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## **STATE RELATIONS**

### State Affairs Director Accepts Position with Whitmer Administration

State Affairs Director Greg Bird was recently named legislative director by Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Greg is a 20-plus year veteran of the Capitol scene, having served as director of state affairs for WSU for the past 10 years. He began his career in Lansing having worked for former Sen. Jim Berryman in the 1990s and then held communications roles with the Senate Democratic Caucus from 2000-02, the State Budget Office in the Granholm era and former House Speaker Andy Dillon.

The Division is assessing options on how to proceed in light of Greg's departure. In the near term, the vice president and the director of government health affairs will work with our Lansing firm, Kelly Cawthorne, to provide coverage for state affairs issues.

## **GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS**

### Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)

The partnership between MDOC and WSU is now a year old and functioning at a very high level. We have had multiple calls with MDOC leadership and have received consistently positive feedback on the performance of Drs. McIntyre, Blessman, and Hussain. We were supposed to receive a 6-month extension on the contract as of June 1. Instead, MDOC requested an 18-month extension, which reflects on how well the relationship is performing. I have quarterly update calls with MDOC leadership to make sure we are exceeding their expectations.

We are also working with MDOC on a project to access discount drug pricing for the prisoner population. The project could potentially save the state more than \$10 million per year, which could be used to improve health outcomes and help support prisoner health as they transition back out of prison.

### Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform – MIDOCS

WSU and other members of the MIDOCS consortium have recently submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services a draft proposal to fund MIDOCS. We received \$5 million for FY19 in direct state appropriations; however, those funds are to be used to leverage federal dollars, for a total of \$20 million. The federal government needs to approve the state's plan of how it will use those funds and how we will flow the money to the residency programs. We hope to know a decision by spring or early summer.

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### Poison Control Center

WSU staff has been performing due diligence on financials and operational details to determine whether we should take on the responsibility of running the Poison Control Center (PCC). The PCC receive more than 65,000 calls per year related to emergencies (most involving children). Tenet Corporation and DMC have hosted the PCC for more than 60 years, but it no longer fits into their scope of services plan. We have informed the state that, based on our analysis, there is an operational deficit of approximately \$600,000 per year and a one-time transition cost of \$350,000. We met with the Department of Health and Human Services, who has agreed to work with us and the legislature to identify approximately \$600,000 funds in a FY19 supplemental appropriation, which is likely to take place in November of this year. To that end, the government affairs team has met with house and senate legislative leaders to measure their level of support. Thus far, we have received very positive feedback and are optimistic we can get this done before the end of the calendar year. If so, then the PCC can fully transition to WSU by March 1, 2019. This would be a significant opportunity for Wayne State in demonstrating our public health mission and expertise across the entire state. The PCC serves all counties in Michigan.

The state budget office has indicated the official general funds appropriations needed in the supplemental is \$590,000 to cover the one-time transition costs and budget deficit. We are happy to report that the state approved \$580,000 in supplemental appropriation funding. This will allow us to officially start the transition process. The plan is to go live on April 1, 2019, on site at Wayne State University.

### Advocacy Day

The government health affairs team will be taking medical students to Lansing for advocacy day in early February. This annual event allows our students to advocate on public health issues that are important to them. It also gives Wayne State a significant presence and demonstrates our commitment to public service.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute

On Tuesday, January 22, 2019, our annual tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King will be held at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center. There will be a VIP reception at 9:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our keynote speaker this year is Emmy Award-winning journalist Jemele Hill, who is a chief correspondent and senior columnist for *The Undeclared*, ESPN's content initiative exploring the intersections of sports, race and culture. Briefing materials with detailed information will be provided to those Board members who wish to attend the event.

## **OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY**

On Wednesday, November 21, 2018, WSU's Division of Government and Community Affairs, in partnership with the Parade Company, hosted its fourth annual Thanksgiving Parade Preview Party. The event continues to grow, and this year's was the most well attended yet, with more than 250 RSVPs and nearly 200 attendees. The event served as a thank you to our community partners and highlighted our strong relationship with the Parade Company. We once again featured desserts from local businesses--Sweet Potato Sensations and Sister Pie--and had a quartet of WSU students playing holiday jazz.