
FEDERAL RELATIONS

President Barack Obama leads rally at Wayne State

The Division of Government and Community Affairs was approached by Congressman Gary Peters' campaign election manager about holding a rally on Wayne State's campus for the Congressman's U.S. Senate run and Congressman Mark Schauer's campaign for Michigan's governor. President Barack Obama would lead the rally, supporting the democratic agenda and the two candidates.

We engaged the office of Special Events to assist in reviewing the logistics of a potential event for an audience of 5,000 at the Matthaei Athletic Complex, as well as Wayne State's Public Safety department to coordinate security issues. After discussions with, and review by, the two campaigns, the Secret Service and White House staff, the decision was made to hold the rally at Wayne State.

The evening event on Saturday, November 1, 2014, drew an audience of nearly 6,000. President Wilson, several members of the Board of Governors, and numerous Cabinet and Deans from WSU attended.

Washington, D.C. Meetings

The Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, the Director of Federal Affairs and Anita Estell of Polsinelli had a series of meetings in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Wayne State University. Former Congressman Martin Frost (D-TX), also with Polsinelli, attended one meeting at the White House.

- U.S. Department of Education

The purpose of this meeting was to obtain additional information on the First in the World grant program and identify ways to connect WSU with future opportunities. The First in the World (FITW) program provides grants to institutions of higher education to spur the development of innovations that improve educational outcomes and make college more affordable for students and families, and to develop an evidence base of effective practices. Institutions of higher education or consortia of such institutions are eligible applicants for FITW grants. The Department encourages applicants to partner with public and private institutions and agencies that can assist the applicant to achieve the goals of the project.

The Education Department recently awarded \$75 million to 24 colleges and universities. Nearly 500 applications were submitted for this FITW grant competition; Wayne State University did not make the final cut for this grant. The 24 colleges and universities selected for this initial year of awards represent 17 states, 19 public, private, and nonprofit 4-year institutions and five public and private two-year institutions. Six of the 24 winning applications—including an HBCU—are from minority serving institutions (MSIs), which will receive about \$20 million in funding. Many of the grantees have additional organizational partners, such as other postsecondary institutions, non-profits, and businesses.

We were able to establish good relationships with the program managers at FITW, and will be included in future grant announcements, internships and webinars. We should be sure to ask for technical assistance when the next round of grant applications are done in May 2015.

- White House Domestic Policy Council, Higher Education

The goal of this meeting was to introduce the Domestic Policy Council to the exciting initiatives taking place at Wayne State University. Former Congressman Martin Frost (now with Polsinelli) was also in attendance at this meeting.

The Domestic Policy Council (DPC) was established by Executive Order in 1993, and coordinates the domestic policy-making process in the White House. The DPC ensures that domestic policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President's stated goals, and monitors implementation of the President's domestic policy agenda.

The DPC is comprised of numerous policy teams and offices that work to implement President Obama's domestic policy priorities. Those teams include:

- Education Policy
- Health Policy
- Immigration Policy
- Energy and Climate Change
- The Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation
- Justice and Regulatory Policy
- Office of National AIDS Policy
- Urban Affairs and Economic Mobility
- Rural Affairs
- Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Native American Affairs

Our inroads in this meeting were successful in raising the profile and image of Wayne State University for many initiatives of the White House going forward.

- White House Office of Public Engagement

The purpose of this meeting was to create a more robust connection for WSU to the Office of Public Engagement and enlist the Office's assistance with the following issues:

- Obtaining an invitation for President Wilson to attend the second College Opportunity Summit in December 2014;
- Connect the work of the WSU Police Department and Center for Urban Studies to the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) ;
- Facilitating an introduction to National Institute of Standards and Technology Acting Director Willie May;
- Engaging with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to promote recruitment of diverse students at WSU;
- Enhancing WSU's connection to NIH through the NICHD Perinatology Branch; and
- Obtaining any federal assistance in educating and signing up individuals for the Access to Care Act.

The Office of Public Engagement (OPE) seeks to allow the views of the ordinary American citizen to be more readily heard within the Administration. The Office also seeks to coordinate events that bring members of the Administration in contact with members of the public. OPE is the embodiment of the President's goal of making government inclusive, transparent, accountable and responsible. The Office also seeks to ensure, along with the Office of Communications, the coordination of the Administration message amongst different departments in order to ensure full and balanced exposure.

- Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

The purpose of this meeting was to identify additional methods of connecting WSU to the Center of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and build on the positive experience the Office has had with Wayne State in the past with this office.

The mission of the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education is to promote student achievement by connecting schools and community-based organizations, both secular and faith-based.

The Center is part of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which works to form partnerships between government at all levels and nonprofit organizations, both secular and faith-based, to more effectively serve Americans in need. The office advances this work through Centers and staff at 13 federal agencies across the administration.

Our primary goals from this meeting were to:

- Engage community-based organizations, both secular and faith-based, in building a culture of high expectations and support for education.
- Develop and support initiatives within the federal government to help maximize the education contributions of community-based organizations, including faith and interfaith organizations.
- Strengthen partnerships between community-based organizations and schools to help improve the nation's lowest-achieving schools.

The Budget – Congressional Continuing Resolution

The government would remain open October 1, 2014 through December 11 under the House-passed H. J. Res. 124, which also would authorize aid to Syrian rebels to combat the terrorist group known as the Islamic State.

The measure would provide government funding through December 11 based on the rate of spending in the fiscal 2014 omnibus appropriations law, less an across-the-board reduction of 0.0554 percent to reduce the total spending rate. The measure would make a handful of adjustments in spending, including border security operations and claims processing at the Veterans Affairs Department.

The measure also would extend the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. through June 30, 2015, and extend a moratorium on taxes on Internet access through December 11.

Terrorism Risk Insurance Act

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) was established after the 2001 attacks, when insurers suffered steep losses and some stopped offering terrorism risk insurance on commercial buildings, including universities and colleges. Under the program, insurers must offer certain types of terrorism risk coverage. If losses from an attack exceed a set amount, the federal backstop kicks in. The program has been reauthorized twice.

TRIA's renewal faces a tougher hurdle this year in the House, where conservatives, including Representative Jeb Hensarling of Texas, have argued for winding down the program. Hensarling's Financial Services Committee voted to give the program five more years and to increase the amount of losses needed to trigger the federal backstop. But many Democrats and some Republican backers of TRIA have opposed those changes.

TRIPRA is set to expire on December 31, 2014. The House of Representatives and Senate have considered legislation that would reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA). In July 2014, the Senate passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014. Key provisions of S.2244 (Schumer, D-NY) include reauthorizing TRIA for seven (7) years; increasing the insurer co-pay from 15 to 20 percent (one percent per year) and increasing the mandatory recoupment provision from \$27.5 to \$37.5 billion (two billion per year for the first five years).

In the House, the TRIA Reform Act of 2014 was approved by the Financial Services Committee in June 2014, but has yet to be considered by the full chamber. Provisions of H.R. 4871 (Neugebauer, R-TX) would reauthorize TRIA for five (5) years and increase carriers' exposure under TRIA. Most notably, proposed changes in the bill would bifurcate the treatment of Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and Radiological (NBCR) from non-NBCR terrorist attacks. For NBCR attacks the program's current program trigger (\$100 million) and insurer co-pay percentage (15 percent) would remain unchanged. Regarding non-NBCR attacks, the program trigger would increase to \$500 million and the insurer co-pay would increase to 20 percent.

It is believed that this bill will be reauthorized, and is considered to be a priority of Congress during the "lame duck" session. Stakeholders continue to work with members of Congress and staff on the impact that the Act has on terrorism insurance availability and affordability, as well as on the economy.

Local Recruiting for Wayne State University

I have attended four local college fairs as a speaker on specific issues for parents. All of these fairs – sponsored by Reps. Donna Edwards (D-MD) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) have asked for the participation of Wayne State University. Several local high schools would like to have Wayne State University make a presentation to their student body. I am working with our office of recruiting and alumni affairs to get this process going and have Wayne State University on the radar of high schools in the greater Washington, D.C. region.

Diplomacy Matters

I have been a member of this organization, which seeks to build economic relationships between the European Union and businesses, organizations and universities in the United

States, for less than a year. I have already attended several meetings and luncheons at several Embassies in Washington, D.C., and we have been invited to attend a tour of Italy by the Italian embassy for possible Italian investment in the research of Wayne State University. I view this as a possibility of seeking funding as federal funds become more difficult to obtain. The European Union has dedicated hundreds of millions of dollars to health care and health research, and it is my hope that Wayne State University competes for these funds over the next year.

