

February 2005

Greetings from Dakota State University:

Please allow me an opportunity to introduce myself. I am the new Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at DSU. My tenure began in August 2004, after working seven years for the University of Minnesota system. My predecessor was Terry Ryan who successfully served in this role for the past 28 years. I am excited to be in Madison, and extremely encouraged about the current situation and future direction of DSU. The campus has an exciting climate and countless opportunities abound for our students!

Having one semester under my belt, I thought this an opportune time to write a brief note discussing a few developments at DSU. My goal will be to continue this communication each semester. A few of the recent DSU campus highlights that you may or may not have heard about:

- DSU has received a lot of positive news coverage recently regarding our efforts in such cutting-edge technological areas as Information Assurance, Biometrics, and Forensic Science.
- In January, DSU hosted visitors from the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C. DSU is designated as a Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the NSA and Department of Homeland Security.
- DSU received a \$1.8 million Title III federal grant to continue work on student recruitment and retention.
- The new Wireless Mobile Computing Initiative has been a success; all freshmen and sophomores, along with many upper-classmen, are using a Gateway M275 Tablet. This technology is transforming the campus atmosphere.
- Our Business department received ACBSP accreditation (a national accreditor for collegiate Business programs).
- In Athletics – the Volleyball team advanced to the regional playoffs, and the Football team doubled its win total over 2003; both Basketball teams are currently in second place in the DAC-10 Conference.
- Enthusiastic and energetic crowds have actively supported all of our teams throughout the year creating a terrific college atmosphere.
- Major improvements to campus have been made including a new gateway arch marking the entrance to the east side of campus. Additionally, a new technology helpdesk has been established along with an Information Commons in the Library. Major landscaping efforts have been completed along the campus mall.

Please feel free to stop by the Student Services office in the Trojan Student Center if you are on campus or give me a call if you have questions or concerns. Stay in touch with DSU via the Web at www.dsu.edu. Have a terrific spring and all the best in 2005!

Sincerely,

Steven W. Shirley
Vice President/Dean of Student Affairs
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