



DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

291 Campus Drive • Dickinson, ND 58601 • (800) 279-HAWK • dickinsonstate.edu

Dr. Michael Patrick Cullinane

Professor of History
Lowman Walton Chair in Theodore Roosevelt Studies
Dickinson State University
michael.cullinane@dickinsonstate.edu

March 10, 2025

Dear State Legislators,

The Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University is the world's only research center dedicated to the study of the twenty-sixth president. We need the state's support to expand this work, and it has never been more important and timely.

As North Dakota begins to capitalize on Roosevelt's relationship to the state's tourism and cultural heritage, the Center plays a key supportive role. It has a close partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library as a storage and processing site for exhibit materials and archival documents. The Center's other primary value is its Digital Library, which makes countless documents and interpretive material available. We have users from nearly every nation in the world. Biographers, screen writers, movie producers, artists, and exhibitionists rely on our research daily.

Dickinson State University's proposed restoration of campus facilities will allow the Center to raise its profile and expand its existing scope of work. Specifically, it will:

- Allow the Center to build on its archives
- Expand its relationship with the TR Presidential Library
- Hasten the publication of digital library's assets
- Put the Center at the heart of the campus
- Attract audiences to Dickinson who would otherwise bypass the city

The Presidential Library has transformed the landscape of Theodore Roosevelt Studies. As the Walton Chair, I can attest to this. Memorial groups like the TR Association (chartered by Congress) have amplified its work as the Library nears completion and several National Park sites have been energized. Planning for the Library's opening in 2026 has led to various tourism programs and we believe that Dickinson State and the city can benefit from the increased traffic to Medora.

Now is the time to make this investment, which will have lasting benefits to the city, the region, and the university.

Sincerely,
Michael Patrick Cullinane