



DAVID C. MUNSON, JR.
Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering

College of Engineering
Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center
1221 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2102
734 647-7010
734 647-7009 Fax
munson@umich.edu

As I prepare to step down as dean of this illustrious College, I do so with a sense of appreciation and hope. Michigan Engineering is a place on the move, and it will continue to be so in the years ahead, under the able leadership of my colleague and friend, professor Alec Gallimore.

The world is changing. Nearly a decade ago, the United States began its descent into the greatest recession since the 1930s, sparking a financial crisis around the globe. Security and safety no longer can be assumed anywhere, and neither can a limitless supply of the earth's natural resources. Clean energy remains elusive, with mounting carbon emissions creating a serious threat to our planet. Access to modern healthcare is as scarce for some as is food and clean water.

The good news is that Michigan Engineering students and faculty arrive at our doorstep wanting to make a difference. Thus, I've made it a priority these last ten years to enable our institution to embrace big, interdisciplinary challenges. To forge a path for engineers who step up to take a chance. To work with those outside of the College, welcoming partnerships with industry and government. To create bonds between students and faculty with ideas, and alumni with passion and resources. And to connect educators and innovators across the globe.

This College has pushed hard to make engineering education relevant to today's world, creating experiential opportunities and collaborations with medicine, the arts, business and more. We've enabled international experiences and multidisciplinary design, and fostered an environment that encourages creativity and an entrepreneurial mindset, while challenging our students to take risks - and learn from failure.

Our people have started companies and improved air and water quality. We've saved babies' lives and we've strengthening homeland security. In this era of great uncertainty, it is incumbent that we, as engineers, create more and better solutions. We are not only society's problem identifiers, but its problem solvers.

We've succeeded because bright people across a range of disciplines have stepped up to be involved, raising their hands to say, "I will help." We've made progress because the entire Michigan Engineering community is committed to making a difference. We believe in the power of higher education to make the world a better place.

We have grown our amazing faculty by 30% to lead us into the next era of problem solving. And we have added the facilities to match. Even as we've become far more selective in our admissions, we have increased the size of our student body and maintained our focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. And we've built a support staff that is second to none.

Yet with all the progress we've made, I'm even more excited about what's next. The greatness of this institution is not an end state. It is what enables us to successfully take on the next challenge that comes our way. The world needs breakthrough engineering. So we must continue to ask the big questions, share our knowledge and tell our stories so that others may benefit. The Leaders and Best will never rest.

I look back on the last ten years with gratitude to all of you for the time, talent and treasure you have invested in Michigan Engineering. And I look forward to a future of greater impact through your continued support for this amazing institution. Thank you for your commitment to Michigan. Wherever we go in this world, we go united behind a common cause. We forever Go Blue!

David C. Munson Jr.

