Board approves comprehensive Pathways to Student Success Plan

At its regular meeting on Sept. 26, the State Board of Higher Education approved a comprehensive plan that is designed to build a strong foundation for high-quality education for North Dakota students. In a unanimous vote, the Board approved the North Dakota University System “Pathways to Student Success Plan,” which will be implemented in a graduated process during the next few years.

“We are extremely pleased with the plan the Chancellor developed and with the rigorous and inclusive vetting process that he and his staff are accomplishing across our campuses and constituencies,” said Duaine Espegard, president of SBHE. “They have created a plan that we believe will raise our university system to the level of distinction our great state deserves.”

Originally introduced under the working title of the “Three-Tier System Access Plan,” the plan is grounded in a mission-driven university system whose 11 institutions work efficiently and transparently to make students’ educational goals their highest priority. The final name, “Pathways to Student Success Plan,” more accurately reflects the focus of the plan, which is to ensure North Dakota students are effectively prepared to be successful during their academic preparation and in their chosen careers.

The plan contains the following components:

**Access.** Establish a set of admission standards that links student readiness with the appropriate institution’s mission and resources.

- Admissions index components primarily will include ACT composite, GPA, core courses completed and ND residency. In addition, successful completion of AP, dual credit, CTE, Fine Arts courses and participation in extracurricular activities are being factored into the admission process.

**Quality.** Create a High School to College Success Report to provide feedback on how students perform at the postsecondary level.

**Affordability.** Expand the present financial aid program to include more need-based aid as well as support for the adult learner population.

**Learning.** Deliver developmental, remedial and dual-credit courses through the community colleges, partnering with the regional and research universities when most appropriate for student success.

- Establish a uniform set of criteria for high-quality education and build a strong foundation for our university system. It is ours to build. I believe in our university system one of the truly great educational systems in the nation,” said Ham Shirvani, Chancellor of NDUS. “We are poised to be not just a good university system, but a truly great university system. It is ours to build. I believe in that goal and, working together, we can accomplish it.”

**SBHE approved the plan as the North Dakota University System Strategic Plan and delegated to NDUS Chancellor Shirvani implementation details as well as alignment of policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the plan.**

**Pathways to Student Success Plan**

- Establish a uniform, transparent tuition model across institutions and delivery types and standardize undergraduate tuition waiver practices.

- Move to a per-credit hour tuition model differentiated by program where applicable.

- Increase effectiveness of student academic support.

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The Role of the SBHE
The State Board of Higher Education is the governing board of the North Dakota University System.

Our Vision
Leading the nation in educational attainment through access, innovation and excellence.

Our Mission
The mission of the North Dakota University System is to enhance the quality of life of all those we serve and the economic and social vitality of North Dakota through the discovery, sharing and application of knowledge.

SBHE Update
The SBHE Update is created to increase awareness of the role of the State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System and to ensure the system remains connected to, understood by and accountable to the citizens and needs of the state of North Dakota.

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2011-13 Deficiency Appropriation requests approved

The State Board of Higher Education approved the Chancellor’s recommendations regarding 2011-13 deficiency appropriation requests, which are used to meet obligations for unforeseen events that occurred during the current (2011-13) biennium. They typically address costs associated with catastrophic events such as flooding or building or infrastructure emergencies.

Over the past four biennia, the University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Valley City State University have received deficiency appropriations related to floods, and the ND Forest Service for fire disasters. The requests have been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget.

MiSU’s request is related entirely to the Souris River flood of 2011. The SBHE approved:

- $201,369 for the 10 percent local share of FEMA eligible and FEMA ineligible expenses associated with emergency flood-fighting efforts (e.g. build and remove dikes, enhanced security, staff overtime, equipment, etc.). Total expenses $415,833 – FEMA payments $214,464 = $201,369 (FEMA ineligible $177,540 + $23,839 10% required match)

- $1,646,613 for the 10 percent local share of FEMA eligible projects and FEMA ineligible expenses related to long-term flood restoration costs for buildings and infrastructure.

Total expenses $1,893,343 – FEMA payments $246,730 = $1,646,613 (FEMA ineligible $1,619,199 + $27,414 10% required match)

VCSU requested $505,800 for funds to permanently stabilize the hillside south of McCarthy and the steam plant buildings at VCSU, by installing an earth retention system utilizing a Precast Tieback system. The estimated cost of the project is $605,800 less $100,000 from VCSU capital improvement funds. The estimated cost of alternative solutions range from $576,400 - $935,000.

