J. MICHAEL MURPHY ’80

Biographical Sketch

Jimmie M. Murphy (Mike, Michael, “Murph”) is Vice President – Commercial for Alcoa Inc., a Pittsburgh based company that invented the modern day aluminum industry and one of the largest aluminum companies in the world. Mike has succeeded in business for over 30 years in various sales, marketing and customer relationship positions. His effective persuasion skills, ability to lead people, management of complex issues and strategic thinking have placed Mike in an executive position, leading Alcoa’s global aluminum strategy in the automotive market segment.

Mike graduated from Penn State in 1980 with a B.A. in Advertising. During his time at Penn State, Mike was a member of the Chi Phi fraternity and served as its President in 1979-1980. He is a member of the Alumni Association, the President’s Club and the Nittany Lion Club.

Mike is an active participant in his Church and community and enthusiastically supports a local charity, Goodworks, Inc., a home repair ministry based in Coatesville, PA. Goodworks mission is to make homes warmer, safer and drier and to replace hopelessness with hope, serving families in need in Chester County. Mike has also represented Alcoa on the Chester County chapter of the United Way.

Mike and his wife Sue make their home in Downingtown, PA. Sue is a 1983 graduate of Penn State and their children, twins Kelly and Lisa, graduated from Penn State in 2010. Mike, family and friends can be found hosting their tailgate event at every home football game at Beaver Stadium.

Position Statement

Why elect Mike Murphy?

Penn State’s great traditions, our core values built upon “Success with Honor” and Coach Paterno’s “Grand Experiment”, have helped to make Penn State unique and respected. These must be continued while planning for our future.

I am hurt and saddened by the tragedy that unfolded in November. I pray for the victims of alleged abuse and for justice. The media improperly connected the allegations of child abuse directly to Coach Paterno and insinuated a cover up on behalf of our coach, our football program and our University. The action by the Board of Trustees to fire Coach Paterno, poorly handled and without due process, in effect substantiated the media allegations.

The Board needs to own up, step up and clean up, while leading Penn State into the future.