

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
April 20, 2023

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

The higher education environment is as challenged as it has ever been in my 14 years as a university president, of course the last seven of which has been here at Eastern. The challenges are many: the declining population of high school students; the reduction in the number of graduating high schoolers who choose to pursue a degree; funding challenges on the state level; and, a variety of other factors.

This new landscape for higher education and the budgetary challenges it has created impacts the work all of us who have dedicated our lives to in preparing students for future careers, as well as the livelihood of those employed at universities across the country.

Institutions must become more nimble, creative and innovative than ever to identify new sources of revenue to invest in student and employee success.

This is why Eastern, as approved by our Board of Regents a short time ago, is entering into an innovative utilities and infrastructure partnership, Eagle Energy Partners. This pioneering initiative will deliver significant and sustainable enhancements to the overall campus experience for students, faculty and staff, and will benefit the University immediately and for decades in the future.

The partnership will generate a multi-million-dollar influx of outside funds to the University to:

- Further support Eastern's strong sustainability efforts and energy conservation measures, while making the University even more "green";
- Provide immediate and long-term solutions to deferred maintenance of older buildings and modernize the aging utility infrastructure; and,
- Create a continuous income stream to support academic programs and strategic enrollment and retention initiatives. The plan also establishes a distinctive opportunity for students, faculty and staff to develop projects to support enrollment and retention objectives.

The partnership is the first of its kind among Michigan public universities, and among only a handful that have been formed across the country at universities such as Ohio State, Georgetown and the University of Idaho.

Comprehensive details about the new partnership can be found on the website emich.edu/energy. I encourage you to visit the site to learn more, read the FAQ and other important information about how this initiative will support EMU and our students, faculty and staff for decades to come.

Speaking of great news, we have two important events following this meeting that I encourage you to attend.

At 3 p.m., we will host a reception in recognition of Professor of Political Science Barbara Patrick. Dr. Patrick is the newly named recipient of the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award by the Michigan American Council on Education Women's Network – known as Michigan ACE. We hope you can join us across the hallway in room 205.

At 4 p.m., as you heard earlier, we will host a groundbreaking event for the new Windgate Arts Complex on the north side of campus. Our sincere thank you to the driving force behind this initiative, Director of the School of Art and Design, Professor Sandra Murchison.

As I conclude, there are two important items to note.

Please join me in celebrating the success of the Forensics team, which earned second place in a national competition last weekend. Gavin Millard, a sophomore majoring in public relations, was named national champion in dramatic interpretation, becoming Eastern's first national champion in this category.

On Sunday, August 30, we will honor 1,900 new graduates. Commencement ceremonies are always the highlight of the academic year and I look forward to joining many of you as we celebrate the class of 2023!

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

- **Gold Medallion Awards** were presented to students **Maha Casey, Amy Commer, Rylee Clairday, Hamzah Dajani, Najd Al Jarba, Panida Khuansanguan, Camila Henriquez Mora, Kifaya Nabils, Lindsay Schimler, Nandika Talwar, and Kaitlyn Willis** on March 28. Two student organizations, the **Black Honors Student Organization**, and the **Super Smash Brothers Club**, also received **Gold Medallion Awards**. **Esther Gunel**, director of the Office for International Students and Scholars, and advisor of the International Student Association, received the **Outstanding Advisor Gold Medallion Award**.
- Current graduate students **Ian Cook** and **Sara Plohetski**, and EMU alumni **Jacob Lanczki, Valentyna Stadnik, and Olivia Ziemelis** have been chosen as semi-finalists for **Fulbright Scholarships** this year.
- **Rotesa Baker, Adam Briggs, Devika Choudhuri, Michael Foster, Imandeep Grewal, Patricia Henry, Beth Henschen, Krithika Prakash, and Herman Tang** were honored with **Distinguished Faculty and Lecturer Awards** on March 28.
- The **Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS)**, led by Eastern Michigan University **Professor Ethan Lowenstein** was awarded the **Critical Partners Award** by **MiSTEM Network**. The award was given to Lowenstein and EMU alumna **Lisa Voelker** for helping students reach their full potential through place-based education in their communities.
- Eastern Michigan University's **bachelor's degree program in paralegal studies** has been ranked the **No. 1 public university program in Michigan** and **No. 15 nationally** by **BestAccreditedColleges.com**.
- For the **sixth consecutive year**, Eastern Michigan University is among the best of the best military and veteran-friendly universities in the country, **ranked No. 2 in the U.S.**, and **No. 1 in Michigan**.
- Eastern Michigan University's **College Support Program** has been ranked **No. 4 among the best programs in the nation** by **Best Value Schools** for students with autism.
- **Jeffrey Bernstein, David Evoy, Greg Henirichs, Kevin Lawson, Melissa Peters, Michele Rich, Norbert Vance, and Anthony Webster** were honored with **Staff Distinguished Achievement Awards** on March 30.
- The EMU History program presented two alumni with awards at the **History Honors Reception** on April 12. Former U.S. Representative **Dennis Hertel** received the

