

Dakota Student

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Holly Dazzle

Volleyball

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DIGITAL CLASSROOM



UND considers working with education conglomerate Pearson

Diane Newberry and Jacob Notermann

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Dakota Student

As the semester comes to a close, faculty have begun to be notified about the potential for the University of North Dakota to enlist the help of Pearson Online Services in the infrastructure of online classes. This move would be in an effort to fulfill Goal Three of the university's Strategic Plan, a prospective list of the school's goals and priorities: "Deliver more educational opportunity online and on-campus." London-based Pearson, the largest education company and

book publisher in the world, be-

gan to become enmeshed with

in their largest division, North American Education, leading to an overall slump of 18 percent for 2016. In response, Pearson announced they intended to "accelerate (their) digital transition in higher education, to manage the print decline, and to reshape (their) portfolio."

If UND were to enter into an agreement with Pearson, it would be at a key strategic time for Pearson as they work on expansion into college campuses across the country. This could be seen as a positive thing, as there can be strength and efficiency in larger scale programs. However, it could leave UND pay-

year, Pearson saw a stagger-

ing 30 percent drop in revenues

"We are in the middle of a dance and we have asked Pearson, how can you help us build online and provide better opportunities to students?" Holm said.

Holm stresses that Pearson would not provide any academic content to the university. A large part of their role, for example, would be online marketing to students who have expressed interest in UND's programs. College enrollment has been on a downward trend in the last few years, and a large part of Goal Three is attracting new students.

"Not every opportunity the university provides has to make money - but some do," Holm said.

According to Holm, roughly one third of the people in North petitive space," Holm said.

This is why the university is also interested the Pearson services meant to improve online learning experiences and student retention. Pearson could potentially provide instructional

of the idea of working with Pearson. Pearson is a huge, sprawling corporation, and much of its work in education has been criticized for taking advantage of taxpayer dollars and student tuition bills. However, this in-

"I think Pearson can help us, they can help us with expertise. This is what they do."

Jeffrey Holm, Goal Three Project Manager

designers to help instructors design the interface of their online courses and organize content. They also offer "student success coaches" that would communicate with students who have fallen behind in online classes.

"I think Pearson can help us," Holm said. "They can help us with

expertise. This is what they do." Fall of 2018 has been targeted as the "go-live watch date" for UND's new focus on online classes. With this timeline in mind, if UND is to enter into an agreement with Pearson, it would be most advantageous to do so in the early-to-mid spring. Pearson is currently working on a proposal and there are no current estimates on how much a con-

formation is still new, and no one yet seems to have a clear idea of what a UND/Pearson partnership could look like.

At this time, it does not appear that UND is looking for educational content from Pearson, but this is a service they are known for and the prospect of losing more faculty and staff members due to outside contracting is worrisome. The Dakota Student will be continuing coverage on this story as it develops in the spring semester.

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"Pearson could potentially provide instructional designers to help instructors design the interface of their online courses and organize content. They also offer 'student success coaches' that would communicate with students who have fallen behind in online classes."

Diane Newberry, News editor

the American education system in 2000, working in partnership (often controversially) with state governments to provide standardized testing, online learning infrastructure, and in some cases, even curriculum. According to Forbes, between October and December of last

ing a premium for services that Pearson is desperately, and perhaps haphazardly, pushing onto institutes of higher education.

Goal Three Project Manager and chair of the psychology department, Jeffrey Holm, called any talk of negotiations between

UND and Pearson "premature."

Dakota between the ages of 18 and 22 are students at UND, while an additional one third are students at North Dakota State University. UND wants to grow, but at some point, its geographic location becomes a liability.

"Online is a more natural space, but it's also a more com-

tract would cost the university. Some faculty and staff have been understandably skeptical

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America's schooling system may be leaving some students behind

Quinn Robinson-Duff Dakota Student

The modern education system, designed to help kids create a future for themselves, is ultimately failing to do so. The system that we know today has changed very little since

schooling became available to the masses during the 18th and 19th centuries. It was the rise of the industrial revolution and schools were designed to churn out kids like an assembly

line; they even shared the

same outline as factories.

Everybody becomes separated by class or age group. Facilities are all separate from each other and subjects are split into groups as well. The modern schooling model is based off an industrialized era to help produce factory workers during the 18th and 19th century. It was designed for kids to be obedient and to not question authority. Students have to follow instructions precisely and not talk or socialize with others. Each student

was graded on their memo-

be based on how old we are but instead what we know.

