Biographical Sketch

Mark Connolly received a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1984 from the Eberly College of Science. He then joined DuPont as a research chemist, invented a line of high performance plastics and is named on several patents. Dr. Connolly has worked at manufacturing plants in Texas and North Carolina, has been a manager in Central R&D and a technical director for the Refinish paint business. He has significant international experience, having led technical organizations for several DuPont businesses with laboratories in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, India, Germany, Japan, Mexico and Thailand. He is a DuPont Six Sigma “Black Belt”, and an expert in process improvement and simplification. Currently, Dr. Connolly is an Intellectual Property Director, with patent and trade secret responsibility for DuPont Central Research & Development and the Industrial Biosciences business.

A Life Member of the Penn State Alumni Association, Dr. Connolly is currently President of the Eberly College of Science Alumni Society. He has championed the establishment of “study abroad” grants so undergraduates can gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that come from emerging markets.

Born in Providence, R.I., Dr. Connolly was active in the Boy Scouts and is an Eagle Scout. He has a passion for cooking and gardening, and enjoys growing (and sharing) heirloom tomatoes and heirloom hot peppers. His son is a 2011 graduate of Penn State, with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He resides with his family in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Position Statement

When allegations became public last year, I felt so many emotions: shock, disgust and deep sorrow for the alleged victims. As details emerged, these emotions evolved to outrage and anger. How could this happen? Why did it take so long to be reported? Why were President Spanier and Coach Paterno fired so abruptly and in such a disrespectful manner? This all reflected so poorly on a university that stands for so much more – academics, research, athletics, “success with honor”. I felt that the trustees had let us down. The BoT must restore its credibility.

We need to rebuild Penn State’s image. THE BoT MUST OPERATE WITH OPENNESS, HONESTY, AND TRANSPARENCY. We must finish investigating alleged abuses so justice is served, select a new president, deal with dramatic reductions in state funding, rebuild relations with the Paterno family and modify the BoT "Standing Orders" to restore oversight and accountability. I will represent all PSU stakeholders - alumni, students, the State College community and people of Pennsylvania with passion and integrity. My international experience has taught me to work effectively with people across all cultures. I have worked on the managing board of businesses as large as $2B. And I am not afraid to stand up for principles.

PSU receives $750M annually in research funding. We need the experience of a scientist, inventor and senior technical leader to work effectively with government and industry to strengthen this important funding.

I am proud to be endorsed by Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship (PS4RS).