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American State Bank & Trust Company
223 Main Street • Williston, North Dakota
Greetings from the WSC Foundation!

Much has changed this year due to COVID-19, including the cancellation of many planned events. One event we really looked forward to this fall was an all-1960’s reunion for faculty, staff, and students of UND-Williston. While the event is postponed for now, we plan to host this reunion as soon as it is safe to do so.

Although disappointed about postponing the event, I still enjoyed researching the early history of Williston State College and the remarkable commitment of Williston’s local leaders and that of the surrounding communities. Included in this issue are headlines from the Williston Herald during the late 50’s and early 60’s when a push to bring a college to our area forged ahead. You will likely recognize some of the names, true founders of WSC and pillars of our community.

In this issue, we also feature a couple of our initiatives that continue to support WSC. Over the last 50+ years, we have grown as a college only because our community has supported the idea that WSC is important…and it shows! We are truly a place where people make the difference.

As the 2020-2021 school year unfolds, we hope you will consider becoming a member of the WSC Foundation and invite you to also be part of our annual Giving Day this October. With your help, our students and campus community continue to thrive!

Go Tetons!

Hunter Berg, Executive Director
CTE Director award

In August, the WSC Information Technology (I.T.) program was presented the Director’s Award of Excellence at the 49th Annual Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Professional Development Conference (PDC).

The award is an acknowledgment of superior CTE programs in North Dakota and was accepted by WSC President Dr. John Miller and Ken Quamme, Professor of Information Technology. The WSC I.T. program was recognized for:

- Obtaining a 100% placement rate for 2019 graduates and placing first of all the ND higher education institutions in the SANs Cyber Fast Track Competition in the spring of 2019.
- Renaming the Technology Club to attract students from many program areas with a focus on robotics, drones, and certifications.
- Providing a strong internship program for all students.

“WSC’s I.T. program is successful for a number of reasons,” explained Quamme. “First, it has many talented students who have an opportunity to pave a career path in a growing and changing field. They are the key element to a successful I.T. program and receiving an award like this.”

Another key ingredient is the WSC leadership team,” continued Quamme. “Without administration support and their understanding of the I.T. program’s importance and the quality it brings to the region, it would not be possible to receive this award.”

In addition to strong students and institutional support, the I.T. program has continued to adapt to needed changes in curriculum and instructional resources to best meet the needs of students and industry partners.

“The I.T. program Advisory Committee consists of I.T. leaders from many areas in our region,” stated Quamme. “They provided needed input on the skills students need to be successful and provide our students with fantastic internships and follow up with wonderful job opportunities.”

When asked what it means for WSC to be recognized with the Director’s Award of Excellence, Dr. Miller explained that the award is especially meaningful given the importance of I.T. today.

“Ken’s students performed at a high level of aptitude on recent cybersecurity exercises and they are a credit to him, his program, and the college,” stated Dr. Miller. “WSC has great people and programs worthy of such recognition.”

Held at the Bismarck Event Center from August 5-7, 2019, the PDC is an annual conference attended by over 600 ND CTE secondary and postsecondary instructors, counselors, and administrators.

The conference theme was, “CTE: Learning that works for North Dakota.”

In addition to the award, WSC alongside United Tribes Technical College, was one of 2019’s post-secondary Spotlight Institutions.

Quamme, joined by Alexey Kovalev, Petroleum Technology Instructor, showcased their respective programs to their peers.

New Website

Prior to the start of the Fall 2020 semester, a new digital WSC presence was launched – a redesigned website.

At over 9 years old, the previous WSC website was severely dated in web years and lacked many of the functions and user-friendly design now commonplace.

In partnership with Odney, a North Dakota based company, WSC began the multi-year endeavor in late 2018.

WSC’s website redesign project involved every area of campus, and like the significant undertaking involved with the second Stevens Hall remodel, it continued despite complications introduced by COVID-19.

With the remainder of spring 2020 online and the likelihood of Fall 2020 requiring a heavy online presence, the need for a mobile friendly and easy to navigate interface was even more imperative.

Launching on August 10, 2020, the new www.willistonstate.edu has a modern and clean look that is inviting to current and future Tetons!

WSC Professor Awarded Scholar of the Year

Kim Weismann, Professor of Communication at Williston State College, was honored by the National States Advisory Council (NSAC) for her extensive portfolio of scholarly works and distinctive teaching career and was named the winner of the 2019 Scholar of the Year Award.

A national award, the Scholar of the Year Award is given annually to communication scholars who have excelled in adding scholarship to the communication field.

Weismann accepted the award in person in November at the National Communication Association’s (NCA) 105th Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Weismann has served as the North Dakota representative with the NSAC for about four years. “It is an honor to receive this award as it was open to all 50 states,” emphasized Weismann. “It is also great that North Dakota is being recognized.”

Earlier last year, Weismann was also recognized as the Communication Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota (CSTAND) Scholar of the Year.

Dean of Students

WSC is pleased to announce Megan Kasner as its newly appointed Dean of Students.

Kasner joined WSC in 2014 as the Head Volleyball Coach and in 2015, became the Executive Assistant to the President. She earned her Associate Degree from North Dakota State College of Science, a Bachelors in Sports Management from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and an MBA with a concentration in Project Management from Southern Columbia University.

“She brings a wide range of institutional knowledge to the position that will allow her to make an immediate impact in her new role,” remarked Dr. John Miller, WSC President. “Megan is well respected among her peers and will work well with all campus constituencies.”

As Dean of Students, Kasner directs the Student Affairs Division which includes student life, financial aid, the registrar, and Title IX and Clery oversight.

Kasner assumed her duties as Dean of Students on September 14.
In response to COVID-19, WSC celebrated its graduating students for the 2019-2020 academic year virtually.

To enable friends and family to watch together and share congratulatory messages for graduates, WSC’s Fifty-Ninth Commencement ceremony was released on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 10 a.m. as a Facebook Watch Party on WSC’s Facebook page (@willistonstate).

“It was important to have a ‘virtual’ program to recognize the hard work our students had put in during a difficult and often uncertain time,” emphasized Kim Wray, Vice President for Academic Affairs. “Students needed to know we are proud of their hard work and flexibility and this was one way we could demonstrate that.”

