

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Oct. 20, 2022 (updated Oct. 25, 2022)

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

This afternoon's approval of the University's nearly \$50 million financial aid budget for the next academic year (2023-24) reflects the University's ongoing commitment to minimizing net costs for students and supporting their academic success.

The budget will provide financial aid support to more than 60% of our total student population, and to about 90% of our first-year students. We recognize the challenging economic environment facing our students and families. Our commitment to providing a high level of financial support exemplifies the University's mission as an institution of opportunity.

We are particularly enthused about the opportunity presented for next year's incoming first-year students who will have the benefit of Eastern's robust financial aid offerings along with Michigan's new Michigan Achievement Scholarship. I was pleased to be at the Michigan capitol nine days ago at the signing ceremony approving the new scholarship with Governor Whitmer, legislative leaders from both parties, and representatives of other universities. The new state-funded scholarship provides up to \$5,500 for new first-year students next year.

We are hopeful that today's Board approval of the University's plan to submit Roosevelt Hall as the University's top project request for state capital outlay funding will generate a positive outcome in Lansing. The plan represents phase two of the growth and expansion plan for the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology (GACET) to renovate, expand and repurpose Roosevelt Hall to accommodate advanced technology programs.

The estimated cost of the project is \$42.5 million. If approved as part of the state's capital outlay process, which dictates a funding mix of 75% state contribution with 25% Eastern contribution, the University's cost share would be \$12.5 million.

Roosevelt Hall is a strategic piece of the overall vision of the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology. Project plans include renovating approximately 75,500 square feet and modernized space for student advising centers, collaboration and maker's spaces, and faculty offices. The Roosevelt Hall phase two expansion plan also was the [University's capital outlay request last year](#). It was scored first among state university projects by the State Budget Office earlier this year, but funding has not been approved thus far. The capital outlay program requires the legislature and the governor's approval.

Events have been underway on campus throughout the week to support our transfer student community as part of National Student Transfer Week. Every transfer student has their own unique story of resilience and determination. National Transfer Student Week is an opportunity to not only recognize our transfer students, but to identify and support their distinct needs when they transfer and become part of the Eastern community.

I am delighted to participate in the 100-year celebration of the EMU student organization, Kappa Delta Pi, EMU's International Honor's Society for Educators. Kappa Delta Pi is dedicated to supporting new and future teachers. The celebration event takes place this Sunday from 5 – 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Please join me in congratulating the University's McNair Scholars Program team for being awarded a more than \$260,000 grant to extend the program for another five years. Funded by the United States Department of Education, [The McNair Scholars Program](#) aims to assist low-income, first-generation or underrepresented students in earning a doctorate. The federal program was created in 1989 to honor physicist and astronaut Ronald E. McNair, who died in the Challenger Shuttle accident in 1986. The [EMU McNair Program](#) serves 36 high-achieving students from various academic disciplines each year.

As I conclude, please join me in honoring the bravery of Lada Protecheva, our Ukrainian student who spoke a few minutes ago. Lada, you and your family have exhibited tremendous bravery and courage in the midst of horrors many of us can only imagine. We are privileged to welcome you to our campus and I know you will be a beacon of strength to our entire community.

Additional information and accomplishments are listed in the appendix to this report on the University's website.

