

## **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education Retreat**

Bismarck State College, Advanced Technology Building, Room 301,  
1220 Schafer Street, Bismarck ND, 58501

August 14, 2025

**Theme:** *Sharpening our Strategic Focus*

**Facilitated by:** Agency

**Participants:** State Board of Higher Education (Board-led), NDUS Presidents (strategic stakeholders)

### **Morning Session: Sharpening Strategic Focus**

#### **Purpose:**

To clarify who we are becoming as a system, identify what matters most, define how success will be measured, and align on how we will manage system-level tensions — so the SBHE can govern with clarity and confidence.

#### **8:30 – 8:45 Welcome & Framing the Day**

- Welcome and remarks from Board Chair
- Welcome and remarks from Chancellor
- Facilitator overview
- Outcomes and Expectations

#### **8:45 – 9:30 What Are We Becoming as a System?**

- Explore: *What kind of impact should NDUS have on North Dakota in the next 5–10 years?*
- Clarify the evolving strategic identity and role of the system

#### **9:30 – 10:15 What Should We Care About as a Board?**

#### **10:15 – 10:30 Break**

#### **10:30 – 11:00 What Should We Measure?**

#### **11:00 – 12:00 How Will We Manage Strategic Tensions?**

#### **12:00 – 12:30 Governor Armstrong Remarks**

#### **12:30 – 1:00 Lunch**

The North Dakota University System is governed by the State Board of Higher Education and includes:

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Dickinson State University • Lake Region State College • Mayville State University • Minot State University • North Dakota State College of Science • North Dakota State University • University of North Dakota • Valley City State University • Williston State College

## **Afternoon Session: Applying the Lens**

### **Purpose:**

To apply the strategic clarity from the morning to urgent system issues. The goal is to provide directional guidance, not full resolution, with a default expectation of assigning follow-up to committees for development and implementation.

1:00 – 1:15    **Framing the Afternoon**

1:15 – 3:45    **Structured Format for Each Topic**

1. Brief context by Chancellor or COO
2. Board's current position, starting thesis, or directional framing by Board leadership
3. Board-level discussion (Presidents offer context and insight)
4. Clarify guidance
5. Assign to relevant committee with direction

### **Topics**

1. **Institutional Guidance for Strategic Positioning: Relevance, Impact, and Growth (Governance)**
2. **Resource Sharing Between Institutions (Governance)**
3. **Tenure: Post-Tenure Review & 2-Year Institution Approach (Academic Affairs)**
4. **Reduced Credit Bachelor's Degrees (Academic Affairs)**
5. **Expansion of Dual Credit Offerings (Academic Affairs)**

3:45 – 4:00    **SB 2003 & SB 2242 Update (Budget and Finance)**

- Chancellor report on Action Plan for SB 2003 & SB 2242

4:00 – 4:30    **Closing Reflections**

- Chancellor remarks
- Board Chair remarks