

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
June 16, 2022

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

This afternoon's approval of the University's \$55.6 million financial aid budget for the 2022-23 academic year is an important step in the University's commitment to minimizing net costs for students and supporting their success. The additional funding brings the total financial aid budget to the largest amount in the University's history.

The budget allows us to provide financial aid support to approximately 68% of our total student population, and to about 90% of our first-year students. This effort to reduce the cost of attendance exemplifies our dedication to supporting students and their families, particularly in this challenging time as we address the impact of the pandemic and dramatic increases in the costs of everyday items such as food, gasoline, and housing.

As outlined in our strategic plan, this commitment displays the University's mission to be an institution of opportunity with the state's most diverse student body among Michigan's public universities.

Today's action by the Board to approve the final elements of the Welcome Home 2025 plan will transform the campus in the years ahead. Under this \$200 million investment plan, we will build two entirely new residence halls that will be stunning in their design. The new housing communities will be highly user-friendly and efficient for our students, and they will contribute greatly to the overall vibrancy of our campus environment.

The plan also calls for the demolition of older units and the complete renovation of remaining housing inventory, except for Wise Hall, which was renovated in 2017. As a result of today's Board action, it's all systems go for the start of this transformational project.

Design work has been underway with students and employees for several months, and construction is slated to begin later this summer.

Among the signature elements of "Welcome Home 2025" is the construction of the approximately 400-bed apartment-style Lakeview residence hall next to the Student Center that will overlook the pond on the north side of campus. The other new residence hall will be located on the west side of campus near the Athletics complex. The new Westview facility will replace the current apartments, which will be demolished, and it will feature approximately 300 beds.

Visit the [Welcome Home 2025 website](#) to view renderings, the timeline, and learn about the extensive campus engagement that has taken place over the past four years to develop the plans for the project.

Please join me in congratulating students and faculty involved in three programs approved today:

- 40 faculty members were awarded Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowships;
- 18 faculty members will pursue special study, research, writing or other projects under sabbatical leaves; and,
- 25 students will work with faculty mentors under the Winter and Summer 2022 Undergraduate Research Stimulus Awards program, which is designed to facilitate research partnerships between students and faculty.

You can view the full list of students and faculty involved in these programs on the [Board of Regents website](#).

We are pleased to welcome three-time EMU graduate Tyrone Weeks, superintendent of Dearborn Heights Public Schools, to serve as commencement speaker at our summer graduation ceremonies on Saturday, August 13. As approved earlier in today's meeting, Dr. Weeks will receive an honorary doctor of public service degree.

The day marks a special occasion for Dr. Weeks, who received his EMU doctorate during the pandemic and, like many graduates, was not able to participate in an in-person graduation. In our 9:30 a.m. ceremony, he will address graduates from the April 2020, August 2020, December 2020, April 2021 and August 2022 classes who also did not have an in-person ceremony. He will then address this year's summer graduating class during a second ceremony at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Weeks was recently appointed as the first black superintendent of Dearborn Heights Schools. He is an experienced administrator and community builder, dedicated to ensuring equitable teaching and learning opportunities among all students.

In a short time from now, at 3 p.m., many of us will gather in the Sponberg Theatre in the Judy Sturgis Hill Building to celebrate the official rededication of the Judy Sturgis Hill Building and the Legacy Theatre. While the renaming took place in December, we will gather to make it official this afternoon, thanks to the School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts. A brief presentation is planned followed by photo opportunities and refreshments. I hope you can join us.

