

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Black Hills State University,

It is so nice to have students and faculty back on campus this fall! Despite making many modifications to navigate COVID, fall semester is going well. Suffice it to say, everyone is adapting to maintain a safe learning environment. I applaud the faculty and students for being flexible while keeping educational goals as a priority. I also thank our staff for proactively planning and implementing new procedures and practices. The past seven months have been challenging, but BHSU has risen to the challenge and has done remarkably well in containing the number of positive COVID cases and others who are in quarantine.

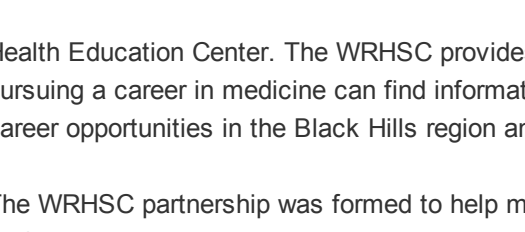


After hosting a number of listening sessions with employers last year, BHSU is establishing two new Centers at BHSU-Rapid City that have a major impact on economic development and meeting workforce needs throughout the west river region. The Center for Hospitality and Business is focusing on collaborating with businesses and on meeting the growing need for qualified employees in the tourism industry. The West River Health Sciences Center, a collaboration with SDSU and USD nursing programs, will ensure more nursing graduates are available as the demand for health care professionals continues to grow.

Although many events have been cancelled including the annual Swarm Day celebrations, the Yellow Jackets are preparing for some Fall competitions for Cross Country, Golf, Football, and Rodeo. More details about that are below. Please come out and support your Yellow Jackets!

Laurie S. Nichols

President, Laurie S. Nichols



WEST RIVER HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Black Hills State University - Rapid City is now home to the West River Health Sciences Center (WRHSC), a coordinated effort between BHSU, South Dakota State University, the University of South Dakota and the West River Area Health Education Center. The WRHSC provides a place where individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine can find information about health care degrees, scholarships and career opportunities in the Black Hills region and West River South Dakota.

The WRHSC partnership was formed to help meet the growing demand for nurses and healthcare professionals. Nursing is a critical need across the country, especially in the Black Hills region. In June 2020, Monument Health had more than 710 open jobs, including more than 530 open nursing positions. [Learn more](#)



RODEO GEARS UP FOR NEW SEASON

Black Hills State University Rodeo held its first team practice in late August to prepare for the 2020-21 season, following last year's shortened season.

With 11 new members, the team has grown to add more competitors in each event with 35 members total. The Yellow Jackets are now set to travel to three doubleheaders this fall with a possible seventh event in November after some schedule shuffling due to precautions surrounding COVID-19.

Along with plenty of new members, many who contributed to the team's standings last year will return this season. The stellar women's team ended their season first in the Great Plains Region and ranked second in the nation behind only Texas A&M - Commerce, while the men ended up fourth in the region.

The Yellow Jackets will open the year Sept. 17-19 with their first doubleheader rodeo of the season, hosted by Mid Plains Community College in North Platte, Neb. [Read more](#)

SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR FALL

2020 YELLOW JACKETS ATHLETICS

The Yellow Jacket athletic schedule faced some major changes this fall; however, fans and athletes are enthusiastically planning for some fall competition for cross country, golf and football. Rodeo will remain as scheduled in the fall.

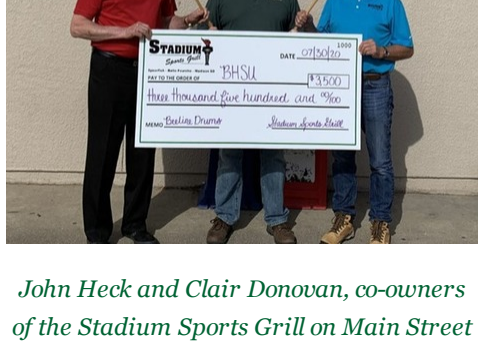


BHSU Football collaborated with three other RMAC schools to schedule five football games this fall, including a trio of home games. The schedule includes home games against Colorado Mesa on Oct. 17, SD Mines on Nov. 7, and Chadron State on Nov. 14, with road games at SD Mines on Oct. 10, and Chadron State on Oct. 24. Although the schedule involves only members of the RMAC, all five games will be played as non-conference contests.

The NCAA Division II Fall 2020 championships were also cancelled.

The women's soccer and volleyball schedules will be postponed until the Spring 2021 semester.

"COVID-19 related decisions are tough when there is so much out of our control in the situation," said Black Hills State University Athletic Director Jhett Albers. "We at Black Hills State are going to focus on creating and sustaining a healthy, safe and positive environment to keep enhancing our student athlete experience."



