

President's Report to the Board of Trustees



December 6, 2012

Good morning.

Thank you, Chairman Kottamasu. I welcome you, each of CMU's board members, and each of our guests to this final Board meeting of 2012.

Today, with approval of CMU's vision statement, we will be guided into 2013 and beyond by a determination to be an *inclusive community* of scholars ... to be a *national leader* in higher education ... and to *inspire excellence and innovation*.

Today's discussion of a commitment to gender equity in athletics reflects that inclusive nature. It portrays our determination to fuel educational excellence for *all* students ... no matter their gender, race, or socio-economic status.

Today's discussion of next steps for America's 137th medical school demonstrates national leadership. It shows innovation — yes, with further investment — as CMU's College of Medicine offers the state's only curriculum for preparing doctors to serve patients and families across central and northern Michigan.

What's more, as you approve the awarding of 2312 degrees this month and 7,497 degrees in 2012, you show the impact of a leading national university. A university that ranks in the top 20% nationally for its graduation rate and degree completions.

Today, you will review operating and capital budget request letters to the state. We make a strong case for funding, yet the reality is, the economy still struggles and we cannot count on increases, -- we must continue to find ways to increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and control tuition increases.

While you have approved the state's lowest tuition increases the past three years, we see funding gaps of nearly \$5,000 per student between CMU and some of our competitors.

We request, we demand, a funding formula that recognizes that dollars follow students.

We see a funding formula that has given some of the largest increases to universities with some of the worst graduation rates.

State funding to CMU has declined about 24% since 2001, yet we serve 16% more students.

We will continue to engage the executive and legislative leadership in Lansing, yet we must continue to work hard to stay financially strong today. Make no mistake: we need commitment campus-wide.

All of us must spend our resources wisely.

One way we're doing that administratively is through CMU's health plans. You have before you CMU's 2012 health care report card. It documents gains such as:

- CMU and its fixed-term faculty, staff and administrative employees have avoided more than \$11 million in benefit cost increases in the past five years through lower premium costs — better than other Michigan public universities.
- CMU has reversed skyrocketing cost trends. American medical plan costs jumped 10.8% the past 5 years. In contrast, CMU's costs increased just 1.9% ... while still *maintaining competitive and comparable benefit levels*.
- Further, CMU employees have markedly decreased their own health risks, while improving positive wellness outcomes and achieving elusive gains sought by universities and other organizations nationwide.

We must invest and spend wisely, recognizing the metrics used in Lansing to set funding.

For example, Lansing metrics dictate that we graduate more students in STEM programs ... or lose funding.

This is why we're planning one of the most important investments in CMU history — a biosciences facility . The state has approved \$30 million of the \$95.3 million cost.

Lansing metrics also dictate that we graduate more of our students, do more research, and continue to restrain tuition ... or lose funding.

Yes, CMU is fiscally strong. However, it's tough out there. We cannot afford to be naively comfortable. All of us, in every college, every department and every service unit, must conserve funds and invest wisely to meet the needs of students and employers.

CMU's future is bold and bright ... IF we *shape* it, rather than simply *hoping* for it.

Our vision describes an inclusive community, national leadership, excellence and innovation. We'll achieve that vision only if we purposely create it.

In the first of five key efforts, last year we completed academic prioritization and made it part of our ongoing processes. All of us should be proud of this, as prioritization is a goal many universities discuss, but few achieve.

Today, four additional efforts are under way:

1. Implementation of five strategic planning priorities that support our new vision;
2. Enrollment management planning;
3. Campus facilities master planning; and
4. Information Technology long-range strategic planning.

Those five efforts together, along with the engagement of faculty, staff, students, and alumni, businesses and legislative leaders will help to shape the future of CMU.

Let's take a few moments now to celebrate those who make CMU great on a daily basis.

I would first like to welcome to today's meeting and recognize **Katelyn Blair**, a CMU senior from Mio (My-oh). Katelyn entered CMU as a freshman in 2010 and will graduate in May 2013, earning her Bachelor's of Social Work degree in only three years while maintaining an impressive 3.95 GPA.

While here, Katelyn has worked with Dr. Gary Miller in the Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work department as a research assistant and has served as the principal investigator on several studies. She has also been incredibly active in the Student Social Work Association, Listening Ear, and the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center. Katelyn, thank you for all that you do to help others and congratulations on your many successes – both past and future.

Very recently, the Board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association named Central Michigan University teacher education and professional development professor **Jim McDonald** as the 2013 College Teacher of the Year. Dr. McDonald is a science education professor who has spent 11 of his 25 years teaching at CMU.

According to officials at the MSTA, Dr. McDonald was chosen for "using or modeling best practices, inspiring students, demonstrating innovative teaching strategies, being an excellent role model for students and other teachers, demonstrating leadership, and exhibiting a passion for science and for teaching."

Jim, congratulations on receiving this honor.

As a longtime supporter of Special Olympics Michigan, Central Michigan University was honored this fall with the Special Olympics Michigan Legacy Award. With a forty year history as the home of the Special Olympics Michigan state office, CMU faculty, staff and students have raised almost \$115,000 since 2002 for Special Olympics Michigan athletes through icon sales and athlete sponsorships. CMU also hosts the Michigan Special Olympics State Summer Games. **Lois Arnold**, President and CEO of Special Olympics Michigan, is here today—Lois, will you please come forward?

Last, but certainly not least, this may be the last board meeting attended by two very special people.

Eight year terms on the CMU Board of Trustees will officially end on December 31 for Trustees Sam Kottamasu and Marilyn French Hubbard—although I certainly hope that both will continue to remain involved with Central Michigan University.

With your permission, Chair Kottamasu, I would like to move from my president's report into the Emeritus Resolutions and introduce the resolutions for current Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Sam Kottamasu and Past Vice Chair Dr. Marilyn French Hubbard.

I will briefly share a portion of the resolutions.

Chair Kottamasu

WHEREAS, He was steadfast in enhancing CMU student experiences as a member of student-related committees during seven of his eight years on the Board, including five on the academic and student affairs committee and two on the trustees-student liaison committee; and

WHEREAS, In his eight years serving as a trustee, he was never absent from a regularly scheduled board meeting; and

WHEREAS, He was a leader among the visionary members of the board's ad hoc committee that investigated and recommended the university pursue establishing a College of Medicine focused on a medical education program leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree; Now be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees expresses appreciation and gratitude to Sam R. Kottamasu, M.D. for his contributions to Central Michigan University and extends trustee emeritus rank effective January 1, 2013.

Past Vice Chair Dr. Marilyn French Hubbard

WHEREAS, She brought more than twenty-five years of experience as a business and community leader to her role as a trustee; and

WHEREAS, She earned her graduate degree from CMU, and her actions as a member of the Board were driven by the interest of an alumna eager to contribute to the success of her alma mater; and

WHEREAS, During her term with the Board of Trustees – which included serving as Board vice chair in 2010 and 2011 – CMU experienced tremendous growth, including record enrollment in 2010, increased financial and educational support for students, and the building of many new facilities;

Now be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees expresses appreciation and gratitude to Marilyn French Hubbard for her contributions to Central Michigan University and extends trustee emerita rank effective January 1, 2013.

Thank you.