Report to Joint Appropriations Committee

Timothy M. Downs, Ph.D.
President, Northern State University
Overview

Northern State University

• Fall 2016 enrollment: 3,587
• Full-time equivalent: 1,953
• Undergraduate: 3,075
• Undergraduate full-time: 1,536
• Graduate: 512
• Graduate full-time: 41
• Student / faculty ratio: 19:5
• Persistence rate fall 2015 to spring 2016: 92.4 percent
• Retention fall 2015 to fall 2016: 74.6 percent
• Enrollees from 32 states and 42 countries
Recognized Achievement

Accreditations

- Higher Learning Commission
- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs
- Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design
- National Association of Schools of Music
- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs – in candidacy (site visit 2017)
Recognized Achievement

NSU has been included in numerous rankings:

- 2017 Military Friendly School by Victory Media
- 2017 Best Online Accounting Degrees, Affordable Colleges Online
- 2017 Top Online Bachelor’s Degrees, Affordable Colleges Online
- 2017 Best Online Colleges in South Dakota, Affordable Colleges Online
- 2016 Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest, U.S. News & World Report
- 2016 Top Public Schools in the Midwest, U.S. News & World Report
- 2016 Best Colleges for Veterans in the Midwest, U.S. News & World Report
- 2016 Best Online Bachelor’s Programs, U.S. News & World Report
- 2016 Best Value Colleges for Online Accounting Degree, College Values Online
Workforce Development

Largest Programs
• Elementary education
• Biology
• Music
• Business management

Newest Programs
• Graduate STEM certificate
• Geographic Information Services minor, certificate
• Biotechnology entrepreneurship certificate
• Intent to Plan, BFA in Art and Art Education
Growing Master’s Programs

New Graduate Offerings

• STEM Certificate for local PreK-12 educators
• Secondary Emphasis in M.S. Educational Studies Program
• New Teaching and Learning cohort at Huron Community Campus
• Planning underway for M.S. in Mathematics for Teachers
Student Success Initiatives

Title III Grant
• Academic achievement protocol
• Professional advisors offer focused support
• Enhance academic preparation ($1.9 million over 5 years)
• Identify intern and career placement opportunities
• Housed in each school / department / content area

Starfish Early Alert
• Early alert support tool
• Faculty participation: over 90 percent
• Fall 2016 engagement: 6,207 flags, kudos, referrals, and to-do’s were sent to students
Student Success Initiatives

TRIO Student Support Services Grant

• Benefits 165 students ($1.4 million over five years)
• Provides academic advising, financial literacy, tutoring, peer mentoring, workshops and other mentoring
• Connects participants with career options, community service and academic supports
Student Academic Highlights
Honors Program

• Provides academically talented and highly motivated students a network of support and opportunities to excel.
• More than 140 students currently enrolled.
• Since 2010, 89 students have conducted undergraduate research and completed an honors thesis as part of requirements to graduate In Honoribus.
• Sponsors Common Read for all freshmen across campus. The 2016 book was “Just Mercy,” with speaker Anthony Ray Hinton.
Student Academic Highlights

- Victoria Biach: 2016 American Chemical Society Outstanding Chemistry Senior Award for South Dakota. She has been accepted to multiple medical schools nationwide.

- Maris Grewe: NSU’s 2016 Undergraduate Competitive Research Grant winner. Her winning project implemented a campus-wide recycling program.

- Megan Pond: 2016-17 South Dakota Board of Regents Haines Scholarship winner. Her thesis compared the knowledge of reading pedagogy of pre-service teachers with that of experienced teachers.

- Jordan Abu-Sirriya: 2016-17 Fulbright English Teaching Award in Bahrain.

- Rachel Rogers: 2016 participant in the Taiwan-United States Sister Relations Alliance Summer Scholarship Program.

