

Alan D. LaFave, D.M.A.

September 18, 2025

Dear Members of the Presidential Search Committee,

It is with deep appreciation and personal pride that I submit my application for the presidency of Northern State University. As an alumnus and former long-serving faculty member and administrator, Northern has shaped my life and career in ways I will always be grateful for. The opportunity to return and lead this institution is both humbling and inspiring.

When reviewing the personal qualifications and qualities outlined in the President Leadership Profile, I have significant experience and demonstrated success in each of these important traits.

For nearly seven years, I have served as President of Valley City State University, leading a period of growth, revitalization, and student-centered innovation. This work includes record breaking enrollment and several transformative capital projects, including:

- **19% enrollment growth** from Spring 2018 to Spring 2024
- Five consecutive semesters of **record-breaking enrollment** growth Fall 2023 to Fall 2025
- A **77% retention rate** in Fall 2025
- Ranked by US News as the **top public regional college in ND** and second in Midwest (12 state region) for four consecutive years
- Ranked by Niche **#1 small college in ND, #1 best college for education in ND**
- A **\$32M Center for the Arts**, funded entirely by the State of North Dakota – the largest capital investment in VCSU history
- A **\$13.5M renovation of McCarthy Hall**, with \$11.5 million secured from state appropriations and \$2 million in private and other funds
- Launching VCSU's **first-ever capital campaign**, anchored by a \$5M gift – the largest single donation in VCSU history – which is now being used to build the Tharaldson Family Center multi-purpose athletic training and performance facility
- Procurement of **\$1M Workforce Education Innovation Fund grant** for the development and formation of the VCSU AI Institute for Teaching and Learning

These efforts were made possible through strategic partnerships with legislators, donors, alumni, and business leaders. I take pride and have been successful in aligning institutional priorities with regional workforce needs and long-term financial sustainability.

Before my presidency at VCSU, I spent nearly 28 years at Northern State University as a professor, department chair, and administrator. I understand and deeply respect NSU's mission, its students, faculty, and staff, and its role in the Aberdeen community. My previous

work with the South Dakota Board of Regents has given me a strong understanding of the state's public higher education policy and governance structure.

My leadership philosophy is centered on transparency, collaboration, and results. I believe in empowering teams, listening actively, and fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. I view the president's role not only as a steward of the institution's mission and state resources, but also as its chief advocate – someone who builds trust, connects people, secures resources, and keeps the university focused on meaningful outcomes for students and the broader community.

Having lived and worked in South Dakota for many years, I've built meaningful and lasting relationships within the Aberdeen business community and across the region. These connections – and my familiarity with the cultural and economic fabric of northeastern South Dakota – position me to be a visible, trusted, and effective advocate for Northern State University.

I have reviewed the "Strategic Pathway," guided by the core values of community, discovery, and integrity. I'm especially excited about Strategic Priority: Growing the Campus Community, as I believe the university is well-positioned for growth. I have also reviewed the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan which addresses recruitment, retention, and marketing – areas where I bring direct leadership experience. I have an excellent record of success in recruitment and retention and am confident I can help Northern grow and thrive, particularly in advancing South Dakota's workforce development goals.

Returning to Northern would be more than a professional milestone – it would be a homecoming. I am committed to honoring NSU's legacy while helping lead it into a future of continued growth, innovation, and relevance.

Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my experience, passion, values, and vision align with Northern State University's next chapter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan D. LaFave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan D. LaFave, D.M.A.

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EDUCATION

- D.M.A., Clarinet Performance; Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1998.
- M.M., Clarinet Performance; Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1989.
- B.M.E., Instrumental/Vocal Music; Northern State College, Aberdeen, South Dakota, 1985.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

President, Valley City State University, Valley City, ND (December 2018 – present)

