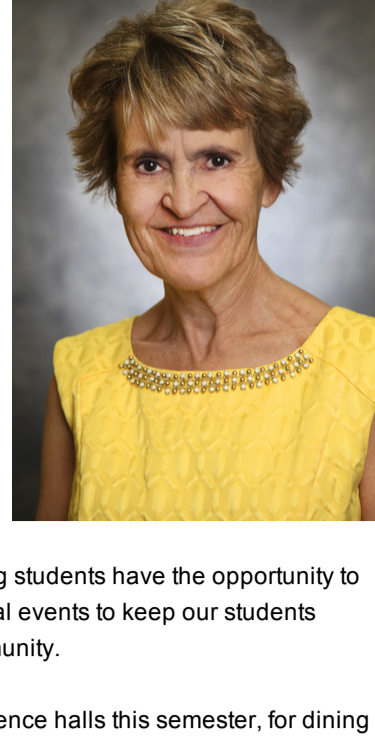


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are dedicated to educating students! While our semester has changed dramatically, we continue offering classes in an on-line format so students can complete their degree or stay on-track for completion. The changes to our semester have been dramatic, with many employees working from home and many activities cancelled or postponed. Most students have moved out of the residence halls and the Young Center remains closed for the time being. These steps, however, were necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. Taking drastic measures like these has not been easy, but we have taken great care in protecting the health and safety of our community while continuing to provide the high-quality education students expect from BHSU.



I want to share with you the impressive response I have seen across campus as we work together to adapt during this unprecedented time. From faculty quickly transitioning course content to online, to staff ensuring students have the opportunity to make progress with their degrees, to creative approaches to holding virtual events to keep our students engaged and our community informed --- I am proud of our campus community.

Refunds are being issued to students for the time they are not in the residence halls this semester, for dining services, and parking. For students who needed to stay in the residence halls, we ensured they are able to do so.

We continue to provide virtual campus visits each day, and our Admissions Representatives are available to talk with prospective students throughout the week. Our next [Virtual Preview Day](#) is May 1, and we look forward to talking with students and their families who are interested in attending BHSU.

Here at BHSU, we greatly appreciate all that our communities throughout the state and region are doing to work through this unexpected situation. We maintain our dedication to being a partner to many in the Black Hills Region as we adapt in creating a dynamic learning environment.

*Laurie S. Nichols*

President, Laurie S. Nichols



*The Peaks Residence Hall Complex*

## BHSU TO CONTINUE ONLINE CLASSES THROUGH THE END OF THE SEMESTER; GRADUATION POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

In coordination with Gov. Kristi Noem's Executive Order, the South Dakota Board of Regents with input from the six state universities announced in March that all South Dakota public universities will continue online teaching through the end of spring semester. BHSU will also offer all [summer classes online](#). In addition, May commencement will be postponed to coincide with the Fall 2020 graduation in December in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

## FACULTY, STUDENTS OVERCOME CHALLENGES OF ONLINE LEARNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The adjustment to transitioning all classes online has been challenging, but the connections among the BHSU community are helping students find a way forward.

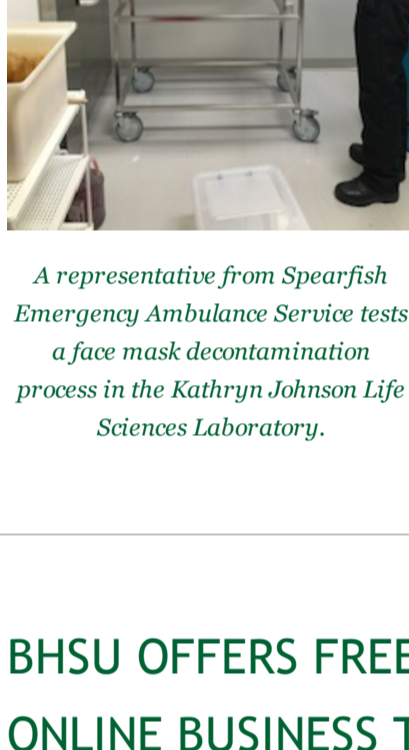
"While our current situation is stressful, I think our faculty help to ground students and get them focused on moving their lives forward," says Dr. Chris Crawford, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at BHSU. "I continue to be amazed at the way that our faculty have taken on the challenge of online delivery in ways that I could have never imagined." [Read more](#)



*Standing Bear*

## BIOLOGY DEGREE, RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROVIDES PATHWAY TO HEALTHCARE FOR STANDING BEAR

Cortez Standing Bear is starting her career in healthcare with a biology degree from BHSU. She honed her work ethic on the basketball court at BHSU and in Pine Ridge where she grew up. Cortez will graduate from BHSU next year and is looking at nursing and physician assistant programs, along with medical schools. [Read more](#)



## BHSU SCIENCE LAB BEING USED TO STERILIZE AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT

A science lab on campus is being utilized to sterilize supplies for the Spearfish Emergency Ambulance Service. With an expected increase in use of facemasks and other equipment as the medical community prepares for the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spearfish Emergency Ambulance Service is proactively testing a process to decontaminate masks using an autoclave in one of the BHSU science labs. [Read more](#)

*A representative from Spearfish Emergency Ambulance Service tests a face mask decontamination process in the Kathryn Johnson Life Sciences Laboratory.*

