

## **NDLA, Intern 09 - Maashio, Alexandria**

---

**From:** Schneider, Mary  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** NDLA, Intern 09 - Maashio, Alexandria  
**Subject:** FW: Information Request Relating to 2021 SB 2063

Hi, Lexi--Maybe the Committee should have access to the Legislative Council information on the Nickel Trophy, if you would distribute the email below to them. The 2019 Senate action referenced in the LC email encouraged the creation of a new trophy.

Thanks, Lexi.

*Mary*

Rep. Mary Schneider  
District 21 -- the Heart of Fargo

---

**From:** Schneider, Mary  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Kasper, Jim M. <jkasper@nd.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Information Request Relating to 2021 SB 2063

Just FYI...

*Mary*

**From:** Aull, Kyla E. <kaull@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:09 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Mary <mschneider@nd.gov>  
**Subject:** Information Request Relating to 2021 SB 2063

Representative Schneider,

You asked for information about the history of the Nickel Trophy up until the time it was given to the State Historical Society, how it came to be at the Historical Society, and any other information relative to the bill.

Sources credit University of North Dakota (UND) alum Robert Kunkel with the idea for the Nickel Trophy, which is an oversized replica of the United States Buffalo Nickel, designed by Dakota Territory-raised sculptor James Earle Fraser and circulated between 1913 and 1938. The trophy weighs 75 pounds, has a diameter of 22 inches, and is two inches thick.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) and UND first competed for the trophy in 1938, although their football rivalry dated back to 1894. The two teams, both members of the NCAA Division II North Central Conference since 1921, stopped competing for the trophy following their 2003 matchup as NDSU transferred to Division I the next year.

After the 2003 game, UND kept the trophy in various hidden locations following a history of prank thefts starting on the day of the trophy's unveiling and reemerging in the late 1990s in a series of elaborate plots led by UND and NDSU students.

When the two teams played one another in 2015, the trophy was no longer in play. Since their last match, UND had retired their "Fighting Sioux" nickname and logo; and the trophy, with a bison on one side and a Native American on the other side, no longer represented the mascots of each team.

On December 3, 2018, UND transferred the Nickel Trophy to the North Dakota State Historical Society, and in late 2020, the State Board of Higher Education formally approved the transfer.

The Legislative Assembly has considered legislation relating to the historical rivalry on several occasions (please see the legislative history materials linked below). In 2009, the Legislative Assembly failed to pass HB 1507 to require, and amended to encourage, an annual game between the two teams. In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed language in section 7 of SB 2003 encouraging a renewed competition for the trophy or permanent display of the trophy in the Heritage Center. Through 2019 SCR 4011, the Legislative Assembly urged the student bodies of UND and NDSU to design and implement a new football rivalry trophy.

Both universities are now members of the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

2009 HB 1507	<a href="#">Measure Versions</a>	<a href="#">Bill Status Actions</a>	<a href="#">Minutes and Testimony</a>
2017 SB 2003	<a href="#">Session Laws</a>	<a href="#">Bill Status Actions</a>	<a href="#">Minutes and Testimony</a>
2019 SCR 4011	<a href="#">Session Laws</a>	<a href="#">Bill Status Actions</a>	<a href="#">Minutes and Testimony</a>

Thank You,  
Kylah E. Aull  
Manager, Library and Records  
North Dakota Legislative Council