- Provide executive leadership for the university.
- Provide oversight of \$28 million annual university budget, personnel, president's cabinet, communications, strategic planning, emergency management team, community relations, NDUS initiatives, facilities, development, and enrollment initiatives.
- Secured \$1 million Workforce Education Innovation Fund grant to implement the VCSU AI Institute for Teaching and Learning, 2025.
- Led campus-wide retention efforts with the formation of a retention task force resulting in an increase in fall-to-fall retention rates from 71% to 77%, 2025.
- Helped lead enrollment initiatives resulting in 19% growth from Spring 2018 to Spring 2024 and record-breaking enrollments the past four semesters.
- Secured \$13.5 million (\$11.5M state funds, \$2M capital campaign/other funds) for the renovation and repurpose of McCarthy Hall as the VCSU School of Education and Technical Education. Facility opened Fall 2025.
- Helped lead, guide, and develop case statement, framework, and implementation of the first ever capital campaign, "Forward Together," with the lead gift of \$5 million toward the new Tharaldson Family Center athletic practice and performance facility – a 65,000 square foot indoor turf and practice facility containing new locker rooms, weight room, running lanes, athletic training room, batting cages/bullpen, Viking Hall of Fame and legacy room.
- Helped grow total foundation assets from \$17.3M in 2018 to \$27.5M in 2024 and designated \$2M annually to student scholarships.
- Established ongoing communication and relationships with district legislative delegation, legislative and executive branch, Valley City and Barnes County leadership, Valley City Public Schools leadership, and community constituents.

- Helped secure \$600K North Dakota Department of Public Instruction grant in 2022 to provide scholarship assistance to paraprofessionals and substitute teachers to complete teacher licensure.
- Led efforts to develop, guide and implement VCSU Strategic Plan, *Forward Together*, 2022.
- Led efforts for securing legislative approval and funding of \$32 million Center for the Arts during 2019 legislative session (SB2922). Opened January 2021.
- Helped develop and create the “Rural School Partner Benefit Program,” instituted to provide tuition waiver assistance to teachers in partner schools to pursue and attain their master’s degree.
- Led North Dakota University System-wide initiatives in *Math Pathways* and *ECOR* (electronic curriculum online resources) as co-chair.
- Developed and presented budget presentation to ND House and Senate appropriations committees, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025.
- Serve as liaison and ex-officio member of the VCSU Foundation Board.
- Serve as ex-officio member of the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation.
- Serve as member of CHI Mercy Health governing board.
- Represent the university at Chancellor’s Cabinet and SBHE meetings.
- Visited every school district offering high school dual credit courses through VCSU to help build connections and help students see a pathway for success at VCSU.
- Served as guest speaker for Valley City Rotary, Kiwanis and Optimist service clubs.

Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, NSU, Aberdeen, SD (2015 – December 2018)

- Provided leadership and oversight for extended deans council, deans council, and academic affairs meetings discussing specific issues relevant to academic quality, student success, faculty workload, strategic planning, enrollment, recruitment, retention, faculty evaluation, Huron Community Campus, online courses and programs, graduate programs, honors program, Statewide Center for E-Learning, grants and sponsored research, international programs, budget, program productivity review, general education, facilities, scheduling, and curriculum.
- Served as member of SD Board of Regents Academic Affairs Council, discussing and evaluating curricular and faculty issues of statewide and national significance.
- Led a campus-wide open enrollment forum, spring 2017, with the VP for Enrollment Management and VP for Communications and Marketing. Oversaw retention increases for the following years; 2015 - 65.4%, 2016 - 74.3%, 2017 - 77%.
- Assisted in cultivating a collaborative agreement with the Aberdeen Development Corporation and the NSU Center for Creativity and Entrepreneurship and led organization of first CCE Festival.
- Participated in the International Business Conference, University of Jinan, China, fall 2016.
- Led efforts in the creation and implementation of the NSU Center for Creativity and Entrepreneurship, 2016.

- Contributed as member and academic liaison of President' s senior cabinet.
- Established enrollment targets, by major, for undergraduate and graduate programs in collaboration with student affairs, associate vice president for academic affairs, deans, directors, and faculty.
- Conducted six open faculty/staff forums during 2015 and 2016 focused on enrollment, Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and strategic plan.
- Participated as South Dakota institutional representative for the 2015 convening of the Complete College America, Denver, CO, examining strategies and initiatives for enhanced student success.
- Provided leadership for the Center for Creativity and Entrepreneurship implementation team, including participation in the USASBE Conference, January 2016, San Diego.
- Monitored accreditation efforts for ACBSP (Business) and helped lead efforts for HLC (Institutional). Facilitated campus wide meeting for HLC steering and criterion committees during fall faculty in-service and launch event.
- Served as member of American Indian Advisory Council and University Enrollment Taskforce.
- Served as guest speaker for Aberdeen Exchange Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, and Rotary Club.

