



First Tuesday: A monthly message for Wichita State faculty, staff and students from President Jay Golden

March comes in, and goes out, like a Shocker!

January and February were a whirlwind. I have wrapped up touring our on-campus facilities and hosting town halls with all of our colleges. Senior leaders representing administration, faculty, staff and students participated in a retreat.

These opportunities were valuable for me to learn first-hand many of the incredible things our faculty, staff and students do on a regular basis.

I also was confronted with some of the realities we face, including facilities in need of repair / renovation, salary compression and inadequate program funding.

Based on all that I learned from the data provided me in the binders I requested at the beginning of the year, the listening sessions I've held and my own discovery process, I have refined **Five Institutional Priorities** that I recently presented to the Kansas Board of Regents.

Those priorities are:

1. Accessible and affordable education
2. Best student experience
3. Recruit and retain talent
4. Grow and diversify research for our economy
5. Embrace a mission of service

I will be on the road for a good portion of March as our advocate, traveling to Topeka and throughout the state meeting with legislators, as well as industry and community leaders.

I will tell them that Wichita State University is the catalyst for improving the economy of the state and that we will become even more impactful with the resources to diversify the research and scholarship on our campus.

I will also be in Washington, D.C., meeting with Congressional and federal agency leadership, carrying the same message and identifying funding opportunities for our students and faculty.

I will be spending time on Embassy Row in D.C., meeting with foreign representatives as we work to create multi-national partnerships in research, scholarship and cultural activities, as well as increasing global experiences for our students.

Speaking of students, the Dallas/Fort Worth metro area is calling. I will be on the road in Texas with Bobby Gandu, assistant vice president for Strategic Enrollment Management, to meet with school district officials, high school principals and counselors, community college leaders, alumni and major area employers.

We are going to be innovative in ways we recruit and retain talent from outside of Kansas. Dallas/Fort Worth, with the largest concentration of potential new students, is where I am going to initially focus my efforts.

When I return to campus, I will be engaging deans, chairs and students to help in this process as we move forward.

Our [strategic enrollment management plan](#), which calls on all of us to help grow enrollment, provides our road map for enrollment success.

Improving our research and learning spaces

We have completed a space utilization survey of all WSU properties and are about to kick off an analysis of research space use.

The analysis will include research productivity in the space, identification of outdated or duplicate equipment, etc.

Once that study is completed, it is my intent to provide the results to deans to discuss with their department chairs.

I will be asking them to develop recommendations for those spaces not being well-utilized. The reality is that WSU and our sister Regents institutions will be developing plans for taking space offline that has reached the end of its useful life.

I am focused on raising funds to build a new generation of buildings to serve our campus. I make no promises other than I will work tirelessly and be as innovative in my approach. We will also do this in a transparent manner.

I met with our master planning architectural firm recently and anticipate launching a campus-wide master planning process in the near-term.

If there is one thing I would want to leave you with it is this ... I believe with all my heart that this is a great time to be a Shocker and that our future is bright. I am so honored to be able to work with each of you.

Always remember we are here for our students and that without the dedication and innovation of our staff, none of this would be possible. And I'm always happy to hear from you, president@wichita.edu.

Go Shocks!



Jay Golden, Wichita State President

A Glimpse into the Life of the President



From left: Textron Aviation President and CEO Ron Draper, Maggie Topping, senior vice president for Textron human resources and communications, and WSU President Jay Golden on a tour of Textron.

Every day I'm given the chance to meet people and attend events that are crucial to the future of our university. Below are samples of a few days this past month and what we accomplished together:

Thursday, Feb. 27:

- The day started off as I was given the opportunity to speak to a group of visiting university representatives as part of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) conference. The conference was hosted by Wichita State and was an opportunity for participating universities going through the process of earning the IEP designation to learn from each other.
- Other topics of the day ranged from finances, to the Faculty Senate, to the emerging Latinx initiative at Wichita State.
- One of the day's highlights was a tour of Textron Aviation. Textron will soon open a location on the Innovation Campus and is a key collaborator in our efforts to develop the future of the aviation industry, advance product innovation and help students better understand career opportunities within general aviation.
- More meetings with students, members of our Greek community and local organizations, such as the Kansas Urban League, rounded out my afternoon, followed by an exciting basketball game as the Shocker men defeated Temple in a nail-biter.

FEATURED TWEET



Feb. 26: Spent the morning touring all the facilities of [@WSU FineArts](#) and got to enjoy dance, choir, instrumentals, painters and sculptors - students and faculty - in the midst of their creative best. Incredible tap dancing performance - the energy and enthusiasm of all was great.

FEATURED FACEBOOK POST



Feb. 14: Took a break today from meeting alumni, donors and future research partners/industry in Phoenix to support our [Wichita State Women's Tennis](#) team as they take on Arizona State. Gorgeous day for tennis. [#GoShocks](#)

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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: Did you have a financial hardship when you were a student?

A: I worked full-time as a police officer while putting myself through school, so I worked midnight shifts and went to class in the morning. So I definitely know what it's like.

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



Q&A WITH JAY

Have a question for the president?

[Email Jay](#)



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