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March 2, 2017

Representative Kim LaSata
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairwoman LaSata,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Higher Education. On behalf of the University of Michigan, we look forward to working with you and the subcommittee members to ensure that Michigan's universities remain strong and committed to improving the State's goals of an educated citizenry and a strong economic future.

The Subcommittee asked several questions of the universities which are answered below.

Institutional Impact of the Performance Funding Formula. Suggestions on improvements?:

For performance funding to achieve its goals, it is important to ensure consistency over time in which metrics are used to score universities. U-M is a distinguished university ranking among the highest in academic quality and value. U-M is performing well and has demonstrated that resources invested here yield high return for the State, and, therefore, additional investment will accrue continued value to the State. The University's performance funding scores are as expected, the highest score in nearly every category. At a minimum, restoring UM's appropriations to the FY 2011 level remains a high priority

Reverse Transfer Agreements and Partnerships with Community Colleges:

U-M is committed to identifying and contacting current transfer students who are eligible to complete their associate's degree utilizing U-M courses. Since January 2013, U-M has reached out to nearly 1,000 students who transferred from community colleges to the Ann Arbor campus. U-M has reverse transfer agreements with the following community colleges:

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Delta College
Grand Rapids Community College
Henry Ford College
Jackson College
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Lake Michigan College
Macomb Community College
Northwestern Michigan College
Schoolcraft College
Washtenaw Community College

Addressing the Needs of First Generation College Students:

U-M is highly engaged in recruiting first-generation college students. To help ensure student success, a variety of services are also available to assist students with academic and cultural support, as well as meeting demonstrated financial need, should it be necessary. Last fall, 14% of our incoming freshmen class was first-generation college students compared to 9% in Fall 2015. This increased enrollment is a direct result of our intentional efforts to enroll a more diverse student body including a new initiative: the HAIL Scholars Program. U-M's work with first-generation college students does not simply end with enrolling them. As part of a long-term commitment, U-M recently hired permanent staff to help strengthen institutional capacity to better serve these students. We remain committed to ensuring that all first-generation students succeed, thrive, and feel part of the U-M community.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mark Schlissel
President