
FEDERAL RELATIONS

Travel to Washington, D.C.

WSU Governors Marilyn Kelly, Sandra Hughes O'Brien and Dana Thompson met with members of Michigan's congressional delegation as part of a brief visit to the Washington, D.C. office of Wayne State University. Members of the Board of Governors, along with President M. Roy Wilson, Vice President Patrick O. Lindsey, Director of Federal Affairs James Williams, Jr. and Anita Estell, Principal of the Estell Group, first met with Senator Debbie Stabenow off of the floor of the Senate as votes were in progress. After a brief discussion, the group had lunch with Rep. Brenda Lawrence and her Chief of Staff, Duron Marshall in the Member's Dining Room. The group then had a federal affairs briefing in the Washington, D.C. office of Wayne State and the offices of the Estell Group. The day was capped with WSU's "Pivotal Moments" campaign reception. Director Williams arranged for U.S. Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, and her husband, Steve Hargrove, to stop by after the Attorney General had given a speech at the White House.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

President Obama's Administration released final rules that will require employers to make overtime payments to millions of workers who aren't currently eligible. Along with the University of Michigan, Michigan State, and officials of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), Wayne State University made a pitch in April 2016 to seek relief from these proposed rules. In its release, the Administration reiterated many exemptions in established law for higher education employees (those who can be seen as teachers). And those exemptions might disappoint some adjuncts, postdocs, graduate student employees and many research assistants who had hoped the new rules would increase their paychecks.

As the rules were initially promulgated, Wayne State University was potentially exposed to a minimum of \$3 million to as much as \$9 million in additional costs per year.

Many postdocs who do not have significant teaching duties would now, in theory, be eligible for overtime. But the Department of Labor endorsed efforts to raise their pay to levels where they would not be eligible. The key part of the new regulations will increase from \$23,660 to \$47,476 the pay level below which salaried employees at virtually all companies and employers are presumed to be eligible for overtime. That increase is significant in that it includes many higher education employees who have not historically been eligible for overtime. Further, the new level will be adjusted upward every three years to reflect changes in the cost of living.

The Department of Labor released both an overview and detailed guidance for colleges and universities on how to carry out the new rule. The guidance stresses that many college employees are exempt from the new rules because they are considered teachers. Privately, some higher education lobbyists indicated that everything in the guidance was simply a restating of existing federal law -- and that these explanations did not minimize the increased expenses to be faced by colleges. The exemption for teachers is not new, but the salary level for requiring overtime was so low that there wasn't as much consideration of how to apply the exemption.

The teaching exemption applies to a range of college employees:

- Anyone whose primary job duty is instruction. This applies equally to adjuncts or graduate teaching assistants based on their job duties, not just to those on the tenure track.
- Students in research jobs under the supervision of a faculty member while in the course of a degree program.
- Coaches and assistant coaches "if their primary duty is teaching, which may include instructing athletes in how to perform their sport. If, however, their duties primarily include recruiting athletes or doing manual labor, they are not considered teachers."
- Some academic personnel involved in advising or helping students, provided that these employees' salaries match the entrance pay for teachers at the institution. Many other groups of employees -- including those in admissions, student affairs and many other divisions -- would be covered by the new rules.

Post-doctoral fellows

One of the groups of higher education employees most discussed in the context of the new rules is post-doctoral fellows. Many post-docs earn less than the new threshold, and many work long hours, striving to make enough progress on their research to win a permanent faculty job. Numerous reports have said that post-docs are underpaid. At the same time, some research universities and some post-docs have feared that requiring overtime payments would result in institutions and the federal government reducing the number of post-doc slots.

The overview from the Department of Labor said that "post-doctoral researchers in the sciences who engage only in research activities and do not teach are not covered by the teaching exemption. These employees are generally considered professional employees and are subject to the salary threshold for exemption from overtime." But the department also said that "many post-doctoral researchers in the humanities also teach. To the extent that they have a primary duty of teaching, they will be subject to the teaching exemption and not entitled to overtime compensation."

In the detailed guidance released by the department, it said that it would promote increases in post-doc pay, noting the influence of policies of federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health. Further, it said that many universities that want to avoid overtime payments to post-docs could likely raise post-doc pay to above the threshold level. "Many post-doctoral research fellow salaries are close to the new salary level," and "not more than a few thousand dollars a year" away from the new level to avoid overtime payments, the guidance said.

