

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
December 15, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

Tomorrow morning, one of the annual milestone events at Eastern Michigan University will take place at our Convocation Center. More than 1,700 new graduates will walk across the stage at our winter Commencement ceremony. The graduates include students from all walks of life and all backgrounds. This is always a great day and I speak for our faculty, staff, administrators and alumni in celebrating Eastern's newest graduates. We are pleased to welcome DTE Energy Vice President, Legal and Chief Tax Officer JoAnn Chávez as our commencement speaker.

The new parking agreement provides Eastern with \$55 million in exchange for the 35-year operation of our parking system. It is an innovative partnership that will benefit our University for decades, and Eastern is the first university in Michigan to implement such a partnership. The partnership provides Eastern with a new level of parking services by a top operator in the nation, one that manages more than 2,500 parking systems, including The Ohio State University.

It is important to note that Eastern's core business is not parking operations, nor should it be. The new operator will bring enhancements to our operations, including capital investments to upgrade parking lots, and technology that brings faster, easier and more seamless entry, exit and payment. Full details about the agreement will be posted on the University's website following this meeting.

Funds from this agreement will help the University in our investment in the renovation and building plans approved today for Sill Hall, the Rec/IM and the sports medicine and performance training facility. This is the next step in the building, renovation and updating of campus facilities over the last five years, a process that has included the new and expanded Science Complex; upgrades to the Rackham Building to accommodate expansion in the health sciences; the comprehensive renovation of Pray-Harrold, Eastern's largest classroom building; the new Honors College building; and, major upgrades to student housing including Wise, Best and Hoyt halls.

At the same time, we have made significant investments in sustainability and in reducing our carbon footprint with the installation of the new 55-ton co-generation turbine that will generate more than 90 percent of the heat and electricity that our campus uses. The new unit is scheduled to begin operating next month and is projected to reduce the University's energy costs by nearly \$3 million annually.

We continue to introduce new academic programs in high demand fields. The new degree in Information Technology will help meet the growing demand for skilled IT talent. Analysts project a 22 percent growth in IT jobs by 2020, including a 20 percent increase in the healthcare field. No other university in Southeast Michigan offers a bachelor's degree in Information Technology.

The new Information Technology program continues our plans to create programs that meet the needs of today's students and employers. Last February, we announced a new degree

program in Mechanical Engineering that began this fall. In October, we announced a new program in Electrical and Computer Engineering that will begin next fall.

The Commission on Diversity and Inclusion issued its preliminary recommendations that set a plan for increased support of institutional diversity, equity and inclusion at Eastern. I would like to acknowledge the fine work of Commission Chair, Professor Ronald Woods and Vice-Chair, Associate Professor Devika Dibya Choudhuri, as well as all of the Commission members. The preliminary recommendations and a mechanism for providing input can be found on the [President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion website](#). The site also includes further information about the Commission and a full list of members.

We are pleased to host our 32nd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration from January 11th to the 16th. We are excited to welcome Joy-Ann Reid, political analyst and correspondent for MSNBC, who is our keynote speaker for the President's Luncheon on Monday, January 15.

A few other accomplishments to note:

- Eastern's Dietetics program was ranked fourth in the nation by AffordableColleges.com.
- Eastern's Music Therapy program, one of two programs in Michigan, was named one of the 10 best in the nation by TheBestSchools.org.
- For the 14th consecutive year, the College of Business was ranked as one of nation's best business schools by The Princeton Review.
- The EMU Foundation raised more than \$468,000 during its #GivingTRUEDay campaign on Tuesday, November 28, eclipsing the previous single-day record by nearly \$200,000.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University website. As I conclude, I would like to wish everyone a happy, restful and peaceful holiday season. I also would like to personally acknowledge the outstanding work of our Board Chair, Mike Morris. Chairman Morris has served with great accomplishment and distinction as Board Chair since January 2015. And, though he will no longer be Board Chair, it is uplifting to know he will remain on the Board through the end of next year.

Thank you, Chairman Morris.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President
Eastern Michigan University

Recognition

- EMU is producing a new **“EMU Today” television program** that is running on Xfinity On Demand and on the Eastern YouTube channel. **Sarah Poeracki**, a junior double majoring in Electronic Media and Film Studies, and Entertainment Design and Technology, is a co-host with **Mark Lee**, EMU alumnus, local radio host, and part-time lecturer in the College of Business. **Dereka Bennett**, a senior majoring in Media Studies and Journalism, is the field reporter. Other CMTA students, as well as faculty and staff, will be involved in the production.

