



Michigan Tech

Michigan Technological University Board of Trustees Meeting

October 8, 2021

Prepared by:

Richard J. Koubek, President

Chair, Members of the Board and audience members. Thank you for joining us this morning. October is always a delightful time of year on campus, as the fall foliage peaks. And, we are pleased to host this meeting in person.

On Monday we celebrated the opening of a Michigan Tech presence in Traverse City, which has been a board priority for quite some time. I would like to give a special “thank you” to Trustee John Bacon. John has been at the forefront of this initiative and without John’s efforts I do not believe we could have achieved this landmark. Thank you, John.

And on Wednesday, we had the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of several faculty members at the annual faculty awards reception. This year’s awardees included:

University Professor: Robert Nemiroff, Physics
Distinguished Professor: Jason Blough, Mechanical Engineering -- Engineering Mechanics

Michigan Tech Research Award: Greg Odegard,
Mechanical Engineering -- Engineering Mechanics
Bhakta Rath Research Award: Pratik Joshi/Caryn Heldt,
Chemical Engineering
Diversity Award: Sonia Goltz, College of Business
Distinguished Teaching Award: Melissa Baird, Social
Sciences and Mike Hyslop, College of Forest Resources
and Environmental Science

And finally,

We are pleased to honor the Michigan Distinguished
Professor of the Year Award: Thomas Werner, Biological
Sciences. Dr. Werner will be honored later in the program
today.

Those recognized this year truly exemplify the spirit of
Michigan Tech, be it through their research, teaching or
service to our community. Thank you again for your
service to Michigan Tech.

Top faculty attract top students, which, in turn, enriches
the academic experience. This year, Michigan Tech
welcomed the largest number of first year students since
1982. This first year student class is also the most diverse,
and academically proficient as measured by high school
GPA.

I know our team is working hard as we grow our national
reach. In tandem, the provost is working with the various

units on campus to develop faculty hiring plans that align with our 2035 goal of 10,000 students. Facilities is working to finalize a campus master plan, the associated financial structure to support this growth is in process and the Advancement team is midway through a capital campaign feasibility study in preparation.

All of these pieces will help inform our direction as we move toward our goal as a premier technological university leading the nation in the fourth industrial revolution. But, as I mentioned earlier, we will do so assuring we balance our enrollment with physical space, faculty and staff. For Michigan Tech, it will be about measured growth over the next ten to twelve years in all three areas.

It's certainly exciting to engage in these conversations with the campus and watch our faculty, staff and the Board of Trustees shape the future for Michigan Tech -- but we are all well aware of the tremendous amount of work it took to get us to this point. Thank you again for lending your time and talents in the service of Michigan Tech and its 7,006 students.