Distinguished Alumni Award, and **Sarah Jessup** received the Young Alumni Award.

- The EMU **Women's and Gender Studies Community Board** presented **Mary Starkweather Awards** to **Senator Debbie Stabenow** and former Ypsilanti Mayor **Lois Allen-Richardson** on April 10. The awards honor outstanding women from the local community who advocate for social justice issues and demonstrate the traits of generosity, selflessness, progressiveness and risk-taking.
- EMU has been named a **Voter Friendly Campus**, one of 258 campuses in 38 states and the District of Columbia, by **Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project** and **NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education**. The initiative recognizes institutions that have planned and implemented practices that encourage their students to register and vote.
- Eastern Michigan University's "Come as you are" advertising campaign, has won a top **gold award** in the **2023 Educational Advertising Awards**. Eastern received the gold award in the category of **Television Advertising – Series**. More than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and numerous foreign countries.
- **Eagle Crest Golf Club** has been named the **13th-best college golf course in the country** by **Golfpass**.

Of Note

- Eastern Michigan University has received a generous gift from the **Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation** to upgrade and modernize the University's **Bruce T. Halle Library**, a key resource for thousands of students, faculty and staff, and community residents since it opened in 1998.
- **Engage@EMU** recently launched the **Ypsilanti Intergenerational Community Solutions Institute (YICSI)** to reduce social isolation and improve health outcomes for all generations. **Engage@EMU**, **Generations United**, and the **Ypsilanti Senior Center** are collaborating to facilitate the YICSI, an intergenerational training and design institute that will bring together key stakeholders in Washtenaw County for a series of gatherings to learn about intergenerational issues and plan intergenerational initiatives. The program has received a **\$60,000 grant** from the **Michigan Health Endowment Fund**.
- The **TRUEMU Night at the Detroit Red Wings** was attended by more than 350 University alumni, employees, students, and friends, and raised more than **\$1,700** for

the **EMU Student Emergency Fund**. **TRUENMU Night at the Detroit Pistons** was attended by more than 270 alumni, employees, students, and friends, raising more than \$1,360 for the **EMU Student Emergency Fund**.

