



## Statement from the St. Louis Spartans Board

To our St. Louis Spartan Family,

The beginning of 2018 has been an incredibly difficult and emotional time for the survivors of Larry Nassar, their families, and for the entire Michigan State community. We have been inundated with news – accusations – to where many of us may feel exhausted and overwhelmed by our emotions. Our beloved university is being held responsible for the pain Nassar caused individuals and their families and for not taking responsibility when they should have stepped up.

Through this pain and turmoil, we remember that Michigan State University is part of the history of each of us. For many of us, it's responsible for leading us to the people who matter most in our lives. It's a tremendous source of pride for all the good it's injected into the world. It may help to remember that our relationship is with Michigan State University, not with those who commit horrible crimes or make unjust and unethical choices while wearing its logo. They may have the appearance of defining MSU in moments of shock and uncertainty, but that's an illusion. MSU is defined by the thousands of students, faculty, staff and alumni who make the world better. It is defined by each of you. In that sense, Michigan State University hasn't failed us.

We can support the university AND the survivors of horrible acts that happen within its domain. Along these lines, the STL Spartans board is committed to providing the STL Spartans alumni community the opportunity to be involved in two things throughout 2018: stewardship and service.

Larry Nassar may have been a graduate and faculty member of Michigan State, but he does not epitomize the Spartan Spirit. We do. As a board, we ask you to look into your hearts and rededicate yourself as exceptional Spartan stewards. WE are here to help. We all comprise the Spartan Spirit – and while we cannot change what has happened, we can embody “Spartans Will” despite all obstacles.

Our St. Louis Spartan family is committed to exemplifying Spartan leadership through service. Violence against anyone is unacceptable. Sexual predation is unacceptable. Staying silent is unacceptable. We look forward to offering multiple service and learning opportunities with organizations devoted to empowerment and ending violence and abuse, and with other organizations devoted to meaningful change and integrity for all.

We also want to hear from you, our STL Spartans, and the suggestions you may have for service and learning opportunities. We have a role to play in the healing process and moving forward. Through stewardship and service, we hope to move forward together.

Sincerely from your St. Louis Spartans Board,

Pavel Kofman  
Christopher Fan  
Lisa MacKenzie  
Ed Imgrund  
Ben Stanton

John Kantz  
Thomas Benner  
Mandy Easter  
Chris Seeber

Julie Moon  
Leslie Silkwood  
Brenda Betts  
Jared Godfrey

**Email** | [stlspartans@gmail.com](mailto:stlspartans@gmail.com)

**Website** | [www.stlspartans.org](http://www.stlspartans.org)

**Facebook** | STL Spartans

**Twitter** | @stlspartans

