

November 2005

Greetings,

Another fall semester is underway at Dakota State University, and now is an ideal time to highlight some of the exciting developments across campus. Here are a few significant initiatives at DSU:

- New student enrollments (freshmen and transfers) increased 20% for fall 2005 over fall 2004. This tremendous growth keeps DSU on pace for achieving its long-term, strategic campus enrollment goals.
- The Wireless Mobile Computing Initiative continues to be a success; all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, and many seniors, are using a Gateway M275 Tablet. This technology is transforming the DSU learning atmosphere.
- DSU is implementing its \$1.8 million federal grant focused on student recruitment and retention. These efforts have included hiring three new employees to work with students on their success in the classroom.
- 2006 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dakota State University! There are a number of celebrations and programs planned to commemorate this significant milestone during the coming year.
- The South Dakota Board of Regents has granted DSU permission to offer a Doctor of Science in Information Systems beginning fall 2006. Final approval is pending from the Governor and Legislature contingent on funding. This is the first-ever doctorate program at DSU and will complement the other three Master's degree offerings.
- DSU has partnered with Daktronics Sports Marketing and several corporate sponsors to enhance the athletic, campus, and community signage and facilities. Trojan Field has a new scoreboard message center, the Fieldhouse has new scoreboards and a video board, the Trojan Student Center has a new scrolling message center, the baseball and softball diamonds will have new scoreboards, and a new digital marquee will be installed in Madison.
- In Athletics, the Volleyball team is in the playoffs and finished third in the Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC), and the Football team matched its win total from a year ago with a 4-6 record and a tie for fourth place in the DAC.
- In September, Homecoming activities had the theme "Cowboy Up!" It was a busy week at DSU culminating with a community-wide parade, football game, and dedication of the new DSU Foundation Walk of Honor.
- The DSU Bookstore has updated its website and now has merchandise available. Check [www.dsubookstore.com](http://www.dsubookstore.com) for Holiday gift ideas including DSU apparel. Continue to check the site as new merchandise is added regularly.
- Landscaping efforts continue on the interior campus mall with new building signage and new directional signs.

Please 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 and learn more about these initiatives as well as other events via the Web and check out our new website at [www.dsu.edu](http://www.dsu.edu). Have a terrific Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Steven W. Shirley  
Vice President/Dean of Student Affairs  
605-256-5146