



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMENTS BY GEOFFREY S. MEARNES
DECEMBER 17, 2021**

I begin my remarks by expressing my gratitude to Jean Ann Harcourt, who today is concluding her six years of service as a member of our Board of Trustees.

Jean Ann, throughout your tenure, you have provided good advice to the Board and to me. Your pride and your passion have informed and inspired us.

On a personal note, I am grateful for your encouragement and for your kindness. You have celebrated our successes, and you have lifted me when I needed your support.

We will miss your presence at our meetings. But we are fortunate that you will always be with us. Thank you, Jean Ann.

I also want to express my appreciation to one of our colleagues who will conclude her service to our University at the end of this month.

Dr. Sue Hodges Moore deserves our appreciation for her numerous contributions to Ball State, including her strong leadership and her instrumental

role in helping to develop and implement our strategic plan, *Destination 2040: Our Flight Path*.

Today is the culmination of Sue's professional career—more than 40 years of service to public higher education. Throughout her career, she ensured that so many students have been provided with the opportunity to receive a college education—an opportunity that she cherishes to this day.

Sue, on behalf of those deserving women and men, thank you. Your impact will be enduring.

I am also grateful to all of our colleagues—to all our faculty and staff—for their hard work and their dedication in providing our students with a distinctive educational experience, notwithstanding the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. Our colleagues continue to be patient, persistent, and flexible in the face of all the uncertainties and sacrifices that these times have required of all of us.

Finally, I am looking forward to tomorrow's Commencement ceremony. We will hold two ceremonies at Worthen Arena, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, to honor the newest graduating members of our Class of 2021. And I am grateful that, once again, we will be able to celebrate their successes in person with their families and their friends.

It is a privilege to recognize these graduates who have completed their degree requirements since this pandemic began. I am proud of their collective

accomplishments, and we will offer them best wishes for their future endeavors as graduates of Ball State University.

Thank you.