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

- Construction Management students **James Adamo** and **Tessa Riley** competed in the **American Institute of Constructors' (AIC) Collegiate Ethics Competition** and took **first place** for the written response portion and **second place overall**. The team, coached by **Raed Jarrah**, competed against representatives from other national universities including Purdue University, California Polytechnic State University, the University of North Florida, and the University of Houston.
- The **EMU Forensics Team** placed third overall in the nation at the **National Forensics Association Tournament**, competing against more than 60 colleges and universities from across the country. **Auryon Azar**, student body president-elect, who is majoring in political science and economics, was named **national champion** in After-Dinner Speaking.
- **Symposium Undergraduate Research Fellowships** have been awarded to 11 students and their faculty mentors. Recipients include **Ronia Cabansag** and **Sadaf Ali**; **Julia De La Harpe** and **Christopher Robbins**; **Kyla Jones** and **Diane Guevara**; **Peter Landor** and **Cara Shillington**; **Eva Long** and **Jeffery Bernstein**; **Carlos Mellado-Fritz** and **Katherine Greenwald**; **Imani Peterkin** and **Ruth Ann Armitage**; **Olivia Robinson** and **Susan Booth**; **Nico Slowik** and **Eric Acton**; **Anneliese Vogler** and **Alice Jo Rainville** and **Olivia Ford**; and, **Ahmad Zalt** and **Carla Damiano**.
- **Denise Pilato**, a professor of Technology Studies, and **Rita Shah**, associate professor of Criminology, are the most recent recipients of **Fulbright Awards**. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government. Pilato will continue her interdisciplinary study of technology, culture and gender at the University of Rijeka in Croatia and Shah will study the incarceration experience in Canberra, Australia.
- **Jillian Graves**, professor of Social Work, and **Alankrita Pandey**, asocial professor of management, are recipients of the **Darrell H. Cooper Presidential Endowment Academic Research Award**, which promotes upward mobility through research, leadership, and management.
- Recipients of **2022 Summer Research Awards** for faculty included **Munther Abualkibash**, **Brittany Albaugh**, **Amanda Allen**, **Mohammed Noraden Alsaleh**, **Fathi Amsaad**, **Eamonn Arble**, **Cassandra Barragan**, **Ashley Bavery**, **Svetlana Beifuss**, **Ovidiu Calin**, **Jie Cao**, **Karen Ann Craig**, **Claudia Drossel**, **Cory Emal**, **Brendan Fay**, **Sarah Ginsberg**, **Jillian Graves**, **Iman Grewel**, **Emily Grman**, **Kelly Grossman**, **Jonathan Hall**, **Jenni Hoffman**, **Khairul Islam**, **Sandra Jackson**, **Surabhi Jaiswal**, **Raed Jarrah**, **Alicia Jones**, **Marianne Laporte**, **Sheila Longpré**, **Rebecca Louick**, **Mary-Elizabeth Murphy**, **Paul Price**, **Pejman Rezakhani**, **Gabrial Rudebusch**, **Meriah Sage**, **James Saunoris**, **Joel Schoenhals**, **Hannah Seidel**,

Rita Shah, Ebrahim K. Soltani, Macarthur Lamar Stewart, Christina Topolewski, Audrey Viguier, and Shu Wang.

Of Note

- EMU's **Upward Bound** program received a grant renewal that will allow the program to continue serving Ypsilanti students through the 2026-2027 academic year. The University will receive more than **\$2 million** to provide academic tutoring and programming, career and college counseling and community engagement to students in Ypsilanti for the next five years. EMU Upward Bound works collaboratively with Ypsilanti Community High School during the school year and provides a month-long residential camp during the summer for its students that includes workshops, college trips and college coursework.
- Eastern has received **\$1 million in additional funding** from the **Windgate Foundation** to help construct a new **3D Arts Complex** in the School of Art and Design. This new gift comes after a \$2.2 million investment from the Foundation last year. The funds are part of a challenge grant and matching gift agreement between the Foundation and the University. The estimated 24,000 sq. ft. facility will be constructed on the northwest corner of campus as a major expansion to the University's current Sculpture Studio. It is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023.
- EMU professors **Cory Emal** and **Gregg Wilmes** from the **Fermentation Science** program are collaborating with **Midtown Detroit, Inc., Smith & Co. Detroit**, and **Nain Rouge Brewery** on a Detroit-based training school to offer underrepresented students an opportunity to break into the brewery industry. Participants will have hands-on practical training in skills like brewing, packaging, inventory, canning, and marketing for entry-level positions.
- The new **Digital Divas TV** show "The Future of Me", an insightful exploration of women role models in the industry who are breaking barriers and paving the way for young girls interested in STEM careers, premiered on the Michigan Learning Channel, Detroit Public TV channel 56.5.
- **Engage@EMU** has partnered with **Wayne Westland School District** to welcome nearly 700 fifth graders and expose students to various career paths. The **Wayne Westland Excursion Camp** will offer hands on projects related to their chosen careers.
- EMU will provide **Second Chance Pell Grants** to incarcerated students at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility and the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan, allowing them to enroll in courses leading to bachelor's degrees on-site at the correctional institutions. Eastern's involvement in the program is led by **Beth Currans**, administrator of the College in Prison program and department head and associate

professor of Women's and Gender Studies, and her collaborator **Decky Alexander**, director of Engage@EMU and professor of Educational/Applied Theatre.

