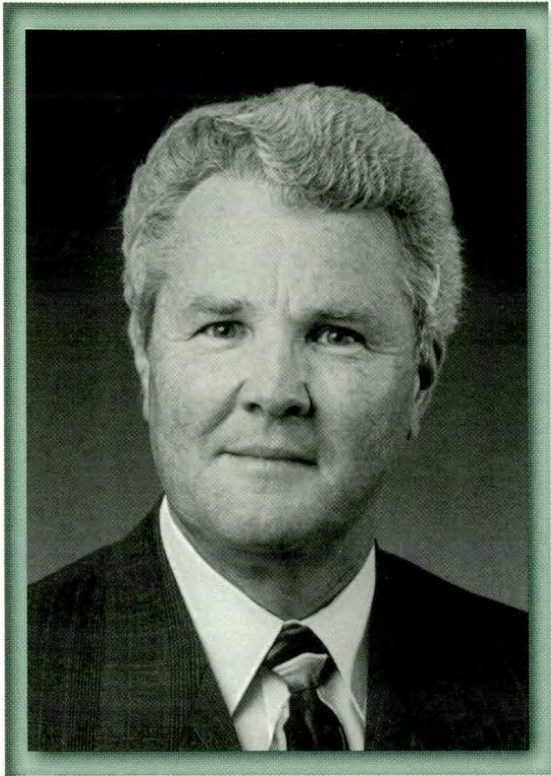


Foreword



In 1849, with the passage of Act No. 138, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan formally paved the way for the establishment of Michigan State Normal School, with the exclusive purposes of instructing persons in the art of teaching; providing a good common school education; and giving instruction in the mechanic arts, husbandry, agricultural chemistry and the laws of the United States.

Since its inception, Eastern Michigan, first as a Normal School, then as a College and finally as a University, has grown and developed to respond to the ever-changing needs of our society.

I am indeed privileged to be president of Eastern Michigan University during this, its 150th birthday. It is an honor to lead the celebration of our rich history in pioneering teacher education, and our continued commitment to shaping the way America learns. In many ways, our story is the story of American higher education. It is the story of countless individuals who have seen higher education as an opportunity to create a better future for themselves, as well as for the society in which they live.

As I perused the photographs and stories contained in this snapshot of our history, I was struck once again by the vision and persistence of those who preceded us. Capturing the University's history is a difficult task. And so, we are greatly indebted to Laurence N. Smith, who gave birth to this project and nurtured it to fruition, and to Paul Heaton, who helped to give it shape and form. Their tireless devotion to Eastern Michigan University has produced a portrait that highlights the best, and in some cases the bleakest, of our history.

As you stroll through these pages, I trust you will find a familiar face and a story or two that will spark your memories, make you smile or make you cry. This celebration of our past gives greater hope to the promise of our future. Enjoy.

William E. Shelton
President of Eastern Michigan University

Dedication

*This work is dedicated to all of those —
past and present — who have made a positive
difference at Eastern Michigan University.*