



February 4, 2020

First Tuesday: A monthly message from Wichita State President Jay Golden

Let's work together to shape a great future for WSU's students, campus community and Kansas

Hi, I'm Jay Golden, and this is my first semester as Wichita State's President. *First Tuesday* is one of many ways I'll use to communicate with the campus about why we're doing what we're doing and how these initiatives will help our students, campus community and Kansas.

Every university I've attended, taught at or helped lead has shaped my philosophy. I've also spent months deeply immersed in learning about WSU, Wichita and Kansas. This is a wonderful place and it deserves our best efforts.

I sought and accepted this job because I believe Wichita State is on the trajectory to become one of America's great public research universities. We have the faculty, staff, facilities, alumni, donors and public support to take this university and our students to the next level in outcomes and reputation.

Our secret sauce will be providing our students a competitive advantage in starting their careers, following a highly affordable education. The ability to take theory in the classroom and apply it to real-world settings will make for better students academically and in career preparation. This is the Shocker Advantage.

As your president, I promise to uphold the values of this institution, values based on transparency, inclusiveness and respect. No matter your race or gender, sexual orientation, your economic background, political beliefs, if you're a first-generation or multi-generation student, you belong at Wichita State, and I will work tirelessly to make sure that you feel you belong.

I'm initially investing my time, and would be grateful if you would invest yours, in these four objectives:

- Improving the student experience
- Increasing enrollment, with an emphasis on affordability
- Strengthening our regional impact
- Ensuring WSU's financial health

Since the Kansas Board of Regents appointed me in October, I have been fortunate to have people from our campus and community reach out to me with their input on how Wichita State can become an even more impactful institution to benefit our students and the people of Kansas. Their comments were important in shaping my thinking about early steps.

As part of my commitment to shared governance and transparency, I developed multiple [University Task Forces](#) that are beginning the important work of examining opportunities that exist on a range of topics.

Each task force has representatives from divisions and constituency groups across campus. After the results are received in mid-April, we will have multiple town halls to discuss results and steps moving forward.

I appreciate all of your hard work contributing to the strategic planning process, the preparation of background binders for me and your willingness to take time to be part of the many task forces and town halls. All of these are shaping my thinking about Wichita State.

We also launched the President's Convergence Sciences Initiative to strongly encourage faculty and staff research collaborations across traditional department lines. You'll be hearing more details later this month.

You may think this is a lot of change to absorb at one time, but you should be encouraged by looking back at all the university has achieved in recent years, including rising enrollment, greatly increased research funding, the addition of important academic programs and facilities, the expansion of our geographic footprint and the successful affiliations with WSU Tech and the American Athletic Conference.

You have a lot to be proud of, and we can expect a lot more success in years to come. I'm happy to share the journey with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Golden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Golden, Wichita State President

A Glimpse into the Life of the President

A day in the life: On any given weekday, you'll find me on campus starting at 6 a.m. Most of my days are devoted to learning the campus and community and exchanging ideas with everyone I meet through scheduled events, meals, speeches and meetings, as well as numerous informal discussions with students, faculty, staff, donors and community members. At about 10 p.m. each night is when I head home.

A week in the life: The week of Jan. 20 was full of activity, with more than 50 events that I took part in. This included attending three of Wichita State's many events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was the week I announced organizational changes and the formation of a dozen 90-day task forces and other studies to gather information and opinions on a broad range of topics important to the future of WSU.



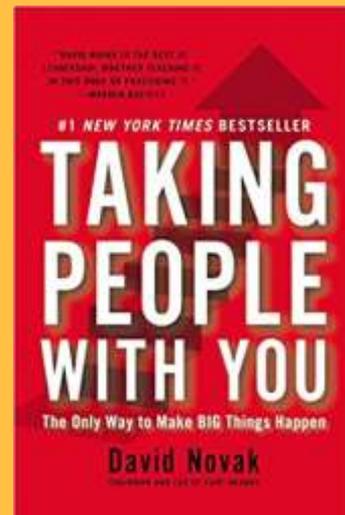
I also took time to support events that enrich the student experience, attending Shocker sporting events, cutting the ribbon on the new Steve Clark YMCA and WSU Student Wellness Center and speaking to Shocker Nation through Twitter, Facebook and local media interviews. It was a very full week, with many more like it in the pipeline.

Good reading

“You have to begin by asking yourself three big questions that will drive your approach to leadership and allow you to take people with you. They are:

1. What's the single biggest thing you can imagine that will grow your business or change your life?
2. Who do you need to affect, influence or take with you to be successful?
3. What perceptions, habits or beliefs of this target audience do you need to build, change or reinforce to reach your goal?”

– *Taking People with You: The Only Way to Make Big Things Happen*, By David Novak



FEATURED TWEET

FEATURED FACEBOOK POST



Jan. 25: Sorry donors but not hosting ya'll @ tonight's @GoShockersMBB - its all about #StudentExperience. Surprised students in Shocker Hall this am & gave away tickets in President's section to sit w/ me.

[Follow me on Twitter](#)



Jan. 21: Having NetApp on the Innovation Campus will kick off new applied learning, convergence sciences and digital transformation research opportunities for our students and faculty, driving the state and regional economy at a crucial time. I'm thrilled to see this step forward!

[Follow me on Facebook](#)

Q&A with Jay

One of the things I enjoy most as president is engaging directly with all of you. Every month in this newsletter, I'll answer a question asked by a student, faculty or staff member.

Q: What are your greatest creative strengths?

A: To think strategically and to really try to imagine what things are, maybe a little bigger and bolder.

[Watch Dr. Jay as he answers more of your questions](#)



HAVE A QUESTION FOR
THE PRESIDENT?

[Email Jay](#)

