

The View From My Window

SPRING 2019



Greetings special friends of EMU,

In this beautiful spring season in the Shenandoah Valley, I am delighted to report a “state of the university” profile of EMU. I also want to share a special sneak preview of what’s to come as we position EMU for growth and impact in our second century.

But first a couple of stories. My husband Jesse and I had a wonderful conversation with a student from West Africa and an EMU supporter. The student said: “I came to EMU to study math because of the school’s reputation in mathematical sciences, but also because I knew I could find community here.” The supporter said: “I taught math at the college level my whole career. Now I have a keen desire to give back to students who want exceptional academics and a desire to deepen their faith.” What a beautiful match.

Recently, we celebrated a fun LovEMU Giving Day! What an outpouring of support from friends in 42 of our 50 states. We raised \$115,000. A roaring success! The T-shirts our faculty, staff and students wore to “show the love” said it all: “EMU expanded my world”; “EMU feels like home”; “EMU deepened my faith”; and “EMU changed my life.” I watched our field hockey coach and women’s volleyball coach compete with great spirit to be the top EMU athletic program among 18 to raise funds for us. What a great rivalry!



These are holy moments that I am privileged to experience as president of EMU. It’s easy to be a tireless champion of our mission – *“to prepare students to serve and lead in a global context.”* Micah 6:8 is our clarion call to connect faith and learning and to bring people together *“to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”*

I hope you will join me in seizing our moment. We are blessed with curious and compassionate students eager to expand their world, and dedicated and accomplished faculty and staff eager to nurture their educational journey.

Thank you for being part of the EMU family in advocacy, contributions and prayer. We count you as a gift to our vibrant future!

In gratitude,

Susan Schultz Huxman, PhD
President

Special Accolades at EMU

EMU was recognized by *Forbes Magazine* as a “**Best ROI University.**” This is significant as the study examined all public and private institutions in the U.S. The criteria for return on investment excellence included alumni satisfaction with preparation for life and career and high Alumni Participation Rate.

EMU had its **best giving year ever** of more than \$9.1 million in 2018. Much of that fantastic total is due to the completion of our Suter Science Center campaign and the addition of 100 new Jubilee Friends – those who have indicated that EMU is included in estate plans. Thank you!

EMU was named by *U.S. News & World Report* among the **top regional universities in the South**, based on several factors, including the average GPA of this year’s first-year class, an all-time high of 3.6 GPA.



Noteworthy Developments at EMU

We launched an innovative academic program at EMU Lancaster in partnership with Aero-Tech Flight Services to prepare graduates for careers in the growing aviation industry. In four years, students earn a bachelor’s degree in leadership and organizational management (LOM) and several flight certifications. A second partnership with Thaddeus Stevens Technical College has encouraged many to continue and complete their bachelor’s degrees. In their first year, these new partnerships have generated a total of 26 new students!



We renovated the Lisa Haverstick Nursing Simulation Lab to expand the number of students in our widely recognized nursing program. This successful fundraising initiative comes on the heels of the launch of our first doctoral program at EMU – a Doctorate in Nursing Practice – in a consortia arrangement with Goshen College, a sister Mennonite college in Indiana. Our new doctoral program received special recognition from the Council of Independent Colleges.

We celebrated as a team of 12 EMU supporters completed a Mount Kilimanjaro dream hike last month to raise funds for an endowed scholarship in honor of MJ Sharp ‘05, who was tragically killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo while working for the United Nations. These inspiring hikers – EMU alumni and friends, faculty and students – have raised more than \$130,000 for our renowned Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. International attention across the political spectrum, from Nicki Haley to Jane Fonda, has affirmed the beautiful and bold witness that MJ enacted on the world stage.



What’s Coming at EMU?

In the coming months, we will ready ourselves to formulate our first comprehensive campaign of our second century. Our plans will address with boldness and relevance: Why EMU for Century Two? Here are the key actions:

1. *We must create new pathways for access and affordability.* While we brought in a first-year class that was greater than last year and met budget with margin, our enrollment growth is sluggish. Price sensitivity is a huge deterrent for many students. Our modest endowment does not allow for scholarships and aid that subsidizes tuition to the same extent as many of our peer institutions.
 2. *We must launch new programs that capitalize on our strengths.* Incentivizing new programs and partnerships that meet workplace demands is mission critical even as we continue to position our students for success through our “signature” programs, such as cross-cultural encounter. We must be nimble and relevant in the cluttered marketplace of higher education.
 3. *We must partner with you, our trusted supporters, to “make a joyful noise” for a new day that an EMU education is a superb investment.* Our values of peace, community, service and discipleship are especially needed in the polarized world. We must refresh this “constellation” of core values in bold, attractive ways to capture the imagination of the diverse students we need today to thrive. EMU is poised to hit its stride. Thanks again for your partnership!
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1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802