

**White Paper: Focus Areas for Collaboration between North Dakota State University and
the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library
January, 2019**

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, spent several years as a rancher in the North Dakota badlands in the 1880s and frequently visited the state until his death in 1919.¹ One hundred years after his passing, the independent, nonprofit Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation is working to build a presidential library near the entrance to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, North Dakota. According to its website, the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (TRPL) “will comprise a museum, convening space, archive, and research center dedicated to one of the most significant figures in U.S. history.”² As the state’s land-grant research institution, North Dakota State University (NDSU) is well-positioned to develop a sustainable partnership with the TRPL. NDSU has the critical mass of infrastructure, intellect, leadership, and experience necessary to initiate and sustain such a partnership. Potential focus areas for collaboration include:

- A. Leadership/statesmanship
- B. Conservationism/stewardship
- C. Technology/infrastructure
- D. Energy/natural resources
- E. Transformational learning

NDSU is already a recognized leader in the areas of transformational learning on and off-campus, conservation, energy, utilization of natural resources, and others. Partnering with the TRPL will provide NDSU with an outlet to showcase our strengths to a national and international audience while celebrating a story that is uniquely North Dakotan.

To assess internal interest in collaborating with the TRPL, a luncheon and World Cafe event was held on January 10, 2019; attendees included faculty, staff, and administrators from throughout NDSU. The World Cafe event asked attendees to consider the following questions related to the proposed partnership; a summary of responses is listed below.

1. What is NDSU already doing that could directly relate to the establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora?

- a. NDSU provides leadership training and research opportunities in communities across the state
- b. NDSU research efforts include a wide range of activities such as non-game species, the Environmental and Conservation Sciences Graduate program, and the Natural Resources Management program focus on environmental issues such as endangered species, restoration ecology, land management, fish and wildlife management. NDSU is the

¹ Theodore Roosevelt in North Dakota, Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University website: www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/TR-Trail/TR-Trail-Pages/Theodore-Roosevelt-in-North-Dakota

² Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library website: www.trpresidentiallibrary.org/library

official host for the state museum and herbarium collections and was the original host site for the National Ecological Observation Network (NEON)

- c. NDSU already delivers and supports information technology across remote sites
- d. NDSU performs geologic mapping, field studies, and soil remediation studies
- e. NDSU leads various educational projects that promote North Dakota history

2. If funding were not an issue, what could your unit add to make the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library successful and sustainable?

- a. Create a Theodore Roosevelt Institute of Leadership and Statesmanship in collaboration with the TRPL
- b. Host a Theodore Roosevelt Center for Conservation to sustainably manage natural resources, outdoor recreation, and learning opportunities
- c. Develop relationships to explore, develop, and implement emerging technologies and trends such as virtual and augmented reality, facial recognition, machine learning and others
- d. Create a national reference for local fauna and flora conservation benchmarking and researching
- e. Establish a think-tank devoted to furthering Theodore Roosevelt's legacy; develop permanent TRPL traveling exhibits and multimedia tools for education

3. Who else from NDSU and beyond would you engage in this opportunity and why?

- a. Office of the Governor and the Legislative Council; Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University; health agencies such as North Dakota Department of Health and University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health; foundations such as the Bush Foundation; and the business community and others
- b. U.S. Department of the Interior, North Dakota Fish and Game, local hunting associations; Audubon Society, River Keepers, North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, North Dakota Game and Fish Department; U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Station; various National Wildlife Refuges and others
- c. Microsoft, Google, North Dakota Department of Public Service, North Dakota Department of Tourism and others
- d. U.S. Department of Energy, North Dakota Industrial Commission, North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy, the private energy sector and others
- e. NDSU Extension, North Dakota State Historical Society, state arts and humanities entities, University of Florida Panama and Canal Digital collection, and others

Further information about building the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library is available on the TRPL website: www.trpresidentiallibrary.org.