

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plymouth State University students benefit from distinctive educational experiences unlike those offered elsewhere. That is because we are not just anticipating the future but are actively shaping it by pioneering Integrated Clusters, a new academic model that responds to contemporary challenges and exciting new horizons.

Throughout our history, Plymouth State's numerous strengths have included a flexible, entrepreneurial approach. As the world changed so did we, and PSU continues to forge the future of higher education by transcending traditional disciplinary boundaries.

From your first year through graduation, you will explore your major in depth and participate in strategic academic clusters, which are families of programs that will enrich your educational experience and deepen your mastery of the skills you will need for your future career. You will collaborate on teams with talented faculty, fellow students, staff, and community and business leaders in open labs where you will apply what you are learning to help solve real-world issues.

Extraordinary people teach, learn, create, and innovate here at Plymouth State University. Led by faculty and other campus change agents, the energy underpinning Integrated Clusters is transforming the institution before our eyes.

Our new doctor of physical therapy debuted in 2017-2018 and we are launching an Electromechanical Technology and Robotics program this year. This cutting-edge degree will prepare students to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and connectors in a dynamic and complex field where teamwork is treasured. The new cybersecurity minor addresses the growing need of professionals in the field of cybersecurity.

Our anticipated minor in Big Data Analytics is emblematic of the Cluster-based model as it draws upon numerous disciplines, including business, computer science, economics, geographic information systems, and marketing. Up-to-the-minute "toolkit" courses on blogging, data storytelling, and marketing websites are providing students with additional options to learn in-demand skills.

Social and co-curricular life is central to the student experience at Plymouth State, and we offer a wide variety of student organizations, athletic teams, and recreational sports for our students to choose from. Because of our small class sizes and strong sense of community, students get to know their professors and fellow students, both in and out of class. PSU is the place to make lifelong friends and cherished memories all while receiving an exceptional education.

Plymouth State University is on the move and I welcome your partnership as we step boldly forward.

My best wishes for a rewarding and productive year,

Donald L. Birx
President