

President's Report to the Board of Trustees



December 9, 2014

Good morning to you, trustees, and to those of you in the audience as CMU prepares to wrap up the fall 2014 semester and send more than 2,300 graduates out to put their stamp on the world.

The past three-plus months have said much about Central Michigan University — about who and what we are, about the value students and parents see in us, and about our potential.

We started the semester with a freshman class that is 27 percent larger than it was last year. And when we talk with these new students, they tell us they chose CMU ...

because of its academic rankings and achievements ...

because of its hands-on learning experiences in the classroom and beyond ...

and because faculty, staff and students all support each other, encouraging, nurturing and challenging ... while always caring.

We also started the year with more graduate students, more international students and more minority students. All are signs that we at CMU are cementing our true identity and rightful position as a first-choice public university in Michigan.

Those are monumental achievements, possible only because as a campus community, we collectively share responsibility for student recruitment, retention, graduation and career success for our alumni.

If we review what *else* happened this fall, we'll see our strategic plan coming to life, through efforts that

- advance student success;
- promote excellence in research and creative activities;
- support quality faculty and staff;
- build community partnerships; and
- uphold smart infrastructure stewardship.

In the next few minutes, please join me in celebrating a dozen remarkable stories of Central Michigan University over the past four months alone.

1. The groundbreaking for our \$95 million Biosciences Building, our largest construction project ever, which will prepare students for careers in the sciences, and continue CMU's leadership in Great Lakes research.
2. CMU received the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine. This national honor went to just 83 colleges and universities and marks our leadership in diversity, multiculturalism and inclusion among faculty, staff and students. Please stand up,
 - o Carolynn Dunn, AVP for Institutional Diversity; and
 - o Traci Guinn Buckley, executive director of the Center for Inclusion and Diversity; and
 - o Kamaria (Kah-mah-reeah) Taylor, a student who was instrumental in pulling the award documentation together.
3. Mohamad Qatu, chair of the School of Engineering and Technology, please stand up.

This fall, CMU's 10-year-old engineering program was ranked No. 86 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. At the same time, our Baja racing team — composed primarily of engineering students — achieved the best car in Michigan and No. 2 in the nation.

Bosch Automotive learned of our Baja success and quickly made a recruiting detour to Mount Pleasant ... while Ford Motor Co. invited CMU to be one of a select few premier U.S. recruiting partners for interns, jobs and scholarships.

Congratulations, Mohamad, to you and to your faculty and to your students.

4. Also this fall, furthering our extraordinary commitment to the military, CMU signed an agreement to deliver educational programming at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. We deliver degree programs at more than 20 military installations across the United States. What's more, CMU serves the largest number of GI Bill beneficiaries of any of Michigan's 15 public universities.
5. CMU last month hosted 400-plus area educators and business leaders for the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance's STEM Impact Initiative Summit. This effort will help fill a growing need for STEM graduates in a region that has proportionally more STEM jobs than any comparable region in the rest of the country. Yes, you heard correctly — more than the rest of the country, thanks to Dow Chemical and Dow Corning, Nexteer Automotive and our area hospitals, for example.

6. In October, CMU faculty and students opened an Autism Assessment and Treatment Clinic — one of only eight of its kind in Michigan and one of only two to train professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. This center, supported by the Michigan Department of Community Health, will help families in central and northern Michigan address the fastest-growing developmental disability in the U.S.
7. At the same time, faculty and student researchers in CMU's Institute for Great Lakes Research supplied the data used by federal officials to determine the first 7,000 acres of coastal wetlands to be managed through the largest conservation program in U.S. history.
8. Leigh Orf, chair of our earth and atmospheric sciences department, please stand up. Leigh, a meteorologist, has created a first-of-its-kind simulation of a long-track EF5 tornado and the supercell thunderstorm that spawned it. Showing wind speeds in excess of 300 miles per hour, his work could help forecasters better predict which storms will generate monster tornadoes. Leigh, your work will save lives. Thank you for what you do.
9. CMU faculty members this fall have shared their expertise and insights into the treatment of concussions, how patients and families make decisions about the treatment of breast cancer, and in the cultural impact of digital self-portraits ... or "selfies."
10. Ken Sanney, please stand up. Congratulations to you on your appointment as chair of CMU's new entrepreneurship department — the only one of its kind in Michigan. Thank you for your leadership, your guidance and your commitment to CMU and its students.

And now, for a couple of student highlights.

11. Central Michigan University's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, has been named one of America's four best chapters for universities with more than 25,000 students. The award recognizes chapters that are particularly active in their departments and exhibit high levels of energy and creativity in furthering goals of the society.

Political science professor Joyce Baugh serves as the chapter's faculty adviser, and its leaders are students Natalie Saucedo and Courtney Overbey. Natalie, Courtney and Professor Baugh, please stand up. Congratulations. And thank you.
12. And now, Rachel Dybicki, please stand up. Rachel is from Belleville. She graduates Saturday with an integrated public relations major and minors in leadership and communication disorders. Two weeks ago, she returned from a six-month internship at the world headquarters of PUMA in Germany.

Think about that: Rachel has done a major internship (and it wasn't her first). She traveled abroad. And she invested the time needed to earn CMU's first-in-the-state leadership minor.

What's more, Rachel's story doesn't end there. She's also done EIGHT Alternative Breaks and as a senior, she chaired the entire Alternative Breaks program.

Rachel, we Chippewas look out for each other. I love that when you talk about your internship abroad, you encourage other students to do the same. Our CMU spirit also means we give back, and you've already done more than many people do in their entire lives.

Thank you, Rachel, and congratulations.

As I said when I started, much is happening at Central Michigan University.

There's a camaraderie here ... a pursuit of leadership ... an impressive, widespread commitment to making a difference.

Before I conclude, I want to express deep appreciation to two people sitting at this table — Trustee Brian W. Fannon and Trustee Robert F. Wardrop II.

Their terms officially end on December 31 — although we trust both will continue to be involved with Central Michigan University.

With your permission, Chair Kanine, I would like to read excerpts from our resolutions of appreciation.

Past Vice Chair Robb Wardrop

- Robb was appointed to the Board of Trustees in March 2010 and is an alumnus with both undergraduate and graduate degrees from CMU.
- His service on the board continues a family legacy of involvement with the university including his father, who was a faculty member.
- Each year since his appointment, Robb has served on the Trustees-Student Liaison Committee and has been chair of the committee for the past four years. He has always said that it is the highlight of the meetings for him.
- Robb, thank you for all of your contributions to the Board of Trustees and your Alma Mater.

Past Board Chair Brian Fannon

- Brian was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2007 and is completing an eight-year term. He served as vice chair in 2012 and board chair in 2013.
- Besides serving on just about every committee possible during his tenure, with his business expertise and experience, Brian has particularly had an impact on the Finance and Facilities Committee — both when they were separate committees and after they combined.
- He served as chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee for four years and as a member or chair of the Facilities Committee from 2007 to 2010.
- He was a member of the Presidential Search Screening Committee in 2009 — the one that helped hire me (thank you, Brian.)

- Brian, I will always remember you whenever we talk about “the good stuff” going on at CMU — and will remember your many contributions to this great university.
- Brian, thank you for your support and guidance through the years.

Chair Kanine, that concludes my report.