Outlook for Key House and Senate Committees

The House and Senate Republican parties use different rules for counting service on a committee. In the House, service as a chairman or ranking member counts toward a three-Congress limit for a top job on that committee. Senate Republicans allow three Congresses as chairman and three Congresses as ranking member, for a potential maximum of 12 years. Democrats don't set time limits in either chamber.

Seniority on a committee isn't a guarantee that a member will step up to take the gavel when there's a departure. First, a member with greater overall seniority in the party caucus could make a bid for the post. Second, the House Republicans haven't made seniority the sole criteria since 1995. Sometimes the leadership can, and has, made the choice on the basis of other factors.

SENATE COMMITTEES WITH HIGHER EDUCATION JURISDICTION

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

113th Chairman: Tom Harkin, IA
Ranking Member: Lamar Alexander, TN

114th Probable Chairman: Mike Enzi, WY
Ranking Member: Patty Murray, WA or
Bernie Sanders, VT

Outlook: Republican Mike Enzi has used up his ranking member time, but can come back as Chairman. Sen. Murray has the most seniority among the Senate Democrats, but will probably stay on the Appropriations Committee. Senators Enzi, Murray and Sanders all strongly support higher education. Sen. Enzi will be under tremendous pressure to abide by the Senate leadership and to broker a compromise with the President if indeed the Higher Education Act is reauthorized as expected.

Appropriations

113th Chairwoman: Barbara Mikulski, MD
Ranking Member: Richard Shelby, AL

114th Probable Chair: Thad Cochran, MS
Ranking Member: Barbara Mikulski, MD

Outlook: Sens. Cochran and Mikulski support additional funding for research and higher education. Once again, count on Sen. Mikulski to insert funding for AHEC and NIH. A good

barometer will be the omnibus appropriations bill that is being shaped for passage during the first week of December.

HOUSE COMMITTEES
WITH
HIGHER EDUCATION JURISDICTION

Education and the Workforce

113th Chairman: John Kline, MN
Ranking Member: George Miller, CA

114th Probable Chair: John Kline, MN
Ranking Member, Bobby Scott, VA or
Reuben Hinojosa, TX

Outlook: Instead of passing omnibus, broad legislation addressing higher education issues, this Committee chose to pass piece-meal bills that were considered for floor votes in the House but were not considered in the Senate nor even sent to the Senate. It is expected that the House will finally have official hearings and consideration of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is now almost two years overdue. The deliberation of this legislation is expected to be acrimonious, as the President hopes that it will be one of his signature bills. One of the key issues this legislation will attempt to tackle is the high rates of debt incurred by students and their parents.

Appropriations

113th Chairman: Hal Rogers, KY
Ranking Member: Nita Lowey, NY

114th Probable Chair: Hal Rogers, KY
Ranking Member: Nita Lowey, NY

Chairs of the Committees of the House and Senate have chafed under the leadership of their respective party. It is expected that Speaker Boehner will give more leeway to the Appropriations Committee. This is a good sign for the funding of science and education, as both the Chair and Ranking Minority Member have been outspoken supporters of fully-funded Pell grants, NIH funding, and other issues. Chairman Rogers has often bucked the trend of the majority by supporting funding beyond the caps set by the Budget Control Act.

Possible Key Legislative Issues for Higher Education for the 114th Congress

- Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

The Issue: The House and Senate are taking different tacks in their efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. Republicans and Democrats in both chambers agree that the now-expired HEA is in dire need of updating as student debt continues to balloon, and programs like the Pell Grant become more difficult to fund due to increased demand. The law was due for reauthorization at the end of 2013. With very few domestic-policy issues garnering any bipartisan support, higher education stands out as being one of the few areas that Congress.

What to Expect: Even though the House and Senate will both be under a Republican majority, the battle will ultimately be between the Senate Democrats and House Republicans. Both sides

have pushed forward proposals that will be used as the template for any negotiations when a bill is finally drafted, maybe in the fall of next year.

