



**BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMENTS BY GEOFFREY S. MEARNs  
DECEMBER 15, 2023**

I begin my remarks by expressing my gratitude to Matt Momper, who today is concluding his sixteen years of service as a member of our Board of Trustees.

Matt, throughout your tenure, you have provided good advice to the Board and to me. You have chaired multiple committees and, at various times, you have served as an officer of the Board. You have also served as the Board's representative for our post-retirement plans, ensuring the viability of these trusts that are very important to our retirees.

On a personal note, I am very grateful for your service as chair of the search committee that resulted in my being appointed as Ball State's 17th president. I will never forget the extraordinary opportunity you provided me to serve Ball State.

We will miss your presence both at our meetings and at the many events you attended on behalf of the Board—from Commencement ceremonies to athletic

competitions to our alumni engagements, both on campus and in your native Fort Wayne. Thank you, Matt.

Tomorrow, Matt will serve as our Commencement speaker as we recognize our graduates who have completed their degrees this Fall. I look forward to hearing Matt's remarks as we gather to honor more than 1,200 candidates for their 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.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to share with the Board how much our faculty and staff appreciate your support of our upcoming Days of Beneficence.

The holidays are a time to recognize the importance of giving thanks. On behalf of everyone in our campus community, I want to share my gratitude to all of you for once again approving these days off—days that provide my colleagues with valuable extra time to spend with their family and their friends.

Thank you again for this generous gift and for your ongoing service to our University.