

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents  
Oct. 19, 2023

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

Today's action by the Board of Regents to approve the nearly 9% increase in our financial aid and scholarship support for students reflects the commitment of Eastern to support students and families. The \$53.6 million financial aid and scholarship budget for next year represents a 22% increase from a decade ago.

The budget will provide financial aid support to more than 60% of our total student population, and to about 90% of our first-year students. We recognize the challenging economic environment facing students. Our high level of financial support exemplifies the University's mission as an institution of opportunity.

While on the topic of being an institution of opportunity, it's important to note these are not just our words. I'm pleased to share that Eastern is tied for first among all Michigan universities in the annual Social Mobility ranking by U.S. News and World Report. This is not the first time the University has been recognized for this. It is an important reflection of everything for which Eastern stands. According to U.S. News, the rankings recognize universities that are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of economically disadvantaged students.

We are proud to have earned this distinction!

The U.S. News "Best Colleges" rankings also continue to recognize the excellence of our engineering programs. Undergraduate engineering programs climbed another 18 places in the national rankings this year – we are now 69th best in the nation, up from 87th last year and 119th two years ago.

We're looking forward to next fall's launch of the new Master of Science in Management of Innovation and Strategy, approved a short time ago. Leading innovation and strategy development for businesses large and small has never been more important. Students in the program will gain access to tools and techniques for fostering creativity, managing strategic plans, and communicating effectively as leaders.

The new five-year labor agreement between the University and the EMU American Federation of Teachers full- and part-time lecturers bargaining unit was the result of a hard work between negotiators on both sides of the table. This is a positive outcome and I thank the teams for their time and dedication to reach a successful outcome.

While December's graduation ceremony may seem like a long time away, we're pleased to move forward with the announcement of our commencement speaker, Gary Torgow. He will receive an honorary doctor of commercial science degree at the December 17 ceremony. Gary Torgow is a highly accomplished business leader and is the chairman of Huntington Bank's Board of Directors.

It is important to take a minute to celebrate success. The University's 102<sup>nd</sup> Homecoming celebration took place a week before last. The adage that "it takes a village" is never more true than when planning Homecoming. A special thank you to everyone involved. Students had a great time, as did our faculty, staff and alumni. "Build a Swoop" may have been a favorite event among students – and the rest of us had plenty to choose from, including a comedy show, and the Homecoming football game. Please join me in thanking the offices of Alumni Relations and Campus Life, and the many others in our campus community who work to make Homecoming an opportunity to celebrate our pride in the excellence of Eastern Michigan University.

As I conclude, congratulations to Board Chair Jeffries for her chapter in a new book titled: Dear Department Chair – Letters from Black Women Leaders to the Next Generation. Her chapter is about her journey to becoming Chair of the Board of Regents, and is written in the memory of a treasured colleague of ours, Dr. Chiara Hensley.

Additional information and accomplishments are listed in the appendix to this report on the University's website.

Thank you, Chair Jeffries.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.  
President

## Recognition

- **Kyle Martin**, a senior environmental science major, has been awarded the **Mid-East Honors Association's James S. Ruebel Memorial Scholarship**. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student who demonstrates commitment to academic endeavors, community engagement, leadership, and service to their campus community.
- **ROTC Cadet Renan Martins** graduated from the **U.S. Army Sapper School**, which is known to be one of the most physically and mentally demanding schools currently offered in the United States Army.
- **Jarret Signoretti, Manraj Singh, Diagenieh Voker, and Johnathan Walatkiewicz** have been recognized as **National Cyber Scholars** by the **National Cyber Scholarship Foundation**.
- Eastern awarded 42 faculty members with **Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowships**. **Brittany Albaugh, Ruth Ann Armitage, Suleiman Ashur, Adam Bogedain, Darren Bolger, Noel Brock, Omar Abed Alkarim Darwish, Marguerite DeBello, Jason DeMarte, Ratan Dheer, Margaret Dobbines, Cory Emal, Xianghong Feng, Jeff Guthrie, Carla Harryman, Naomi Hashimoto, Raed Jarrah, Caralee Jones-Obeng, Kristin Judd, Andrii Kashliev, Roxanne Katus, Phillip Lewis, Dustin London, Uttara Manohar, Lon Mitchell, Ryan Molloy, Inae Oh, Alankrita Pandey, Valerie Pauli, Renuka Roche, Amy Sacksteder, Sarah Shea, Heather Shouldice, Brian Spolans, John Staunton, Zuzana Tomas, Audrey Viguier, Moira Visovatti, Sarah Walsh, Jamie Ward, David Wozniak, and Chuyang Yang** received awards.
- Eastern's **Aviation** programs have earned accreditation from **Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI)** through July 2028.
- The **Fermentation Science** program took second place in this year's **U.S. Open College Beer Championship**, the only competition for beers exclusively from colleges and universities with brewing and fermentation programs.
- The online **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** program (**BSN**) has been ranked 1st in Michigan and 37th overall for the 2023 to 2024 school year by **EduMed**.
- **Ryan Gildersleeve**, dean of the College of Education, has been named an **Impact Academy Fellow** by **Deans for Impact**. Gildersleeve is one of 24 leaders announced as part of the fellowship's eighth cohort. Fellows lead traditional and non-traditional educator-preparation programs reaching 25 states and the District of Columbia.