- The **College of Health and Human Services** celebrated the opening of the **Center for Interprofessional Education, Research and Practice (CIERP)** on April 12. The Center is designed to prepare students for multidisciplinary teams in health care and human service settings and uses interprofessional education (IPE), a priority for accreditation in most health care disciplines today, to provide students with the foundation to engage with one another and prepare for excellence in practice.
- Eastern Michigan University recently created a mental health support group for students of color in collaboration with the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**, the **University of Michigan's Wolverine Wellness**, and **Washtenaw Community College**. Known as **NAMI Campuses in Color**, the group provides a community of support to students of color who have struggled or are currently struggling with depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues. EMU's **Center of Race and Ethnicity (CORE)** and **EMU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** will act as EMU's sponsors in the partnership.
- To prepare future job seekers for popular careers, EMU's **Center for Digital Engagement**, with support from **Ann Arbor SPARK**, is offering 48 paid internship positions through the **Digital Summer Clinic**. The internships provide valuable experience for students in digital marketing and tech, guidance in creating a professional portfolio and weekly opportunities to connect with mentors and industry professionals.
- Self-care is the topic of a series of writing workshops hosted by EMU's **Office of Campus and Community Writing** and its community writing resource, **YpsiWrites**, in collaboration with **Washtenaw County Health Department's Wish You Knew** mental health campaign. The workshops will be held in April on campus or via Zoom to promote community mental wellness and provide writers of all ages with tools for navigating daily stresses.
- The **EMU Professional Programs and Training (PPAT)** and the **U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** continues their more than 25-year-old partnership by signing a five-year renewal contract for EMU to be an **OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Center**.
- The latest episode of **EMU Today TV** features EMU alumni who are making a difference in their businesses and communities. Segment one features **Morgan Iverson**, a 2022 graduate in computer science. Iverson is a Software Engineer at VMWare in Palo Alto, Calif. Iverson shares her story about being recruited to Eastern to compete in women's track and field and working as a tutor in the Computer Science Department, before graduating and starting her career. Segment two features **Courtney Smith**, a 2014 graduate in sociology. Smith is President and CEO of the

Detroit Phoenix Center, a nonprofit organization that responds to the needs of underserved and street-connected youth in Detroit. Episodes of EMU Today can be found on the Eastern Michigan University YouTube channel.

Events

- The 13th annual **Digital Divas STEM Conference** for middle-school girls will be held on April 21. The one-day conference will give girls better insight into STEM careers and opportunities. **Kiana Wenzell**, co-executive director of **Design Core Detroit**, will serve as the keynote speaker. There will also be opportunities to network and attend breakout sessions for the girls to gain hands-on experience working in the industry.
- The Japanese section of the Department of **World Languages** sponsored a **Japanese Drum Taiko Workshop** on April 18.
- **David Brokaw**, Senior Territory Manager at SciEx and an EMU alumnus, presented a lecture on April 17 that was sponsored by the **Chemistry** Department.
- The **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** hosted a **TechTalk** featuring **Kiana Wenzell**, co-executive director of **Design Core Detroit**, on April 12. EMU TechTalk is a series that offers students and faculty opportunities to network with renowned experts and up-and-coming leaders in the engineering and technology fields.
- The **EMU Forensics Team**, currently ranked third in the nation, held a national showcase on April 6.
- The **College of Health and Human Services and the EMU Foundation** hosted an event featuring **Milton Mack**, former chief judge of the Wayne County Probate Court on April 6.
- On April 4-5, the **EMU Wind Symphony**, conducted by **Dr. Mary K. Schneider**, performed six concerts at high schools and performing arts centers throughout Michigan to further music education.
- The **43rd Undergraduate Research Symposium**, showcasing student research from various disciplines, including the fine arts, humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences, was held on March 31.
- The **Honors College** hosted a **Women's Leadership Panel** on March 27. Panelists

included **Nicole Brown**, mayor of Ypsilanti; **Jolia Hill**, Director of EMU Charter School Office; **Eunice Jeffries**, director of Government and Community Relations at Oakland Community College, and Board Chair of EMU Board of Regents; and, **Linette Lao**, Founder of Invisible Engines, Creative Writing Lecturer at EMU.

