

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents Meeting  
April 23, 2020

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

It is my distinct honor to share with you, and with the entire Eastern Michigan University community, some of the important developments that are taking place at the University.

These are unprecedented times, as we all certainly know. As the world has adapted to our ever-changing new normal and the life altering complexities surrounding it, so has Eastern Michigan University.

It is in that spirit that I take time today to thank our entire Eastern Michigan University community for its incredibly supportive and collaborative efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I begin by acknowledging our students – the cornerstone of who we are as an institution. The reason our faculty and staff, and each and every one of us, do what we do.

Students have made an incredible adjustment, not just to online classes, but in managing the inconceivable disruption this crisis has brought to their personal, family, social and professional lives.

We continue to support roughly three hundred students remaining in campus housing -- because it is the only home they have right now.

These include international students, whose home nation will not permit their return; students who have immune-compromised individuals in their permanent place of residence, creating undue risk of bringing COVID-19 into their habitat; and others, such as graduate students, who have made Eastern their home for the next several years while they complete their studies.

All of our students, those living on campus and those commuting, have pushed forward and persevered in light of the global crisis. Students have continued to excel in this difficult and challenging environment.

And, a special shout out to our April graduating students, who will not have the opportunity **at this time** to participate in the grand procession, pomp and circumstance of Commencement at the Convocation Center. Our April graduates are participating in a digital media/virtual celebration – and we have words of congratulations to share with them from more than 100 selfie videos from fellow students, faculty members, staff and alumni. We plan to have a formal in-person graduation ceremony for our April graduates later in the year, once such gatherings are permitted.

Eastern Michigan University's acclaimed faculty members have gone above and beyond to adapt their teaching methods to embrace online and virtual instruction, using new platforms they had never planned on using. Our faculty did this on very short notice as government public health directives, in the early stages of this crisis, were changing by the hour.

Over and over again, we hear stories about our faculty members' creativity in inspiring our students and continuing to help them complete their classes. Faculty members, you deserve all of our thanks.

I also thank our support staff, who have been working remotely and adapting their work to provide students with the services they need, whether advising, writing, career development or health and wellness. Our staff also has responded to the crisis with creative solutions to bring that support online to benefit our students. Thank you for helping to ensure our students' continued success.

With all of this, there is another group of Eastern Michigan University who deserve special recognition. As many of you know, not all Eastern Michigan University employees are working remotely. A good number are considered "critical infrastructure workers" or are conducting "minimum basic operations" as outlined in the Governor's executive order.

These individuals truly deserve special acknowledgement. They are venturing out of their homes to do their jobs, to support the University at this critical time. In their own way, they are part of the front line in keeping the University operating, and continuing our support of students and the surrounding community. These employees include:

- Our facilities and maintenance teams who have spent countless hours cleaning and disinfecting entire buildings, including residence halls, academic buildings and classrooms, touch points and common areas, as well as fixing broken steam lines and other critical operational areas. I have had more than one individual bring to my attention what a wonderful job the facilities and maintenance staff is doing at this time.
- Our team in Information Technology, who remain on campus ensuring we are functioning online, and supporting our faculty, staff and students. This includes creating outdoor Wi-Fi hotspots, as well as adding and troubleshooting enhanced teaching and meeting capabilities.
- The teams in dining and housing, who are here today supporting the roughly 300 students still living on campus that I referenced earlier.
- The team at Swoop's Food Pantry, who have continued to address the needs of students who are food insecure.
- The broadcast team at WEMU, who are providing daily local and National Public Radio coverage of COVID-19 while also bringing entertainment to our homes with the station's distinct blend of news, blues, jazz, world and roots music.
- And finally, our members of the Department of Public Safety, who continue to support our campus and community in a very difficult time, while also finding time to volunteer and support food delivery at Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. You are truly on the front lines.

I especially want to thank those of you who are considered critical infrastructure or conducting minimum basic operations – while we may not see you every day, we know that you are there, and that you care deeply about our campus and our community.

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Unique and difficult times bring out the best in people – and that is certainly true of our employees who continue to work on campus, as well as our students and employees who are working remotely. Many of you are taking part in volunteer activities to support health care workers and others in the community. This is the Eastern Michigan University way. I am proud to be your President. I am proud to be your colleague. And, I am proud of the work you do.

