

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Black Hills State University,

Spring is in the air in the Black Hills! As we return from Spring Break, it's important to take a minute to acknowledge successes of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. There's so many good things happening on campus. Congratulations are in order for the Yellow Jacket Women's Track & Field team members and to the Women's Basketball team for qualifying for nationals. Good luck in your competition this weekend!

One year ago things changed abruptly at BHSU and across the world. As we look back and reflect on the challenges created by the COVID-19 virus, it's gratifying to know that our campus responded so quickly and positively to this unexpected event. A special thank you goes out to faculty, staff and our students for meeting these challenge and working together to move forward.

BHSU continues to earn national recognitions – including recent commendations for supporting military personnel and a top rating for our excellent online business program. See details below.

As the Legislative session comes to a close, I express my sincere thanks to the state's elected officials who work so hard for South Dakota. State Legislators supported a needs based scholarship, known as the Freedom Scholarship, which was initially brought forth by with a \$50 million gift from Denny Sanford and First PREMIER Bank and PREMIER Bankcard. The state's commitment of a \$50 million match creates a fund for this much needed scholarship. This is great news and will create opportunities for so many deserving students at Black Hills State and have a positive impact on workforce development throughout the state.

It was great to see a BHSU student researcher's work featured at the Capitol. Congratulations to Nathan de la Montanya for his work in soil analyses. BHSU students are also actively involved in a variety of community service projects. Business and accounting students are assisting community members with their taxes through the VITA program again this year. This research and service opportunities create exceptional learning opportunities for our students and ensure they are ready for the workforce when they graduate.

Laurie S. Nichols

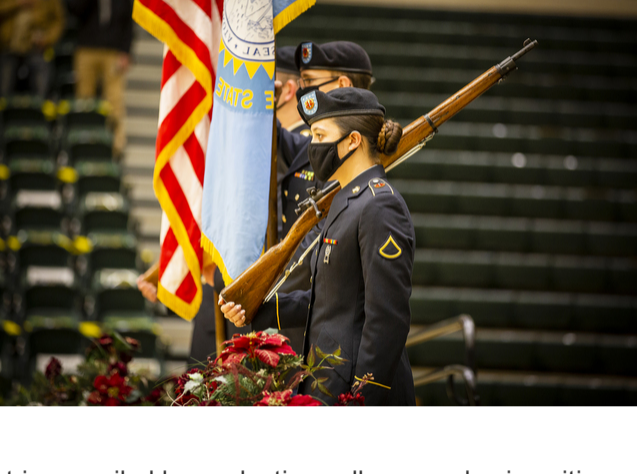
President Laurie S. Nichols



SILVA NAMED DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Dr. Betsy Silva has been named Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Black Hills State University.

Silva, who is currently serving as Interim Dean, was selected following a national search. Silva joined the faculty at BHSU in 1992 and since then has earned numerous prestigious recognitions for teaching. In addition to her exemplary service as a professor of physical education/pedagogy, Silva has 14 years of experience successfully serving in leadership positions at BHSU. [Read more](#)



BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY EARNS MILITARY FRIENDLY GOLD DESIGNATION

Black Hills State University was named to the Military Friendly® Gold list recently that designates universities for their commitment and dedication to military students. The

list is compiled by evaluating colleges and universities using public data and responses from a proprietary survey by VIQORY.

BHSU has a legacy of providing educational opportunities for military students. This year, nearly 180 veterans and veteran dependents are enrolled at BHSU. Greg Krajewski, veteran resource coordinator and veteran of the U.S. Air Force, says BHSU offers exceptional services and significant financial aid to veteran.

BHSU has a Veterans Club which works to support veteran students and their families while also engaging with military celebrations and issues in the community. Krajewski meets with student veterans at both BHSU locations in Spearfish and in Rapid City. Each of the BHSU locations has a dedicated Veterans Center with computer and printing access, as well as the comradery of connecting with fellow veterans. [Read more](#)

BHSU ONLINE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE NOTED AS ONE OF 49 BEST

The online Business Administration degree offered at Black Hills State University was recently named in the Top 49 Business Administration Degree Programs for 2021.

