



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMENTS BY GEOFFREY S. MEARNs
December 13, 2024**

As you heard earlier today, our University continues to make progress implementing our plan to revitalize The Village. I am grateful for your approval of our purchase of properties located in The Village that are critical to the development of Site 5 of the project.

This location will be the future site of 25 owner-occupied, single family homes and attached townhomes that will be built by local homebuilder, Trademark Homes. We look forward to witnessing how this new development transforms The Village and contributes to economic growth in our community.

I am grateful to Chris Palladino for continuing to lead our collaborative efforts on The Village project with our development partner and our community stakeholders. I also want to thank my colleagues from Marketing and Communication for launching a new website dedicated to this ambitious project. This website, bsu.edu/thevillage, is designed to help people learn more about our

partners and the timelines for the work currently underway. The website also provides detailed information about the location of more than 3,200 parking spaces within the vicinity of our campus and The Village.

If you visit the website, you will also find a flythrough video for our new Performing Arts Center, which is the principal catalyst for this project. Earlier this Fall, on November 14, we held our groundbreaking ceremony for the PAC and adjacent Cantino Hotel. And next year, we can look forward to witnessing the foundations of these new buildings take shape on our campus.

Another major event for our University this Fall was the engaging conversation that took place on December 2 between David Letterman and WNBA Rookie of the Year Caitlin Clark.

I appreciate all of my colleagues who made this opportunity possible for our University community, most notably Stephanie Arrington. Stephanie played an integral role in initiating the conversation, and I am grateful to her and to Angel Tuttle for their flawless execution of this milestone event. I am also grateful to Bob Myers and his staff at Emens Auditorium for distributing tickets and for ensuring that our more than 3,000 guests in the audience enjoyed the evening.

As wonderful as it was to host so many people on campus for that memorable occasion, Jennifer and I have also enjoyed hosting a series of receptions at Bracken House this month. I am grateful to the hundreds of friends,

benefactors, and graduates who have joined us. And I appreciate the hard work of our interior design students who, led by their instructor Courtney Bell, helped decorate Bracken House for the holidays.

I also want to recognize another student who has helped our University celebrate the season. Emeryn Sinclair, a senior majoring in the animation program in our College of Fine Arts, created the artwork on the cover of my latest holiday card. Emeryn captured the spirit of Beneficence in her playful design, and she found clever ways to incorporate other aspects of our brand into a card that I will share with our University community.

I also look forward to tomorrow's Commencement ceremony. Thank you for approving my recommendation that we honor Governor Eric Holcomb with an honorary degree in recognition of his serving as Indiana's 51st governor. The Governor will receive his degree alongside his wife, First Lady Janet Holcomb, who will serve as the speaker for the ceremony. As a two-time graduate of our University, the First Lady is a role model for our graduates, and I look forward to the remarks that she will share during our celebration of the Class of 2024.

I am grateful to the First Lady and to the Governor for their service to the state these past eight years and for the investments they have led in education and community development in our state.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in our University community, I want to express my gratitude to the Board for your support of our upcoming Days of Beneficence. These days provide our faculty and staff with valuable extra time to spend with their family and friends during the holidays.

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