



North Dakota State University

October 02, 2008

President Joseph A. Chapman

State of the University Address

We are - all of us - North Dakota State University.

We are part of a tradition of high quality education, cutting edge research and meaningful service to the people of North Dakota, the nation and the world.

Every one of you is an important contributor to the past, present and future of NDSU. You are making a difference. You are making North Dakota State University a place of impact.

Ten years ago, North Dakota leaders charged higher education to improve the economy of the state and equipped us with the flexibility to make significant progress. In response, we looked at the strong tradition of excellence at this institution and asked ourselves, where do we want to go? What could we do to further contribute to the economy and population of North Dakota?

The outpouring of energy and commitment was tremendous. Every one of you - students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends - contributed your considerable talent, creativity and tenacity to transform NDSU into a major national research university. Our progress has been remarkable. Truly, NDSU is crucial to North Dakota's future.

To all of you who believed in progress for the future of our families and our state, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge the members of the North Dakota Legislature, the Executive Branch and the State Board of Higher Education who granted us flexibility with accountability.

It was the vision and support of these leaders, via the Higher Education Roundtable, to employ higher education as an economic engine, and that makes life better for all of us.

The Roundtable plan was developed in the year 2000 by 61 North Dakotans, including legislators and private sector leaders. The clear mission for higher education from this group is this: Enhance the economic vitality of North Dakota through a high quality, entrepreneurial and accountable system. The

Roundtable makes us uniquely well positioned to earn success at our institution. Our pursuits to better serve our students dovetail nicely with the needs of our state.

To the visionary leaders who saw the potential for higher education to contribute, and who crafted this effective model, I say thank you. We are energized by the great potential this model allows.

I also want to offer my sincere thanks to our congressional delegation. They have been instrumental in bringing a tremendous amount of opportunity to NDSU and to North Dakota. Our research enterprise, in particular, has benefitted from their vision and their efforts. They have seen the potential and have faith in the talent and creativity here, and we appreciate their trust.

Our partners in the cities of Fargo and West Fargo should also be credited with supporting our progress. These cities have been with us throughout our entire transition, and we appreciate their being partners in our growth. The cities and towns that are home to our Research Extension Centers and our county extension offices are equally supportive and appreciated.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of the Development Foundation and Alumni Association, and our Teammakers, who foster the generous philanthropy so critical to our success. To our donors, who made our recent capital campaign a great success: You have made great things possible, and we are all thankful for your vision and commitment.

To faculty and staff. You are extremely talented, hard working people who have made things happen in the past 10 years. I continue to be impressed by how enthusiastically you met the challenge to move NDSU to another level. Faculty put in the effort to create new programs; staff have worked hard to meet the needs of a growing student body. Facilities Management has transformed the look of NDSU. In all ways, you are making a difference.

To our students, I offer an extra note of appreciation. I have been part of other universities, and nowhere else have the students been as engaged and proactive as the students of NDSU. We would not be where we are today without your commitment. Our students support us financially, and have demonstrated their commitment on numerous occasions with the state board and the legislature. Our students also are investing in solutions for classroom technology. They want - and rightfully expect - a very high caliber education and they are willing to invest their time, energy and resources.

The students and staff of NDSU Athletics have done a tremendous job of representing us around the country. Our student-athletes are successful in competition and in the classroom, and they are excellent ambassadors for this institution.

All of our students, in all activities, help us be more widely known and respected.

You are all making a difference. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends, leaders, communities. No president has ever had more supportive or committed groups to work with and I am deeply appreciative of all of you.

It is a great privilege to stand before you today for my 10th State of the University. Each year we use this time to review progress and set goals. As president, I have not only the opportunity, but also the responsibility, to view the institution as a whole, and this 10th year offers an opportune time to reflect more broadly than usual.

We are part of a long and proud heritage as a Land Grant institution. The original Land Grant act was passed by Congress in 1862 as a means of preparing the country for participation in the industrial revolution.

It is important for us to remember the Land Grant system was created to prepare people for change.

The enduring quality of the legislation lies in that thought. Preparing people for change. Responding to the needs of society. What we at NDSU are pursuing today - preparing students for and assisting business with the global marketplace - is the 21st century version of the land grant ideal. It is our tradition to move forward and to change as our society changes, to evolve in response to public needs.

In the past decade, we built the base for the next decade.

Our first goal was to increase our enrollment. We did that. We said we wanted to develop new doctoral programs, and now we have broadened the number of PhDs we offer, and grown to be among the largest doctoral degree granting institutions in the region.

We said NDSU would become a major research university, to offer the substantial economic benefits that activity brings, and we have done that.

We quickly doubled our research effort, and now for five years, the National Science Foundation has reported our research expenditures at more than \$100 million a year.