Thank you, Chair Jeffries.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

Recognition

- Student recipients of **2022 Winter and Summer Undergraduate Research Stimulus Awards** included **Bradley Allendorfer, Emiee Breitner, Sophie Campbell, Erin Crnkovich, Yashoda Krishna Das, Brandon Ferro, Tiana Fox, Rosalyn Friend, Karlee Foster, Haleigh Griewahn, Sara Jamal Ahmad Herzallah, Quinn Higgins, Brendon Kaniecki, Konrad Lautenschlager, Erin Main, Luke Mangas, Bryan Maro, Mark Melcher, Imani Peterkin, Sarah Raby, Ravel Ray, Sydney Timmer, Zachary Tobias, Edgar Vasquez, and Chevonne Wheeler.**
- The **Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) student chapter** received a **2021-2022 Outstanding Student Chapter Award designation** from the National SHRM association. The award recognizes the chapter for providing superior growth and development opportunities to its student members.
- **Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowships** have been awarded to 40 faculty members in 2022-23. Recipients include **Sadaf Ali, Amanda Allen, Leslie Atzmon, Ashley Bavery, Peter Bednekoff, Peter Blackmer, Minnie Bluhm, Jin Bo, Melanie Bond, Howard Cass, Jill Dieterle, Jessica Elton, Bradley Ensor, Maria Luz Garcia, Sarah Ginsberg, Diane Guevara, Margaret Hanes, Surabhi Jaiaswal, Alicia Jones, Melissa Jones, Tareq Khan, Jeannette Kindred, Allen Kurta, Dyann Logwood, Lois Mahoney, Laxmikant Manroop, Tricia McTague, Mary-Elizabeth Murphy, Hitomi Oketami, Naomi Pitamber, Paul Price, Anushri Rawat, Chris Reilly, Gabriel Rudebusch, Ken Saldanha, Joel Schoenhals, Rita Shah, Tsai-Shan Shen, Pamela Stewart, and Sarah Van Zoeren.**
- The **U.S. News and World Report (Best Colleges edition)** ranked **EMU's Undergraduate Engineering programs** 87th out of 230 universities, showing an increase of 42 positions from last year's ranking.
- The **U.S. News and World Report (Best Colleges edition)** ranked **EMU's Undergraduate Nursing program** 247th out of 694 programs across the country. This is the second time U.S. News and World Report has recognized the nursing program.
- **Military Times** ranked Eastern as **No. 9 in the U.S.** out of 311 universities and **No. 1 in Michigan** for its work to assist veterans in their efforts to obtain degrees and further their careers.
- The **Southeast Michigan Small Business Development Center, affiliated with the College of Business,** has been named **Small Business Development Center of the Year for the State of Michigan** by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

- Eastern's **Social Mobility** was ranked **No. 2 in Michigan** and No. 123 out of 389 national universities by the **U.S. News and World Report (Best Colleges edition)** due to its efforts in supporting economically disadvantaged students in addition to enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students who are awarded Pell Grants.
- Eastern Michigan University has been accepted into **The Center for First-generation Student Success**, an initiative of NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) and The Suder Foundation. The First-gen Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students.

Of Note

- The **National Institutes on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders** awarded a **\$2,074,256 grant** to **Joseph Breza**, associate professor of neuroscience, and Robin Krimm, professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the University of Louisville. This grant will be used to conduct a **five-year-long study** on the sense of touch and how it interacts with the sense of taste.
- Former EMU History and Philosophy faculty member **Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur, Ph.D.**, has given significant gifts to *Give Rise: The Campaign for Eastern Michigan University*. The gifts include an **Endowment for the Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur Center for Civic Education in the amount of \$500,000; \$200,000 for the Expendable Fund for the Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur Center for Civic Education; and \$300,000 for the Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur Endowment for Supporting Language Study Abroad ("Upshur Flight Fund")**.
- The Eastern Michigan University alumni group, **GameAbove**, donated **\$610,000** to the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** for a **new upscale park** on the University's campus. Construction of the park and outdoor space finished in time to open for the fall 2022 semester.
- Eastern has been awarded a **\$261,888 grant for a Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program**, extending the award an additional five years for EMU students. The project, also known as the McNair Scholars Program, provides grants to universities and colleges for projects designed to provide promising college students with adequate preparation for doctoral studies.
- A coalition including Kevin Karpiak, director of Eastern Michigan University's **Southeast Michigan Criminal Justice Policy Research Project**, received a **\$50,000 grant** from **United Way of Washtenaw County** to develop an alternative unarmed non-police response program in Ann Arbor.
- The faculty-student research team at the **Coatings Research Institute** in the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** has been awarded a **U.S. patent for the invention of "Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Polymeric compositions, related articles, and methods."** This is their third patent for Organic-Inorganic Hybrid materials. According to **Vijay Mannari**, director of Coatings Research Institute at EMU, the invention of the composition can potentially replace hazardous heavy metals

used in the metal finishing industry. The concepts within the patent are also advancing the development of 3D-printing materials and solving the challenges of conventional materials and processes.