Events

- EMU’s **Center for Digital Engagement** held its seventh annual **Digital Marketing Workshop** on Nov. 17.
- The internationally-known **Kikuno-Kai** dance troupe performed at EMU on Nov. 6 and at the Detroit Institute of Art on Nov. 4-5 as part of the DIA’s “Japan Cultural Days” exhibit.
- The **Digital Divas** event for area middle school girls was held on Nov. 3. The event provides a venue for connecting young women with career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- EMU’s annual **German Week** celebration was held Oct. 23-27. Sponsored by the German Section of the department of **World Languages**, the event brings together area high school students, teachers of German, EMU students, guests and donors to celebrate the German heritage.
- EMU hosted the **Michigan Drone Conference** on Oct. 24.

Athletics

- Cross Country (Women): The Eagles earned their **third consecutive MAC Championship**. **Alsu Bogdanova** finished second and **Jordann McDermitt** finished fourth. **Head Coach Sue Parks** was named Head Coach of the Year for the fourth time in her career, and the third time as an Eagle.
- Cross Country (Women): **Alsu Bogdanova** and **Jordann McDermitt** were named to the First Team All-MAC. **Natalie Cizmas** and **Sydney Meyers** were named to the Second Team All-MAC.
- Cross Country (Women): The Eagles placed fourth at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championship. **Jordann McDermitt** earned a fifth-place finish and **Alsu**

Bogdanova placed 11th overall. The Eagles received an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships for the second consecutive year.

- Cross Country (Women): **Ann Aldrich, Alsu Bogdanova, Natalie Cizmas, Allie Knoll, Jordann McDermitt, Sydney Meyers, Lauren Pottschmidt, and Jenna Wynn** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Cross Country (Men): The Eagles earned their **eighth consecutive MAC Championship** and tied the conference record for the most consecutive titles. **Hlynur Andresson** finished first, **Lahsene Bouchikhi** finished second and **Abel Flores** placed fifth. **Head Coach John Goodridge** won the Head Coach of the Year award for the 12th time, and the seventh consecutive year.
- Cross Country (Men): **Hlynur Andresson, Lahsene Bouchikhi, Abel Flores** and **Mitch Lenneman** were named First Team All-MAC. **Austin Wicker** was named Second Team All-MAC.
- Cross Country (Men): The Eagles placed fourth at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championship. **Hlynur Andresson** placed second and qualified for the NCAA Championships.
- Cross Country (Men): **Caleb Hess, Tom Jozwiak, and Austin Wicker** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Football (Men): **Sergio Bailey II, Maxx Crosby, and Brody Hoying** were named First Team All-MAC. Named Second Team All-MAC were **Jeremiah Harris and Jimmy Leatiota**. **Jason Beck, Vince Calhoun, and Brogan Roback** garnered Third Team All-MAC honors.
- Football (Men): **Brogan Roback** has been selected to play in the 2018 NFLPA Collegiate Bowl.
- Football (Men): **Maxx Crosby** has been named to the Hendricks Award Final Watch List, one of 27 defensive players in the nation.
- Soccer (Women): **Peyton Davis** was named to the Second Team All-MAC, and **Madeline Olson** earned All-Freshman honors.
- Soccer (Women): **Mia Colavito, Mikayla Cupp, Peyton Davis, Mackenzie Etienne, Aubrey Martin, Maggie McCullough, Kristin Nason, Chanel Vani, Alex Wilbanks, and Kaylin Williams** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.

- Volleyball (Women): **Kelly Ferguson, Ariel Hamby, Cassie Haut, Alyssa LaFace, Mallory Rajewski** and **Jordan Smith** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Volleyball (Women): **Kelly Ferguson** was named to the All-MAC Honorable Mention team.
- Eastern student-athletes recorded a **Graduation Success Rate of 83 percent**, and increase of two points over last year's rate. Four women's teams – **golf, gymnastics, tennis and volleyball** – each boasted a 100 percent rate.
- Assistant football coach **Neal Neathery** is one of 58 nominees for the Broyles Award, given to college football's assistant coach. Neathery is only one of three nominees from the MAC.

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