



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMENTS BY GEOFFREY S. MEARNES
May 5, 2023**

At our December meeting, you heard a report from Dean David Ferguson about our Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning. Dean Ferguson provided updates about the college, and today I wanted to share some more good news from ECAP with all of you.

Two weeks ago, the Alley House project—a zero-energy home in Indianapolis—was named grand prize winner of the Build Challenge in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon. Our University beat out 15 other teams from around the world to take home the honor.

That same weekend, Imani Brissett, a senior in our musical theater program, was named the winner of the Irene Ryan Award—making him the best collegiate actor in the country—at this year’s Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

And a week before that, our speech team finished ninth in the Nation at the championship tournament hosted by the National Forensic Association.

As you can see, this has been a Spring filled with good news across our University, including the presentation you heard a moment ago about the success of our fifth annual One Ball State Day.

This year, we raised more than \$1.2 million—making April 5, 2023, our largest single day of giving yet. Approximately 4,700 people made a gift during this 24-hour fundraising event. These gifts enable us to continue providing a premier education to our students, and I am grateful to Jean Crosby and her team at the Foundation for all they do to ensure the success of this annual event.

I am also grateful to Ball State graduate David Letterman, who was on campus on Monday evening for the premiere of the student documentary “Clear Reception.”

The film chronicles Dave’s efforts to create a very special piece of art alongside students studying at our Glick Center for Glass. Dave also worked closely with the students who produced and directed the film. As I told the crowd that gathered for the screening at Emens Auditorium, I appreciate that, since his retirement, Dave has made it a point to consistently return to Ball State. He enjoys engaging with our students, some of whom had a once-in-a-lifetime chance with this project to help him develop his talent as a glass artist.

And speaking of talent, our Cardinal student-athletes have dedicated themselves on the field and on the court this Spring, bringing home several top honors for our University.

Last weekend, our women's tennis team won the 2023 MAC Tournament again this year, and they qualified to compete in the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive year. Our team plays Notre Dame today.

In other sports, our women's softball team recently secured a berth in next week's MAC tournament. Junior Ty Johnson earned a Pitcher of the Week accolade for helping the Cardinals pick up their latest 6-4 win against Bowling Green. And track and field star Charity Griffith cleared six feet and change to set a program record in the high jump at the Outdoor Music City challenge in Nashville.

As we anticipate the end of another academic year, I wanted to share that I have appointed a screening committee to help us select our next provost.

Dr. Charlene Alexander will serve as the chair of this committee, which is comprised of faculty and staff from various colleges and divisions. The committee members also include two students and two members of our Foundation board.

We have engaged a search firm to assist with our efforts. The goal is for our University to select a new provost in October so that the new provost can start no later than January 1.

Finally, it is an exciting week to be at Ball State as we look forward to tomorrow's Spring Commencement ceremony.

It will be a privilege to recognize those graduates who have completed their degree requirements this Spring. Tomorrow, we will honor approximately 3,000 women and men for the various degrees that they have earned. I am proud of their accomplishments.

I look forward to seeing all of you tomorrow morning on our beautiful—dry and sunny—Quad.

Thank you.