



PRESS RELEASE

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From: **Battle for Spartan Swim and Dive**
fightforspartanswimdive@gmail.com

Battle for Spartan Swim and Dive applauds MSU for pool vote

EAST LANSING - Battle for Spartan Swim and Dive congratulates Michigan State University on approving a new indoor aquatic facility as part of the proposed Student Recreation and Wellness Center, and welcomes the “window of opportunity” provided for the return of MSU Swimming and Diving.

On Friday, the Trustees voted to approve the \$200 million budget for the new recreation building, which will now include an aquatic facility. This is an opportunity for MSU to build a modern pool for the Spartan community, and the Battle group is not letting up on its campaign to become an official tenant of this long-overdue pool, identifying nearly \$6 million in potential contributions for the program’s operating expenses.

“With today’s approval of the recreation pool, (there is) a window of opportunity for supporters of the program ... who have been pretty persistent,” said MSU Board of Trustees Chair Rema Vassar, who leads the MSU Committee on Budget and Finance. Vassar added that if fundraising goals were satisfied, the board is “aligned to restart the swim and dive program.”

The Battle team is excited to now have the official support of the university in our fight to bring back the Men’s and Women’s Swim and Dive teams. We are closing in on the previously [established target of \\$6.5 million](#) to help defray the program’s operating costs over the next five years. In addition, the Battle group is happy to honor the university’s latest request to help identify potential donors who can supplement construction costs for a NCAA Division I competition-level facility.

On June 8, representatives from Battle for Spartan Swim and Dive met with interim President Teresa Woodruff, Senior Vice President for Student Life and Engagement Vennie Gore, and

Vivian Leung, executive director of University Advancement. Our conversation centered on the Battle group officially partnering with the university to meet the fundraising goals. Our latest campaign and conversations with donors have identified nearly \$6 million in pledges, bringing us very close to the \$6.5 million threshold. In addition, a \$20 million gap between the current pool model and a top-tier option was discussed. The Battle team agrees that MSU should build the best facility possible, and we will work to support that effort and look forward to more conversations in the coming months.

The evidence is clear that building and improving aquatic facilities often parlays into [increased performance by college programs](#), including the drastic [turnaround of the Ohio State](#) swim and dive teams following their facility's opening in 2005. A state-of-the-art pool adds a Power 5 collegiate opportunity for Michigan's high school swimmers and divers, who over the last five years have ranked among the [top five of all states in producing All-Americans](#). Michigan Swimming, Inc., the governing body for competitive swimming in the state, has long espoused the [need for a competition pool in central Michigan](#).

The funding of a top-tier pool and the return of the Michigan State Men's and Women's Swim and Dive teams would be a victory for not only MSU, but for the tens of thousands of swimmers, divers, water polo players, and others who have long deserved access to a quality facility. Battle for Spartan Swim and Dive remains steadfast in achieving this victory.

Visit www.battleforspartanswimanddive.com for more information on our campaign.