The department also said that, in cases where post-docs are owed overtime pay, universities may use any system that is "complete and accurate. For example, a higher education institution may ask postdoctoral fellows to record their own times."

Wayne State University has until December 1, 2016, to come into compliance with these regulations. House Republicans have drafted legislation to overturn the regulations, which are supported by a wide array of labor unions and the vast majority of the House Democrats. If any legislation were to come to the floor of Congress, it might pass the House but is practically

dead-on-arrival in the Senate. Even if this passes in the Senate, the President will veto this legislation.

The Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Bob Casey (D-PA) are working on a bill to rewrite the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*. The Perkins Act, which hasn't been updated since 2006, sets policy on career and technical education. There is a strong likelihood that this act may include STEM education. Lawmakers, including House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN), have for years discussed rewriting Perkins but it has often been pushed to the sidelines while education committees worked on other priorities such as *The Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) (P.L. 114-95), which was signed into law last December.

Lower Interest Rates on Federal Student Loans.

The Department of Treasury auctioned 10-year notes, determining that millions of students and families who borrow money from the federal government to pay for higher education will face lower interest rates in the coming academic year. The rate on federal student loans has been pegged to the financial markets since 2013, when President Barack Obama and Congress struck a compromise on how to reset the rates each year. For new undergraduate student loans, the interest rate will decrease to 3.76 percent, from the current 4.29 percent. The rate on direct loans for graduate students will fall to 5.31 percent, from this year's 5.84 percent. The interest rates on PLUS loans, both for graduate students or parents taking on debt for their children's education, will be 6.31 percent, down from the current 6.84 percent. The new interest rates take effect on July 1 for the 2016-2017 academic year. The changes do not affect borrowers who already have federal student loans.

Increase in Pell and NIH funding advances in Senate

The full Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday approved legislation that would reinstate year-round Pell Grants for low-income students and provide a \$2 billion boost for the National Institutes of Health. The 2017 appropriations bill for the Departments of Education, Labor and Health and Human Services would increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,935 and once again allow students to receive the grants in the summer, a benefit that was eliminated in 2011 amid a spike in the program's costs. Despite the increases, advocates for students criticized the Senate measure for using \$1.2 billion in surplus Pell Grant funds for other programs. They started a petition asking Congress to stop the "raid" on Pell funding.

New Tools for FAFSA Completion

The Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Tool is now providing FAFSA completion rates for school districts, allowing communities to tailor communications, support, and counseling to students while helping schools monitor their progress. The tool was created to help financial aid professionals, school administrators, and guidance counselors' track and increase FAFSA completion. It also provides high schools whose students have completed five or more FAFSAs with information about how many

applications were submitted and completed for the application year, as well as comparison data from past application years.

Students with Criminal Background

Secretary of Education John King urged America's colleges and universities to remove barriers that can prevent the estimated 70 million citizens with criminal records from pursuing higher education, including considering the effect of inquiring early in the application process whether prospective students have ever been arrested. This is also called the "ban the box" movement. Secretary King also issued a Dear Colleague letter to college and university leaders. The Department also released a resource guide, which offers alternatives to inquiring about criminal histories during college admissions, provides recommendations to support a more holistic review of applicants, and presents strategies for supporting postsecondary persistence and completion for justice-involved individuals. The announcement follows a number of related efforts from the Obama Administration, including the Second Chance Pell Pilot program to test new ways for people in federal prison to use Pell Grants.

Title IX Guidance on Transgender Students

The Departments of Education and Justice released guidance and a set of best practices regarding the civil rights of all transgender students under Title IX. The guidance is largely aimed at answering the questions of students, parents, teachers and superintendents across K-12 schools as districts grapple with how to accommodate transgender students. According to the guidance, if a school, district, or state fails to comply with the Administration's interpretation of the law, it runs the risk of being sued by the federal government and losing federal funding. The Department of Education has never pulled Title IX funding for an issue related to a transgender student.

