

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents Meeting  
Oct. 25, 2019

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

It has been a dynamic first two months of the academic year. There is much to be proud of and much to share as we move through a beautiful fall season. This time of the year is always my favorite on campus – with the trees changing colors and mountains of leaves around the corner.

I thank all of our students, faculty and staff for an excellent start to the new academic year.

A walk around our campus will provide a good view of the many important construction projects that are underway, as we continue to transform our University. Starting at Sill Hall on the southeast corner of campus, the home of the College of Engineering and Technology, you will see steel beams and open floors, as the \$40 million project steams toward a fall 2020 completion.

Continuing a walk to the north, to the center of campus, and you'll find the first phase of work to the Rec/IM is completed -- renovations to floors three, four and five – new cardio and circuit training equipment, and an enhanced student lounge.

Next up is the redesign and renovation of the first and second floors that will include dramatic changes to the façade of the building and large new windows with views of the lake. The entire project will be completed in late 2020, though it remains open throughout. It is important to acknowledge our students for this project – it is funded by a student rec fee proposed by student leaders.

Walking further to the north, and a bit to the west, you will find construction nearly completed for the new IHA Health Center @ EMU, which you heard about in detail earlier. A collaboration with IHA and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, the new facility will provide primary care and 7-day a week urgent care for students, Eastern employees, and the greater community. The community open house takes place on Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to noon, and it opens for business on Monday, November 4.

And, right next door is another new building, the EMU Campus Wellness Center. It will house the University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Psychology Clinic. This building will open at the end of January 2020.

From a facilities perspective, these are transformative times at Eastern Michigan.

We continue to work to transform the University in other ways as well. In my State of the University address on October 15, I announced the establishment of the University Strategic Investment Fund. With an initial commitment of \$250,000, the fund is designed to support the institutional priorities in the Strategic Plan, with a focus on student retention, faculty initiatives and community engagement.

- Speaking of the Strategic Plan, we launched a new process to improve and enhance the University's strategic planning process, with individual work teams assigned to identify goals and strategies. Three institutional priorities continue to guide our actions, and provide the umbrella that drives all major University initiatives:
  - 1) Promote Student Success and Engagement;
  - 2) Deliver High Quality Academic Programs and Quality Research; and,
  - 3) Engage and Serve EMU and our Regional Communities.

Now, I would like to highlight a few specific accomplishments over the past several months:

- Eastern's online certificate in Human Resources was selected as one of the nation's top 25 such programs in 2019 by BestColleges.com;
- Eastern was featured as one of the best in a list of Bachelor's in Nutritional Science Programs assembled by BestSchools.org – the only Michigan university named.
- College of Health and Human Services Professors Christina Marsack-Topolewski and Annemarie Kelly testified before the Michigan House of Representatives Committee for Families, Seniors and Children;
- The SEMIS Coalition, an organization devoted to educating area youth about good stewardship in their communities and led by Professor Ethan Lowenstein, received the 2019 Sustainable Communities Champion Award; and,
- The College of Engineering and Technology secured the accreditation of three undergraduate programs from commissions associated with the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology.

I would like to remind everyone that the EMU Diversity Campus Climate Assessment, called "Diversity in Action," is now underway. The random survey of students, faculty and staff launched via email on Oct. 22, and town halls and focus groups will be held in the coming weeks. Another component of the assessment, called "EMU Voices," is also underway. Through this initiative, participants can record short, three to five minutes stories about their experiences with diversity at EMU.

All of the findings from the survey, town halls, focus groups, and voice recordings will be delivered to EMU's administration and campus community, and a plan of action will be put in place to bolster, improve and monitor issues of respect, inclusion, access and equity on campus.

I would like to close here by thanking the Board for its support of the important initiatives detailed in this Report and throughout the University. Its support of our administrative leadership team, and its equal support of our students, faculty and staff is of immense importance to all of us.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University website.

Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.  
President

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## Recognition

- For the 17th consecutive year, Eastern Michigan University was rated as one of the “**Best Colleges in the Midwest,**” according to The Princeton Review.
- Eastern was named a Diversity Champion as part of the **2019 Corp! Salute to Diversity Awards.** EMU was one of 20 organizations to be honored.
- Eastern was designated as a Military Spouse Friendly school by the veterans’ organization VIQTORY.
- The **EMU Legal Resource Center**, in which EMU paralegal students offer assistance to more than 200 community members each month, is celebrating its **15th anniversary** this fall.

- **Rhonda Longworth**, Eastern provost and executive vice president of academic and student affairs, was named a **2019 Crain's Notable Women in Education Leadership** honoree.
- **Kyle Schuette**, a recent EMU graduate, was awarded a **\$22,000 graduate degree scholarship** to study cybersecurity at a nationally renowned institute, the **SANS Technology Institute**, as part of an accredited college program called Applied Cybersecurity.

