

**Maryville Daily Forum  
Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016**

**Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President**

November greetings to you as we enter the latter half of our fall trimester. Thanks to all who joined us last week to celebrate what was a super Homecoming week. Homecoming always is a wonderful time to celebrate our proud history and traditions and exhibit and share our Bearcat spirit.

It was a joy to welcome so many alumni and friends and parents as well as our Board of Regents and Northwest Foundation Board members who were on campus for their October meetings. During Walkout Day on Friday – a Homecoming tradition on our campus that now dates back 101 years – we welcomed our Class of 1966 to the Golden Years Reunion at the Alumni House. We also celebrated our international students during the annual International Flag-Raising Ceremony and the newest class of inductees to our M-Club Hall of Fame during a ceremony Friday night.

Beyond Homecoming we continue to lead academically and serve as a model to our peers.

We received notice in August 2015 that the U.S. Department of Education would visit our campus to conduct a Federal Title IV program review. Several faculty and staff were involved in the preparation for this review, and our ongoing administrative processes and preparation recently resulted in a very positive review.

Our initial program review report referenced five minimal findings. After responding to each of the referenced findings, which were easily addressed and corrected, our Final Program Review Determination was issued and received this fall.

The U.S. Department of Education indicated our response and corrective actions were appropriate and sufficient to resolve each of our findings. Through consultation with our counsel at Husch Blackwell we learned we were cited for far fewer findings than any other client during the last four years and their team is now using Northwest as a model for program reviews with other institutions.

The compliance process for administration of the Federal Title IV financial aid programs is a campus-wide effort, and the program review allowed us to showcase our commitment to students, collaboration among colleagues and knowledge necessary to appropriately administer Title IV programs on our campus.

Additionally, we were pleased to learn recently that our recreation program has been granted full accredited status by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT) through 2023. COAPRT commended Northwest for our student support in areas such as CITE, library services and Career Services. The Board elaborated on how impressed it was with how all areas are focused on student success and commended us on the development of our learning outcomes model.

We are leading also through our efforts to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion as Northwest was recognized last month in Washington, D.C., with an institutional award from Minority Access Inc. We have worked hard in recent years to identify and develop strategic

objectives that place a focus on access and student success for both marginalized students and employees. We are incorporating social justice and cultural competence in our teaching and learning to prepare all students for the global society. We are creating an inclusive campus and community climate that allows the opportunity for success and growth.

As you know, we are less than a week away from an important election that has major impacts for our community, state and country. We are proud of our Student Senate, which was instrumental this fall in helping students register to vote and understand the processes in their home states. In fact, our Student Senate ranked No. 20 in the country among universities in terms of percentage of student body registered.

Locally, the ballot includes a question asking voters to decide whether the city of Maryville should impose a 5 percent transient guest tax on hotel stays in Maryville for the purpose of promoting tourism and economic development. A portion of the funding will be earmarked for the construction, operation and maintenance of a planned Northwest Multipurpose Complex on campus. Please educate yourself about the issues, get out to vote and encourage others to do so as well. Visit [maryville.org/election](http://maryville.org/election) for more information.

As our Homecoming theme inspired us to do, I encourage you to "Make Your Move" and engage in activities at Northwest and our community. As we challenge our students to do, I encourage you to keep learning, connecting, caring, practicing civility and showing pride!

*Dr. John Jasinski is the 10th president of Northwest Missouri State University. For news and events at Northwest visit [www.nwmissouri.edu](http://www.nwmissouri.edu).*