
FEDERAL RELATIONS

TRIO Program Funding

The Department of Education recently awarded Wayne State University's TRIO/Upward Bound program a grant of \$1.3 million over five years. This grant will serve Western International High School and Cesar Chavez High School, both in SW Detroit. Sandra M. Gonzales, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Bilingual Education at WSU authored the grant. Our office worked with Reps. John Conyers, Jr. and Brenda Lawrence to secure their support for this submission. This is a tremendous victory for WSU.

TRIO Upward Bound is one of the oldest and most successful college preparatory programs of its kind in the nation. Students who participate in an Upward Bound program are four times more likely to earn a college degree than their peers are. The program serves low income and first generation students, like so many young people living in Detroit. There are only two Upward Bound programs currently funded to serve students in Detroit and they are located at Wayne State University.

University Research Corridor Congressional Staff Tour

Over a dozen Hill staffers participated in the bi-annual tour of the research facilities of Wayne State University, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The clear winner for this tour was the absolutely amazing and energized presentation and viewing of Math Corps, which is part of the Wayne State University Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics. The tour also included the Mobile and Internet Systems lab, the College of Engineering, TechTown, the Integrative Biosciences Center and the Perinatology Research Branch (PRB). The evening before the WSU tour, President M. Roy Wilson and Vice President for Government and Community Affairs Patrick Lindsey welcomed the group to Wayne State University at a reception and dinner at Jacob House.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Testifies Regarding the President's Budget Request

Before Congress adjourned for the August recess, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS), about President Donald Trump's budget request, which proposes cuts of more than 13 percent to the Department of Education. Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Chairman of the Subcommittee, told Secretary DeVos that the President's proposed cuts are not likely to occur. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) expressed her frustration with the Department's rejection of Upward Bound applications over formatting errors, and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) showed concerns over cuts to Impact Aid, which provides funds to school districts on nontaxable federal lands. (Wayne State University was able to receive Upward Bound/TRIO funding despite this issue.)

Higher Ed Regulations

The Department of Education took on two major President Obama-era rules that affect colleges and universities, particularly for-profit schools. The first, the borrower defense to repayment package of regulations, includes new standards for debt relief for defrauded student loan borrowers, expanded powers for Department regulators, and a ban on mandatory arbitration agreements at colleges. The second, the gainful employment rule, cuts off federal funding to career colleges, mostly for-profit schools, where students end up with high student debt relative to their earnings. The administration ultimately moved to implement both of these changes.

A report published by the Center for American Progress and written by a former Obama administration official who helped create the rule, says the typical graduate of programs would benefit greatly from the federal government's income-driven repayment plan, which lets students pay a percentage of their income for 20 or 25 years and then forgives the remaining debt.

No progress has been made on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is more than eight years overdue. The likelihood that the Higher Education Act is reauthorized during the two-year 115th Congress are extremely remote.

STATE RELATIONS

Governor Signs Budgets into Law

In mid-July, the Governor signed the two omnibus appropriations bills into law.

This budget will provide Wayne State with a 1.6% increase (\$3.1 million) for the coming fiscal year if tuition is kept below 3.8% or \$475. As you may recall, the House version of the budget would have provided us with a 1.5% increase (\$2.95 million). The Governor's recommendation was 2% (\$3.88 million).

The overall increase in operations funding (for the entire budget) was 2.5% or \$35 million. The funding increase is spread 50% through the base and 50% through the metrics.

Also included in the budget was funding for the university's STEM Innovation Learning Center, to be located in the Wayne State University Science and Engineering Library building. The state, through the Capital Outlay budget, has committed \$14.75 million toward the project, which is estimated to represent about half of the total completion costs. Wayne State will use philanthropic gifts or bond proceeds to fund the remainder of the project.

Also included in the budget was funding for the First Lady Sue Snyder's Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program. Institutions can apply for a portion of the \$600,000 for the coming fiscal year.

Sen. Knollenberg Tour of ATEC

On July 18th, Senator Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) and a member of his staff toured Wayne State's Advanced Technology Education Center (ATEC) in Macomb County.

Legislation Requires Citizenship for Financial Aid

A package of bills introduced in the Michigan House recently would ensure various financial aid programs in the state are available only for U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

The bills create or clarify citizen requirements for nursing scholarships, the Housing Development Authority, state competitive scholarships, the part-time independent student grant program, the Michigan Promise grant and work-study programs. The bills were sent to the House Appropriations Committee. The main sponsor of the package is Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.).

Dan Hurley of the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) released a statement in opposition to the legislation that read:

"All student financial aid programs in Michigan already require citizenship or permanent residency by statute, Treasury administrative rules, or both. To be eligible for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS), students also have to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). That requires a Social Security Number, further preventing undocumented students from accessing MCS. The other financial aid programs this legislation would amend have not been funded by the Legislature since Fiscal Year 2009. This is legislation looking for a literally nonexistent problem. We are glad that the Legislature remembers that these other student financial aid programs exist, however, and would welcome reinvestment in them next year."

WSU Meeting with State Budget Office

In July, Diana Goode, Jeff Bolton and the Division of Government and Community Affairs met with the State Budget Office (SBO) to discuss two potential financial changes that the University would like to make.

The University would like to move its fiscal year to begin on July 1 instead of October 1. Wayne State University is currently the only public university in the state to begin the fiscal year on October 1.

The other item we discussed is streamlining the University's fee structure. We made sure to emphasize that any potential changes we would make to streamline the structure would be revenue neutral to the University. At this time, we have such a complex structure and such a wide gap between what the lower tier and upper tier students pay. The changes we are considering will make it easier for students to know (and plan) what they will be paying during their time at Wayne State.