Students who completed the coursework to earn degrees from WSC in Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Summer 2020 were recognized during the virtual ceremony.

WSC awarded 452 degrees to 277 graduates in 14 different programs, with graduates often earning more than one degree.

Degrees awarded this year included:
- 202 Associates in Arts or Associates in Science
- 89 Associates of Applied Sciences
- 80 Certificates
- 68 Certificates of Completion

Of the 277 students who graduated, 46% received the Williams or Regional County Scholarships.

This year’s virtual program included introductory remarks from WSC President, Dr. John Miller, student speakers, Alexis Gunderson and Jordan Kulczyk, and the announcement and conferral of degrees by Wray and Dr. Kim Weismann, Professor of Communication.

In addition, a posthumous degree was awarded to Aubrey Davis Webster, a WSC student lost in an automobile accident last fall. Webster was on track to graduate at the end of Fall 2019. Her degree was sent to her husband and their four daughters.

“Graduation is a celebration of academic accomplishment,” explained Dr. Miller. “While we were unable to host a traditional ceremony, it is important that we recognize the accomplishments of our students.”

The virtual commencement video is available on the WSC YouTube channel (@willistonstate) and WSC’s website at www.willistonstate.edu/graduation.

DID YOU MISS IT?
WATCH IT AGAIN OR SEE IT FOR THE FIRST TIME
Scan with camera to watch. or go to youtube.com/willistonstate
WSC celebrated all nursing graduates for the 2019-2020 academic year on Friday, July 17 at 10 a.m. with a drive-through pinning ceremony.

The pinning ceremony is a special tradition for nursing students and the WSC Nursing Department. In a normal year, the ceremonies would be held in the Skadeland Gymnasium with family and friends in attendance, speeches, the pinning process, and the lighting of the lamps and recitation of the Florence Nightingale pledge.

The ADN Pinning Ceremony, originally scheduled for the Thursday evening prior to graduation in May, was canceled due to COVID-19.

"As faculty, we are all so very proud of each and every student and wanted to do something to honor them for their accomplishments," added Raasakka.

"The pinning ceremony is the culmination of all the hard work that these students have put into realizing their dream of being a nurse and even though we couldn’t celebrate like we normally would, we wanted these students to know that their hard work, dedication and perseverance did not go unnoticed."

Students were encouraged to decorate their vehicles, much like they would normally decorate their graduation caps. Students were also encouraged to bring family members in their vehicles. Nursing faculty approached the cars while wearing masks and presented the pins, as well as goodie bags.

Given the unprecedented spring and summer semesters, WSC Nursing Faculty decided to role model social distancing and take precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

"While not a traditional pinning ceremony, this was the right thing to do," emphasized Gail Raasakka, Associate Professor of Nursing and Dakota Nursing Program Coordinator.

A total of 23 Practical Nursing Degree (PN) and 19 Nursing Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students were invited to the drive-thru ceremony. The WSC Tioga location also had six PN students who celebrated with their own local drive-thru ceremony.
WSC is proud to announce its first federal apprenticeship program in Industrial Maintenance Technology.

WSC celebrated the historic event with a signing event on February 26, 2020 in the Western Star Building.

The program gives WSC an opportunity to respond quickly to workforce needs in the northwestern part of the state.

"The program’s goal is to prepare technicians with the instrumentation, controls, and automation skillsets in demand by the local oil and gas industry, as well as other industries utilizing automation," explained Kenley Nebeker, Regional Director of Technical Programs and Training.

"Coursework is presented in a hybrid-style, with theory and knowledge gained online and hands-on practice with instrumentation and automation done face-to-face in the WSC automation lab."

The program’s curriculum is designed to help students develop skills and knowledge from essential fundamentals up to intermediate and advanced topics.

The curriculum provides high-tech skills that are in demand in multiple oil field applications including: variable speed control of oil pumping units; flow metering in pipelines and other oilfield tubulars; pressure control in pipelines, tanks and vessels; level control in oil separators; and temperature control in gas flaring. Skills learned can also be applied in other industries such as renewable energy and manufacturing.

The apprenticeship is designed to last between one-and-a-half to three years depending on an individual’s situation and costs $1,200 per semester.

WSC will also be able to extend pre-apprenticeship training and activities down into area high schools and to those interested in completing a GED program. This will allow interested 16 and 17-year old students to begin coursework and then on-the-job training once 18.

Individuals interested in pursuing an AAS and/or moving on to a four-year institution are encouraged to continue with WSC’s traditional Petroleum Technology and Automation program.

"I think it is important for companies in our area to note what this apprenticeship program allows them to do in their hiring practices," said Nebeker. "Companies can widen their recruiting net, knowing that they are no longer limited to hiring those already trained. This program will allow anyone who is motivated to learn to be industry ready and employers can recruit based off of soft skills and the motivation to learn."

INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY FEDERAL APPRENTICESHIP

3-6 SEMESTERS | $1200/SEMESTER

The Industrial Maintenance Technology Federal Apprenticeship program is aimed at providing industry workers, primarily from the oil and gas industry, with skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing technology environment. The Digital Oilfield concept and the Internet of Things are altering petroleum operations, as well as other industries, changing the nature of technician jobs and the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the workplace and satisfy industry needs.

TO REGISTER

Contact Kenley Nebeker, Regional Director for Technical Programs and Training, at 701.713.3780 or kenley.nebeker@willistonstate.edu.
Last December, WSC was one of 30 community colleges selected as 2020 finalists for the highly coveted Bellwether Awards given by the Bellwether College Consortium (BCC).

The BCC is comprised of award-winning colleges charged with addressing critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research.

The nationally recognized Bellwether Award focuses on innovative practices and programs worthy of replication and is given in three categories: Instructional Programs and Services; Planning, Governance, and Finance; and Workforce Development.

Finalists competed for one of the three awards at the 26th Annual Community College Futures Assembly held in San Antonio, Texas in February 2020.

WSC and its ONE BASIN One Way! program was named a finalist in the Workforce Development category which identifies strategic alliances that promote community and economic development.

A standardized contractor safety orientation program, ONE BASIN One Way! was developed by members of the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC), including Bakken-based producers and contractors.

