It is an honor and privilege to serve as the President of the State Board of Higher Education for the coming year. I am humbled by this opportunity and am keenly aware that my success rests on the shoulders of those who helped pave the way. I would like to publicly thank former Board Chair Duaine Espegard, who has been a valuable colleague during this period of transition. It is also important that we acknowledge the Governor’s office for its willingness to work closely with the Board.

I know our Board members are devoted to the mission of the North Dakota University System, which is to enhance the lives of all of our citizens by providing quality and affordable educational opportunities. I thank them for their dedication, and I look forward to working together toward that end. Each of them brings diverse skills to the table, such as legal expertise; education and legislative experience; knowledge of...
Growth doesn’t happen without some growing pains. — Diederich, SBHE President

We must provide high-caliber education while maintaining affordability.

Growth doesn’t happen without some growing pains. Higher education is not the only area where this has been evident as North Dakota adjusts to its changing landscape. But these growing pains don’t define us and will not deter us from our purpose. To move forward, we, as a Board will need to be visionary and bold leaders. I believe we can do that.

It is my goal, and I believe the goal for each board member, to be a “servant leader.” My primary focus during my tenure is to secure the trust of our constituents and maintain cooperation. In a democratic culture where people choose to follow rather than be forced, trust is a necessary and high-stakes value. We welcome constructive input and are committed to listening. We will be seeking every opportunity to hear from the public, legislature, system staff, our institutions, and constituencies.

We must provide high-caliber education while maintaining affordability. These two principles are not mutually exclusive. Thus, to ensure quality education, the Board has made the commitment to continue this journey as defined in the Pathways to Student Success Model. This foundation will serve us well as we work together to build strategies that will complete the picture.

I am committed to operating under the state’s “sunshine” laws concerning open meetings and plan to put procedures in place that will reinforce our responsibility to be transparent. In that spirit, I share the following summary of what’s been
North Dakota has the highest completion rate at two-year colleges in the country. Seventy-four percent of students who start at a North Dakota community college successfully transfer and complete their four-year degree.

Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

### Did You Know?

**Transfer and completion rates for students starting at 2-yr colleges**

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### Happening at NDUS since the Board last met:

- Acting NDUS Chancellor Larry C. Skogen has been providing leadership to the system office staff as they manage the organization and serve the needs of the institutions. Michel Hillman, Ph.D., has been named Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and will serve until a search has been completed to fill that position.
- We are calling a special meeting for Wednesday, July 31, at 1 p.m. in the National Energy Center for Excellence’s Energy Generation Conference Room on the Bismarck State College campus. At this meeting our consultant from the Association of Community College Trustees will present candidates for the Interim Chancellor position. I am optimistic that we will be able to make an appointment in August.

Let me share some things that are on my mind that I will bring up for discussion:

- Dr. David Fuller, president of Minot State, last year announced his intention to retire in 2014. It is our responsibility to have new leadership in place at the end of the academic year, so we will need to launch a search process.
- High-performing boards practice self-assessment and Board development. I will be investigating opportunities for us to ensure we are performing at our very best. I will present them to the Board and welcome input. Several of the things high-performing Boards do: (1) they are committed to the mission, (2) see the value in educational opportunities, and (3) continuously demonstrate important traits like discipline and transparency.

You have my commitment to work together with all Board members as we focus on enhancing the quality of life for North Dakota citizens through education. I look forward to the challenge and am optimistic about what the future holds for our students and our state.

Kirsten Bakke Diederich, Ph.D.
SBHE President
SBHE VP Hjelmstad Participates in Boss-Lift

The North Dakota Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), recently flew 10 local employers on a Boss-Lift to tour the Camp Grafton Training Center (CGTC), Devils Lake, including Dr. Terry Hjelmstad, vice president of the State Board of Higher Education.

The employers boarded a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, supported by the 1-112th Aviation Security & Support Battalion, for a day of tours, familiarization training, and briefings. Employers observed Guard soldiers participating in their annual training. This interaction provided a better understanding of what citizen soldiers do when they are away from their civilian occupation, as well as the type and quality of training and leadership activities their employees receive while in military. Employers were also briefed on the current mission of the National Guard and the critical role it performs in defense of our nation.

ESGR gains and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service members by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation. Employer Outreach is a key function of ESGR’s mission. Each year local level events are hosted by ESGR State Committees, including briefings with the boss, Boss-Lifts, Statement of Support (SoS) signings, trade shows, educational events, job fairs, and awards presentations.

