



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMENTS BY GEOFFREY S. MEARNES
May 3, 2019**

I want to begin my remarks by extending my congratulations to the faculty members who were approved for tenure and promotion this year. I appreciate their dedication to their teaching, research, and service, and I am grateful for their commitment to our University.

As we celebrate this academic milestone with these talented women and men, I also want to welcome some of our newest colleagues to our University.

Dr. Marsha McGriff joins us from Indiana University. She will serve as our associate vice president for Inclusive Excellence. Dr. Sonia Schaible Brandon, who joins us from Colorado Mesa University, will serve as our associate vice president for Institutional Research and Decision Support. Thank you for joining us today.

As Interim Foundation President Jean Crosby reported earlier this afternoon, our inaugural One Ball State Day on April 9 was a tremendous success. A record-breaking 4,128 gifts were made to the University. From our campus community,

309 of our students made gifts that day, and 913 employees also made donations. These gifts were in addition to the gifts made by our alumni and friends. Because of their collective efforts, more than \$424,000 was raised to support academic programs, student organizations, and numerous funds that make possible the transformative impact our University has on the lives of thousands and thousands of women and men.

A few days later, on April 13, the Ball State University Alumni Association held its first Day of Beneficence, a day in which Cardinals served their communities, from Doral, Florida and Eagle River, Wisconsin, to New York City and Portland, Oregon. Approximately 300 of our alumni volunteered as part of this event, contributing more than 800 collective service hours to more than 40 organized and independent projects across the country.

I am grateful to our alumni and friends for their ongoing support of our University, just as I am grateful to our General Assembly and to Governor Holcomb for their continued investment in public higher education. The budget for the next biennium reflects that commitment.

We are pleased that the new budget fully funds our principal capital request: Phase III of the Cooper Science Replacement and Restoration Project. This third phase will complement Phase I, the Health Professions Building, which will open this Fall, and Phase II, the Foundational Sciences Building, which is scheduled for

completion in 2021. Phase III allows us to demolish a portion of the Cooper Science Complex and to renovate the remainder of the building into a new home for our departments of physics and astronomy, geography, geology, and natural resources and environmental management.

My gratitude also extends to those alumni and friends who are helping us fund another major project on our campus: an indoor practice facility.

We will now be able to provide our student-athletes with an indoor facility to enable them to practice year-round. As Vice President Hannon explained to the finance, facilities, and planning committee, this project is estimated to cost \$15 million. The facility will be financed by private donations, with substantial donor support committed to the proposed project. We have already received more than \$13.7 million in commitments towards this goal.

Finally, it is an exciting week to be at Ball State as we look forward to tomorrow's Spring Commencement ceremony. Thank you for approving my recommendation that we honor Lucina Ball Moxley with an honorary degree. As we conclude our Centennial year, it is fitting that we honor the oldest living member of the family that founded our institution—a remarkable woman who embodies the Ball family legacy of philanthropy, cultural advancement, and public service.

It is also a privilege to recognize those graduates who have completed their degree requirements this Spring. Tomorrow we will honor approximately 3,100 candidates for doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degrees. I am proud of their accomplishments, and I offer them best wishes for their future endeavors as alumni.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as the president of Ball State University.

Thank you.