ONE BASIN One Way! is provided by the North Dakota Safety Council (NDSC) and TrainND Northwest, a division of WSC.

A third entity, Diamond B, provides the software platform called ProCertX built specifically for the training and certification challenges subcontractors and producers face.

“*This program is a unique example of a workforce training initiative that is a public and private partnership,*” explained Dr. John Miller, WSC President. “*In addition, the groundwork for the program was done without exterior funding and it operates on its own from training proceeds and with no additional funding.*

By standardizing the orientation curriculum across the Bakken, the ONE BASIN One Way! program eliminates duplicative training, increases efficiency, and increases production numbers.

**TrainND in the Community ▶**

Participating in Trail of Treats; a WSC Safety Trainer, Tina Stewart donating blood; TrainND Safe & Sound BBQ event in August; and Team TrainND at Volleyball 5K last year.
In a letter sent to campus in early October 2020, WSC President Dr. John Miller announced his resignation as president effective June 30, 2021.

"After 37 years in public education, retirement beckons and I look forward to the next part of my life journey," stated Dr. Miller in the campus letter. "The decision I made six years ago to join the Williston State College family was one of the best personal and professional choices I made in a long career as an educator, and the professional and friendships formed in my time here are beyond measure to me."

Dr. Miller started at WSC as the Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2015 and served as acting president for a year before being unanimously appointed as WSC’s fourth president by the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) in June 2017.

During his six years at WSC, Dr. Miller has led the college through a period of increasing enrollment; an $8 million public/private partnership renovation of Stevens Hall; a successful HLC seven-year comprehensive review; campus reopening during a global pandemic; reactivating the agriculture program; and expanding the Nursing program to Watford City and Tioga.

North Dakota University System Chancellor Mark Hagerott noted that Dr. Miller’s time as president had been a stabilizing one for the area. "President Miller has been a great leadership presence for Williston State College during his entire six-year tenure there, first as vice president for academic affairs and then as president," explained Hagerott. "His service to campus and community has continued to make the college a phenomenal resource for the region and the state."

Dr. Miller has always been an advocate of service learning and leads by example through his dedication to Williston as a Rotarian, Western Regional Economic Development board member, Chamber of Commerce board member, Tri-county Regional Economic Development board member, and a member of St. Josephs Parish.

“I would personally like to thank Dr. Miller for his work here at Williston State College,” added Lance Olson, Math and Sciences Department Chair and Associate Professor. "He works tirelessly as our President to help ensure WSC stays a strong vibrant institution in western North Dakota. He always has the student’s needs in mind and his door is always open if you want to visit or talk shop."

Prior to his appointment at WSC, Dr. Miller worked as a secondary teacher and building administrator, Director of K-12 District Operations, online administrator for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy, and as Instructional Dean for Extended Studies at the College of Southern Idaho.
Erica (Daniels) Foster, (2000-2002) Lewistown, MT has been living abroad 4 of the last 6 years with her husband, Nate, and son Jackson (5). Nate works for Rio Tinto, a metals and mining company, while Erica enjoys raising Jackson. They were in Western Australia for three years before their current placement in South Africa.

James Laqua, Williston, ND, (2008-2010) is in his 7th year as a Financial Advisor for Raymond James at American State Bank and Trust in Williston. He has also volunteered on the City Fire Department. James and his wife, Chelse, a Physical Therapist at Live In Motion, have two sons, Grayson (age 2) and Kaden (5 months).

Matt Heier (2006-2008) is back in his hometown of Ray where he is in his third year as the Secondary Principal and Athletic Director for the Ray Public School. He and wife, Jayme, have two children: son Maddox (age 4) and daughter Emree (age 2).

Dave Leom Watford City, ND, (1991-1993) has been teaching in the Milaca Public School District for 25 years. He and his wife, Michele, live in Milaca, MN with their three children: Jillan, a senior in high school, and younger high school freshman siblings, Hilary and Thomas.

Ellen Morningstar, (2010-11) New Athens, Illinois is the owner and filmmaker of Morningstar Films which makes promotional films, documentaries and event films. She recently produced a short documentary that is an Official Selection for the 2020 Venice Short Film Festival in Venice, California. https://vimeo.com/393973956

Dustin Morningstar (2010-2011) Libby, MT is a project manager for a mechanical contractor based out of Portland, Oregon. The two call central Oregon home.

Brandon Passley Kitchener, Ontario (2011-2013) was promoted this year to Assistant Vice President and Internal Audit Manager at American State Bank & Trust in Williston. Passley is currently a board member of the Teton Booster Club and the WSC Accounting Department Advisory Board. He enjoys golf, hunting, and continues to play recreational hockey.

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Located at the corner of 26th and University, two once silver traffic control cabinets have been transformed into vibrant displays of public art.

And it is one of these cabinets that now showcases the artwork of WSC’s own Kirby Lund, Assistant Professor of English, who in addition to his wordsmithing, is a talented woodworker and an avid knitter.

Capturing every stitch and fabric detail, Tight Knit is a close-up photo of Lund’s Teton-themed sweater vest. Containing over 25,000 stitches, the green and white sweater took him two months to complete.

Lund’s work is joined by that of 23 local area artists as part of a city beautification project sponsored by the City of Williston STAR Fund and the Williston CVB.

What started as a Leadership Williston community enhancement project in 2018, a total of 27 traffic signal cabinets are now wrapped in vibrant vinyl wraps produced and installed by Bozeman-based Clean Slate Group.

**KIRBY LUND KNITS & PURLS HIS TETON PRIDE**

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Extensive renovations to Stevens Hall, including major American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant upgrades, began on March 1, 2020.

Up first was the home of WSC Music, located on the second-floor area of Stevens Hall above the Teton Lounge. Demolition work began during spring break and continued throughout the spring semester.

As a result of COVID-19 and the remainder of the spring semester transitioning online, construction on a new ADA compliant elevator and remodeling of the Leonard P. Nelson Health and Wellness wing, home to WSC Nursing, commenced several weeks ahead of schedule.

During this process, the WSC Nursing program temporarily relocated not far from campus to the former DMV offices situated alongside the WSC Foundation office at 721 East Highland Drive.

Renovation and remodeling work continued throughout the summer before completing in early September.

