

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents Meeting  
December 14, 2018

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

We have much to celebrate as we approach the end of the fall semester. Number one is Commencement Day tomorrow. Nearly 1,700 students are receiving degrees this semester. That includes 1,303 undergraduate students along with 374 graduate students, including 16 doctoral candidates. In addition, graduates from August also are eligible to participate, adding another 800 graduates. The Convocation Center will be packed with our graduating students and their families.

Prominent businessman and Eastern Michigan alumnus Frank Sickelsmith is our commencement speaker. He is the Global Director of Brand Development and Strategic Partnerships for the Autogrill Group. We encourage everyone to join us at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow for this rewarding celebration of student achievement.

We also are midway through finals week – and I know our students are working diligently to wrap up the semester. Our outstanding faculty leads the way in guiding students through this important step every year, and I thank them for their expertise, their care and their dedication.

I am always proud to share recognition Eastern receives. Here are some recent accolades since the October Board of Regents meeting:

- For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, The Princeton Review has named our College of Business among the best in the nation;
- The MBA in International Business has been recognized as one of the nation's best for its global emphasis by OnlineMBA.com, and is the only university named in Michigan in this category;
- Eastern's Clinical Research program, which ranks high in many assessments, was ranked seventh in the nation by OnlineMasters.com and is the only clinical research program ranked in the state of Michigan;
- Eastern's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, a national accounting honors organization, was again recognized internationally as a superior chapter.

In addition to those accolades, other recent academic and University achievements include these highlights:

- Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu, professor of Nursing, received a federal grant of nearly \$3 million to lead a broad effort to improve the health of Asian Americans in the Michigan counties of Wayne and Kent. Dr. Wu will serve as principal investigator on a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and lead a team of co-investigators, including EMU faculty members Dr. Alice Jo Rainville and Dr. Olivia Ford from Nutrition and Dietetics, and Dr. Xining Yang from Geography and Geology.

- The College of Health and Human Services held its second annual Interprofessional Education Day on Nov. 16. Eastern students from a variety of integrated health care disciplines confronted challenging scenarios during a day of patient simulations and teachable moments at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital and at Rackham.
- Eastern hosted 450 middle school girls from across metro Detroit for the eighth annual Digital Divas event hosted by the College of Technology. The program featured hands-on activities in cyber security, coding, chemistry, drones, robotics, and other technology-based areas.
- And, in fundraising, we set a single-day giving record for the #GIVINGTRUEDAY campaign on Nov. 28, bringing in more than \$875,000 through a combination of grassroots fundraising, collaboration with campus community and major gifts. We surpassed our goal of a half-million-dollars.

One of Eastern's signature events will take place early in the new year. The annual celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King will take place from January 17-22, with a keynote address by CNN political commentator Keith Boykin on Monday, January 21. For the complete schedule and details, please visit the website at [www.emich.edu/mlk](http://www.emich.edu/mlk).

Tomorrow, our football student athletes, band members, and cheer team will experience what for many is a once-in-a-lifetime experience – participating in a bowl game. Tomorrow's Raycom Media Camellia Bowl features the Eagles vs. Georgia Southern in Montgomery, Alabama. Game time is 5:30 p.m.– the game will be nationally televised on ESPN. Congratulations to Coach Creighton, the coaching staff, all of the athletes, and particularly our faculty and staff who help prepare all of our students for moments in their lives such as this. Go Eagles!

As we approach the conclusion of today's meeting, I would like to acknowledge Regent Michael Hawks, who has been appointed to a second term on the Board of Regents. I also would like to acknowledge incoming Regent Rich Baird who begins his term in January.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of one of Eastern's finest graduates, Regent Mike Morris. Regent Morris is a two-time graduate of Eastern with both bachelor's and master's degrees. He also received a juris doctorate degree from the Detroit College of Law. A nationally-recognized energy executive, Regent Morris has served on the Board of Regents for two terms -- from 1997 to 2004 and again from 2011 to today, and served as Chair for three years. Today marks his final Board meeting as a Regent and I want him to know how much I value his leadership and friendship, and I speak for many in acknowledging the powerful impact he has had on Eastern over the years. Thank you, Mike.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University website. Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.  
President