- The **Graduate Research Symposium** was held on March 24 with 93 presenters from all five colleges. The keynote speaker was **Frank Urban**, director of Venture Creation for Michigan State University's Spartan Innovations.
- The EMU **Upward Bound** program and the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** hosted a **STEM Day** on March 24 for students from Ypsilanti Community Schools.
- The fifth annual **Women of Color & Feminisms Leadership Symposium** was held on March 21. The event featured keynote speaker **Julisa Abad** and poetry performances.
- The **Journal of Narrative Theory, English Language and Literature**, and the **Women's and Gender Studies** department hosted a panel discussion on the cultural and political meanings of video games on March 16. Guest speakers were game scholars and associate professors **Aubrey Anable** from **Carleton University** and **Soraya Murray** from the **University of California, Santa Cruz**.
- The sixth annual **Activism and Advocacy Day**, sponsored by the **Halle Social Justice Committee, CHHS School of Social Work**, was held on March 15 and included presentations from this year's Halle Scholars as well as a BSW panel, and keynote speaker **Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown**.
- The **Women's Resource Center** and the **Advising and Career Development Center** hosted a **Women in Leadership Panel** on March 13, Panelists representing shared their professional journeys and ability to acquire leadership roles in their respective industries. Panelists included **Nicole Brown**, mayor of Ypsilanti; **Doris Fields**, interim chief diversity officer, EMU; **LaTasha Kaye Goodall**, principal, University of Prep Science and Math Middle School; **Jenita Moore**, chief of staff to Senator Sarah Anthony; and, **Kiana Wenzell**, co-executive director of Design Core Detroit.
- The **College of Business** and the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** hosted **EMUINVENT on March 10**. The young inventors' showcase and competition for students in grades 3-12 are coached by professors, graduate students, and other community members to find solutions to the problems of their choice. 25 projects were displayed at the event.
- The **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** hosted a **TechTalk**

featuring **Brigadier General Brian Vile**, the U.S. Army's 5th Chief of Cyber and Commandant of the U.S. Army Cyber and Electromagnetic Warfare School on March 8.

- Eastern Michigan University hosted **TRUEMU Night** at the **Detroit Pistons** and Washington Wizards game on March 7.
- On March 6, **Phillip Caldwell, II** assistant professor for leadership and counseling at the **College of Education** and the **2020-2021 John W. Porter Distinguished Chair in Urban Education**, presented "Intersectionality of Educating Black Students in Michigan: Public School Finance, Racial Segregation, and Housing Policy," followed by a panel discussion.
- EMU hosted an exclusive speaking engagement at **Detroit Public Safety Academy (DPSA)** on February 27. The event featured the U.S. Secret Service Deputy Director **Faron K. Paramore**, United States Department of Homeland Security Executive Director for Social Impact and Campaigns **Karinda L. Washington**, Detroit Deputy Mayor **Todd Bettison**, and other Homeland Security officials.
- On February 22, members of **GameAbove advisory board** presented, "The Player's Journey" as part of the **Honors College Star Lecture Series**. Panelists included Eastern Michigan University alumni **Earle B. Higgins**, **Brett Petersmark**, **Michael Bailey Smith**, and **Zach Wigal**, who all share a passion for giving back to the institution.
- The **College of Business** launched a **new speaker series in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belongings, and Justice**. The first event, featuring entrepreneur and former nonprofit executive **Kirk Mayes**, was held on February 21.

Athletics

- Basketball (Women): **Lachelle Austin**, **Kyndal Lewis**, **Natalia Pineda**, and **Ce'Nara Skanes** were all named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Basketball (Women): **Kyndal Lewis** and **Natalia Pineda** have been named to the **College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team**.
- Basketball (Women): **Olivia Smith** has been named to the **All-MAC Freshman Team** and **Ce'Nara Skanes** earned **All-MAC Honorable Mention**.
- Basketball (Men): **Yusuf Jihad**, **Kevin-David Rice**, and **Luka Savicevic** were named

to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.

