

**Geoffrey S. Mearns, 57**  
**17th President of Ball State University**

Before his appointment as Ball State University's 17th president, Geoff Mearns served as president of Northern Kentucky University, beginning Aug. 1, 2012.

**During his tenure at Northern Kentucky:**

- Led the development of a new five-year strategic plan.
- Welcomed the most academically prepared and diverse classes in the institution's history, and undergraduate retention rates have increased substantially as a result of concerted effort and a comprehensive plan.
- Secured a \$97 million investment from the commonwealth to design and build a modern health innovation center that will house an integrated portfolio of programs to prepare health care professionals and to provide solutions to the health and wellness challenges facing the commonwealth and the nation.
- Secured an \$8 million private gift to support the simulation facilities in the health innovation center. The gift was the second largest in the university's history. The center is scheduled to open in 2018.
- Advocated for a more than \$5.1 million increase in annual commonwealth operating support for the university.

**During his tenure at Cleveland State University: July 2005-May 2012**

- Provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Cleveland State University. Led the most successful reaccreditation process in CSU's history, and he co-chaired a task force that developed CSU's new budget methodologies.
- Spearheaded CSU's concerted and comprehensive efforts to improve undergraduate retention and graduation rates.
- Prior to becoming provost, served four and a half years as dean and professor of law at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University.

**Prior to his tenure at Cleveland State University: September 1988- July 2005**

- Practiced law for more than 15 years. Mearns' legal career included service as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Personal**

Mr. Mearns and his wife, Jennifer, have five children: Bridget, Christina, Clare, Molly, and Geoffrey Jr.