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UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Eastern Michigan University is committed to excellence in teaching, the extension of knowledge through basic and applied research, and creative and artistic expression. Building on a proud tradition of national leadership in the preparation of teachers, we maximize educational opportunities and personal and professional growth for students from diverse backgrounds through an array of baccalaureate, master's and doctoral programs. We provide a student-focused learning environment that positively affects the lives of students and the community. We extend our commitment beyond the campus boundaries to the wider community through service initiatives and partnerships of mutual interest addressing local, regional, national and international opportunities and challenges.

INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Institutional Values

Eastern Michigan University's mission and philosophy are built upon shared values that define and nourish the intellectual, ethical and aesthetic environment. These values are:

Teaching and Learning – We believe that teaching and learning are central to everything that we do. We recognize that we are a community of learners who discover, interpret, apply and transmit knowledge.

Excellence – We believe that the promotion and academic excellence provides a foundation for institutional quality. We are committed to achieving the highest standards through ongoing assessment and continuous quality improvement.

Human Dignity and Respect – We believe that wisdom, sound judgment, acceptance and respect for other persons, cultures and ideas are characteristics of an educated person. We seek to demonstrate, through all programs, activities and services, an appreciation of human diversity and an atmosphere of mutual respect and support for individual differences.

Diversity – We believe that cultural diversity enriches learning experiences and promotes respect and understanding. We welcome qualified learners of varying interests, abilities, backgrounds and expectations and are committed to creating an inclusive educational environment that provides exceptional opportunities for all learners. We seek to attract, serve and retain a highly qualified and diverse student body, faculty and staff, and to make special effort to provide access to educational opportunities for non-traditional and under-represented populations.

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Scholarship and Intellectual Freedom – We believe that intellectual and creative freedom supports scholarship and advances the learning process. We promote, encourage and support personal and academic freedom. We seek to provide an environment that fosters knowledge development and creative learning experiences through intellectual exchange.

Public Engagement – We believe that the University should engage the public in mutually beneficial relationships to achieve the public good. We aspire to develop regional, national and international partnerships that allow us to serve our stakeholders more effectively, while providing increased learning opportunities for our students, faculty and staff.

Leadership and Participatory Decision-Making – We believe that effective organizations are characterized by visionary leadership and participatory decision-making at all levels. We are committed to creating and supporting an environment that fosters open communication and innovative approaches to change.

Integrity – We believe that integrity is critical to our continued success and institutional effectiveness. We expect and support the highest level of personal, intellectual, academic, financial and operational integrity within the University community.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles provide standards the University seeks to achieve:

Accessibility – An inclusive community of learners that provides educational opportunities to any qualified individual who wishes to participate.

Relevancy – Programs designed to broaden perspectives, heighten awareness, deepen understanding, establish disciplined habits of thought, respond to changes in the work-place and society, and help develop individuals who are informed, responsible citizens.

Responsiveness to Change – A learning community that is responsive to economic, social and political change. As an agent of change, the University explores new alternatives, recognizes constraints and makes wise institutional choices.

Flexibility – While recognizing that various constituencies have different needs, University programs, activities and services are flexible so that people have the opportunity to participate and to achieve their goals and purposes.

Quality – All programs, activities and services achieve the highest standards of quality.

Collaboration – All University programs, activities and services work collaboratively to solve problems, provide greater efficiencies and expand learning opportunities. Collaboration extends beyond the University to colleagues, communities and institutions.

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Accountability – The University has consistent policies and procedures to ensure accountability at all levels. All members of the University community are accountable for their actions and decisions.

Affordability – Qualified individuals who desire to participate are not discouraged from doing so because of financial resources.

Authority for Creation or Revision

Minutes of the Board of Regents, November 2, 1964, para. .144. February 8, 1990; para. .4155M. January 23, 1996; January 15, 2002; para. .5923M.