

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

From the office of the
President



Colleagues,

The inspirational author Shannon Alder said:

"The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance, but live right in it, under its roof."

I appreciate the wisdom of this observation because it reveals that hopes do not often become reality by random chance.

Hope is an important but singular step in the evolution of fulfillment – preceded by a guiding vision and followed by research, planning, hard work, evaluation, flexibility and resolve, to name a few.

I believe there are many examples of faculty, staff and students successfully engaging this process on our campus. The highlights below are among our very best examples.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D. President

GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

Largely as a result of a new combined heat and power generation system coming online in July 2016, the University's overall utility costs have dropped by 17 percent over the last year. This has enabled a savings of more than \$900,000.



Equally encouraging in terms of cutting expenditures and protecting the environment, the new Hill Crest Hall student housing facility will require 30 percent less energy than non-energy efficient buildings of comparable size.

Compliments to Energy Manager Rafi Bayrakdarian and Facilities Management staff who have overseen these wonderful and conscientious projects!

ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY



The Energy Services Coalition – Michigan Chapter recently presented Oakland University with a Leaders in Energy Efficiency Award to recognize significant investment in energy efficiency improvement projects across campus. Over the last year, the University has invested a total of \$12.7 million in an array of projects that will yield nearly \$1.5 million in annual energy cost savings.

Kudos to Director of Engineering Siraj Khan and Facilities Management staff who undertook these fantastic and successful projects, which go a long way to make resources available to raise the quality of the academic programs we offer our students and minimize the costs they pay to enroll in them.

A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

The University recently reached a historic milestone that is also a glowing testament to the excellent work we are doing and the confidence we have earned from many friends and supporters.



Our Oakland University Endowment – a pool of contributed funds and investment earnings dedicated to student scholarships, academic programs and facilities support – has seen its market value exceed \$100 million for the first time ever.

I would like to thank our many donors for their remarkable generosity, as well as Assistant Vice President for Finance and Administration Tom LeMarbe and the Finance and Administration team, who have so wisely and masterfully managed the University's endowment. The benefits of this work are profound and innumerable.

Is there a point of pride you feel is worth sharing with the campus community?

If so, please [submit your idea](#) for consideration.

If you are interested in exploring past editions of this newsletter, we invite you to visit the [Points of Pride archive page](#).

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