
NEWS RELEASE

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State Board of Higher Ed names Flanigan as new president of NDSCS

Wahpeton, N.D. — The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) has selected Dr. Rod Flanigan as the 10th president of the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). The Board interviewed three finalists at their meeting Thursday, March 31, on the NDSCS campus.

During his interview, Flanigan talked about the importance of community and the institution's students "I know this is where I want to be. There are great things happening at this community college. I feel strongly about the community college mission. We help students achieve their dreams; this is what we do for people."

SBHE Chair Casey Ryan said, "The co-chairs of the Presidential Search Committee and all the members who volunteered time did an excellent job of bringing forward strong leaders today. We owe the committee gratitude for the hundreds of hours that were dedicated to the process. I am looking forward to continuing to see NDSCS flourish under the extensive leadership of Dr. Flanigan."

The Search Committee was co-chaired by SBHE member Jeffry Volk and Terry Marohl, NDSCS associate professor and transportation department chair.

"Dr. Flanigan offers unique leadership skills and partnership abilities, which will serve NDSCS well into the future," Volk said. "I am proud of the work our committee accomplished and those efforts will now be applied through the efforts of the newly selected president of the institution. We found the right leader at the right time."

"Dr. Flanigan understands what makes NDSCS and the community of Wahpeton truly unique and has committed to full-heartedly embracing the future of our institution. I, along with everyone at NDSCS, am very excited to be part of the journey ahead," Marohl said.

The Presidential Search Committee was charged by the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) to evaluate candidates for the NDSCS presidency. Twenty-one candidates were initially reviewed after meeting qualifications. Next, a round of in-person interviews took place and following those interviews, the search committee narrowed the pool to four candidates that were invited to campus.

The campus visits consisted of a thorough interview process that included students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and campus and community leaders, providing the search committee with

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feedback on each candidate. It is anticipated that the new NDSCS president will assume office no later than July 1, 2022.

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About North Dakota University System

The North Dakota University System is a unified system of higher education governed by the State Board of Higher Education. Organized in 1990, the system includes two research universities, four regional universities and five community colleges.

The mission of the State Board of Higher Education and the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System is to unleash the potential of higher education in the state to enhance the quality of life, and the social and economic vitality of all served by its public colleges and universities.

About North Dakota State College of Science

Founded in 1903, NDSCS is the second oldest two-year comprehensive college in the nation, with locations in Wahpeton and Fargo, N.D. The College offers a variety of face-to-face, distance education and online courses, as well as workforce training. NDSCS offers degrees, certificates and diplomas in more than 80 academic options in traditional career and technical studies as well as liberal arts. Additional information can be found online at ndscs.edu.

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Rod L. Flanigan, PhD, MBA

Dr. Rod Flanigan has spent his entire career successfully building, leading, and guiding organizations in industry, education, and non-profits. As a first-generation college student, he spent his early college years going to school and working as a machinist at a small machine shop. The foundational skills and strong work ethic learned in this environment served as the cornerstone of his professional career as he began as a Manufacturing Engineer at McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) working on the Apache Attack Helicopter program. He later transitioned into the fluid power industry where he progressed through increasingly more responsible positions, including Vice President and General Manager of a fluid power distributor. Dr. Flanigan led his business unit through difficult economic conditions and became a top leader in the company, while also guiding and directing other corporate activities such as mergers and acquisitions. It was during this time he earned an MBA from the top ranked Executive MBA program at the University of Utah.



With his unique combination of entrepreneurial skills and proven business acumen, Dr. Flanigan started his own company in 2005. Under Rod's leadership, the company grew quickly and soon became a well-respected power transmission consultant and distribution company in the entire intermountain region (UT, ID, CO, WY). During this same time Rod began his journey through the doctoral process at Utah State University (USU). While managing his growing company, taking doctoral classes, and teaching at USU, Rod was also serving his community as a City Council member. In 2011, the company that Dr. Flanigan founded was sold to a private investor.

After over 25 years working in industry, Dr. Flanigan took his industry experience, and passion to help others, to the classroom and became an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) in the Industrial Distribution program. He quickly advanced to become the Director of the program and using the relationship building skills he had developed in industry began adding industry partners to the program, all of whom provided financial support for the program. Under Dr. Flanigan's leadership the program added student scholarships, established an endowed faculty fund, and continued building laboratory resources through corporate donations. While at UNK, Rod was a governing board member for the Power Transmission Distributors Association Foundation, as well as the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE), which is the accrediting body for many 2-year and 4-year technical programs in higher education. In 2016 Dr. Flanigan was promoted to Associate professor, and in 2017 he was awarded full tenure within the University of

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Nebraska system.

Continuing his passion for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dr. Flanigan accepted the offer to become Dean of Business and Technology (B & T) at Cochise College in 2018. As Dean of B & T, he is responsible for the vision, direction, and leadership of a wide range of programs including Welding, Cybersecurity, Automotive, Business, Culinary, Building Trades programs, and many others. While at Cochise College Dr. Flanigan and his team have built programs, created novel stackable degrees and certificates, increased enrollment, developed new assessment tools for prior learning (PLA), and pioneered a new instructional modality at the institution.

In addition to his Ph.D. from Utah State University, and MBA from the University of Utah, Dr. Flanigan has a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, and an associate's degree from Kishwaukee College. He and his wife are sports enthusiasts, and the proud grandparents of five grandchildren (with one on the way). His greatest source of joy in life is watching his children and grandchildren grow, learn, develop, and find their own path to success.