

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week was a big one for Black Hills State University! Last Friday and over the weekend we welcomed the Class of 2023--- with more than 650 new or transfer students---to BHSU. I enjoyed addressing the incoming freshman and transfer students on Friday afternoon where I welcomed them, talked about the exciting changes they will experience over these next four years, and ended by providing a charge to each of them to attend to their whole self: intellectually, interpersonally, civically, ethically and personally. Classes began earlier this week on Monday, Aug. 26, and with that, fall semester has officially begun. I am looking forward to a busy and very productive academic year.



Our ability to attract these students and retain them through their graduation is---to some extent---dependent on our ability to provide scholarships. In August I had the ability to participate in two events that raise scholarships for our students.

The first was the annual Jacket Ride held during the Sturgis Rally, where veterans and motorcycle enthusiasts participate in a ride from Spearfish to Sturgis to support scholarships for BHSU veteran students. Participation was up this year with over 100 bikers enjoying a gorgeous morning, great ride, and raising more than \$19,000 in scholarships since the event's inception.

The second event was held just last Saturday evening when the BHSU Foundation hosted the 2019 Scholarship Gala. Through sponsorships, ticket sales, and impressive silent and live auctions, more than \$160,000 was raised to provide scholarships to BHSU students. Hosted under the big tent outside the Joy Center, 250 attendees enjoyed food, fellowship and a spirit of comradery and giving as they supported their alma mater. I was honored to attend my first BHSU Scholarship Gala and meet so many wonderful, loyal, dedicated alumni and friends. Thank you to all who participated and gave.

Through events like these, we are able to recruit strong students as we provide financial support to help them graduate in four years with less student debt. My thanks to all who made both events such a success!

I'm excited to share with you in the stories below just a few examples of how we strive to support students every day at Black Hills State. Whether it be through scholarships and new academic programs, or taking actions to sustain our beautiful Black Hills or honor a deserving BHSU family, we celebrate our students every day--as they strive to grow, learn, and succeed.

Laurie S. Nichols

Interim President, Laurie S. Nichols



Left to right: Mike Headley, SDSTA Executive Director & Laboratory Director and Debra Wolf (Sanford Lab), with BHSU faculty and staff, Ashley Pfeiffer, Jane Klug, Vincent King, Barbara O'Malley, Brianna Mount, BHSU Interim President Laurie Stenberg Nichols, Charles Lamb, Gina Gibson, and Nick Hubbard (Sanford Lab).

BHSU FACULTY AND STAFF CONTINUE EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIONS WITH SANFORD LAB

President Laurie Nichols recently traveled nearly a mile underground to see the BHSU Underground Campus at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (Sanford Lab) firsthand. She was accompanied by a diverse group of BHSU faculty and staff working to continue offering unique learning experiences to BHSU and K-12 students throughout South Dakota. [Read more](#)

JACKET RIDE PROCEEDS AWARDED TO STUDENT VETERANS DURING STURGIS RALLY

Black Hills State University hosted 78 bikes and 106 participants during this year's Dennis Kirk Jacket Ride for veteran scholarships during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The event included American Legion escorts through Spearfish and Vanocker Canyon followed by a catered lunch.

The Jacket Ride was created seven years ago to raise money for BHSU student veterans. The ride is completely sponsored by donors at Dennis Kirk, the Black Hills Pioneer, and Scott Peterson Motors, which means that 100 percent of the registration fees for the ride go directly to scholarships.

This year's Jacket Ride Scholarships were awarded to five BHSU student veterans. [Read more](#)



BHSU student veterans Leslie Nuckles (left) from Custer and Jeffrey Merrill (right) from Rapid City accept a check from Kanda Guthmiller (center), BHSU scholarship coordinator, during the Jacket Ride.



BHSU is offering a new, online Master of Arts in Teaching K-12 Special Education this fall.

BHSU TO LAUNCH ONLINE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING SPECIAL EDUCATION

A new, online master's program at BHSU will help respond to the national shortage of certified teachers to deliver special education services. The BHSU Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in K-12 Special Education officially launches this fall.

"This program is for individuals who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than education and who want to teach special education," said Dr. Louise Yoho, assistant professor of special education at BHSU. "Rather than returning to college to earn another bachelor's degree, this program offers courses to earn your teaching licensure along with special education graduate courses." [Read more](#)



Left to right: Golfers include Ron Juneke, Gordon Meeker, David Schempf, Kelly Meeker and Waylon Korkow.

BHSU SUPPORTERS DONATE A RECORD \$418,556 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AT SUTTON BAY EVENT

Black Hills State University held the 5th Annual BHSU Sutton Bay Golf and Fish Outing in August to raise money for athletic scholarships. The event added a total of \$418,556 for the scholarship coffers. Thirty-three people participated, raising a record \$143,556. Dana and LaDawn Dykhouse contributed an additional \$150,000 and an anonymous donor contributed \$125,000. [Read more](#)

ELECTRIC CAR SHOWING SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS AT BLACK HILLS STATE

A new electric car at BHSU is saving 60 percent on transportation costs, according to Eva Chase, coordinator of sustainability.



The university's electric car has saved 60 percent on costs thus far, when comparing electricity costs with fuel consumption.

"When looking at our general electricity costs compared with the fuel we would consume for those same miles, we're saving around 60 percent on costs with our electric vehicle," says Chase.

BHSU recently installed a charging station for the electric Chevy Bolt near the Johnson Life Sciences Laboratory on campus. The Bolt arrived on campus in May. [Read more](#)



Chytka

BHSU ATHLETE NAMED STUDENT PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RODEO ASSOCIATION

Tucker Chytka, business administration-marketing major at BHSU, was elected student president of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) for the 2019-20 academic year. The NIRA represents over 3,500 student members annually and 137 member schools and universities.

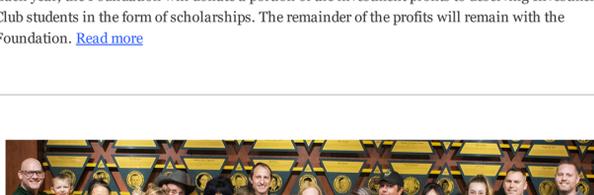
A graduate of Belle Fourche High School, Chytka competed in steer wrestling during the College National Finals Rodeo this summer where his presidency was also announced. [Read more](#)



Left to right: BHSU Investment Club members Tanner Kotek from Wood Lake, Minn.; Shania Mittner from Custer; Cayley Schmitt from Tea; Kayla Chadwick from Hettinger, N.D.; and Ty Hill from Hot Springs.

BUSINESS STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE INVESTING \$25K FROM BHSU FOUNDATION

Students in the BHSU Investment Club worked under the guidance of the BHSU Foundation to invest \$25,000 of Foundation funds in long-term stocks, bonds, and mutual funds this spring. Each year, the Foundation will donate a portion of the investment profits to deserving Investment Club students in the form of scholarships. The remainder of the profits will remain with the Foundation. [Read more](#)



BHSU honored the descendants of Maude (Campbell) Dana, Class of 1917, as the 2019 Legacy Family.

DESCENDANTS OF MAUDE (CAMPBELL) DANA NAMED 2019 BHSU LEGACY FAMILY

Fourteen descendants of Maude (Campbell) Dana, Class of 1917, were honored as the 2019 BHSU Legacy Family. BHSU created the Legacy Family Award in 2008 to honor family members that have attended the university. The Dana family is known for their strong support and care of the community through their success in the fields of dentistry, orthodontia, and financial management. [Read more](#)

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