

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents Meeting  
February 9, 2018

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

Welcome to our newly elected Board Chairman Jim Webb, and to our vice chairs, Regents Mary Treder Lang and Michelle Crumm.

Actions have been taken on many positive initiatives at today's Board of Regents meeting – actions that will continue the efforts underway to strengthen Eastern Michigan University for decades to come. The continued reinvestment in our historic 169-year old institution is more important than ever as we seek to counter population trends that indicate a reduced number of prospective students available to universities in Michigan.

The agreement with Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and Integrated Healthcare Associates to build a new health center on Eastern's campus will provide a state-of-the-art primary and urgent care facility to address the needs of people in the greater Ypsilanti community, and our internal community of students, faculty and staff. Improving health services is a top priority in our region and on our campus, and is strongly supported by the University and our partners. This project will make a positive contribution to the overall health and wellness of our community.

Scheduled for completion in summer 2019, the new health center is a continuation of a wide-ranging collaboration between the University and Saint Joseph's, which now includes more than 20 programs including physician assistant, speech pathology, occupational therapy, nursing and more.

Earlier today over the noon hour, we held a launch event to celebrate completion of our new cogeneration unit, which will provide more than 90 percent of the University's electricity, heat and hot water, and generate energy savings of \$2.8 million annually while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I'd like to thank our Board of Regents for its support of this project, our facilities team, led by John Donegan, and our partner, ENGIE Services U.S. This project puts Eastern at the forefront nationally on issues of sustainability and environment-focused leadership.

We continue to add new academic programs in key areas that meet the needs of students and employers. The new Master of Science in Finance will prepare graduate students for high demand business careers, and the new Bachelor of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language continues our emphasis on expanding Eastern's international footprint. The program is designed for students who want to engage with international students in the United States or abroad.

These new programs reflect our commitment to new programs in high growth fields. In recent years, we have added new programs in fermentation science, neuroscience, information technology, a doctorate in nursing practice, mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, physician assistant, a master's of taxation, children and family studies, religious studies, and data science and analytics.

We continue to invest in academic facilities, with targeted improvements and expansion in key academic growth areas. Today's capital plan approval includes funding for projects to support fermentation science, neuroscience, the Quirk-Sponberg Theatre and the College of Business. The renovation of Strong Hall is well underway and will add a major new and modern facility to STEM programming for students.

We are moving forward on plans announced at the December Board meeting for a major overhaul of the REC/IM, as well as investments in Sill Hall and Athletics. Today we received approval for the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$78 million for those projects. It should be noted that we have already raised several million dollars for the Athletics facility, and we plan to continue raising funds for that and Sill Hall, which remains our top priority for state-funded capital outlay. Whatever funds we generate from other sources will mitigate what we actually borrow to construct these important facilities.

It is important we continue to invest in campus facilities and in new academic programs at a time of difficult budget challenges, which, as I communicated in late January, will lead to workforce reductions. We anticipate approximately 50 positions to be affected – many of which are positions currently open and unfilled. It also will include the layoff of some individuals currently employed. We are now reviewing positions with the affected bargaining units and will know more about the affected positions and breakdown between unfilled and existing positions in the next two weeks. I understand that this news is distressing, and it is not news that I enjoy delivering. However, it is essential that our budget is carefully managed so as to reduce overall expenses to meet revenue projections.

Our future is clear – we must develop strong collaborations, both internally and externally, to meet the demands of our students and others. Another example of such a collaboration announced today is the extension of our relationship with Chartwells. A recent student survey regarding dining that was shared earlier today points to the success of this partnership in improving dining areas, services and food quality throughout campus. This has been accomplished while maintaining staffing at the levels they were prior to the partnership.

Eastern's foundation as an institution of opportunity is more important than ever. We are a place where first-generation students, people from urban and rural communities, and all races, cultures, backgrounds and identities are embraced and motivated to success. I thank our students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and donors for their work in promoting this great university and for helping us to keep moving forward.

Thank you, Chairman Webb.

