
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Department of Defense Visits

Federal Affairs led two successful two-day visits (in May, with the School of Medicine and the College of Nursing; in June, with the College of Engineering) for Wayne State University at the offices of the U.S. Army Research Labs, the Office of Naval Research, and the Office of Health Affairs at the Pentagon. The goal was to introduce WSU's work in research, development, science and technology to key program managers in the Department of Defense and better position the university to compete and apply for grants and awards. Another goal is to have our principal investigators participate in collaborative research assignments. We plan to hold a series of follow-up meetings with the schools and colleges.

Perinatology Research Branch

WSU's School of Medicine's application for a grant contract for the Perinatology Research Branch was submitted to the National Institutes of Health on Monday, August 13, 2012. The application is currently under review. Our application included letters of support from a variety of key leaders, including a bi-partisan letter of support from the majority of the Michigan Congressional Delegation, Mayor Bing, the Detroit City Council, the executives of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and the Presidents' Council, State Universities of Michigan. Although not confirmed, several other universities have likely submitted applications as well.

Higher Education Funding

With the selection of Representative Paul Ryan as his running mate, Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney made federal spending -- including on higher education -- a major flash point of the coming presidential campaign.

Congressman Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican and Chairman of the House Budget Committee, is the author of a budget that would significantly reduce discretionary spending, including federal research funding, student loans and the Pell Grant program, over the next decade. The latest version of that budget plan would try to contain the cost of Pell Grants by changing eligibility criteria to exclude more students from the program and limiting the maximum award. The Pell Grant formula is part of the matrix that determines how much funding Wayne State University receives from the state of Michigan.

AHEC Funding

The Senate has approved \$30 million in funding for Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) for the next fiscal year. While the House has marked up similar legislation in its Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education, it remains uncertain whether the House will provide any funding for this program. The first branch of Michigan's AHEC was started at Wayne State University, and Michigan's AHEC was recently approved for a second segment of funding to establish the second of five sectors in the state. WSU has

lobbied aggressively for the funding of this program, which in large part will go to address the shortage of nurses, doctors and other medical professionals in Michigan.

STATE AFFAIRS

State Appropriations and Performance Funding

We continue to meet with other public universities and the Business Leaders for Michigan (BLM) to develop strategies to strengthen our advocacy efforts in Lansing in preparation for the coming budget year. Some of the goals are to: identify additional lawmakers and administration officials who could become allies of the BLM proposal; increase efforts in mobilizing alumni to advocate on our behalf in Lansing; and increase media relations efforts in the year to come.

Over the summer, we attended several meetings with allies and organizations that could be of assistance to the University during next year's budget/performance funding process. The goal is to educate more individuals and organizations that might advocate on our behalf to the administration and members of the legislature.

Legislative Calendar

The House and the Senate were in session one day in July and one day in August. They are scheduled to be in session for eight days prior to the November election.

Senator Schuitmaker to Visit WSU

State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker (R-20th District) will visit our campus on October 1, 2012. Currently, the senator serves as chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, vice chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, vice chair of Senate Health Policy Committee, and as vice chair on the Senate Appropriations subcommittees on Capital Outlay, Community Colleges and Judiciary. Sen. Schuitmaker also serves as a member on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Schuitmaker has expressed interest in learning more about the research activities on campus. We will include a tour of the School of Engineering, the Law School, and of Midtown, including the site for the MBRB.

SB 1208 – Nurse Midwife Bill

Senator Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) recently introduced legislation to revise the licensing process for nurse midwives and regulate freestanding birthing centers. We are told by our Nursing School that the proposed legislation will negatively impact our Nurse Midwife program.

We are collaborating with the University of Michigan to oppose this matter, as they are the only other Michigan public university that has a midwife program. Along with U of M, we

will meet with relevant lawmakers and staffs in Lansing to voice our concerns on this bill. Nursing and health organizations also have concerns with the bill as currently written.

DCH Director leaves post

Governor Snyder recently announced that Olga Dazzo, Director of the Department of Community Health, was leaving her position. The Governor appointed Jim Haveman as the new Director. Haveman led the department under former Governor John Engler. He began his duties on September 1. We hope to enjoy the same support for the cause of infant mortality from Director Haveman that Dazzo provided during her tenure.

Supermajority to raise taxes ballot initiative

Among the many ballot proposals facing Michigan voters on November 6, one of the most important is a proposed constitutional amendment that requires a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the Legislature to approve any tax increase, or increase the base of any tax.

