

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Senior Sprint helps students reach the finish line

Students nearing graduation now have an additional springboard to help them complete their degree on time through Wayne State's Warrior Senior Sprint scholarship, which will cover the full cost of tuition and fees during the 2019 spring/summer semester.

The Warrior Senior Sprint scholarship is available to students who entered WSU as new first-year students in fall 2013 or fall 2014 and who have a clear pathway to graduate by August 2019. Recipients will receive support to ensure they stay on track academically, register for the courses they need, take advantage of career services and, ultimately, graduate.

"The Senior Sprint scholarship will greatly reduce costs and help our students accelerate their path to degree completion," said Monica Brockmeyer, senior associate provost for student success. "No matter where a student is on their path to graduation, we want them to be fully supported."

The university launched an ongoing campaign this fall to contact eligible students, who must complete the 2018-19 FAFSA and submit a completed 2018-19 Warrior Senior Sprint Scholarship form to the Office of Student Financial Aid. From there, academic advisors will work with eligible students to complete an approved plan of work. Priority consideration will be given to students with a GPA greater than 2.5 and who are enrolled full time during fall 2018 and winter 2019. The deadline to meet with an advisor is Friday, March 15.

The Warrior Senior Sprint is just one of WSU's many support initiatives designed around the idea of helping students succeed while reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket expenses. The university launched its innovative Warrior Way Back program in May 2018; there are currently 76 students enrolled in the program. WSU also extended its 50 percent tuition discount to active military members currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"We're always revisiting approaches to make sure we're best serving our students' needs," Brockmeyer said. "We're excited to see the impact the Senior Sprint scholarship will have and hope to be able to continue the program in future years."

STUDENT LIFE AND STUDENT SERVICES

This year, Alternative Spring Break Detroit (ASBD) had 105 undergraduate and 14 graduate student applicants for 53 spaces to participate in the program. Students volunteered during Spring Break (from March 10-14) at 22 partner sites across the city of Detroit and Highland Park, clocking in roughly 954 total volunteer hours. These volunteer services days include themes of Education, Diversity and Inclusion, Food Security and Housing Stability, and Arts and Culture. The majority of the planning is done by student leaders.

Making Campus Crosswalks More Accessible

Featuring state-of-the-art ADA accessible units for people with special needs, the new Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments has set a new standard for the way campus creates a safe and inclusive community beyond the classroom. For most students, crossing Anthony Wayne

Drive to get to class or head to their campus housing is a normal part of their day. It becomes a routine that is hardly considered. However, for students with a vision impairment, crossing the street at Anthony Wayne Drive posed the challenge of knowing when it was safe to cross.

After talking with a visually impaired student, Gerry Tilson, Director of Student Services' Facilities, began working in the Fall 2018 semester with Facilities Planning & Management and Parking & Transportation Services to make crossing Anthony Wayne Drive safer and more accessible to all students. The group led by Tilson engaged with the City of Detroit's Traffic Engineering Department to assess the feasibility of adding audible crosswalk signals to the crosswalk leading to the Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments. On January 25, 2019, Wayne State was contacted by the City and informed an audible signal was installed at the crosswalk of Anthony Wayne Drive and Williams Mall, a first for the City.

This safety improvement is very timely as pedestrian traffic across the busy road is expected to increase as construction nears completion on the new apartments. An additional 400 residents are expected to move to the new apartments this coming fall as well as a number of new retail establishments, including the new Campus Health Center, will be opening soon in the Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND DEPARTMENTS SPOTLIGHT

College of Engineering

Iyinoluwa Omishope, who recently graduated from Wayne State University with a bachelor's in industrial and systems engineering, is curating a line of all-natural skincare products and insect repellents to fight insect-borne illness worldwide.

"It doesn't make sense that people are dying at exponential rates from something that's completely preventable. That is the whole point of being an engineer: We make lives better," said Omishope. "If we can't do that for people who are in the most need, then there's no point of getting the degree and putting on the little ring."

Omishope got the idea to create her product line, It Comes Naturally, after being bitten on the cheek by a mosquito in her mother's garden. Her mother advised Omishope to use something from the garden to treat the bite, so she rubbed spearmint on it. When the swelling and redness reduced immediately and her sensitive skin was not agitated, she knew she needed to commercialize a natural remedy for those who need it most.

"For me, the insect bite was a nuisance, but there are people who suffer on a daily basis from horrible diseases such as malaria and Lyme disease," said Omishope. "Our mission is to save lives; we want to reduce the amount of insect-related death worldwide."

Omishope will accomplish this by donating her products to countries and individuals with a high risk of contracting insect-borne illnesses.

She is also committed to environmental sustainability, creating a program that will incentivize customers to return used product containers to the company, where they will be recycled.

Omishope has received support from a variety of sources, including the James and Patricia Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute, the Innovation Warrior Fund, OptimizeWayne, TechTown Detroit's DTX Launch Program, and a full team of advisors and mentors. After initially pitching her idea, Omishope received \$5,000 from the Anderson Institute to continue

her research and product development. She said it was the Institute's willingness to believe in her idea that gave her the motivation to grow it into the success it is today.

