

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With July 4th behind us, we start turning our attention to August, fall semester, and all that it brings.

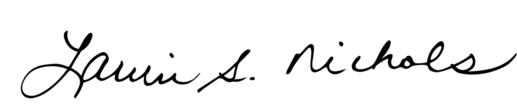
I hope you will make plans to join us on Aug. 22, as we host the BHSU Comeback Extravaganza at Lyle Hare Stadium. The fundraising event will be a great evening of fun while raising scholarship dollars. See details below. There's also an option to attend virtually. We appreciate your generosity and despite living in a COVID world, I hope you can attend and support us once again. Our students need scholarship funds more than ever before as they are facing changes due to the pandemic.

We are also planning to have the Dennis Kirk Jacket Ride on Aug. 11th. This popular event, during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, has become a great fundraiser for veterans' scholarships at BHSU. It's the continued support by all of you for our students that will make our community even stronger. The Jacket Ride has awarded over \$19,000 to student Veterans at Black Hills State University while adding \$1,000 to an endowment each year to provide future scholarships.

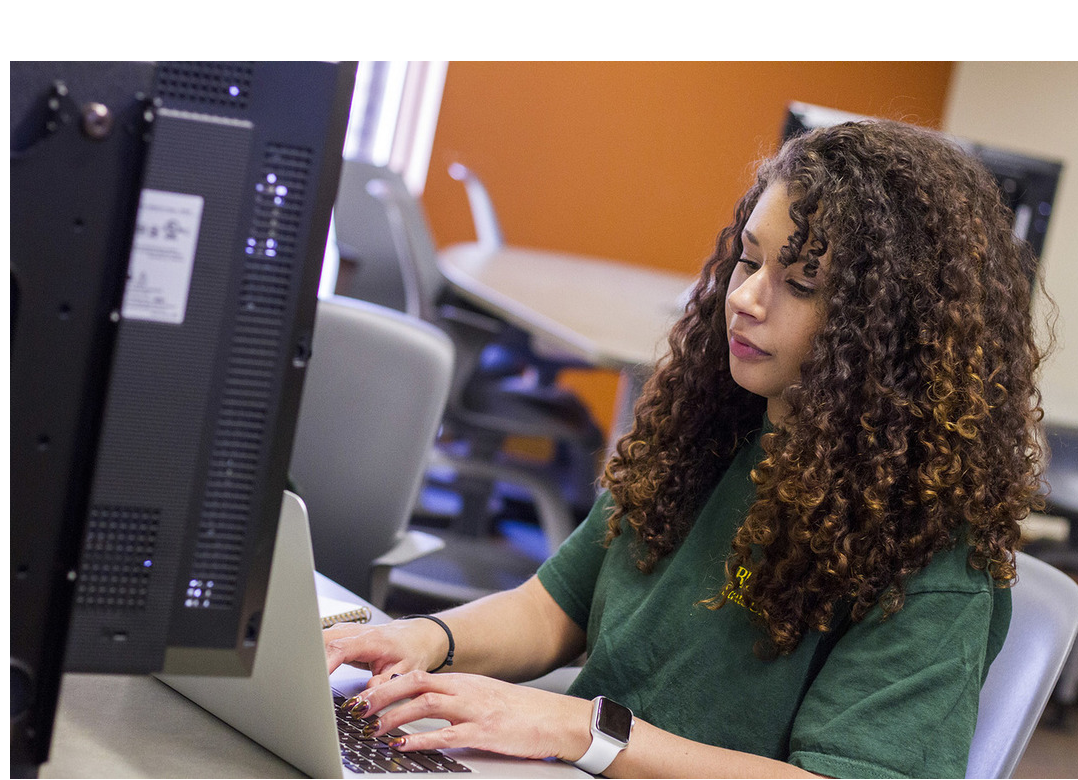
We are looking forward to welcoming students to campus next month. In a year that has seen numerous changes and challenges for people everywhere, all of us at BHSU are dedicated to making this a great semester for our new and returning students. People from across campus have collaborated to create a [comprehensive plan](#) for opening campus this fall. I thank the task force of faculty, staff and students who worked throughout June and July to develop the plan which will include making many modifications to classrooms and activities. It is our goal to practice CDC guidelines as we create the safest environment possible for our students, faculty and staff. For more information about our plans for fall, please see details at www.BHSU.edu/covid.

