

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

## Informational Report

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Provost's Office has completed new articulation agreements with Oakland Community College for social work and business; and with Henry Ford College for theatre.

WSU administrators met with delegations from Jackson and Delta colleges and Oakland Community College to discuss partnership opportunities in a variety of areas, including honors. The Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC) is collaborating with the Irvin D. Honors College to launch a campus chapter of Tau Sigma, a national honor society for transfer students, in winter 2018.

Ambika Mathur, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School, received an \$80,000 grant from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) to participate in a collective effort to gather and use data about the careers of Ph.D. students and alumni. WSU was selected along with 15 other institutions/consortia to receive an \$80,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support data collection about Ph.D. careers in STEM and humanities fields. Over the course of the 10-year project, universities will collect data from current Ph.D. students. The resulting data will allow universities to analyze Ph.D. career preferences and outcomes at the program level and help faculty and university leaders strengthen career services, professional development opportunities and mentoring in doctoral programs. Ambika will also present some of our doctoral alumni career data today.

### **SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

The Wayne State University College of Nursing recently received a \$1.8 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The four-year Workforce Diversity grant supports incoming freshmen to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. "We are committed to preparing a diverse nursing workforce that will excel in today's healthcare system," said WSU College of Nursing Dean Laurie Lauzon Clabo. Using a holistic admissions process, the College of Nursing will admit 16 freshman students per year. This select group of students will receive financial, academic and social support as well as professional mentoring. This support is intended to increase the likelihood of successful completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program. In addition, these students will receive Certified Nurse Assistant (C.N.A) training early in the program, which has the potential to increase their earning abilities while they complete the B.S.N program.

Wayne State University's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA), in collaboration with University Television, received a Michigan National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy award for the college's "Be Inspired" recruitment video at the 39th Emmy awards ceremony on Saturday, June 10. The Michigan Emmy represents the most experienced and talented television professionals from all disciplines of the industry and from all of Michigan's 11 television markets. The award signifies the result of outstanding collaboration between WSU's University Television department and CFPCA.

## **FACULTY**

Deborah Ellis, Ph.D., a professor of family medicine and public health sciences in Wayne State University's School of Medicine, received a \$3.2 million award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. The grant will fund a study that will develop interventions to reduce barriers to optimal asthma management and reduce the risk for asthma-related deaths of minority children, with a focus on African American adolescents.

Hilary Marusak, Ph.D., a post-doctoral fellow in Wayne State University's Department of Pharmacy Practice, was awarded a Supportive Care Research grant from the St. Baldrick's Foundation, the nation's largest private funder of childhood cancer research. The one-year, \$50,000 grant will support Marusak's work studying whether a martial arts therapy that focuses on meditation and breathing techniques can reduce pain experienced by childhood cancer patients.

## **STUDENTS**

Pre-occupational therapy and psychology student Michelle Asiedu took the trip of a lifetime this summer — but don't call it a vacation. Asiedu went to Ghana, West Africa, on a Medical Brigades trip with Wayne State. Medical Brigades is a chapter of Global Brigades, the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization. Global Medical Brigades develops sustainable health initiatives and provides relief where there is limited access to health care. Asiedu's group provided pro-bono medical services to the less fortunate in these villages. "It was such an amazing experience because I learned so many things about the people in these villages and how they value their resources," said Asiedu, "I got to see some children with different abnormalities, which was extremely beneficial for me." Asiedu learned that items we often take for granted in the West — such as hot water for a shower or clean drinking water — are considered luxuries in Ghana. "I learned to appreciate things that I have," she said. "Most of the things I look at as a necessity for survival, these people haven't even heard of." The lack of these things will not stop Asiedu from returning after graduation next spring. "I'm already planning my trip for next year!"