

President's Report to the Board of Trustees



April 30, 2015

Good morning. Welcome, trustees, faculty, staff and students, to the best time of year on campus.

We will host four graduation ceremonies in just over a week. More than 3,600 students will become alumni, with huge smiles and big plans, cheered on their way by family and friends.

They'll go forward to begin a lifetime of impact across the state, nation and globe — impact on businesses, schools, health care ... on communities and the residents who live there.

They'll leave to put their stamp on the world. They'll leave as leaders ... armed with knowledge, skills and insights gained in the classroom and beyond, inspired by CMU faculty, staff, alumni and each other.

Central Michigan University, an inclusive community of scholars, is a national leader in higher education inspiring excellence and innovation.

That's our vision, one we live every day. Let me share a few examples.

Since we last were together in February, the College of Business Administration was reaffirmed as one of an elite 180 universities around the globe to have earned accreditation through the Association to Advance College Schools of Business.

Only 727 universities in the world have **AACSB accreditation**, but just 180 — including CMU — have earned this status in both business and accounting. And for CMU, it's **re**accreditation.

There's more. CMU also is the only Michigan university to have been recognized, once again, for excellence in undergraduate and graduate sport management education. In fact, **CMU is among — and actually was the FIRST — among only 43 sport management programs in colleges and universities across the United States endorsed by the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation.**

Dean Crespy and those of you here from the College of Business Administration ... Dean Masterson and those of you here from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions ... congratulations and thank you.

Two more academic notes:

First, CMU's **master of science in administration program**, offered with a dozen concentrations, celebrated its 40th anniversary this spring. More than 35,000 individuals across the nation have received their MSA from CMU.

And second, we announced last week a **new online doctoral education technology program**. Offered collaboratively through the College of Education and Human Services and CMU's Global Campus, the program will prepare students for leadership positions in elementary, middle and high schools, virtual schools, colleges and universities, as well as government, corporate, industrial and military settings.

Dean Coles from graduate studies, Vice President Ross from CMU's Global Campus and Dean Pehrsson from EHS ... congratulations and thank you.

As we are meeting this morning, a group of CMU student-athletes, coaches and staff are traveling to Lansing to be honored by the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate. The field hockey team, gymnastics team and men's basketball team are being honored for winning Mid-American Conference championships this season. In addition, basketball coach Keno Davis and former field hockey coach Cristy Freese, who has been promoted to senior associate athletic director, were honored this year as MAC coaches of the year in their respective sports.

Traveling in the group is gymnast Kylie Fagan, a senior from Commerce Township, who earned Second Team All-America honors in uneven parallel bars from the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches. Kylie is the first All-American in the 40-year history of CMU gymnastics.

I would like to mention one more accomplishment of a CMU student-athlete. A few weeks ago, women's basketball player Crystal Bradford was the first player in CMU history to be drafted by a WNBA team.

Congratulations to all of these student-athletes and their coaches for representing CMU well this year.

This also is the time of year when this board makes one of its most significant decisions.

This morning, we will discuss tuition and room and board for the 2015-2016 academic year.

We once again will be the first university in Michigan to set these rates, because we believe it's important to give students and families time to plan. We do so now, because we don't have to wait for the state to set a final tuition cap. Instead, we proactively and independently choose to keep the rates as low as possible.

CMU has adopted the lowest cumulative tuition increase the past five years among all 15 Michigan public universities.

I and our administrative team ask you to continue along a conservative path, because we believe that access to a college degree is imperative ... that education transforms lives.

We ask you to be conservative, even though nine of the 14 other public universities in Michigan receive more state funding per student than CMU does — by as much as \$4,529 per student!

We ask you to be conservative, even though CMU already is among the least expensive choices for students and families. According to the Business Leaders of Michigan, our total cost of attendance is lower than all but four other, smaller public universities in the state.

What's more, we spend the greatest percentage of funding on instruction among all our state competitors ... and less on administration than 12 others. And we do this, while conferring more degrees than all but two others.

Do you see the trend?

We at CMU receive less, and cost less.

We receive less, and cost less ... while investing more in our students.

We receive less, cost less and invest more ... while graduating more.

As an accounting nerd, that's an equation with results I endorse.

At Central Michigan University, we are *a community* ... committed to the pursuit of knowledge, wisdom, discovery and creativity. We provide student-centered education and foster personal and intellectual growth to prepare students for productive careers, meaningful lives and responsible citizenship in a global society.

You should recognize that statement as our mission.

I have made some brief comments this morning about academic excellence. National prominence. And learning in the classroom and beyond. You've heard mention of the nurturing of students by faculty and staff who care deeply, because that's what we do at CMU.

You've also heard about some of the pressures on our operating budget — about stewardship decisions that are difficult because of the burden they place on students and families ... yet are ultimately necessary to maintain high quality academic programs and service delivery.

At the end of the day – the end of every day – CMU continues on its journey as a national leader in higher education, inspiring excellence and innovation.

Finally, before I conclude —

Two weeks ago, CMU lost a dear friend, and the country lost a great man and true statesman. Distinguished CMU alumnus and former U. S. Senator Robert Griffin passed away at the age of 91 in Traverse City.

Our condolences go out to Marjorie, his wife of 67 years, also a friend and alumna of CMU, along with their four children, 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Robert Griffin was famous for his political civility. He was a champion of integrity in the political process, always honoring his word and his commitments while working with elected officials and constituents across the political spectrum. A few days after his passing, the forum bearing the name of Robert and Marjorie Griffin and funded through the Griffin Endowment established in 1999 through private donations was held at CMU. The Griffin program aims to further interest and participation in political issues among young adults, faculty and the public.

Senator Griffin's papers are in the Clarke Historical Library for those wishing to learn more about his work and impact. Both Bob and Marjorie served on the Clarke Historical Library Board of Governors.

When I think of Bob Griffin, words come to mind like gentleness, kindness, compassion, integrity, intelligence, dedication, leadership, modesty and courage. He and Marjorie embody all that is CMU. By living a life as a public servant, Bob's presence will not disappear with him. He has made an indelible impression on CMU and the world.

Chair Kanine, that concludes my report.