



## *From the Cabinet*

*By Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi*

### **Pride of Dakota**

At the end of this school year, I will conclude my fourth year serving as the Superintendent of Fargo Public Schools. This also means that it will mark four years of living in North Dakota. As I reflect on my time in our state, I realize that I love it – yes, despite the winters. In fact, there are some North Dakota aspects I love a little too much – I’m looking at you Chippers and Dot’s Pretzels.

As much as I appreciate many individual elements unique to North Dakota, what I enjoy most about our state is the Pride of Dakota. For this column, I’m not referring to the Pride of Dakota marketing event and business resources for local vendors (which is great in itself), but I’m defining the Pride of Dakota to mean the collective sense of community, pride, and joy we feel when we cheer on our own North Dakotans for greater success.

I’ve seen this Pride of Dakota shine many times during the past year when we celebrated the successes of Trey Lance, Tom Hoge, Joe Burrow, and others on a national level. The collective pride we take in celebrating the accomplishments of our fellow North Dakotans is what makes us special, it’s what makes us a community.

Well, it’s time to do it again! Last week, Ben Franklin’s Middle School sixth grader Luna Gasevic won the North Dakota State Spelling Bee and will represent North Dakota in the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. this May. After two years of no State Spelling Bee due to COVID-19, Luna competed fiercely against nearly 100 students across our state. The Spelling Bee consists of both a written session and an oral spelldown. Luna excelled in both.

Regardless of the outcome in D.C., Luna is already a C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N for us in North Dakota and that should be celebrated. Join me in collectively supporting Luna as she represents us on a national level. If you’re a North Dakotan, it’s time to root, root, root for the home team and show Luna what the Pride of Dakota is all about.