– Major House Republican HEA Proposals

Pell Grant

- Consolidate the Pell Grant and the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant into one Pell Grant program
- Change Pell eligibility requirements, likely by limiting the grant to low-income students only
- Change Pell to allow students to draw down the federal aid over a six-year period

TRIO

- Better assess the effectiveness of TRIO programs aimed at low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities
- Provide incentives for investment in TRIO-like programs at the state, local, and institutional levels, rather than increasing funding from the federal side

Teacher-Preparation Programs

- Streamline the 82 programs across 10 agencies that relate to teacher quality
- Limit reporting requirements to output-focused data, such as whether a program improves teaching skills and student outcomes
- Shift the Teacher Quality Partnership program into the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

– Major Senate Democratic HEA Proposals

Pell Grant

- Allow full-time students to use Pell year-round

TRIO

- Maintain the TRIO programs

Teacher-Preparation Programs

- Offer states a new grant for ranking teacher colleges and leadership programs based in part on student test scores
- Increase emphasis on clinical training in teacher-preparation programs
- New grants for programs to boost on-the-job training in high-need schools, rural schools, or high-need subjects
- Expand the Teacher Quality Partnership program to include school-leadership programs

- Higher Education Regulations

The issue: The President has proposed several higher education regulations that are wildly unpopular with Republicans, including a college ratings system and a second stab at the “gainful employment” regulations — which require for-profit colleges and some programs at community colleges to meet certain thresholds concerning graduates’ student loan debt and repayment rates — which are due by the end of the fall. Some Democrats think the gainful employment regulations don’t go far enough, and Republicans have decried both as inappropriate federal interventions.

What to expect: Republicans are sure to reject the administration’s proposal to tie the ratings system, when finalized, to federal financial aid. It is not expected that legislation along these lines will be considered during the “lame duck” session; instead this will be part of the more comprehensive Higher Education Act reauthorization. Although further litigation on the gainful employment regulation is likely, a GOP-led Senate could seek to block implementation either through a provision in the Higher Education Act reauthorization or as a rider on an appropriations bill.

- Student Loans

The issue: Total student loan debt has topped \$1.2 trillion, and many say increasing individual debt is hampering young people’s abilities to buy homes and cars and start businesses. The President in June 2014 announced work on an expansion of income-based repayment programs, and congressional Democrats have proposed refinancing older loans at current lower interest rates.

What to expect: Incoming Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., has expressed skepticism about the cost — and legality — of expanding income-based repayments, the details of which the Education Department is working on this fall. Any work on refinancing is dead in the water, and Senator Alexander could seek to block additional expansion of income-based repayment in a Higher Education Act reauthorization.

- Patent Trolls

The issue: The ability of universities to continue generating important discoveries and innovations in areas such as health and technology, research that often leads to lifesaving inventions such as new drugs or groundbreaking ways to cultivate arid soil in developing countries, may rest on the outcome of bills in the House and Senate intended to curb frivolous lawsuits filed by “patent trolls.” Patent trolls are companies that acquire patents for the sole purpose of extorting payments from legitimate businesses and other end users of an invention. The trolls will claim that the businesses are infringing on some aspect of the patent they hold through uses of products a business has purchased legally and in good faith. Many retail companies, particularly smaller businesses, will settle rather than risk expensive litigation, even if they know they are being scammed.

What to expect: There are two competing bills in the House and Senate. One of the main problems with the House bill is that it would make patent holders potentially liable for expensive court costs and attorney fees for the other side if they lose a case. In addition, the bill says that

“interested parties,” such as a university whose research is connected to a disputed patent, could be brought into a case it otherwise isn’t involved with and be required to cover any legal costs the losing party cannot afford to pay. This bill passed in the House with an overwhelming majority, and was drafted by the Republicans.

The bipartisan drafted Senate bill addresses the need to crack down on patent trolls without actually making it more difficult for patent holders to defend their rights, as the House bill does. However, the Senate Judiciary Committee has yet to approve the bill and move it forward. One point of contention is how to ensure that court fees are assigned to the losing party in a patent troll lawsuit in a reasonable manner that doesn’t discourage potential plaintiffs from even attempting to pursue a case. Congress is expected to take up this issue soon after the

STATE RELATIONS

Capital Outlay

On October 1, Wayne State University testified before the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee in advocacy of our top Capital Outlay project request - the STEM Laboratory Classroom Building.

Presenting was Rick Nork, Monica Brockmeyer and Patrick Lindsey. Also in attendance from WSU were Greg Bird, Jim Sears and Deborah Brazen.

As was the case for all universities and community colleges, the testimony from the institutions was kept short and there were little to no questions asked by committee members. The Chair of Joint Capital Outlay Committee asked members if they had questions regarding certain projects that they submit them in writing to the Chair to get answers from the respective institutions.

That day, five senators of the committee were present, including Chairman Booher and Senators Hood, Jansen, Moolenaar, and Schuitmaker. The House was still in session, thus its committee members were absent, but excused.