The North Dakota Forest Service (FS) requests funds to defray CY 2012 emergency wildland fire suppression expenditures, and to delegate authority to the Chancellor to approve the final amount of the request, when available later this year. On September 5, 2012, the Governor declared a statewide rural fire emergency, requiring the FS to assist with additional wildland fires through October 2012. Actual CY2012 shortfall to date is $4,753.35, but could increase an estimated $250,000, as a result of any additional fires through CY2012.

Upcoming SBHE Meetings
November 15........ LRSC
December 20......... Conference Call
January 17........... BSC
Consent agenda items approved

Consent agenda items approved at recent State Board of Higher Education meetings included the following:

**Financial and Facility Consent Agenda**

**NDSU:** Authorization to proceed with a coffee addition to Residence Dining Center at an estimated cost of $350,000, funded from Dining Services local facilities operating funds.

**NDSU:** Authorization to proceed with fundraising $950,000 through the North Dakota 4-H Foundation for renovation of the Western North Dakota 4-H Camp at Washburn, ND and construction of a multi-purpose building at the camp.

**NDSU:** Authorization to include $35,404,356, an increase of $6,304,356 over the currently authorized amount of $29,100,000 for the Sanford Health Athletic Complex (formerly Bison Sports Arena), funded from private funds. Furthermore, authorize NDSU to proceed with a fundraising campaign of $35,404,356 for the project.

**Academic Consent Agenda**

**DSU:** New programs with a Minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a Minor in Soil Science

**DSU:** Institutional Organizational Termination: China Center at Sichuan International Studies University

**UND:** Approval to offer a M.S. in Nutrition to be offered both traditionally and at a distance

**NDSU:** Institutional Organizational Change From: Department of Music To: School of Music

**NDSU:** New Program with a P.C. In Construction Management

**NDSU:** Degrees offered: From: M.S. in Construction Management To: Master of Construction Management

**NDSU:** Degrees offered: Master of Construction Management

**UND:** Institutional Organizational Change From: Department of Information Systems and Business Education To: Department of Information Systems and Business Communication

**UND:** Program Terminations: B.S.Ed in Business Education; B.S. Ed. in Industrial Technology; Minor in Office Administration

**WSC:** Request for program terminations of A.A.S and P.C. in Information Processing

**Personnel Consent Agenda**

**NDSU:** Request to grant an honorary doctorate

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Hjelmstad and Morton named to Centers of Excellence Commission

State Board of Higher Education members Terry Hjelmstad and Don Morton were named to replace Mike Haugen and Richie Smith on the Centers of Excellence Commission. Haugen and Smith no longer serve on the Board.

Working through the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the Centers of Excellence goal is to partner North Dakota campuses with business. The six-member Commission manages the application process, makes funding determinations for projects and oversees the monitoring of the Centers.

Hjelmstad’s term will run until June 30, 2015, and Morton’s term will run until June 30, 2014. Board President Duaine Espegard is the third SBHE member of the Commission. Economic Development Foundation Commission members include Mark Nisbet, Tim Hennessy and Jim Traynor.
Board approves Fee Performance Audit Action Plan

The State Board of Higher Education approved a Fees Performance Audit Action Plan proposed by North Dakota University System Chancellor Ham Shirvani at SBHE’s September 5 meeting in Fargo. The action plan addresses the June State Auditor’s performance audit of fees charged by the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University. Completion of the plan is expected by Dec. 31, 2013.

“The Fees Performance Audit Action Plan was well received and is consistent with the Board’s expectation for increased accountability and transparency,” says Duaine Espegard, president of SBHE.

The action plan expedites a thorough analysis of all non-mandatory fees and dovetails with NDUS’ comprehensive draft Three-Tier Access Plan, which also was presented for Board review and discussion at the meeting. The proposed Access Plan includes the development of a new tuition-rate structure and will determine the appropriate fees to merge with tuition.

“We will make sure that all fees are spent appropriately and that balances are applied to benefit students, including underwriting fees,” says Shirvani.

The plan puts accounting controls in place to ensure revenues and expenditures can be separately tracked for all remaining stand-alone fees. It also will review all current accumulated fee balances as of June 5, 2012 (audit report date) to ensure proper use of fee balances in support of unique purposes of initial fee assessment. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, all accumulating fee balances in excess of a defined appropriate reserve threshold (to be determined) would be used to offset future rates.

Final agreement signed retiring Fighting Sioux imagery

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem on behalf of the State of North Dakota today signed a final agreement with the National Collegiate Athletic Association that will officially return the University of North Dakota to full compliance with NCAA policies. The agreement specifies details of items that may remain in the Ralph Engelstad Arena and the adjacent Betty Englestad Sioux Center at UND and those that must be removed.