Dean, School of Fine Arts, NSU, Aberdeen, SD (2000 - 2015)

- Managed budget, strategic planning, recruiting /retention strategies, curriculum, assessment, personnel, scholarships, and overall operations of the School of Fine arts.
- Served as dean's council representative on IAMCOM (Institutional Agreement Management Committee), which developed the NSU Standards Document effective fall 2014.
- Served as dean's council representative on IAMCOM, which developed the NSU Workload Policy. Completed January 11, 2012, and approved for the spring semester 2012.
- Led efforts in the design and coordination of the School of Fine Arts capital campaign for \$14.5 million-dollar renovation/addition to the Johnson Fine Arts Center.
- Served as co-chair for Higher Learning Commission self-study, criterion #5 and served on the steering committee for the HLC accreditation process.
- Led efforts to secure funding for \$4.5 million-dollar renovation of Spafford Art studios.
- Worked in collaboration with art faculty for self-study and site visit for first time accreditation for our art program by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). Accreditation granted 2013.
- Led efforts to develop four-year plans of study for all majors in the School of Fine Arts.

- Provided consistent and effective leadership, management, and vision to the School of Fine Arts through five different administrations, including two interim presidents.
- Assisted with oversight of \$450,000 renovation to Krikac Auditorium, concert/lecture hall, with adherence to maintaining historical beauty and acoustical response of facility, 2012-13.
- Led the development and planning of a new graduate degree (Master of Music Education, MME), a hybrid of on-line and face-to-face instruction. Formally approved by the SD Board of Regents June 2012.
- Developed an enrollment management plan focused on targeted recruiting and four-year scholarship opportunities for students majoring in the fine arts. This enrollment strategy examined departmental need, capacity, load, budget, facilities infrastructure, and retention. School of Fine Arts enrollments grew from 188 (Fall 2006) to over 250 (Fall 2013).
- Facilitated annual faculty retreat sessions focused on strategic planning, entrepreneurial leadership, refining goals and objectives, development of collaborative opportunities, recruiting/retention plans, facilities usage, and futures planning.
- Managed all budgetary operations of the School of Fine Arts, including budget presentations to the President's Cabinet, Margins of Excellence committee and the Student Budget Appropriations committee.
- Served on the NSU Deans Council, providing strategic leadership for the School of Fine Arts in all matters pertaining to the university.
- Led efforts to broaden the awareness of the School of Fine Arts by marketing internationally, nationally and regionally. Some of the activities undertaken include; continued touring of the top instrumental and vocal ensembles to schools and communities throughout the Midwest, band tour of China (2012), Art Department study tour to Italy (2013), enhanced visibility of the entire university through our selection to perform at the 2005 and 2013 Presidential Inaugural Parade, Washington, DC, performance at the 2007 65th Anniversary Memorial of Pearl Harbor, marketing programs in national journals, and providing support for faculty outreach to schools and potential students.
- Led the development, planning and implementation of two new baccalaureate degree programs in Graphic Design (Art) and Musical Theatre (Theatre).
- Served as chair of statewide Fine Arts Discipline Council working in cooperation with Board of Regents to develop common course titles, numbers, and descriptions. Authored white paper advocating the benefits of fine arts for K-12 programs and coordinated efforts for increasing K-12 linkages in the fine arts.
- Worked with the South Dakota Regental System addressing the 120-credit hour mandate as it relates to accreditation issues and the zero-credit option for ensemble participation.
- Assisted the School of Education by providing input and data for two NCATE (CAEP) accreditation visits, including meetings with the site visit team.

- Spoke at several service clubs and fund raising/alumni functions in 2013-15 including Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Exchange Club, and NSU alumni/fundraising functions in Scottsdale, AZ, Brookings, SD, and Aberdeen, SD.
- Reviewed and ensured compliance of the Johnson Fine Arts Center with ADA requirements. Several modifications and updates completed include renovation of restrooms, entrance improvement, additional floor lighting in main theatre, and the reconfiguration and addition of handicap accessible seating in the main theatre.
- Facilitated renovation projects to facilities, including updated music piano and computer lab, replacement of Johnson Fine Arts Center (JFAC) stage floor, JFAC orchestra pit, replacement of JFAC stage rigging system, addition of updated lighting for JFAC stage, complete interior repainting of JFAC, JFAC band room, and Spafford Art studios.
- Provided leadership and visible support by attending nearly all student, faculty, and guest performances and exhibitions sponsored by the school of fine arts.
- Led efforts in curriculum revision for the music department, 2009-10.

