

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Black Hills State University!

Due to numerous modifications to the Fall 2020 semester including changes to classrooms, rigorous sanitation protocol, and a face mask requirement, fall semester is going relatively well. While we have new cases of COVID to report every week, the numbers have remained manageable with those infected being tested quickly, isolated and contact tracing occurring immediately. We maintain a [web site](#) where we report daily on both the number of active infections and those quarantined. I appreciate the willingness of the faculty and staff to work together to manage the intricacies of this pandemic.

We were disappointed with the drop in enrollment this fall. The loss of 250 students was almost completely in two groups of "new" students... the incoming freshmen class and dual credit high school students. While we need to work diligently to regain these enrollments, we do believe that most of the decline is due to COVID. The more encouraging news was that retention of our current students was up at every level—sophomore, junior and seniors. That is, more students returned to continue their education than in the past.

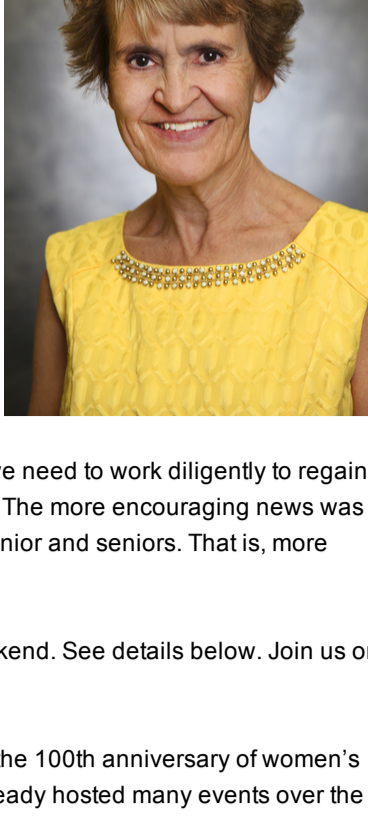
We are excited to be hosting our first of three home football game this weekend. See details below. Join us on campus for the game or if you prefer, via the livestream. Go Jackets!

It was my honor to serve on a statewide education committee to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's rights to vote. Her Voice, Her Vote is the statewide celebration and has already hosted many events over the summer and early fall. At BHSU, we are pleased to host Celebrating Women's Work: 100 Years of Suffrage. While we had hoped to host this symposium on campus on Friday, Oct. 23rd, just last week the decision was made to move to a virtual format. You are invited to [join us](#) via zoom.

It's been a beautiful fall here in the Hills. Last weekend my parents visited and we spent Saturday driving Spearfish Canyon and up to Terry Peak. The fall colors were gorgeous. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area. Check out this [clip from CBS News](#) showing the exceptional fall scenery and wildlife in Spearfish Canyon. I hope that you are having a great fall too.

Be safe!

President Laurie S. Nichols



BHSU NOTES ENROLLMENT DECLINE; INCREASE IN RETENTION

Black Hills State University enrollment this fall is 3,608 students, a six percent decline over last fall. The University has a three percent increase in retention.

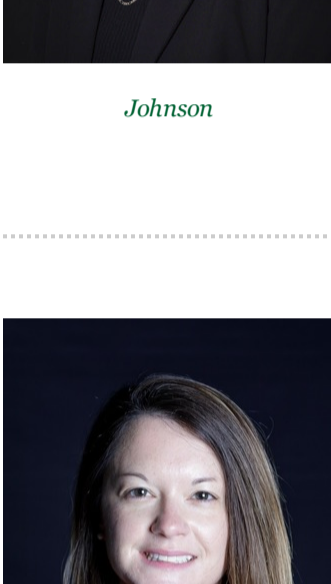
BHSU President Laurie S. Nichols noted that changes due to the pandemic had a negative effect on enrollment. She added that the loss in student headcount came primarily from two groups: high school students taking Dual Credit courses and first-year enrollees.

