Dear Friend of Michigan State University:

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the MSU fight song, “Victory for MSU.” A beloved rallying cry at Spartan athletic events, it also symbolizes the talent, tenacity, and spirit that make possible all kinds of MSU victories—on and off the playing field.

**Wins for the world**

Since our founding on the banks of the Red Cedar 160 years ago, Spartan victories have been making life better for individuals and communities in our own backyard and around the world.

Some are widely recognized triumphs: extraordinary research discoveries, from the process to homogenize milk to a life-saving cancer drug to new approaches for treating malaria and Parkinson’s; top rankings for programs in education, nuclear physics, and supply chain management; and a hard-earned Rose Bowl win.

Others are quieter, but meaningful, accomplishments: a perfect score on a tough exam, a professional accolade, a scholarship that funds undergraduate education, or a gift that creates an endowed chair to attract exceptional faculty.

**Spartans play the long game**

Many of our victories are the result of long-term commitments and new ways of thinking that create enduring, and sometimes unanticipated, impact. Our founders’ persistence in advocating for land-grant universities across the United States was a victory for generations of American families seeking a brighter future for their children.

And in 1958, President John Hannah started MSU down a road that, at the time, no one could have foreseen would lead to the nation’s top-ranked nuclear physics program and an international hub for rare isotope research. A young physicist and pioneer in the field of nuclear physics named Henry Blosser would guide the building of MSU’s first cyclotron, and the first beam would be accelerated in 1965.

**A legacy of success**

On October 8, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of that “first light,” along with our pending transition from the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory to the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. FRIB will vastly increase the pace of nuclear inquiry and discovery, keeping MSU a vital part of the world’s “big science” network and leading to breakthrough discoveries with applications that promise to make the world a healthier and safer place.

These are true Spartan victories, and we pay tribute to them and all MSU wins in a special MSUToday feature. I invite you to view. It showcases the first-ever Spartan virtual choir, a digitally assembled video combining hundreds of student, alumni, faculty, and staff voices into one amazing performance of our fight song, “Victory for MSU.”

The video is a heart-warming reminder of the extraordinary impact Spartans make when they work together for a common purpose. Spartans Will.

Sincerely,

Lou Anna K. Simon, PhD
President, Michigan State University