

# MBN

## SPEAKER SERIES



**Bill Beekman** officially assumed the role of MSU's 19th athletics director on July 17, 2018. He was appointed interim athletic director on Feb. 5, 2018, before taking over the position full time.

Beekman is responsible for oversight of MSU's varsity sports teams as well as the care of more than 700 Spartan student-athletes. He provides leadership in the areas of sports management, game operations, financial administration, personnel, advancement, corporate interaction, facility management, marketing and communication.

The 2020-21 athletic year has been an unprecedented journey. With the constant care and assistance from MSU's sports medicine team, all Spartan teams have been able to compete this year, albeit with some different protocols and structure to their seasons. Through it all, the Spartans have still been able to experience success. Hall of Fame Coach Tom Izzo guided the men's basketball team to a 23rd-consecutive NCAA Tournament, closing the regular season with three wins over top-five opponents in the last two weeks of the year. Coach Suzy Merchant also led the women's basketball team to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth time in the last five tournaments. The women's cross country team excelled in its abbreviated season, winning the Big Ten Championship and placing fourth at the NCAA Championships, while the men's cross country squad finished 17th nationally. On the football field, Coach Mel Tucker's first season included a win over rival Michigan in Ann Arbor for his first win as a Spartan and a late November win over No. 8 Northwestern.

An MSU alumnus, Beekman has served his alma mater since 1995, assuming his most previous recent role as vice president and secretary of the Board of Trustees in 2008. Previously, he served as executive director of the MSU Alumni Association, senior adviser to the provost and assistant dean for finance in the College of Human Medicine. Beekman also served briefly as acting president at Michigan State University in January 2018.

Beekman received his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, his Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School, and his undergraduate degree in justice, morality and constitutional democracy from James Madison College at MSU.

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