

Dear Members of the Berea Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am writing to share with you that President Lyle Roelofs and his wife Laurie will be retiring from Berea College on June 30, 2023.

While I had hoped this day would never come, the news does not come as a surprise. Lyle and Laurie came to Berea in 2012, and from the very beginning, the Board has been consistently impressed and pleased with their adoption of all things Berea and their broad success. We are so grateful for the ways in which the College has benefitted from their extended tenure of what will be 11 years. It was fortuitous timing; due to their steady and thoughtful leadership throughout the unimaginable challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Berea College is in a place of strength. Lyle's early announcement regarding his retirement allows us ample time and a competitive edge in our search for Berea's 10th President.

Lyle's achievements are many and wide ranging—from initiating a run/walk club for students, faculty and staff, running with them twice a week, and providing running shoes to students who need them to advocating for Berea College with local and federal governments. He has raised money in support of and built Berea's largest capital project to date, the MAC Natural Sciences and Health Building in addition to overseeing many rebuilds and renovations. He brought horse logging to our College Forest and constructed one of two new hydroelectric stations on the Kentucky River. He has assembled a diverse and capable Administrative Committee and expanded his cabinet by establishing a new position for a Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. And in 2014, he led a community-wide investigation of Berea College's eight Great Commitments so they continue to serve as a guide to the future.

Throughout Lyle's tenure, Laurie has been his constant supporter and partner. She is the founding Chair of the Frost Committee, which oversees the Historic Boone Tavern, serves on the Students of Concern Committee, and she has installed butterfly and bee gardens throughout campus, to name only a few of her many involvements with students and others at Berea. Lyle's and Laurie's sound reasoning and compassion have held us together through COVID-19, and Lyle's daily communications kept the campus community updated on progress toward maintaining a safe environment for students, faculty and staff.

While I and many others will be saddened by their departure, we also know that this is a very exciting time for Berea College. In preparation for the search for our next president, the Board has engaged the services Academic Search, a leading search firm in higher education, and the same firm that brought us Lyle. Our team will be led by the President and Senior Consultant of the firm, Dr. Jay Lemons, who has a long history with Berea and has served as a past college president himself for two different institutions. He will be joined by colleagues Dr. George Ross, also a past college president, and [Jennifer Kookan](#).

To work with Academic Search, the Board of Trustees has confirmed the appointment of the Search Committee. We are very thankful to each member for their commitment to this

significant endeavor and particularly to Charlotte Beason and David Shelton for serving as Co-Chairs.

Presidential Search Committee

Charlotte Beason '70, Trustee, Co-Chair

David Shelton '69, Trustee, Co-Chair

Vicki Allums '79, Trustee

Kennaria Brown, Faculty, Communication Department

David Chow, Trustee

Samantha Earp '86, Trustee

Megan Hoffman, Faculty, Biology Department

Cameron Holbrook '24, Student

Camille Johnson '24, Student

Mario Nakazawa, Faculty, Computer Science Department

Mim Pride '66, Trustee

Joe Saleem '08, Women's Soccer Coach

Teri Thompson, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Emmanuel Tuffuor '88, Trustee

Stephanie B. Zeigler, Chair, Board of Trustees

Throughout the winter and spring of 2022, Academic Search and the Search Committee will begin seeking input from the entire Berea community—trustees, faculty and staff, alumni, students, friends and more—on what characteristics and skills we are seeking in our next president. The committee and firm will work throughout 2022 to identify the best candidates, and ultimately the board will appoint Berea College's 10th president, who will begin on July 1, 2023. The Berea community will continue to receive updated communications throughout the process.

The Board is deeply grateful for the excellent leadership and care that Lyle and Laurie embody. There will be plenty of time to celebrate them and to bid them farewell. In the meantime, I look forward to the next two years of continued good work as we ensure the future of our mission and Great Commitments in service to our students.

Finally, thanks to all of you within the Berea community who have personally been part of the Roelofs' successful tenure.

Warm regards,

Stephanie B. Zeigler

Chair

Berea College Board of Trustees