

Matt,

You asked for a comment on the current national discussion regarding demonstrations at sporting events:

I understand you have received our statement on our position regarding our own students from Bryan Marshall, our Sports Information Director. I repeat it here:

"Millikin University continues to deliver on its mission, which includes preparing students for democratic citizenship in a global environment. We respect and support the rights of all of our students, faculty, and staff to exercise individual expressions of their civil liberties in a peaceful, non-disruptive manner."

Millikin enjoyed a fine recruiting year in every one of our sports and our overall first-year student enrollment rose to 474, that's up over 5.8 % from the previous year, in a time when many schools throughout the country and region are experiencing a decline. Over the last three years, first-year student enrollment has risen from 425 students in fall of 2015 to 448 in fall of 2016 to 474 this fall. That is an 11.5% increase over two years.

Currently our applications for the fall of 2018 first-year class are running over 40% ahead of last year at this time. Over 800 prospective students have already applied.

Similarly in fundraising, the Millikin Fund for Student Scholarships finished FY17 strong, with just over \$1 million in cash for the annual fund/budget operations, which exceeded our goal of \$900,000. A large part of these funds come from alumni and other friends of Millikin. In other areas such as endowed scholarships and support for our major fundraising projects, we continue to see interest, excitement, and growth.

The Workman Family Softball Field, which opened March 2017, has been a huge success and a great help in recruiting softball players, of course, but also athletes from other sports and the general student body.

The opening of the University Commons in August 2017, a \$31 million project, is a monumental achievement for Millikin University and a point of great pride for our alumni and other citizens of Decatur. We appreciate the attention paid to the significance of the University Commons by the *Herald & Review* and other local and regional media. Throughout this year, we will be celebrating this achievement and all that the University Commons brings to Millikin and Decatur in a number of events inviting the larger community.

As a part of the University Commons, we will be especially proud to inaugurate this year the Doug and Diane Oberhelman Center for Leadership Performance.

Millikin fall sports are off to a good start, new academic programs are in the works or coming on line, and we are looking forward to a great year focused on helping our students, faculty, and staff and all in our community grow in our understanding of the complexity of the issues that face our country and the world. We continue to foster our commitment to leadership and reasoned discourse, and our continued devotion, in the words of our mission statement to live "lives of meaning and value."

Thanks for your attention to Millikin,

Pat White

President
Millikin University