Interim Dean, Graduate and Extended Studies, NSU, Aberdeen, SD (2002 - 2003)

- Successfully led graduate council and actively recruited graduate students to the programs at NSU.
- Participated in several graduate recruiting events and fairs.
- Managed budget and overall operations of Graduate and Extended Studies offices.
- Developed new extended studies offerings through summer courses and workshops.

Associate Dean, School of Fine Arts, NSU, Aberdeen, SD (1997 - 2000)

- Responsible for all faculty evaluation and promotion and tenure recommendations to the dean.
- Coordinated all assessment efforts for the departments of music and theatre.
- Worked closely with the dean on budgets, scheduling, and personnel issues.
- Ensured compliance with accreditation standards set forth by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).
- Served as the editor for the successful NASM self-study and accreditation visit in 2000. Arranged schedule and served as host for NASM accreditation visit.
- Participated in annual NASM conferences.

Department Chair, Music, NSU, Aberdeen, SD (1994 - 1997)

- Served as music executive for compliance with NASM standards and liaison to the dean.

- Developed comprehensive assessment plan. Collected and analyzed data and submitted annual report to the dean and assessment committee.
- Summarized student opinion surveys for music and theatre courses.
- Completed all faculty evaluation for music and theatre faculty.
- Developed budget requests for music and theatre departments.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor of Music, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD (1991 - 2015)

- Professor of Clarinet; grew a clarinet studio that had no clarinet majors to a reputable studio averaging twelve majors each semester. Many of these students won or placed highly in statewide and regional competitions sponsored by Music Teachers National Association. In addition, several former students have successfully completed graduate studies at premiere graduate institutions of music, including the University of Iowa, University of North Texas, and Arizona State University.
- Director of Bands; conducted and oversaw the operations of the marching band, symphonic band, concert band, pep band, and several smaller ensembles from 1991-2005. Developed and implemented recruiting plan. Conducted performance of NSU Symphonic Band at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC. Recruited and grew marching band from 80 to 145 members.
- Instructor of several courses, including school music methods, instrument care and repair, conducting, and instrumental techniques.
- Organized and managed all travel details and capital budget requests for entire band program.

Instructor of Music, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD (1990 -1991)

- Duties included applied clarinet instruction, recruiting, woodwind pedagogy, jazz ensemble, secondary school music methods (instrumental music), and history of jazz.

Instructor of Music, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ (1989 -1990)

- Duties included adjunct applied clarinet instruction, performance in Quintessence woodwind faculty quintet.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (1989 - 1990)

- Duties included applied clarinet instruction to undergraduate clarinet students, coordinate and coach clarinet ensembles.

Director of Bands, Aberdeen Central High School, Aberdeen, SD (1985 - 1988)

- Duties included conduct symphonic, marching, jazz, and pep bands, studio woodwind instruction.

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Guest Conducting and Adjudication

- *NSU Symphonic Band*, guest conductor, *SD Bandmaster's Conference*, SDSU, Brookings, SD. "Freebirds" by Scott Mcallister, Dr. Robert Spring and Dr. Audrey Miller guest clarinet soloists, February 10, 2017
- *Raging Red Band Festival*, clinician, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, March 2015-17
- *Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival*, adjudicator, Toronto, Ontario, February 2015, 2013
- *Manitoba Senior Provincial Honour Band*, guest conductor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 6-8, 2014
- *North Dakota State Music Contest*, adjudicator, University of Mary, Bismarck, ND, February 2014
- *Alberta Band Association Concert Band Festival*, adjudicator, Red Deer, Alberta, May 2013
- *South Dakota Middle-School All-State Band*, Pierre, SD, 2012
- *North Dakota State Music Contest*, University of Mary, Bismarck, ND, 2011
- *Bismarck/Mandan Invitational Band Festival*, Bismarck/Mandan, ND, 2010, 2021
- *South Dakota Region Music Contests (Large/Small Ensemble)*, various communities; Aberdeen, Brandon, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, 1991 - present
- *73rd Annual American Bandmaster's Association Conference*, Cal-Poly University, San Luis Obispo, CA, Arizona State University Chamber Winds Performance, 2007 (guest conductor)
- *Yellowstone Summer Music Camp*, Powell, WY, 2006, 2007, 2013, 2014 (guest conductor)
- *Manitoba Optimist Club Band Festival*, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2016 (guest adjudicator/clinician)
- *Northeast District Music Clinic*, Douglas, WY, 2005 (guest conductor)
- *Best in the West Honor Band*, Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado, 2004 (guest conductor)
- *Rushmore National Music Camp*, Keystone, SD, 2003, 2004, 2024 (guest conductor)