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

Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.  
President

## Recognition

- **Jacquelyn Roberts**, a biochemistry major, has been selected for a **Graduate Research Fellowship Program award** by the **National Science Foundation**. Roberts has been accepted into the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan, where she will continue her research.
- **Student Gold Medallion Awards** were presented in March to students, student organizations, and faculty to honor outstanding service, mentorship and professionalism at Eastern. Award winners included **Chad Thomson**, Graduate Eagle Ambassador Award; **Anas Pasha**, Undergraduate Eagle Ambassador Award; **Alex Kavali**, Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award; **Mickia Simmons**, Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor Award; **Theodore Johnson**, Graduate Volunteerism Award; **Christopher Clark**, Undergraduate Volunteerism Award; **Jarrod Stober**, Graduate Professionalism Award; **Troy Masserant**, Undergraduate Professionalism Award; **Paul Sommerville**, Graduate Leadership Award; **Savannah Currier**, Graduate Leadership Award; **Camila Henriquez Mora**, Undergraduate Leadership Award; **Brionna Bryant**, Glenna Frank Miller Collegiate Leadership Award; **Financial Management Association**, Outstanding Student Organization Award; **5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Dance Crew's House of Dimension program**, Outstanding Student Organization Program Award; and, **Karen Ann Craig**, Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award.
- Professor **Tsu-Yin Wu** and Assistant Professor **Annemarie Kelly** from the College of Health and Human Services were recognized as “**2020s Notable Women in Health Care**” by Crain’s Detroit Business for excellence in health care research, mentoring, teaching, and service work.
- Seven faculty members have been honored for their exceptional efforts in teaching research, creative activity, and service to the University. Those honored include: Teaching I, **Jamie Ward**, Communications, Media and Theatre Arts; Teaching II, **Jeffrey Bernstein**, Political Science; Creative Activity, **Howard Cass**, Music and Dance; Creative Activity, **MeeAe Nam**, Music and Dance; Research I, **Carmen McCallum**, Leadership and Counseling; Research II, **Hedeel Evans**, Chemistry; and, Service, **Michael McVey**, Teacher Education.
- **Cal Downing**, flight instructor and program coordinator for the EMU Aviation program was recognized as Michigan’s Flight Instructor of the Year by the East Michigan District. **Jerard Delaney II** was recognized as the FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year for both the East Michigan District and the entire state.

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- The **master's degree program in Occupational Therapy** has been ranked among the top 50 in the nation and one of the two best programs in Michigan, by U.S. News & World Report.
- The **master's degree program in Educational Leadership, K-12 Administration** has been ranked 6th in the nation by 2020 Best Online Colleges for Value.
- For the third consecutive year, EMU has been named one of the **most military and veteran friendly universities** in the country, according to rankings released by the website, Military Friendly. Emu ranked third in the country and first in Michigan.

## Of Note

- Although the 40<sup>th</sup> annual **Undergraduate Symposium** was canceled due to the COVID-19 epidemic, many academic and creative projects may be viewed on the Symposium's social media channels.
- The March episode of **EMU Today TV** included interviews with two successful EMU alumni – Anthonthy Tomey, former pitcher in the Detroit Tigers organization and owner of one of the largest franchisees of Jimmy John's restaurants, and Eric Brown, an established Detroit-area human resources executive. The program also featured a look at the women's basketball and gymnastics programs. The episode can be viewed on YouTube and on Xfinity On Demand.

## Events

- EMU hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> annual **Digital Divas STEM** conference virtually on April 17. Topics such as coding, sustainability, exploring the solar system with NASA, and making your own lip gloss were offered free of charge to participants.
- **TRUEMU Night at the Red Wings** was held on March 10. Students, faculty, staff and alumni enjoyed a fun night at the Little Caesars Arena. Proceeds from the event supported the EMU GEM Scholarship Fund and participants received a co-branded EMU/Red Wings hat.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Women of Color Feminisms & Leadership Symposium**, sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, Center of Race & Ethnicity, and Women's and Gender Studies department, was held on March 10.

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- The 10<sup>th</sup> annual **EMU Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy** was held March 7-8. Students, faculty, and guests participated in presentations and discussions on a variety of professional topics.
- **EMUiNVENT**, a competition for young inventors from local K-12 schools in affiliation with The Henry Ford's Invention Convention Worldwide, was held on March 6. Winners advanced to the state competition.
- The **EMU Theatre** presented "North Star," directed by Professor Wallace Bridges, from February 7-12.

