

Maryville Daily Forum
Thursday, June 4, 2015
Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President

The summer session at Northwest Missouri State is in full swing. That means students are not only engaged in the coursework, internships and other profession-based education opportunities we value highly at Northwest, but that the campus offers a bounty of summer activities for our surrounding community to enjoy, too.

But first, Northwest took a significant strategic step May 19 toward extending the opportunities we provide to Kansas City-area students with the groundbreaking celebration for the Northland Innovation Center, a partnership involving the city of Gladstone, North Kansas City Schools and Northwest. We are proud of this public-private partnership and recognize this is an important piece to our disrupting from a position of strength and drive strong performance.

Our part in the Northland Innovation Center also creates important synergies for K-12 programming in addition to attracting employees and students from the Kansas City metro and regional area. With our strategic plan in mind, Northwest-Kansas City will allow us to better serve individuals seeking to start or complete college credentials and serve industry through client-based services.

Locally, Fourth Street is open, and it looks awesome. I hope you will join us from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 15, and bring your neighbors to help us celebrate the reopening of the street and our town/gown relationship.

Additionally, you need only to walk by the Robert and Virginia Foster Fitness Center on the south side of campus adjacent to Lamkin Activity Center to see construction is progressing rapidly on that facility. The project stands at 65 percent complete, and we are targeting Aug. 31 for its completion. I invite you to learn more about that project by visiting our new Fitness Center website at www.nwmissouri.edu/FitnessCenter/.

State lawmakers also passed a bonding bill last month that will allow us to take a bite out of almost \$6.9 million worth of deferred maintenance needs at Northwest, and the university will receive \$250,000 in matching funds from the state to support construction of a planned Agricultural Learning Center. We are thankful to Gov. Jay Nixon, Sen. Dan Hegeman, Rep. Allen Andrews, and senate and house leaders for their commitment to higher education and diligence to support higher education.

Beyond taking pride in the physical changes happening on and around Northwest this summer, there are plenty of other ways for you to enjoy the campus and interact with us this summer.

Northwest's Summer Movie Series is underway and I hope you will take some time to enjoy at least one or two of the free movies as there is something for everyone. The series runs every Tuesday night through July 28 at the Ron Houston Center with showings at 7 and 9 p.m.

The Northwest Alumni Association is sponsoring family-friendly, Northwest-themed events this summer that you may enjoy. Northwest-themed days are planned at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium on Saturday, June 6, and at Kansas City's Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun on Saturday, July 11. Tickets also are available for Northwest Night at the St. Joseph Mustangs on Saturday, June 20, which has become a fun summer tradition for our employees, alumni and friends. The tailgate is 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7 p.m. at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph. Contact alumni@nwmissouri.edu or 660.562.1248 to learn more about any of these events.

Furthermore, summer camps sponsored by our athletics and music areas are beginning and will bring thousands of youths and their families to campus this summer. Plus, Summer Orientation Advisement and Registration, better known as SOAR, kicks off Friday, June 19 and continues through Wednesday, July 1, and those days will bring a wave of incoming students and their families to our city and campus as well.

These types of activities – not just during the summer months, but year-round – play vital roles in bringing our community together and fueling the kinds of economic impact Northwest cited last month in announcing the results of our third-party economic impact, which showed the university generated \$617.5 million in added regional income during fiscal year 2014.

We take pride in the positive movement happening in regard to Northwest's future, the ways we serve students and the connections we make. We hope you will join us and celebrate Northwest with us this summer.

Dr. John Jasinski is the 10th president of Northwest Missouri State University. For news and events at Northwest visit www.nwmissouri.edu.