In an effort to catch up on the much-needed deferred maintenance updates across campus, WSC turned to public/private partnerships, colloquially known as “P3”.

Some advantages of the P3 path include rapid disposition of deferred maintenance projects; long-term financing for projects and maintaining manageable debt levels; and drawing upon existing & defined financial resources.

Most importantly, opting for a P3 solution does not rely on additional state appropriations. As a result, WSC is given greater flexibility to approach overdue projects on a reasonable timeframe.

An $8 million-dollar initiative, work on the P3 project commenced in early February with HVAC system upgrades and the start of lighting upgrades in Stevens Hall and exterior parking areas.

The P3 project was directed by Johnson Controls who worked with numerous local and regional construction, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and general contractors. WSC’s Campus Services and IT Departments also played an active role in the project.

Changes that resulted from the P3 project include:

- Energy efficient furnaces, boilers, roofs, windows, and interior and exterior lighting
- ADA compliant elevator and restrooms
- Updated doors and windows
- A fire suppression system in the Teton Lounge
- Additional and renovated classroom and office spaces
- Music storage and soundproof practice rooms
- IT infrastructure upgrades

"Not only do these upgrades and changes save the college thousands of dollars in energy savings and ‘avoided costs’ for maintenance and operations, they also enhance learning and living spaces by making them safer, healthier, and more comfortable," explained Dr. John Miller, WSC President.

Watch our Facebook page for final pictures!
TERRY OLSON
CELEBRATING A DEDICATED CAREER OF TETON PRIDE

BY HUNTER BERG

Terry Olson (T.O.) came to Williston in 1982, determined to make coaching the Tetons a great job. A quick look back and it is easy to say he accomplished that mission. Now, after a 38-year career with WSC, T.O. looks forward to a retirement that leaves behind a legacy of a passion for coaching, leadership in athletics, and a commitment to bettering a college that became home to him and his family. Terry Olson’s enthusiasm changed has so much and come so far, that at times it is difficult to comprehend and remember what times were like in a pre-Terry Olson era at WSC.

“Coach” Olson Learns the Trade

Born and raised near Lakota, ND, T.O. loved basketball and dreamed of coaching at the collegiate level. While completing an undergraduate degree at North Dakota State University, he latched onto the Bison basketball program and volunteered as a student assistant coach. This job was a game-changer for T.O. as he worked with assistant coach Dave VanderMeulen. T.O. proved his worth in the Bison program and was later asked to join VanderMeulen at UW-Whitewater, a competitive NCAA Division III school, as a graduate assistant. T.O. took the plunge, completed a masters degree, and set his eyes on continuing his coaching career, hoping to one day become a head coach. After one year as the head boy’s basketball coach at Harvey High School, T.O. applied for a job at then UND-Williston.

Another lifelong Teton pioneer, Phil Rabon, was heavily involved in the critical search for a new Athletic Director and Men’s Basketball Coach for the Tetons in the spring of 1982. Though T.O. was not a well-known college coaching commodity, Rabon remembers the young up-and-coming Olson’s enthusiastic attitude making an immediate impression. “Terry was one of two finalists for the basketball coaching job in 1982,” explained Rabon. “Although not as experienced, T.O. ‘sold himself’ to President Garvin Stevens and myself. He was very confident in his abilities and had a passion for coaching. More importantly, he had the passion for the Tetons job. We believed in his infectious attitude and passion, so we made our choice to go with T.O. Boy, was that a great choice!”

Hopes High for Teton Men’s Basketball

In the 70’s and early 80’s, Teton Basketball was a nationally recognized junior college power with the Tetons women’s program rattling off a string of national tournament appearances. The Tetons men’s basketball program had achieved some success during the 60’s and 70’s, but was nowhere near the glory of the women’s program. T.O. arrived eager to improve the men’s basketball program in hopes of matching the level of achievement rooted in the women’s program.

T.O. quickly embraced ideas that he felt would better the program. First, in an effort to raise support for scholarships and other program improvements, T.O. introduced the idea of the Teton Booster Club. Despite naysayers, T.O. along with a handful of loyal Teton fans, developed a club that remains extremely active and supportive of all aspects of Teton Athletics today.

Next up was the home-court situation. In the late 70’s and early 80’s, the Tetons played “home” games at Williston High School. T.O. believed it was time for a change.

“Though we played our ‘home’ games at Williston High, it often didn’t seem like we were able to truly capitalize on some of the normal advantages of playing at home,” stated Olson. “We didn’t practice there, the crowds and attendance were poor, and the court was smaller. While very thankful for Williston High’s hospitality, I felt that we really had no home court advantage and should make a change.”

Rabon disagreed. “I, and others, thought this move was a mistake and would never fly,” admitted Rabon. “Though it was a big headache bringing the game equipment and uniforms over to the high school each time we hosted a game, we just didn’t think moving our home games to the college’s campus was the best thing to do. We were wrong. The move created a new home court where other teams hated to play because of our overly packed crowds. And looking back, it planted a seed for thoughts of a new facility on campus someday.”

The new “home” of Teton Basketball created opportunities for UND-Williston. “We moved to the college and made improvements with new scoreboards from Coca Cola Bottling owners Ed and Dorothy Cote, new bleachers, and a new wood floor funded by the Booster Club and concession revenue, again run by the Booster Club’s extremely dedicated people,” Olson reflected.

Championship Dreams Become Reality

These early improvements opened the door to years of growth for Teton Athletics. Known for their competitiveness and toughness, the Tetons began consistently competing with the top teams in the state, conference, and region. The 1987-1988 team produced T.O.’s first Conference Championship as more and more talent made its way to Williston.

In the early 90’s, two transformational recruits changed the course of Teton Basketball forever. Sean Stephens from Mitchell High School in South Dakota, and a foreign exchange student from Trinidad and Tobago, signed to play for Coach Olson. Stephens was the first Trinidad and Tobago native in a string of 17 straight years where the Teton roster included a player from “T & T.” And what a string of talent that international connection produced! At about the same time, the signing of local standout Fred Fridley of Watford City made waves of excitement when he committed to beginning his college basketball career close to home. Starting with the 1992-1993 season and a talented group of players alongside Fridley and Stephens, T.O.’s teams would begin a
long streak of 20-win seasons. Game attendance skyrocketed and fans were eager to see the Tetons’ high-flying fast-paced style of play.