## Athletics

- Basketball (Women): **Jenna Anecchiarico, Kiara Johnson, and Natalia Pineda** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Basketball (Women): **Areanna Combs** was named to the MAC-All Defensive Team and was included on the Honorable Mention All-MAC Team.
- Basketball (Men): **Derek Ballard, Jr.** was named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Basketball (Men): **Boubacar Toure** was named to the Second All-MAC Team and the MAC-All Defensive Team. **Chris James** was named an NSCA All-American by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Cortney Bezold, Emili Dobronics, Shannon Gregory, Cali Harden, Carly Kosanovich, Brianna Price, Charlotte Reynolds, Jada Rondeau, and Caitlin Satler** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Jada Rondeau** and **Caitlin Satler** earned All-MAC Second Team honors.
- Football (Men): **Hunter Andrews, Kobie Beltram, Brody Hoying, Steven Nielsen, Yannik Rohrschneider, and Breck Tuner** were named to the 2020 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Amelia Armstrong-Grant, Bethany Berger, Marcella Da Costa, Casey Gavigan, Hunter Ignasiak, Brielle Johnston, Carlee Jones, Amelia Kinnard, Abby Rapien, Micaela Schempf, Meike Staffeldt, Rachel Stark, Ali Staver, Avrie Stewart, Kylie Sutherlin, Sydney Thomas, Sophia Tsafantakis, and Claire Young** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.

- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Bethany Berger, Micaela Schempf, Meike Staffeldt, Sophia Tsafantakis,** and **Keira Veltigian** were named to the CSCAA All-American Team.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Alyssa Shugarman** won the 500 Freestyle event and the 1650 Yard Freestyle event at the **MAC Championships**. **Claire Young** took silver in the 100 Backstroke and 200 Backstroke events.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Micaela Schempf, Sophia Tsafantakis,** and **Bethany Berger** placed third, fourth and fifth in the 1-Meter and the 3-Meter Diving events at the MAC Championships.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): The Eagles placed third at the **MAC Championships** and Head Coach **Buck Smith** was named **MAC Women's Diving Coach of the Year** for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in his career.
- Track & Field (Women): **Brenna Cavanaugh, Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Olivia Chandler, Kadian Clarke, Madison Distelrath, Mair Edwards, Keypathwa Gibson, Morgan Iverson, Savannah Luthman, Brittni Mason, Gianna Salzbrunn, Lexi Seifert, Arianna Short, Graysen Simmons, Emily Smith, Kaitlyn St. Bernard, Alysse Wade, Nina Ward,** and **Chevonne Wheeler** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Track & Field (Women): The Eagles won the **2020 MAC Indoor Championship**, their seventh indoor title. **Alyson Davis** was named Freshman Track Performer of the Year.
- Track & Field (Women): **Alyson Davis** placed first in the 60m Dash, with **Brittni Mason** taking second. **Alysse Wade** won the 60m Hurdles event and **Quintella Johnson** won the High Jump event at the MAC Indoor Championships.
- Track & Field (Women): **Gianna Salzbrunn** won the Indoor Pentathlon-Long Jump event, and **Daishon Spann** placed first in the Indoor Pentathlon-800m Run at the MAC Indoor Championships.
- Track & Field (Women): **Alyson Davis, Quintella Johnson,** and **Alysse Wade** were named to the **All-MAC First Team**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Sean Beckom II, Ronald Brandal, Solomon Costa, Owen Day, Chris Devaney, Joe Ingram, Derek Jones, Baldvin Magnusson, Andy Payne,**

**Owen Richardson, Payne Wylie, Charlie Young, and Eddie Zuercher** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.

- Track & Field (Men): The Eagles placed second at the **2020 MAC Indoor Championship**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Baboucar Sallah-Mohammed** won the Long Jump event and placed second in the Triple Jump event at the **MAC Indoor Championships**. **Zach Harkey, Taige Bryant, and Kappa Bedoui** placed second, third, and fourth the Weight Throw event. **Baldvin Magnusson** won the 5,000m and 3000m events, with **Chris Devaney** taking third in the 5000m. **Devonte Findlay** won the 60m Hurdles, while **Owen Day** placed first in both the 800m Run and Mile Run.
- Track & Field (Men): **Owen Day, Devonte Findlay, Baldvin Magnusson, and Baboucar Sallah-Mohammed** were named to the **All-MAC First Team**.