KEITH W. ECKEL*

Biographical Sketch

Keith W. Eckel is a board member of Nationwide, one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services companies in the world. He was first elected to the board in 1996 and has served as board chairman of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, the parent company of the Nationwide organization, since April 2008. Mr. Eckel is former board chairman of Gartmore Global Asset Management Trust and Allied Group, Inc. and former director of Nationwide Financial Services, Inc.

Mr. Eckel is owner of Fred W. Eckel Sons and president of Eckel Farms, Inc. in northeast Pennsylvania. He received the Master Farmer award from Penn State in 1982 and the American Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

Mr. Eckel is a trustee of Pennsylvania State University. He is a former board member of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board, and the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. He is a former president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, a position he held for 15 years, and the Lackawanna County Cooperative Extension Association. Mr. Eckel has served as a board member and executive committee member of the American Farm Bureau Federation and is a former vice president of the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations.

Born in Scranton, PA, Mr. Eckel is a graduate of Newton-Ransom High School in Clarks Summit, PA. He attended Keystone Junior College, Dickinson College and Penn State. Mr. Eckel is a member and administrative council chairman of the Countryside Community Church, a United Methodist Fellowship.

Position Statement

I respectfully request your support for my election to the Penn State Board of Trustees. In 2012, when I solicited your support, I noted "For the past 8.5 years that I have served on the Board of Trustees I have endeavored to improve the governance of the Board and strengthen the University from both a program and financial perspective." That commitment continues and has resulted in an audit committee, the setting of five-three year term limits and full involvement of the Board in setting the President's compensation. Clearly, I have been an advocate for strong Board governance and fiduciary responsibility—years before the challenges that confronted Penn State in November, 2011.

Since then my focus has been on the young victims, our 95,000 students, our outstanding faculty, our inspiring student-athletes, our life changing researchers and every Pennsylvanian touched by the University. My commitment to serving our agricultural industry and our farm families has never wavered. Likewise, the challenge to more positively impact the quality of life of all Pennsylvanians through the educational mission of our Land-Grant University has never been greater nor more financially pressured because of the reduced availability of federal and state funds. Therefore the University must become more innovative and efficient.

My current assignments on the Board offer an opportunity to make a difference—I chair the newly created committee on Legal and Compliance and recently was named to the Presidential Search Council. Because of the great strength of the Penn State family, I believe our future is bright and that we will turn today's challenges into opportunities, as we focus on the future.

*Incumbent