"The Boss-Lift is our way of publicly recognizing individual civilian employers who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees", said Scott Staudinger, the Bismarck ESGR volunteer who helped coordinate the Boss-Lift. "These individual organizations, who like the citizen soldiers they employ, have answered their nation's call to serve by going above-and-beyond what is required of an employer. These employers allow their employees to answer this Nation's call-to-duty with no apprehension or regret."
Bismarck State College

BSC launches 1,089 graduates, honors Ron Harper at Commencement - BSC awarded diplomas to 1,089 graduates on May 10. At the ceremony, BSC’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, was presented to former Basin Electric CEO Ron Harper in appreciation of his influence in helping BSC become a national leader in energy education.

Partnership with Hess Corporation highlighted - A BSC and Hess Corporation job shadowing partnership was recently publicized internally at Hess. The article highlighted two BSC students, Kim Reiss and Kelcie Beckman, working with Hess putting their college studies to practical use in the Bakken. Both women are completing degrees in Petroleum Production Technology.

Free writing workshops offered - In conjunction with the ND Humanities Council and the ND Council on the Arts, BSC is sponsoring workshops for writers this summer. Led by BSC English faculty, the workshops are free and open to anyone 18 and older interested in writing.

Dakota College at Bottineau

A group of five students representing DCB’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) Club, a career and technical student organization, traveled to Orlando on May 7-12 to compete at their national conference. Derek Jacobs from Bottineau received the following national awards: 1st place – Fundamentals of Web Design and PC Servicing and Troubleshooting, 2nd place – Information Technology Concepts, 3rd place – Microsoft Office Excel Certification.

This spring, DCB dedicated a day to consultations between faculty advisors and their student advisees. They met to discuss class schedules and choices, academic progress, progress toward graduation, and future plans. In addition, group sessions were held on topics such as financial aid, articulation of credits, honors program, etc. Evaluations by faculty and staff of advising day activities were very favorable. As a result, the college has built an advising day into fall and spring semester for AY 2013-2014.

Mr. Wayne Johnson, a coach and instructor at DCB with 44 years of experience as an educator, was honored on May 6 by the Bottineau Chamber of Commerce with their Distinguished Service Award. Wayne was chosen for this prestigious award for his outstanding commitment, loyalty, and dedication to his students and his community.

Dickinson State University

Legislative Assembly awards funding for creation of TR Library - On April 30, both chambers of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly passed the Department of Commerce appropriations bill. Included in this bill are sections appropriating $6 million to DSU to award a grant to the Theodore Roosevelt Center for construction of a building to be named the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. To access these funds, the Center must first raise $3 million from non-state sources.

DSU holds 93rd spring Commencement - The 93rd spring Commencement ceremony at DSU took place Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. in Scott Gymnasium. The university expected to graduate 246 students from 18 states and 11 countries during this year’s spring ceremony.

Students Pierce Brooks and Jordan Mork were selected as this year’s student speakers to give the commencement address.

Bismarck-Mandan Chamber votes Voutsas Outstanding Teacher of the Year - The Business Education Partnership Committee of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce named Kostas Voutsas as the 2013 Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Higher Education. Voutsas is an author, corporate trainer and motivational speaker.

In 2003, Voutsas began teaching at DSU as an assistant professor of business. Four years ago, he began teaching at the DSU extended campus at BSC.

Lake Region State College

LRSC’s Fitness Trainer Technician program received initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. A peer review conducted by the
Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (CoAES) and CAAHEP’s Board recognizes the program’s substantial compliance with national accreditation standards. LRSC is the only U.S. community college with an accredited Fitness Trainer program offered entirely online.

In a move that will boost the region’s global leadership in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), UND and LRSC signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that joins the two schools’ efforts in UAS education and training. This agreement underscores the broader cooperation across multiple disciplines at both institutions.

The North Dakota Space Grant Consortium has awarded Shaun Prince a summer faculty fellowship to work with the new Precision Agriculture Program at LRSC. The Precision Agriculture Program at LRSC focuses its efforts on this growing sector of the agricultural industry. Prince will be working towards building an educational textbook for the precision ag program.

Lloyd Halvorson has been named Vice President of Academic Affairs at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, ND. Halvorson has been with Lake Region State College since 2002. From 2011 to the present, he served as Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at LRSC. He also served as an assistant professor and director of the Peace Officer Training program at the college from 2002 to 2011.

Mayville State University

MaSU junior Patricia Lopez will serve as president of the Student North Dakota Education Association (SNDEA) in 2013-14. In this role, she will attend the National Education Association (NEA) conference in Atlanta, Ga. Senior Emma Grant is publications director for the SNDEA.

