KATHLEEN A. PAVELKO ’75, ’79g

Biographical Sketch

Kathleen Pavelko is a public broadcasting executive and President/CEO of WITF in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She is twice an alumna (B.A. History ’75 and M.A. Journalism ’79), twice a staff member (at Penn State Public Broadcasting 1979-1983 and 1987-1996), and was an adjunct faculty member in the School of Communications. Pavelko has served on Penn State Harrisburg’s Advisory Board and was Penn State Harrisburg’s commencement speaker (December 2012). She is a Life Member of the Alumni Association. Ms. Pavelko is married to Penn State Professor Emeritus Eugene N. Borza. Kathleen lived in Centre County for more than 20 years.

At WITF since 1999, Pavelko led a $39 million capital project to construct the Public Media Center. Under her leadership, WITF’s total assets have quintupled and it has earned many journalism honors including the DuPont-Columbia Silver Baton. At Penn State Public Broadcasting, Pavelko served in production and management, including as chief operating officer. Ms. Pavelko was also president of Prairie Public Broadcasting, based in Fargo, where she created North Dakota Public Radio, the state’s first statewide public radio network.

Her experience in non-profit management and governance is extensive, and she speaks often about board-management issues. She has served on two state commissions: the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and North Dakota Educational Telecommunications Council. Nationally, she has served as the boards of the Archaeological Institute of America and of America's Public Television Stations (APTS). She serves locally on the boards of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Salvation Army.

Position Statement

Penn State has shaped and enriched my life. I seek your support to give back to the University what it needs today, and what I have learned as an executive and as a non-profit board leader.

The University needs board members who will make decisions as I have learned to do so: in an orderly, informed and transparent way. I believe the BOT needs members whose top priority is securing and serving the educational and research mission of the University, not representing professions or societies.

There are many challenges facing Penn State, and they are not limited to addressing the aftermath of the Sandusky scandal. Reform of the governance of the Board is a priority that will take persistence and leadership. The Board must work diligently to restore the bonds of respect among alumni, staff, faculty and the Commonwealth. The tsunami of online learning is about to hit higher education; Penn State must secure its place in a changing landscape. And maintaining academic excellence while improving affordability for students may be the biggest challenge of all.

This is my pledge: I will be a board leader. I will be focused on the mission of the University. And I will do everything I can to insure that Penn State will continue its incomparable service to the Commonwealth and the nation.