We wanted to help launch businesses, to help create good jobs so more people could enjoy life in North Dakota. We are doing all of that. The value of this to our students and our state cannot be exaggerated.

We needed to grow in enrollment, programs and in our research enterprise to position our state for the future. Magical things can happen at a certain threshold, and so we concentrated on numbers.

Here's one example of how NDSU has been able to positively benefit the state: The economic impact to North Dakota of just our growth in the past 10 years is nearly a billion dollars.

Our state needed an economic boost, and we delivered. NDSU is crucial to the state's future.

We have been well served by five themes:

It's About People

Students are Paramount

Programs

Leveraging Support

and Stature

Today, I propose adding three qualitative principles to guide us as we elevate our institution. We will measure all that we do against our commitment to be:

Inclusive

Responsive

and Excellent

Our students will not be fully prepared for a diverse, global work world if they are not part of an inclusive university environment. We must diversify our faculty, staff and student body, as this is absolutely the right thing to do for all of us.

UNESCO is correct in saying that cultural diversity is, and I quote "as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature." These are the aims of education and we must be leaders on this important issue.

To illustrate how real this need is, some companies only recruit at universities that have made this commitment to diversity.

We have taken a number of steps to ingrain inclusiveness into our culture, but there are specific areas that need attention.

I recently established a Division of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach. Among numerous other initiatives, this office will lead the efforts to establish a Diversity Center.

We will further facilitate inclusion through a President's Council on Global Outreach. NDSU must be a player in the global, knowledge driven economy. By building true partnerships around the world, we can further expand our research, enhance our educational offerings, and help further expand the economy of North Dakota.

North Dakota led the nation in growth of exports last year, with global sales of more than \$2 billion. Further evidence of the globalization of business comes from our own Research and Technology Park. Each of the 17 businesses in the park has global clients. We cannot afford to miss the opportunities the world provides for our students.

To foster greater global interaction among our students and faculty, the North Dakota Trade Office will locate in our Barry Hall.

Barry Hall will be home to the College of Business and the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, and also will be the site of our Center for Global Initiatives and Leadership, which will provide a broad range of interdisciplinary programming to educate students on matters of global importance, and prepare them for global leadership.

To further advance the opportunities for NDSU students and business in North Dakota, in the past year I visited and signed meaningful partnership agreements in India, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Uganda. We signed agreements with visitors from China, and others traveled to universities in Australia, South America and Europe.

A true spirit of partnership is our strength, and we bring this approach to our work in North Dakota. Some of our recent outreach includes trips to the tribal colleges this summer. Our students can benefit from the expertise of tribal college faculty members.

We need to do more to serve and partner with Native American students, and so we will enhance our Native American programming.

We are reaching out to students around the United States, too. This summer we hosted a highly successful program to bring students from Mississippi Valley State University to NDSU to do research internships. Plans are to offer this program next summer and to include Tribal College students, Latino students and other underrepresented groups.

In a broader sense, in our role as educators, we want to make a commitment to the people of our community that everyone who wants access to education can find what they need. This means we will continue to develop partnerships such as the Pathway Program with the North Dakota State College of Science, which allows students to be enrolled at both institutions.

Responsiveness is our reminder to remain vigilant to our Land Grant mandate, to be aware of future educational needs and to be prepared to meet them.

We are taking an innovative approach to partnerships with private sector companies. There are many examples at the Research and Technology Park. On Monday, we broke ground for a new building at the park for Appareo Systems, which will incorporate a major research and instructional lab for NDSU's materials and nanotechnology interdisciplinary program. Appareo got its start at our Technology Incubator, developing portable consumer electronics combined with 3D graphics.

Also at the research park, in partnership with Valley City State University, we will be launching an initiative to provide an online virtual incubator to rural entrepreneurs. This training opportunity is groundbreaking for entrepreneurs who haven't had access to this type of support to assist their growing businesses.

Collaborators from our Research and Technology Park are assisting local businesses in creating their own Research and Development divisions. The Technology Incubator will provide assistance to more than 100 technology-based businesses during the next 10 years. Many of these new ventures will build and develop their companies within the Research Park's Technology Incubator.

Our participation in the Red River Valley Research Corridor is another example of partnerships that allows us to further expand our research portfolio. Just weeks ago, we announced three new, high-tech projects in which NDSU is partnering with two of the nation's federal research laboratories.

The North Dakota Economic Development Centers of Excellence Program is expanding the opportunities we can provide for our students and for our state. These centers are designed to partner with the private sector to conduct market-driven research, thereby creating technology transfer and new business opportunities.

Our Tri College University partnership, with Minnesota State University Moorhead and Concordia College, has provided unique educational opportunities for our students for nearly four decades.