As lawmakers across the United States battle over whether to allow transgender Americans to use public restrooms that match their gender identities, universities are scrambling to ensure that dorms meet federal standards. This is the time of year when the residential colleges and universities are sorting out student housing assignments. The Obama Administration's "dear colleague" letter makes clear that federal law protects transgender students' right to live in housing that reflects their gender identity. Schools that fail to provide adequate housing to transgender students could face lawsuits or the loss of any federal funding they rely on. Although hundreds of universities had begun to offer gender-inclusive housing in response to student demand in recent years, many are now reviewing or expediting their plans so they can provide the option to incoming students for the first time this fall.

STATE RELATIONS

Higher Education Budget

The Higher Education budget passed out of the conference committee on June 1. The budget includes a \$4.61 million increase (2.4%) for Wayne State University (WSU).

The overall increase for the Higher Education budget following the state's Revenue Estimating Conference is \$39.79 million.

The budget does include a \$200,000 "Equity Payment" for four of the universities (U of M, MSU, WSU and WMU) that have not yet made it back to the 2011 funding level. The \$200,000 comes from cutting \$400,000 from each of Eastern and Oakland for going over the tuition cap last year.

The new tuition restraint cap for the coming year is 4.2 percent. As you will recall, the rate of inflation was lowered to 2.1 percent, therefore, the tuition cap was lowered. There are increased penalties this year for going over the tuition cap. If an institution goes over the cap, they would lose the ability to get a Capital Outlay project for two years (which was in the Senate version of the bill). A new addition to the penalty states that the "...Legislature may at any time adjust appropriations for universities that exceed the tuition restraint cap."

Sen. Stamas Meeting

We met with Senator Jim Stamas (R-Midland) in late April regarding an amendment he was considering adding to the Higher Education budget on the Senate floor. His proposed amendment would have eliminated Wayne State's "equity payment" (in the Senate version) of \$667,100 because we exceeded the tuition cap three years ago. He initially thought that since Eastern and Oakland were being penalized, it was only fair that WSU was as well. After meeting with him and discussing the matter, however, he decided NOT to offer the amendment.

Revenue Estimating Conference

On May 17th, the heads of the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies met with the State Treasurer to determine the revenue available for the current and coming fiscal year's budget.

The Revenue Estimating Conference determined that in the current fiscal year, the state's general fund (GF) revenue is down \$109.7 million and the School Aid Fund (SAF) revenue is down \$64.2 million less.

For the 2017 Fiscal Year, the GF is down \$75.4 million less than anticipated from January's conference and \$83.8 million less in the SAF.

These lower estimates will surely have a negative impact on the Higher Education Budget.

Capital Outlay Update

To date, a Capital Outlay bill has not been put forth by the joint subcommittee.

Though we have had numerous discussions with members of the Governor's administration and leadership in the House, Senate and the subcommittee, it is not clear when a bill will surface and what projects will be in the bill.

We do believe that the subcommittee would like to pass a bill along with the rest of the budget, but apparently the projects are still being negotiated between legislative leadership and the State Budget Office.

Community College Taxing Bills

Representative Jeff Farrington (R-Utica) recently introduced legislation to amend the Community College Act ([HB 5611](#)) and the General Property Tax Act ([HB 5612](#)) to eliminate local taxing authority of community colleges that choose to operate a baccalaureate degree program. The bills would only apply to a community college if they decided to create a new baccalaureate program in the future.

In late May, those bills passed the House Tax Policy Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Farrington. The bills remain on the House floor.

MASU (Michigan Association of State Universities) and MICU (Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities) testified in favor of the legislation during committee. The two organizations also commissioned Anderson Economic Group to testify on the legislation.

Both MASU and MICU are also looking for a sponsor in the Senate to put forth an amendment to SB 98 tie-barring that legislation to these two House bills.

WSU Liquor License Issue

Since 2013, Wayne State University (WSU) has received a Catering Permit along with our Class C Liquor License from the State's Liquor Control Commission (LCC). We were notified by the

LCC recently that they believe that we have been issued the Catering Permit in error since then and therefore, will not be receiving it along with the renewal of our license for the coming year. We have been working with Kelley Cawthorne to see what steps could be taken to remedy the matter.

Individuals from Kelley Cawthorne met with the Chair of the State's Liquor Control Commission (LCC) on WSU's behalf. Apparently the Chair was very familiar with WSU's permit situation as it was discussed on a high level along with a couple other entities that are having similar issues with their Catering Permit.