- The **College of Arts and Sciences** announced **Petra Koppers** as the **2022-2023 McAndless Distinguished Chair in the Humanities**. Koppers will share with the campus community how humanistic and arts-based methods can offer new perspectives on lives and the places where people work and live.
- Eastern Michigan University has become a foundation partner with **Automation Alley** to provide students and faculty connections to Industry 4.0 experts in technology and software development, additive manufacturing, advanced robotics, and supply chain management.
- **Kroger** recently donated **\$10,000 to Swoop's Food Pantry** to help eliminate student hunger among EMU college students. Since 2018, Kroger has contributed over \$70,000 to Swoop's Food Pantry.
- Eastern Michigan University and **Engage@EMU** recently reopened their doors to host the **Girls in Engineering Academy (GEA) Residential Camp**. Campers received specialized training in industry-specific skills such as 3D printing, Wi-Fi coding, and more, followed by two to three weeks of applying those skills on-site with companies such as **Bosch, Ford, and Chrysler**.
- Eastern's **Dare2Design** program is a weekly after-school program at SPARK East Innovation Center. The program is **EMUiNVENT's Independent Inventors program** for students grades second to twelve and is offered by the **College of Business** in collaboration with the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology**.
- **Engage@EMU** announced a new partnership with **Embracing our Differences Southeast Michigan**, a nonprofit organization that aspires to promote social change with the use of artistic projects. Considering EMU's mission to enrich lives in a supportive, intellectually dynamic and diverse community, this partnership showcases **large-scale public art pieces crafted by local artists and artists from around the world**.
- Under the **Eastern Tuition Advantage program**, incoming students who have a 3.0 grade-point average and an annual household income of less than \$60,000 are eligible for free undergraduate tuition. Students can receive free tuition for four years as long as they continue to meet family financial requirements and fill out the FAFSA each year. The Eastern Tuition Advantage program is open to first-year students who have applied and have been admitted to the University.
- The **EMU Department of Public Safety** welcomed the addition of two new e-bikes to help improve campus safety thanks to a gift from **GameAbove**, a team of EMU alumni. In addition to improving campus safety, e-bikes are environmentally friendly. The new e-bikes are manufactured by Recon Power Bikes, recognized as a leader in law enforcement e-bikes.

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- Battery-operated scooters are now available across the University's main campus thanks to a **partnership with Spin**, a leading micro-mobility service provider. The new green transportation program advances the University's long-standing commitment to sustainability. In 2021, Spin achieved carbon neutrality, making it the first micro-mobility company to reach that goal. The partnership advances both institutions' shared sustainability goals.

Events

- **Quentin Messer, Jr.** of the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)** spoke at the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology's Tech Talk** event on October 19.
- **Professor Jessica "Decky" Alexander** spoke at the **Honors College Star Lecture Series** on October 19. She presented "Tools for the Weary and Worried: Improvisational Play for Everyday Life."
- The **Honors College** held its annual **Fall Fest** on October 15.
- The **EMU Theatre** presented Arthur Miller's "**The Crucible**" from October 14-21.
- Guest artist **Gregory Spiridopoulos** from the University Massachusetts Amherst presented a recital of new trombone works on October 12.
- The **LGBT Resource Center** hosted an event on October 11 to celebrate **National Coming Out Day**.
- **EMU Admissions** hosted "**Explore Eastern**" on October 8. The event for high school students and their families featured an academic resource fair, presentations by the Deans from each of our five academic colleges, and opportunities to tour the campus.
- The **Honors College** hosted a **Riverside Park cleanup** on October 7.
- The **EMU Symphony Orchestra** presented an evening of great music on October 6 as they collaborated with **Dr. MeeAe Nam**, soprano, on the Chants D'Auvergne of Canteloube. The EMUSO also performed Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 2 and the Karelia Overture of Sibelius.
- **EMU Career Services** sponsored an **IT/ STEM Job & Internship Fair** on October 5 for employers and students.
- **The Center for Race and Ethnicity (CORE)** collaborated with the the **Latinx Student Association (LSA)** to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at an event on October 4.
- **Eastern alumnus and award-winning journalist Nathan Bomey** and **You Li**, associate professor of journalism, held a discussion about careers in public service and journalism on October 3. Bomey's award-winning documentary, "Gradually, Then Suddenly: The Bankruptcy of Detroit" was shown to those in attendance.