- *Festivals at Sea national band festival*, Cape Canaveral, Florida to Bahamas aboard Carnival Cruise Ship, *Fantasy*, 2003 (adjudicator/clinician)
- *North Area Honors Band*, Aberdeen, SD, 2002, 2006, 2010 (guest conductor)
- *Augustana American Bandmasters Association Style Concert*, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, 2003 (guest conductor)
- *Augustana Band Festival*, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, 2002 (guest conductor)
- *International Music Camp*, Peace Garden, ND, 1991-2002 (guest conductor, clinician)
- *South Dakota Middle-School All-State Band*, Pierre, SD, 2002 (guest conductor)
- *Winthrop University Band Festival*, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC, 2001 (guest conductor)
- *Kenai Peninsula High School Honor Band*, Kenai, Alaska, 1998 (guest conductor)

Performances

- *Valley City State University*, Valley City, ND, guest recitalist, Presidential Inaugural Recital, September 26, 2019 (clarinet)
- *Arizona State University*, Tempe, AZ, guest recitalist, Robert Spring 25th Anniversary Celebration, October 6, 2012 (clarinet)
- *Huron Symphony*, Huron, SD, guest soloist, "Concertino", C.M. von Weber, "Begin the Beguine", Artie Shaw, 2011 (clarinet)
- *Northern State University*, Aberdeen, SD, annual recital/guest solo appearances, 1991 – 2018 (clarinet)
- *Yellowstone Summer Music Camp*, Northwest College, Powell, WY, faculty recital appearances, 1995-2007 (clarinet)
- *Northern Plains Clarinet Symposium*, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, guest recital appearances (1998 - present)
- *National Association for Music Education (MENC) Conference*, Salt Lake City, UT, Performance with Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Oak Ridge Boys, 2006 (vocalist)
- *Winnipeg Winds*, Winnipeg, Manitoba, guest soloist 2005, 2006 (clarinet)
- *Montana/Idaho Clarinet Symposium*, University of Montana, Missoula, guest recital, 2002 (clarinet)
- *International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, guest recital, 2002 (clarinet)
- *Sioux Falls Municipal Band*, Sioux Falls, SD, 2000 (clarinet soloist)

- *South Dakota Bandmaster's Association, South Dakota Music In-Service Conference*, Brookings, SD, 1998 (clarinet master class)
- *University of Wisconsin*, Eau Claire, WI, 1997 (master class/guest recital)
- *Augustana College Band Tour*, Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN, 1991 (guest soloist)
- *South Dakota Symphony Orchestra*, 1990-2002 (B-flat, E-flat clarinet)
- *B.L. Stryker Television Series*, Phoenix, AZ, 1989 (studio musician/clarinet)
- *Phoenix Bach Choir Orchestra*, Phoenix, AZ, 1989 (clarinet)
- *Mesa Symphony Orchestra*, Mesa, AZ, 1989 (clarinet)
- *Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra*, Sun City West, AZ, 1989 (clarinet)
- *Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra*, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 1989-90 (principal clarinet)
- *Arizona State University Symphonic Band*, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 1989-90 (principal clarinet)

Recordings

- *The Northern State University Symphonic Band*, Alan LaFave, clarinet soloist with Robert Spring, Arizona State University, 2009 (Live in concert- SD Music In-Service, SDSU, Brookings, SD)
- *Arizona State University Chamber Winds & Wind Symphony*, 73rd Annual American Bandmasters Association Convention, Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo, California, 2007 (Conductor)
- *The Northern State University Symphonic Band*, Alan D. LaFave, conductor, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005 (Live in concert- SDMEA, Brookings, SD)
- *Glenn Campbell in Concert*, Recorded for PBS at the Washington Pavillion of Arts and Science, Sioux Falls, 2001 (Clarinetist with SD Symphony Orchestra)
- *The Augustana Concert Band Home Concert*, Westmark, 1991 (Clarinet soloist- *Fantasia and Rondo* by C.M. von Weber)
- *The Golden Age of Brass*, David Hickman, cornet and Mark H. Lawrence, Trombone and Baritone. American Serenade Band, Henry Charles-Smith, conductor. Summit Records, 1990 (Principal clarinet)

Selected Publications and Presentations

- *Rehearsal Techniques; A practical guide to improving rehearsals and productivity*; South Dakota Music Conference, Sioux Falls, SD, November 2013.

