



**A. MICHAEL ERDMAN '69**

### **Biographical Sketch**

Mike's diverse educational, leadership, and service experiences uniquely prepare him to address the key issues facing today's Board of Trustees. Throughout his career he has marshaled resources needed to execute change.

Mike has held leadership positions with GE and Lockheed Martin, the community, and Penn State. As Manager, he has directed development of designs, safety systems, experimental methods, and computer codes; in each he set new directions and created a commitment to change. Mike chaired or served on the Boards of the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, two Human Services Councils, GE Share Board, and a Capital Fund Drive. At Penn State, Mike chaired an Advisory Council and is the founding chair of a unique Alumni Advisory Board within the College of Engineering. In these positions, Mike established concrete goals and measurable returns on investment. He has presented lectures on leadership topics at work, Penn State and elsewhere and has been recognized with an LMC Leadership Award, Jaycee International Senatorship, and an ESM Centennial Fellowship.

Mike received his B.S. in Engineering Science from Penn State, M.S. from USC, and took courses at several other universities. Mike was a member of  $\phi\eta\Sigma$  and  $\text{T}\beta\text{T}$  and held leadership positions in the InterFraternity Council,  $\Theta\Delta\chi$ , and  $\text{P}\alpha\text{r}\text{m}\text{i}\ \text{N}\text{o}\text{u}\text{s}$ . Affiliations include the Penn State Alumni Association (life member), President's Club, and Nittany Lion Club. Mike's mother, Pat (Behney), wife, Donna (Laning), and children, Heather and Greg, are Penn Staters. Mike and Donna operate Nicker Barker Farm where they raise Thoroughbreds and Golden Retrievers.

### **Position Statement**

Crucial challenges face the Board of Trustees that require focus from our leadership. Topping the list are controlling the cost of a Penn State education and assuring student safety.

As a member of the Board, I will concentrate on:

- Providing an affordable education, enabling us to continue to recruit the very best students and better compete with other state-supported universities;
- Ensuring a safe, nurturing environment for our students: from living quarters to laboratories;
- Developing graduates equipped to meet today's global challenges that call for economics and language skills, as well as international learning experiences;
- Providing a supportive environment to attract and retain top students that reflect the diversity of the state and nation; and
- Encouraging new areas of research, particularly cross-discipline initiatives, by assuring needed coordination, facilities, staffing and funding.

The recent accomplishments of the University are impressive. We can be proud of its successful record of academic achievement, recruitment of outstanding faculty, facility improvements and community outreach. While recognizing our University's many strengths, I envision an even stronger future with many opportunities for improvement. I am dedicated to making them a reality.

I will bring decades of leadership, commitment, and experience to bear, addressing these pressing issues as well as other challenges the Board will face. Penn State is #1 in all our hearts. I will work tirelessly to make it #1 in every measure of a top university.