Supporters of the proposal say a 2/3 vote for a tax increase means that tax hikes will need bipartisan support, evidence that they are truly needed. Seven states today have this provision in place. They include Mississippi, the state with the lowest per capita income in the nation, and Nevada, the state with the highest unemployment in the nation. Others are Oregon, Delaware, Louisiana, Arizona and California. None of these are "top 10" states in positive metrics. California's lengthy budget turmoil can be traced in part to this provision (voters there recently overturned a similar provision that mandated a 2/3 vote to approve its budgets).

The Presidents' Council, State Universities of Michigan (PCSUM), opposes this proposal and has been asked to join Defend Michigan Democracy (DMD) in opposition to this initiative. DMD is a coalition of groups being formed by former state senator Gilda Jacobs, who is now president of the Michigan League for Human Services. Joining the DMD at this point means using PCSUM's name as one of the many groups opposed to the 2/3 proposal. Among the groups already in Defend Michigan Democracy are the Michigan Hospital Association, Michigan Association of Health Plans, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Education Association and others.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Michigan Diversity Council

Government and Community Affairs co-hosted a diversity event with the Michigan Diversity Council and the Michigan First Credit Union entitled, "Women's Empowerment Forum: Lessons Learned on the Way Up the Ladder." This event took place on Thursday, June 21, 2012, at the Michigan First Credit Union's main office in Southfield, Michigan, with more than 80 participants in attendance. The event included a panel discussion from the following presenters: Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Chamber of

Commerce, Denise Yee Grim; Office Managing Partner of KPMG, LLP and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration of Lansing Community College, Lisa Webb Sharpe. The topic of the panel discussion consisted of a dialogue surrounding the challenges and rewards of being a successful female leader.

Metro Detroit Youth Day

Wayne State University was a sponsor of the 30th Annual Metro Detroit Youth Day on Wednesday, July 11, at Belle Isle. More than 37,000 youth from throughout metro Detroit participated in the event. WSU and other Michigan universities participated in "Educational Row," which educated and encouraged the youth about the importance of higher education. WSU head football coach Paul Winters received a plaque from the Metro Detroit Youth Day committee for the team's outstanding season. WSU Admissions distributed WSU admissions packages to thousands of youth. The Wayne State mascot, "W", attended the event and greeted the youth.

ARISE Detroit

On Saturday, August, 4, 2012, in partnership with Detroit Public Schools, Community Affairs made arrangements for 20 WSU students in the APEX Scholars program to participate in the ARISE Detroit Annual Neighborhoods Day. WSU adopted Dr. Ben Carson High School of Science and Medicine and Crockett Career and Technical Center located in the footprint of the campus at 571 Mack and spent Saturday morning volunteering, which included painting and cleaning a parent's room in the building. The event was a success. The Dean of Students office assisted in the purchase of the sponsorship and Monica Davie worked to sign up the student volunteers.

Upcoming Events

On November 3, 2012, WSU, in partnership with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), will host the Empower Me tour. This is the fifth year of the tour, and this year WSU was chosen as a site. This day-long event will take place at Community Arts. The UNCF Empower Me tour attracts 1,000-1,500 attendees (mostly high school students from the metropolitan area) to learn about financial education, college readiness, entrepreneurship, career readiness, health and wellness, service and philanthropy and includes a celebrity panel discussion. WSU admissions and other departments will be present and presenters for the conference. The nationwide tour schedule is below:

New Orleans, LA	July 6, 2012
Washington, DC	October 6, 2012
Minneapolis, MN	October 13, 2012
Detroit, MI (WSU)	November 3, 2012
Hampton, VA	November 17, 2012
Miami, FL	February 8, 2013
Atlanta, GA	February, 16, 2013
Charlotte, NC	March 2, 2013

Chicago, IL	March 9, 2013
Dallas, TX	March 16, 2013
Los Angeles, CA	March 30, 2013

2013 United Way and Black United Fund Campaign

This year's chair and co-chair for the WSU United Way and Black United Fund Campaign are Dean Farshad Fotouhi and Dean Lloyd Young. The 2013 campaign starts on October 15, 2012, and ends November 23, 2012. Our goal is to raise \$110,000.

2012 "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 2012 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 in the College of Engineering and 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. The competition will take place October 30, 2012. This event is open to the public. More details will be provided in next month's Board of Governors report.