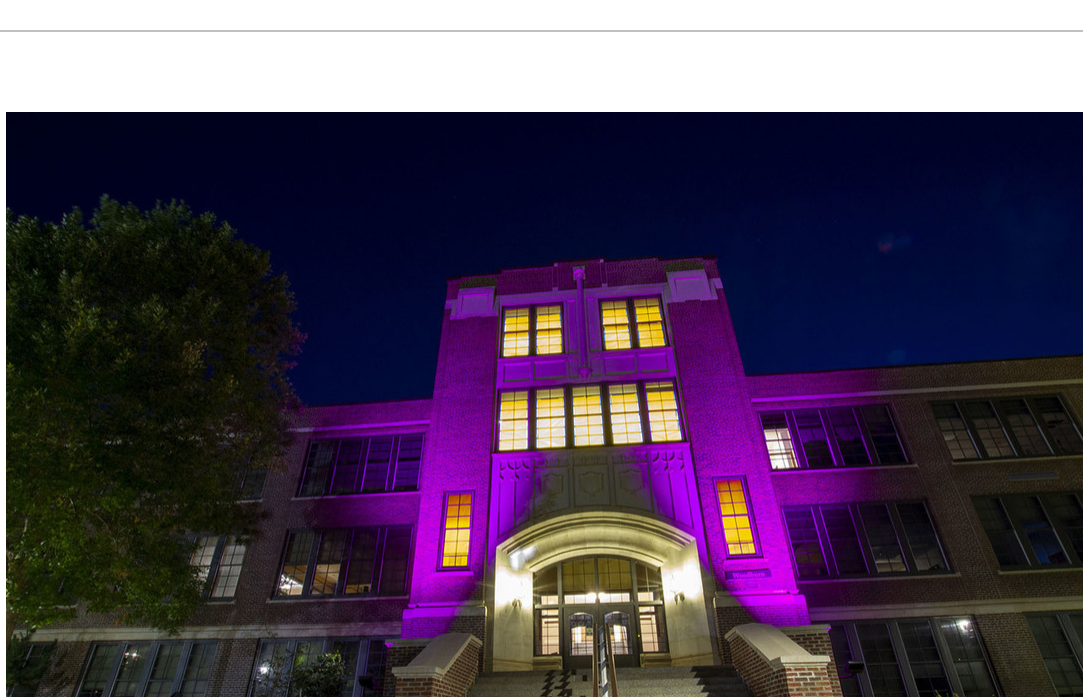
John Heck and Clair Donovan, co-owners of the Stadium Sports Grill on Main Street in Spearfish, present a check for more than \$3,000 to Dr. David Berberick for the Black Hills State University Beeline.

LOCAL BUSINESS KICKS OFF BHSU BEELINE FUNDRAISER

The Stadium Sports Grill on Main Street in Spearfish donated \$3,500 to the Black Hills State University Beeline to kick off a new fundraising campaign.

Assistant professor and director of bands Dr. David Berberick says that the BHSU drumline needs new drums after more than five years of regular wear and tear.

The gift from the Stadium was the single largest donation to the Beeline campaign. Earlier this year during the Founders Day fundraiser in February, the campaign raised just over \$6,000 thanks to parents, fans, community members, and the Stadium donations. [Read more](#)



BHSU CELEBRATES THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE AS PART OF THE FORWARD INTO LIGHT CAMPAIGN

Woodburn Hall at Black Hills State University campus was lit up in purple and gold colors recently in honor of the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote. This event was part of a nationwide Forward Into Light Campaign put on by the Her Vote. Her Voice. delegation appointed by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem.

BHSU President Laurie S. Nichols started the celebration with some comments about the movement and why it was important to celebrate it.

"Tonight, we are celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage," said Nichols. "We are illuminating Woodburn Hall in purple and gold colors because these were the colors that the women's suffrage movement used as they lobbied and pushed forward to gain women's right to vote."

[Read more](#)

SENIOR AT BHSU PARTICIPATES IN NSLS INTERNSHIP AND RECEIVES COMPETITIVE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Senior Spanish major at Black Hills State University from Rapid City Abbigail (Abbi) Baker has quite the resume, and it's only growing.

One of those experiences includes her extensive weekend internship training in New Jersey back in January with the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS).

In addition to her internship, Abbi also plans to study abroad using funds from the Congressionally funded Gilman scholarship she was recently awarded. [Read more](#)



Baker



BHSU COMEBACK EXTRAVAGANZA RAISED \$110,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The BHSU Comeback Extravaganza gathered alumni, staff/faculty, and community members in person and virtually to raise funds for academics and athletics. The event was held in the BHSU gymnasium on Saturday, Aug. 22, and raised \$110,000 (net) for scholarships. [Learn more](#)



Gabrielson

REACHING THROUGH TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED FOR NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION MAJORS

Nearly 25 percent of Black Hills State University students are non-traditional, meaning they are 24 years old or older.

Recently established, the Wilma Gabrielson Reaching through Teaching Scholarship is now available for those non-traditional students that are pursuing a degree in elementary or early childhood education.

In honor of her mother and BHSU alum Wilma Gabrielson, Kellie (Gabrielson) Rude donated funds for the new scholarship.

Wilma attended BHSU as a single mother with three small children. "Black Hills State University gave Wilma the opportunity to complete her degree in education, better herself and her family, and restore her dignity and self-worth," Kellie shares.

Shauna Junek, director of development at BHSU says now, more than ever, college students need financial aid.

"By establishing this scholarship, donors like Kellie Rude are investing in the success of BHSU students. Her generous donation will encourage students to follow Wilma Gabrielson's positive example now and in the future," Junek adds. [Read more](#)

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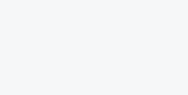


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