

To serve--perhaps the most unique theme of higher education in America. For the bonds between a university and society are particularly strong in this country. Historically our institutions have been responsible to and shaped by the communities that founded them. They draw their agenda from these communities.

Perhaps this is nowhere more apparent than in our State of Michigan and with its institutions. For example, the founding principle of this institution can be found in those familiar words from the Northwest Ordinance chiseled on Angell Hall, "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

And perhaps it was appropriate that Michigan, a state with seemingly infinite resources of fur, timber, iron, and copper--a state with boundless confidence in the future--should play such a leadership role in developing the models of higher education which would later serve all of America. For while the University of Michigan was not the first of the state universities, it nevertheless is commonly regarded as the model of the true public university, responsible and responsive to the needs of the people who founded it and supported it, even as it sought to achieve quality equal to that of the most distinguished private institutions.

So too, our sister institution to the west, Michigan State University, is commonly regarded as the driving force behind the Morrill Act. It has become the prototype of the great land grant university that has served America so well. And our sister institution to the east, Wayne State University, has provided an important model of the urban university, seeking to serve the needs of one of our nation's great cities.

We applaud the Governor's recommendation that the unique characteristics of three institutions and their

importance to the state be formally recognized in the appropriation process.

Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State as
large
graduate intensive
research universities
with medical schools
have extraordinary impact on this state.

For example, these three institutions

- enroll 43% of the state's college students
- ... 87% of its doctoral programs
- ... and 98% of its professional students in programs
such as law, medicine, dentistry, and business

Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State

- produce 41% of the state's bachelors degrees
- 91% of its doctoral degrees
- 97% of its professional degrees

For example, last year they produced

- ...577 law degrees
- ...642 medical degrees
- ...90 dental degrees
- ...61 pharmacy degrees
- ...93 veterinary medicine degrees

Beyond that, as research-intensive institutions, these universities attract significant federal support to Michigan. Last year, Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State conducted over 90% of the

sponsored research in Michigan's universities, amounting to almost \$500 million in dollars attracted into this state.

And this research has had extraordinary impact,

- ...from discovering the cures for dreaded diseases ranging from polio to cystic fibrosis
- ...to developing sophisticated technology such as the laser, holography, synthetic aperture radar, and the Internet
- ...to sustaining Michigan's economy through research in key areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, and medical technology

Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State are also unique in the role they play in providing health care to Michigan citizens. The doctors on the faculty of these institutions treated over 1,500,000 patients last year, providing the very highest quality of medical care and operating several of the leading medical centers in the nation.

These universities serve our state in many other ways.

Through its Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State reaches every region of the state, providing needed services and technical expertise.

Wayne State has played a major role in serving one of this nation's greatest cities, Detroit, providing a rich array of knowledge-based services.

And the University of Michigan, as the nation's leading research university, has attracted to Michigan many of the world's leading scientists and engineers to underpin Michigan's technology-based industry.

It must also be stressed, however, that while our universities do have unique missions involving graduate and professional education, research, and professional services such as health care, we are also deeply committed to providing undergraduate education of the highest quality.

Indeed, together we enroll over 73,000 undergraduates, representing roughly 70% of our total enrollment of 110,000 students. And as research and graduate intensive universities, we offer them educational opportunities that go far beyond those available on other campuses.

Our institutions are not small liberal arts colleges...rather they are among the world's leading research universities...and as such, they provide the ideal learning environment for the 21st Century. Let me explain...

On our campuses, we provide one of the most incredible intellectual smorgasbords in the world--a fascinating cornucopia of ideas supported by some of the finest facilities in the world -- one of the nation's great libraries, museums, laboratories, computers, concert halls, athletic facilities -- and even more important, one of the world's most distinguished and dedicated faculties.

Our philosophy is to use these incredible resources not simply to teach facts...indeed students of the ability of your children can learn facts pretty much on your own.

Furthermore, In many fields, the knowledge base is doubling every five years...hence an undergraduate

education only serves as the stepping stone to a process of lifelong education

Moreover, save for the most basic information, it is no longer necessary at the college level to commit vast amounts of knowledge to memory. Indeed, we now live in a world where knowledge and information can literally be plucked out of the air...or off your computer terminal.

Hence, of more lasting value are the broadly applicable skills and wide-ranging perspective that is characteristic of a liberal education .

Thus our goal is to expose students to the world's leading scholars, people who are struggling every day to create new knowledge, not simply to relate old content.

Our goal is to teach them methods of inquiry...methods of critical analysis and thought...and beyond that, to expose them to the most fundamental of human values which are essential to our civilization

Our objective is to give them the capacity to learn for themselves...

There is very recent evidence that this approach to education is actually the most effective, at least for students of the quality of your sons and daughters.

For that reason, there is no reason to be apologetic about the research performed by our faculty --or the services performed by our professional schools. They all add to the educational experience of our

undergraduates.

Concluding Remarks

The State of Michigan, through these institutions and others which have arisen since, has provided a model of how higher education serves society through the triad mission of teaching, research, and public service. These institutions grew up with our state, responding to the changing needs and aspirations of its people: i) first, as Michigan expanded to the frontier; ii) then as it evolved through the industrial revolution to become the manufacturing capital of the world; iii) as the population of our state surged following the war years; iv) and, most recently, as Michigan has sought to strengthen and diversify its economic base.

Yet the strength of our state, its capacity to build and sustain such extraordinary institutions, lies not in looking to the past. Rather it lies in our state's ability to look to the future, in its willingness to take the actions and make the investments in the present that would yield prosperity and well-being for its people in the future.