- Basketball (Men): **Kevin-David Rice** has been named to the **College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team**.
- Basketball (Men): **Emoni Bates** has been named to the **All-MAC Third Team**.
- Football: (Men): **Brandon Benson, Dylan Drummond, Taylor Powell, Grant Trueman, and Russell Vaden IV** were named to the **2023 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society**.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Ella Chemotti** was named **All-MAC First Team**.
- Swim & Dive (Women): **Lainie Bell, Olivia Clarino, Savannah Fisk, Ashley George, Kelsi Hill, Carlin Hudson, Camryn Hughes, Rebekah Knapp, Kiersten Russell, Katie Shoen, Madelyn Sursi, Abby Szadorski, Keira Veltigian, Abigail Wenger, Clara Wheeler, Abbey Whipple, and Hannah White** were named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Swim & Dive (Women): **Lainie Bell, Camryn Hughes, Katie Shoen, and Keira Veltigian** were named to the **College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team**.
- Swim & Dive (Women): **Carlin Hudson** placed third in the 200 Free event at the **MAC Championships**. **Alexandra Kudo** placed second and **Kiersten Russell** took fourth in the 500 Free. **Kudo** and **Russell** also earned **All-MAC Second Team** honors.
- Track & Field (Women): **Nicole Bow, Isabella Brent, Miranda Cadwell, Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Esme Davies, Alyson Davis, Mair Edwards, Kilani Harvey, Maura Lane, Marta Mareno, Kayla Muir, Chloe Musta, Julia Pleskacynska, Maleah Scott, Fleur van der Linden, Alysse Wade, Saraiah Walkes, Nina Ward, Chevonne Wheeler, and Safeya Woolcock** were named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Track & Field (Women): **Angel Gazaway** won the 60m Hurdles. **Saraiah Walkes** took second in 60m Dash And 200m Dash. **Mair Edwards** took second in the 400m Dash. **Chloie Musta** took second in the 800m Run. **Maura Lane** took second in Pole Vault.
- Track & Field (Women): The Women's Track & Field team won the **MAC Indoor Track & Field Championship**.
- Track & Field (Women): **Angel Gazaway** was named **All-MAC First Team**. **Mair**

Edwards, Maura Lane, Chloe Musta, and Saraiah Walkes were named **All-MAC Second Team**.

- Track & Field (Men): **Ronald Brandal, Toby Gualter, Brendan Hill, Dante Lander, Baldwin Magnusson, Kyle Martin, Tajay Roberts, Richie Sadler, Kaleb Simpson, Newlyn Stephenson, Linus Vennemann, Almighty Williamson, and Eddie Zuercher** were named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Newlyn Stephenson** earned **USTFCCCA First Team All-America honors**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Kaleb Simpson** won the 60m Dash and the 200m Dash. **Yvan Lopes Ribeiro** and **Almighty Williamson** placed second and third in the 60m Hurdles, **Carson McCoy** won the 800m Dash. **Baldvin Magnusson** won the 3,000 Meter Run and the 5,000 Meter Run, with **Toby Gualter** taking third place. **Baldvin Magnusson, Toby Gualter, and Marcus Kemp** swept first, second, and third in the Mile Run. **Richie Sadler, Dante Lander, Kaleb Simpson, Kyle Martin** took second in the 4x400 Relay. **Yvan Lopes Rivero** won the Long Jump. **Richie Sadler** and **Yvan Lopes Ribeiro** took second and third in the Triple Jump. **Brendan Hill** took second in High Jump. **Newlyn Stephenson** won the Weight Throw.
- Track & Field (Men): The Men's Track & Field team won the **MAC Indoor Track & Field Championship**. **Baldvin Magnusson** was named **Men's Most Valuable Performer** and **Men's Most Outstanding Track Performer**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Baldvin Magnusson, Carson McCoy, Yvan Lopes Ribeiro, Kaleb Simpson, and Newlyn Stephenson** were named **All-MAC First Team**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Toby Gualter, Brendan Hill, Dante Lander, Kyle Martin, and Richie Sadler** were named **All-MAC Second Team**.
- Track & Field: **Sue Parks**, director of cross country and track & field, was named **MAC Women's Coach of the Year** and **Men's Coach of The Year**. **Mark Rinker** was named **MAC Men's Assistant Coach of the Year**.

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