Continuing this tradition of partnerships with our colleagues in the North Dakota University System, we now have programs with every institution, and are seeking avenues for further collaboration.

Our College of Engineering and NDSU Extension Service are collaborating to bring engineering expertise to western North Dakota. Specialists will be located at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot and the Dickinson Research Extension Center.

Excellence has always been deeply ingrained in the institutional values of North Dakota State University, and we honor the dedicated people who gave their talents and hearts to this institution for so many years.

We must be prepared for the students who will choose NDSU in the future. This year our freshman class was 23 percent larger than the year before, and we are planning carefully for more students to choose NDSU.

The caliber of our students remains very high. For example, this year we are proud to have 23 National Merit Scholars, and nearly 600 Presidential Scholars in our student body.

We have not and will not allow growth to overtake quality. We are committed to maintaining our student to faculty ratio and our core value of giving students the opportunities to interact directly with faculty. We are carefully planning to enhance the student experience, with projects such as an Advising Center. We further encourage our students to participate in organizations, internships and other enhancements to complement a total learning experience.

University faculty are, by nature, seekers of excellence, pursuers of ever better ways to enhance learning. For example, many from our faculty and staff created their own collaborative technology think tank to share and advance ideas about using technology for teaching and learning.

This kind of energy and creativity is a prime example of the innovative culture we need to foster.

Our technology capabilities continue to expand. For example, we expect to have network connections that will be at least 10 times faster than current data transfer speeds to more than 950 faculty offices and laboratories.

Student safety is a priority at our institution. The President's Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs is working to address the important issues of alcohol and drug misuse, and has involved institutional and

community stakeholders in drafting a strategic plan. The mission, vision and goals of this council are far reaching and will touch every aspect of the university community.

In the wake of terrible tragedies at Virginia Tech and the many universities affected by Hurricane Katrina, our security and police staff conducted a number of training exercises during the summer to prepare for occurrences we hope never to face. We have implemented several methods of notifying students in the event of an emergency.

As our campus grows, student services will be expanded to meet needs. More bus services will be operating. Barry Hall will be home to a second location of Bison Connection, a bookstore, a coffee shop, and we will have on site security 24-7.

It is our responsibility to further the excellence of this institution. The people of NDSU are our greatest strength, the reason to be optimistic about continuing our transformational journey.

As part of this transformation, we will hire and promote more women on our faculty. The National Science Foundation recently awarded us a multimillion dollar grant, called Advance Forward, to address and study issues of recruitment and retention of women faculty within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

We intend to fund efforts to address similar issues in other academic areas as well, including women's studies. It is critically important to have women faculty in key roles.

We also need to reward the good work of our faculty and staff. They give us the ability to respond to the needs of our state, our business partners and global community. We must continue to recruit and retain very high quality people.

We have made some important changes to meet the needs of our faculty and staff, such as expanding child care services, and will continue to pursue ways to improve the quality of life for all.

To recognize the accomplishments of our faculty, we established the University Distinguished Professorship. These professors have at least 10 years at NDSU of outstanding instruction, research, service and reputation within their disciplines. This is the highest honor we have to celebrate our outstanding faculty. This year's University Distinguished Professors, please stand as Provost Schnell presents you with your honor.

Dr. Jo Ann Miller, University Distinguished Professor of Music and

Dr. Larry Reynolds, University Distinguished Professor of Animal Science

Please join me in recognizing the remarkable contributions of these two distinguished faculty members.

And now please join me in recognizing all of our Distinguished Professors. Professors, please stand and be recognized.

Congratulations.

With commitments to inclusiveness, responsiveness and excellence as our guide, we will meet with business leaders to learn what more they need from us. This is a natural progression of our efforts to bring businesses to our state and educate people to work in those businesses.

I plan to again visit all of our departments to learn from faculty and staff about their aspirations for the future. Past visits were extremely productive.

I will continue to involve students in decisions that affect them, by continuing regular meetings with student government leaders, and inviting students to talk with me about their experiences.

As a top Research University, we will further raise the caliber of our research enterprise. We will be among the top 15 computer centers in the world with computing power approaching 100 teraflops.

We will continue to be one of the leading agricultural research programs in the world.

We have ambitious plans for advancement in the arts, humanities and STEM educational programs.

We will become one of the top 100 universities in the number of National Merit Scholars we enroll, a clear indicator that we maintain a very high academic standard.

People are drawn to success. People are drawn to be part of something meaningful. You are our greatest asset and the enduring contribution of North Dakota State University. You are carrying forward the best traditions of the best Land Grant Institutions.

Imagine the impact, when an institution of higher education becomes an instrument of growth.

Where exploration leads to answers.

Where resources, teamwork and tenacity combine to open new frontiers.

NDSU is a place of impact.