



Michigan Technological University Board of Trustees Meeting

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Prepared by:

Richard J. Koubek, President

Chair, Members of the Board and audience members. Thank you for joining us this morning.

As Chair Ryan mentioned in her comments, the board and leadership team spent the past two days discussing the future of Michigan Tech. It was both refreshing and exciting. But, these conversations could not have been possible without our campus community's unwavering tenacity, creativity and commitment, especially over the past year.

Because of COVID-19, the context of our work has changed, dramatically in some cases. But, the destination for Michigan Tech has not—being a premier national university positioned to lead our state and nation in the 4th industrial revolution.

And, in pursuing this vision, Michigan Tech surpassed many of our performance metrics this year, in spite of the global pandemic. This is a testament to our faculty and staff's unwavering commitment to excellence.

For example, our budget for this fiscal year is sound. In part, because of a number of cost saving efforts implemented early in the year, better than expected enrollment changes, and likewise, a better than expected general fund situation by the state. To that

end, we are pleased to restore wage reductions to our employees, which occurred last fall to meet the original budget projections.

Our undergraduate and graduate student GPAs are higher than last year. This is evidence of the tenacity of both our faculty and students. To punctuate that point, Michigan Tech students recently earned top honors — the Artemis Award — in NASA's Breakthrough, Innovative and Game-changing (BIG) Idea Challenge.

Research expenditures are up 7% over this time last year, along with sponsored program awards, which are up 6.7% in FY21. This marks a 41% increase since 2018.

New student admits for fall 2021 are up 25%, with minority applications and admits standing at an all time high.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, gifts received have increased 52 percent over last year at this point in time. It's also worth noting that gifts to the Husky Emergency Assistance Fund topped \$100,000. The majority of those gifts went directly to our students in the form of emergency aid.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Dennis Livesay as the new dean of the College of Computing. He holds Michigan Tech's first ever endowed Dave House deanship. I would like to thank our distinguished alumni, Dave House, for his investment in the future of Michigan Tech.

Provost Huntoon is also working with each of the colleges to develop a long range growth plan, along with diversity and inclusion action plans. This goes hand in hand with the work our CFO, Sue Kerry, is doing to develop a campus master plan. And,

we continue to pursue the goals outlined in the Tech Forward initiatives.

To further the work of the newly created Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, we recently established the President's Council Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion. The task force will develop initiatives that support the University's goals in a way that delivers transparent, high impact action items within a 120 day time frame.

Other items on the planning horizon include our continued work on the new H-STEM building, the hiring of a sustainability director and preparation for the Higher Learning Commission accreditation process this fall.

Related to planning for fall, if our past record is any indication of our future performance, we have proven that we can create a healthy and safe on-campus experience for our students, faculty and staff. And, that we can flex to rapidly changing environments. We have also learned that technology, in and of itself, cannot replace the hands on, face to face learning that happens in the classrooms, in the labs, in the residence halls and beyond.

Which is why Michigan Tech is committed to resuming normal operations for the Fall 2021 semester if at all possible.

In closing, we thank our employees and students for their shared sacrifice to get us through this uniquely uncertain time.

Thank you.