Between the regional championships and the national tournament appearances, a stream of top-notch athletic talent became a part of Teton history that remains to this day.

**Taking Care of all Teton Teams**

T.O.’s successful coaching is only part of the story. From day one, he had a vision of department-wide success. As Athletic Director, T.O. saw a need for facility improvements, increased scholarship opportunities, better travel, and more.

Perhaps one of the greatest accomplishments in the history of Teton Athletics is The Well. In 2002, T.O. served as the driving force behind its construction. He advocated for a bigger, more modern facility that could house the crowds drawn by the exciting play and success in the early 90’s. Packed houses were the norm for Teton home games and often the Skadeland gym was full to bursting. For many, these packed home games were the highlight of their playing careers; for fans, the highlight of their Teton watching experience.

The momentum for The Well began, and ultimately came to be, because of T.O. His work raising money for The Well’s construction was a labor of love and a crowning achievement. Today, The Well remains one of the top junior college facilities in the country. In 2008, the playing court was named “Terry Olson Court” in recognition of T.O.’s years of dedication to the Tetons.

**Life After Athletics**

Following 400+ career wins and a trophy case packed with honors, WSC continued to reap the rewards of T.O.’s hard work and vision as he moved from Athletic Director to the Executive Director of the WSC Foundation in 2007. He brought the same level of enthusiasm into the Foundation that he poured into Teton Athletics. Supporting WSC and its students took center stage as T.O. fostered new ventures and improvements for WSC.

T.O.’s fundraising work can be seen in major projects including the Science Wing addition to Stevens Hall, Frontier Hall, and four landmark monuments honoring the area’s history. His work in capturing scholarship support has allowed hundreds of students from northwest North Dakota and eastern Montana to attend WSC tuition-free.

**End of an Era**

It is difficult to imagine WSC without T.O. For almost 40 years, the passion and dedication of one man has transformed so many areas of our local community college. Truly, his work and its lasting impact will never leave campus. The Williston community gained a family in 1982 and T.O. recognizes his success was not his alone.

“I would really like to say thanks to Karen and the kids, Laura, Jacob, and Katie, who really bought into traveling to games and supporting me,” stated Olson. “The coaching life is not always an easy one on families and none of this would have happened without them.”

The Tetons became, and remain, his family as well. Not just the athletes, but the faculty and staff of WSC, the college’s supporters, the parents—the list goes on and on.

“I have been blessed with so many talented players; they are the ones who really made Teton Basketball so special,” emphasized Olson. “During my tenure with the Foundation, we have had extremely dedicated board members who deeply care about WSC. I also can’t thank the people I have worked with day-to-day over the years enough; they have made my job so enjoyable. The coaches, fans, teachers, and staff at the college—so many great people.”

“Lastly, the people of this region are the best as they are extremely generous and have always supported Williston State College.”

Thank you, Terry Olson, for making a difference for Williston State College and for past, present, and future Tetons. We will miss you.
THE T.O. LEGACY

1982  Terry Olson named Head Coach and Athletic Director
1983  The Teton Tip-Off Booster Club is established
       Coaches Teton Baseball for two seasons
1986  Moves Home Games from Williston High School to UND-Williston campus
1988  Wins first Mon-Dak Conference regular season title
1991  First student-athlete from Trinidad and Tobago
       Returned to Teton Baseball as coach for one year
1992  First 20-win season
1993  Coaches WSC's first Teton Men's Basketball All-American, Fred Fridley
1994  First Charter Bus for the Tetons
1995  Niall Dalton Brown becomes first Teton men's basketball player to sign at a
       Division I school, UC-Santa Barbara
1998  Won first-ever Mon-Dak Preseason Conference tournament
1998  Established the Teton Basketball Radio Package, Tetons own rights to broadcast games
2001  First pickup raffle
2002  The Well broke ground
2002  Established Sell a Seat campaign, selling reserved seats to raise funds for The Well
2003  First game in The Well
2005  Established Elementary School Nights at The Well
2006  Achieved 400 wins as Teton Men's Coach
2008  Final regular season home game
2012  Raised $600,000 to support new Science Wing
       Helps establish the Williston Community Philanthropy Award with Bethel and Mercy Foundations
2011  Coordinated relocation and operations of DMV
2011  Aided in Sitting Bull statue's placement at front of Stevens Hall
2012  Facilitates development of Phase I on-campus apartments, aiding Essential Service Workers
       housing shortage.
2013  Helped start the Gonzaga 'Summer in Williston Internship program
2014  Assisted in development of the ARC
2015  Worked with the Alva J. Field Trust to establish the Williams County Scholarship for
       Williams County high school graduates
2017  Developed Support a Suite Fund Drive in Frontier Hall
2018  Worked on introducing four monuments honoring area heritage of Agriculture, the Oil Industry, Ranching, and Veterans
Williston State College’s annual Giving Day, now in its third year, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28th, 2020.

A fun community event, the first Giving Day raised a total of $26,000 for various WSC programs. In 2019, that amount increased to $43,000.

This year’s goal is to hit the $50,000 mark.

“Giving Day has been a huge success for WSC,” emphasized WSC Executive Director, Hunter Berg, “Our supporters continue to be generous in many different ways and every donation is greatly appreciated and has a lasting impact on our students and campus.”

The momentum surrounding Giving Day events for non-profits around the country has made the idea a prominent part of the annual fundraising mission for organizations like the WSC Foundation.

“Giving Day is an easy way to make things happen on one day or over one small period of time,” explained Berg. “Teamwork in any organization is what truly makes a difference and on our Giving Day, we enjoy seeing our faculty, staff, and supporters demonstrate that ‘join together’ attitude. It is an awesome day.”

This year, in addition to reaching $50,000, the goal is to expand the celebration of Giving Day even further.

“We love to see alumni, businesses, families, and other Teton supporters show their pride,” stated Berg. “At the center of this Teton Thunder is a pull out poster for Giving Day 2020. Take a picture with it, post your photos on social media, tag WSC, and send us your photos! We would love to see them!”

Last year, over 15 focus areas were supported by donations ranging from $1 to $1,000.