## Of Note

- Eastern and Make-A-Wish® Michigan granted aid to a teen with a critical condition wanting to attend college. **Make-A-Wish Michigan** granted his wish by contributing \$6,000 toward the teen's tuition, while EMU offered a \$6,000 **Emerald Scholarship** to help cover tuition costs.
- Eastern was granted the lead on a \$988,707 grant from the **State of Michigan's Marshall Plan for Talent** to develop geographic information systems and technology (GIS/T) mapping and analysis applications designed to strengthen Michigan high school students' abilities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- Eastern has been awarded a three-year \$689,200 grant by the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)** to develop, pilot, and implement a new mandatory statewide training program for foster parents.
- **The University Strategic Investment Fund** was announced at the State of the University Address on October 15. An initial commitment of \$250,000 was made to support institutional priorities such as student retention, faculty initiatives and community engagement.
- Eastern has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the **Ford Motor Company Fund** through its **Ford College Community Challenge**, an innovative grant-making program designed to inspire student teams to develop creative community-building projects addressing local needs around the theme Making Lives Better. The grant will support **EMU's Optimize Eastern project**.

- The “**Ypsilanti Matters/Collaboration for Change**” initiative was launched between Ypsilanti Community Schools, Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw County.
- EMU Board of Regents Chairman **James Webb and his wife, Cathy**, donated 60 cases of soup to Swoop’s Food Pantry.
- During July, the **College of Health and Human Services** hosted two groups of visiting nursing students, from **Hung Kuang University (HKU)** and **Chung Guang University of Science and Technology (CGUST)** in Taiwan. The groups attended a variety of lectures and discussions at Eastern, and visited the University of Michigan Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and the John Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.
- Eastern and **Marygrove College**, which closed this fall semester after 92 years of operation in Detroit, reached an agreement to help more than 300 displaced graduate students finish their degrees at EMU.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer and former First Lady Sue Snyder** announced that EMU will host the fifth annual “Let’s End Campus Sexual Assault” summit in October 2020 as the state of Michigan continues to prioritize this critical public health and safety issue.
- **Garlin Gilchrist, Lt. Gov. of the State of Michigan**, got a vivid illustration of both the benefits and the potential of how capital outlay funding helps Eastern Michigan University educate students in high-demand career fields during a visit to campus Oct. 4.
- **Ann Eisenberg**, a professor of psychology with extensive experience in the oversight of honors colleges and associated programs, joined Eastern as dean of **The Honors College** on August 1.
- EMU’s third season of “**EMU Today TV**” was launched October 10. The half-hour program was developed three years ago to feature positive programs, events and initiatives at Eastern, and provides opportunities for viewers to learn more from University deans, faculty, students and administrators about activities at the University.

## Events

- **Terrence J. Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine** who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957, following the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Brown v. Board of Education case to integrate schools, will serve as **keynote speaker** for Eastern's annual **Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration** on January 20.
- EMU is helping to establish a new community writing center that will support writers of all levels and backgrounds. **YpsiWrites**, to be located at all locations of the Ypsilanti District Library, will have drop-in hours for one-to-one writing help along with workshops on different types of writing and other programs. The launch and grand opening were held on October 19.
- Eastern hosted a symposium on October 17 and 18 to celebrate **EMU Geography Professor Mark Jefferson's** contributions at the Versailles Peace Conference, the meeting of world leaders that established a new international order after World War I. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the historic event.
- EMU hosted its second annual **I TRI for MAC triathlon in honor of McKayla Hanson**, EMU alumna and contender for the U.S. Paralympic Triathlon team. The event was held on October 6 on Eastern's campus.
- The Eastern's **College of Engineering and Technology (CET)** hosted hundreds of high school students from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools on October 4 in honor of the nationally recognized **Manufacturing Day**.
- **Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha**, pediatrician, professor, public health advocate and author of the book "What the Eyes Don't See," **visited Eastern on October 3 for a reception, lecture and book-signing** event. Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha used science to prove Flint kids were exposed to lead and fought backlash to advocate for the people of Flint.
- The annual **College of Business (COB) Alumni Business Conference** took place September 19. Speakers included **Howdy Holmes and Rosalyn Emerson** who shared their business success secrets with students.

