

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our doors will be open this fall. We know students are wanting to return to campus, and we are looking forward to welcoming them to BHSU. Safety and health remains our priority as we work through modifications for the Fall 2020 semester. Our spring semester was interrupted by the pandemic, but this summer we have started to return to campus. Phase 1 of our [Return to Work Plan](#) is complete, and Phase 2 is now underway. Thanks to all employees for their dedication and continued support to BHSU.



I am impressed with the work and thorough planning by our Fall Task Force members. They've made numerous [recommendations](#) to the Back to School Plan to successfully allow students to continue their education during this unprecedented time. We have a modified calendar for the Fall semester and are looking forward to classes starting on Aug. 19. We will continue to monitor the situation and seek input from students and community members.

A new academic year brings a high level of excitement and anticipation. In addition to a new class of freshmen students, we will have several new leaders on campus this fall. [Dr. Priscilla Romkema](#), a former Dean and professor at BHSU, is beginning her tenure as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. We are welcoming [Dr. John Allred](#) to campus as our new Vice President of Enrollment Management. Other new additions include: [Joe Rainboth](#), Director of Admissions; Hans Nelson, leading the Center for Hospitality and Business in Rapid City; and [Dr. Betsy Silva](#), interim Dean for the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. A search is underway for the Director of the West River Health Sciences Center that is being established in Rapid City to help meet workforce needs in the health care industry. This fall we are looking forward to filling key leadership positions to direct the Student Success Center and Career Services. As you can imagine, the energy and expectations for the coming year continue to grow and we look forward to sharing that optimism and excitement with our students, community and alumni.

*Laurie S. Nichols*

President, Laurie S. Nichols



*BHSU classes on the Spearfish campus, in Rapid City, and online will all follow the modified academic calendar this fall.*

## BHSU MAKES CHANGES IN ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR FALL 2020

Black Hills State University, along with the five other Regental universities, will have a modified calendar for the Fall 2020 semester to avoid the spread of Coronavirus.

BHSU plans to start classes on campus Aug. 19, a few days earlier than previously scheduled. Three holidays – Labor Day, Native American Day, and Veterans Day, will become class days to provide for required instructional time and reduce travel. Instead of returning to campus after the Thanksgiving recess Nov. 25-29, students will complete their final exams remotely and the semester will finish Dec. 8. [Read more](#)

## BHSU CREATES AIRBORNE ISOLATION SHIELD FOR MONUMENT HEALTH

Black Hills State University responded to the call when Monument Health requested assistance to create an airborne isolation shield in response to COVID-19. The shield is available for use in the Emergency Department at Monument Health Spearfish Hospital to protect caregivers.



*Brian Williamson, RN, BSN, Manager of Emergency Services at Monument Health Spearfish Hospital uses the airborne isolation shield created by Black Hills State University in a training video.*

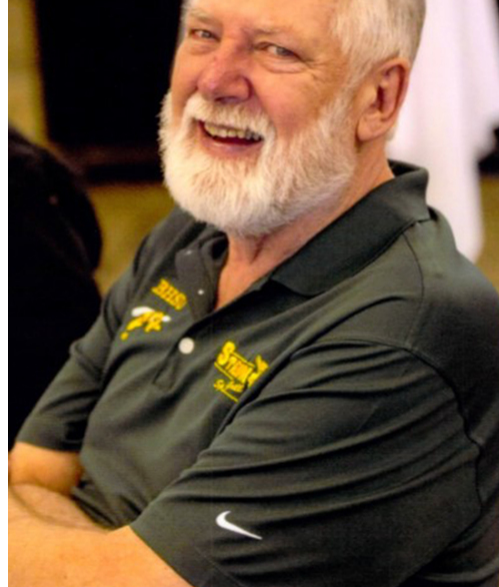
"COVID-19 and other contagious diseases are a big concern, especially in hospital Emergency Departments," said Brian Williamson, RN, BSN, manager of Emergency Services at Monument Health Spearfish Hospital. "This airborne isolation shield offers us a much-needed level of personal protection while performing procedures such as intubation. It helps contain the virus and keep it from becoming airborne and infecting our care team." [Read more](#)



Holly Downing

## DOWNING NAMED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY MEMBER AT BHSU

Congratulations to this year's BHSU Distinguished Faculty Member, Dr. Holly Downing, professor of biology. President Nichols was joined by academic leaders on a video conference to share the great news! [Read more](#)



Heck

## ALUM JOHN HECK ESTABLISHES BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP AT BHSU

Former Yellow Jacket basketball player John Heck, part owner of the Stadium Sports Grill in Spearfish, established a scholarship that will be awarded for the first time this fall to a member of the BHSU Men's Basketball Team.

Steve Meeker, vice president for University Advancement at BHSU, said Heck is a great BHSU alum and fan who has served on the Yellow Jacket Foundation for many years, supporting scholar-athletes by funding athletic scholarships and improving athletic facilities.

Heck graduated from BHSU in 1968 with a double major in art and industrial art education. [Read more](#)

## STUDENT CREATES EDUCATION CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE FOR NEW JOB DURING COVID-19

Starting a job during the COVID-19 pandemic meant Katie Wolff, studio art major at BHSU, needed to adapt quickly. Katie began working as the education coordinator at the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City in March. She will graduate from BHSU in December.



Wolff

"It was a really great feeling to put what I learned at BHSU into practice. I was communicating with art teachers and coordinating classes my first day at the Dahl, just like I did during my mural internship," says Katie.

Katie also created free videos on the [Art Education with the Dahl Arts Center](#) YouTube page for K-12 students who were learning at home this spring due to school closures. The videos are 10-minute-long lessons on origami, sculpting with paper, mixed media watercolor and collage, and more. [Read more](#)



*Students will end Camp Invention Elevate at Home with working robots and fun challenges they can continue to build on.*

## BHSU FACILITATES AT-HOME STEM CAMP

This summer BHSU is offering a STEM enrichment program, Camp Invention Elevate At Home, for grades K-6. Developed by the National Inventors Hall of Fame, Camp Invention provides children with hands-on/minds-on opportunities to explore, create, and invent. Registered families received a kit by mail that includes all materials need to complete the learning activities. [Read more](#)



Donnelly



Verhulst

## FLOYD SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO TWO INCOMING STUDENTS

Riley Donnelly of Elk Point and Karli Verhulst of Reva were named recipients of the Joe and Elaine Floyd Scholarship at BHSU. Donnelly and Verhulst will each receive a \$17,000 scholarship when they attend BHSU this fall.

The Floyd Scholarship was established in 2009 for female students from South Dakota who have a farm or ranch background, along with a desire to learn. The full-ride scholarship is renewable for four years if the students achieve satisfactory progress.

Donnelly and Verhulst will both compete on the BHSU Rodeo Team. [Read more](#)

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