

## A Defining Moment in Penn State History

July 28, 2012

I have been a local businessman in State College for 40 years. I spoke at a Centre Region Chamber of Commerce meeting to a couple of hundred people on Thursday. I have a letter to key alumni, local business leaders etc that appears below that explains my concept.

As you will see by reading the letter below this community and the alumni of Penn State are going to show you, your staff, and our football team what Penn State is all about.

For all us who are part of the Penn State family, whether a student, a faculty member, an alumni, or a resident of the State College these are very trying times.

There comes a moment in all of our lives when the essential nature and character of a person or an institution is revealed. This defining moment for the community of State College, the administration, the students, the faculty and alumni of Penn State University is upon us. I have no doubt WE ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE PENN STATE, AND WILL RISE TO THE OCCASION!

After reading what appears below if you have any questions or comments kindly contact me at  
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### THE LETTER AND FORWARD TO THE LETTER:

On Wednesday July 25th, after reading a story in the CDT entitled "Business leaders say community's story isn't being fully told I decided to write a letter two trustees of Penn State, to several key alumni of Penn State, and to several friends and associates of mine within the Centre Region.

The following morning I presented the same message in a speech I gave to over 100 members of the CBICC. (Chamber of Commerce) My speech included my pledge of \$10,000 to start the effort that is discussed in the letter below.

In just 24 hours I have received an outpouring of support for my concept that has exploded into a powerful movement and call to action.

### THE LETTER I WROTE AND THE ESSENCE OF MY SPEECH TO THE CHAMBER

Our worst fears have become a reality.

The NCAA sanctions were extremely harsh.

Many are angry with the NCAA. Many are angry with Erickson for not fighting back.

I believe it is time to move on. It is time to show the country that despite the enormous challenges "We still are Penn State"

I've personally believe in turning horrible negative incidents that occur in ones life into positives. And so I'd like to share with you and others my thoughts on how we as alumni of Penn State might do that.

The reality is that many Penn State football players very well might transfer in the coming years. Getting good recruits is going to be very difficult for a few years. We very well might have football teams that win only a few games for the next four years.

We face the possibility of a half empty Beaver stadium.

But, if "We are Penn State" then we must show that our love for Penn State, and our love for attending games in Happy Valley is far more then winning. Penn State football should be about the experience, the camaraderie, and about a weekend with family and friends, and that can remain a part of Penn State football for the future regardless of the number of wins.

Thus I am suggesting that a group of alumni quickly come together to insure that every Penn State game for the next four years is sold out. If we can find a group of alumni to buy every extra ticket and distribute them to people who deserve them the most, that will speak volumes to the love we all have for Penn State, and can show the world that football is more then just winning at Penn State.

This is only one idea, on how we as alumni can help build the dream of what we all want Penn State to be. Another idea is to have a giant tailgate for every game that all tailgaters can come to and to donate money to a child advocacy center that will be located in Centre County. I am certain that with some creative thinking there are many other good ideas that can help us move forward and I plan to explore other ideas as well with a group of alumni, local business leaders, and the students of Penn State.

Penn State is THON and Lift for Life. Penn State is the amazing advances in research made by our incredible professors and students on campus and all around the world. Penn State is support for the innocent victims who were at the heart of this tragedy. And yes, Penn State Pride is our football team winning games and graduating players. It's also 28 other varsity sports teams, countless clubs and organizations, and an incomparable student body.

The community of State College is a community of hard working, compassionate, caring individuals who believe State College is a very special place.

The grand experiment must not die. With the help of an engaged and dedicated group of alumni we can emerge from this horrible incident stronger, more compassionate, more transparent and once again say with pride that "We are AND ALWAYS WILL BE Penn State".

I am so proud of two young Penn State Football players who have decided to grasp the moment. Can we be as wise as they are? They said:

"We take this an opportunity to create our own legacy," echoed Mauti. "This program was not built by one man and this program sure as hell is not going to get torn down by one man. This program was built on every alumni, every single player that came before us — built on their backs. We're going to take that right now. This is our opportunity to do that."

"I'm personally calling out every member of Nittany Nation — all of the students, faculty, fans, family members, alumni and everybody that there is," Zordich said. "Please, please come support us through this because we need you just as much as you need us.

If what I have said resonates with you kindly advise, and as I work out the details as to how my concept WILL become a working plan I will advise further. My email address is:  
(DaveNevins@comcast.net)

Regards,

David L. Nevins

[« a school with a football team – not a football school. — Song to Bring Inspiration »](#)