- Under the direction of EMU's new associate director of bands Chandler Wilson, the **EMU Marching Band** performed a medley of hit songs for the halftime show of the **Detroit Lions football game** on September 15.
- Eastern held its annual **Ceremony of Remembrance** on September 11 at EMU's 9/11 Memorial in memory of those lost and the first responders.
- Eastern opened a **special exhibition that showed the intersection between science and design** on September 11. The show revealed relationships between these seemingly disparate disciplines, and show the similarities between the processes that produce knowledge through design and through scientific processes.
- EMU, the University of Michigan, and Washtenaw Community College teamed up to host the fifth annual **Bold Futures** event on August 20 at the WCC Crane Liberal Arts building. Participants worked with other students, local business owners, and facilitators from EMU, UM and WCC to identify community problems, develop potential solutions, and pitch those solutions to business and non-profit leaders.
- The **EMU Parsons Center for Arts and Sciences** hosted an event on June 21. The evening was highlighted by a musical trio from the Interlochen Arts Academy and a presentation from **Susan Thompson**, the 2018 Oliver Art Center and Parsons Center Artist in Residency.

## **Athletics**

- The MAC announced its list of Distinguished Scholar Athletes from the eight spring sports for the 2018-19 academic season on July 10. The scholars named were **Sean Beckom II, Beau Breault, Owen Day, Allyson Goff, Derek Jones, Brittni Mason, Sydney Meyers, Zachary Owings, Owen Richardson, and Austin Wicker.**
- Baseball (Men): **Cameron Cruz, Shane Easter, Scott Granzotto, Caleb Hester, Nate Jones, Nick Jones, Jared Kauffman, Luke McGuire, Zachary Owings, Drake Peggs, John Rensel Jr., and Jackson Shaver** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.

- Golf (Women): **Maria Connelly, Penelope Guilleux, Katelin Lawson, Preaw Sripatprasite, and Julia Stevenson** were named All-American Scholars by the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA).
- Golf (Men): **Beau Breault and Zach Sudinsky** were named **Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-America Scholars**.
- Golf (Men): The men's golf team broke the **54-hole school record** with a 20-under par total of 832, finishing in a tie for third at the Marshall Invitational on September 10.
- Golf (Men): The men's golf team tied the **lowest 18-hole round in program history** with a nine-under 272 on September 9 at the Marshall Invitational.
- Gymnastics (Women): The Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) announced the top academic teams from the 2018-19 year on August 19. EMU landed at **24th in the country** with a team grade point average of 3.597.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Megan Benzie, Cortney Bezold, Carly Clark, Emili Dobronics, Shannon Gregory, Cali Harden, Megan Hultgren, Carly Kosanovich, Bri Price, Charlotte Reynolds, Jada Rondeu, and Caitlin Satler** were honored as WCGA Scholastic All-Americans.
- Football (Men): Eastern senior defensive back **Brody Hoying** was named a semifinalist for the 2019 William V. Campbell Trophy® Presented by Mazda, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame (NFF).
- Swimming/Diving (Women): **Bethany Berger, Delaney Duncan, Casey Gavigan, Gabrielle Mace, Micaela Schempf, Sophia Tsafantakis and Claire Young** were named to the 2019 College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) **Scholar All-America Team**.
- Track (Women): **Brittini Mason** has been selected to represent **Team USA at the 2019 World Para Athletics Championships** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in November.



- Volleyball (Women): For the 15th consecutive season, the volleyball program was recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) for academic excellence with the **AVCA Team Academic Award**.
- The NCAA announced Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and Federal Graduation Rate as part of the annual NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program. This year's Eastern Michigan-specific data revealed an overall **multi-year GSR of 84 percent**, bested only by last year's record-setting 85 percent.
- EMU Athletic Hall of Famer and Ladies Professional Golf Association co-founder **Shirley Spork** was named one of the inductees into the **2019 Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) of America Hall of Fame**.
- **Mike Calhoun** (Men's Track), **Morris Ellis** (Men's Track), **Ron Fernandes** (Football), **Stacy Graham** (Volleyball), and **Kevin Walter** (Football) were inducted into the E-Club Athletic Hall of Fame in October.
- The **Michigan Baseball Hall of Fame** inducted longtime EMU Head Baseball Coach **Ron Oestrike** in an in-game ceremony during the Lansing Lugnuts/Dayton Dragons game at Cooley Law School Stadium.
- EMU men's basketball **Coach Rob Murphy** released a new book called DEEP: The Life of Rob Murphy. Proceeds from DEEP help raise money for the Rob Murphy Foundation, which serves thousands of under-privileged youth in Detroit and Ypsilanti communities.
- **Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS)** entered into an agreement with the EMU Department of Athletics to become the **official health & wellness partner** for the Eastern athletic program. The multi-year partnership includes signage and digital assets, as well as naming rights to EMU's Indoor Practice Facility, which is now known as the St. Joe's Sports Dome.