"Someone seeing something and saying, 'well, maybe this can work,' is how every great company gets started," Omishope said. "I think that's what the Anderson Institute is doing. They're taking on these little ideas and they're not discouraging people from shooting for the stars."

Faculty, academic staff encouraged to apply for inaugural Academic Leadership Academy

As part of Wayne State's ongoing commitment to the success and growth of its faculty and staff, the Office of the Provost has created the Academic Leadership Academy (ALA).

This one-year program is designed for full-time faculty and academic staff who have knowledge and experience working toward the mission of WSU. In their areas of expertise, they are prepared to build leadership capacity in either formal or informal roles.

"The Academic Leadership Academy addresses a real need at WSU — to support a culture of leadership to advance the mission and goals of Wayne State while also investing in our talented faculty and academic staff," said Keith Whitfield, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

In alignment with the university's Strategic Plan, each of the selected ALA fellows will develop a leadership project to improve some facet of campus life. Fellows will also have an opportunity to build their leadership skills with a curriculum that includes:

- A one-day leadership orientation retreat in August 2019
- Monthly in-person seminars (September through May)
- Monthly meetings with project sponsors and ALA coaches
- Digital peer mentoring sessions
- A one-day retreat in August 2020 featuring presentations of completed projects to peers, the incoming cohort of fellows and university leaders

Fellows will be invited to continue their leadership development after the yearlong program by participating in future ALA seminars and offerings

During the program, fellows will engage in a variety of assessments — including self-assessments as well as feedback from peers, facilitators, collaborators, mentors and others — to identify their areas of strength and potential challenges as leaders, improve their leadership skills, and enhance the likelihood of successful project completion.

"ALA fellows will join a community of leaders at Wayne State who value lifelong learning, reflective practice, collaboration, and a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We're excited to see how fellows will apply their leadership to enhance Wayne State," said Annmarie Cano, associate provost for faculty development and faculty success.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH (EO)

Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)

- The TSSC will host more than 100 events this year tailored to new and current transfer students. Among the highlights:
 - Coffee and Credits – a new offering on Wednesday mornings in the TSSC lounge during which students can drop in to ask questions, get help, and grab a cup of coffee;
 - Transfer Tuesdays – on-site visits at select community college partners;
 - Walk Over to Wayne (WOW) – a second round of special programming at Schoolcraft College and the Advanced Technology Education Center (ATEC), planned for those venues so current students at Schoolcraft and Macomb can easily obtain the transfer information they need without leaving their own school campus; and
 - Ongoing, on-site transfer advising at Macomb, Oakland, Jackson and Monroe community colleges; Schoolcraft, Henry Ford and St. Clair (Windsor) colleges.
- WSU and St. Clair College (Windsor) hosted a special signing ceremony Feb. 27 to formally recognize articulation agreements between our two schools in the area of general business, marketing, accounting, interior design and computer technology. An articulation agreement in social work has been completed with Macomb Community College and an agreement focused on business is in process with Mid-Michigan College.

Executive and Professional Development (EPD)

- EPD is developing a leadership program for Wayne County that will address the needs of mid-level and senior leadership across the government's organization. Three courses are being created with the intention of delivering them in late spring. For more than 10 years, the county has not offered training to staff, so this pilot program is part of a new effort in staff development.
- EPD's Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) presented at the Arsenal of Innovation workshop sponsored by U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence on February 4. The networking event helped small businesses learn about federal resources and services that are available. PTAC provides eligible business clients in the Detroit area with the marketing and technical assistance needed to sell goods and services to the federal government, particularly the Department of Defense; provides information about government contracts; and offers educational training programs. In recent years, PTAC has worked with more than 270 local companies that have obtained contracts worth more than \$40 million.

Office of International Programs (OIP)

- OIP recently hosted a delegation from long-time partner Nanjing Medical University, who in turn will host MedDirect students on a new study abroad program this summer.
- OIP and the Global Studies Program hosted Rasha Soliman, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Egypt who is spending her Fulbright year at Lewis and Clark College

in Oregon. Soliman spoke to CLAS students interested in Mediterranean issues and presented a talk on ancient Egyptian art. This visit was funded in part by the Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund.

- OIP representatives met with the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington, D.C., to discuss the collaboration between WSU and Kuwait and currently enrolled students. During the same visit, OIP staff also met with American Councils, World Learning and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), a global development and education organization, to discuss current and future partnerships. In March, OIP staff met with the Saudi Arabian Council Mission and the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Washington, D.C., to discuss more collaborative opportunities.
- OIP and Educational Outreach hosted the Advisor Training Academy seminar at ATEC in January. Topics covered transfer initiatives, international and study abroad programs, and how the university's advisors can be partners with EO/OIP. About 30 advisors and academic staff from WSU attended this first-of-its-type workshop.