The MaSU Comets baseball team competed in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament in Joliet, Ill. this spring. Head Coach Scott Berry was named the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) - Frontier Conference Coach of the Year. Johnny Pistulka was named the A.I.I. - Frontier Conference Player of the Year. In addition, Pistulka, Zachary Mihic, Victor Sokolfsky, Duell Higbe, and Kurtis McCallum earned all-conference first team honors. Pituliska, Mihic, Dillon Lundin, and Spencer Kidder were Gold Glove Award winners. Sam Thielen and Brandon Weber were named 2013 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

MaSU is a member of the recently approved North Star Athletics Association (NSAA) of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The NSAA will be recognized as an affiliated conference starting this fall. Cory Anderson has been hired as commissioner for the new conference.

Minot State University

MISU commencement celebrates present and future - On May 10, Minot State University honored its 99th graduating class, and officially kicked off a yearlong Centennial Celebration. More than 760 undergraduate and graduate students were eligible to cross the stage during commencement exercises. Guest speakers Sen. Karen Krebsbach and student Anthony Anderson addressed Vision 2013 Strategy VII: “Ensuring Future Institutional Viability, Vitality and Growth.”

MISU-BSC honors graduates - Graduates of the MISU-Bismarck site celebrated commencement May 16 at Bismarck’s Radisson Hotel. The inaugural reception in 2009 celebrated the achievements of 29 graduates; this year, that number has grown to 46 graduates. Melissa Spelchen, MSU criminal justice instructor, served as the mistress of ceremonies.

Staff Senate and students raise funds for DVCC - MiSU Staff Senate and a student group in the College of Business’ leadership development initiative raised funds for Minot’s Domestic Violence Crisis Center in April. The two entities designated their financial contributions to furnish an apartment in DVCC’s new transitional living apartments.

MiSU Staff Senate spearheaded a silent auction April 8-12. On May 13, MiSU Staff Senate members presented a $1,688 check to DVCC.

North Dakota State College of Science

The North Dakota State College of Science awarded degrees, diplomas and certificates to 693 Wahpeton, Fargo and online graduates this year from 21 states and two international countries. Commencement took place on Friday, May 10 in the Ed Were Arena located in the Clair T. Blikre Activities Center.

North Dakota State College of Science John Deere Tech students competed this spring at the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) conference for Agricultural Machinery Service Technicians in Louisville, Ky. Four NDSCS teams comprised of two students each participated, winning second, third, fifth and eighth places, respectively.

NDSCS students won a number of awards at the 40th Annual North Dakota SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference, which was held by NDSCS on the Wahpeton campus earlier this spring. NDSCS competed against area colleges to take gold in 14 different categories with 38 students placing in the top three.
North Dakota State University

Stuart Haring, assistant professor in biochemistry, and Robert Brueggeman, assistant professor in plant pathology, will each receive five-year Faculty Early Career Development awards from the National Science Foundation. The awards will bring a combined $1.6 million to biochemistry and plant pathology research programs at NDSU and provide additional research opportunities for students.

CoBank has contributed $250,000 to NDSU through the next five years. Of that amount, $160,000 will go to the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives with remaining funds supporting the commodity trading laboratory. CoBank is a cooperative bank serving agribusiness, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit System associations throughout the U.S.

Students in NDSU’s Army ROTC program won the title of Best Battalion in the 2013 Ranger Buddy Competition in Lawrence, Kan. A total of 39 universities from 14 states brought 183 teams to the annual competition that challenges participants mentally and physically.

University of North Dakota

University of North Dakota Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo appointed Dr. Debbie Storrs as the Dean of UND’s College of Arts & Sciences. Storrs had been Associate Dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and professor of sociology at the University of Idaho.

The University of North Dakota and other partners – including Northrup Grumman, the Grand Forks Base Realignment Impact Committee (BRIC), UND Aerospace Foundation (UNDAF) and Northland Aerospace Foundation -- signed a historic strategic alliance agreement that will help create what U.S. Sen. John Hoeven describes as “the premiere hub for Unmanned Aircraft Systems."

University of North Dakota alumna Karen Nyberg, who received a degree in mechanical engineering from UND, launched into space May 28 from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, aboard the Soyuz TMA-09M spacecraft for a six-month mission with the International Space Station. Nyberg is slated to give the UND Summer Commencement address from the International Space Station.

Williston State College

WSC students, faculty, and staff recently returned from a 10-day trip to Japan. The WSC representatives spent their time at Kokusai Junior College, WSC’s sister school, where they participated in an English Camp teaching conversational English to Kokusai students.

The Apartment building project is just days away from completion, the Front Drive project is just beginning, and the Stevens Hall renovation project is planned for this fall. These projects, once completed, will provide a new look and more amenities for our campus community and community of Williston.

Two new concentrations have been added under the Business Management Associate degree: corporate fitness and recreation management. These additions are in part related to the current development of the Williston Area Recreation Center on WSC’s campus that is scheduled to be finished in the spring of 2014.