

Weekly Update, June 16 - 22, 2019

The university announced this week that a Steak 'n Shake restaurant will be coming to the Friedman Student Union this fall semester, <http://news.nsula.edu/home/steak-n-shake-coming-this-fall/>. As you know, one of our strategic focus areas is strengthening the student experience at NSU. This restaurant addition is another major step in expanding our dining services and enhancing our student experience on campus. Over the past couple of years, we have opened Café DeMon' restaurants in Watson Library and on our Shreveport campus and a Chick-fil-A restaurant at the Campus Marketplace that includes the University Bookstore. These additions along with the new outdoor stage at Iberville Green and the anticipated addition of our eSports and Multipurpose Event spaces in the Student Union continue to illustrate our commitment to success by ensuring students have an engaging, purposeful, and relevant student experience. I want to thank Jennifer Kelly for her extensive efforts in the negotiations that helped bring Steak 'n Shake to NSU.

My Week:

Monday morning, I met with an incoming transfer student about her academic goals. Afterwards, Connie McConathy and I met about our BPCC@NSU initiative.

At noon, Jennifer and I hosted lunch for the Freshman Connectors. This group has done a phenomenal job this summer mentoring our incoming students as they transition from high school to college.

Monday afternoon, Jerry Pierce and I took part in a meeting at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Museum hosted by Louisiana State Museum officials. Afterwards, we visited with Ronnie Rantz for a short debriefing on the recent Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame induction weekend.

Later, Dr. Greg Handel, Dr. Chris Lyles and I met about School of Biological and Physical Sciences matters. Afterwards, Drake Owens, Jill Bankston and I met on 2019-2020 development goals and plans. Later, I met with NSU alumnus and NClub Hall of Famer Gary Reasons who was in town visiting family.

Tuesday morning, Dr. Darlene Williams, Suzette Hadden, Jerona Washington, Dr. Maxine Johnson, Dr. Anna Morris and I attended a Bossier Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting. At the event, University of Louisiana System President Dr. Jim Henderson presented on CompeteLA, a program designed to help Louisiana adults that have completed some college hours but have not obtained a degree. Currently, we will be offering eight degree programs through the CompeteLA program.

Afterwards, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Kim McAlister, Dr. Katrina Jordan, Jodi Shirley, Jessica Church, Tony Davis and I met with Kevin Nolten, Director of Academic Outreach at the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier. He briefed the group on the National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center (NICERC), and we reviewed grant-funded Cyber, STEM and computer science opportunities. We look forward to this exciting opportunity to partner with this outstanding organization to empower educators to prepare the next generation for success in the cyber workforce.

Tuesday afternoon, I attended the retirement reception for BPCC@NSU Director Connie McConathy at Bossier Parish Community College campus.

Wednesday morning, I joined many of you to welcome students and parents at another Freshman Connection session. Afterwards, Dr. Darlene Williams and I had a conference call with EAB consultants.

At noon, Jennifer and I hosted our Summer Writing Camp students at the President's Residence. Dr. Rebecca Macijeski, Oona Zbitkovskis, Shea Montgomery and the team did a fantastic job working with these amazing young students. It was a joy to see these young writers express their creative ideas.

Wednesday evening, I had dinner with several local business leaders.

Thursday morning, I continued to work with students and parents during Freshman Connection. At noon, Jennifer and I hosted lunch for an NSU alumni group.

Thursday afternoon, I met with National Wrestling Coaches Association Executive Director Mike Moyer and C.E. Byrd High School Wrestling Coach Mark Yawn as they briefed me on Louisiana high school wrestling and the growth of collegiate wrestling.

Thursday evening, Jennifer and I attended the NSU Summer Dinner Theatre production of *Who Killed the King*, directed by Robert Richoux. As always, the production included wonderful acting by our talented theatre students and a nice meal provided by SODEXO, our campus dining partner.

Friday, I had personnel and student meetings.

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

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



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