
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Champion of Science Award – Rep. Fred Upton

In recognition of his support of the scientific research community, The Science Coalition selected Rep. Fred Upton to receive their Champion of Science Award. He was selected because of his previous advocacy on behalf of federally funded research as Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The Science Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of more than 50 of the nation's leading public and private research institutions, dedicated to sustaining the federal government's investment in fundamental research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation, and drive American competitiveness. They do so by highlighting the partnerships between federal research agencies and America's public and private research universities. The Champion of Science Award recognized Upton's support of not only the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, who nominated him for the award, but also his commitment to ensuring the United States remains a global leader in scientific research and innovation.

University of Michigan and Wayne State University will host a ceremony to present Rep. Upton with the Champion of Science Award in Michigan's sixth congressional district.

STATE RELATIONS

Meetings with State Budget Director and State Policy Director

On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, President Wilson and Vice President Lindsey travelled to Lansing to meet with officials from the State Budget Office and the State Policy Office to discuss higher education funding. These two separate meetings took place back-to-back. We initially met with State Budget Office Director Chris Kolb and Brent Turner, then with Emily Laidlaw and Josh Neyhart of the Governor's Policy Office.

In both meetings, we focused on two key points:

1. *Revise the Performance Funding Formula*
 - Implement a peer comparison model that is practical.
 - Incentivize research.
 - Adopt measures that incorporate the mission of each school.
 - Include graduate and professional students in FYES calculations.
 - Engage an independent third party to evaluate our formula and offer recommendations based on national best practices *Provide an Equity Payment to WSU*
2. *Provide an Equity Payment to WSU*
 - As of FY19, WSU remains the only institution of the 15 public universities whose funding has not been restored to FY11 levels. We remain \$11.8 million below.

State of the State Address

Governor Gretchen Whitmer delivered her “State of the State” address on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. This event is traditionally held in the evening on the first Tuesday of February in the State Capitol; however, it was rescheduled to February 12 because of President Trump’s “State of the Union” on being held on February 5.

Vice President Lindsey and Associate Vice President Skrzyniarz attended the pre-receptions and watched the speech. During her speech, Governor Whitmer announced a significant college affordability proposal, the “MI Opportunity Scholarship.” This proposal includes a “debt-free community college” plan available to eligible high school students—as well as an option for students to use it to apply toward the cost of a four-year degree at four-year universities. The Governor also announced a “reconnect” program, geared toward working adult non-degree completers.

President’s Testimony to Higher Ed Subcommittee

President Wilson is scheduled to appear before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education and Community Colleges on Thursday, February 28. He and the other presidents of the state’s public universities will provide testimony and address the following subjects:

- Specialty programs or unique aspects of your university
- Performance Funding Formula thoughts and possible improvements
- First generations and disadvantaged students: incentives, number enrolled, graduation rates
- Enrollment trends: overall numbers, In-state vs out-of-state, international students

Governor’s Budget

Governor Gretchen Whitmer will deliver her first budget proposal on March 5, 2019. Specifics of the budget will be provided after the presentation.

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 six-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. Those funds, however, 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.

We recently met with the new budget director, Director Kolb, to discuss funding for the FY2020 Budget. We received positive feedback at this meeting and plan to continue meeting with the legislature and other policy makers in Lansing to continue education on the program and secure future funding.

Poison Control Center

WSU staff has performed 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 receives 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. We have received very positive feedback and are optimistic we can get this done before the end of the calendar year.

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 May 1, 2019, on site at Wayne State University. This is 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.

Advocacy Day

The government health affairs team planned to take medical students to Lansing for an advocacy day in early February. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the trip due to inclement weather. Typically, this is an annual event that 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

Wayne State University hosted its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute at the Max M. Fisher Music Center on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. This tribute is one of WSU's signature events and provides the university with an opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. King. This annual event once again brought the community together to reflect on the work of Dr. King and to celebrate our own local leaders.

This year's keynote speaker was Emmy Award winning journalist Jemele Hill, chief correspondent and senior columnist for The Undefeated, ESPN's content initiative exploring the intersections of sports, race and culture. She joined The Undefeated in January 2018 and writes, conducts newsmaker interviews, offers commentary and creates a variety of content for The Undefeated's digital, television and audio platforms. She also hosts events and other important initiatives, including The Undefeated town hall and television specials.

Dr. Arthur L. Johnson Community Leadership Awards

Each year, as part of the King tribute, Wayne State University presents the Dr. Arthur L. Johnson Community Leadership Awards. These awards honor both an individual and an organization whose exemplary contributions positively affect our community.

This year's awardees are:

- Wayne County Safe (Organization award)

WC SAFE is a non-profit, 501(c)3, comprehensive organization that provides compassionate and trauma-informed care to survivors of sexual assault throughout Wayne County. It provides a safe, quiet, confidential environment with specially trained Forensic Examiners who provide medical examinations and forensic evidence collection for rape victims.

- Kahli Sweeney (Individual award)

Kahli Sweeney is the founder and CEO of Downtown Boxing Gym. His life changed one day when he realized that everyone he knew was either dead or in jail. He knew he had to make a difference. Creating a safe haven for Detroit students is what he had in mind when he opened the doors to Downtown Boxing Gym in 2007 – where the rule is 'books before boxing.' Khali's passion and mission is to empower young people and change lives through academics, athletics, enrichment opportunities, mentorship, and community service. He shares his knowledge of boxing and enthusiasm for learning by creating an environment where kids can be themselves, support one another, and have the courage to stand up against the pressures they face every day. His program has positively affected hundreds of young lives.

Khali Sweeney was a 2017 CNN Hero Top 10 finalist and a 2018 recipient of Michigan's Governor's Service Award for Mentor of the Year.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Spirit of Community Awards

Planning is underway for the 2019 Spirit of Community Awards Ceremony and Reception, which will take place on Thursday, April 11, 2019. This year, we are working to incorporate the new Champions of Diversity Awards into the ceremony, and we are working closely with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion to ensure this new addition is seamless. We will be announcing the Spirit of Community award finalists this month.

2019 Lobby Day

Based on the success of previous years, there is a great desire from students in the Honors College and Student Senate to participate in an advocacy day. Work is underway to coordinate a trip to Lansing this semester for a group of approximately 30. The tentative date for Lobby Day is March 19, 2019.

Meeting on Community Engagement

In early February, we held our Community Engagement liaison meeting. The guest presenter was Andrew Spiece, Regional Manager, TEALS, Microsoft Philanthropies. This meeting provided a great opportunity to share updates with community engagement officers from across the university and for everyone to collaborate and share important upcoming events, programs and projects from around campus. We will hold our next meeting in early summer.