

# Message from President Cook and Kathryn Birkeland

October 24, 2024

Hello, everyone.

I'm downtown today at Barry Hall with Kathryn Birkeland, the Ronald and Kay Olson Endowed Dean of the College of Business.

We're going to share with you more about the recently announced Bison to the Bakken program, which is a collaborative effort between Dr. Birkeland; Dr. Greg Lardy, the Joe and Norma Peltier Endowed VP for Agriculture; and Dr. Alan Kallmeyer, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering.

So let's talk about Bison to the Bakken.

How did this whole thing get started?

Bison to the Bakken came out of a visit to the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference. We had a College of Engineering booth and a whole bunch of us NDSU professionals that were there to visit with energy firms. And the one takeaway that I had right away was they want our students. They they'd like to see our students. They want to be able to hire our students and show what's happening in western North Dakota.

Yep. And I was there.

It was a great day, a huge conference, really, a lot of activity.

So what is the goal to the Bison to The Bakken program. And why is it important?

So Bison to the Bakken is a study tour for students. It's two weeks of travel in May. That has a purpose of exposing students to the energy industry and the things that are happening in western North Dakota. We know that there are many, many firms that would like to hire our students in business and ag and engineering that are doing great work in the energy industry.

So how do we get students connected to them?

I'm a big believer that you can't dream it if you can't see it. So we're going to take the students out to see what's happening in western North Dakota.

So who can participate and how do they participate?

So we have got 45 spots. So we've got 15 spots for each of the students from business, agriculture and engineering. And those students can check out our website. They'll be able to register for it as a summer course. So when summer registration opens, that's when they'll be able to register. They can certainly ask for more information now through our website. We can also have some industry partners if they would like to participate.

So if we know any industry partners that would like to have 45 college students stop by and show us about what they're doing in western North Dakota, that information is available on our website also.

Yeah, I love that part of it.

That's going to be a big part of it. Student experiences, engaging with industry all across the state of North Dakota. So it'll be really special. And so this will be at least initially, business, engineering and agricultural students.

So for all the students out there, this is targeting all of you. So what do you think? I kind of mentioned it on the industry side.

What are some of the experiences that we're expecting, for our students to participate in?

So we know that we'll be able to visit drilling site. We know that we'll be able to visit a carbon sequestration and talk about the connection to agricultural and soybean products and whatnot. We're going to also do some fun experiences visiting Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Oh, that's that's fantastic.

So I want to I want to sign up.

Can I sign up or. [Sure, we'd love to have you] Okay.

Well, thank you, Dr. Birkeland, for your work establishing this.

And she really is the brainchild behind this.

So for that, we're very, very grateful. We look forward to hearing future stories about Bison To The Bakken and the positive impact it's making on North Dakota.

Go Bison!