Nichols noted that the increase in retention and persistence at every level is encouraging and a good indicator for BHSU. [Learn more](#)

NEW LEADERS NAMED FOR FINANCIAL AID, STUDENT SUCCESS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Dr. John Allred, Vice President for Enrollment at Black Hills State University, announced the appointment of new directors on campus. Gail Johnson is the new Director of Student Financial Aid; Kathleen Fitzgerald-Ellis has been selected as the Director of the Student Success Center; and Andrea Bakeberg is serving as Coordinator of Career Development.

"I'm pleased to announce the selection of these exceptional leaders for these key positions," Allred said. "I look forward to working with them as we move forward with the University's goals." [Read more](#)

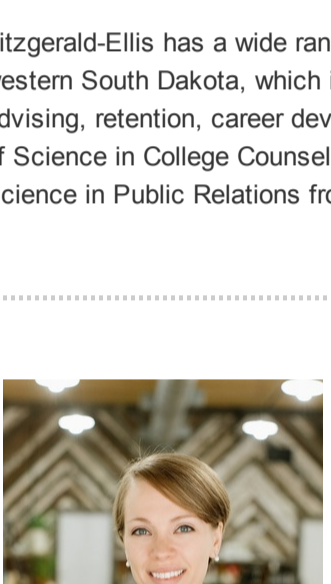


Johnson

GAIL JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Johnson has held a number of administrative positions including serving as a Dean, Director of Financial Aid, and Director of Compliance and Systems in Texas and Wisconsin. She most recently has been serving as working as an independent consultant developing solutions for financial aid compliance, analysis for automation of awarding student financial aid, and improvement of student services.

Johnson is excited by the potential she sees at BHSU and the opportunity to utilize her knowledge, experience, and expertise with financial aid related technology in this new role.



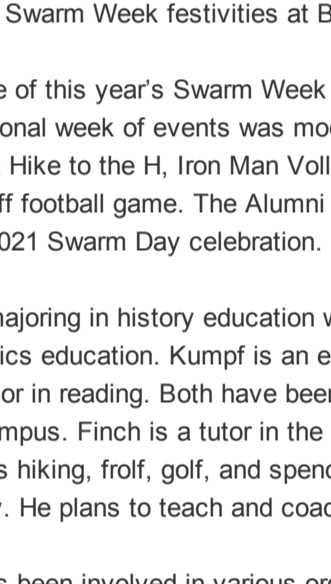
Fitzgerald-Ellis

KATHLEEN FITZGERALD-ELLIS, DIRECTOR OF THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Fitzgerald-Ellis, who previously served as a Senior Marketing Specialist with Monument Health and as an Assistant Director of Nursing Student Services for South Dakota State University, began her new position on Oct. 1.

She noted that she's looking forward to joining the team of advisors at BHSU who work with faculty and staff to support students' unique journeys at BHSU and ensure that the University is an inclusive, supportive and engaging place for students.

Fitzgerald-Ellis has a wide range of experiences in higher education, specifically in western South Dakota, which includes the areas of recruiting, admissions, marketing, advising, retention, career development and program development. She has a Masters of Science in College Counseling from South Dakota State University and a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from Illinois State University.



Bakeberg

ANDREA BAKEBERG, COORDINATOR OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Bakeberg will split her time continuing to serve part-time as the Executive Administrative Assistant for the Office of the President as well as her new role as Coordinator of Career Development. Bakeberg joined the staff at BHSU five years ago as the Assistant Director for the SD CEO Women's Business Center.

Bakeberg graduated from BHSU in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and earned her MBA in Applied Management BHSU in 2016.

ROYALTY NAMED FOR SWARM DAY

Ben Finch from Glenrock, Wyo., and Kaitlyn Kumpf from Hemingford, Neb., were named Homecoming King and Queen during the Swarm Week festivities at Black Hills State University.

