

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

February 20, 2018

Dear Madison Alumni and Friends:

I am sure you have followed the news surrounding the Nassar trial and subsequent controversies and leadership changes at MSU. Madison College, along with other units on campus, my fellow deans and I, faculty, and students have worked together over this period to better express our concern for the survivors and our ideas for change at the university. I wanted you to be aware of our commitment to fix what is ailing the university. MSU was created to serve society, to enhance the prospects and educational opportunities of our students, and to make a difference. We have to act now in a way that restores trust and confidence in our university and its crucial mission.

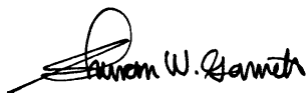
I have been heartened by the many e-mails, letters, and phone calls from alumni and friends who have offered sober perspectives on our failings but also messages of encouragement and hope. You who have supported us know we are capable of doing the right thing and emerging from this terrible situation stronger and better. One thing I have been reminded of during this time is that you, our alumni and friends, are an important source of strength, wisdom, and insight. All of us at Madison and throughout MSU appreciate those who have taken the time to communicate with us. I invite you to continue to make your voice heard. I have passed these messages on to the leadership of the university and used your comments in preparing my own communications. Please review [my initial statement on January 25th](#) to the Madison Community. I will keep you in the loop as the university moves forward.

Interim President John Engler has taken charge and issued a range of statements on the crisis and stated the first policy statement of what is likely to be many more to come. The student government of the three residential colleges and the faculty senate have expressed their lack of confidence in the Board of Trustees. These and other documents we have received that are generated by the MSU community, from the President to student groups and advocates, are available to you at [www.jmc.msu.edu/campusupdates](http://www.jmc.msu.edu/campusupdates). I will be posting my future statements there, as well as others that emerge from the College and MSU at large.

There is much hard work to be done and trust to be repaired. Ultimately, this long process will involve the entire MSU community and be a substantial part of both President Engler's and his successor's work at MSU. You will notice our communications, alumni relations and development work will reflect this new context. We continue to value your involvement and financial support as our primary focus outside the classroom becomes our support for the survivors and helping to improve the MSU community. As always, we remain hard at work at the fundamental tasks of teaching and engaging our students inside and outside of class. We continue to be a serious but welcoming place, one that challenges and nurtures our students. Again, thank you for being a concerned Spartan and a thoughtful Madisonian.

Sincerely,

Sherman W. Garnett



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