Individuals can make donations to Teton Athletics, Arts and Humanities, Nursing, Scholarships, Math and Science, and much more.

Donations on Giving Day are matched in part by the WSC Foundation, thus making the impact of a gift even greater.

Giving Day donations can be made for two weeks before and after October 28th.

Join us in making this the biggest Giving Day yet! Go Tetons!
GIVING DAY
10.28.2020
GIVE FUND THE
Teton Community! Help us spread the word.

We want everyone interested in college to think about Williston State; and we have scholarships available!

Take a look at this map. Do you know students who will graduate from a high school in this area? They may qualify for a full tuition and fees scholarship!

Occasionally, when visiting with someone about WSC and the great opportunity offered from our regional scholarship program, I hear ‘Well, that’s great for the local kids but we don’t qualify for those.’ Our regional scholarship actually expands a long way into North Dakota and Montana, almost half-way across each of these states!

There are 51 counties in North Dakota and Montana that can qualify for the tuition and fees scholarship; however, the number of students from outside a 70-mile radius of Williston who apply is limited.

There are many who do not realize what WSC can offer and this is where the Teton Community can help make the difference!

Interested and eligible individuals can apply at willistonstate.edu/apply or visit willistonstate.edu/scholarships for more information.

Thank you!

Hunter Berg, Executive Director
Humankindness: Our word for the connection we share.
1. WSC’s Student Nursing Organization (SNO) trick-or-treated for hunger last year and gathered 362 lbs of dry, pantry food for the Williston Salvation Army! 2. WSC’s Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) student group put up its annual Giving Tree for the 2019 holiday season in support of the Mondak Animal Rescue and Williston Wonders and received loads of donations. 3. WSC’s SNO surprised the staff at the Williston Family Crisis Shelter on Friday, May 1 as they dropped off a literal truckload of support from the community. 4. WSC has been hosting community COVID-19 testing since August. 5. WSC’s SNO gathered food to donate to local families at Thanksgiving. 6. Teton Volleyball volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children event in February. 7. WSC Massage students volunteered massages to a parent’s of autistic children support group. 8. WSC’s Jenny Wolf and Hunter Berg donated blood last spring. 9. 4th Annual Teton Trail [of Treats]! Williston community, you did not disappoint! We had over 635 trick-or-treaters and their families walk our halls.

#TETONCOMMUNITY

1960s REUNION

Were you a student, faculty or staff member during the ‘60’s? Make sure we have your contact information updated to keep you informed. willistonstate.edu/foundation
YOUR NEXT CHEVROLET, BUICK OR GMC IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Take advantage of available current offers, most of which can be combined with your GM College Discount. You may also be eligible for exclusive lease offers, get 20% off most Connected Services and OnStar® plans or defer monthly payments for 90 days. And as an extra reward for your hard work, WillistonAuto will match the GM College Discount up to $500* when you purchase a new Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle.

Visit www.gmcollegediscount.com, then save today at WillistonAuto.com - you’ve earned it.
WHERE THE PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

1. WSC Counselor Brent Lysne masks up. 2. NW Regional Science Fair in February. 3. Live Stream Constitution Day program with US Supreme Court Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch. 4. Students dig through garbage in an ethnography exercise in Leah Windnagle’s Principles of Marketing class. 5. Local high school women visited campus in October for a Women in Automation event. 6. Holiday concert in 2019. 7. Carol Campbell, WSC Accounts Payable, masks up. 8. Learning Commons staff hand out candy during the annual Trail of Treats celebration. 9. Celebrating 10-year employees in August. 10. Kyla Cross, WSC Student, masks up. 11. Welding students fabricate flowers for valentines day. 12. WSC CFO Riley Yadon and coworker Earl work remotely during the March campus closure. 13. Teton WBB vs Alumni. 14. Student Life event in the Livdahl Lounge. 15. WSC Volleyball enjoys an outdoor movie in August. 16. Stacy Rubisch, Technical Program Coordinator, masks up. 17. Sierra Ciafardone, WSC student, masks up. 18. Dr. Kim Weismann’s Intercultural Communication class played Cultural Monopoly in March. 19. Grenora High School students visit the Learning Commons in November. 20. WSC faculty & staff celebrated the holidays at Eagle Ridge in December.
WSC FOUNDAION membership helps support all areas of WSC from academic programs, athletics, and student activities to campus beautification projects and expanding career and technical training opportunities.

"From a current student perspective, our modern classrooms, equipment, and labs provide the in-classroom tools for academic success," stated Berg. "Frontier Hall is a beautiful co-ed housing option in the heart of campus, close to classes and all the assistance our faculty and staff provide."

"We host various annual community events and our campus beautification initiative displays wonderful green spaces, easy walking paths, and a cultural component with monument pieces honoring our heritage. All of these areas will continue to grow and support for them is a great investment in the Williston community," added Berg.

The different levels of annual giving encompass a wide range of options and payment possibilities.

Members can join at any of the five levels:

- Foundation Club: $1-$149
- Sodbuster Club: $150-$499
- Teton Club: $500-$999
- College Hill Club: $1,000-$1,999
- Legacy Club: $2,000+

Please consider joining as a WSC Foundation member and support WSC.

Visit willistonstate.edu/foundation to learn more and sign up.
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Walking distance from the Williston ARC
Underground parking available
Studio, 1, 2, or 3 bedroom units

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ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

How long have you been at WSC? I returned to WSC on May 1, 2020. Nothing better than starting during a pandemic!

Previous/concurrent position, if any? I am currently the Athletic Director. I was a student-athlete from 1998-2000, and then an instructor and assistant men's and women's basketball coaches from 2003-2005.

Where were you before WSC? At North Dakota State University as a men's basketball coach.

What attracted you to WSC? WSC is and always will be a special place for me. This is where I started my career as a student-athlete, coach, and instructor, and now continue as part of administration!

What is the greatest skill you believe you bring to the Tetons? My passion and care for all involved in the WSC community! I believe I have a solid foundation for this given my time here.

What challenges have been presented to you in the time of COVID? The most difficult situations are the unknown and the athletics world is ever-changing. Unfortunately, you can’t just call someone for answers about going through a pandemic, so it is trying to make the best decision for the institution while also being flexible.

