



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to be providing this welcome as the Interim President at Black Hills State University. Many of you know I am a South Dakota native. I grew up on a family farm in Moody County near Flandreau and Colman, S.D. Since spending the last three years at the University of Wyoming, I am truly honored to come home and serve at BHSU this year.

This is an exciting time for BHSU as we hone in on several priorities identified in the strategic plan. Three priorities have risen to the top of the list for additional focus this year. These include:

- Enrollment stabilization and growth;
- Academic offerings with an eye on aligning programs to tomorrow's regional workforce needs;
- Community and regional engagement.

Please introduce yourself if you see me out in the community or throughout the region. I value the love and support you hold for this university, as I know that this support makes us a stronger university. Thank you!

Here's to a great year! Go Jackets!

*Laurie S. Nichols*

Interim President, Laurie Nichols



Left to right: GEAR UP Group Leader Tyler Hull with students Teawny Hull from Pine Ridge High School and Brandi Stricker from Wakpala High School.

## GEAR UP CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL SUMMER PROGRAM AT BLACK HILLS STATE

For the fourth year in a row, BHSU hosted the GEAR UP Summer Honors Program on campus. Nearly 90 high school students attended the three-week, residential program. Dr. Peg Diekhoff, GEAR UP project manager, said the summer program prepares low-income students and American Indian students for higher education and encourages them to consider possibilities available to them. [Read more](#)

## BHSU TO OFFER NEW CERTIFICATE IN ADVENTURE EDUCATION

Black Hills State University will offer a new Certificate in Adventure Education this fall, preparing students to be outdoor professionals who can plan and deliver quality education experiences. The South Dakota Board of Regents approved the certificate in June.

Dr. Christine McCart, assistant professor of Outdoor Education at BHSU, says there is increasing demand, driven by insurance policies and professional standards, for training and certification for leaders of quality outdoor experiences.

The certificate can stand alone, or be combined with academic programs to enhance employability. Those who may be interested in the certificate include employees at area programs and camps or in corporate teambuilding, along with students enrolled in tourism and hospitality, psychology, sociology, human services, business, and exercise sciences programs. [Read more](#)



The new Adventure Education certificate program can stand alone, or be combined with academic programs to enhance employability.

Photo credit: Chris Klinger.



Carlee Johnston of the BHSU Rodeo Team placed third in the All-Around competition at the College National Finals Rodeo in June.

## RODEO COMPETES AT CNFR, JOHNSTON THIRD IN ALL-AROUND

Carlee Johnston of Elm Springs finished third in the All-Around competition, while Alyssa Lockhart of Oelrichs was 10th in breakaway roping at the College National Finals Rodeo in June. All four of the Yellow Jacket women's team members were recognized as Academic All-Americans for maintaining above a 3.5 GPA. [Read more](#)

## THE MATTHEWS AND BHSU THEATER COLLABORATE FOR "THE PHANTOM OF THE MATTHEWS OPERA HOUSE"

Forty-three years after it first hit the stage, "The Phantom of The Matthews Opera House" is again a summer draw for Black Hills community members and visitors. This is in thanks to a collaborative effort between BHSU and the Matthews. BHSU professor of theater, Albert Juhrend, directs this summer's show featuring a professional cast of BHSU students and community members. Paul Higbee, a BHSU alumnus, wrote the melodrama in 1976 specifically for the Matthews stage. The performances are at 7:30 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night in July. [Read more](#)



The Matthews Opera House in Spearfish is collaborating with BHSU Theater to present a summer melodrama written in 1976 by a BHSU alum.



Left to right: BHSU campus TV members Noelle Thompson, Jackie Robles, and Wyatt Bills.

## COLORADO STUDENT FINDS PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS AT BHSU

Jackie Robles knows the importance of making connections, and she is beginning her career in public relations thanks to a connection made at BHSU. A native of Wray, Colo., Robles will graduate from BHSU in December and recently landed a public relations position with Visit Spearfish. Her multimedia instructor at BHSU, Brian Gebhart, suggested Robles apply for the position. [Read more](#)

## COMMUNITY INVITED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS DURING BHSU SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Mark your calendars for the stellar event of the summer season! The fifth Annual BHSU Scholarship Gala, "Helping our Students Shoot for the Moon and Land among the Stars," will take place on a stary Saturday evening, Aug. 24, at the Joy Center at BHSU in Spearfish.

The BHSU Scholarship Gala, with a celestial theme to commemorate the 50th year of the 1969 moon landings, maintains its ultimate goal: to raise additional funds for BHSU academic scholarships. This year's goal is to raise \$200,000 in scholarships through entertainment and fine dining, a silent and live auction, and a festive atmosphere of giving throughout the evening. [Read more](#)



TJ Gusso, President of First Interstate Bank – Spearfish, welcomes the 2018 BHSU Scholarship Gala attendees as the 2018 Gala Title Sponsor. This year's Gala will be held Saturday, Aug. 24.



## ALL-SCHOOL REUNION CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Alums gathered in Spearfish June 27-29 for the first All-School Reunion in school history. Events included receptions, outdoor recreation, tours of local attractions, and opportunities to experience innovations on campus and in the region. BHSU alums Williams & Ree and Gary Mule Deer drew a huge crowd when they performed at Downtown Friday Nights on Main Street as part of the reunion weekend festivities.

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