There appear to be two solutions to our situation. The first would be a legislative change in the state's liquor code that would allow us to do what we have been doing under the permit going forward. Unfortunately, this "fix" would take time because of the legislative process and likely not be complete in time for the planned weddings on campus this summer.

The second "fix" was an idea that came from the LCC. WSU could put its license in escrow for the days these events are to take place. This would allow the individuals getting married to have an outside catering company come in and cater the event with their liquor license. With our liquor license, we are allowed to put our license in escrow as many times as we would like - so whether there are 16 weddings or 116 weddings this summer, we can put our license in and out of escrow as many times as we would like.

After discussion with the LCC and officials on campus, we have determined that we will move forward in trying to get a permanent legislative fix. And in the meantime, we will use the escrow process for the events on campus this summer.

Detroit Caucus Dinner

As part of a continuing effort to keep in constant communication with the Detroit Delegation, we hosted a dinner in Detroit April 11th. The dinner was attended by Reps. Brian Banks, Wendell Byrd and Alberta Tinsley-Talabi.

New CEPI-Generated Graduation Rate

We learned recently that the State Budget Office (SBO) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) are in the process of creating their own graduation rate for the state's higher education system.

While not finalized yet, the one apparent difference between the new CEPI-generated graduation rate and the one currently used in IPEDS (the graduation rate used in the state budget) is that the CEPI rate will incorporate transfer students. This will allow an institution to receive credit for a student that transfers into that school and graduates. Currently, the IPEDS system does not capture that data.

At this point, it does not seem likely that the Governor will push to use the CEPI graduation rate in the budget. He will apparently use it in his "Dashboard." However, a case could be made for using that rate in the state's budget. The new rates should be announced in late May or in June.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Service-Learning @ Wayne State

The Division of Government and Community Affairs partnered with WSU's University Libraries, The Irvin D. Reid Honors College of Office of Community Engagement, and College of Education to discuss how various schools, colleges and departments can work more closely regarding service-learning projects. The goal is to have students and faculty engage with community organizations in a more strategic, long-term manner on projects that have deeper and broader impact in the community.

Wayne Cares Events

Wayne Cares is a university outreach initiative that brings together the university community for the purpose of charitable giving and outreach. Its primary goal is to help university units work together and collaborate with each other for the good of the community.

As an incentive for employee participation in Wayne Cares events, any 2016 Wellness Warrior participant received 100 Wellness Bucks for having joined a WSU team involved with Heart Walk.

March of Dimes Walk, Sunday, April 30, 2016

This is Wayne State's 5th year participating in the March of Dimes Walk on campus. March of Dimes' mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. The money raised in the March of Dimes walks supports programs to help local mothers experience healthy, full-term pregnancies. This year's walk had a new route; it began at DMC's Brush Mall, going through WSU's campus and then returning back to DMC's Brush Mall.

Midtown Detroit Makeover, Saturday, May 7, 2016

This is the annual Midtown area beautification project. From 8 a.m. to Noon, Wayne State University and Midtown Detroit, Inc. partnered to make a difference in the Midtown community. Volunteers joined together to revitalize and clean up the Midtown area of Detroit, including streets on and near the WSU campus. Everyone met at the Welcome Center, teams disbursed to different parts of the Midtown area and then returned to the Welcome Center for lunch.

Admissions/Community Affairs School Visits

The Division worked closely with Admissions to facilitate a number of DPS school visits this spring. These half-day programs entail a number of activities, including a Q&A session with WSU First Lady Jacqueline Wilson, a greeting from the district's city council member (invited), a panel discussion with WSU students who graduated from Detroit high schools, and a WSU scholarship and admissions overview.

The purpose of these events is to increase awareness about Wayne State University. The desired outcome is that students receive information that will reinforce college readiness and prepare students to potentially become future Wayne State Warriors.