Learning is an individualized process for everyone and it happens at differrelaxed and not as stressed. the contrary, the structure for the United States schooling system drastihas not changed

its population. Finland has a population of only 5.5 million whereas the United States has over 320 million. With fewer people it's easi-

tion system, whereas Finland only has one in primary school. The first step would be removing some of the implications of this extensive testing, and include more free time and less stressful tests for kids. This would help reduce test anxiety and allow kids to learn in a more relaxed environment, which has been

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"If the U.S. wants to maintain a competitive edge over other countries, whether it's economics or science, it all starts inside the classroom."

Quinn Robinson-Duff, Opinion writer

ent rates. Some learn best in a quiet, stable environment while others thrive in chaos. It seems incredibly unfair to judge a person's intellect based on the environment they are taught in.

Nations around the world are starting to implement schooling based on what the future economy may look like. The issue here is predicting the economic future of next week is hard, and to envision it years ahead becomes an even greater task.

Finland has consistently been the number one nation for education over the past few years, surpasscally for generations. If the U.S. wants to maintain a competitive edge over other countries, whether it's economics or science, it all starts inside the classroom.

The issue the United States has, however, is the size of er for Finland to change an education system. Finland's respect and appreciation for teachers is greater than the U.S. All teachers are treated like college professors compared to the U.S. where being a teacher can some-



Photo courtesy of Unsplash times be looked down upon.

Ever since the "No Child Left Behind Act" there has been an abundance of standardized tests brought to the United States educa-Heather Schuler and The Dakota Student reserves the copyright proven to work in Finland. privilege for all stories written and published

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North Dakota. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of UND or the administration, faculty, staff and student body of UND.

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"Why is there this presumption that the most important thing to a kid is how old they are, it's like their date of manufacture?"

Sir Ken Robinson, Author

rization and ability to follow protocol. The model is not suitable for the 21st century. "Why is there this presumption that the most important thing to a kid is how old they are, it's like their date of manufacture?" Sir Ken Robinson, a British author, speaker and advisor for education says. In terms of learning, age should not be of concern. As kids, everyone learns at different rates. The brain is still developing and not all children are going to learn the same way regardless of age. Intelligence should not

ing Singapore, Switzerland and Belgium. Their system is designed with a stronger emphasis on the arts and music and for kids to enjoy their youth. There is no homework and kids go to school for only 20 hours a week. Finland believes learning happens naturally when kids are out exploring and playing instead of being bombarded by subject after subject, day after day. They believe kids learn best when they are in school less because it becomes easier for them to retain information when the brain is more

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FEATURES



Photos by Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

Holly Dazzle warms up winter

Nick Nelson

Dakota Student

The third annual Holly Dazzle Festival of Lights kicked off Sunday afternoon in downtown Grand

Held in Grand Forks' Town Square, guests were treated to classic holiday music performed by students at the Bel Canto Studio. Roaring fire pits were available for people to roast marshmallows over and to warm their frozen fingers. Parked along South 3rd St., the New Flavors Food Truck offered fresh, handmade breakfast burritos by American Owl.

Children and adults alike took part in horse-

drawn sleigh rides along the edge of the Red River in East Grand Forks. Downtown businesses were alight with activity for all ages, particularly at Freedom Church and

The Ember. After dusk, the Holly Dazzle parade began with

bright, festive floats from community businesses and organizations as they

processed east on Demers

The evening's festivities were capped off with a dazzling fireworks show near the banks of the Red.

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(Top) The Holly Dazzle Festival of Lights kicked off Sunday afternoon in Grand Forks' Town Square. (Top left) Community members roast marshmallows over fire pits. (Left) A family walks towards Town Square in downtown Grand Forks on Sunday afternoon. (Right) Ruby Erickson of the Bel Canto Studio performs "A Marshmallow World" in Town Square on Sunday afternoon. (Bottom) A guest warms their hands near a fire barrel during Sunday's Holly Dazzle event in Town Square.

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UND's Jordan Vail spikes against Eastern Washington University in a game earlier this season at the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center.