- The **Advising and Career Development Center** hosted a grand opening celebration for the new **EMU Career Closet** on September 27. The EMU Career Closet will be open throughout the semester for those seeking professional attire for interviews and professional events.
- **Dr. Colin Wu**, associate professor at Oakland University, presented a seminar on his research, "Cardiovascular risks of oxidative DNA damage" on September 26.
- **Sierra Club EMU** partnered with the **Sierra Club Huron Valley Group** to clean up **Frog Island Park** on September 24.
- The **EMU Marching Band** collaborated with the **EMU Gospel Choir, the EMU Choir, the Wayne State University Choir**, and local musicians and vocalists to present a gospel music halftime show on September 24.
- Guest artist **Dr. Ben McIlwain** presented a solo trombone recital debuting works from his new album "indefatigable" on September 22. An avid supporter of modern music, Dr. McIlwain has commissioned and premiered over fifty works for trombone.
- The **Honors College** hosted a **campus cleanup** on September 22. Students were tasked with picking up debris around campus.
- **Michael G. Morris Endowed** co-chairs **Dr. Brigid Beaubien and Dr. Amanda Maher** provided an overview of the state of civics education and share insights of what educators from PK through higher education can do to cultivate a strong, informed citizenry in a presentation on September 21.
- **Dr. Aaron Liepman** spoke at the **Honors College Star Lecture Series** on September 20. He discussed aspects of play in relation to his work as a Biology professor.
- The **Center for Jewish Studies** hosted Pulitzer Prize Award winning author **David I. Kertzer** on September 19. He discussed his new book, *The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler*.
- **Dr. Minnita Daniel-Cox** led faculty and students through an **exploration of the music of Black American composers** and the importance of Dunbar's writing in American culture on September 16.
- The annual **EagleFest** event was held on September 8. Students were able to interact with more than 150 student organizations.
- To help bring awareness to the country's literacy crisis and provide access to literacy organizations, Eastern hosted the annual **Elijah & Chase Reading Matters for Literacy 5K Race/Walk** on August 20.
- EMU's **Digital Divas** program and its flight partner, **Crosswinds Aviation**, collaborated with **STEM Flights** to drive interest in aviation careers on August 18. During the program, metro Detroit high school girls were able to experience a day in the life of a woman in aviation.

- To help support English language development among refugee-status women and kids in Washtenaw County, Eastern hosted an August 11 **cooking demonstration** tailored toward meal planning and preparation. About 10 Afghan women, 15 Afghan children, one Syrian woman, and one Egyptian woman attended the literacy-enriched cooking class hosted in partnership with **Jewish Family Services (JFS)**, a local nonprofit organization whose purpose is to help in the refugee resettlement process, along with EMU's **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program** in the **Department of World Languages**.
- **Eastern's Police Department** hosted its fifth annual **Bike Rodeo safety event** on August 6. The event included free giveaways, on-site mechanics for bike safety checks, including a mechanical inspection and helmet fitting suggestions, information tables from local donors who are bicycle supporters, and refreshments. To date, the event is responsible for **distributing more than 300 children's bike helmets**.

