



Office of the President

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Dear students, colleagues and friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to share with you my plans to step down from the position of university president at the end of this year. For personal and professional reasons, I will resign my position effective Tuesday, December 31, 2024. I know that I am making this decision at the right time – for myself, my family and for CMU.

Over the holiday break, I had the opportunity to reflect with pride on our university's many accomplishments — especially those that came as the result of the collaborative efforts of our students, faculty, staff and supporters.

We worked together to achieve CMU's first year-over-year increases in new student enrollment after more than a decade of enrollment declines. Together, we achieved record-setting years in research grants and funding, as well as significant increases in our scholarly output and productivity. We experienced momentum-building success in philanthropy with some of the university's largest single day-of-giving campaigns and growth in overall giving.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, community partners and supporters came together to create a new strategic plan that will guide CMU forward in exciting ways – a plan that provides every member of our community opportunities to participate in our future success. Through this process, we crafted new mission and vision statements that tell the world who we are and what we aspire to become.

We developed a new multiyear plan for diversity, equity and inclusion. This plan will ensure our community is united in its work to create an environment that fosters opportunity for all individuals and provides resources for everyone to be successful and supported in their personal and professional aspirations. We also are creating a new academic vision for CMU focused on developing engaged and adaptive learners who will shape and serve the future of society.

During the global pandemic, we worked together to prioritize the safety of our students, faculty and staff while continuing to carry out our vital educational mission. We made difficult decisions in the best interest of our university community, always keeping our students' needs at the forefront of our choices. We supported one another through one of the most challenging periods in the history of higher education and, indeed, in our nation's history.

And, perhaps most importantly, we continued to educate and graduate the world's finest scholars and leaders. We have each played a role in ensuring that *every* Central Michigan University student had the opportunity to feel welcome, supported and successful within our community. More than anything, I feel proud of their achievements, their successes, and the impact they continue to have wherever they go.

The work we have done together fills me with pride, and we have a great deal of work remaining ahead of us. We must continue to focus on growing enrollment, advancing academic excellence, building a robust culture of philanthropy and moving forward on our new strategic plan.

Understanding the Board's desire for a seamless transition to the next university president, and to mitigate the need for an interim appointment, I have agreed to remain in my role through the end of this calendar year. This will provide the university the time necessary to conduct a national search, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board of Trustees as they select and welcome CMU's next president.

I look forward to our continued partnership over the next 11 months. Please be assured that I will remain an active, engaged and enthusiastic proponent of this work in my final year as president.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Davies', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Davies, Ph.D.
President
Central Michigan University