- Adam Leach: 2016 intern at the Vikings Training Camp in Mankato. His thesis examined NSU basketball fan identification.
Student Athletic Highlights

- Joe Gomez finishes as the NCAA National Runner-up at 197 pounds, earning his second All-American honor
- Breann Jackson notches her second straight All-American honor in the indoor weight throw
- Sasha Hovind tallies three All-American awards in the indoor 5,000m run and the outdoor 5,000m and 10,000m runs
Student Athletic Highlights

- Northern tallies five CoSIDA Academic All-Americans® in 2016 in Sasha Hovind (track/cross country), Anna Bondy (soccer), Chad Stoterau (football), Conner Doherty (football) and Tori Biach (volleyball)

- Northern State volleyball remained ranked in the AVCA Top-25 throughout the season finishing at No. 21 overall, while the women’s basketball team has earned their way into the WBCA Top-25

- The Wolves led the way in NSIC All-Academic honors with 39 winter recipients, 53 spring recipients and 68 fall recipients
Campus Improvements

New Residence Halls
- Wolves Memorial Suites will open in August 2017; 144-bed hall with suite-style options throughout the facility; cost of $7,350,000; funded through $7 million in revenue bonds and $350,000 auxiliary reserve funds
- Two additional residence halls in the design phase; approximately 300 total beds; project cost of $22,725,000; open fall 2018
  ➢ NO DEBT incurred for this project

Johnson Fine Arts Center
- $14.1 million addition/renovation
- Completed August 2016
- Features include renovated main theater with new Black Box theater, art gallery, offices, practice rooms and classrooms
Campus Improvements

FY17 M&R Projects Budgeted at $2.3 million

• $838,000 State Appropriation
  ➢ Academic building repairs and improvements
• $1.47 million HEFF
  ➢ Classroom renovations and upgrades to meet program needs
  ➢ Campus infrastructure updates
  ➢ Academic Building repairs and improvements
Maximize State Investment

Cost Savings Initiatives

- LED lighting in the Barnett Center and Dacotah Hall Gym
  - Payback of approximately 9.6 years; estimated annual savings in excess of $12,000
- Johnson Fine Arts Center renovation project included installation of LED fixtures with estimated utility savings in excess of $1,000 per year.
- Support staff positions have been reduced from 12 month to 10 month positions where possible
- Restructuring has occurred in Facilities, IT, Residence Life and Student Affairs
- Program Termination – Gerontology

“I was very impressed with the condition of your facilities and the active efforts to keep upgrading them. While opportunities for energy savings certainly exist- NSU has been very proactive in maintaining and investing in energy efficiency in facilities and the results are very visible.”

-Senior Development Engineer, Unesco Inc.
# FTE Utilization

## FY16

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<th>E-Learning</th>
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<td>Actual</td>
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<td>25.400</td>
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<td>% Used</td>
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Funding for unused FTE used for leave payouts, interim duties, moving expenses, enhanced cash reserves.

## FY15

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>% Used</td>
<td>97%</td>
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## FY17 E-Learning FTE Request:

**Expansion funded positions**

- New Master Teachers: 9.000
- Technical Support Staff: 3.000

**Total**: 12.000
Grant-Funded Initiatives

New and Continuing Collaborations

- Jump Start / First in the World Grant
- EPSCoR grant to expand biology research capabilities
- Mosquito surveillance grant with State Health Lab’s West Nile Virus monitoring program
- CEEDAR grant for educator development
- NSF-REU grant with SDSU and BHSU for environmental research
- SD WISE / NSF PLAN-IHE grant to support gender equity in STEM
- Importation of Musicians grant supports the performance of guest musicians on campus
Undergraduate Research

Students conduct undergraduate research to fulfill requirements of graduating *In Honoribus* or to enrich learning inside or outside of the classroom.

**Undergraduate Competitive Research Grant Program**
- 2016 winner: Maris Grewe, whose project involved implementing a campus-wide recycling program.