Wayne State was the last to testify and was extremely well received. Patrick opened with preliminary comments, and then Rick provided details regarding our plans. Afterwards, the presentation received very favorable feedback from Sens. Schuitmaker, Jansen and Hood:

- Schuitmaker praised WSU for addressing the performance metrics in pursuing our project, particularly STEM degrees (Rick made direct reference to the performance metrics and STEM in his remarks).
- Jansen also commended us for repurposing and renovating a building versus constructing a new one.
- Hood noted the University’s importance as a leading catalyst in the development of Midtown, its significance to the revitalization of Detroit, and its importance to the economy of the entire state.

Representative Fred Durhal, also a member of the committee, was also prepared to provide strong support of the project but was unable to attend, as the JCOS hearing ended before the House concluded its session. The Chairman is aware of his support.

According to several persons who attended all four capital outlay subcommittee meetings, WSU received some of the most favorable feedback of all the presentations given.

Capital outlay project submissions for FY15-16 were due at the end of October. We have submitted our revised project and anticipate that it will score well with the Administration. We will continue to support Chairman Booher's efforts to get a capital outlay bill put forth before the end of this session. This will be a challenge due to the elections and the upcoming lame duck session; however, if a bill does not come forth by the end of this session, we believe that we will still be well-positioned whenever one is put forth.

Community College Baccalaureate Legislation

Hearings continued in late September and early October on House Bill 4148, which would allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in several areas.

The legislation would allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing, ski area management, wastewater treatment technology, allied health, information technology, and manufacturing technology.

The Presidents Council and all 15 public universities have publically opposed the bill.

The chair of the committee (who is also the sponsor of the bill) would like to see the bill passed before the end of the year. So far, there has been insufficient support from members of the House Michigan Competiveness Committee to pass the bill to the full House.

WSU ATEC Opening

Wayne State's new Advanced Technology Education Center (ATEC) in Warren was dedicated on October 2nd with a number of government officials on hand.

Those officials who spoke at the opening were Governor Rick Snyder, Congressman Sandy Levin, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel. Other officials who were on hand for the event were Warren Mayor Jim Fouts and State Senator Steve Bieda.

Prior to the event, Governor Snyder and Executive Hackel received a private tour of the facility.

Kelley Cawthorne Detroit Dinner

In mid-October, Kelley Cawthorne hosted a dinner at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History for their clients and current and incoming Detroit legislators. The main purpose was to introduce the incoming Detroit lawmakers to their Detroit-area clients.

Current lawmakers in attendance included:

- Senator Coleman Young, II
- Senator Tupac Hunter
- Representative Thomas Stallworth, III
- Representative David Knezek (also candidate for State Senate)

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- Representative Brian Banks
 - Representative Alberta Tinsley Talabi
 - Representative Harvey Santana

Those candidates who won their primaries in heavily Democratic districts in attendance included:

- Candidate for State Representative, Wendell Byrd (3rd District)
- Candidate for State Representative, LaTanya Garrett, (7th District)
- Candidate for State Representative, Sherry Gay-Dagnogo (8th District)
- Candidate for State Representative, Leslie Love, (10th District)

Staff members from elected officials such as Senator Bert Johnson and Councilman George Cushingberry were also present.

President Wilson Lansing Visit

President Wilson is scheduled to meet with the State Budget Director John Roberts on December 17. Director Roberts was named head of the Governor's Budget Office in March of this year.

As soon as leadership elections take place on November 6th, we will attempt to set up additional meetings for the President while he is in town.

Legislative Calendar

The legislature is scheduled to be in session in November only three days (6th, 12th and 13th). We believe that leadership elections will take place on November 6th. We already know there will be a new Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader and Speaker of the House. There could also be new chairs of various Appropriations Subcommittees.

Both chambers are then scheduled to be in session the first three weeks of December to finish out the calendar year.

Michigan Election Results

Governor

Governor Rick Snyder secured a second term in this week's election, beating Democratic challenger Mark Schauer 51-47 percent. While it was not the 58 percent the Governor won with four years ago, his victory was declared earlier in the evening than many projected.

Attorney General & Secretary of State

Republican incumbents Attorney General Bill Schuette and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson also cruised to victory last night beating Democratic challengers Mark Totten and Godfrey Dillard 52-44 and 53-43, respectively.

