

President's Report to the Board of Trustees



April 11, 2013

Good morning.

Welcome trustees and audience members.

During some of our meetings, we get a very real sense of touching the future. Of taking actions that reflect all CMU is and will be.

This is one of those meetings.

Today, we'll take a momentous vote on a biosciences building. If approved, we'll pave the way for students to study in a leading-edge facility dedicated to discovery.

We'll again discuss America's 137th College of Medicine, and the facilities necessary for our future doctors to complete their clinical education.

We will set tuition rates, again Michigan's first university to do so, because students and families deserve this information. We contemplate these rates with a deep sense of responsibility, determined to protect access to one of this nation's greatest universities.

This board in December approved a new vision and five strategic priorities. Today, this board's actions will reflect all five.

What you decide, trustees, will impact:

- **Student Success**
- **Research and Creative Activity**
- Recruitment and retention of **Quality Faculty and Staff**
- **Community Partnerships**
- And **Stewardship** of the **Infrastructure** of a 120-year-old, extraordinary institution

Let's talk first about new facilities.

In 2009, 450 CMU students majored in biosciences. Today, it's 920, and more than 7,500 students a year take biology classes.

Tenure-track faculty have increased 71 percent, and grant funding has increased 10-fold.

Trustees, you are considering a biosciences building because our students, indeed our university, rely on your vision to perpetuate CMU's excellence and leadership.

This will be our largest capital project ever. It will create another student learning, research, creative-activity based, high-tech, cutting-edge academic center. As such, it joins the Education and Human Services, Music and HP buildings. What's more, it will complement our legacy structures, such as Warriner Hall ... and Anspach Hall, which will undergo phase II renovations this summer.

This weaving of history and future strengthens the core of higher education at CMU and advances our excellence as we shape the years ahead of us.

Just as CMU was created to fill a great need for teachers at the end of the 19th century, we're expanding our efforts in the biosciences.

The same is true with the College of Medicine.

Michigan faces a shortage of 4,000 to 6,000 physicians by 2020, most dramatically in central and northern Michigan. And while this state has four operational medical schools, not one exists to train doctors for this region.

CMU is stepping forward.

Sixty future doctors will start this summer; most of them will be Michigan natives.

CMU's medical school will fill a great need and expand our leadership in the health care professions.

Young people are talking about the College of Medicine and the biosciences building. Alumni are proud of their alma mater because of these programs.

Together, CMED and the Biosciences facility are how *we build on the past* ... and **create the future**.

Let's talk about tuition. Once again, we're proposing what we expect to be one of the state's lowest increases.

Students and families sometimes ask why tuition is what it is, and why it keeps increasing. The answers rest in the data.

Most significantly, it's the result of an inverse relationship between tuition and the stark decrease in state appropriations — from 34 percent of our budget 10 years ago to about 16 percent now.

A recent Business Leaders of Michigan report highlights several factors:

1. CMU receives nearly 47 percent less in state support than comparator institutions nationwide.
2. Eleven of Michigan's 15 state universities receive more state funding than CMU.
3. CMU's administrative spending per student is the lowest in Michigan, while its percent of core expenditures dedicated to instruction is the highest.

At CMU, one of America's 80 largest universities, we believe every student deserves strong academics, technology, undergraduate research and creative endeavors, leadership experiences, and close contact with faculty.

It's why we're serious about tuition restraint.

Recently, Provost Shapiro and I had the honor of recognizing the outstanding achievements of our faculty at this year's Faculty Excellence Exhibition. I again extend my congratulations to all 13 award winners whose teaching, research, creative endeavors and scholarly activities and service fulfill an important responsibility we share as a public university — to improve our world and the communities we serve.

I would also like to recognize a group of students—the incoming and outgoing president and vice president of the Student Government Association and the outgoing president of Residence Hall Assembly. Completing their terms are **SGA President Justin Gawronski**, a junior from Macomb, **SGA Vice President Michelle Vanhala**, a senior from Big Rapids, and **RHA President Alyson Cole**, a senior from East Grand Rapids. I have enjoyed the working relationship that we have developed this year, the many meetings and events that you have invited me to, and perhaps most of all—the dinners at the residence.

And I look forward to working closely with the incoming **SGA President Marie Reimers**, a Junior from Saginaw, **SGA Vice President Patrick O'Connor**, a Senior from Crosswell, and **RHA President Eric Ostrowski**, a Junior from Northville. I have confidence that you will represent the CMU student body and residence hall students well during the coming year.

Speaking of Justin... Campus Compact, a national coalition of almost 1,200 college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education, has named the 2013 Newman Civic Fellows. The Newman Civic Fellows Awards recognize inspiring college student leaders who have worked to create lasting change in their communities. Justin is one of three honorees in Michigan. Congratulations, Justin.

CMU has the honor of once again receiving national recognition for its commitment to service and civic engagement by being named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The honor roll application included general community service information and highlights from the following departments: Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center, Residence Life, Michigan Special Olympics, and FaCIT (Service-Learning). In the Special Focus Area: Exemplary Project section of the application, CMU applied under the sub-category of "Summer Learning" and focused on the following programs: GEARUP Program with Flint Area Schools and Harrison Community Middle School; CEHS Transitions Camp with West Intermediate; and Residence Life Leadership Camp. Thank you for this collaborative effort to bring recognition to the university.

The Central Michigan University chapter of the American Council on Education recently honored three women who have displayed leadership at CMU and taken extraordinary measures to help other women grow. The honorees were **Joan Schmidt**, director of housing, who was named CMU's 2013 **Woman of the Year**, and **Holly Hoffman** and **Marcie Otteman**, both named 2013 **Women of Excellence**. Congratulations to these extraordinary women for their leadership at CMU and beyond.

I would like to recognize achievement at the highest level by some of the university's student-athletes.

Here with us today are **Wrestling Coach Tom Borrelli** and senior wrestler **Ben Bennett** of Rockford, who claimed the Mid-American Conference wrestling championship for the fourth consecutive year at the 2013 Mid-American Conference Championships. Ben is the second wrestler in CMU history to achieve this honor. Wrestling qualified eight wrestlers for the NCAA tournament—five earning automatic bids and three awarded

at-large bids. Ben also became CMU's **first** four-time All American wrestler when he competed at the NCAA Championships last week. Congratulations to Ben, Coach Borrelli and the entire team for another stellar year.

The **Women's Basketball** team won the championship in the Mid-American Conference Tournament to earn its first NCAA tournament bid since 1984.

The 22nd-ranked **Gymnastics** team claimed its fourth consecutive conference title and the program's 14th overall.

The **Field Hockey** team has achieved the highest Division I GPA in the United States, as recognized by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. The NFHCA Division I National Academic Team Award recognizes teams with a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the semester. CMU's team averaged a 3.61 GPA. This marks the fourth consecutive season the field hockey team has earned the award and the fifth time in the last six years.

And finally, I want to share a story about student leadership.

Because, at the end of the day, **CMU graduates leaders.**

Two weeks ago, our freshman cohort of Leader Advancement Scholars went to Detroit.

That Friday, they studied community revitalization at the chamber of commerce.

They went to the CMU-authorized Jalen Rose Academy, training 200 students in leadership and communication. One of the teachers they worked with was Katie Colaccino — a 2010 grad, and also a CMU Leader Advancement Scholar.

Saturday morning, they did community service ... at the school, a recycling center, a community garden and at Hostel Detroit, which provides safe, affordable accommodations.

Hostel Detroit was founded in 2010 by Emily Doerr, another energetic young CMU grad.

Did I mention we graduate leaders here at CMU?