Spring W Days include:

- May 25 - Renaissance High School
- June 7 - Anthony Wayne Elementary
- June 8 - Carver STEM Academy
- June 10 - Plymouth Educational Center

Meeting with the HIGH Program & The Children's Center

The Division facilitated a meeting between WSU First Lady Jacqueline Wilson and multiple representatives from the Children's Center in Detroit. The Children's Center is a mental health and therapeutic agency for children, including foster care and adoptions. Mrs. Wilson, Victor Green and Brianna Fritz from WSU met with Carlynn Nichols, Chief Clinical Officer; George Winn, Chief Operations Officer; Tammy Zonker, Chief Philanthropy Officer; and Holly Gorecki, Director, Volunteer & Community Engagement to discuss possible overlaps in work between TCC and the HIGH Program.

TCC agreed to refer individuals from WSU dealing with homelessness to the HIGH Program. They also agreed to be helpful in spreading the word about Wayne to not only young people using their services, but the parents of children who utilize the Center. WSU will have a table at their upcoming Summer Smash event, will connect our departments of music and theater, and will plan to donate needed items (clothing, food, school supplies, etc.) as we are able.

Wayne Engaged - Government & Community Affairs Quarterly eNewsletter

On May 11, 2016, Government & Community Affairs published its first quarterly eNewsletter, *Wayne Engaged*. We received positive feedback about the content and layout of this first edition. Included articles highlighted WSU's efforts to aid the citizens of Flint, leadership realignment and strategy at the School of Medicine, a welcome from the Vice President, and Federal, State, Regional, and Community Affairs updates. We also highlighted 11 upcoming university events. The next newsletter is scheduled to be sent out in early August.

Public Policy Town Hall Meeting with Council Member Castaneda-Lopez

On April 27, 2016, the Division facilitated a legislative policy forum presented by Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castaneda-Lopez at the Wayne State University Welcome Center on campus. More than 50 people were in attendance. This event was a panel discussion on government partnerships between City, County, State, and Federal officials and representatives.

Invited speakers included State Representatives Stephanie Chang, Rosemary Robinson, and Fred Durhal III, Wayne County Commissioners Ilona Varga and Jewel Ware, staff representatives for U.S. Congress Members John Conyers and Brenda Lawrence, State Senator Young Jr. and District 6 Police Commissioner Lisa Carter. Patrick Lindsey, Vice President of Government and Community Affairs delivered welcoming remarks on behalf of Wayne State

HEALTH AFFAIRS

Lycaki Young Fund

It is confirmed that WSU has retained \$5.6 million for the Lycaki Young Fund for 2017, which is a state general fund appropriation. Below is an overview of the fund.

Beginning in the early 1990s, the State of Michigan shifted responsibilities for providing complex outpatient psychiatric services from Lafayette Clinic to the Wayne State University School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, as well as the management of medical education programs and innovative clinical research initiatives focused on mental health and substance abuse. These funds (formerly known as Joe Young funds and more recently Lycaki-Young Funds) allow Wayne State University to be especially responsive to the needs of Michiganders who are low income and who experience severe and persistent mental illness, behavioral disorders and co-occurring disorders. Services are provided for more than 50,000 patient visits annually. In addition, our methadone program dispensed more than 43,000 doses of methadone and provided in excess of 3,000 therapy sessions. More than 15,000 patients are referred to our crisis centers. More than 15,000 patients are referred to our adult outpatient clinics with an additional 7,500 patients seen by our Psychiatry Residents. More than 10,000 patients are seen on the inpatient units of the Detroit Medical Center. More than 2,000 children are seen every year.

It is important to point out that, by far, the majority of patients we serve are indigent, uninsured or enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare and predominantly live in Wayne County. We believe strongly in our leadership role in providing access and quality care to our most at-risk populations and doing it through novel approaches that significantly improve outcome. In dealing with the Emergency Room and inpatient diversion programs, preventing incarceration and recidivism, telepsychiatry, children specialty care like autism, substance abuse and integrated care, we have been an important resource to the state and have worked in partnership to improve outcome and increase access at decreased cost. We believe that Michigan is positioned to be a national role model of how to integrate care in our most high risk and vulnerable populations, i.e., a high density Medicaid, uninsured/underinsured population.

Historically, a majority of the graduates of our psychiatry residency training program and non-physician training programs (e.g., psychology and social work internship training programs) have remained in Michigan after graduation. For example, over the past 15 years, of the 193 graduates from our psychiatry residency training program, 123 (64%) have remained in Michigan. Over the past 5 years, this trend has, in fact, increased, where of the 54 graduates, more than 70% have remained in Michigan. A comparable majority of graduates from our non-physician training programs remain in Michigan after graduation. Many of these graduates have commenced work in the public sector (community mental health centers, prisons, State facilities or the Veteran's Administration Hospital system).

Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform

It has been confirmed that the Michigan legislature did include boilerplate language in the 2017 budget to support the MiDoc's initiative. We have met with members of the Governor's staff in the last few months, confirming their interest in the initiative. They requested a formal

presentation on the Michigan AHEC program (which will support MiDoc's). Kelley Cawthorne and WSU staff are organizing the meeting. The state will also transfer \$500K to AHEC, which will be used to hire a program manager and fund the planning budget for MiDoc's. The plan is to present a formal proposal to the Governor's office in September, which will leave enough time to include it in his budget planning process. We have secured legislative champions in both the house and senate. Below is a summary on MiDoc's.

In the course of Academic Year (AY) 2015-16, the MiDocs Consortium members met in-person or telephonically multiple times. MiDocs began the entity-creation process by attempting to solicit a workforce planning report that provided detailed, county-by-county needs assessments for physicians (general and specialized), and affiliated health professionals. Two sources for this information were identified but ultimately ruled out.

Discussions about which programs to create and which programs to augment were also discussed at several sessions. Educational, administration, and financial advantages and disadvantages for each approach were discussed and evaluated.

Toward the end of AY 2015-16, MiDocs began exploring in depth the experience that several other states, including Georgia, Alaska, and New Mexico, had had with new primary care residency programs targeted toward underserved communities. These programs had been run for one or more cycles and data concerning community health, educational satisfaction, and final residency placement outcomes appears promising.

At the last meeting, MiDocs reviewed the several existing programs. The Georgia experience which leveraged that state's AHEC infrastructure appeared well-suited to MiDocs purposes.

As a result, MiDocs is proposing that the Legislature approve boilerplate language for FY2016-17 to accomplish the following planning aims:

- Drill down into the AHEC Database Management System (ADMS) concerning the State of Michigan Health Needs Assessment.
- Design new interprofessional education (IPE) opportunities that best utilize the MiDocs program.
- Survey small hospitals and ambulatory sites in medically underserved areas in Michigan to ascertain their ability and willingness to train residents and other health care professionals using traditional and innovative methods (e.g. telepsychiatry, etc.).
- Establish the tracking and reporting functions via ADMS to launch and sustain the MiDocs residency programs.
- Identify the number, type, location, and cost of new MiDocs residency slots starting in FY 2018 or 19, with the goal of 50 residents per class or 150 in the overall pilot program.
- Propose funding mechanism or financial accountability for any interruption in funding during any of the multi-year residencies.
- Design an incentive plan for residents to practice in underserved communities post-residency by offsetting a to-be-determined amount of medical school debt.
- Develop reporting tools for MiDocs, AHEC, and affiliated residency programs to annually report audited financial, clinical, and educational data to the state legislature and DHHS.
- Create a legal entity named MiDocs, which will serve as the fiduciary and direct state funding for the MiDocs GME Pilot Program. MiDocs will develop a grant making mechanism

to determine which specialties, programs, and institutions are eligible to receive funding for the program. It is the intent of the legislature to only fund residency slots that result in a net increase of residents. Programs must be affiliated with a Michigan public university that has a medical school.

Opioid Abuse

Doug Skrzyniarz met with Senator Carl Levin in April to offer the university's assistance on his opioid abuse initiative. To that end, Senator Levin has included WSU as one of the Metro Detroit locations for the visit of President Obama's advisor on substance abuse, Director Michael Botticelli (White House Office of National Drug Control Policy). Director Botticelli will be a guest lecturer for the MPAC class (Medicine and Political Action in the Community), which is an elective class for students in the WSU School of Medicine. Director Botticelli will speak to the medical students about de-stigmatizing addiction and discuss the growing problem of overprescribing pain medication. The class normally has about 100 students. MPAC's curriculum includes health policy, health politics, and other topics not normally covered in the medical school curriculum. It is a nationally "one of a kind" leadership development class for medical students who want to play a role in advocacy during their career. Doug has been asked to speak at the national conference of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in November to discuss the MPAC program and how it affects medical student advocacy.