The theme of this year's Swarm Week was "The Swarmin' 20s." The traditional week of events was modified this year and included a Hike to the H, Iron Man Volleyball game, and the Powderpuff football game. The Alumni events were postponed until the 2021 Swarm Day celebration.

Finch is majoring in history education with a minor in mathematics education. Kumpf is an elementary education major with a minor in reading. Both have been involved in Residence Life on campus. Finch is a tutor in the Math Assistance Center and enjoys hiking, frof, golf, and spending time with his friends and family. He plans to teach and coach in Wyoming when he graduates.

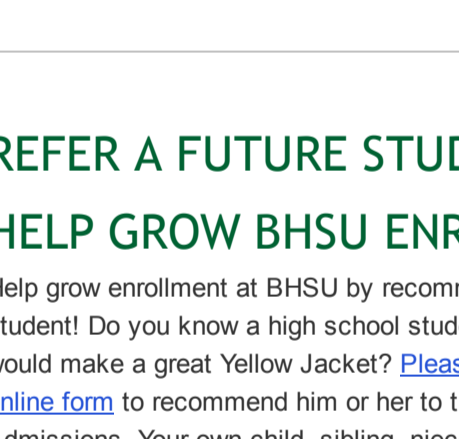


Kaitlyn Kumpf and Ben Finch

Kumpf has been involved in various organizations/programs on campus including Swarm Days, Student Senate, Presidential Student Ambassadors, Reading Council, Student Support Services, and the International Service-Learning Program. Her hobbies include hanging out with friends, snow skiing, camping, and sports. Following her graduation, she plans to obtain a teaching position in a rural elementary school.

Candidates for Swarm Day King included: Ryan Beck, business administration-management major from Hartford; Brett Bishop, English education major from Rapid City; Walker Schouviller, history education major from Russell, Minn.; and Hunter Wrentz, elementary education major from Armour.

Candidates for Swarm Days Queen included: Sydney Koehn, mass communications major with a double emphasis in photography and graphic communication, from Gillette, Wyo.; Alberta Miner, psychology major from Eagle Butte; Rylann Olson, music education major from South Heart, N.D.; and Kelsey Vandenhemel, professional accountancy major from Ft. Pierre. [Read more](#)



JOIN US FOR THE ONLINE EVENT - CELEBRATING WOMEN'S WORK: 100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE

Join us Friday, Oct. 23 for a half day virtual event in celebration of women's suffrage. The keynote speaker, Dr. Mary Frances Berry, will lead two sessions. Her final keynote address will be "Achieving Diversity & Opportunity in the 21st Century: Now is the Time". See details about breakout sessions and register at: [www.BHSU.edu/CelebrateSuffrage](#).

REFER A FUTURE STUDENT - HELP GROW BHSU ENROLLMENT

Help grow enrollment at BHSU by recommending a future student! Do you know a high school student who you think would make a great Yellow Jacket? [Please submit the quick online form](#) to recommend him or her to the BHSU Office of Admissions. Your own child, sibling, niece or nephew perhaps? Help us learn about them today. Refer a Future Student at <https://www.bhsu.edu/Admissions/Explore/Refer-a-Future-Student>



Gina Gibson, BHSU professor of graphic communication and SURF's first artist in residence, will serve as the coordinator of the Artist-in-Residence program starting this fall.

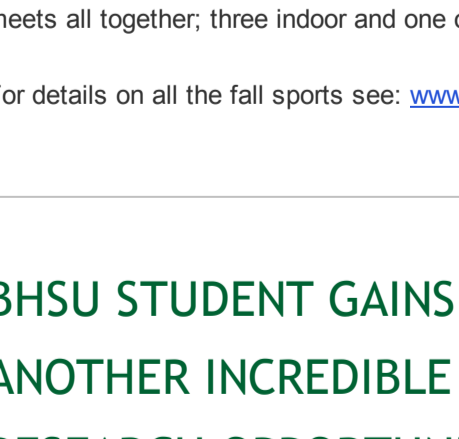
BHSU AND SANFORD LAB PARTNER TO EXPAND ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) is partnering with Black Hills State University (BHSU) to continue the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program, which was implemented in 2019. Gina Gibson, BHSU professor of graphic communication and SURF's first artist in residence, will serve as the coordinator of the program starting this fall.