The list, compiled by Intelligent.com, is a comprehensive research guide based on an assessment of 166 accredited colleges and universities in the nation. Each program is evaluated on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment

The Online Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration includes a Management specialization. The degree provides well-rounded exposure to accounting, marketing, finance, economics, business law, and information systems. Courses in the Business Administration degree at BHSU are taught by an interdisciplinary team of accomplished faculty.

Intelligent.com noted, "Students who pursue any one of these programs can expect to gain employment much quicker in comparison to candidates without a degree. In addition to accessibility and cost, the steady job growth in this market is one of the many reasons [Intelligent.com](#) researched and ranked the Top Business Administration Degree Programs. To access the complete ranking, [click here](#).

[Read more](#)



Roxanne Lewis, program assistant in Facilities Services at BHSU, mentored intern Matt Bataille as part of the Project SEARCH program.



Eric Hanson, grounds crew leader in Facilities Services at BHSU, mentored intern Jacob Palmer as part of the Project SEARCH program.

BHSU STAFF MEMBERS MENTOR PROJECT SEARCH INTERNS

Providing educational opportunities is at the heart of what Black Hills State University does throughout the year. This semester, several BHSU staff members created additional educational opportunities for recent high school students with disabilities through the Project SEARCH program.

Three Project Search interns have been placed on the BHSU campus and are working with staff members for an 8-10 week time span. The Project Search interns are gaining job related transferable skills by working in an office and on a ground and maintenance crew.

Project SEARCH is a unique business-led transition program in partnership with Monument Health and the Department of Human Services for students 18-21 with disabilities. It provides students who want to work a chance to explore careers and develop transferable skills. The ultimate goal is independent adults working in sustainable employment. [Read more](#)

GRADUATING STUDENTS' ARTWORK WILL BE FEATURED AT DAHL ARTS CENTER EXHIBIT

BHSU art majors who are graduating will have their work exhibited at the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City this spring.

The exhibition, from April 16th until May 22nd, will feature work of nearly 30 students with a wide variety of mediums, techniques, and concentrations. The class of 2021 Fine Arts and Art Education majors are emerging artists and leaders who are excited to exhibit their capstone pieces at the Dahl Arts Center. For details see: <https://www.thedahl.org/upcoming-exhibitions.html>

BHSU STUDENTS PREPARE TAXES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Black Hills State University students are helping community members prepare their taxes through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic.

BHSU offers an Advanced Income Tax course which allows students to become certified by the IRS to work as tax preparers in the clinic.

According to Chris Wardell, faculty member and CPA, VITA participants have already met with 80 clients and expect to exceed the total number of clients from last year.

Wardell notes that this a exceptional learning opportunity for BHSU students and a great service to the community.

For more information, please contact Chris Wardell at 605-642-6002 or christopher.wardell@BHSU.edu.

[Read more](#)



CONGRATULATIONS TO WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD AND BASKETBALL TEAMS

Congratulations to the Yellow Jacket Women's Track & Field team members and to the Women's Basketball team for qualifying to the NCAA Championships.

Five members of the women's track team are competing in Birmingham, Ala., this weekend: Xiomara Robinson in the mile, Kyla Sawvell in the weight throw and shot put, and Ruby Lindquist, Taylor Lundquist, Mikayla Tracy, and Robinson will run the Distance Medley Relay.

The women's basketball team - which earned the RMAC Basketball title last weekend, will be taking on the Westminster Griffins in the first round of the NCAA on today.

Dates and times for all competitions can be found on www.bhsuathletics.com; as well as how to watch and cheer the teams on.

Congratulations to these scholar-athletes and Go Yellow Jackets!

NATHAN DE LA MONTANYA REPRESENTS BHSU AT LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DAY

BHSU student Nathan de la Montanya, a senior Biology/Biochemistry double major from Sioux Falls, represented BHSU at the South Dakota Student Research Poster Session in the Rotunda at the State Capitol recently.

Nate presented his work done last summer with Drs. Justin and Tara Ramsey, BHSU faculty members, and with Anthony Checchi, a graduate student in the MSIG program. They worked performing chemical and physical soil analyses and vegetative compositions of prairie and barren soil sites across western South Dakota to classify prairie barren habitats.