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To: VP's, Deans, Directors

From: Mark R. Kennedy, President



Date: October 17, 2018

As we begin the planning process for the 2020 fiscal year and beyond, I am excited to share with you some strategic priorities and investments that will position the University of North Dakota to thrive into the future.

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (NDSBHE) is proposing a flat funding model to the legislature for the FY 2019-21 Biennial budget with funding for a merit pool for staff and faculty. With this in mind, we must continue to leverage our resources to maximize value to our students and our state. We will do this by increasing retention and graduation rates, and expanding our online offerings as well as investing in research. In order to do this we have strategically invested resources in FY 2019 to the following initiatives:

- Investment in advising with additional advisors
- Investment in a degree map planner with NDSU to increase persistence
- Upgrade our predictive analytics to facilitate early intervention
- Continue investment in resources to increase and improve online education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels including resources for faculty who teach online and additional student success resources for online students
- Strategic investments in research to diversify the funding for UND as well as the state. This includes investments in computational sciences as a central resource for building UND's research portfolio overall.
- Continue to invest in deferred maintenance to beautify campus and created active learning spaces for our students.

These investments will likely continue in to FY 2021 and beyond. I look forward to reviewing your plans during the 2020 budget and planning process.