- **Eastern** has been recognized as a top performer earning a bronze position in the **2023 Sustainable Campus Index**, which recognizes top-performing sustainable colleges and universities in 17 impact areas.
- **Eastern** has been recognized by **Forbes** on its list of **America's Best-In-State Employers 2023**, based on 2.1 million employer recommendations from employees working for companies with more than 500 employees in the United States.

### Of Note

- The **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** awarded assistant professor **Matthew Kautz** a \$169,000 grant to support a two-week residential institute for 25 middle and high school educators.
- The **Southeast Michigan Stewardship (SEMIS)** received a grant for \$160,000 from the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Bay Watershed Education and Training Program**. SEMIS is one of seven environmental education projects throughout the Great Lakes basin to receive a grant to enhance environmental education through place-based education.
- The **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** participated in the **North American International Auto Show (NAIAS)** as part of the Automobili-D technology showcase, which was dedicated to showcasing innovative and future technologies ranging from inventive software and AI platforms to advanced charging stations, drones and the latest research and development from leading universities.
- **Engage@EMU** and the **Engineering Society of Detroit** joined forces to host the **Girls in Engineering Academy Residential Camp**. The camp brought together seventh and ninth-grade girls, offering them a unique opportunity to delve into the world of engineering, computer science, advanced coding, and 3D Computer-Aided Design (CAD).

### Events

- The **Holman Success Center** held a **Scholarship Game Night Workshop** on September 27.
- The grand opening of the **EMU Upshur Institute for Civic Education** and **Constitution Day** with guest speaker **Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson** was held on September 21.
- Eastern hosted an artist lecture with popular photographer **Wang Qingsong** on September 19.
- Students and Eastern's public safety officers spent time with pet rabbits as a way to relieve stress at the **Hops and Cops** event on September 13.
- The **LGBT Resource Center** held its annual **BBQueer** on September 7.

- **Dining Services** hosted a **Commuter Cookout** on September 5 for commuter students and the campus community.
- The **George Gervin GameAbove Center** held a ceremony to unveil a bronze statue of **George Gervin** on August 31. The statue, depicting The Ice Man and his signature finger roll, was unveiled with Gervin, his family, and supporters on hand for the ceremony.
- Eastern hosted its annual **Eagle Fest** on August 29. Students were able to interact with over 100 different student organizations, as well as play outdoor games and enjoy free carnival food.
- **TruEMU Night** with the **Detroit Tigers** at Comerica Park was held on July 25. The night drew more than 500 alumni, students, employees and supporters for a great night of baseball and Eastern Michigan University pride. \$5 from every ticket sold through the Tigers-EMU partnership was donated to the EMU Student Emergency Fund, netting a total donation of \$2,600.

## **Athletics**

- Golf (Women): **Alyssa DiMarcantonio, Lyleigh Dull, Adeline Lau, and Anna Watson** have earned **WGCA All-American Scholar Honors**.
- Golf (Women): The team was named as an **Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team**.
- Golf (Men): **Cam Kellett** was named a **Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-American Scholar**.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Gianna Antonio, Cassie Bergin, Raisa Boris, Katie Butler, Ella Chemotti, Haydn Crossen, Hannah Hartung, Jordan Janowski, Emma Lewis, Kyrie Lowe, Trinity Macy, Anna Grace McCullough, Molly Paris, Sophia Rios, Mickayla Stuckey, and Mayleigh Vanderbeek** have all earned **Scholastic American Status** as named by the **Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA)**.
- Lacrosse: The **Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA)** recognized the team as an **Academic Honor Squad** and as an **Academic Merit Squad**.
- Lacrosse: **Tracy Grollman** and **Avery Schwab** were named **College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District At-Large** honorees.
- Track and Field (Women): **Mair Edwards** has been named a member of the **2023 Women's Track & Field/Cross Country Collegiate Sports Communicators Academic All-America Third Team**.
- Track and Field (Women): **Miranda Cadwell** has earned **United States Track and**

**Field Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic** honors.

- Track and Field (Men): **Toby Gualter, Brendan Hill, Dante Lander, Baldwin Magnusson, Callum Robinson, Richie Sadler, Kaleb Simpson, Newlyn Stephenson, and Almighty Williamson** have all earned **United States Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic** honors.
- Tennis: **Sabrina Brichackova, Linda Eloundou Nga, Andrea Quiroz, and Prerna Vichare** have all earned **Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athlete** status.
- Volleyball: The **Volleyball** program received its 19th consecutive recognition by the **United States Marine Corps (USMC)** and the **American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA)** who announced the Eagles as recipients of the 2023 **USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award**.
- Five new members of the **E-Club Athletic Hall of Fame** have been announced. The Class of 2023 includes exceptional athletes who have left an enduring mark at Eastern Michigan University. The honorees are **Eric Alejandro**, a track and field champion, that excelled in hurdles and represented Puerto Rico at the Olympics; **Ryan Coleman**, a women's basketball legend, who rewrote records and earned All-American honors; **Charles Gordon**, a football star, that shone as a defensive back on the 1987 championship squad and continued his success in the CFL; **Natalie Hashimoto**, a gymnastics standout, who achieved numerous accolades, including a perfect 10; and, **Camila Olaio**, a volleyball sensation, that earned All-MAC recognition and set records for aces and assists, leaving a lasting legacy.

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