Fall semester classes begin on Aug. 19th with move in and orientation activities taking place August 16-18. I look forward to seeing students back on campus as it has been more than five months since we have held on campus classes. Among the many changes taking place, changes have also occurred to fall semester schedule. Beyond starting classes a week earlier than originally scheduled, we will also hold classes during normally observed national holidays including Labor Day, Native American Day and Veteran's Day. Then when students go home for Thanksgiving holiday, they will stay home and complete fall semester with online finals, scheduled through Dec. 8. The idea is to minimize travel and maximize social distancing practices as we move into the final weeks of fall semester.

Next up for consideration is fall athletics/sports. The RMAC (our DII conference) will be meeting this week to discuss plans for fall. I will keep you informed as plans unfold. In the meantime, enjoy summer, please join us for our August scholarship events, and thank you for your interest and support!



President, Laurie S. Nichols



The online master's in sustainability and two online education programs at Black Hills State University were recently named as top programs on national lists.

ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREES AT BHSU NAMED TOP PROGRAMS IN NATIONAL LISTS

The online Master's in Sustainability and two online master's programs in education offered through Black Hills State University were recognized as top programs of their kind on three national lists.

College Consensus included BHSU in the top 20 of the "Best Online Master's in Environmental Sustainability and Management" listing. The BHSU Sustainability Program was noted as one of the most affordable programs in the national ranking.

Data used for the College Consensus rankings was combined from The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report, and each school's score based on reputation, convenience, and affordability. [Read more](#)

BHSU JOINS NATIONAL PROGRAM TO HELP AIR FORCE MEMBERS EARN AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

Black Hills State University is now part of the General Education Mobile (GEM) program designed to assist U.S. Air Force members in completing their degrees. Active Duty personnel can now take online courses through BHSU toward their associate's degree with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).



Active Duty airmen can now take online courses through BHSU toward their associate's degree with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). U.S. Air Force photo by Joshua J. Seybert

Greg Krajewski, U.S. Air Force veteran and veterans resource coordinator at BHSU, says the GEM program offers flexibility for airmen to take BHSU college courses from anywhere in the world. The program is also a benefit for service members who want to continue their education through BHSU, even after being deployed or relocated. [Read more](#)



Silva

SILVA NAMED INTERIM DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AT BHSU

Dr. Betsy Silva, a longtime professor at Black Hills State University, has been named to a one-year appointment as interim dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Silva will serve as a facilitative leader who works collaboratively with faculty and staff to advance the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, support and serve the students, engage with alumni and members of the community, and seek opportunities

that will further strengthen programs. [Read more](#)



Stone

STUDENT AWARDED MAKE A DIFFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP TO CREATE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Emma Stone, an outdoor education major from Kadoka, was named the 2020-21 Make a Difference Scholarship recipient at Black Hills State University. She will receive a \$3,500 tuition scholarship and funding to create digital environmental resources for K-12 students.

"I want to teach youth about the environment and how to appreciate nature. That's my ideal job and it's exactly what I'm doing with this project," says Emma.

Emma says she will pursue a career in environmental education after graduating from BHSU in 2021.

The Make a Difference Scholarship was founded in 2014 through a \$1 million donation to BHSU by Dr. Jim Hess, professor of psychology at BHSU and business owner. [Read more](#)

BHSU JACKET RIDE FOR VETERAN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jacket Ride is a patriotic motorcycle ride with a purpose. Black Hills State University will host the Dennis Kirk Jacket Ride for veteran scholarships Tuesday, Aug. 11, during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The Ride begins at the Joy Center (1351 St Joe Street) on the BHSU Campus in Spearfish with kickstands up at 10 a.m. and ends with lunch at Scott Peterson Motors in Sturgis. Registration is \$50 for a single rider and \$75 for rider and passenger. Pre-registration is appreciated at www.BHSU.edu/JacketRide and is also accepted beginning at 8:30 a.m. the day of the Ride.



The Jacket Ride is a motorcycle ride through the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota that takes place during the Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The ride is hosted by Black Hills State University and the proceeds benefit student veterans.

BHSU COMEBACK EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER FOR ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

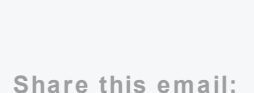
On Aug. 22 BHSU will be hosting the Comeback Extravaganza at Lyle Hare Stadium. Social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the dinner/raffle and auction starting at 7:00 p.m. This event will also be available for virtual participation as well.

The event is a merging of the 6th Annual Scholarship Gala and the previously postponed 4th Annual Gold Rush Raffle & Auction. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to interact with and get to know scholarship recipients. This celebration hopes to aid in coming back together from recent events stronger as a community.

To register for the event, text "BHEXTRA" to 41444 or [click here](#).

www.BHSU.edu

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