- *Successful Warm-up Strategies; Programming, Assessment and Curriculum; Podium Personality; Challenges Facing Rural School Band Programs*; TEMPO Conference, Manitoba Music Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 2012.
- Forward, *BAND Aids: A Program Guide for the New Band Director*, Dust, Thomas J., Dust, Laura Jane, Universal Publishers, Boca Raton, Florida, 2012.
- *Assessing our Programs for Real Improvement*, Boelter, Karl, Bradshaw, Keith, Cobb, Gary, LaFave, Alan, National Association of Schools of Music National Conference, Scottsdale, AZ, 11/21, 2011.
- *Improving the Altissimo, "Helpful Hints for High Note Happiness, "* South Dakota Music Educators Association Conference, Brookings, SD, 2007.
- *A guide for literature selection for your ensemble*, presentation at the Canadian Wind Conductor's Symposium, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2006.
- *Clarinet Pedagogy, Problems, and Solutions*, South Dakota Music Educators Association Conference, Brookings, SD, 2005.
- *Preparing the band for contest*, Spotlight on Teaching Band, National Association for Music Education, (MENC), 2001.
- *Developing Good Intonation*, National Federation Interscholastic Music Association Journal, 14/1, 1997.
- *The Performance and Pedagogy Practices of Clarinetist Ralph Mclane (1908-1951)*. UMI, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1998.
- Tri-Annual columns written for the South Dakota Musician Magazine, 1993-2006.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- Frontier Athletic Conference Executive Committee, 2025 – present
- North Star Athletic Association COPS, Chair, 2021-2025
- South Dakotans for the Arts, board member, 2018 – 2023
- Chair, SDBOR Fine Arts Discipline Council, 2003 – 2005, 2011 – 2015
- Faculty advisor, NSU ELCA (Collegians in Christ's Service) student organization, 2008 – 2012
- President, South Dakota Music Educators Association, 2004 – 2006
- Executive Director, Rushmore National Music Camp, 2004 – 2022
- Arizona, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota Music Educators Associations; adjudicator

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Alpha Lambda Delta, honorary member, 2019
- American Bandmaster's Association, elected 2006
- International Clarinet Association, past member
- Music Teacher's National Association, 1991-2015
- National Association for Music Education (MENC); state president, 2004 – 2006
- Pi Kappa Lambda

- Phi Beta Mu
- Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Province 16 Governor, 1994 – 2024
- South Dakota Bandmaster's Association

HONORS AND AWARDS

- The National Society of Leadership and Success, Honorary Member, 2019
- Patriotic Employer Award, SDESGR, 2013
- National Federation of High Schools Outstanding Music Educator Award, 2013
- South Dakota High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Award, 2013
- South Dakota Music Educators Association Distinguished Administrator Award, 2012
- South Dakota High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Award, 2012
- Phi Beta Mu Distinguished Service Award, 2006
- Elected to American Bandmaster's Association, 2006
- Aberdeen Arts Educator Award, 2005
- Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award, 2000
- Pi Kappa Lambda Music Distinction Award
- Miles Dreskell Memorial Award for outstanding service to ASU Symphony Orchestra
- Outstanding Young Men of America

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Barnes County/Valley City Economic Development Corporation, ex-officio member, 2018 – present
- VCSU Viking Booster Club, 2018 – present
- VCSU Century Club, 2018 – present
- CHI Mercy Health, Valley City, Board of Directors, 2019 - present
- Valley City Kiwanis Club, 2020 – present
- Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1991 - 2018
- Rotary Club International, Aberdeen Club, 1995-2018
- Aberdeen Central Athletic Boosters, 2008-10
- NSU Foundation supporter, 1991 – present
- Aberdeen Community Concert Association, Board of Directors, 1992-2018
- Aberdeen Area Arts Council