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

## Recognition

- **Michael McVey**, professor of Teacher Education, has been elected to the 2018 Board of Directors of the **International Society for Technology in Education**.
- **Denise Pilato**, professor of Technology Studies, will share her expertise on the social impact of technology in Croatia this year on a **Fulbright Award** to teach at Rijeka University.
- The **Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs** has awarded the **EMU Theatre** a mini grant to produce a new children's play, "Chicken Story Time," based on a book by award-winning children's author and playwright Sandra Fenichel Asher.
- Professors **Leslie Atzmon and Ryan Molloy and students in two Intermediate Graphic Design classes** have received a prestigious national design grant, "Sappi's Ideas that Matter Grant," for their proposal to transform the Riverside Arts Center into a local community hub. The design team is creating branding materials for the center, including a new logo, promotional street banners, building signage, and brochures.
- The **Integrated Marketing Communications** graduate program in the College of Business was ranked 59<sup>th</sup> among the **best online (non-MBA) business programs** in the country by U.S. News and World Report.
- The **College of Education's online programs** ranked 148<sup>th</sup> in the country by **U.S. News and World Report**. Graduate programs offered online include **Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology, Educational Media and Technology, and Social Foundations of Education**.
- The **College of Technology** showed off emerging technologies in mobility, gaming, drones and textiles at their booth during this year's **North American International Auto Show** at Cobo Center.
- Eastern has been **ranked third among large public universities as one of the most military and veteran friendly universities in the country** by Victory Media on its annual Military Friendly Schools list.

- The **Women in Philanthropy** at Eastern Michigan University have awarded more than **\$40,000 in grants to 11 students and faculty** for initiatives proposing educational opportunities, innovative ideas and plans to strengthen the campus community in 2018. Since its conception, the organization has awarded nearly 70 grants and more than \$325,000.
- **Chiara Hensley**, assistant vice president for academic and student affairs, has been chosen to participate in a senior level leadership shadow program that helps develop top female education leaders in Michigan. Hensley is one of five women selected for the program, which is offered through the **Michigan ACE Women's Network**.
- Two EMU alumni are **Fulbright** awardees this year. **Emily Hoffer**, an International Affairs graduate from Grand Haven, is teaching English in Mexico. **Jessica Wenzel**, a Secondary Education graduate from Ann Arbor, is teaching English in Germany.

## Events

- Eastern's annual **SESI Entrepreneurship Conference & Skandalaris Business Plan Competition** was held on Feb. 9.
- Eastern's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual **MLK President's Luncheon** was held on Jan. 15. Following the luncheon, **Joy-Ann Reid**, a political analyst for MSNBC, gave a keynote speech in the Student Center Auditorium.
- Events held during the **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration** week included a commemorative march, an opening celebration reception, a student art showcase, the annual Color of Drums Poetry event, a campus/community conversation, two sessions of academic programs, two performances by the CloseUp Theatre Troupe, and presentation of awards at the men's basketball game.

## Of Note

- **Bruce T. Halle**, the founder and chairman of Discount Tire, died January 4. Halle, a 1956 graduate of Eastern, has been one of our most prominent and successful alumni. The Bruce T. Halle Endowment Fund supports the Halle Library, Halle Foundation Social Justice Fellowship, Halle Foundation Social Justice Scholars, Halle Foundation Chair in Entrepreneurship, and the Halle Endowed Scholarship in the College of Business.

## Athletics

- Basketball (Women): **Danielle Minott** set a new school record with 44 points scored against Buffalo, becoming just the fifth player in NCAA Division I history to score 44 points or more.
- Swimming: Both the women's and men's teams were named to the **College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) NCAA Division I Scholar All-American Team** for the 2017 Fall semester. Eastern was one of just 95 NCAA Division I institutions to have both the men's and women's team earn the award.
- **Anna Aldrich, Alsu Boddanova, Natalie Cizmas, Jeremiah Harris, Brody Hoying, Jordan McDermitt, Sydney Meyers, Ike Spearman, and Austin Wicker** were named as **MAC Distinguished Scholar Athletes** from seven fall sports.
- EMU student-athletes recorded a **3.150 grade point average during the fall semester**, the 16<sup>th</sup> term in a row student-athletes have exceeded a 3.0 GPA. The cumulative GPA for all student-athletes was 3.245, the department's fifth best mark in school history.

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