

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
December 16, 2014**

Location: Churchill Group, Berea, KY

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: ECU President Michael Benson

Topic: ECU Update

Don Calitri, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests to Churchill Group and gave special thanks to Berea College Food Service. A very nice buffet luncheon was provided.

President Benson gave an interesting presentation employing engaging personal stories, metaphor, and calls to action by ECU retirees. He encouraged that we give voice to suggestions by calling or emailing. He apprised us of good things going on at the campus level as well as areas being addressed to make ECU an even more valuable resource.

1400 new graduates take with them the ECU diploma as of this month

Graduation and retention rates are up

This fall the largest freshman class was enrolled with 1.8M in scholarship funds

Giving rates are up

Colonel Connection provides a seamless transfer in the academic roadmap

Strong legislative support – 1% increase in budget

Many capital improvements

Carloftis Garden will be completed as part of library initiatives

Dizney gift for athletics

With phase II of the Science Building complete, the next initiative will be Model/COE construction

Noel Reading Porch

A short business meeting followed President Benson's remarks. Don Calitri provided a legislative update and reminded members to sign letters of support of HB4. Members may write their own letters to Representatives and Senators, as well as sign a group letter which was available. He also reminded members that the minutes of each meeting will be available on our website. There will be no meeting in January, but the February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 19, at Gillum's at 11:30; Frank O'Conner will be the speaker, as a member of the Kentucky Forecast Group. Charles Hay gave a brief update on upcoming trips and programs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00. Our next meeting will be at Gillum's on February 19.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Vance, Secretary