## Weekly Update March 24 - 30, 2019

On Friday morning, the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee provided me with its recommended prioritization (1-N List) of Budget Enhancement Requests for the 2019-2020 budget year. The committee received 40 enhancement requests, totaling almost \$700,000, from various university organizations in Natchitoches, Shreveport, Alexandria, and Leesville. Using the committee's recommended priority list, my advisory team and I will now carefully consider how to best leverage available funding.

To all who participated in the budgeting process, thank you. This process is designed to address fundamental needs in accordance with our fiscal capabilities. I hope to release the final approved list in the next few weeks.

## My Week:

Sunday afternoon, I was able to catch a few innings our NSU baseball victory over Lamar University. Afterwards, I joined 233 of our top freshmen for the Alpha Lambda Delta Induction Ceremony in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. Students eligible for induction into Alpha Lambda Delta must have earned at least a 3.50 grade point average after their first semester of full-time enrollment.

Monday morning, Dr. Darlene Williams and I traveled to Marksville to visit with Tunica-Biloxi Tribal leaders about our current education partnership, and we discussed several opportunities for increased engagement.

Upon return, I met with a prospective faculty member. Afterwards, Mae Jaworski and I met with Natchitoches Jazz Festival Board members to discuss partnership opportunities for the upcoming Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival.

Tuesday, I joined Jill Bankston in Houston for lunch with NSU benefactors. We thanked them for their current support and shared with them proposals for enhanced engagement in the future.

Wednesday, Jennifer and I had brunch with our Hospitality, Management and Tourism faculty. Afterwards, Roni Biscoe and I met on SACSCOC matters.

Wednesday afternoon, I joined our Natchitoches Fire Chief John Wynn and Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey at the Central Fire Station for a ceremony unveiling two new firetrucks. Each truck is adorned with the NSU "Flaming N" logo on the back to signify the continued support and cooperation between the Natchitoches Fire Department and NSU. Afterwards, Dr. Gentry and I met on several academic matters.

Wednesday evening, I joined our NSU athletic staff as we honored our NSU student-athletes with a crawfish boil on National STUDENT-Athlete Day.

Thursday, we hosted University of Louisiana System President Jim Henderson, ULS Board of Supervisors members, state legislators and local officials for a legislative roundtable meeting where we outlined our priorities for the upcoming legislative session. It was an engaging session as we shared local and state higher education initiatives.

Thursday afternoon, I joined College of Business and Technology faculty for a presentation by Dr. Alan Gray, Co-founder Segue Science Management, Segue Science Labs. Afterwards, I attended the College of Business and Technology Showcase where faculty and students highlighted academic programming to our community and business partners. I ended the evening at the Dancing with the Sigmas Fundraising event at A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

Friday morning, Frank Hall, Dr. Vickie Gentry, Pat Jones and I met to review the 2019 Budget Enhancement priority list and budget allocation. Afterwards, I stopped by the Recreation Complex and visited with many NSU alumni and supporters who were participating in the NSU Demon football team's fundraising golf tournament.

Friday evening, I joined our Nursing faculty at the Sigma Theta Tau International Induction Ceremony in Shreveport. Approximately 120 undergraduate and graduate students and Nurse leaders were inducted into this prestigious Nursing International Honor Society.

Saturday, I attended our softball game versus Southeastern Louisiana University and later addressed approximately 250 prospective high school student-athletes and parents who were visiting campus for events surrounding our spring football game. Saturday afternoon, I attended an alumni gathering and then the Joe Delaney Bowl football game.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



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