State Supreme Court

The existing 5-2 majority of Republican-nominated justices on the Michigan Supreme Court will hold with Democratic attorney (and former WSU Board of Governor) Richard Bernstein winning one of the full terms and [Justice Brian Zahra](#), a Republican nominee, winning the other. [Justice David Viviano](#), another Republican nominee, easily won the partial term.

State Senate

While many predicted that Democrats would pick up a seat or two, Republicans increased their supermajority by one seat for a 27-11 advantage in the upper chamber. According to news accounts, the victories give Republicans the largest percentage a majority caucus has had in the Senate since the 1953-54 term when the GOP had 75 percent of the then 32-member Senate with a 24-8 majority.

Two days after the election, Senator Arlan Meekof (R-Olive Twp.) was elected by the GOP Caucus as the Senate Majority Leader and Senator Jim Aninich (D-Flint) became the Senate Minority Leader.

As Senator Roger Kahn (R-Saginaw) did not seek reelection due to term limits, there will be a new Senate Appropriations Chair. It is expected that Senator Dave Hildenbrand (R-Grand Rapids) will be named the next Chairman in the coming weeks.

House of Representatives

Many projected Democrats could pick up a few seats to cut into the 59-50-1 Republican majority - and maybe even threaten the GOP rule in the House. However, Republicans defended all of their seats and beat two Democratic incumbents to increase their majority to 63-47.

Rep. Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant) was elected the next Speaker of the House by his Republican colleagues. Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville) was also running to become the next Speaker but according to reports will become the next House Appropriations Chair. If this is the case, that would mean there will be a new chair of the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Rep. Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) is expected to remain leader of the Democrats in the House while Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) will become the next Minority Floor Leader. It is yet unclear whether or not Rep. Singh will remain on the Appropriations Committee. If he does not, that would mean there will be only one returning member of the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Rep. Rob VerHeulen (R-Walker)).

WSU Board of Governors

Democratic nominees Dana Thompson and former Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly beat their Republican opponents receiving 23.4 and 25.8 percent, respectively.

Other Statewide Education Races

One area where Democrats performed well was the statewide education boards. Along with winning the two seats on the WSU Board of Governors, Democrats won the two seats on the State Board of Education, two seats on the University of Michigan's Board of Regents and one seat on the MSU Board of Trustees.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Wayne State University Combined Charitable Contributions Campaign

Every year Community Relations hosts the United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) and the Black United Fund (BUF) combined charitable contributions fundraiser. United Way provides our community with an independent safety net of health and human services by supporting a number of community service agencies. The Black United Fund is a community-based resource center that assists community efforts through referrals, funding, consultation and/or technical assistance. Both organizations provide numerous community service programs through a large network of volunteers and donors.

The 2015 campaign starts on November 3, 2014, and ends on November 30, 2014. This year's campaign chair is Jocelyn Benson, Dean of the Law School.

2014 "Canstruction" Competition

In partnership with College of Engineering, Gleaners Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan, Kroger and the American Institute of Architects, Wayne State will host the 2013 Detroit "Canstruction" Design and Build exhibit on WSU's campus at the College of Engineering. "Canstruction" is a competition where teams design and build giant sculptures made completely of canned food. The cans will be displayed during NOEL Night, December 7, 2014 in the WSU Welcome Center lobby area for the public to judge and vote on the winner. After the competition, the thousands of cans will be donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan to feed the hungry. Teams include Metro Detroit architects, engineers, contractors, designers and students with backgrounds in engineering, design or architecture.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute

Wayne State University will host its annual *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute* at the Max M. Fisher Music Center on Friday, January 16, 2015.

This year's keynote speakers, Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt and George Jenkins, known as "The Three Doctors," are extraordinary role models for anyone who's been through any kind of life challenge or major hardship. As teenage boys growing up on the tough inner-city streets of Newark, New Jersey these three kindred spirits made a pact: they would stick together-go to college-graduate-and become doctors. Surrounded by negative influences and having few positive role models made this a not so easy feat. Now many years later, these three men have

overcome countless obstacles and proudly bear the subtitle of doctor, serving as the face of health and education for youth and families across our country.

Net proceeds from the luncheon will support *Adopt-A-Classroom*. *Adopt-A-Classroom* is a nationally recognized organization that invites the community into classrooms to increase opportunity for student success by empowering teachers with community partnerships and funds to purchase resources for their classrooms. Since 2008 more than 35 classrooms in the Detroit area have been sponsored thanks to the support of our event sponsors.