

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I first arrived on campus in July, I remember telling the new freshman at BHSU that we had something in common. We were both new to Black Hills State, making connections, and finding our stride. Six months later, those freshman have now finished their first semester at BHSU, and I look forward to continuing to be part of their education journey in the years ahead.

I have so enjoyed my first six months here. BHSU is a special place. I am excited to assume the Presidency at Black Hills State University on a more permanent basis. There is no doubt in my mind that together we can create a very positive future for the university, the region --- and ultimately for our students.

Congrats to the BHSU graduation class of December 2019. I am excited and optimistic about this newest group of graduates' future, and about the future of BHSU.

Go Jackets!



*Laurie S. Nichols*

Interim President, Laurie S. Nichols



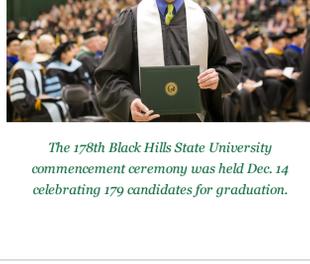
BHSU President Laurie Stenberg Nichols

## NICHOLS INTERIM BHSU PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT MADE PERMANENT

The South Dakota Board of Regents will make permanent an interim appointment of Laurie Stenberg Nichols as Black Hills State University president. The decision was announced in December after a meeting of the presidential search committee in Spearfish.

"President Nichols has been a strong and steady hand at Black Hills State since we asked her to take an interim appointment last July," said Regent Joan Wink of Howes, who chaired the search process. "It became apparent to search committee members that our best candidate was right here, living in Spearfish and working at Black Hills State University. Laurie Nichols is highly respected by her peers and brings with her many years of prior experience in the South Dakota public higher education system. She has been doing a tremendous job as the interim president."

[Read more](#)



The 178th Black Hills State University commencement ceremony was held Dec. 14 celebrating 179 candidates for graduation.

## FALL COMMENCEMENT HONORS NEARLY 180 GRADUATES

Black Hills State University honored 179 graduates during the Fall Commencement Ceremony Dec. 14. Degrees awarded include 13 master's degrees, 147 bachelor's degrees, and 19 associate's degrees.

[Read more](#)

## BHSU CELEBRATES LARGEST FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

This month, Black Hills State University celebrated the conclusion of the largest fundraising campaign in the university's 136-year history. Over \$45 million was raised over the past five years, greatly benefiting BHSU student scholarships and nearly doubling the initial goal for the campaign.



Steve Meeker, vice president for University Advancement, announced that the BHSU Capital Campaign surpassed all goals and raised \$45 million, with the majority of funds benefiting student scholarships.

"In 2014, BHSU made a commitment to have a scholarship campaign to assist our students with the cost of their education. We are grateful to all the supporters that made this campaign successful," said Steve Meeker, vice president for University Advancement at BHSU. [Read more](#)



As part of a new initiative at BHSU, four students took a day to tour businesses and organizations in Hot Springs searching for potential employment and internships. (From left to right: Erin Adkins, Mikayla Koistinen, Molly Graesser, Kaylei Wilcox, Hans Nelson at the VA Black Hills Health Care System)

## STUDENTS MEET WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS IN HOT SPRINGS

Black Hills State University students recently took a day to tour organizations in Hot Springs identifying potential employment and internships opportunities.

The goals of the BHSU-organized preview day/road trip program were to connect students with businesses and help them begin building professional relationships around the Black Hills. Students visited three organizations in Hot Springs that were heavily focused on clinical degrees (pre-nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy). Participants included the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home, VA Black Hills Health Care System, and Fall River Health Services. [Read more](#)

## BHSU-RC CONTINUES TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Sisters McKayla (left) and Brittney Stratmeyer of Rapid City are pursuing their healthcare and nursing degrees thanks to the applied health sciences program at BHSU-Rapid City.

### SISTERS PURSUE HEALTHCARE DEGREES AT BHSU-RAPID CITY

McKayla Stratmeyer graduated in 2018 with her associate's degree in applied health sciences through BHSU-Rapid City. She now works at Rapid City Regional Hospital as a patient care champion on the heart and vascular floor. Her sister Brittney is following the same path. She appreciates being able to stay close to home and her family in Rapid City. [Read more](#)



Brent Moe benefited from an agreement allowing for 47 credits from 13 associate's degree programs at WDT to transfer directly into the BHSU Human Services bachelor's degree program.

### AGREEMENT BETWEEN BHSU AND WDT HELPS STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Brent Moe of Rapid City graduated from BHSU Dec. 14 as a result of an agreement with Western Dakota Tech. Moe works as a community services officer at the Rapid City Police Department. After completing his associate's degree at WDT, Moe transferred more than 40 credits into the human services major at BHSU. He has taken classes onsite at BHSU-Rapid City and online to complete his bachelor's degree. [Read more](#)



Sam Stratman chose to attend BHSU-Rapid City for his psychology degree after serving in the U.S. Air Force.

### AIR FORCE JOB INSPIRES STUDENT TO PURSUE PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE AT BHSU-RAPID CITY

After serving six years in the U.S. Air Force, Sam Stratman decided it was time to pursue his degree. BHSU-Rapid City offered the psychology major he wanted along with a work-study position where he could use the skills he honed in the Air Force. [Read more](#)



Black Hills State University was named one of the Top 200 Colleges for Indigenous Students by Winds of Change Magazine, published by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

## BHSU INCLUDED IN TOP 200 COLLEGES FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS LISTING

Black Hills State University was named one of the Top 200 Colleges for Indigenous Students by WINDS of Change Magazine, published by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). The major criteria for selection include a university's supportive Native community and statistics on degrees.

The Top 200 Colleges list is created for students and families to research "where the community, Native programs, and support are strong enough for [Indigenous] students to enjoy college and stay on to graduation," according to the magazine.

Rochele Zens, assistant director of the Center for American Indian Studies at BHSU, said BHSU boasts a strong American Indian Studies major, minor, and student center. [Read more](#)

## YELLOW JACKET ALUM JOSH BRESKE NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Athletic Director Jhett Albers announced Joshua David Breske as the next head coach for Yellow Jacket football this month. The Breske name should be familiar to Yellow Jacket fans, as he was a standout member of the BHSU offensive line from 2005-2009. Breske returns to the Yellow Jackets after serving for three years as the offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator at the NCAA Division 2 Lindenwood University.

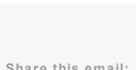
"Coach Breske is the complete package. He brings a strong knowledge of the game, tremendous recruiting connections, experience from highly successful programs with talented mentors, and possesses an unmatched passion to serve as the next leader for the Yellow Jacket football program," commented Albers. [Read more](#)

## BHSU FALL 2019 SEMESTER RECAP



Black Hills State University

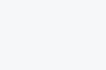
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