- **Ryan Evely Gildersleeve** has been named as the new Dean of the **College of Education**. He will join Eastern on July 16.
- After graduating from the EMU **Aviation** program and commissioning as a naval officer from the University of Michigan's Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), alumnus **Christian "Griff" Frasher** landed a dream job as a naval aviator fighter pilot climbing the ranks to Lieutenant Commander. Recently, the Navy pilot added another title to his resume as Tom Cruise's body double in the hit film "Top Gun: Maverick."

Events

- The **EMU Foundation** and the **Hundley Foundation** will host events July 8-9 that will benefit the mission of both foundations. Attendees will join EMU officials, athletes, and celebrities, including one of HISTORY's favorite Pawn Stars, **Rick Harrison**, owner of the World Famous Gold & Silver Pawn Shop in Las Vegas, and Baltimore Ravens quarterback **Brett Hundley**, chairman of the Hundley Foundation.
- **Toni Pressley-Sanon**, associate professor of **Africology and African American Studies** will conduct educational activity as part of the college's Juneteenth celebration on June 20. She will discuss her semester-long course, Global Dimensions of Racism, which focuses on making connections between Africa and the diaspora.
- The Department of **Africology and African American Studies** will host a **Juneteenth commemorative lecture** via Zoom on June 19. **Mark Fancher**, staff attorney for ACLU's Racial Justice Project, is the special guest speaker.
- The **WEMU** team will dedicate a memorial garden on June 17 in honor of Lisa Barry, radio host and reporter. The garden will be located on the west side of King Hall.
- To help broaden the understanding of the African American experience and celebrate past and present accomplishments, lecturers **Micala Evans** and **Imelda Hunt** of the Department of **Africology and African American Studies** presented **Curators of our Art: A Juneteenth Celebration** at the Plymouth District Library on June 9 and at the Way Public Library in Perrysburg, Ohio, on June 15.
- **University Archives** hosted its first **Memory Swap** — an event to assist the community in documenting and preserving their histories. The **EMU Aerie**, the Archives' mobile oral history recording booth and a portable digital scanning station was stationed at the Riverside Arts Center to gather and preserve oral histories on June 5.

- The **Center for Jewish Studies** has been a staple on the University's campus, serving as a focus for crucial dialogue and education. To celebrate the Center's decade-long anniversary and honor founder and EMU professor Martin Shichtman's retirement, the Center hosted a celebration on May 24.
- Thirteen EMU teams and more than 750 community members participated in the **2022 Washtenaw County Heart Walk** at Rynearson Stadium on May 14.
- On April 27, **EMU Dining** sponsored “**Grate-Ful**,” a nationwide event designed to celebrate gratitude for Earth, fight food waste, and advance sustainability on college campuses. Chartwells also collaborated with several of its national supply partners to provide 50,000 “Packed with Purpose” bags for donations to local food pantries across the country.

Athletics

- Eastern student-athletes earned an **average GPA of 3.234** for the winter semester. **60 student-athletes posted perfect 4.0 GPAs** and 70 percent of student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or higher for the semester.
- Baseball (Men): **Matt Kirk** was named **MAC Player of the Year**, earned **All-MAC First Team** honors and **All-MAC Defensive Team** honors. **Daniel Warkentin** earned **All-MAC Second Team** honors.
- Baseball (Men): **Daniel Warkentin** earned **Academic All-District** honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America.
- Basketball (Men): **Derek Ballard Jr., Yusuf Jihad, and Darion Spottsville** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Cross Country (Women): **Lexi Seifert** has been awarded the **MAC Medal of Excellence** for demonstrating excellence academically, athletically, and through service and leadership.
- Football (Men): After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EMU football team welcomed the return of one of its best and most impactful traditions on May 25, as it hosted **Victory Day** at Rynearson Stadium. The event welcomed cognitive and physically impaired community members to take part in a day of football with players, coaches, and staff.