Athletics

- All of the Eagles' **18 sports had multi-year Academic Progress Rates (APR) of 955 or above** with the men's golf and women's golf teams posting perfect 1000 single-year rates in the latest report for the 2020-21 year.
- Baseball (Men): Outfielder **Matt Kirk** was named to the **American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/ Rawlings All-Midwest Region Second Team**.
- Baseball (Men): **Christian Bault, Nick Chittum, Shane Easter, Eli Gora, Tyler Helgeson, Taylor Hopkins, Thomas House, Trevor House, Luke Russo, and Daniel Warkentin** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Golf (Women): **Anna Watson** and **Sophia Wygonik** were honored as **Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholars**. It marks the 16th consecutive year that EMU has had multiple student-athletes highlighted by the organization.
- Golf (Men): **Ty Celone, Zack Mason, MJ Smith, and Max Watson** were named **Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-America Scholars**.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Gianna Antonio, Cassie Bergin, Raisa Boris, Katie Butler, Ella Chemotti, Hadyn Crossen, Shannon Gregory, Cali Harden, Hannah Hartung, Brooke Hylek, Jordan Jankowski, Carly Kosanovich, Emma Lewis, Anna Grace McCullough, Corey Melcher, Molly Parris, Charlotte Reynolds, Sophie Rios, Caitlin Satler, Mickayla Stuckey, and Mayleigh Vanderbeek** earned **Scholastic All-American** status for the 2021-22 year by the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA).
- Rowing (Women): **Lauren Ahern, Emma Boersen, Laura Borchers, Olivia Bray, Reagan Fazekas, Emily Grandy, Brianna Gracey, Brynne Harder, Mary Hemgesberg, Chloe Hinojosa, Alexis Kettler, Jessica LaRoy, Caitlin Rodanhisler, Ariel Sutton, and Lily Wilhelm** were named **Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) National Scholar Athletes**.

- Rowing (Women): **Lauren Ahern, Rose Andrews, Maia Balderson, Kara Bishop, Emma Boersen, Laura Borchers, Olivia Bray, Tiffany Chen, Kat Childs, Elon English, Reagan Fazekas, Megan Fowler, Emily Grandy, Brianna Gracey, Claire Greenfelder, Olivia Hansen, Brynne Harder, Mary Hemgesberg, Chlose Hinojosa, Margaret Hoots, Payton Hopkins, Eliana Howes, Kaycee Johnson, Alexis Kettler, Kaialani Know, Jessica LaRoy, Evie Lemons, Autumn Mangas, Claire McCurley, Isabella Nothom, Caitlin Rodanhisler, Arden Schirru, Abbey Simpson, Carly Summers, Ariel Sutton, Carly Szymanski, Alexandra Walsh, Lily Wilhelm, and Emma Wyss** earned spots on the **Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll**.
- Swim & Dive (Women): **The swimming and diving team** has been named a **Scholar All-America Team by the Collegiate Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA)**. The Eagles posted a 3.561 GPA during the spring 2022 semester to earn the award for the 21st time in 22 semesters.
- Tennis (Women): Eastern's tennis team collected the **ITA All-Academic Team award**. **Sabina Brichackova, Vasavi Ganesan, Julia Piatek, Emma-Lou Pommiers, Isabelle Popma, Prerna Vichare, and Grace Whitney** earned **ITA Scholar-Athlete** awards.
- Track & Field (Women): The track & field program earned **United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic honors** for the indoor and outdoor track & field seasons. **Kadian Clarke and Kilani Harvey** received **All-Academic Distinction**.
- Track & Field (Men): The track & field program earned **United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic honors** for the indoor and outdoor track & field seasons. **Solomon Costa, Chukwusom Enekechi, Baldvin Magnusson, Newlyn Stephenson, and Almighty Williamson** received **All-Academic Distinction**.
- Volleyball (Women): The volleyball program received its 18th consecutive recognition by the **United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA)** who announced the Eagles as recipients of the **2022 USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award**.
- **The Eastern Michigan University E-Club Alumni Chapter**, the official varsity athletic letterwinners club, has announced the addition of four new members into the E-Club Athletic Hall of Fame. The Class of 2022 includes **Autumn Bragg, Carrie Gould Hatfield, T.J. Lang, and Carl E. Lowe**.
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the **GameAbove Golf Performance Center at Eagle Crest Golf Course** was held on September 30. The state-of-the-art golf training facility will support EMU's championship collegiate program while also providing additional upgrades to the course and clubhouse.
- The **Eagle Crest Golf Club**, operated by Eastern Michigan University and home to EMU's women's and men's golf teams, has earned the **No. 5 spot on the Detroit Free Press Top 10 Public Golf Courses in metro Detroit for 2022**. (Updated on

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Oct. 25, 2022 to correct ownership information: The University has a 99-year lease agreement with Ypsilanti Twp. at a cost of \$1.)

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