

# Message from President Cook and Lisa Samuelson

September 17, 2024

Hello, everyone. Here with me today at the famous Bison statue is Lisa Samuelson, Director of Student Activities and the Homecoming co-chair.

NDSU Homecoming is our opportunity to join together as students, staff, faculty and alumni and friends to celebrate and showcase NDSU's academics and athletics and our wonderful community. I had a lot of fun at this kickoff event last year, so let's figure out what's going on this week.

How about today? What's happening?

Well, today is a big day. It's a lot about giving back to the community. So, we have Serve with the Herd all day, where we have partnered with about 11 different nonprofit organizations in the community. And we'll be sending students out to do service, and they'll be doing some service on campus this evening with campus cleanup.

But one of the other super exciting parts about today is we actually have the kickoff of the NDSU Museum and Collection. And so that is -- we'll actually be celebrating it for the next three days. But today is the inaugural kickoff, with the program starting at 5:30.

I love the service focus of all of the things you just talked about. And the museum is a really exciting, new initiative.

So, it's a great way to start off the week.

But what do we have going on the rest of the week?

Well, we have a full schedule of events for the entire week of Homecoming. On Wednesday, we have make your own spirit pennant, so the students can take those pendants out to the parade or the game or wherever they want to take them.

On Thursday, there is the Blue Key Homecoming show at 7:30. It is open to the public, so we're hoping a lot of folks come out and join. The profits from that show actually will go to Hope incorporated, so please come out and support.

Then on Friday, Friday is the big day of course, where we have tons of activities. We kick off the day with our State of the University address at 10 in the morning. And then we have a fantastic thing planned.

We have campus tours of several varieties.

We have at 2 p.m. we have the Richard Offerdahl '65 Engineering Complex Groundbreaking.

We also have, of course, my personal favorite. The Bison Bash starts at 4:00 right out on Churchill Field.

The parade back on campus at 6:00. Also, our Bison soccer team is going to take on, Ambrose at 6 p.m., which is also super exciting. And then, of course, we cannot forget -- it all culminates on Saturday when everybody's coming back and we're having a fantastic tailgating celebration.

And of course, the big football game.

Yeah. Can't wait for the football game.

So incredibly exciting week.

Like, there's just stuff going on, all over the place, so we just can't wait. I mean, this is one of the most exciting weeks of the year, so thank you for the overview.

But with all that information, it's a little complicated, too.

So, where can all of our alum, students, faculty and staff learn more about homecoming?

Absolutely.

For a full schedule, please go to [ndsu.edu/homecoming](https://www.ndsu.edu/homecoming).

All right. So, there you have it. It's homecoming week at NDSU with so many fun things planned.

Thank you for all your hard work and your committee's hard work in putting this all together.

So, it's a, it's a great chance for us all to make memories, connect with old friends, traditions and for the community to show their Bison Pride.

So don't forget to wear your green and yellow.

And as we celebrate together, Go Bison!