- Football (Men): **Taylor Powell** earned an invitation to serve as a camp counselor at the prestigious **Manning Passing Academy** in June.
- Golf (Women): **Natai Apichonlati, Olivia Loberg, Anna Watson, Sophie Wygonik, and Paige Zolciak** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Golf (Women): **Anna Watson** earned **Second Team All-MAC** honors.
- Golf (Men): **Ty Celone, Cougar Collins, Zack Mason, MJ Smith, and Max Watson** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Golf (Men): **Ty Celone** earned **Second Team All-MAC** honors.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Raisa Boris, Haydn Crossen, Cali Harden, Shannon Gregory, Jordan Jankowski, Ann Grace McCullough, Molly Parris, Caitlin Sadler, and Mickayla Stuckey** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Rowing (Women): **The Eagles** placed third overall in the Colonial Athletic Association Championships. **Emma Boersen** and **Chloe Hinojosa** were named to the **All-CAA Team**.
- Swim & Dive (Women): **Lainie Bell, Bethany Berger, Savannah Fisk, Tierney Fraidenburg, Kelsi Hill, Riley Hofmann, Carlin Hudson, Camryn Hughes, Anabelle Rosen-Hurley, Katie Shoen, Ali Staver, Keira Veltigian, Abigail Wenger, Abbey Whipple, and Hannah White** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Tennis (Women): **Vasavi Ganesan, Emma-Lou Pommiers, Isabella Popma, and Grace Whitney** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Tennis (Women): **Luisa Pelayo** was honored with the **Leann Grimes Davidge Sportsmanship Award** and **Prerna Vichare** earned **Second Team All-MAC** honors.
- Track & Field Indoor (Women): **Miranda Cadwell, Brenna Cavanaugh, Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Kadian Clarke, Esme Davies, Mair Edwards, Keypathwa Gibson, Kilani Harvey, Maura Lane, Alisha St. Louis, Alysse Wade, Nina Ward, and Chevonne Wheeler** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Track & Field Outdoor (Women): **Miranda Cadwell, Brenna Cavanaugh, Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Kadian Clarke, Esme Davies, Mair Edwards, Keypathwa Gibson, Elise Gregory, Kilani Harvey, Morgan Iverson, Lexi Seifert, Alisha St. Louis, Alysse Wade, Nina Ward, and Chevonne Wheeler** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.

- Track & Field Outdoor (Women): **Mair Edwards, Keypatha Gibson, Kilani Harvey, and Saraiah Walkes** earned First Team All-MAC honors. **Kadian Clarke** earned Second Team All-MAC honors.
- Track & Field Outdoor (Women): **Mair Edwards, Keypatha Gibson, Kilani Harvey, and Saraiah Walkes** placed first in the 4x100 Relay at the **MAC Outdoor Championships**. **Mair Edwards** won the 400m title. Second places were earned by **Kilani Harvey** in the 100m and **Mair Edwards** in the 200m.
- Track & Field (Men): **Taige Bryant** has been awarded the **MAC Medal of Excellence** for demonstrating excellence academically, athletically, and through service and leadership.
- Track & Field Indoor (Men): **Taige Bryant, Chukwusom Enekwechi, Derek Jones, Kyle Martin, and Kaleb Simpson** earned Academic All-MAC honors.
- Track & Field Outdoor (Men): **Ronald Bandal, Solomon Costa, Joe Duff, Chukwusom Enekwechi, Toby Gualter, Josh Hill, Baldwin Magnusson, Kyle Martin, Kaleb Simpson, Linus Vennemann, and Eddie Zeurcher** earned Academic All-MAC honors.
- Track & Field Outdoor (Men): **Joe Duff, Baldwin Magnussen and Almighty Williamson** earned First Team All-MAC honors. **Chukwusom Enekwechi, Ousman Kamara, Dante Lander, Baboucar Sallah-Mohammed, and Payne Wylie** were named Second Team All-MAC.
- Track & Field Outdoor (Men): **Baldwin Magnussen** placed first in the 10,000m, 5000m and 1500m events at the **MAC Outdoor Championships**, with **Toby Gualter** and **Chris Devaney** placing third and fourth respectively. **Joe Duff** captured the Javelin title. **Baboucar Sallah-Mohammed** placed second in the Long Jump and **Chukwusom Enekwechi** placed second in the Shot Put. **Almighty Williamson** and **Payne Wylie** placed first and second respectively in the 110 Hurdles. Second places were earned by **Dante Lander** in the 400 Hurdles, **Ousman Kamara** in the High Jump, and **Chukwusom Enekwechi** in the Discus.
- Track & Field Outdoor (Men): **Baldwin Magnussen** was named Most Valuable Performer at the **MAC Outdoor Championships** and Most Outstanding Track Performer for the season.
- Former EMU punter **Jake Julien** has signed a free agent contract with the New England Patriots. Former EMU tight end **Thomas Odukoya** has been selected for the International Player Pathway program with the Tennessee Titans.