**Undergraduate Scholarship, Creativity and Research Forum**
- 2016 oral presentation winners: April Moeller and Cierra Martin, “Effects of Organic Molecules on Regeneration of Starfish”
- 2016 poster presentation first place winner: Annika van Oosbree, “Effects of Probiotics on Xenopus laevis”
Undergraduate Research

Other Notable Undergraduate Activities

• Two recent peer-reviewed scientific publications by undergraduates

• Greenhouse research activities: e.g., plant-fungal interactions, plant host-pathogen interactions

• Four music students won their category in the 2016-17 Music Teachers National Association State Competition, and advanced to the West Central Regional competition in Boulder, Colorado

• Six students received awards at the 2016 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
Meeting SD Education Needs

NSU Center for Statewide E-Learning

• Since 2001, NSU Center for Statewide E-Learning has partnered with 98 percent of SD districts to meet critical education needs
• 1,477 students served from 110 school districts
• 22 Digital Dakota Network sections, 16 online class sections, 15 blended delivery classes offered this year
• Completion rate: 84 percent
• Pass rate: 98 percent
Meeting SD Education Needs

NSU Center for Statewide E-Learning

Total Students Served

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2016-17</td>
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Meeting SD Education Needs

FY17 E-Learning Expansion

• 9 new master teachers (4 math, 2 English, 2 science, 1 social studies)

• 9 new DDN studios, 17 new courses, 309 students, 44 schools
Meeting SD Education Needs

South Dakota districts served by NSU Center for Statewide E-Learning
The NSU Regional Science Education Center will serve four distinct purposes:

1. Providing a facility that enhances learning and research opportunities for current and future Northern State University students.

2. Providing dedicated research facilities for faculty.

3. Providing learning and professional development opportunities for current and future science teachers.

4. Providing K-12 students the opportunity to learn and become excited about the sciences.
NSU Regional Science Center – HB 1010

This facility will improve the student educational experience through:

1. **Efficiency**: The facility will allow for more efficient use of resources.

2. **Growth/expansion**: Moving sciences to a new facility will allow for expansion of course offerings and degree programs.

3. **Collaboration**: The new facility will improve collaboration between science faculty and education faculty, both on campus and in the region.

4. **Opportunities**: There will be opportunities to expand existing activities such as the Northern South Dakota Regional Science Fair and the NSU Undergraduate Scholarship, Research, and Creativity Forum.

5. **Competitiveness**: The facility will make NSU more competitive with other institutions in the region with newer facilities and serve as a recruitment tool for Northern’s programs.

6. **Enhanced Facilities**: Enhanced facilities will ensure that NSU’s faculty can be more competitive in the submission of grants.
NSU Regional Science Center – HB 1010

This new facility will truly serve as a Regional Science Education Center. It will:

1. Allow Northern to continue to expand its role as a STEM outreach education partner with regional school districts in the state of South Dakota – a State Strategic Initiative.

2. Increase the university’s ability to encourage K-12 students to get excited about science.

3. Equip NSU faculty and regional science teachers with the toolkits needed to better prepare their students.

4. Help the university continue to attract and retain high-quality students and better prepare these students for advanced studies and to enter into the work force of local and regional industries, boosting the economic development initiatives in the region and state as a whole.
NSU Regional Science Center – HB 1010

- $25,175,000  *(100% privately funded)*
- 50,000 square feet
- Biology Labs
- Chemistry Labs
- Physics Lab
- GIS Lab
- Prep/Support Rooms
- Student/Faculty Research Labs
- Three General Classrooms
- Science Faculty and Support Staff Offices
NSU Regional Science Center – HB 1010

Goal: Advancing Science Education in the Region

The NSU Regional Science Education Center is essential to the future of Northern State University:

1. In the last 10 years enrollments in the sciences have doubled; this facility will assist in continuing this trend.

2. Faculty-led research well prepares students for internships and employment.

3. Enhanced science learning opportunities will better prepare students to contribute to scientific enterprises pertaining to agri-business and environmental sciences.
“I spent my entire undergraduate career at Northern. It was at Northern that I discovered my passions, but I also learned who I was as a person. Everything just lined up perfectly: the opportunities at school, the professors, and even just living in the city of Aberdeen. I graduated several years ago. Since then I have traveled and worked all over the country. Everywhere I live, I still compare it to Aberdeen and how much Northern helped to put me on the right path.”

- NSU alum