“We truly appreciate Attorney General Stenehjem’s efforts and would like to thank him for his diligence in bringing this issue to a collaborative conclusion that allows us to move forward in a positive way,” said Duaine Espegard, president of the State Board of Higher Education.

The agreement states that the items currently located at the Engelstad Arena and Center may remain indefinitely, except for the carpet, which must be replaced and the end of its useful life, and the outside “Home of the Fighting Sioux” signage, which must be replaced as soon as practicable.

In addition, a commemorative wall depicting the history of the Sioux Nation and its contribution to UND and the State of North Dakota will be established in the facility with no concerns about violating NCAA policies. The Sioux Nation will be consulted in developing the commemorative wall.

“We would also like to give credit and thanks to our past Board President Grant Shaft and the entire State Board of Higher Education for leading us through the many challenges we faced regarding this issue,” said Ham Shirvani, chancellor of the North Dakota University System. “We are pleased to bring this matter to closure.”
Mobile access for CampusConnection

North Dakota campuses opened their doors this fall to a record number of smartphone and mobile device users. Those users want to connect their devices to university system services - from students who want to check their grades to employees who want to check their pay stubs.

In response to this exploding trend, ConnectND systems are now being delivered to mobile devices at https://m.cnd.ndus.edu. In addition, a generic app for ConnectND is available free from iTunes. This same app is currently provided as an icon in UND’s mobile app and will soon be available in NDSCS’s mobile app as well.

Through this link, students can use their iPhones, iPads, Androids, and most other mobile devices to view their class schedule, exam schedule (where it is used), and grades. The secure, easy-to-use interface also provides advisor information, waitlist status, and student calendars. On the financial front, students will be able to check their school bills, the status of their financial aid, and account activity. In the future, students will even be able to register for classes through their mobile device.

Instructors too can use their smartphones to check teaching schedules, exam schedules, class rosters, grade rosters, and view a list of their advisees.

Employees can use their mobile devices to keep track of paycheck and direct deposit information, vacation and sick leave, benefits, the holiday calendar, and personal contact information. Employees can log in via their employing institution and use their NDUS user ID and password, the same ones used for employee self-service in HRMS.

Currently, most features are “view only,” but enhancements are already being planned for the mobile environment.

Lecture Capture Technology getting heavy use

Students and faculty across the North Dakota University System are steadily adopting Tegrity, the lecture and content capture technology rolled out last summer as part of the Maximizing Results through Efficiencies initiative of the State Board of Higher Education. During the last week of September alone, more than 8,100 recordings were viewed while an additional 550 new recordings were created.

The Tegrity system is commonly referred to as a lecture and content capture technology because it digitally records, stores, and plays back audio, video and content from classroom lectures or presentations.

The North Dakota University System rolled out the service ahead of the Fall 2012 semester. The rollout included orientation and training programs that were delivered by Advanced Learning Technologies of the ND University System. Components of the training include implementation planning, product usage, and product support.

The review and selection process involving all institutions was driven by the State Board of Higher Education’s focus on Maximizing Results through Efficiencies. Prior to the adoption of a common service, usage of lecture capture technologies across the institutions was inconsistent and some institutions did not have any access to lecture capture technology.

Today, that has changed. All institutions have access to this System supported service and as of October 1, every institution is actively using the technology on a regular basis.
In the spirit of the Roundtable on Higher Education, North Dakota University System colleges and universities share the following examples of their contributions to the economic growth, educational excellence and social vitality of North Dakota.

Bismarck State College

• BSC along with WSC and the three tribal colleges, received $14,642,938 to deliver training and assistance to Trade Adjustment Assistance-impacted workers to improve their opportunities for the many high-paying, high-skill jobs available in western ND. The grant is part of $500 million in grants to community colleges and universities around the country for the development and expansion of innovative training programs.

• As part of a $2.5 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy, BSC has developed the fourth and final course in a series on the smart grid. “Impact of the Smart Grid,” will provide a comprehensive understanding of the business impacts that affect decision making on the implementation, governing and operation of the smart grid.

• The BSC Department of Agriculture received the Director’s Award of Excellence from the ND Department of Career and Technical Education during the Annual Department of Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference.