Our motto is, "Where the People Make the Difference." How have people made the difference already in your time at WSC? People make the difference for me every day! I know everyone is willing to help and that our goals and focus are the same – to give our students the best experience possible and prepare them for the future, while also caring about their everyday well-being!

What’s your favorite place on campus and why? The Skad. I still have so many special memories in there from my time as a student-athlete!

Tell us about a coach who made a difference in your athletic career? My dad was my high school coach and my everyday coach. He is and always will be the biggest influence in my life. Terry Olson was my first college coach and has remained a close mentor, confidant, and friend. He has had a HUGE impact on every step in my career. He was the first person to believe in me as a collegiate student-athlete and gave me my first college coaching job! I am forever grateful!

Favorite athletics/sports movie or book? Too many to list one or a few, but anything involving sports and a feel good story or watching an individual overcoming some form of adversity always grabs my attention! I love how athletics and higher education have a lasting impact on young men and women!

NEW STAFF FOR TETON ATHLETICS

For twelve weeks this summer, Phil Rabon Field was host to over 70 future baseball players as part of a developmental program for boys ages 5-9. It was great to see the field “alive” with youth and hopefully some future Tetons!
BASEBALL
[MASON PRZYBILLA]

How long have you been at WSC? 1 year and 1 month.

Where were you before WSC? I was still playing college baseball at Mayville State University.

What attracted you to WSC? I played here for 2 years and really enjoyed my time. I wanted an opportunity to coach at this level and I was honored to be able to do it here.

What is the greatest skill you believe you bring to the Teton's? I don't know if there is a specific skill but I love this school and I will do everything I can to help WSC move forward in a positive direction.

What challenges have been presented to you in the time of COVID? As far as recruiting goes, I got the job a little late to pick up some of the local players I liked as they had already committed elsewhere. COVID has also complicated things. One of the most important aspects of recruiting is bringing that prospect to campus to see the facilities and meet the players, staff, and other coaches. That didn’t happen. Despite this, I brought in eight new players and Coach Herbel had signed a local Williston player, Makia Remus. I really wish we would get a vaccine and things would get back to normal. Our upcoming season was cut from 30 to 22 games and our first game is in late January. I keep hoping that we get to have those games.

Our motto is, "Where the People Make the Difference." How have people made the difference already in your time at WSC? The staff and faculty have gone out of their way to help me however they can. There is a lot to learn as a first year head coach. I am thankful to have the support from our administration to let me run the baseball program the way I see fit.

What’s your favorite place on campus and why? The ARC is a game changer. It allows us to develop and prepare better than anyone else in the north.

Tell us about a coach who made a difference in your athletic career? The coach that had the biggest impact on my life was my dad. He coached at Lansford High School for many years and he taught me a lot. That being said, I’ve had the opportunity to coach with Sheila Green Gerding, Gary Walhaug, and Shawn Chaffin. They taught me a thing or two as well. I also have several coaching friends that I lean on every once in awhile like Steve Keller. One is never too old to learn new things.

Favorite athletics/sports movie or book? Hoosiers is my #1 movie. When it first came out, my Reed Point boy’s team was headed to Billings to play in the state tournament at the Metra. Dean Bruursema hosted a pre-tournament send-off dinner for us and we saw Hoosiers then for the very first time. Four days later, we returned home with the state championship trophy. I’ve probably seen Hoosiers 50 times since. It has a special place in my heart. I even made a soundtrack with the music from the movie. It’s awesome.
Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Emma Watson

What's your most embarrassing moment?
I pooped my pants at school in the first grade and didn’t tell anyone and had to ride the bus home. It was terrible!

Tell us a joke.
I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon… I’ll let you know.

What's your favorite word?
Flabbergasted

What would your superpower be?
I would love to read minds.

What profession are you hoping to do?
Social Work

What’s next for you after WSC?
Attending Presentation College in Aberdeen, SD. Studying Social Work and playing on the basketball team.

What were you doing before WSC?
I was back in Glasgow going to school and involved in sports almost every season.

What was your favorite class at WSC?
Geology was easily my favorite, but I also enjoyed Introduction to Coaching and Introduction to Human Services.

Who was your favorite teacher at WSC?
I can’t pick just one. Lance Olson, Lynne Raymond, and Kim Weismann are my top three!

What was your favorite activity at WSC outside of class?
Teton Athletics and Week of Welcome!

What would you tell a prospective student who’s thinking about coming to WSC?
The whole campus community is like a huge family. Everyone is there for everyone. You are never alone!

What advice do you have for your fellow WSC students?
Make the most of your journey. When things get hard, don’t give up!

If you could invite three people over for a dinner party (anyone, living or dead), who would you invite?
My grandpa, Justin Bieber, and Nick Vujicic.

Desert island top five: you can take a total of five movies/books/albums with you on a desert island. What are your choices?
Movies: Miracle, Greater, and The Greatest Showman.
Book: Dear Nobody: The True Diary of Mary Rose.
Music: Pick any Justin Bieber album and I’ll be happy.
STUDENT Q&A [WITH] ALEXIS GUNDERSON

Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Chloe Grace Mortez

What's your most embarrassing moment?
I don't get embarrassed very often, but one time I fell walking upstairs at a football game and face planted in front of everyone.

Tell us a joke.
I'm addicted to collecting vintage Beatles albums, I need HELP!

What's your favorite word?
Flabbergasted

What would your superpower be?
Teleportation

What profession are you hoping to do?
I'm not sure yet! But something that makes me happy and helps others!

What's next for you after WSC?
Move to Fort Collins and live life!

What were you doing before WSC?
Going to high school, hanging out with friends, and wondering what college was going to be like.

What was your favorite class at WSC?
This is hard, but I have to say that all the history classes with Professor Stenberg were my favorite. He always kept me looking forward to class!

Who was your favorite teacher at WSC?
Again, this is super hard, but Professor Tenbusschen was one of the best professors I have ever had.

What was your favorite activity at WSC outside of class?
I enjoyed the artistic activities, as well as the free food.

What would you tell a prospective student who's thinking about coming to WSC?
DO IT. Especially if you can save yourself or your family money. What's better than free tuition? Also, if you are privileged enough to receive some sort of benefit, DO NOT WASTE IT. Go to class and work hard, because someone else would love to have your spot.