Nick Nelson / Dakota Studen

Nick Erickson

Dakota Student

The candidates for the coveted Hobey Baker were recently announced and Fighting Hawks fans were left collectively scratching their heads in confusion. The list lacked any University of North Dakota representation. Specifically a few individual fans on Facebook. One account claimed to have discussed this lack of UND representation with the Hobey Baker committee themselves. The account also claimed the response they received from the Hobey Baker committee was informing them that there were no players submitted by the University of North remarks of outrage on Dakota's Athletic Deletic Director Brian this season and there player, but the team ist by the committee," dji was a solid out-

menters. This however, isn't the case. There is an explanaless sinister than the fans on Facebook are suggesting. After an email exchange with UND Athletic Director Jayson Hajdu, the rumor that it was the Athletics Department at UND that didn't nominate any of the players was quickly debunked. "Candidates are indeed selected by the head coach (and then submitted by the media relations/sports information department)," Hajdu said. Some fans were so willing to accept a negative outcome from the UND Athletics Department that they even made the Athletics Depart-

com-

is no doubt about that. Cam Johnson is one of the top goaltenders in the NCHC this year tion for this and it is and Grant Mismash has put up a successful and impressive rookie season. It certainly is a testament to the hockey culture around Grand Forks to see how quickly people were willing to become upset with the lack of representation in this year's Hobey Baker race. Fear not hockey fans."It was determined that this year's team, more so than in recent years, is about the team itself and there isn't a standout candidate to put forward at this time," Hajdu said. This is something that all UND hockey fans should look to and admire about this year's competitive enis more focused on Hajdu said. "The two being a better team are not inextricably rather than develop- tied and that process ing standout players. will still play itself At 12-6-6 this season, out down the line."

"It was determined that this year's team, even more so than in recent years, is about the team itself and there isn't a standout candidate to

Mark Pryor, UND Volleyball head coach

put forward at this time,"

the team has had some really impressive efforts so far and is hoping to continue that team-first mentality with the second half of the season in full swing. Not all hope is partment. The blame ment's recent Face- vironment surround- process does not pre- mately tying them at was quickly pointed book posts.UND has ing the team. It's not clude a player from home at the Ralph Ento that of former Ath- remarkable players about an individual being named a final- gelstad Arena. Bemi-

There were a total of 74 nominees for represented by one this year's fan voting or more players with portion of the Hobey the exception of North Baker. Michael Bitzer Dakotalf anything can of Bemidji State was be learned from this one of the nomina- it's that the message tions.UND just fin- Berry is sending is lost. We may still see ished a split home and that UND has a team some UND players in away series with the first mentality for the race for the Hobey 11-7-6 Bemidji State this season and there Baker later on this Beavers, thoroughly isn't a single player year."Not being se- routing the Beavers that takes the crown. lected for the fan vote in Bemidji, then ulti-

of-conference test for the Hawks as they had been on a nine game unbeaten streak until UND made the quick bus trip down and back on Highway 2, routing them for a 5-1 victory. Other familiar faces to UND in the race included Minnesota Gopher Casey Mittelstadt while Denver had three nominations of Henrik Borgstrom, Troy Terry and Dylan Gambrell. Every NCHC team was

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Basketball looking for a bounce back

John Gregg

Dakota Student

season, the Fighting Hawks Men's basket- the season with a 4-9 ball hope to improve record through De- the answer has been come crunch time. cember leaving many Recent wins to conference teams, Idaho could have happened State, Weber State, in the off season folrival, North Dakota NCAA State propel the team for the first time in

games, I think you Hooker who averaged much-needed replacehave seen the team just under 20 points ment to the scoring we all knew we could per game last season void left from Hookbe. It just took a little was a tough loss for er's absence, and allonger than we want- the Hawks, Hooker though the team re-

questioning what Tournament

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With a less than better," Head Coach would be able to step fabulous start to the Brian Jones said. up and fill the void up and fill the void The Hawks started left by Hooker's absence, and as of recent Geno Crandall, Junior Guard from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Crandall averages and a win to non- lowing last season's 16.3 points a game conference in state historic run to the this season, leading the Fighting Hawks in scoring. Many had in the right direction. school history. Losing high hope that Cran-"These last three star player Quinton dall would be the

777-4845

tinue to grow and get Fans wondered who have been strong from the start. In the game, an overtime loss at Northern Colorado on January 20, Crandall scored a team high 30 points, yet the

"The past few years, Hawk's most recent we've developed a bit for a championship." of a rivalry with them," UND's Geno Crandall said. "It kind of competes with the NDSU rivalry. But

ed to get there, but now plays profes- cord shows the slow team fell short after games mean more bewe'll take it and consionally in Poland. start Crandall's stats Northern Colorado cause it's a conferscored a buzzer beater. ence game and last year we played them

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