

May 21, 2021

**MSU Community:**

After serving MSU for nearly 14 years as Vice President of University Advancement and CEO of the MSU Foundation, Inc., Jim Shaw has communicated to me his desire to retire this summer.

During his tenure, MSU's University Advancement division has been recognized at the state, regional and national levels with numerous awards from professional organizations and is often heralded as having programs to be modeled by peer institutions. Jim has been instrumental in providing leadership for two fundraising campaigns at MSU, grew the MSU Foundation to recent heights, and increased overall donor participation. His energy and service has been much appreciated, and I have enjoyed working with him for the past few years. Please join me in thanking Jim for his service to MSU and the other institutions that span his career of over 50 years. We wish him well in his next chapter, and I suspect he and Cindy will be traveling frequently to see grandkids in their future.

As we transition this summer, I have asked Rick Hesterberg to serve as Interim Vice President for University Advancement and CEO of the MSU Foundation beginning July 1. Rick is currently Sr. Assistant Vice President for Strategic Communications and Branding. Previously, he served over 20 years as manager of external affairs and community relations for the Toyota Corporation where he was engaged as their spokesperson, and led their public relations, community relations, and philanthropic activities. Rick has also served as a member of our MSU Foundation Board of Directors for the past few years. Prior to Toyota, Rick was a director of one of our communications units at MSU for almost six years. He is an MSU graduate, and his wife, Latonya, has been a professor in our social work program for many years.

Rick will lead our efforts in alumni and communications, our rebranding initiatives, serve as an external spokesperson, work with staff to continue raising funds for our campaign for student scholarships, and serve as CEO of our MSU Foundation. Since our MSU Foundation, Inc. has its own incorporated Board of Directors, their Board will be meeting to affirm Rick as their CEO. Jim and Rick will be working this summer towards a smooth transition among the various units. Please wish both of them well.

Thank you,

Jay Morgan  
President