Championship at Leech Lake in Minnesota. Competing against a strong field, they relied on a disciplined approach, fishing shallow rock banks and staying consistent throughout the tournament. Their success reflects the hard work and preparation that define our student-athletes, and we look forward to cheering them on at the national championship in August.

NSU and Community Leaders Represent Natchitoches at PAR Conference

On Thursday, representatives from Northwestern State University and the Natchitoches community attended the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana Annual Conference in Baton Rouge. The conference focused on workforce development, education-to-career alignment, and economic competitiveness across the state. NSU's participation underscores our commitment to aligning academic programs with workforce needs and strengthening partnerships that support regional growth. Thank you to Mayor Ronnie Williams, Laura

Lyles, Katrice Below, Scott Andrews, and our NSU faculty and staff representatives for their engagement and leadership.

Strengthening Social Media Skills for Regional Businesses

Our Office of Economic Development and University Advancement continued its Business Workshop Series this week with a Social Media 101 session in Marksville. Led by Amy Lee and Cree Gentry, the workshop provided practical strategies to help business owners enhance their online presence and better connect with their audiences. Hosted at the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe headquarters, this session reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and expanding access to resources throughout our region. We appreciate the partnership and support of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe in making this program possible.

Athletics Update

The Southland Conference baseball season concludes this week with the Demons in contention for a top-two finish and the opportunity to host an SLC regional. Northwestern played just once this past week, falling 5-2 Wednesday at No. 16 Arkansas. The Demons travel to Louisiana Tech on Tuesday before opening a three-game SLC series at McNeese on Thursday.

Our softball season came to a close Saturday with an extra-inning loss to Stephen F. Austin in the Southland Tournament. Coach Jenny Fuller, her staff, and the team produced a transformational season that restored the program's competitive standing in the Southland

Conference. Junior pitcher Mattison Buster was named SLC Newcomer of the Year and earned first-team All-SLC honors. Sophomore Brynn Daniel was also a first-team selection as a utility player, and senior centerfielder J.T. Smith was named to the all-defensive team.

The NSU track and field regular season wrapped up Saturday at Texas A&M, where 18 competitors recorded personal bests and 10 others posted season bests. The Southland Conference Outdoor Championships begin May 14 at Stephen F. Austin.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and to Northwestern State University. The progress we are making is the direct result of your hard work and commitment, and it is making a meaningful difference across our campus and throughout our region.

Fork 'Em Demons,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Genovese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

James T. "Jimmy" Genovese
President
Northwestern State University

Northwestern **Now**

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