## Of Note

- Students who have earned an **associate nursing degree at Henry Ford College can transfer their credits to Eastern** under an agreement announced Oct. 31. The agreement was a joint effort between Eastern's School of Nursing and HFC's School of Health and Human Services.
- The new **Eagle Engage Corps pilot program** focuses on efforts to re-engage current and former Eastern undergraduate students who started at EMU but were unable to continue due to financial challenges. The program combines student debt forgiveness and public service to give students another opportunity to finish their degrees.
- The November episode of **EMU Today** featured the award-winning **Forensics** program, one of the best programs in the Nation, and Eastern's partnerships with community colleges. The program can be seen on Eastern's YouTube channel and on Xfinity on Demand.

## Events

- **MLK Week**, Eastern's annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Jan. 17-22. The keynote speaker will be CNN political commentator Keith Boykin.
- The **EMU Theatre** presented "James and the Giant Peach," directed by Dr. Christine Tanner, on Nov. 30 – Dec. 9
- The **Alumni Association** held its annual "**Lights Before Christmas**" event at the Toledo Zoo on Nov. 17.
- A **Veterans Day reception** was held on Nov. 8 at the Lt. Colonel Charles S. Kettles Military and Veteran Services Resource Center in honor of Eastern's student, faculty, and staff veterans.
- The **Fall Career Fair** was held on Nov. 7, bringing together Eastern students and a wide range of employers.

## Athletics

- Cross Country (Women): The women's cross country team won its **fourth consecutive Mid-American Conference Championship**.
- Cross Country (Women): **Natalie Cizmas, Madison Distelrath, Sydney Meyers, and Ashleigh Simonis** were named to the Academic All-MAC team.
- Cross Country (Men): **Ian Cook, Solomon Costa, Phoenix Myers, and Austin Wicker** earned **Academic All-MAC honors**.
- Football (Men): **Blake Banham** and **Mike Van Hoven** were named Google Cloud Academic All-District by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).
- Football (Men): Ten student-athletes were named to **All-Mid-American Conference Teams**, the second-most in program history. The students honored were **Blake Banham, Vince Calhoun, Maxx Crosby, Jeremiah Harris, Brody Hoying, Jake Julien, Jimmy Leatiota, Steve Nielsen, Pat O'Connor, and Kyle Rachwal**.
- Football (Men): The EMU football team will take on Georgia Southern University in the **2018 Raycom Media Camellia Bowl** on Dec. 15 in Montgomery, Alabama.
- Soccer (Women): **Marla Cobetto, Mia Colavito, Mikayla Cupp, Alia Frederick, Aubry Martin, Sabrina McNeill, Kristin Nason, Madeline Olson, Tessa Osborne, and Kaylin Williams** were named **Academic All-MAC**.
- Soccer (Women): **Kristin Nason** named to the **Google Cloud Academic All-District First Team**, and to the **Google Cloud All-America Third Team** by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).
- Soccer (Women): **Sabrina McNeill** was named to the **United Soccer Coaches All-Midwest Second Team**.
- Soccer (Women): **Sabrina McNeill** garnered **All-MAC First Team** honors and **Kristin Nason** was named to the **All-MAC Second Team**.
- Volleyball (Women): The EMU volleyball team made history by winning the program's first-ever **MAC Championship**, earning its **first NCAA Tournament appearance** in program history.

- Volleyball (Women): **Cassie Haut, Alyssa LaFace, and Jordan Smith** were named to the **All-MAC First Team**.
- Volleyball (Women): **Cassie Haut, Alyssa LaFace, Mallory Rajewski, Camille Schomer, and Jordan Smith** were named to the **Academic All-MAC team**.
- Volleyball (Women): **Alyssa LaFace** was named to the **American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Region team**. She is the first to receive the honor since 2002.
- EMU student-athletes posted a **Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 85 percent**, an increase of two points over last year, and a 13-point jump from 2010-11.