## BHSU OFFERS FREE ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES ABOUT ONLINE BUSINESS TACTICS

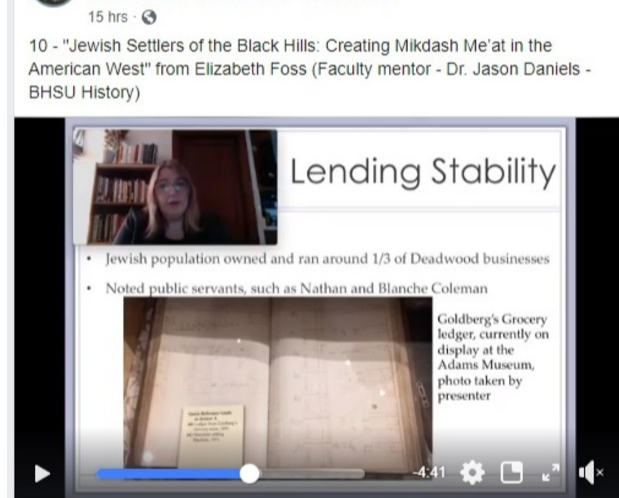
The BHSU School of Business is offering a free online webinar series throughout the month of April for established local businesses who are now relying more heavily on their online presence due to the pandemic. Dr. Max Marc, professor of information systems at BHSU, will chair the 30-minute sessions each Wednesday in April. The format will be interactive, with participants encouraged to ask questions. [Read more](#)



*BHSU-Rapid City will begin offering DSU's associate degree in network and security administration this fall.*

## BHSU-RC, DSU COLLABORATE TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

BHSU and Dakota State University (DSU) are collaborating to offer DSU's associate degree in network and security administration through BHSU at BHSU-Rapid City. The request was approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents at their April 1 meeting. This program helps to meet the growing need for people educated in computer networking, a field which focuses on the intersections between hardware technology and the mapping and exchanging of information. [Read more](#)



*Elizabeth Foss, history major from Broken Bow, Neb., presents her research "Jewish Settlers of the Black Hills: Creating Mikdash Me'at in the American West" during the virtual BH Research Symposium.*

## VIRTUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM A FIRST FOR BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

The 22nd Annual Black Hills Research Symposium at BHSU was held online April 7-9 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A group of motivated faculty moved quickly after CDC recommendations limited large gatherings in mid-March to ensure students would still have the opportunity to share their research. [Read more](#)



*Tom Wheaton (right) director of Alumni Affairs at BHSU, visited the classroom of Leah (Termes) Oxner, BHSU Class of 2013, math teacher at West Middle School in Rapid City, to congratulate her on receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math & Science Teaching.*



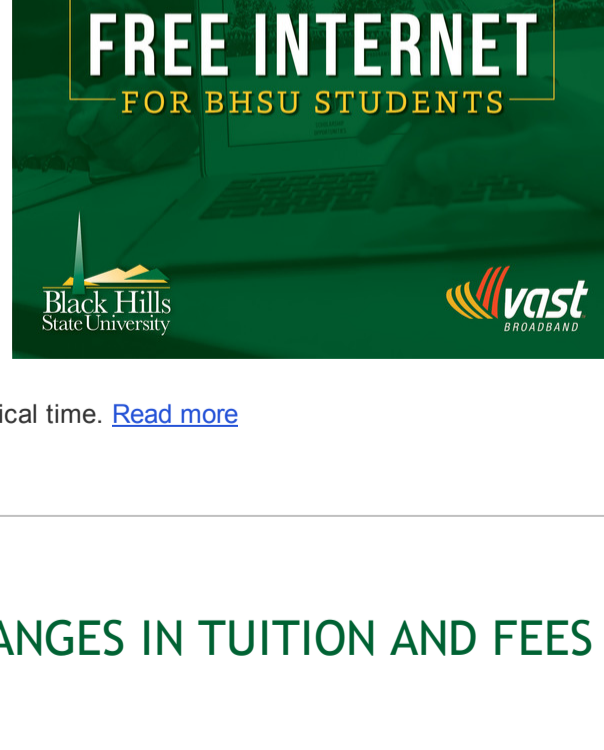
*The BHSU mascot, Sting, made a surprise visit to Newcastle, Wyo., to surprise James Stith, BHSU Class of 2010, for receiving the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Math & Science Teaching. Sting also congratulated Stith's wife, BHSU alum Lexie Barrett-Stith, '16.*

## ALUMS RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

Leah (Termes) Oxner, '13, math teacher at West Middle School in Rapid City, and James Stith, '10, science teacher at Newcastle High School in Newcastle, Wyo., received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). They received a citation signed by President Trump and \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation. [Read more](#)

## BUSINESS PROVIDES FREE INTERNET TO BHSU STUDENTS IN NEED

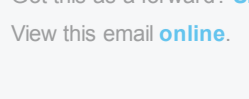
With classes being taught online the rest of the semester, a local internet company is offering broadband services to students at BHSU who do not currently have internet access at home. In a statement from Vast Broadband, company representatives said they value being a part of each of the communities they serve and they want to do all they can to assist those in need during this critical time. [Read more](#)



## REGENTS MAKE NO CHANGES IN TUITION AND FEES FOR COMING YEAR

The South Dakota Board of Regents agreed earlier this month to maintain its existing tuition and mandatory fees for the next academic year. "We are in exceptional times," said Board President Kevin V. Schieffer, acknowledging difficult budget decisions in the coming months amid changing state revenues and the unknowns about federal stimulus dollars. [Read more](#)

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