What advice do you have for your fellow WSC students?
If you are struggling, ask for help! All of my professors were super kind and helpful with anything I needed. The college also has labs you can go to if you need help with any of your classes. The communication lab is super helpful, and so is the math lab. Also eat healthy, be aware of your mental health, and find a hobby that you enjoy.

If you could invite three people over for a dinner party (anyone, living or dead), who would you invite?
Stefani Germanotta, Joe Rogan, and Bob Ross.

Desert island top five: you can take a total of five movies/books/albums with you on a desert island. What are your choices?
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI & FORMER FACULTY & STAFF BANQUET

Our Outstanding Alumni and Outstanding Former Faculty and Staff Banquet was a 2019 highlight.

It was great seeing so many friends reunited on campus. While there will not be a 2020 banquet, the event will return in the future.

FOLLOW US @ FACEBOOK.COM/WSCFAA

Outstanding Alumni
Ray Anderson
Toni Bell
Bev Conway
Jim Duffey
Claire Folvag
Pat Hatlestad
Georgina Linghor
Terry Oxendahl
Medrein Sandvold
Nancy Wisness

Outstanding Former Faculty & Staff
Coke Aafedt
Joan Amsden
Darlain Atol
Jerald Basol
Fay Halvorson
Carol Jodock
Phil Rabon
Joyce Smith
George Solberg
Garvin Stevens
Linda Tharp
Arlene Tvedt
SUZI KAY MEMORIAL TREE

On Wednesday, June 24, 2020, about 30 friends and family gathered at WSC to plant a tree in memory of Suzi Kay Bakewell Lee.

The tree was gifted by her coach, Penny Slagle, and teammates from 1979-1981 when Suzi Kay played basketball for the Lady Tetons. Suzi Kay led her team to the NJCAA National Tournament twice. She is a member of the Teton Hall of Fame and a NJCAA All American.

Planted outside of Stevens Hall, the tree will serve as a lasting memorial to Suzi Kay who dedicated so much of her life to the Teton community.

Included with the tree is a small plaque that reads:

This tree is planted in memory of
Suzi Kay Bakewell Lee
UND-W 1979-1981
Teammate and Friend

DONN SKADELAND MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 29, 2020

The Donn Skadeland Tournament was another great success!

We have many loyal Teton supporters that show up no matter the circumstances, and this year was no different!

The Skadeland family has had such a significant impact not only on WSC, but also the greater Williston community!

This year we had 32 teams compete and were able to make another significant contribution to WSC Athletic Scholarships.

Every WSC athletic team made it out to the course and got to interact with so many great Teton fans. It was definitely a unique year, so I want to give a special thanks to everyone for their contributions and helping continue such an impactful event!

- Jayden Olson, Athletic Director

2020 TRUCK RAFFLE WINNERS

1 - Jeff Tescher
2 - John Kasmer
3 - David Jacobs
4 - Mike Ekblad
5 - Cassidy Radley
6 - Josh Davidson
7 - Josie Milne
8 - Jill Kleven
9 - Travis Wray
10 - Triangle Electric
11 - Mike Marquardt
12 - Doug Richter
13 - Dorry Evitt

19TH ANNUAL TRUCK RAFFLE

Grand Prize: 2018 Ram 1500 Classic Quad Cab
2nd: 2020 Can Am Outlander 450
3rd: $5,000
4th: $1,000 Gift Certificate (Sportsman’s Warehouse)
5th: $1,000 Gift Certificate (VonHoff’s)
6th: $1,000 Gift Certificate (Cicco De Marie)
7th: $1,000 Gift Certificate (McLain’s)
8th: $1,000 Gift Certificate (Local’s)
9th: $1,000 Gift Certificate (Sonic Sports)
10th: Traeger Grill
11th: Pelican Cooler
12th: $500 Gift Card (Shawnee’s)
13th: $500 Gift Card (All Seasons Gift Shop)

PROCEEDS GO TO THE TETON BOOSTER CLUB.

$1000 Good For One Chance To Win
New Board Members: Stillwell & Murphy

Last October, the WSC Foundation added two new board members to fill the expired terms of Kim Hennessy and Tammy Sogard.

Melanie Stillwell, current President/CEO of the Williston Western Cooperative Credit Union, is a native of Upham, ND. In 1998, she began her career at WCCU as VP of Lending, before advancing to Executive VP, and then President/CEO in 2002.

Melanie and her husband, Bill, have one son Ryland. Both Bill and Ryland are WSC graduates. Melanie has served on numerous boards and service organizations representing the Williston community.

Lee Murphy is the VP of Operations/CFO for Diamond Resources in Williston. He hails from Berthold, ND and attended UND-W in 1998-1999.

Lee and his wife, Kim (Hovet) Murphy, who also attended then UND-W, returned to Williston in 2007. Lee began as an accountant for Diamond Resources. They are the parents of son, Jaden (age 12) and daughter, Morgan (age 7).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS EVERYTHING!

Ken Callahan (second from right), representing the Williston API Chapter, presents a check to WSC and the WSC Foundation for their continued scholarship support of WSC’s students.

- Frontier Hall
  Naming opportunities for suites are available for $50,000 (3/4 are already named). Donations will reduce the cost of living in the residence hall so students can have the full college experience with less financial burden.

- Art on Campus
  Future projects include monuments to agriculture, oil, and ranching.

- Endowments
  Agriculture, housing, or general fund endowments. Possible match from the ND Challenge Fund. Talk to your accountant about ND tax credit eligibility.

- Unrestricted
  The WSC Foundation Board directs this money to where it is needed most.

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:
701.572.9275
P.O. Box 1286 Williston, ND 58802-1286
kim@wscfoundation.com
A reunion celebrating Terry Olson’s 26 years to the Teton Community is scheduled for the weekend of February 26-28, 2021 at Williston State College.

Activities will include Teton basketball games vs. Dawson Community College, socials, and more – all in celebration of Coach Olson’s retirement!

A final decision on the reunion will be made shortly after January 1, COVID-dependent. If it cannot be held safely in February, the reunion will be moved to the fall of 2021.

Stay tuned to willistonstate.edu/foundation for more info.
WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION
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