

Joe Crookham

President and principal owner of Musco Lighting, Joe Crookham is a long-time advocate of safe, energy-efficient, and environmentally responsible lighting. Years of philanthropic endeavors have also led to his embrace of the William Penn University community in the form of his time, talent and treasure.

Since 1996, Mr. Crookham has served on the William Penn University Board of Trustees. He is a past Board Chairman and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board. Joe has been instrumental in establishing Penn's Digital Communication program. In the past, he has taught a Political Science course on William Penn University's traditional campus. He is also an active WP Athletic Booster and supports William Penn University Legacy Scholarships, specifically supporting underwriting for scholarships provided to William Penn University students from Rwanda.

He was active in the practice of law for 12 years before committing full time, in 1980, to the business activities that he had started. Joe and his wife Jeanie, who directs the marketing operations for Musco, reside in Oskaloosa. They have three grown daughters, one of whom works with them at Musco.

Jeanie Bieri

Marketing Director of Musco Lighting, Jeanie Bieri treats everyone like family – whether it is a fellow co-worker or a student, faculty member or alumni of William Penn University. Musco Lighting currently employs 74 graduates of William Penn University, allowing career growth beyond education.

Within the school, Jeanie has freely lent her eye for aesthetics during design and decorating of William Penn renovation projects. She once used her creative energy to set out a batch of bricks to “weather” and match the rest of campus. Aside from dedicating her time and talent to William Penn, she has also been a part of the Legacy Scholarship Program and served as a WP Athletic Booster.

Jeanie and her husband Joe, President and principal owner of Musco Lighting, provided a photographer for a recent photoshoot at William Penn. They also commissioned an artist for the mural in the Musco Technology Center.

About the Lifetime Statesman Award

This first-time and perhaps one-time award is given to recognize support and service to William Penn University that is transformational in nature and at the same time foundational to Penn's historical mission.

Joe Crookham and Jeanie Bieri have embodied this ideal for the past two decades while they have empowered and enhanced Penn's present and future. They have devoted financial resources that has been unprecedented in our history, but their dedicated philanthropic value goes beyond monetary contributions. They have both devoted time to enhance the student experience and provided their own personal talents to projects throughout the years. This year, Joe has served on our Board of Trustees for 20 years—on the Executive Committee for the majority of time. Jeanie has lent her talent in color and design to our renovation and construction projects. They have both offered their

talents in the marketing of various programs and have been active with our students. Musco currently employs 74 William Penn graduates.

Together they have both changed William Penn University. The Musco Technology Center, Penn Activity Center and the Stadium at the Lacey Recreation Complex are just a few of the projects they have funded or were lead funders for completion. In the past several years, their financial and philanthropic support has not only helped build the campus but allowed directed Penn operations toward a path to sustainability for the next 150 years.

They have done all this while avoiding and not wanting recognition. The Lifetime Statesman Award is a well-deserved honor for Joe and Jeanie. William Penn University would be a vastly different place without their commitment in time, donations, energy and direction.