



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Black Hills State University

As I write this note to you, I--along with many others--are hoping that Spring returns to the northern hills soon. Despite the return of cold weather, I hope you are having a great Spring.

We are looking forward to our last few weeks of the semester and all of the exciting events taking place. This weekend alone we host the senior fine art exhibit, BHSU rodeo, spring football game, honor society induction ceremonies and several student organization events. The biggest event, however, is spring commencement. We anticipate nearly 400 students completing their degree this spring with about 325 participating in spring commencement. I want to extend a heart-felt congratulations to students earning their diplomas in May. We are proud of each one of them and wish them only the very best.

We were excited to launch the new BHSU logo earlier this month! It's been well received on campus and in the community. (See details below). This bold new look moves us to the future as we celebrate our heritage, sense of place, and brand BHSU with an appealing identity.

Summer is shaping up to be a busy time on campus with summer school classes, workshops and camps. We look forward to once again hosting groups on campus.

Last week was gratifying for me as we honored our exceptional employees. In a recognition event, we noted the many years of service, and recognized our retiring faculty and staff members. It was an honor to present the 2021 Distinguished Faculty Member Award to Dr. Tim Steckline. Congratulations BHSU employees and thank you for your service to our university.



*Laurie S. Nichols*

President Laurie S. Nichols



## BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

### BHSU LAUNCHES NEW LOGO

The new Black Hills State University logo is creating excitement on and off campus. The logo builds on the momentum, energy and sense of place at BHSU.

BHSU President Laurie S. Nichols noted that the logo is an important symbol that celebrates the University's history and looks forward to future of BHSU.

"The new logo is a distinctive graphic that is unmistakably Black Hills State University," Nichols said. "This logo is part of our branding initiative at BHSU. Besides providing a unique identification of the school, a logo is also a representation for the university's history, culture, and tradition. It depicts the values of BHSU and the origins of these values." [Read more](#)

### STECKLINE NAMED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY MEMBER AT BHSU

Dr. Tim Steckline, mass communication and speech communication professor at Black Hills State University, was presented with the prestigious Distinguished Faculty Member award recently.

Steckline was recognized for quality teaching, impactful research and exemplary service.

[Read more](#)

[See video](#) of the classroom award presentation



Steckline



### BHSU SPRING COMMENCEMENT

BHSU will have three commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 8 at the Donald E. Young Sports and Fitness Center to honor the 2021 graduates.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rather than having one ceremony for the entire group of BHSU graduates, a separate

commencement ceremony will be held for each College.

The commencement ceremonies will be livestreamed at [www.BHSU.edu/Commencement](http://www.BHSU.edu/Commencement)

### BHSU RECOGNIZED WITH 2020 NATIONAL TREE CAMPUS DESIGNATION

Black Hills State University was honored with 2020 Tree Campus Higher Education® recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the fifth consecutive year, BHSU has earned the Tree Campus recognition.

The public is invited to join BHSU to celebrate the Tree Campus recognition on April 21 from 3-5 p.m. in the new Veterans' Park. Students in Dr. Tara Ramsey's biology class are participating in the event. There will be a tree planting demonstration and tree care techniques will be presented. [Read more](#)

BHSU is recognized for taking the lead with sustainability initiatives. For details see: [www.BHSU.edu/gogreen](http://www.BHSU.edu/gogreen)



### BHSU MAKES PLANS FOR SUMMER AND FALL SEMESTERS

Black Hills State University is looking forward to the Fall 2021 semester with a return to regular operating protocols without specific changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This fall, BHSU expects to return to operational procedures that were in place before the pandemic became a concern. The campus is looking forward to reviving student activities, residence life programming, music and art events, Homecoming, athletic competitions with spectators and other gatherings.

"One year ago things changed abruptly at BHSU and across the world. As we look back and reflect on the challenges created by the COVID-19 virus, it's gratifying to know that our campus responded so quickly and positively," BHSU President Laurie S. Nichols said. "We were able to have classes on campus in the fall and spring semester and now we are looking forward to moving back to pre-COVID operations."

Nichols added that BHSU is planning a variety of summer programming including [academic](#) and athletic camps on campus and an expanded number of summer classes. [Read more](#)

### BHSU EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Black Hills State University also recognized employees for outstanding achievements, and longevity during the reception.

BHSU President Laurie S. Nichols expressed her sincere appreciation for the employees work and dedication.

The 2021 Faculty Awards recognize faculty on a University-wide basis for their work in teaching, scholarship, advising and service. [Read more](#) about the outstanding faculty and staff.

Black Hills State University recently recognized retiree faculty and staff at a reception on campus. There are over 275 years of service to BHSU from these 12 retiring employees. [Read more](#) about the retirees.

[www.BHSU.edu](http://www.BHSU.edu)

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