The SBO was very receptive to both changes but would like to see what the proposed changes to the fee structure would be before officially signing off. We will be putting some information together in the next few months and will be presenting it to them.

Once we feel good about the SBO's position on the changes, we will then meet with the fiscal agencies and members and staff of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittees in both chambers to let them know of our plans.

URC Legislative Lunch

The state relations officers from the three research universities have been meeting with the URC to plan our next URC Legislative Luncheon in the fall. We continue to discuss potential format changes that will improve participation.

For this fall's luncheon, we are discussing a theme around the opioid crisis and are discussing the possibility of requesting a hearing with the House and/or Senate Health Policy Committees where we would bring in folks from each of our campuses to discuss the crisis and what might be done in Michigan on the matter. We would then host a luncheon before or after the hearing(s).

SRO Retreat

The Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) is working with a small group of state relations officers to plan a working retreat this fall. Our Division was asked to be a part of this planning committee.

During our meetings, we have decided the retreat will take place in Detroit in late October. We have also put together possible topics of discussion and potential speakers for the event.

University's New Budget Model

As part of an awareness-building campaign for the University's new budget model project, a training taskforce has begun building an eLearning prototype to help campus members learn about what currently comprises Wayne State revenue and expenses.

Our Division was asked to be a small part of this team in helping to explain the state appropriations process and what state funding means to the university.

At our latest meeting, an early draft of this prototype was shared with participants with several folks from Wayne State.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS

Michigan Department of Corrections

We have finalized a contract with the state of Michigan to provide the Department of Corrections a report on how best the state can take advantage of 340b discount drug pricing for state prisoners. The report will be completed in the next few months. The department will then decide whether they want to implement the report's findings, which could result in \$10 million+ in annual savings for the state on prescription drug pricing. The initial contract to WSU is for \$100,000.

Doug Skrzyniarz, the Division's associate director for government health affairs, hosted a visit with Lia Gulick, who is the health services administrator for Corrections. Doug introduced Lia at the BOG Health Affairs committee meeting. He also gave her a tour of the medical school, where she met with leadership from various schools and colleges and universities. It is expected that the state will give WSU a contract to provide other services for the Department.

Opioid Task Force

The Opioid Task Force is working on a concept to host a leadership summit of high school students on the issue of the opioid crisis. Each school would send 2 student leaders who would come to campus for the day to learn more about the issue and be provided with training, so they can help make an impact on the issue in their own school. This summit would take place in the spring of 2018.

Psychiatry Residency Training Grant

The training grant has been signed by all parties for FY17. The university is now working with DMC for FY18.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform – MiDoc's

WSU and AHEC are hosting the MIDOCs summit on September 14th in Lansing. The summit is an opportunity for the 5 participating medical schools to reach consensus prior to submitting a final planning report to the Governor in October. The report will include details on how the state can increase primary care residency slots in the state,

which will help address the growing physician workforce crisis in underserved communities. WSU would receive enough funding to produce 3 new family medicine physicians. These residents would train in FQHC's in the city of Detroit and would also receive special training in public health and inter-professional education. This would be the first such program in Michigan, where medical schools and their universities would be responsible for GME funding.

Lycaki-Young Fund

We are proud to report that the Lycaki-Young Fund has been fully funded at \$5.6 million for FY18. It took a great deal of effort by the WSU Department of Psychiatry and the government affairs office to get this done. We are now looking to FY19 to shore up this funding.

Medical School Advocacy Day – November 29th

The medical school will be hosting its advocacy day on November 29th. We will be working with the MPAC-LEAD students to organize the day. It is likely that the students will be advocating on graduate medical education funding but that is yet to be finalized. BOG members are welcome to join us for the day.

Poison Control Center

WSU is partnered with DMC to run the state's poison control center for SE Michigan. Unfortunately, the DMC has failed to pay WSU for these services and has refused to execute a new contract. This has deeply concerned the state of Michigan. We are looking into alternative arrangements with the state to resolve this issue.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

WSU Road Warrior Tour

This summer, Division staff member Brianna Ellison worked with a cross-campus team to coordinate WSU's first ever Road Warrior Tour, an outreach initiative that took President Wilson and a number of WSU representatives to three Michigan communities for a series of conversations. The goal of this tour was to enable President Wilson and his team to better understand the needs and perceptions of those who live throughout the state.

From August 1 - 4, President Wilson bicycled approximately 100 miles per day to visit St. Clair, Midland, and DeWitt. Each evening, we hosted a reception with the local community that included alumni, current and prospective students, parents of students, local elected officials, and community and educational leaders.

By the end of the tour, the President had cycled 427 miles, and we made countless new friends in several Michigan communities. We hope to plan another tour next summer to visit additional communities.

Wayne State University Football Presidential Tailgates

The Division worked closely with the Office of Development to compile a list of community and government leaders to invite to WSU home football games and Presidential tailgates. We worked across all areas of our division to update and grow our existing list to ensure information was current and inclusive.

DGCA Summer Internship Program

From May - August, our division was fortunate to host a summer intern, Sarah Kurz, a Master's student studying Higher Education at Eastern Michigan University. Sarah is a Detroit resident and particularly interested in the University's role in both policy and community engagement.

This summer, Sarah assisted with a number of projects and was able to accompany the team to both on and off campus meetings. She played an instrumental role in outreach efforts around the President's Road Warrior Tour, compiling lists of community, education, and nonprofit leaders in each of the three cities visited. Additionally, she spent the majority of her time working with the Directors of Federal, State and Community Affairs to create an updated map/plan for our website. After an analysis of the current site, she developed a comprehensive list of recommendations for updates and additions. These updates will be made once the Marketing team makes the necessary updates on their end to give us access.