



Michigan Tech

Michigan Technological University Board of Trustees Meeting

April 29, 2022

Prepared by:

Richard J. Koubek, President

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

When I first joined Michigan Tech, I had the privilege of joining a team, who above all else, put the interests of Michigan Tech first. This was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout, the Michigan Tech community made sacrifices to uphold the spirit and mission of our institution. And, tomorrow, we will celebrate their hard work when the class of over 1200 students will receive their degrees.

Over the past few months you may have heard how Michigan Tech has come out of the pandemic in a strong position, and at the last board meeting I outlined six key themes that will carry us forward over the next several years.

What I find particularly striking is the degree to which the university's success has relied on teamwork and



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collaboration from literally thousands of people throughout the years. From students to alumni, from board members to community members, and of course our faculty and staff.....since 1885.

Michigan Tech is a remarkable place where people from around the globe, and from all backgrounds, rally to advance the role of technology in addressing the great issues facing our world.

That in itself is inspiring, and it perhaps, a key feature of this institution's success....that it is not "anyone's" success but rather it is "everyone's" success.

Today I want to recognize a few people in the room who, over the past several years, have played an instrumental role in leading Michigan Tech.. and are examples of leaders who lead by serving.

Later today we will hear reports from our Graduate Student Association and our undergraduate student government presidents, Nathan Ford and Zac Olsen, who are both moving on from their respective roles. Nathan and Zac, it has been a true pleasure working with you over this past year to help advance Michigan Tech for our students. I know each of you leave your respective organizations in a better place and we look forward to working with Cheyenne and Ranit as they now assume those responsibilities.



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This spring also marks an important moment in the history of the College of Engineering with the retirement of Dr. Bill Predebon. Bill has been at Michigan Tech for 47 years and for the last 25 years he has been the Chair of the Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics department. Under his leadership the department has grown to be in the top 10 percent of undergraduate programs nationally and in the top 35 percent for graduate programs. Thank you Bill.

Finally, after seven years as provost and 10 years as Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Jackie Huntoon has elected to take a well deserved respite from her administrative roles at Michigan Tech. Dr. Andrew Storer, Dean of the College of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences, will serve as interim Provost as we launch a national search this fall. Jackie, your impact on this campus is immeasurable. Onboarding a new president, launching the Tech Forward initiatives, starting a new College of Computing, navigating a pandemic and helping to plan for our future with the 2035 plan. Any one of these alone would have marked a successful provost career. You have done them all, and more. Thank you. We are indeed grateful for your contributions to Michigan Tech as provost. You will be missed.

And my thanks to all who have made this a successful year for Michigan Technological University. Thank you



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