Dakota College at Bottineau

• To complement the College Read Program established at Dakota College five years ago, DCB’s Arts and Humanities instructors, Mr. Porter and Dr. Albrightson, have begun a Community Read Series for the greater Bottineau area. The discussions are held at the community Technology Center on Main Street and this year’s selections are as follows: Listening Point, Dakota: A Spiritual Geography, Deeply Rooted, Haymakers, The Omnivore’s Dilemma, Blowout, and The Monkey Wrench Gang.

• DCB and the Bottineau Community Theater, in cooperation with the North Dakota Humanities Council, will host the local showing of Key Ingredients: America by Food, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition which delves into the historical, regional and social traditions that merge in everyday meals and celebrations of the American table. The exhibition will be on view beginning December 8, 2012, and continuing through February 13, 2013, and will give Bottineau an opportunity to celebrate the region’s food heritage. Dakota College and the Bottineau Community Theater have been expressly chosen by the Smithsonian Institution to host Key Ingredients as part of the Museum on Main Street Project – a national/state partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations.

• This fall, the college Logroller Club added another event to its agenda of fundraising activities. The Turtle Trot, a 5K/10K run or walk was held on the Lake Metigoshe hiking and biking trail on September 15. This inaugural activity was an outstanding success. Ninety five participants completed the 5K or 10K route.

Dickinson State University

• Miller anchors Olympic gold for Bahamian men’s 4x400 relay team - DSU alumnus and 15-time NAIA All-American Ramon Miller secured the team gold medal as he ran anchor leg for the Bahamian men’s 4x400 relay during the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games. This is the first time a Bahamian men’s 4x400 relay team has won a gold medal in this event and also the first Bahamian gold medal at an Olympic games earned by any Bahamian men’s team.

• DSU Department of Nursing students pass NCLEX - Dr. Mary Anne Marsh, chair of the DSU Department of Nursing, recently announced that 100 percent of the 2012 DSU bachelor of nursing graduates passed the National Council License Examination (NCLEX), the national examination for registered nurses.

• DSU alumni Atkins and Cleare inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame - The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced today that DSU alumni Derrick Atkins and Aaron Cleare have been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, the association’s highest honor. Both Atkins and Cleare will be inducted at the Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Marion, Ind., on May 22, 2013.

Lake Region State College

• Fifty-four students graduated in August from Lake Region State College's summer peace of officer academies in Grand Forks and Fargo. Many law enforcement career opportunities currently are available in North Dakota making graduates a vital commodity. In addition, the Peace Officer program has been heavily relied upon to fill
open positions due to rapid growth in western North Dakota and to replace a number of officers that will be retiring in the upcoming years. The college is on pace to set a graduation record by the end of 2012.

- Northern Information Technology Consortium, which includes Lake Region State College, received the Director’s Award of Excellence at the 42nd annual Department of Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference in Bismarck August 6. Other colleges in the consortium are Dakota College at Bottineau, Turtle Mountain Community College, Williston State College, and Valley City State University.

- The Fitness Trainer Technician (FiTT) program at Lake Region State College is in the process of submitting its application to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). The goal is to become the first and only two year college in the country to have an accredited fitness program that is offered entirely online.

Mayville State University
- The all-time enrollment record has been broken at MaSU. Final fall semester figures show 1,020 students enrolled, breaking the previous record of 982 students enrolled which was set in 2010. Prior to 2010, the record stood at 924 students, the number of students enrolled in 1969.
- The Edson and Margaret Larson Foundation awarded a $40,000 grant to help in the development of a cross-curriculum leadership development program at MaSU. During this initial year, the program has been developed, a coordinator has been put in place, five student leaders received 1,000-dollar scholarships, and a fall freshman leadership seminar is planned.
- MaSU is completing a five-year Department of Education Title III grant. Specific objects of the grant included increasing headcount, retention, and graduation rates; developing and implementing a comprehensive professional development system for faculty and staff; and developing distance education courses. Success of the grant is evidenced in record enrollments.

Minot State University
- The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, a University Center of Excellence on developmental disabilities on MiSU campus, recently secured a three-year $900,000 federal grant for its Disability Health II project. The project will receive $300,000 annually to assist in improving the health of people with disabilities through state-based public health programs.
- MiSU hosted “Energy Impact Solutions” in August, as part of a Western North Dakota Energy Impact Symposia series. Researchers prepared solution models to address community culture, education, emergency preparedness and response, leadership and public health issues, which surfaced due to increased energy activity. MiSU and DSU sponsored this series in cooperation with the Great Plains Energy Corridor. A U.S. Department of Energy grant funded the symposia.
- The MiSU Department of Communication Disorders’ speech-language pathology graduate program recently received reaccreditation through Feb. 2020, by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. CAA reviewed the program, examined facilities and the on-site Communication Disorders Clinic and interviewed faculty, staff, students, alumni, employers and consumers. MiSU’s master’s degree program in speech language pathology was found to be in complete compliance with all standards.

