

IMMEDIATE UPDATE FROM JOE'S BENCH

We want to thank everyone who has offered to assist us over the last few days. The response has been humbling. Of course, our team is not all sitting in one place, and it is summer, so we apologize for the slow response, but we wanted to be as united as possible.

To those who have stood firm, and addressed the issues associated with the community's effort to Honor Joe in a calm and patient way (despite your frustrations), we thank you even more.

Because this is a community-driven effort, and the bench concept continues to be incredibly popular, Zenos Frudakis is currently working on a revised model of Joe Paterno, and we will have that made public the minute the Joe's Bench team receives it.

In the meantime, for those who have made themselves heard, we hope that a reasoned and productive, community-uniting effort can continue.

A date for installing the final sculpture has yet to be determined. During the last week, we have faced many challenges, and been personally attacked for simply doing something we felt, and still feel, is the right thing to do. Therefore, if our own sense of compromise warrants anything, perhaps it will be more personal involvement – on every level.

And finally, please keep in mind that there will be no further changes once a new design is developed, which could take months to finalize. Donating to the project is not a contract for input on the design. It is an agreement to support Joe Paterno being honored.

On Friday, after the new reveal, the project received its largest number of daily donations since the beginning– including a match for \$25,000. When told last night of the change again, the reply from the anonymous match donor was, “It is for Joe. Zenos Frudakis was being commissioned to do this. I know his work. And I trust him implicitly.”

So do we. And we thank that donor for stepping up.

Now it's time to get to work in a productive way. You can join this effort and help us get there, or you can pass. In any case, know that we are committed to succeeding with honor. And, in the end, those who make it happen will be rewarded only by knowing generations to come will have a place to visit the Joe we know. And remember him.