Artist-in-residence programs are used as a tool to create awareness and encourage interdisciplinary work. The purpose of the SURF AiR program is to invite artists to create work inspired by SURF.

SURF's location, legacy and research make it an ideal place for creative work. SURF is the deepest underground laboratory in the United States, reaching a mile below the surface. It houses experiments in physics, biology, geology and engineering.

In the summer, a selected artist will immerse themselves in the facility's unique environment and cutting-edge research, visiting SURF's surface and underground spaces. The artist will then create a body of art for an exhibit in the fall. [Read more](#)



FOOTBALL GAMES SCHEDULED; TICKET PROCEDURES ANNOUNCED

The Yellow Jackets are excited for home football games on Oct. 17th vs. Colorado Mesa, Oct. 24th vs. Chadron State, and Nov. 7th vs. South Dakota Mines.

All tickets are limited this year due to the current pandemic. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, you can visit our website [www.bhsuathletics.com](#) under Fan Zone and Ticketing.

Black Hills State University men's and women's basketball have released their schedules for the 2020-21 season, featuring 11 home contests for each team. [See schedule](#)

The BHSU Rodeo team has also released their Spring schedule with four rodeos in April including the Will Lantis home rodeo April 16-17. [See schedule](#)

Cross country is set to compete at the RMAC championships Saturday, Oct. 24 in Golden, Colo.

Golf finished their season Oct. 12-13 at the Samuel Proal invitational in Pueblo, Colo., placing 10th as a team.

Track and Field's 2020-2021 season has five indoor and four outdoor meets. BHSU will host four meets all together, three indoor and one outdoor.

For details on all the fall sports see: [www.BHSU.edu/athletics](#)

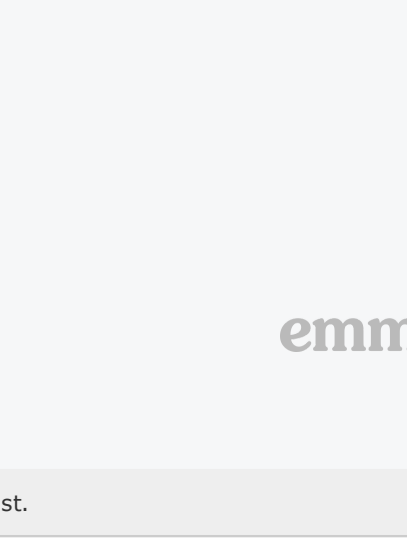
BHSU STUDENT GAINS ANOTHER INCREDIBLE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

After his summer 2019 experience as a Davis-Balchall Scholar, Black Hills State University student Curtis Petersen gained another research opportunity—this time a little closer to home. Petersen, a mathematics education major from Parade, S.D., was accepted into the NSF-funded BHSU Undergraduate Science Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU).

"Right now, I am working with Dr. Andy Johnson on physics education research," Petersen explains. Their research is on students' misconceptions of radiation and how perceptions change over the course of a physics class.

Each year, eight students from South Dakota universities are selected for an all-expenses paid summer-study program, the Davis-Balchall Scholar Program. A year ago, Petersen was one of the students selected, and he recalls that the experience was amazing and inspiring.

"I was able to experience labs in the Midwest, and then in Italy," Petersen says. The group started at Sanford Underground Research Facility (Sanford Lab) in Lead and continued to the EROS (Earth Resources Observation and Science) data center and Raven Industries in Sioux Falls, the drone lab at the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin which is involved in an experiment at the South Pole called the "IceCube," Chicago's Fermilab, The Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, and then the Laboratori Nazionali Del Gran Sasso (LNGS) Lab in Italy. [Read more](#)



Petersen