North Dakota State College of Science
- The NDSCS Foundation received a $173,000 gift from the estate of the late LaVonne Blikre that will help fund an athletic stadium renovation project on the NDSCS campus. Mrs. Blikre’s generous gift will help fund improvements to the stadium including: renovated public restrooms and concession area, a new retail outlet for the campus bookstore and new locker rooms.
- NDSCS was recently named as a Military Friendly School for 2013 by G.I. Jobs magazine. The 2013 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members and veterans as students.
- Enrollment for fall semester at the North Dakota State College of Science has leveled off at 3,066 students, representing a slight dip of 2 percent after last fall’s 28-year-high figures. The total number of students from North Dakota, 2,118, comprises more than 69 percent of the student body.

North Dakota State University
- The Gate City Bank Auditorium, formerly Stevens Auditorium, was dedicated Aug. 20. A $500,000 gift from Gate City Bank to the NDSU Development Foundation renovated the auditorium and created an endowment for ongoing maintenance. Improvements
included new seats, lighting, carpet, easier access for people with disabilities and updated educational technology.

- Alumnus Harry D. McGovern presented $1 million to the NDSU Development Foundation to support the Alumni Center. In recognition, the building will bear his name. A dedication and open house are scheduled for Oct. 6, McGovern is co-owner of MCM Construction Inc., a major bridge and highway contractor in California.

- Sivaguru Jayaraman, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has received a three-year, $429,500 award from the National Science Foundation for research outlined in his proposal “Light Induced Enantiospecific Chiral Transfer in Solution.” The funding provides opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students to develop environmentally benign, green strategies to perform chemical reactions.

University of North Dakota

- The Center for Rural Health at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences has been named one of seven national rural health research centers. The center will conduct studies and policy analyses on health care reform and how it will influence rural health care access and delivery.

- The new UND Art Collections Gallery at the Empire Arts Center held a public opening Wednesday, Aug. 29 in downtown Grand Forks, showcasing works by internationally renowned artists such as Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali. The UND Gallery also is committed to exhibiting works by local artists.

- The UND Department of Social Work and Sitting Bull College on the Standing Rock Reservation are collaborating on a new undergraduate social work degree. The important partnership allows Sitting Bull College students to take UND classes for credit toward a Bachelor’s of Social Work degree.

Valley City State University

- For the second year in a row, VCSU earned the #1 spot among the Top Public Regional Colleges in the Midwest in the 2013 edition of America’s Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group. This marks the 15th year in a row that VCSU has been recognized by U.S. News.

- Geteducated.com ranked VCSU’s online Master of Education at top "Best Buy," which recognizes high quality online degrees for educators and teachers at a cost that ranks well below the national average. According to geteducated.com’s calculations, the cost of VCSU’s online M.Ed. is nearly 30% below the national average.

- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the grand opening of the Student Center cafeteria to mark the completion of a $425,000 renovation and expansion in the level of service. Other recent updates to VCSU facilities include the renovation/expansion of the Science Center and remodeling of residence halls.

Williston State College

- WSC just celebrated the grand opening of its brand new science addition which was completed late this summer and contains four new state-of-the-art labs. It has been in use since the beginning of fall semester.

- A new conference room on WSC’s campus was just dedicated to the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG), 164th Infantry Regiment, Company E. The NDNG was on hand to speak at the event as well as veterans and descendants of this regiment.

- In the last few weeks, two new facilities have broken ground on WSC’s campus: WSC Foundation Apartment Housing Project and Community Wellness and Recreation Facility. The housing project is projected to be completed fall 2012. The Recreation Facility is slated to be completed spring 2014.

Board policy manual revisions approved

Policy manual revisions adopted at the September 26, 2012 State Board of Higher Education meetings include the following:

**Introduction and final adoption**

- **100.6** Authority and Responsibility of the SBHE
- **304.1** Chancellor/Commissioner of Higher Education Authority and Responsibilities
- **305.1** College and University Presidents’ Authority and Responsibilities
- **403.5** Secondary-Postsecondary Articulation Agreements; Dual Credit Postsecondary Enrollment Options
- **404.1** Delivery Format Approval for Credit Activities
- **430.3** Posthumous Degrees
- **608.2** NDUS Employees - Non-renewal and Dismissals
- **705.1** Executive Compensation
- **802.8** Internal Audit Functions